

The Council of State Governments (CSG)
Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (MRMTC)
07 October 2025 | Detroit Metro Airport Marriott
Detroit, Michigan
Limited Agenda Due to Government Shutdown

Tuesday, 07 October

0730 – 0830

Networking Breakfast

buffet breakfast provided by CSG Midwest

0830 – 0840

Welcome and Introductions

Melissa Shahzadeh, CSG Midwest

Linda Wendt, MN

Tad Rumas, OH

Greg Gothard, MI

Swapan Saha, KS

Patsy Razzano, OH

Mark Paulson, WI

Cheryl Head, IL

Rodney Pitchford, IL

Mark Schreiber, KS

Uldis Vanags, CSG East

David Stradinger, ND

Glenn Goode, MN

Jess Leinhardt, CSG Midwest

Traven Michaels, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

Jerry Humphreys, CSG East

Richard Arnold, TRMTC

Mike Firsick, CSG East

Christopher Wells, SSEB

Haily Dudzinski, WI

Ryan Seabaugh, MO

Mack Johnson, NE

Courtney Eckstein, IN

Fernando Flores Carlos, IN

Heather Westra, PIIC

Jay Paquette, MI EGLE

Aaron Beard, WEIB

Laundry Austin, WEIB

0840 – 1000

Round Table Discussion: Radioactive Shipments into MI

See posted slide decks

Perspectives on Shipments From:

0840 – 0900

Michigan House Representative (*in absentia*)

Speaker: Mark Paulson & Ryan Seabaugh, co-chairs

Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation

Committee

0900 – 0930

Michigan Energy, Great Lakes, and Environment (EGLE)

Speaker: Jay Paquette, Supervisor, Radioactive Materials Unit

Michigan Energy, Great Lakes, and Environment

1000 – 1045

Legislative Perspectives on Nuclear Waste Storage in the Great Lakes Basin

Speaker: Jessica Lienhardt, Director

Great Lakes Legislative Conference

See posted slide deck

1045 – 1100

Break



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1100 – 1130 **Community Analysis and Readiness Aide (CASSANDRA) Updates**
Speaker: Melissa Shahzadeh

Discussion hinged on the focus and tone of workshops held to date in Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois, as well as challenges and plans for future workshops in Illinois and elsewhere along the HBURC. At the time of the meeting, there is one Illinois workshop pending. Planning for workshops in KS and MO will begin in Q1FY26.

1130 – 1200 **Midwestern Route Engagement Work Group Discussion**
Speaker: Melissa Shahzadeh

Heather Westra and Richard Arnold suggested that the MREWG should engage KS and MO Tribes along the HBURC route in addition to the original target audience of KS and MO elected officials and state leaders. MS noted this as an action item (email sent to TRMTC to engage appropriate Tribes on 14 October). MI, IL, KS, and CSG Midwest are staffing the MREWG and are conceiving of the group as a targeted information conduit to encourage and support strategic planning within KS and MO in advance of the HBURC shipment. This new approach is informed by the earlier discussion regarding radioactive materials shipments into Michigan.

1200 – 1300 **Lunch**
buffet lunch provided by CSG Midwest
working lunch for members of the MREWG

1300 – 1400 **Regional Roundtable**
All committee members, State & Tribal guests

Wisconsin: Still have Keweenaw decommissioning so there are routine shipments. Rejuvenating the policy and communication lines with county EMA and first responders. No HWC but a few notifications for medical isotopes. Wisconsin did pass a law to promote nuclear with a 2027 symposium that will report on sites for future nuclear as well as Keweenaw site as a location for future SMRs or other reactors.

Iowa: Level VI trainings completed. Five escorts for WIPP and LOTUS etc. The SNF moving by truck was the first shipment in 20 years and was delayed in Ohio due to inspection violations including shipping papers, mechanical issues with the speed of the vehicle, etc. Departure was delayed but that information was not relayed from Point of Origin (POO). Still unknown as to why. Delays were compounded as it moved farther west. This shipment was not handled well at all. It was a research cask with SNF meant for Washington or Oregon. The communication was very poor from start. Third party company contracted to handle the shipment. There were supposed to be two armed escorts, but that is the obligation of the company, but the company did not know themselves that it was supposed to be escorted. Duane Arnold has been recommissioned and is being geared up. Met with NRC and FEMA, and NRC went through the process of reactivating the reactor. They are aiming for 2027/2028. Did enter into agreement with DOE-Office of Radiological Security and have been provided gear and training. Cops have a tough time comprehending the world of radiation. Tactical team training with CST and NG last week and good job with detecting.

North Dakota: 4 HRCQ and Non-HRCQ shipments. Information is provided to highway patrol and they make the decision regarding inspections. When it comes from Canada, inspections are almost always required. The legislature passed a bill for the study of advanced nuclear energy. A new committee has been established and they voted on new nuclear. Removed the restriction on studying new nuclear.



