Day 1 Proceedings

Jane Beetem (Missouri) thanked the representatives for attending, welcomed back Jon Schwarz, DOE partners, and reviewed the agenda.

Report from the Co-Chairs: Ms. Beetem told the group this would be her last meeting because she was retiring from state government. She thanked Lisa Janairo (CSG Midwest) for her guidance and counsel. She hoped that as co-chair she made a strong case for inclusion of states and regional groups and tribes in discussions with the DOE and other partner agencies. Ms. Beetem thanked DOE for helping fund the regional groups. She mentioned how great the Midwest's participation in working groups has been and encouraged members to get involved. She thanked everyone for having her as co-chair.

Laura Dresen (Indiana), who will be taking over as senior co-chair, added that she's learned a great deal from the group. She said the 180(c) group has been a great experience and highly recommended getting involved in a group.

Project update: Ms. Janairo highlighted the financial shape of the agreement – she stated the finances were in good shape, even with an anticipated cut in funding. She said the group had enough resources this year for CSG Midwest to hire a new full-time employee who will be spending half their time working on the Midwest transportation project. Ms. Janairo mentioned that both Illinois and Nebraska have new governors and those are the only two states where she will need to seek new appointments to the committee. Kelly Horn (Illinois) and Jon Schwarz (Nebraska) will be responsible for seeking reappointment from their respective new governors.

Ms. Janairo told the group they would be talking about the regional Planning Guide in tomorrow’s meeting. She said she brought the state sections to take the opportunity to make sure the information was up to date. She mentioned the unusual situation with Jennifer Clark (Kansas) having left and Ms. Beetem leaving shortly. She asked the members to give a thought to whether it would be worthwhile to wait until March of next year to publish the new edition of the guide in case there are new appointees added.

Ms. Janairo also thanked Heather Westra (Prairie Island Indian Community) for providing information about tribal points of contact – she and Kathy Treland (CSG Midwest) have put together a list of the Midwest contacts. She would like to work information from the contacts into the regional Planning Guide and asked everyone to put thought into how they’d like to integrate it.

NTSF Updates:

Planning Committee: Ms. Beetem asked members to look at the committee work group assignments and she noted that some items were highlighted in red because of the need for new members on the work group – this will be discussed during the business meeting. Ms. Dresen told members the next National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) meeting would be held May 11-14 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She asked for any feedback or ideas for the keynote speaker, session topics, and agenda. Ms. Dresen reported that a tour of Sandia Laboratory is in the works and will be held at the end of the
conference. There is a possibility of attending the Albuquerque Isotopes baseball game on the evening of May 13. The host hotel, Embassy Suites, has confirmed they will offer the government rate for three days before and three days after the meeting.

**Communications working group**: Ms. Janairo said not much has happened with the group. She and Michael Snee (Ohio) are the only two members currently. However, DOE-NE will be ready in May to discuss what the plan might be for communicating and messaging. Ms. Janairo hopes there will be conference calls before then and encouraged more members to join in now that things are moving again.

**Section 180(c) Interregional Team**: Ms. Dresen reported that there was agreement on 10 of the 11 issues on the state recommendations report. Funding allocation is the last remaining issue to work out. She said the group found that each state has different issues that they want to defend and discussed whether having one plan was a workable option. She added that they came around to the 2008 recommendation from the Federal Register and decided they need to test that option more fully by utilizing the START tools and going through an exercise with a four-year timeline.

Ms. Dresen explained that the exercise will go through the needs assessment and planning, training, and operations phases. This will allow the group to test the funding formula and determine if it will allow states to run an effective program. There hasn’t yet been discussion on what to do with states that already have fees, but she thinks that will be determined as part of the exercise. Ms. Dresen said two states from each regional group will participate in the exercise, which will start in January and culminate in a presentation at the NTSF meeting in May. This will allow each group to work through the planning, provide a proposal to DOE for review, and then finally, present the proposal to the group to determine a funding mechanism. Ms. Dresen said they want DOE to consider funding the operations portion, but don’t have a commitment yet. She said the completion of this exercise will allow the group to look at a four-year timeframe for the grant. The exercise will require a 40-60 hour commitment, but isn’t intended to overburden the state.

