

## DOE Transportation Protocols Topic Group Summary of Second Conference Call April 8, 1999

The second conference call of the Transportation External Coordination Working Group (TEC/WG) DOE Transportation Protocols Working Group was held at 11:00 a.m. Eastern time on Thursday, April 8, 1999. The session was led by Mona Williams, DOE/National Transportation Program (NTP)-Albuquerque. Other participants included Patricia Armijo, DOE/NTP-Albuquerque; Alex Thrower, Urban Energy & Transportation Corporation; Chris Wells, Southern States Energy Board; Elizabeth Helvey, JK Research Associates; Ken Niles, Oregon Office of Energy; Lisa Sattler, Council of State Governments-Midwestern Office; Laurel Cook, DOE/Naval Reactors (NR); Chris Wentz, New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources; Phillip Paull, Council of State Governments-Northeastern Conference; and Elissa Turner, Ellen Ott and Bill Lemeshewsky, DOE/Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (RW).

Ms. Williams first mentioned that the minutes from the first conference call had been circulated, and asked if participants had any comments or corrections. There being none, the minutes were approved as written. She next mentioned that there had been three official comments submitted to date on the protocols process—from the Council of State Governments-Midwestern Office, from the Western Interstate Energy Board and from the State of New Mexico. Comments had also recently been submitted by Bill Ruting, Chief of the LaGrange (IL) Fire Department; Ms. Williams said that an electronic copy would be circulated to the working group. She then asked those participants who had submitted comments to briefly summarize their content.

Ms. Sattler said that her group had commented primarily on the process being used to develop the protocols. First, she said, it is critically important to involve the transportation industry in the protocols development process. Second, there should be at least one face-to-face meeting of the working group as the protocols are developed; conference calls are convenient, but much more meaningful discussion can take place when participants are in one location. Finally, said Ms. Sattler, her organization would like to see a more firm schedule with dates for development and production of the protocols.

Mr. Niles mentioned that the protocols being developed on public information and on bad weather and road conditions were of special importance to his group. Additionally, training is another important topic because it impacts so many other areas. Emergency notifications and communications during crises are distinct areas that need attention, he said. He went on to state that there were areas in which the direction and use of the protocols seemed unclear; for instance, how the protocols would fit in with existing extra-regulatory documents and plans like the WIPP Program Implementation Guide. The prenotification protocol would need clarification as to when and for what kinds of materials it would be employed; i.e., thousands of shipments of low-level waste may not need the same prenotification as a few shipments of spent fuel. Mr. Niles stated that his group was not pleased with the way the Section 180 (c) issues had been addressed in the recent Notice of Proposed Policy process, and said the group hoped the protocols development would be substantially different. Mr. Paull asked Mr. Niles about the group's endorsement of full-scale package testing in its comment letter; Mr. Niles responded that this position is consistent with the group's positions in the past.

Mr. Wentz said that his office's comments focused mostly on the development process and making sure it is a fair and open one. He suggested that while the TEC/WG is a broad-based policy group with many different interests, the drafts should also be circulated to a wider audience as they are developed. His office has also recommended adding discussions of mode to the routing protocol, and addressing all types of training in the training protocol, not just emergency preparedness.

Ms. Williams stated that all participants would receive copies of all comments submitted, and that the protocols writing group would develop a comment disposition document to show how each comment was addressed or not addressed in the protocols and the reasons why. She said that the writing group has been quite active, and has held several meetings to date. The first protocol, focusing on prenotification, is currently being drafted and will be ready for review very soon. A participant asked when the comment responses would be ready; Ms. Williams responded they would be ready when the first draft was prepared, hopefully no later than the next conference call.

Ms. Williams next raised issues related to production. Topics to be addressed soon in the protocols process include inspections, safe parking, and weather and road conditions. Routing will also be addressed in the near future, she said. She added that the routing discussion paper that had been developed by the TEC/WG was serving as one of the key references for the development of the protocol itself. One new protocol that has been added is projected shipment planning information, which will describe how general information about projected shipments is shared with state and tribal authorities. The current plan is to have these protocols drafted by June in time for full review and comment during the July TEC/WG meeting in Philadelphia, she said. In looking back on the development that took place in producing the prenotification protocol, said Ms. Williams, it became apparent that extra-regulatory issues and discussions about them took more time than

had been anticipated. Similarly, there may be delays in development of some of the other drafts. The schedule is an aggressive one, she said, but it is important to have a substantial number of protocols to discuss at the next meeting of the working group. Other communications among Senior Executive Transportation Forum members, regulators, and other stakeholders are also taking place, said Ms. Williams, and key elements of the draft protocols are being examined and modified. This is being done to help expedite development of the drafts and to prevent potential problems from arising later.

The seven protocol topics that may be available in draft form prior to the July TEC/WG meeting include: prenotification, public information, routing, inspections, weather and road conditions, safe parking/safe havens, and planning.

Before adjourning, Ms. Williams suggested scheduling the next conference call for Thursday, April 29 at 11:00 Eastern time. [The call-in number for this conference call is 301-903-6065.] Finally, the group reviewed the following

Action items:

- NTP-AL will distribute comments from Chief Ruting, LaGrange Fire Department (accomplished 4/9).
- DOE protocols writing group will promulgate comment response document to track incorporation/disposition of external comments received. Due Date: TBD at next scheduled conference call.
- DOE will have listing of key points of draft protocol on prenotification ready for review and discussion by the topic group on the April 29 conference call. Due Date: at least several days before the call, ideally 4/23 or 4/26.
- NTP-AL will follow-up with Robert Holden and Seth Kirshenberg regarding tribal and local government participation. Due Date: before next conference call (around 4/22).
- NTP-AL will issue conference call notes for review and comment in advance of the April 29 call. Due Date: April 22.

The conference call ended at approximately 11:45 p.m. Eastern time.