



Midwest Radioactive Materials Transportation Project (MRMTP) Status Report

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Status of the Cooperative Agreements

CSG Midwest currently has a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) that will run until 30 September 2026. This agreement funds work on future spent nuclear fuel (SNF) shipments, biannual Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (MRMTC) 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 Community Readiness Assessment Framework for Transportation (CRAFT) project, and other activities.

CSG Midwest also currently has a cooperative agreement with the DOE Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) that will run until 30 June 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 has a cooperative agreement with the DOE Office of Packaging and Transportation (OPT) that will run until 30 September 2027. This agreement funds work on non-SNF shipments of radioactive material by DOE, biannual MRMTC meetings, NTSF meetings, relevant NTSF AHGs, and other activities.

Overall, the funding received or expected 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 interested in transportation-related training or exercises. Funding is also available to cover travel related to 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.

Cooperative Agreement Tasks:

MRMTC Fall 2023 Meeting: In Review

- The MRMTC held its Fall 2023 Meeting on 11 – 12 October 2023 in Carlsbad, New Mexico, during which committee members heard presentations on topics including:
 - The basics of the inspection processes for radioactive shipments by highway and rail;
 - The status of projects of the DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM), Office of Nuclear Energy (NE), Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO), and Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA);
 - The local Carlsbad perspective of Holtec's proposed HI-STORE Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF) of spent nuclear fuel (SNF).

- The committee assigned members to various NTSF and committee working groups including the Regional Tribal Engagement and the Regional Outreach working groups.
- The committee toured the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). Though attendees were unable to tour the underground as the redundant utility lift was nonfunctional, the group was able to tour WIPP's surface facilities and witnessed the process of unloading transuranic (TRU) waste from the TRUPACT-II transportation casks.
- Finally, Mark Paulson of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services was elected as the new Co-Chair for 2024 and 2025. Tad Rumas of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) will continue as the senior Co-Chair in 2024.

Other Accomplishments of Note

- The *Planning Guide* Review Work Group completed the revision to the "Recommended Practices" section of the MRMTC's *Planning Guide for Shipments of Radioactive Material through the Midwestern States* at the end of last year. The graphic design was also updated, and the newest iteration of the document is now published on the MRMTC's webpage.
- The committee's contract with the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) for the development of the Community Readiness Assessment Framework for Transportation (CRAFT) tool was closed at the end of last year after a successful "ground truthing session" in Lake County, Indiana. DOE approved in March CSG-Midwest's proposal to deploy the CRAFT tool throughout additional Midwestern communities in the coming months with Melissa Shahzadeh leading the charge. Melissa tentatively plans to hold "CRAFT conferences" in Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois before the end of 2024. The first conference is scheduled for Toledo, Ohio on Thursday, 18 July.
- The Regional Outreach Ad hoc Working Group was recently revived after a protracted hiatus. The group's focus is on developing documents to be distributed to local stakeholders and legislators that will raise the profile of the MRMTC and invite more extensive engagement.
- The Regional Tribal Engagement (RTE) Ad hoc Working Group is exploring ideas to cultivate increased participation by state officials. The RTE is currently focusing on how best to surmount the historic challenges of engaging Tribal representatives.
- CSG Midwest hosted a Package Performance Demonstration Listening Session on behalf of DOE in which DOE discussed its desire to hold a performance demonstration and invited suggestions from the public on what form that demonstration might take.
- CSG Midwest facilitated the completion of the WIPP Transportation Program Self-Assessment Questionnaire for all Midwestern States at the end of April.
- Melissa Shahzadeh participated in the DOE Integrated Research Project workshop entitled "Integrating socially led co-design into consent-based siting of interim storage facilities." This workshop was held in Madison, Wisconsin 17-19 April and was featured in the MRMTC e-newsletter in May.

- Melissa Shahzadeh and several MRMTC members including Courtney Eckstein (IN), Patty Reisberg (IA), Greg Gothard (MI), and Mack Johnson (NE) attended the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness (NREP) conference in Dallas, TX at the end of April and beginning May. Highlights from the NREP conference were featured in the MRMTC e-newsletter in June.
- Finally, the indefatigable Mitch Arvidson, CSG Midwest's lead staffer for the MRMTC in recent memory, has transitioned to the position of program manager for the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD). Melissa Shahzadeh has transitioned to lead staffer for the MRMTP, which means it is likely we will see a lot of British spelling slipping into communiques coming from CSG Midwest in future. Please be gentle.

Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Updates

- In February, a MERRT course was taught in Indianapolis during which 11 responders attended and 1 requested CEH credit.
- There were no MERRT courses taught in the Midwest in March or April.

For Reference:

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.

Planning Guide Review Work Group: The MRMTC *Planning Guide* Review Work Group is formed every odd-numbered year, with the purpose of MRMTC members assisting staff to review and revise the "Part II. Recommended Practices" section of the *Planning Guide for Shipments of Radioactive Materials through the Midwestern States*.

National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF): The following NTSF-related groups have been active since the fall committee meeting:

NTSF Planning Committee: MRMTC Past Co-Chair Rodney Pitchford (Illinois) and current co-chair Tad Rumas (Ohio) are the Midwest's state representatives on the Planning Committee, along with Melissa Shahzadeh as staff representatives. As the name suggests, this committee plans the annual meetings of the NTSF.

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. The goal of the AHWG is to identify key issues relating to rail transport from the NTSF community, address those issues and document work done through white papers or summary reports and make that work available to the NTSF community.

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.

TEPP Training AHWG: The TEPP mission is to ensure that federal, state, tribal, and local responders have access to the plans, training, and technical assistance necessary to safely, efficiently, and effectively respond to transportation accidents involved DOE-owned radioactive materials. The TEPP Training AHWG is established periodically to solicit input from States and Tribes on revisions to sections of the Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT).

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 on SNF transportation and management activities and issues.

Website: CSG Midwest hosts the NTSF website, <https://www.ntsfi.inso/>. AHWG leads and Annual Meeting hosts are expected to maintain their portions on the website.

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.

Information and Communication

Legislative Tracker: 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 Melissa Shahzadeh (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 Melissa 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 Melissa Shahzadeh. These webpages can be found at <https://csgmidwest.org/about-us/mrmtp/>.