Ms. Dresen said that the Team recommends that each state be eligible for a base grant of up to $200,000 in funding during the initial planning and assessment phase and up to $100,000 per year throughout the rest of the life of the grant. States would be responsible for submitting a request for funding. She said the Team is determining whether or not to suggest periodic reviews of the money being spent and not spent to see if the funding formula needs to be adjusted. Ms. Beetem asked Jay Jones (DOE-NE) if a state’s unused funding would be made available to other states. Mr. Jones said he did not have an answer and deferred to Erica Bickford (DOE), who was not in attendance at the meeting. Ms. Beetem also asked about the total system life cycle cost and if the team has looked at the WIPP costs for comparison. Andy Walker (DOE-Carlsbad) said Tim Runyon (North Wind Services) asked Bill Mackie (DOE-Carlsbad) the same question and Mr. Mackie was working on an answer. Ms. Beetem asked DOE to provide an answer by May because that would inform the discussion a lot.

Ms. Janairo explained DOE’s disagreement with the Team’s recommendations. DOE was not in support of eliminating the distinct phases, the explicit inclusion for funding of operations-related activities, and the funding amounts proposed. She said the committee needs to discuss what it wants the final recommendation to be. Ms. Beetem encouraged everyone from the states to think before May about their unique circumstances and how they affect their funding needs. She offered examples like training for first responders, public perception, staffing levels, existing fees, and history of shipments.

**Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Training ad hoc working group**: Greg Gothard (Michigan) said at the last NTSF, he and Tiffany Drake (Missouri) volunteered to represent CSG Midwest.
There was talk about updates to the Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT) program for 2014. Mr. Gothard said two updates being considered are producing online MERRTT modules and creating mobile apps for cell-phone type training. Unfortunately, there haven’t been any meetings since the NTSF. He said that TEPP training is an allowable activity under 180(c) to train the responders along routes. He anticipates the working group will become bigger as the program starts to develop and get tested. Ellen Edge (DOE Office of Packaging and Transportation) suggested that since the working group is ad hoc that it stand down and possibly regroup when 180(c) moves forward.

Transportation Plan ad hoc working group: Teri Engelhart (Wisconsin) listed the Midwest’s representatives on the working group: herself, Paul Schmidt (Wisconsin), Kelly Horn (Illinois), Ms. Beetem and Ms. Janairo. Ms. Engelhart described the history of the National Transportation Plan (NTP) and its working group. At the Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee meeting in May, the committee suggested having webinars on issues relations to the NTP and DOE agreed. She said they also talked about inspections for rail shipments, consolidation of shipments from multiple plants, and saw a demo of the START program for routing. Ms. Dresen said that the Core Group expressed interest in having a face-to-face discussion about the comments that were submitted on the plan. In August, the Midwest submitted their comments on the plan, as did others. Ms. Engelhart said there was a possibility that DOE would also establish a route identification working group and it made sense for states and tribal regions with shutdown sites to be part of that group.

Transportation Practices ad hoc working group: Major Lance Evans (Iowa) reported that he, Mr. Horn and Ms. Janairo participate in the group and are having continuous conference calls. Michael Wangler (DOE-EM) added that Tammy Ottmer (Colorado) is leading the group and he is serving as secretariat. He explained the changes that have been made to the practices document, including administrative changes (proofreading), changes of detail (explanatory changes), and major changes (changes to requirements that are in the document). Once they’re satisfied with the changes to the document, Mr. Wangler will take them back to DOE’s working group, which is working on changes to one of DOE’s orders. He mentioned that manuals are no longer in fashion so they are converting it to a required attachment to the order that will have the same style and sections as the original document. The only difference between the two is that, instead of being a separate manual, it will be an attachment that will impress upon the DOE community that there are requirements that accompany this order and they must be followed. Mr. Wangler closed by saying he hopes the ad hoc working group will wrap up before the NTSF meeting.

Business and Management Plan ad hoc working group: Ms. Edge reported that everyone on the group has been identified and there is a draft outline. She said she would be sending out a Doodle poll to schedule a conference call and hopes to have the plan done by the NTSF meeting.

