

**The Council of State Governments (CSG)  
Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project (MRMTP)**

**Project Update  
Fall 2023**

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**STATUS OF THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**

CSG Midwest currently has a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) that will run until September 30, 2026. This agreement funds work on future spent nuclear fuel (SNF) shipments, biannual Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (MRTMC) meetings, the MRMTC Regional Tribal Engagement Work Group, Transportation Core Group meetings, relevant National Transportation Stakeholder Forum (NTSF) Ad Hoc Working Groups (AHWG), nuclear power plant site infrastructure visits, the Southwest Research Institute's (SwRI) Community Readiness Assessment Framework for Transportation (CRAFT) project, and other activities.

CSG Midwest received a new cooperative agreement with the DOE Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) that started on July 1, 2023, and will run until June 30, 2028. This agreement funds work on transuranic (TRU) waste shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), biannual MRMTC meetings, subaward agreements with Illinois and Iowa that pay for salaries, training, travel, equipment, etc., and other activities.

Finally, CSG Midwest received a new cooperative agreement with the DOE Office of Packaging and Transportation (OPT) that started on April 1, 2023, and will run until September 30, 2027. This agreement funds work on non-SNF shipments of radioactive material by DOE, biannual MRMTC meetings, NTSF meetings like the 2023 Annual Meeting hosted by the Midwest, relevant NTSF AHGWs, and other activities.

Overall, the funding received, and to be received, will be sufficient to cover all regular project activities, including information and communications activities. In addition, travel funding is available to MRMTC members and other Midwestern state personnel who are interested in transportation-related trainings or exercises. Funding is also available to cover travel in connection with the committee's Regional Tribal Engagement work. State rail safety personnel from the Midwestern states will be eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses for attending committee meetings and NTSF annual meetings.

**MIDWESTERN RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION PROJECT (MRMTP) STAFFING**

Mitch Arvidson remains the Program Manager MRMTP. In March 2023, Melissa Shahzadeh was hired as a part-time Policy Analyst for the MRMTP, and she began her work on April 3, 2023. Kathy Treland and Christina Luporini have provided administrative support to the project.

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT TASKS**

***Regional Committee***

*Appointments/Departures:* Since the MRMTC Spring 2023 Meeting, a gubernatorial appointment was received from Indiana. Courtney Eckstein of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security was appointed by Gov. Eric Holcomb. In turn, Courtney designated Fernando Flores Carlos, also of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, as the state's official alternate. A gubernatorial appointment was also

received from Iowa. Trooper Glenn Goode of the Iowa State Patrol was appointed by Gov. Kim Reynolds. Finally, MRMTC Co-Chair Tad Rumas was officially made Ohio's gubernatorial appointee by Gov. Mike DeWine. Welcome Courtney, Fernando, and Glenn, and congratulations Tad!

On the other hand, the MRMTC lost two longtime committee members to retirement. Christopher Boswell (Iowa) and Michael Snee (Ohio) retired in the last few months and the MRMTC congratulates them on their wonderful careers. Additionally, Michigan Alternate Waylon Sanford left the Michigan State Police and no longer serves on the MRMTC. The committee does not currently have any outstanding appointments.

*Planning Guide Review Work Group:* Every odd-numbered year, members of the MRMTC assist staff to review and revise the "Part II. Recommended Practices" section in the *Planning Guide for Shipments of Radioactive Material through the Midwestern States*. 2023's version of the work group consisted of Nick Emme (South Dakota), Greg Gothard (Michigan), and Mark Paulson (Wisconsin). Mr. Arvidson and Ms. Shahzadeh staffed this work group for CSG Midwest. Group members reviewed the document individually and held three meetings to discuss their findings, questions, and recommendations together. Meetings were held on June 26, July 28, and August 21. Here are some of the of the suggested changes of note: changing regulatory links to go directly to the electronic Code of Federal Regulations (eCFR), adding an explanation of what NRC Agreement States are, and adding an explanation of the Stakeholder Tool for Assessing Radioactive Transportation (START). The work group will seek approval of these suggested changes from the entire committee at the MRMTC Fall 2023 Meeting. Furthermore, the work group will seek committee guidance on whether or not to further expand the *Planning Guide's* discussion of private SNF shipments.

