

**The Council of State Governments
Midwestern Radioactive Materials
Transportation Project**

Orientation for Newcomers




**Des Moines, Iowa
November 17, 2015**

The Council of State Governments
Midwestern Radioactive Materials
Transportation Project

The Council of State Governments = CSG

CSG Midwestern Radioactive Materials
Transportation Project



CSG

- ▶ Region-based forum serving all three branches of government
- ▶ Fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy
- ▶ Offers regional, national, and international opportunities to network, collaborate, and create problem-solving partnerships



CSG

- ▶ Founded in 1933 by Henry Toll
- ▶ Offices nationwide
 - National office in Lexington, Kentucky
 - Washington, D.C., office
 - Four regional offices: New York, Atlanta, Sacramento, Lombard (Illinois)



Midwestern

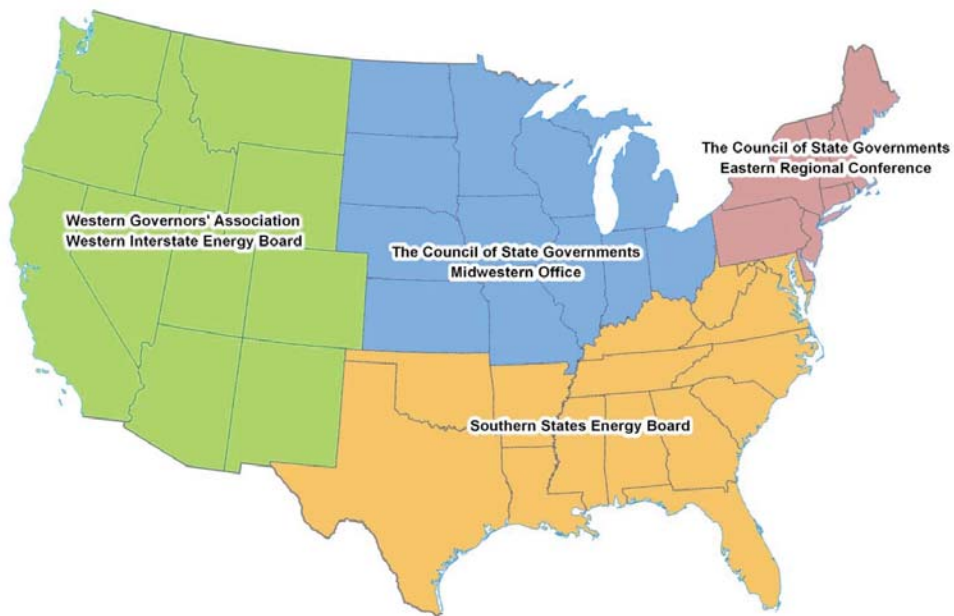
- ▶ CSG's Midwestern Office (CSG Midwest)
- ▶ 12 states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin
- ▶ Midwestern Legislative Conference
- ▶ Great Lakes Legislative Caucus
- ▶ Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission



Midwestern Region



Regional Cooperative Agreement Groups

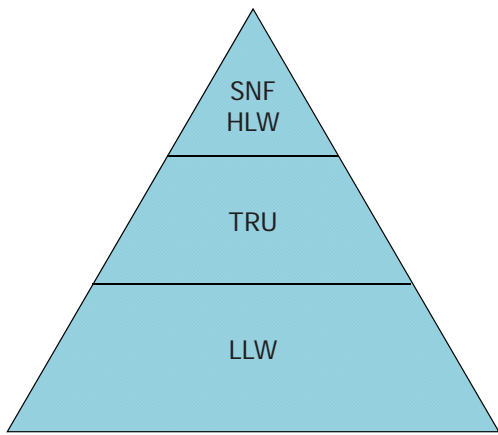


Highway Route Controlled Quantity (HRCQ)