Rail Issues ad hoc working group: Ms. Janairo recapped the different emerging issues that warranted the formation of an NTSF ad hoc working group. First, she said that Kevin Blackwell (Federal Railroad Administration) had raised some questions about rail routing. Next, the Committee has long been an advocate of DOE establishing a reciprocal rail inspection procedure that’s similar to CVSA for trucks. Thirdly, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has an ongoing task to update its safety compliance oversight plan. The suggestion was made to roll all these issues, and possibly others, into a task plan for a Rail Issues ad hoc working group. Jim Williams (Western Interstate Energy Board) will be the staff co-lead and, if this follows the same model as the other ad hoc groups, there will be a state co-lead and a DOE-lead. Ms. Janairo showed the committee potential topics and the plan for how the group might function. She said they will be seeking volunteers to serve on the group. She added that non-state participants (e.g., labor and industry) are allowed to be on the working groups to share their expertise.
State and Tribal Transportation Consultation working group: Ms. Janairo explained that this was created in August as a subgroup of the Core Group to better define the goals of consultation and cooperation; evaluate the process of DOE, tribes and states in meeting the goals; and identify ways for tribes and states to understand their role in the DOE-NE program. The working group will have two representatives from each entity (DOE, states and tribes). Ken Niles (Oregon) and Ms. Janairo will represent the states, Ms. Westra and Richard Arnold (Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations) will represent tribal groups, and Ms. Bickford and Elizabeth Helvey (North Wind) will represent DOE. There has been one conference call and another has been scheduled for December and the group members have started sharing documents and adding information to the wiki site.

State and regional roundtable: Ms. Beetem asked for state members to report on activities in their states.

Illinois: Mr. Horn said Illinois was doing mostly industry shipments with a few spent nuclear fuel (SNF) shipments occurring too. There is an incredible amount of low-level waste shipments from industry as well as power plants, with the majority coming from Zion. Those shipments are both rail and road shipments. He gave an update on Zion which is on schedule and continuing to move SNF and Greater-than-Class-C (GTCC) waste. Illinois will be hosting another CVSA Level VI course in Springfield next summer. He said the CVSA is also coming in December to do a peer review. There was a fee structure realignment in Illinois – the IL Manufacturers Association lobbied legislators to eliminate the fee structure for shipments originating in or destined for a facility in Illinois. IEMA worked with the legislators to lower, rather than abolish, the fee. The new fee structure will take effect January 1, 2015.

Indiana: Ms. Dresen told the committee about the legislative report put together by Kaci Studer (Indiana). Ms. Studer shared information about training – with the help of CSG, they were able to fund two tech courses this year. In June, they held the TMERRTT in Fort Wayne and in October they had the Rad Specialist course that had about 20 participants from federal, state and county levels.

Iowa: Major Evans said industry is continuing to move shipments through Iowa, which is a fee and escort state. Michigan is having Level VI training in March and Iowa will be sending someone to attend so they will have a total of six inspectors. They are attending a peer review in Denver and also the one in Springfield, Illinois.

Kansas: Jonathan York (Kansas) said Kansas has had a handful of shipments come through the state. The state doesn’t provide escorts, but they do provide information to the counties. He said Kansas hasn’t participated in MERRRT this year because of busy schedules for the local counties. The state relies heavily on the twelve regional hazardous materials response teams, which are CBRNE trained, are able to respond within two hours anywhere in the state. The state fire marshal’s office assists in the team’s training and they also have the opportunity to go to Crisis City, which is the hands-on training facility in Kansas.

Michigan: John Holder (Michigan) said they’re doing the CVSA level VI class in March. They have six inspectors registered, but want 12. Mr. Gothard added that this year they did a bomb exercise where they detonated a vehicle in a parking lot. They are waiting for more MERRRT training to be set up. Ken Yale (Michigan) mentioned the state, through a DOE program, has packaged two americium sources and they’re awaiting shipment.

Missouri: Ms. Beetem said she has been transitioning all her committee work to others in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and she anticipates Ms. Drake will be the person to continue serving on the committee. They can now take credit card payments for the shipment fees. She said the state is still
interested in doing TEPP training and has talked about that with EM. If they can get out-of-state approval they will go.