*Regional Tribal Engagement (RTE) Work Group:* This work group's purpose is to help MRMTC representatives' outreach to Tribes in their states. This is done through collaboration with the Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (TRMTC), Midwestern tribal representatives, federal agencies, and members of the MRMTC. There is great interest amongst the region's states in sharing information with, and collaborating with, Tribes regarding transportation of spent fuel and other radioactive materials. By working through the regional committee, it may be possible to overcome barriers that states have encountered in the past. The MRMTC RTE Work Group last met via Zoom on August 7. During that call, the group heard reports from members on recent and upcoming activities of interest and set expectations and goals for the work group moving forward. These expectations include: the work group should remain a place for quarterly meetings where stakeholders can come together to discuss what has happened and what is anticipated; if the opportunity presents itself, there could be a restart of the effort to facilitate trainings between states and Tribes for emergency response; it should primarily function as a conduit for the flow of information and as a place for informal collaboration to grow connections; and, there is a preference to continue with quarterly meetings rather than holding more with greater frequency. Members of the group are Allan Barker (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)), Michael Bradley (Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Nation), Scott Doig (U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)), Mr. Gothard, Tim Grant (Omaha Tribe of Nebraska), Aaron Kallunki (Minnesota), Dan King (Oneida Nation), Allie Leber (North Wind Site Services), Tansey Moore (National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)), and Heather Westra (Prairie Island Indian Community). Ms. Shahzadeh and Mr. Arvidson staff the work group.

*National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF):* The Midwestern states and staff are as active as they can be in the NTSF. The following NTSF-related groups have been active since the fall committee meeting:

*NTSF Planning Committee:* MRMTC Co-Chairs Rodney Pitchford (Illinois) and Mr. Rumas are the Midwest's state representatives on the Planning Committee, along with Mr. Arvidson and Ms. Shahzadeh as staff representatives. Since the last meeting of the MRMTC, the Planning Committee has done a debrief and lessons learned about the 2023 Annual Meeting, which was hosted by the Midwest in St. Louis, MO. Now, the committee is focused on planning for the 2024 Annual Meeting of the NTSF, which will be hosted by TRMTC on June 3 – 6, 2024, in Denver, CO. A save the date notification has been sent to the NTSF community and the bones of an agenda have been agreed to. Ellen Edge (DOE-OPT) leads the Planning Committee for DOE.

*SNF Rail/Routing AHWG:* The purpose of the SNF Rail/Routing AHWG is to facilitate a dialogue between federal staff from DOE, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Tribes and states, and other transportation stakeholders, to develop a common understanding of how future rail shipments of SNF will operate, and to identify outstanding issues or questions to resolve in advance of commencing rail-based spent nuclear fuel shipping campaigns. This AHWG most recently met at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the NTSF on May 25. During that meeting, the group discussed the crosswalk document comparing the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Level VI inspection program and applicable inspection procedures laid out by the FRA. Additionally, the group learned about the dose calculation study undertaken at Prairie Island Indian Community, which explored what kind of radioactive doses humans and animals might be exposed to during a rail shipment of SNF away from the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant. Next, the group discussed the Rail Route Draft Inspection Protocol and the next steps for that protocol. Finally, the group discussed possible next steps, such as developing one or more fact sheets, determining what rail emergency response would look like, and determining training needs surrounding SNF rail shipments. Edward Engle (Iowa), Kelly Horn (Illinois), Jamie Reyes (Nebraska), Mr. Rumas, and Brian Vercruysse (Illinois) represent the Midwest states on the AHWG. Mr. Arvidson and Ms. Shahzadeh are the staff representatives and Gerry Jackson (DOE-NE) leads the AHWG for DOE.