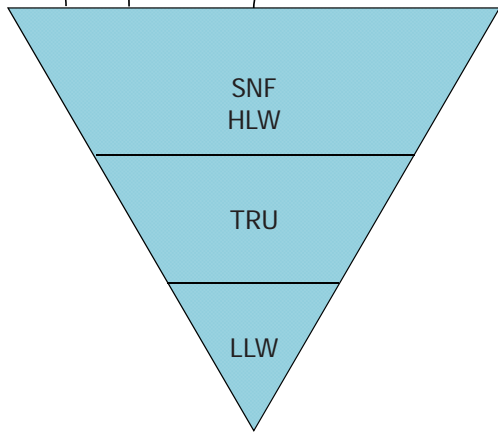
- Requirements
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)
 - U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
 - U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Orders
 - Congress
 - State laws, rules, regulations

Radiation

People involved



Quantities



Qualities

Transportation

- ▶ Moving from one site to another.
- ▶ States and local governments have the primary responsibility for protecting the health and safety of the public.
- ▶ Activities include
 - Establishing policy
 - Developing transportation plans
 - Emergency planning and preparedness
 - Inspecting
 - Escorting
 - Monitoring
 - Public outreach (media)



State Shipment Fees

Project

- ▶ Initiated in 1989
- ▶ Funded by U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
 - Office of Environmental Management (EM)
 - Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO)
 - Office of Nuclear Energy (NE)
- ▶ Three components
 - Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee
 - Shipment planning
 - Information and communication



DOE Offices

▶ Office of Environmental Management (EM)

- Mission: complete the safe cleanup of the environmental legacy brought about from five decades of nuclear weapons development and government-sponsored nuclear energy research
- Shipments: yes
- Topics: low-level waste shipments, National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF)



DOE Offices

▶ Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO)

- Mission: provide safe, compliant, and efficient characterization, transportation, and disposal of defense-related transuranic (TRU) waste
- Shipments: yes
- Topics: transuranic waste, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), state agreements



DOE Offices

▶ Office of Nuclear Energy (NE)


- Mission: Plan for and implement the transportation and interim storage aspects of the Administration's "Strategy for the Management and Disposal of Used Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste and develop a foundation for a new nuclear waste management organization."
- Shipments: no
- Topics: Nuclear Fuels Storage and Transportation (NFST) Planning Project, financial assistance (180c), routing, transportation plan, consent-based siting



Committee

- ▶ First meeting in 1990
- ▶ 12 members appointed by Midwestern governors
- ▶ Up to 12 members appointed by chair of Midwestern Legislative Conference
- ▶ Meets twice each year
- ▶ Tasks assigned to committee work groups
- ▶ Led by two co-chairs (senior, junior)





Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project

Nuclear Waste Management in the U.S.

Over 15 percent of the electricity used in the Midwestern states comes from nuclear power. Since the 1960s, generating all that electricity has produced over 17,500 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel, which is stored at 19 operating nuclear power plants, four shutdown plants, and one away-from-reactor storage facility in the Midwest (see map on back). In 2002, the U.S. Congress selected Yucca Mountain in Nevada to be the site of the nation's permanent repository for disposing of spent nuclear fuel. In 2009, however, the Obama administration terminated the program on the grounds that the site was not a workable option.

That same year, President Obama appointed a 15-member Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future and charged it with recommending a new strategy for managing the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste over the long term. In January 2012, after two years of study, the Blue Ribbon Commission issued its final recommendations to Secretary of Energy Steven Chu. One year later, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) produced the "Strategy for the Management and Disposal of Used Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste." The Strategy document is a "statement of Administration policy regarding the importance of addressing the disposition of used nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste."

The Blue Ribbon Commission recommended "prompt efforts" to develop a new geologic disposal facility and one or more consolidated storage facilities for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. To site such facilities, the commission recommended developing a new, consent-based process. The commission also recommended establishing a new organization to oversee the waste management program instead of leaving it in the hands of DOE, which has managed the program since its inception in 1983. Other recommendations addressed transportation planning, financing the waste-management program, and research into advanced fuel cycle technologies. DOE's Strategy embraced these recommendations and set target dates for making facilities available. By 2021, the department intends to begin operation of a pilot storage facility for spent nuclear fuel. A full-scale facility is anticipated to be available four years later in 2025. DOE's ultimate goal for final disposal is to have a geologic repository available by 2048. These milestones are contingent upon Congress acting to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) and appropriating the needed funding.