Ms. Janairo asked Ms. Beteem and Major Evans for an update on a previous discussion they had about organizing a large TEPP exercise for Missouri and Iowa. Major Evans said they’re still going through the planning process for that. His state has shown interest in doing an exercise where a rail shipment strikes a hazmat truck. He said planning meetings were put on hold until after the election, but will probably start up again in December. Iowa has gone through awareness training with approximately 50% of highway maintenance staff and hopes to get the other half trained next year. Major Evans said they are also working with a California-based consultant that does computer-based trainings to train the higher level managers.

Nebraska: Mr. Schwarz said they did study on a hazardous materials transportation corridor, which included rail, which has gone through critiques and now will be edited. The state got rid of their old Cobalt-60 training sets through the DOE orphan program, which was a big cost savings. He said they’re having some problems getting volunteers for the radiological training. Since nothing is being shipped there’s no sense of urgency. The next big exercise will be in preparation for the Bakken oil shipments.

Ohio: Mr. Snee had no transportation related updates.

Wisconsin: Ms. Engelhart said since January, Wisconsin has had 17 shipments, 10 of which are classified as Highway Route Controlled Quantity (HRCQ). She has put together a working group with stakeholders and they’re working on a notification and decision-making process. At this time there is no statutory language that allows them to charge fees for radiological shipments, but the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has submitted legislation to do so. There is interest in having state patrol charge fees for escorts, which would cover actual costs like backfill and meals. She doesn’t anticipate hearing anything about this until next summer, given how the budget process operates.

Ms. Engelhart reported that Kewaunee received its license exemption and approval of the new emergency plan so they are officially out of the planning purview. Related to that, DOE came to Wisconsin in September for a site visit, starting with the Oneida Reservation. They also met with Kewaunee plant personnel who talked about plans to move all their SNF to dry storage by 2016, which is ahead of schedule. There was discussion about steam generators and large component movements and a lot of interest in the Goldhofer truck. She said during that meeting it was mentioned that Point Beach had barged a steam generator out of the Kewaunee port last year, but she wasn’t able to get in touch with anyone who had more information. Steve Maheras (PNNL), Ms. Janairo and Ms. Engelhart have all put in data requests with no luck. Ms. Engelhart said the remainder of the DOE visit to Wisconsin involved visiting potential transload locations all over the state. Ms. Beetem asked why Wisconsin has had so many more shipments this year. Ms. Engelhart explained that the new I-90 corridor, plus a lack of fees, made going through Wisconsin much more appealing. This led to a discussion about whether or not the route is in violation, which was undetermined.

NTSF Tribal Caucus: Mr. Arnold commented that it was interesting to hear the status of the cooperative agreements. He said he wanted it to be clear that tribes don’t want any money taken away from the state regional groups (SRG) to fund the tribal caucus. They’ve been able to use the documents developed by the SRGs for their own tribal versions. These documents will be shared with the SRGs when they’re ready. They’re also working on how to share information about culturally sensitive sites and how much information to share. He mentioned that they are participating in a Tribal Dialogue and Summit with Secretary Moniz.
in December. Daniel King (Oneida Nation) talked about the challenges of working for a tribe and added that although a tribe’s reservation is a small square, the culturally significant lands are much larger. For example, there could be burial grounds or medicinal plants located elsewhere. Ms. Westra reiterated what Mr. Arnold said about not taking DOE funding away from SRGs. She described Prairie Island and its role in potential shipments. She said she was pleased to see the changes that were being made that are more cognizant of tribal concerns. Ron Johnson (Prairie Island Indian Community) expressed interest in seeing congressional and energy staff participate in meetings because they have institutional knowledge. Ms. Janairo emphasized that the SRG staff knew the tribes were not behind the decision to take the regional funding to pay the tribal caucus.

Southern States Energy Board (SSEB): Christopher Wells (SSEB) reported that at the Western Governors’ Association (WGA) meeting, a lot of the states mentioned they were doing the Preventive Radiation Nuclear Detection (PRND) program from the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO). He said Louisiana and North Carolina are wrapping up their activities and SSEB is on North Carolina’s steering committee. He explained the initial phase of PRND was putting monitors in at the weigh stations and now the program is focused on personal equipment for troopers, e.g. The SSEB had their annual meeting at the end of September in Mobile, Alabama. He said Jonathan Levy, deputy chief of staff to Secretary Moniz, talked about the economics of a state being an interim storage site and the Blue Ribbon Commission. Mr. Wells said they’ve participated in a Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Transportation Emergency Exercise (WIPPTREX) in Louisiana. Georgia and Mississippi applied to be on the schedule for an exercise in 2015. SSEB is having their radioactive materials meeting in December with START training on the second day.