*Section 180(c) AHWG:* This AHWG was established to continue to evaluate DOE's proposed policy for Section 180(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended. The group will also identify outstanding issues/activities necessary for successful implementation of the policy including, but not limited to, allocation of funds, allowable activities, development of grant guidance documents and a technical assistant plan. The goal of the AHWG is to help DOE consider issues of importance to State, Tribal and other government entities to effectively conduct planning and training for emergency response in support of a national SNF shipping program, document work done through white papers (aka "issue papers") and make that work available to the NTSF community. The Section 180(c) AHWG met on May 25 in conjunction with the NTSF Annual Meeting. There, it was agreed that the work group should create a fact sheet to explain to state and tribal governments what the group does, as well as creating communications products, perhaps in collaboration with the NTSF SNF Management Communications and Outreach AHWG. The group was presented a draft timeline showing DOE's responsibilities prior shipments and another draft timeline showing states' and Tribes' responsibilities. The group then decided that reviewing the draft Section 180(c) funding allocation formula and policy language should be the group's main focus, especially because it could take many meetings to resolve. Following through on this decision, the group's next meeting was held on September 28 and dove into the Section 180(c) funding allocation report from 2017 and featured a presentation/discussion with one of the report's authors, Kevin Connolly (Oak Ridge National Laboratory). Mr. Gothard, Swapam Saha (Kansas), and Ryan Seabaugh (Missouri) are the Midwest state representatives while Mr. Arvidson and Ms. Shahzadeh are the Midwest staff representatives on the AHWG.

*SNF Management – Communications and Outreach AHWG:* The goal of this AHWG is to help DOE effectively and accurately communicate about planned DOE SNF transportation and associated SNF management activities, including federal interim storage. The AHWG will provide input to DOE-NE on developing messaging, strategies, and products to communicate effectively with Tribes, States, the general public, and other stakeholders. Examples of working group activities include, but are not limited to identifying and describing information and communication needs of the states and Tribes, identifying potential barriers to effective communication and strategies for improving communications, developing key messages on SNF transportation and related topics like radiation and SNF management, identifying effective communications channels and approaches for conveying messages, and reviewing and commenting on draft DOE-NE public information materials in development. The AHWG last met on May 25 in conjunction with the NTSF Annual Meeting. Mr. Horn and Mr. Saha represent the Midwest states on this group and Mr. Arvidson and Ms. Shahzadeh are staff representatives.

*Webinars:* Since the last committee meeting, CSG Midwest has hosted one NTSF webinar on September 28, entitled “FRA Safety Coordination and Compliance Oversight Plan (SCCOP).” The FRA first created the Safety Compliance Oversight Plan (SCOP) for Rail Shipments of High-Level Radioactive Waste and SNF in 1998 for FRA field personnel to use as an inspection guide. In June 2023, the FRA put out an update to the original SCOP to reflect its true purpose, renaming the document the SCCOP. This webinar described the process that FRA went through to update the SCOP to the SCCOP, as well as explored the new document itself. The slides and recording of this webinar, along with recordings and slides from all past NTSF webinars, can be found on the NTSF website.

*Website:* CSG Midwest hosts the NTSF website, <https://www.ntsfi.inso/>. Mr. Arvidson, Ms. Shahzadeh, Ms. Edge, and Ms. Hogan populate and maintain the site. AHWG leads and Annual Meeting hosts are expected to maintain their portions on the website as well.

#### *Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Program:*

*Transportation Core Group:* The purpose of the Transportation Core Group is to present the states and Tribes with an opportunity to learn where various DOE-NE programs and projects stand, as well as pose questions directly to the people working on these projects. Generally, the core group is made up of state regional groups (SRG) Co-Chairs, SRG staff, and DOE-NE staff. The most recent meeting of DOE-NE’s Transportation Core Group was held on September 6 – 7 in Prairie Island, MN, and was hosted by Prairie Island Indian Community/TRMTC. Topics at this meeting included the consent-based siting process and next steps with consortia awardees, the role of social scientists in the siting process and transportation, START dose calculations, advanced reactors, a high-level overview of the DOE timeline, and an overview and discussion of rail regulations. Additionally, the group had the opportunity to tour the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant and independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) on the second day.