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Kansas: No shipments of HRCQ. Exercises and trainings have been held and one is planned for next year.

Michigan: Observed a level VI inspection. Talked with the trooper performing the inspection and he mentioned he doesn't know about rolling up on a radiological shipment that's been in an accident. Busy year with nuclear plant. CM-25 in March with Fermi. Every requirement has been satisfied for Palisades. Their intention is to be switching on by end of October but there remain a few internal items that must be addressed such as sleeving and tubing. State and local requirements are complete but there is federal items pending.

Ohio: Eight shipments requiring inspection or escort, 3 of which were HRCQ. Recertified staff in level VI inspectors. Wonderful turn out with MERRTT and at full capacity. CM-25 participation. There is ingestion pathway testing upcoming. Heading to PNNL in Washington.

Indiana: 222 LLRW shipments this year. Level VI took a hit and there are only 2 inspectors remaining in the state. Four more MERRTT classes this year to date. Anticipate being an agreement state by 2026. A SMR proposal for Spencer Capital. CM-25 also.

Nebraska: Troubles with outreach continue. Farmers along the route; they are otherwise engaged with farming demands and not much time to spare. Equipment is coming in. Shipments coming from Oregon. SMRs are receiving traction in the state. A local utility put on a conference promoting SMRs.

Missouri: 110 shipments this quarter, about average LLW. About average HRCQ shipments. Hosting MERRTT train the trainer on 17 October.

Illinois: Tracked 13 HRCQ, inspected 20 HRCQ, inspected 1 WIPP. Zero violations found except the shipments that caused difficulty in Ohio and Iowa. No significant changes to status of power stations.

1400 - 1420 Cooperative Agreement Group Reports

- Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (5 min) *Richard Arnold*
Hosted NTSF back in May. Included tour to NNSS, a place that doesn't exist. Participating in the HBURC. Remains active in the NTSF planning committee. Attempting to digitise historical documents from DOE and other radiation transportation related materials. Comments submitted to NEPA. Looking at rail safety protocol. Selecting location and dates for midyear meeting in January.

- Southern States Energy Board (5 min) *Chris Wells*
Annual meeting was held last week to discuss energy policy in Point Clear, Alabama. Discussed the need for energy driven by AI as well as training requirements. Licensing for advanced reactors and fission facilities. "Energy in the South; it just means more." Annual meeting will be held in Kansas City 09 & 10 December. Hosting 2026 in Austin, TX 22 – 25 NTSF.

- Western Interstate Energy Board (5 min) *Landry Austin*
Fall 2025 meeting will be in Carlsbad, NM with a WIPP tour, will include election of chair and vice-chair. Resumption of Tru waste shipments from Hanford after a decade of no movement. The corridor is open but there needs to be additional planning. FY28 with planning activities beginning this spring. WIPP implementation guide is in process of review. TRU waste from



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LANL to Idaho. Routing for the shipment has been established. Tank waste will be vitrified at Hanford despite rumours to the contrary. It is a requirement.

- Council of State Governments – East (5 min) *Uldis Vanags*

In August, a breakout session on the future of nuclear in the North East was held, the intention of which was to introduce state legislators to what is happening in nuclear. Everyone knows data centres and the need for energy to explain what SMRs. There is initiative in the state of NY to site SMR within the next 5 years and site at an existing nuclear site. Emphasised the waste issue with the Three Yankees. NE will be hosting 2027 annual meeting and they are working to find a location possibly in connection with HBURC.

1420 – 1430 **Break**

1430 – 1530 **Committee Business Session**

- Chair’s Report & Project Update (5 min) *Mark Paulson*

See project update included in the meeting portfolio

- Planning Guide Work Group (15 min) *Melissa Shahzadeh*

Courtney Eckstein and David Stradinger will comprise this group for 2025. A work plan will be sent via email to begin the review.

- Election of Co-Chair (15 min) *Melissa Shahzadeh*

Courtney Eckstein is voted in unanimously.

- Committee Work Group Assignments & Plans (10 min) *Melissa Shahzadeh*

Clarity on work group assignments is pending DOE decisions about which groups will be sunset and which will be stood up.

- MRMTC Spring 2026 & Fall 2026 Meeting (10 min) *Melissa Shahzadeh*

A survey will be distributed subsequent to the meeting evaluating the project’s direction and execution, the project director’s efforts, and voting on the location of the 2026 annual fall meeting.

- Member Survey (5 min) *Melissa Shahzadeh*

See above

1530 – 1545 **Break**

1615 - 1630 **Conclusion**
Review Action Items
Closing Remarks

1630 **Adjourn for the Day**