

The Council of State Governments (CSG)
Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (MRMTC)
29 & 30 September 2026 | Hyatt Centric Downtown
Minneapolis, MN

5th Floor Meeting Room

Tuesday, 29 September 2026

0800 - 0850

Breakfast

buffet breakfast provided by CSG Midwest

0900 - 0910

Welcome and Introductions

0910 - 0930

Opening Remarks

The Honourable Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger, Minnesota State Senator

[Remarks available on the event website.](#)

0930 – 1015

Lessons Learned from National Deep Geological Repository Programs

Dr. Bret Leslie, Acting Executive Director, U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB)

[Slides available on the event website.](#)

1015 – 1045

Subterranean Nuclear Reactors

Tim Gnadt, Senior Nuclear Operations Engineer, Deep Fission

[Slides available on the event website.](#)

1045 – 1100

Break

1100 – 1200

Regulatory Landscape for Microreactor Transport

Dr. Steve Maheras, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)

[Slides available on the event website.](#)

1200 – 1330

Lunch

buffet lunch provided by CSG Midwest

1330 – 1400

Nuclear Waste Corporation Establishment Act of 2026

David Stevenson, Mackinac Institute

[Slides available on the event website.](#)

1400 – 1430

Energy Affordability: Past, Present and Portents

Darren Nelson, The American Experiment

[Slides available on the event website.](#)

1430 – 1500

Updates from DOE Office of Nuclear Energy

Dr. Erica Bickford, U.S. Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE)
Miriam Juckett, PNNL

1500 – 1515

Break

1515 – 1600

Regional Roundtable

All committee members, State & Tribal guests

Kansas: CURRIE exercise in Topeka in early September. Four MERRT trainings in October. No HRCQ shipments last quarter

Indiana: 27 HRCQ, 209 LLW, now an agreement state. More TEPP training upcoming.

Illinois: 26 non-HRCQ, 14 HRCQ, 2 SNF, total activity 240,000 Tbq. Tracked 280 LLW shipments. Training saw 14 staff members. 1 staff members attending radiation specialist in November.

Ohio: 2 HRCQ, numerous Yankee Vermont rail shipments – now most are not regulated. They seem to be almost done. All Hazmat staff has been trained through level VI and a TEPP class was just completed.

Iowa: Not much since NTSF. One Cat 1 shipment, which went without issue except it arrived late due to being held up in Illinois due to oversize citation.

Nebraska: Reformatting state plan, also sending 3 people to train the trainer so that they can complete MERRT training. That is the main planning for training on the I-80 corridor.

Michigan: Not on DOE shipment routes, but some HRCQ shipments from Canada. Visited with Level VI inspectors but they do not know how to respond to a transportation issue. Palisades held the last monthly stakeholders call in May. Fuelling has begun. They have restored the switchyard. Fuel loading was paused. Occupational control exposure incidents due to alpha contamination. These were ‘white findings.’ Wayne Disposal has been prohibited from accepting TENORM. There is a bill in the legislature to increase tipping fee from \$5 to \$75. Is that normal for TENORM tipping fees?

Wisconsin: No HRCQ. Kewaunee is continuing decommissioning, so that waste stream continues. WI is using a lot of MERRT to onboard their new rep hospital. Legislature has a report due at the end of this calendar year about siting new nuclear. SMR development planning at Kewaunee attaches a data centre, so it is unlikely to gain approval.

North Dakota: 4 HRCQ and 4 non-HRCQ, outgoing and return, many coming from Nebraska. This information is provided to highway patrol who completes the inspections. Some outgoing shipments from industrial waste and the universities. New nuclear in ND is being considered and there are two councils/committees that are exploratory. Legislative session starts in January and they expect a bill to combine those two bodies to study feasibility. One holdback to legislation is the prohibition to storing any high level waste in the state, as that prohibits nuclear developments. Continue to have daily TENORM shipments throughout the state. Two TENORM waste disposal sites in the state. One is a landfill and one is a processing facility.

1600 – 1630

TEPP Updates

Mark Linsley, Technical Resources Group, Inc.

Slides available on the event website.