Brotherhood of Local Engineers and Trainmen (BLET): Tony Diamond (BLET) took on the task of modifying the Highway Security Communications Plan and converted it to a rail security communications plan for people in the industry. BLET still has concerns - some can be addressed through contract negotiations and waivers, but there may be others that can’t be resolved that way. He said the draft plan has been approved by BLET and is ready for review by the committee. Ms. Janairo suggested that this be discussed in the context of the Rail Issues ad hoc working group because it could be folded into that group’s activities. Mr. Diamond raised some operational and security concerns from the BLET point of view. He said the radios are unsecured so you can listen in over the internet. He thinks these shipments deserve higher security because it will attract attention from “rail nuts” that hear about the shipment and spread the word. The discussion pointed to the need for tribes to be involved in security communications, so it was recommended that protocols be vetted through the NTSF Tribal Caucus. Mr. King suggested creating some MOU’s – tribes currently do this with law enforcement to create better communication between parties.

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL): Brooke Oleen Tieperman (NCSL) further discussed the Tribal Summit sit-down with Secretary Moniz. DOE’s EM, NE and the Office of Indian Energy will all be participating.

180(c) discussion: Ms. Beetem asked if the committee could pick one path forward rather than continuing as it had been with different approaches and funding recommendations. She wants the group to find an approach that everyone can live with. Ms. Janairo suggested the committee go through the Path Forward document item by item. There are three parts that need to be addressed: changes to the recommendations in the principles of agreement from DOE, discussing the policy implementation exercise, and reviewing/approving the proposed recommendation on the funding allocation approach (which has been complicated by DOE’s preference for the 2008 Federal Register approach). Ms. Janairo presented the changes to the recommendations and asked if anyone had objections. There was no opposition.
She then discussed the policy implementation exercise and the key issue surrounding it, which was identifying which states would participate. Ms. Janairo said she knew Indiana was interested and thought Wisconsin had been interested. Ms. Engelhart said she needed to check on that. Ms. Janairo asked for a backup state in case Wisconsin couldn’t participate. Michigan volunteered to be the backup. Major Evans asked for further explanation of the exercise. Ms. Dresen explained that the idea of the exercise is to apply the funding approach they’re looking at in 180(c). They would like two states from each region and the tribal representatives to participate. The exercise will go through the needs assessment, develop the proposal, and identify funding needs. The participating states/tribes will go through a workshop sometime between January and May and have group training on the START system, along with having separate conference calls and individual work. At the NTSF, a couple states will be selected to do a “tabletop” presentation to show the steps of the exercise and how the grant process would work. There was further discussion on the funding formula.

Ms. Janairo presented the three areas of disagreement on funding approach between the interregional teams and DOE. One was the elimination of phases – DOE wants to have an initial planning/assessment phase and an implementation phase to make the language consistent with the 2008 Federal Register. She said she thinks that is an easily accepted change. The next was regarding operations – DOE agreed to let states include operations expenses in their planning and implementation needs, but whether or not they will “receive” any funding in the exercise remains to be seen. The third area of disagreement was the funding level. Ms. Janairo said the states need to decide whether they are comfortable going back to a $100,000 base grant amount instead of $250,000. She noted that she wasn’t sure what that would do with the fragile agreement the interregional team has (one region was previously in disagreement with the other three). She said both approaches have their validity and doesn’t feel strongly one way or another. There was discussion on which approach would be easier. The committee members asked for time to review the information before making a decision.

Co-Chair election: Ms. Beetem reminded members that the committee has a dual junior/senior co-chair arrangement. Major Evans nominated Mr. Horn to be junior co-chair (Ms. Dresen will become senior co-chair). Mr. Schwarz seconds the nomination. Mr. Horn accepted the nomination and was elected by vote to be junior co-chair.

Ms. Janairo thanked Ms. Beetem for her great work as senior co-chair and said she will be missed.

