



Transportation External Coordination Working Group

MEETING

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

JULY 18-20, 1995

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Transportation External Coordination Working Group (TEC/WG) held its seventh semi-annual meeting July 18-20, 1995 in Kansas City, Missouri. More than one hundred individuals participated, making this the largest meeting since the group's inception. The formally chartered group, comprised of membership representing state, tribal and local government; industry; professional organizations; and the U.S. Department of Energy, addresses issues related to DOE's transportation activities.

Using a mix of plenary and breakout sessions, participants received updates on current activities within the Department. Plenary topics included an update and status report on EM transportation programs and a panel addressing other transportation programs and activities. Presentations from the panel included an update on the nitric acid shipments, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, EM's spent nuclear fuel program, and the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management transportation program. Additional plenary sessions addressed emergency management; the status of a national survey on public perceptions of transportation risks; future land use planning for DOE and local communities; and an update on activities within the U.S. Department of Transportation. A member representing the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance discussed this program's current activities. Members of the group are encouraged to make presentations on activities of interest within their organizations. Participants were also invited to tour the Union Pacific Railroad facilities in Kansas City.

Participants were given the opportunity to discuss issues in greater detail in a series of three breakout sessions led by DOE managers. Topics for the breakouts were: Transportation Operations; General Planning and Public Information & Education; and the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management's Section 180(c) Plans and Routing. Major action items from the breakout sessions are summarized below.

Transportation Operations

- DOE agreed to redraft the Bad Weather and Road Conditions "guidance" based on membership input.
- DOE will develop a "concept" of "escorts" including purpose, skill requirements, and roles and responsibilities. The development of a companion rail "guidance" document will also be initiated.

- The activity to define "shipping campaign" is being placed as pending while systems such as the prospective shipments module and other data communication systems mature.
- DOE is working with regulators, carriers, carrier associations, and DOE general counsel concerning applicable laws, regulations, and other requirements concerning the study of issues related to rail inspection and enforcement procedures.
- A new activity was suggested in which a strawman guide addressing "guidance" for rail transportation operations for bad weather and rail conditions would be developed and presented to the group for consideration.

General Planning and Public Information & Education

- DOE agreed to update the TEC/WG Work Plan before the next meeting and use it as a basis for prioritizing issues, which will be the focus of a breakout session at the January 1996 meeting.
- The results of the national survey on transportation risk perceptions will be available to members this fall.
- The prospective shipment module is expected to be automated by December. Participants suggested reviewing the information displayed in the module to ensure that it is consistent with TRANSCOM information, consider linking the two systems, and add U.S. ports of entry and debarkation to the data base. Another suggestion was to indicate when a planned campaign either was delayed or completed.
- Members were requested to provide feedback on three new items discussed at this meeting. Comments were encouraged on an outline of a financial assistance options paper; on guidance for bounding public involvement activities between DOE field and headquarters; and on a preliminary outline on lessons learned from selected shipping campaigns. Members were also asked to review a draft of a student video, *Transportation of Radioactive Materials* which is available.
- Participants also discussed the Transportation Emergency Management Program during this breakout and were asked to provide comments on the SEPTIR project implementation strategy. General suggestions from the meeting included integration with FEMA's emergency response plan; railroad response issues; and the need to incorporate rural, Indian tribes', and railroad views into planning.

Section 180(c) and Routing

- Participants learned that a supplemental Notice of Intent (NOI) on developing policy and implementation procedures for 180(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act is available for public comment. The Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management also agreed to address local governments' ability to access Price-Anderson funds in section 180(c) proposed policy and procedures.
- There was considerable discussion on the topic of routing. Two major issues were identified during the closing plenary session. The first issue is how do routes described in a NEPA document relate to actual routes. Second, how will DOE work with states and carriers in selecting routes.

The next TEC/WG meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 16-18, 1996 in San Antonio, Texas.