



Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project

The Council of State Governments (CSG)
Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (MRMTC)
24 June 2026
1300 - 1730
Austin, Texas

- 1300 – 1310** **Welcome and Introductions**
Ryan Seabaugh & Courtney Eckstein, MRMTC co-chairs
- 1310 - 1340** **Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) SCCOP Data Route Analysis Project**
Jeff Moore
- 1340 – 1400** **U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Program Reports**
Office of Environmental Management, *Ellen Edge*
- 1400 – 1430** **Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Update**
Mark Linsley
- 1430 – 1450** **U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Program Reports**
Carlsbad Field Office, *James Mason*
- 1450 – 1500** **Break**
- 1500 - 1600** **State Perspectives | HBURC Planning**
Rodney Pitchford, Courtney Eckstein, Ryan Seabaugh, Swapn Saha.
- 1600 – 1630** **National Radiological Emergency Preparedness (NREP) Tribal Presentation Update**
Greg Gothard
- 1630 - 1700** **DOE-NE Perspectives | HBURC Planning**
Erica Bickford
- 1700 - 1730** **Regional Roundtable**
All State and Tribal Participants
- 1730** **Conclusion**
Review Action Items
Closing Remarks
- 1730** **Adjourn**





Midwest Radioactive Materials Transportation Project (MRMTP) Status Report

June 2026

I was invited to speak at the 2026 conference of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) in Georgia in May. During that talk I referred to radioactive waste as something resembling a dragon, a mythic creature that remains dangerous only so far as it remains misunderstood. I likewise referred to the work of the MRMTP as resembling that of subduing dragons, which not only sounds really quite exciting, but also has the advantage of being true: the MRMTP is indeed in the business of addressing how the dragon that is radioactive materials can be subdued for safe transport.

Since our meeting in Detroit in October 2025, the MRMTP has laboured sincerely toward the end of subduing those dragons transiting the Midwest. Much has focused on the upcoming transport of the High Burnup Research Cask (HBURC), and we have enjoyed many successes on that front. The Midwestern Route Engagement Work Group (MREWG) comprised of Mark Schreiber (KS), Greg Gothard (MI), and Cheryl Head (IL) briefed committees within the Kansas House of Representatives and the Kansas Senate on the HBURC. Initial attempts were made to engage the chambers of the Missouri government as well; however, the headwinds prevailed and we were not able to brief them whilst they were in session. The MREWG is therefore on hiatus until the legislative sessions resume in those states.

The four Midwestern states on the likely route of the HBURC (Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas) are all represented on the DOE's HBURC working group, which has been meeting monthly to discuss the status of the project as well as status of local efforts to prepare for the shipment. Additionally, a FBI/NNSA Community Unified Response to Radiological Incidents & Emergencies (CURRIE) is in development for a training event in Topeka, Kansas in September 2026.

CSG Midwest's Community AnalySiS AND Readiness Aide (CASSANDRA) has received significant attention and interest in the last year. I have begun a longitudinal study using CASSANDRA to assess whether the HBURC has any quantifiable effect on the communities through which it transits. The communities included in the study are Terra Haute, Indiana; Effingham, Illinois; East St. Louis, Illinois; St. Louis, Missouri; and Topeka, Kansas. At the time of this report, we have a CASSANDRA workshop on the schedule in East St. Louis and Effingham. We have begun discussions with Terra Haute. Missouri seems uninterested in anything the MRMTP is able to offer. Our overtures and offers have been met with a rather leaden silence; they are not interested.

The MRMTP's primary funding mechanism, the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy grant, expires in September 2026. The Request for Proposal (RFP) to reapply for the grant has not yet been distributed by that office, but I understand it is in the stages of final review. CSG Midwest will apply and hopes for a favourable reception to our proposal.