Day 2 Proceedings

Welcome to Michigan: Mr. Yale provided the “Welcome to Michigan.”

DOE-EM Office of Packaging and Transportation: Mr. Wangler gave a presentation entitled “Transportation in Environmental Cleanup.” He first discussed DOE’s waste management activities budget and activities at various sites. He said there are no active cleanup sites in the Midwest. In regards to the Portsmouth/Paducah site, Ms. Beetem asked if the all the processed DUF6 will be reused or if some would be shipped as waste. Mr. Wangler said he didn’t have an exact answer, but his understanding was that they would be trying to recycle as much of it as possible. Mr. Wangler also talked about the disposal of low- and mixed-level waste, which he said has decreased over the years. Ms. Janairo asked if there was a transportation plan coming out. Mr. Wangler said there should be a plan that follows the current practices manual. He then discussed packaging and transportation activities, which includes the TEPP program. He concluded his presentation and members were free to ask questions. Ms. Beetem asked how DOE-EM was coordinating with DOE-NE. Mr. Wangler said the principal area for coordination is the work they’re doing
on the practices manual. Ms. Beetem asked if the EM was looking for a new director. Mr. Wangler said there hasn’t been a vacancy posted, which has to happen before they hire anyone. He said Frank Marcinowski has been working with HR to write the job description for the posting. He said he guesses the EM office director will be at a different level than the previous one.

DOE Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Update: James Mason (CBFO) gave a presentation on WIPP updates. He discussed the two incidents at WIPP (the February 5 underground fire and the February 14 radiological release) and updated members on the progress of the recovery. He also gave a WIPP transportation update. Mr. Johnson asked how you keep the human performance of the program alive if the sites are idle. Mr. Walker responded that workers at the sites are still characterizing and packaging waste, among other activities, so the workforce is being trained. Ms. Beetem asked if DOE intended to continue to fund training at the state level. Mr. Mason said yes, they want to bring in more MERRTT and TRANSCOM training over the next 18 months and even make it more robust so everyone is prepared when shipments begin again. He told states to ask for extra training or support programs if needed. Mr. Horn asked if they still have hospital training. Mr. Mason said yes, they do. Mr. Johnson added that, when people can see how the shipment is packaged, it helps in their understanding of how safe shipments are. Ms. Beetem asked if CBFO has been coordinating with DOE-NE on lessons learned. Mr. Walker said there have been some early discussions, but they haven’t been that involved yet. In the NTP, they do acknowledge the success of the WIPP program, plus that of the FRR program. We would expect to use the lessons learned and best practices.

DOE Office of Secure Transportation: Overview and Discussion: Mr. Reinke presented information on the National Nuclear Security Administration’s Office of Secure Transport and its mission to move the nation’s nuclear weapons and components safely and securely.

DOE-NE Nuclear Fuels Storage & Transportation (NFST) Planning Project: Mr. Jones presented on the NFST program status, including Section 180(c) policy, the NTP, route identification, the consent-based siting process, and legislative updates. He also discussed FY2014 funded activities and gave a preview of the FY2015 budget request. Ms. Drake asked how long appointed members serve on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Mr. Jones said commissioners serve five years, with three current commissioners from the president’s political party and two from the other side. Regarding the budget, Ms. Westra asked where the funding for the judgment fund comes from. Mr. Jones said it’s a whole separate amount of money that the federal government puts away for settling lawsuits. DOE has paid $3 billion after being sued by utilities for not picking up spent fuel.

Current Status of Shutdown Sites Activities: Transportation Infrastructure Near Midwestern Shutdown Sites: During a working lunch, Mr. Maheras discussed updates to the Shutdown Sites Report (SSR), which was undergoing review for posting on the DOE-NE website. The report evaluates removal of used nuclear fuel and other activities at shutdown sites. He also discussed transportation infrastructure (rail, roads/highways, barge access) around the Midwestern shutdown sites of Zion, La Crosse, Big Rock Point and Kewaunee.