1630 – 1650

DOE-CBFO / WIPP Updates

- Carlsbad Field Office, *James Mason*
- SIMCO, *Bobby St. John*

Bobby St. John: No slides. NM department of environment asked for a review of permitting that would prioritise LANL waste. Issued in April, opened for public comment. WIPP can prioritize Los Alamos, but DOE is willing to take NM to court over the percentage that the state would want to ship. Currently in Negotiations. WIPP does

a 4-6 week outage, this year will be 6 months. Updating the hoist controls need updating. Plan to go down 3 months, up 3 months, and back down another 3 months

James Mason: 340 shipments this last year. New routes through NM and TX have been identified and confirmed. James would like to host a WIPP TREX exercise in the Midwest at the state line of Illinois and Iowa. Also a 'transportation roadshow' is a possibility. Can deliver a roadshow with 30 days' notice. Working to develop capacity in tribal nations for hazardous response. All tribes have robust environmental management capacities, so they have been collaborating with NNSA to develop a beta-test, and the tribes are lending an 'environmental technician' and they are being trained in consequence management for rad training. The goal is to have this implemented by this time next year, as James is retiring in 12-months +/-.

1650 – 1655

SRG Report

Council of State Governments, *Uldis Vanags*

Not a lot happening in the Northeast related to DOE shipments. Plenty of interest in the Northeast in new nuclear, which is surprising and new. Lots of interest in SMRs, and Uldis will be testing that out. CSG East is holding its annual meeting in December and they will host a nuclear session. PNNL will be attending to discuss economics of SMRs, and the reaction of the legislators will be a gauge for interest in the Northeast. Preparing for hosting NTSF.

1650 – 1700

Conclusion

Review Action Items

Closing Remarks

1700

Adjourn for the Day

**Wednesday, 30 September 2026:
Closed Meeting**

MRMTC Members & Federal / National Laboratory / SRG Partners Only

0800 - 0850

Breakfast

buffet breakfast provided by CSG Midwest

0900 – 0915

SRG Reports

- Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee, *Richard Arnold*

Northwind did not renew the cooperative agreement with NE. TRMTC does not know who their support contractor will be. Northwind does have the 90-day no-cost extension. Working with the FRA to explore grant opportunities to expand capacity for Tribes, and hoping this will happen in the new FY. Continuity of TRMTC members will be important as the new contractor support enters the scene. Want to share what TRMTC is about and wants to expand participation, but recognise budget limitations affect how many participants they can embrace. They will be hosting a session at WM 2027 to showcase the Tribal engagement with Feds and States to address transport issues. Interested in learning what happens with Tribal involvement with the Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses. 'Cultural Resources' will be important to consider as the campus planning develops. TRMTC website has been updated, digital archives are being created on google, etc.

- Southern States Energy Board, *Chris Wells*

Updates revolves around the annual meeting that was held last week in Mississippi. Executive Director, who served for 54 years, has retired. The new ED has been at the organisation for many years, and worked on the 'urgent relief' shipments. Kairos, NuScale, and Terrestrial all had representation at the annual meeting. Next annual meeting may be held in Puerto Rico. Nuclear is really being pushed to the forefront in the South. Advanced Nuclear NEI was a session held. Texas is hoping to hold a WIPP TREX in February. The winter meeting will be held 09-10 December in either Savannah, GA or Tampa, FL.

- Western Interstate Energy Board, *Melanie Snyder*

Fall meeting will be held 04-05 November in San Diego. Half day Wednesday, full day Thursday. Nothing set on agenda yet, though Steve Maheras will be presenting on microreactors. Mark Linlsey from CO departed his position, which means WIEB lost their chair and their plans for a WIPP TREX in CO. Forces will be regathered

during the Fall meeting. The WIPP PIG has been reviewed, edited, and updated. The West continues to engage with NNSA regarding their shipments from LLNL and LANL that cannot be fitted into standard packages. A draft transportation plan was returned by WIEB with comments. The conversation is underway. Two Western states have asked to be considered for the NLIC; conversations are underway between energy offices, utility commissions, and Federal government. Also working to update policy papers on how to conduct SNF transportation. Also continuing their review of Fission development and relevant policy, laws, etc.

0915 – 1015 Committee Rules Review and Updates

Draft of amended committee rules was distributed to the MRMTC email list at 1410 CT on 30 September. Votes have been requested before 09 October.

1015 – 1030 Break

1030 – 1100 MRMTC Survey Results & Discussion

Patsy Razzano of Ohio has been selected as the next committee co-chair. The 2027 annual fall meeting will be held in Omaha, NE.

1100 – 1130 Discussion: HBURC & State Legislators & Questions of Visibility

Members present have been invited to investigate on whether there is an avenue available to the committee and/or committee staff to ensure information is flowing to elected officials within their states. We will review the results of these investigations at NTSF 2027.

1130 – 1145 Quodlibet

1145 – 1200 Conclusion
Review Action Items
Closing Remarks

1200 Adjourn