The project, is thus, in a moment of outward expansion. My travel, previously confined to the Fall "travel circuit" of the state regional group (SRG) annual meetings, has expanded into all seasons as CASSANDRA's popularity increases and the HBURC planning gains momentum. As such, CSG Midwest assigned Luke Bingaman, Program Associate, to part-time logistical and operational support of the MRMTP and of me. Luke has assumed responsibility for the News Blasts/, the legislative tracker, travel reimbursement for MRMTTC members, and NTSF webinar logistics. I am wholly and unreservedly delighted to have Luke's skills, enthusiasm, and amiability contributing to the good work of this effort.

Now is the time when we look forward and outward at a specific future with a specific goal, after so many years of looking at an uncertain horizon. The MRMTP is essential to DOE's success as well as our own regional successes in subduing dragons. It is an honour and a privilege to work with you all on this effort. Thank you.

Melissa M. Shahzadeh
Project Director

The Council of State Governments Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee

Committee Leadership: The committee elected its first chair in 1992. In 1994, the committee began electing vice chairs to succeed the chair, with each position having a two-year term. In 2008, the committee changed its leadership structure to have senior and junior co-chairs that serve two-year staggered terms.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Senior co-chair*</u>	<u>Junior co-chair*</u>
2026	Ryan Seabaugh (Missouri)	Courtney Eckstein (Indiana)
2025	Mark Paulson (Wisconsin)	Ryan Seabaugh (Missouri)
2024	Tad Rumas (Ohio)	Mark Paulson (Wisconsin)
2023	Rodney Pitchford (Illinois)	Tad Rumas (Ohio)
2022	Michael Snee (Ohio)	Rodney Pitchford (Illinois)
2021	Tiffany Drake (Missouri)	Michael Snee (Ohio)
2020	Kaci Studer (Indiana)	Tiffany Drake (Missouri)
2019	Greg Gothard (Michigan)	Kaci Studer (Indiana)
2018	Kevin Leuer (Minnesota)	Greg Gothard (Michigan)
2017	Teri Engelhart (Wisconsin)	Kevin Leuer (Minnesota)
2016	Kelly Horn (Illinois)	Teri Engelhart (Wisconsin)
2015	Laura Dresen (Indiana)	Kelly Horn (Illinois)
2014	Jane Beetem (Missouri)	Laura Dresen (Indiana)
2013	Lance Evans (Iowa)	Jane Beetem (Missouri)
2012	Tim Runyon (Illinois)	Lance Evans (Iowa)
2011	Paul Schmidt (Wisconsin)	Tim Runyon (Illinois)
2010	Melanie Rasmusson (Iowa)	Paul Schmidt (Wisconsin)
2009	Kevin Leuer (Minnesota)	Melanie Rasmusson (Iowa)
2008	Jane Beetem (Missouri)	Kevin Leuer (Minnesota)
2007	Robert Owen (Ohio)	Jane Beetem (Missouri)
2006	Robert Owen (Ohio)	Frank Moussa (Kansas)
2005	Thor Strong (Michigan)	Robert Owen (Ohio)
2004	Thor Strong (Michigan)	Robert Owen (Ohio)
2003	Tim Runyon (Illinois)	Thor Strong (Michigan)
2002	Tim Runyon (Illinois)	Thor Strong (Michigan)
2001	Frank Moussa (Kansas)	Tim Runyon (Illinois)

2000	Frank Moussa (Kansas)	Tim Runyon (Illinois)
1999	Don Flater (Iowa)	Frank Moussa (Kansas)
1998	Don Flater (Iowa)	Frank Moussa (Kansas)
1997	David Crose (Indiana)	Don Flater (Iowa)
1996	David Crose (Indiana)	Don Flater (Iowa)
1995	Harold Borchert (Nebraska)	David Crose (Indiana)
1994	Harold Borchert (Nebraska)	David Crose (Indiana)
1993	Harold Borchert (Nebraska)	NA
1992	Harold Borchert (Nebraska)	NA

Meeting Rotation: The committee holds annual fall meetings at locations throughout the Midwest, and annual spring meetings in conjunction with DOE’s annual meeting of the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF).