Business Session resumed

Case study of a RAM shipment: Mr. Horn shared information about an incident in Illinois involving a FedEx shipment of radioactive material (RAM) and how the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) responded to it. An IEMA Health Physicist was dispatched in Cairo, IL, to investigate what they thought was a routine tractor-trailer crash involving RAM that had occurred two days earlier. As the investigation got underway, they started noticing some puzzling circumstances and discovered there had to be a second
radionuclide in another package. IEMA was told by FedEx that there had also been a shipment of P-32 on board the truck - the way it was packaged plus the heat of the fire caused the P-32 to spray all over the rest of the shipments. They tested first responders and found that luckily there was no radiological health risk.

Continue discussion of NTP and Section 180(c): Ms. Janairo reiterated that they need the committee’s decision on the changes DOE suggested for the Path Forward Proposal. There was further discussion on this by members. It was suggested that they agree to a $100,000 base amount for the purpose of the exercise, but the Team recommend $250,000 for the actual base amount. Mr. Horn made a motion to accept this and Mr. Yale seconded the motion.

In regards to the NTP, Ms. Engelhart said she wants more discussions to identify priority issues for papers. Ms. Janairo suggested a key issue list used for Yucca Mountain and interregional calls. Mr. Jones offered to participate in the discussions from DOE’s point of view. He said he does have a list of issues that he will post on the wiki site.

Review START data and identify training needs: Mr. Maheras said Ms. Bickford is looking for the Cooper ratings of bridges (measurements of height, width and length). He noted that all their rail cars will be heavier than the weight limit of 500,000 pounds so they’ll need a route clearance for every route in terms of weight and probably for dimensions too. He thinks this information could be obtained from the railroads themselves, but he’s not sure if individual states already have this on hand.

Appointments: Ms. Beetem told the committee that since there have been elections and some governors have changed in the Midwest they need to revisit legislative representatives to the committee. Ms. Janairo said she would be contacting the two new governors to get their official gubernatorial appointees to the committee and in January would solicit recommendations for other candidates to serve. She asked committee members for their recommendations as well. She wants to get people appointed by the end of March in the hope that they could maybe attend the May NTSF meeting.

Plans for spring meeting: Ms. Beetem ran through the agenda for the spring meeting. She said the first day there would be DOE and federal program updates and asked if there were particular topics the committee wanted to have on the Midwest agenda. If members think of something they’d like to see, email Ms. Janairo. At the last couple meetings the DOE program directors made rounds to the regional groups – Ms. Beetem asked if the committee liked this format or if they thought it should be done differently. She and Ms. Janairo gave some ideas of options. Ms. Beetem liked Ms. Janairo’s suggestion about having questions ready for the directors ahead of time. The committee had no other thoughts. Ms. Beetem asked the committee for a representative to tell the NTSF what the Midwest has been up to the past year. Mr. Horn got three nominations and accepted. Ms. Janairo said she wanted to look ahead to fall of 2015 and suggested the committee meet somewhere near the Iowa/Illinois border and bring in a WIPP truck to use as an opportunity to bring in legislators from both states. She added that the committee could think way ahead about touring the Defense Waste Processing Facility in 2016.

Training and exercises/Rail issues: Ms. Janairo said they’ve already recruited people for the rail group, but asked the rest of the members to also look over the single-page document on the rail transport working group and let her know if they have comments or suggestions by November 20.

On the training, Ms. Janairo gave a reminder that through the CSG cooperative agreement there is money available to help people get to training if they don’t have the resources of their own, so please let her know if that’s the case.
Travel reimbursement and other announcements: Ms. Janairo went over the reimbursement form and asked members to note that CSG follows the federal travel regulations. The benefit of this is that you only have to submit lodging and other authorized expense receipts that are over $75 — you don't have to submit your smaller receipts. For the drivers, if your one-way trip exceeds 200 miles, you must find an itinerary in advance for reasonably priced airfare that would get you to the meeting on time and allow you to stay until it ends. Save that and submit it along with your travel expenses — you can be reimbursed for up to the cost of that. If you drive, you are liable for meals and expenses if your trip is longer than what it would be if you flew. She said to submit your reimbursement through email, if possible, and hold onto the hard copies. Please remember to sign the form before you send it!

Action items: Review and assign: Ms. Janairo is emailing everyone the action items. She thanked Ms. Treland for all her hard work in connection with this meeting.

Ms. Beetem told members it was a pleasure working with all of them and adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.