



Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project

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 <i>buffet breakfast provided by CSG Midwest</i>
0900 - 0910	Welcome and Introductions
0910 - 0930	Opening Remarks The Honourable Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger, Minnesota State Senator
0930 – 1015	Lessons Learned from National Deep Geological Repository Programs Dr. Bret Leslie, Acting Executive Director, U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB)
1015 – 1045	Subterranean Nuclear Reactors Tim Gnadt, Senior Nuclear Operations Engineer, Deep Fission
1045 – 1100	Break
1100 – 1130	Regulatory Landscape for Microreactor Transport Dr. Steve Maheras, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)
1130 – 1200	TEPP Updates Mark Linsley, Technical Resources Group, Inc.
1200 – 1330	Lunch <i>buffet lunch provided by CSG Midwest</i>
1330 – 1400	Nuclear Waste Corporation Establishment Act of 2026 David Stevenson, Mackinac Institute
1400 – 1430	Energy Affordability: Past, Present and Portents Darren Nelson, The American Experiment
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
1600 - 1620	Cooperative Agreement Group Reports • Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee, <i>Richard Arnold</i> • Southern States Energy Board, <i>Chris Wells</i> • Western Interstate Energy Board, <i>Melanie Snyder</i>

- Council of State Governments, *Uldis Vanags*
- 1620 – 1650** **DOE-CBFO / WIPP Updates**
- Carlsbad Field Office, *James Mason*
 - SIMCO, *Bobby St. John*
- 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 – 0930** **Election of a new co-chair**
All committee members
- 0930 – 1030** **Committee Rules Review and Updates**
All committee members
- 1030 – 1045** **Break**
- 1045 – 1100** **Project Updates & the Year Ahead**
Melissa Shahzadeh, CSG Midwest
- 1100 – 1115** **MRMTC Spring 2027 & Fall 2027 Meeting**
Melissa Shahzadeh, CSG Midwest
- 1115 – 1145** **Discussion: HBURC & State Legislators**
Melissa Shahzadeh, CSG Midwest
- 1145 – 1200** **Conclusion**
Review Action Items
Closing Remarks
- 1200** **Adjourn**

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)



MIDWEST

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	Minneapolis, MN	



MIDWEST

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

Committee Member Roles in FY2026

Committee Officers and Liaisons • 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.	Chairs: Ryan Seabaugh, Missouri Courtney Eckstein, Indiana Immediate Past Chair: Mark Paulson, Wisconsin
National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) • <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	Planning Committee: Courtney Eckstein, Indiana Ryan Seabaugh, Missouri Melissa Shahzadeh, CSG Midwest Section 180(c) Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG): Greg Gothard, Michigan Swapam 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: Swapam 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 Swapam Saha, Kansas
Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE) Transportation Core Group • 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	Courtney Eckstein, Indiana Ryan Seabaugh, Missouri Melissa Shahzadeh, CSG Midwest



MIDWEST

Midwestern Route Engagement Work Group (MREWG) 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).	Melissa Shahzadeh, CSG Midwest Cheryl Head, Illinois Greg Gothard, Michigan Mark Schreiber, Kansas
Planning Guide Work Group 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.	Melissa Shahzadeh, CSG Midwest David Stradinger, North Dakota Courtney Eckstein, Indiana



Midwest Radioactive Materials Transportation Project (MRMTP) Status Report

September 2026

The MRMTP is currently devoting significant attention to supporting the upcoming transport of the Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy's (DOE-NE) High Burnup Research Cask (HBURC). The Midwestern Route Engagement Work Group (MREWG) comprised of The Honourable Mark Schreiber (KS House of Representatives), Greg Gothard (MI), and Cheryl Head (IL) briefed committees within the Kansas House and Senate on the HBURC last spring. Attempts were made to engage the chambers of the Missouri government as well; however, the headwinds prevailed and we were unable to do so whilst they were last in session. The MREWG is therefore on hiatus until the legislative sessions resume in Kansas and Missouri.

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) training event will be held 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. We 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 CASSANDRA workshops scheduled in East St. Louis, Effingham, and Terra Haute. Missouri and Kansas did not express interest in pursuing these workshops.

The MRMTP director has launched an initiative – the HBURC Quarterly Legislative Discussion – aimed at legislators serving on the Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (MRMTC). The purpose of this initiative is to open a direct line of communication from the MRMTP to state elected officials to facilitate an unimpeded flow of information about the HBURC.

Finally, the MRMTP project associate, Luke Bingham, has assumed responsibility for planning the 2028 annual meeting for the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF), which CSG Midwest will host. Preliminary cities under consideration for the location include Grand Rapids, Michigan; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Green Bay, Wisconsin. Luke and our event planner, Evea' Warkentin, will commence site visits early this winter.

Melissa M. Shahzadeh
Project Director
Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project
Council of Governments – Midwest

2026 Annual Fall Meeting Registration

Name	Organisation
Melissa Shahzadeh	CSG Midwest
Bret Leslie	U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board
Mark Linsley	Technical Resources Group, Inc.
Richard Arnold	TRMTC - Pahrump Paiute Tribe/CGTO
Greg Gothard	Michigan EGLE
David T. Stevenson	Mackinac Institute
David Stradinger	North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality
Megan Gute	Iowa Health and Human Services
Christopher Wells	Southern States Energy Board
Cheryl Head	Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security
Olszowka, Robert	USDOT - Federal Railroad Administration
Mark Paulson	WI Department of Health Services
Uldis Vanags	CSG-East
Rodney Pitchford	Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security
Tad Rumas	Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Miriam Juckett	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Swapan Saha	Kansas Division of Emergency Management
Courtney Eckstein	Indiana Department of Homeland Security
Melanie K Snyder	Western Interstate Energy Board
Tim Gnadt	Deep Fission
Bobby St. John	Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
Tracy Donovan	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
Mark Schreiber	State of Kansas Legislature
Fernando Flores	Indiana Department of Homeland Security
Brent Curtis	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
Steve Maheras	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Glenn Goode	Iowa State Patrol
Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger	Minnesota Senate
Darren Nelson	The American Experiment
Erica Bickford	U.S. Department of Energy - Nuclear Energy