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Midwestern location</u>	<u>Other location</u>
2013: Spring		Buffalo, NY (NTSF)
2013: Fall	Kansas City, KS	
2014: Spring	Bloomington, MN (NTSF)	
2014: Fall	Traverse City, MI	
2015: Spring		Albuquerque, NM (NTSF)
2015: Fall	Des Moines, IA	
2016: Spring		Orlando, FL (NTSF)
2016: Fall	St. Louis, MO	
2017: Spring		Pittsburgh, PA (NTSF)
2017: Fall	Cincinnati, OH	
2018: Spring	Omaha, NE (NTSF)	
2018: Fall	Madison, WI	
2019: Spring		Arlington, VA (NTSF)
2019: Fall	Indianapolis, IN	
2020: Spring		Virtual (NTSF)
2020: Fall	Virtual	
2021: Spring		Virtual (NTSF)
2021: Fall	Chicago, IL	
2022: Spring		Philadelphia, PA (NTSF)
2022: Fall	Rapid City, SD	
2023: Spring	St. Louis, MO (NTSF)	
2023: Fall		Carlsbad, NM
2024: Spring		Denver, CO (NTSF)
2024: Fall	Bismarck, ND	
2025: Spring		Las Vegas, NV (NTSF)
2025: Fall	Detroit, MI	
2026: Spring		Austin, TX (NTSF)
2026: Fall		

**The Council of State Governments
Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee**

Committee Member Roles in FY2026

<p>Committee Officers and Liaisons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preside at all meetings of the committee and perform such other duties as may be required • Sign official committee correspondence • Direct the activities of the committee • Represent the committee at meetings of other groups • Participate in one conference call annually to assess the committee’s work and identify needed changes to approach, funding sources, scope, etc. 	<p>Chairs: Ryan Seabaugh, Missouri Courtney Eckstein, Indiana Immediate Past Chair: Mark Paulson, Wisconsin</p>
<p>National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Planning Committee:</u> Develop annual meeting agenda and oversee meeting planning; oversee the working groups; develop plans for webinars; prioritize issues for new working groups • <u>Ad hoc working groups:</u> Focus on specific issues and associated tasks; contribute ideas to agendas for the NTSF annual meeting and periodic webinars • Participate in conference calls, webinars, and possible meetings; review/write documents 	<p>Planning Committee: Courtney Eckstein, Indiana Ryan Seabaugh, Missouri Melissa Shahzadeh, CSG Midwest Section 180(c) Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG): Greg Gothard, Michigan Swapan Saha, Kansas Ryan Seabaugh, Missouri Melissa Shahzadeh, CSG Midwest Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Rail Route/Transportation AHWG: Edward Engle, Iowa Brian Vereruyse, Illinois Tad Rumas, Ohio Melissa Shahzadeh, CSG Midwest Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) AHWG: Greg Gothard, Michigan Tad Rumas, Ohio SNF Management—Communications and Outreach AHWG: Swapan Saha, Kansas Melissa Shahzadeh, CSG Midwest High Burn Up Research Cask (HBURC): Rodney Pitchford, Illinois Tad Rumas, Ohio Courtney Eckstein, Indiana Fernando Flores Carlos, Indiana Cheryl Head, Illinois Swapan Saha, Kansas</p>
<p>Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE) Transportation Core Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent the committee at one or two meetings per year to learn about recent developments related to the Integrated Waste Management System • Participate in conference calls; review/comment on documents 	<p>Courtney Eckstein, Indiana Ryan Seabaugh, Missouri Melissa Shahzadeh, CSG Midwest</p>

<p>Midwestern Route Engagement Work Group (MREWG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This group will engage Kansas & Missouri state officials to identify how the committee can support local needs in advance of the 2027 transport of the High Burnup Research Cask (HBURC). 	<p>Melissa Shahzadeh, CSG Midwest Cheryl Head, Illinois Greg Gothard, Michigan Mark Schreiber, Kansas</p>
<p>Planning Guide Work Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This group is convened every other year to review and edit as necessary the MRMTC's Planning Guide for Shipments of Radioactive Materials in the Midwest. 	<p>Melissa Shahzadeh, CSG Midwest David Stradinger, North Dakota Courtney Eckstein, Indiana</p>