

The Council of State Governments Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project

Project Update
December 2010

STATUS OF THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

The transportation project has received most of the project funding it requested from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO). DOE's Environmental Management (EM) program has provided some new funding, but the bulk of CSG Midwest's requested funding has not been received. The funding from the CBFO was not sufficient to cover all the funding requested by the Midwestern states in connection with shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). As a result, new agreements with Indiana and Ohio are being delayed and one state (Illinois) has received only partial funding. The delay in establishing new agreements is likely to have an impact on the states' readiness for shipments that are projected to start in June 2011.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT TASKS

Regional Committee

Appointments: The Midwest will have nine new governors taking office in January. Under the committee rules, the staff will solicit new appointments from all nine states. As in past years, the letter requesting an appointment will reference the current committee member from that state. On the legislative front, the committee will lose Sen. Steve Buehrer from Ohio as a member. Ohio Governor-elect John Kasich appointed Sen. Buehrer to lead the state's Workers' Compensation Bureau. Of the legislative appointees up for reelection, only one lost his seat. In January, the staff will contact current legislative members in good standing regarding their interest in continuing to serve on the committee. If the committee needs new legislative members in 2011, the staff will solicit recommendations from the legislative leadership in the states, with the final appointments to be made by the chair of the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC). In 2011, the MLC chair will be Indiana Representative Scott Reske.

National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF): Tim Runyon (Illinois) succeeded Melanie Rasmussen (Iowa) as the committee's representative on the NTSF Planning Committee. Lisa Janairo and Melissa Bailey also served on the Planning Committee. CSG Midwest initiated and now leads the activities of the first two ad hoc working groups of the NTSF. The first group is developing recommendations for written guidance that DOE's Carlsbad Field Office plans to provide to states and tribes that receive funding for WIPP shipments. This activity is largely the result of the Midwestern committee's project to document state experiences receiving DOE funding to prepare for shipments. The second group is working on recommendations for improving DOE's Prospective Shipment Report. The two working groups are expected to complete their tasks in the spring.

CSG Midwest also hosted the NTSF's first webinar, which took place on November 17th. The webinar featured presentations on new radiofrequency identification technology for monitoring the condition of radioactive waste containers and on planned enhancements to the TRANSCOM system that DOE uses to track shipments. The next webinar is tentatively scheduled for February.

Finally, the staff has developed a "wiki" site for the NTSF. Members of the NTSF can use the site as their forum for exchanging information related to DOE's shipments or other transportation-related topics of interest. The site is still under construction but will be available to all NTSF members early next year. Anyone interested in previewing the wiki site should contact Lisa Janairo.



Rail Inspections Work Group: The Midwest's Rail Inspections Work Group continued to participate in the interregional effort to establish a reciprocal rail inspection program for shipments of spent fuel. Since May 2010, the only significant activity involving this group is a revision to the proposed inspection forms. The Midwest continues to await the Federal Railroad Administration's reply to the committee's letter of January 19, 2010, which transmitted the original version of the rail inspection forms. Carlisle Smith (Ohio) will provide a report on the work group's activities at the Milwaukee meeting.

Fee States Caucus: CSG Midwest continued to facilitate the activities of the Midwestern Fee States Caucus, which includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Ohio. The caucus held quarterly conference calls on August 2nd and November 1st. Quarterly calls of the caucus are open to all the Midwestern states. Jane Beetem (Missouri) will provide a full report on the caucus's activities at the committee meeting in Milwaukee.

NRC Rulemaking Review Work Group: The members of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Rulemaking Review Work Group held conference calls on July 22nd and September 21st to prepare and finalize comments from the region on the NRC's proposed rule on the physical protection of byproduct material. The work group convened a third call on November 23rd to conduct an initial review of the NRC's proposed rule on security requirements for spent fuel shipments. The proposed rule will be the subject of the workshop that will take place on December 8th after the full committee meeting adjourns.

Other Meetings: The staff and representatives of the committee attended several meetings between May and December 2010, including three meetings involving the NRC and one meeting of the Transportation and Storage Subcommittee of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. Reports on each trip will be provided during the business session in Milwaukee.

Transportation Issues Archive: With the last remaining funding from DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, the staff completed the transportation issues archive during the summer. The final version was posted in the "public information" section of the transportation project web site in August.

Transportation Planning

WIPP Small-Quantity Site Shipments: In July, DOE announced the route for shipments of transuranic waste from NRD in New York to DOE's Idaho National Laboratory. In the same month, the Midwest submitted comments on DOE's draft transportation plan for transuranic waste shipments. Once DOE's Carlsbad Field Office provides CSG Midwest with sufficient funding, the staff will establish new agreements with Indiana and Ohio to help those states prepare for the shipments, which are tentatively scheduled to take place in June 2011. The states are arranging to have DOE conduct training at several locations this spring.

Other shipping campaigns: In August, the Midwest reviewed and submitted comments on the draft transportation plan for a shipment of irradiated test specimens that DOE's Office of Science was planning to conduct. The shipment originated at Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago and was destined for Idaho National Laboratory.

Information and Communication

Planning Guide revision: In September, the staff published the fourth revision of the *Planning Guide for Shipments of Radioactive Material through the Midwestern States*. Over 1,000 copies were distributed to state personnel and other recipients.

State Fees Flyer: The staff updated the state fees flyer in July to reflect changes in Indiana's fee law. A new revision was posted on the transportation project web site in December to update information on Ohio's new rule to implement that state's fee law. Copies will be available at the committee meeting in Milwaukee.

DOE/FEMA Q&A Brochure: In July, the committee's Information and Communications Work Group submitted final feedback from the region on a DOE/FEMA brochure entitled "Q&A About Transport of Radioactive Materials." The Midwest had previously commented on the draft of the booklet in November 2009.

Transportation Project web site: The redesign of the CSG Midwest web site has been postponed until 2011. The web site contains information on committee meetings, state fees, and project publications.

Transportation Project newsletters: Through the end of September, the staff continued to distribute e-newsletters every two weeks to committee members and other recipients. The frequency shifted to every three weeks in early October when Melissa Bailey began her maternity leave.

Prepared by Lisa Janairo, December 6, 2010.