First in line for shipping to a pilot interim storage facility would be spent nuclear fuel from shutdown and decommissioned nuclear power plants. Spent nuclear fuel in storage remains "stranded" at these sites long after the power plants stopped producing electricity. Expediting the removal of spent nuclear fuel from shutdown sites would reduce costs to utility ratepayers and allow decommissioning to be completed so that the land can be made available for other uses beneficial to the local community. In addition, moving spent nuclear fuel into consolidated storage would increase protections for sensitive areas like the shores of the Great Lakes, where three shutdown plants are located.

Implementing most of the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations will require congressional action. For example, construction of a federal consolidated storage facility cannot proceed until Congress amends the NWPA. Some activities, however, can go forward under DOE's existing authority. An example would be transportation planning, which requires long lead times. While the nation awaits action from Congress, spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste will remain stored at 19 sites across the country, including 24 in the Midwest. Most of this spent nuclear fuel will likely stay where it is for many decades – perhaps even centuries – until it can be transported to facilities for consolidated storage or disposal.

Transportation

Implementing the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations means starting over with two of the three components of the federal waste management program: disposal and storage. The third component – transportation –



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ABOUT

- Midwestern Legislative Conference
- Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development
- Great Lakes Legislative Caucus
- Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission
- Midwestern Legislative Service Agency/Research Directors Group
- Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project

ABOUT »

The Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project

The Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project is a joint project between CSG Midwest and the U.S. Department of Energy. Since its inception in 1989, this project has helped state governments in the Midwest learn about and provide input into the DOE's plans for shipping radioactive materials through the region. The cooperative agreement has also enabled states on the shipping routes to receive financial assistance from the DOE in order to prepare for shipments. For more information, contact [Lisa Janairo](#)

- » [Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee](#) »
- » [Shipment Planning](#) »
- » [Public Information and Resources](#) »

This material is based upon work supported by the Department of Energy under Award Numbers DE-NE0000555, DE-EM0002121, and DE-EM0002327.

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MRMTP

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www.csgmidwest.org/MRMTTP/default.aspx

Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee

NEWSLETTER

October 6, 2015

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Important Dates

2015

October 7: Rail/Routing Ad Hoc Working Group web meeting, 9:00 AM CDT

October 14-15: WGA WIPP Transportation Technical Advisory Group Meeting, San Diego, California:
[Request more information](#)

October 19: NTSF Webinar on NRC Regulation of SNF Shipments, 1:00 PM CDT: [Register here](#)

October 26-30: DOE TEPP Radiation Specialist Course, Albany, New York:

COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS

More Appointees and Meeting Updates!

We are excited to welcome four new legislative appointees to the Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (MRMTC)! Ohio Rep. Doug Green, Kansas Sen. Mike Petersen, Indiana Rep. Edmond Soliday, and Illinois Rep. Pat Verschoore were all appointed to the committee last month. An up-to-date MRMTC roster is [available online](#).



Rep. Doug Green
Ohio



Rep. Edmond Soliday
Indiana



Sen. Mike Petersen
Kansas



Rep. Pat Verschoore
Illinois

We hope to meet all of the new members at the committee's Fall meeting on **November 17-18** in Des Moines, Iowa. Registration is open until Monday, November 2 so be sure to complete your [online registration](#) before then. A [preliminary agenda](#) is now available and will be updated as we get closer to the meeting.

Project

- ▶ Federal partners
 - U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 - U.S. Department of Transportation
 - Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
 - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
 - Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)
- ▶ Tribal partners
 - Oneida Nation (Wisconsin)
 - Prairie Island Indian Community (Minnesota)

For more information

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