

The Council of State Governments Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project

Project Update
May 2011

STATUS OF THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

As in past years, funding for the cooperative agreement continues to be a challenge both in terms of the amount of funding received and the timing. The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) has fully funded the project and state agreements are now in place with four states affected by shipments of transuranic waste. New funding from DOE's Environmental Management (EM) program combined with carryover from last year has given the transportation project sufficient funding to operate through the end of June 30. FY12 is the last year of the Midwest's current five-year contract. Because of Congress's focus on cutting the budget, funding from both DOE programs in FY12 may be lower than FY11 funding. It is uncertain whether funding from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be available in FY12 or, if it is, whether it will cover the possible shortfall in DOE funding.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT TASKS

Regional Committee

Appointments: The Midwestern governors reappointed four members to the committee. Two new members join the committee in 2011: Michael Snee from the Ohio Department of Health and Major Lance Evans from the Iowa Department of Transportation. Four governors have yet to make their appointments. Three legislative appointees to the committee have been reappointed: Rep. Steve Olson from Iowa; Rep. Carl Holmes from Kansas, and Sen. LeRoy Loudon from Nebraska. The staff has not sought new legislative appointments to the committee due to funding uncertainty, among other reasons. Once funding for FY12 is received, the staff will initiate outreach to legislative leaders in states not currently represented by a legislator.

National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF): Tim Runyon and Kelly Horn (Illinois) have been participating on the NTSF Planning Committee along with Lisa Janairo. The Planning Committee's main focus since December 2010 has been planning the May 2011 NTSF meeting. The committee will need to appoint a new representative to take Tim Runyon's place on the NTSF Planning Committee this summer.

In other NTSF activities, two of the ad hoc working groups completed their tasks, having sought feedback from the state and tribal members of the NTSF and forwarding their recommendations on to DOE. CSG Midwest led both ad hoc working groups. The Financial Guidance group developed recommendations for the guidance that the CBFO is preparing for states and tribes that receive funding for transuranic waste shipments. The Prospective Shipment Report (PSR) group developed recommendations for improving the PSR, which is DOE's primary tool for communicating long-term shipment planning information to states and tribes. Both ad hoc working groups are awaiting DOE's response to their recommendations.

Two new ad hoc working groups formed and will meet in Denver. The Communications group is helping DOE to improve its public information materials. Jane Beetem (Missouri) and Jennifer Clark (Kansas) participate on the group, which held its first call on March 8. Lisa Janairo is co-leading the group with Ken Niles (Oregon). The group has provided DOE's CBFO with feedback on the communications plan for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) program. In addition, the group has developed a draft template for DOE fact sheets and has begun an extensive review of several DOE fact sheets. In Denver, committee members will review the draft template and one public information booklet ("Answers to Your Questions"). Jane will report on the working group's activities and will lead the discussion of the documents being reviewed.



Kelly Horn (Illinois) is representing the Midwest on the Notifications ad hoc working group, which will attempt to improve DOE's shipment notifications to affected jurisdictions. The group held one conference call on February 16. Kelly will give a report on the group's activities in Denver.

CSG Midwest hosted the second NTSF webinar on February 24. The webinar focused on shipment information, with a demonstration of DOE's Waste Information Management System (WIMS) and a presentation on the PSR and the improvements that the ad hoc working group was recommending. A recording of the webinar is available on the NTSF wiki site. The next webinar is tentatively scheduled for August.

Fee States Caucus: The Midwestern Fee States Caucus held quarterly conference calls on February 7 and May 2. Six Midwestern states currently have fees: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska. Ohio's legislature eliminated the state's fee in April. Quarterly calls of the caucus are open to all the Midwestern states. The next one will take place on Monday, August 15, at 1 pm central. Melanie Rasmusson (Iowa) will provide a full report on the caucus's activities at the committee meeting in Denver.

NRC Rulemaking Review Work Group: The NRC Rulemaking Review Work Group has been very active since the December meeting, having held five conference calls to prepare regional comments on the NRC's proposed rule on the physical protection of irradiated reactor fuel and the associated guidance document. The committee submitted final comments on the proposed rule on April 11. At the spring meeting in Denver, the committee will discuss the work group's recommended comments on the draft guidance document. The deadline for commenting is May 11, therefore the committee will need to finalize the comments at the meeting on May 10. Kevin Leuer (Minnesota) will give a full report on the work group's activities at the meeting in Denver and will lead the discussion of the draft comments on the guidance document. Melanie Rasmusson and Tim Runyon are the other two members of the work group.

Greater-Than-Class C (GTCC) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Work Group: The work group held its first conference call on April 14 to discuss DOE's draft EIS for the disposition of GTCC low-level radioactive waste. DOE published the draft EIS on February 25; the public comment period will close on June 27. Jon Schwarz (Nebraska) will give a report on the work group's activities at the meeting in Denver and will lead the discussion of the proposed comments on the draft EIS. Jane Beetem and Tim Runyon are the other members of the work group.

Other Meetings: Tim Runyon attended the Nuclear Energy Institute's Used Fuel Management Conference on May 3-5 in Baltimore. Tim was invited to participate in a panel on spent fuel storage and transportation security. On April 13, Lisa Janairo attended a meeting of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) Level VI Committee in Rosemont, Illinois.

Transportation Planning

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Small-Quantity Site Shipments: CSG Midwest has established new agreements with Ohio and Indiana to help the states fund their activities in connection with shipments of transuranic waste from NRD in New York. (Illinois and Iowa are the other two Midwestern states that receive funding in connection with WIPP shipments.) The shipments are expected to be completed in June 2011. TRU waste shipments from Argonne resumed on April 12. DOE is expected to continue shipping from Argonne through mid-May. The agreements with Illinois and Iowa will be renewed in FY12. Because the shipments through Ohio and Indiana are expected to be completed in June, those agreements will not receive any new funding in FY12. Bill Mackie (DOE/CBFO) will attend the committee's meeting in Denver to discuss WIPP shipments through the Midwest, state agreements, and any Midwestern state needs or concerns.

Information and Communication

Planning Guide revision: The *Planning Guide* was printed in September 2010, therefore it is time for committee members to update the information on their states for the web edition of the document.

Copies of each state's section will be distributed at the committee meeting in Denver or via e-mail to members that will not be attending the meeting. Updates will be due on or before Friday, May 27.

State Fees Flyer: The state fees flyer will be updated in May to reflect any changes to state fee programs, including points of contact. Committee members will discuss needed changes at the committee meeting in Denver.

Transportation Project web and wiki sites: The redesign of the CSG Midwest web site is finally complete. The staff is working out the inevitable bugs and hopes to have the transportation project's pages in full working order by the end of May. In the meantime, the staff has developed a wiki site as a resource for members of the committee and other Midwestern state personnel. Modeled on the NTSF wiki site (also developed and maintained by the Midwest), the MRMTC wiki site includes pages for each of the committee work groups. Site members can find conference call summaries, documents for review, and other information on the regional wiki site. For instructions on or help with joining either the MRMTC or the NTSF wiki sites, contact Lisa Janairo.

Transportation Project newsletters: The staff queried readers of the newsletter to determine the value of the newsletter to its audience. Readers expressed high interest in continuing to receive the newsletter. Because of staff cuts, the publication frequency dropped in April to monthly from every three weeks previously. The committee will discuss ideas for the newsletter at the Denver meeting.

Prepared by Lisa Janairo, May 2, 2011.