



Transportation External Coordination Working Group

MEETING

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

JANUARY 16-18, 1996

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Transportation External Coordination Working Group (TEC/WG) held its eighth semi-annual meeting January 16-18, 1996, in San Antonio, Texas. Seventy-seven participants, representing state, tribal and local government; industry; professional organizations; the U.S. Department of Energy, and other federal agencies, attended the meeting designed to address issues related to DOE's transportation activities.

In a series of plenary sessions, the group received updates on current activities within the Department. Representatives of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management and the Environmental Management (EM) Office provided an overview of current activities within each office. Representatives from EM's Spent Nuclear Fuel Program, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, and Coordinated Research Program provided updates on transportation-related activities within these programs. Representatives from the University of New Mexico's Center for Public Policy presented findings from the "Transporting Radioactive Materials: Risks, Issues, and Public Perspectives" study with the group. TEC/WG members representing the Council of State Governments-Midwestern Office, Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference, and the Nuclear Energy Institute participated on a panel to share their perspectives with other members of TEC/WG and DOE.

Participants discussed specific issues in greater detail during a series of four breakout sessions. Two breakout sessions were devoted to topics within General Planning and Transportation Operations. A third breakout session involved participants in an evaluation of the effectiveness of the group. In the fourth breakout, participants visited a Communication and Information Data Sources Resource Room to learn more about communication and resource systems currently in place. Major action items from each of the breakout sessions are summarized below.

GENERAL PLANNING:

Participants were asked to respond to the question of how to provide training for emergency response purposes with limited resources. Responses were generally supportive of delivery through the states using train-the-trainer mechanisms. Participants also recognized opportunities to provide additional training through existing programs and were interested in the ability to deliver training electronically. Participants agreed to the idea of forming a subcommittee within TEC/WG to address specific issues related to training delivery. Interested participants were asked to sign-up for this group, which will meet prior to the July 1996 TEC/WG meeting.

TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS:

During this breakout session, DOE reported that the "escorts" document is being placed on hold while emergency response issues are being resolved. DOE agreed to provide TEC/WG members with copies of the projected shipments modules. DOE also agreed to investigate, through NEI, the possibility of having CVSA add commercial (utility) shipments into data for their Enhanced American Standards data. Issues raised by participants included the state/tribal role in routing with concern being expressed with the timing of consultation with states and tribes as well as the resolution of definitional issues in relation to escorts. Participants were also interested in the inspection process. There was renewed interest in utility participation with CVSA inspections, questions as to whether states and tribes could stop trains at the border, and railroad concerns regarding increased costs, time, and safety exposure for inspections.

TEC/WG EVALUATION:

During the breakout sessions, members provided input to the formative evaluation of the TEC/WG, i.e., an evaluation designed to adapt and improve the operations of the group to DOE's changing needs. Members discussed TEC/WG goals and the actions needed by the various participants and the constraints/barriers to achieving those goals. As they conduct the evaluation over the next few months, staff from Pacific Northwest Laboratory will be contacting members by telephone. A draft of the evaluation results will be presented to the TEC/WG for discussion at the next TEC/WG meeting. A total of 17 members volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to review recommendations prior to presentation to the full group.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION DATA SOURCES RESOURCE ROOM:

Participants were introduced to a variety of systems, including the Hazardous Materials Information Exchange (HMIX) bulletin board, TRANSNET, and demonstrations of PASS, the Prenotification Analysis Support System and EMFAST, the EM Financial Assistance to States and Tribes databases. Questions raised during the breakout sessions generally addressed design assumptions for the systems and the availability for future funding. Participants were interested in exploring electronic communication possibilities for the group as well as the establishment of Internet links with member organizations. DOE offered to supply interested participants with access to the TRANSNET system. Finally, participants were encouraged to let DOE know which resources they found to be most useful.

The next TEC/WG meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 16-18, 1996 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.