*Duane Arnold Site Infrastructure Visit:* On September 19 – 21, DOE-NE, national lab staff, and Midwestern representatives participated on a visit of the shutdown Duane Arnold Nuclear Generating Station in Palo, IA. On day 1, participants met with the remaining staff at the decommissioning station, toured the on-site rail infrastructure, and saw the site’s ISFSI. On day 2, participants toured the local area examining the state of the nearby rail infrastructure, bridges, at-grade rail crossings, and potential transload locations. Duane Arnold has direct rail access to a nearby short-line rail, which easily connects to larger Class 1 rail lines. Day 3 was spent meeting with local elected and

government officials to discuss DOE-NE's site infrastructure evaluation project and the Duane Arnold site in particular. More information on the site visit can be found in the next updated release of the "Nuclear Power Plant Infrastructure Evaluations for Removal of Spent Nuclear Fuel" report.

*SwRI CRAFT Ground-Truthing Exercise:* On October 3, SwRI scientists Amy Minor and Osvaldo Pensado accompanied Mr. Arvidson and Ms. Shahzadeh to Lake County, IN, to present the CRAFT tool and its evaluation of Gary, IN, to state and local stakeholders with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Lake County Emergency Management Agency. The Community Readiness Assessment Framework for Transportation (CRAFT) of SNF by rail is a community-based decision framework tool that incorporates a variety of characteristics to assess an area's preparedness or vulnerability based on site-specific societal and environmental conditions. Previously, SwRI delivered a draft report on their benchmarking activities in which they analyzed 24 Midwestern cities/communities. In October's ground-truthing exercise, SwRI presented and discussed the results with officials in northwest Indiana to gather their opinions and feedback. SwRI will take this feedback, as well as feedback from the MRMTC Spring 2023 Meeting, to make any necessary edits and deliver a final report to the MRMTC by the end of the year.

### ***Transportation Planning***

*Office of Packaging and Transportation (OPT):* DOE-OPT's Prospective Shipment Reports (PSR) provides preliminary planning information on long-term shipping campaigns and other high-visibility and hazardous materials shipments as designated by DOE. In the most recent bi-annual edition, one campaign was listed that will travel through the Midwest. In 2023, the MRMTC has not yet received a prospective shipment report.

*Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP):* In the July semi-annual notification to the states, DOE-CBFO indicated that up to seven shipments of TRU waste from Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) in IL to WIPP in NM will take place between August 2023 and July 2024. As of the most recent WIPP Eight Week Rolling Schedule Shipment Summary, none of these three shipments have taken place yet. CSG Midwest has sub-agreements with Illinois and Iowa to receive DOE funding to plan and prepare for these WIPP shipments.

### ***Information and Communication***

*Legislative Tracker:* Ms. Shahzadeh continues to update the 2022-23 legislative tracker on state and federal legislation related to nuclear energy and radioactive waste. The tracker can be found on the MRMTP Resources page of the CSG Midwest website. If anyone learns of legislation that should be added to the tracker, please contact Ms. Shahzadeh ([mshahzadeh@csg.org](mailto:mshahzadeh@csg.org)).

*Transportation Project E-newsletters:* Monthly e-newsletters continue to be distributed on the first Thursday of each month. Members and other readers should share any news items of interest, including announcements of personnel changes, with Ms. Shahzadeh.

*Committee Website:* CSG Midwest maintains several webpages for the MRMTP and the MRMTC. If committee members have any suggestions for the MRMTC webpages, please contact Mr. Arvidson or Ms. Shahzadeh. These webpages can be found at <https://csgmidwest.org/about-us/mrmtp/>.