

Jos Lesscher
Chair



Jess Lewis
Vice Chair

**NEW MEXICO
STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes

New Mexico State Emergency Response Commission

February 17, 2025 | 1:00 PM – 2:50 PM | 3407 Juan Tabo Blvd, Albuquerque, NM 87111

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 PM by Chair Jos Lesscher. The meeting was recorded.

II. Roll Call

A. Present:

1. Jos Lesscher, Chair
2. Jess Lewis, Vice Chair
3. Commissioner Fitzherbert
4. Commissioner Onsurez
5. Commissioner Sanders
6. Carmela Aragon, Los Alamos National Laboratory
7. John Wilks, Private Citizen
8. Curtis Langley, Clean Harbors
9. Adam Adams, EPA Region 6
10. Lisa Coleman, NMDHSEM
11. Tessa Snyder, NMDHSEM
12. Zach Wachter, NMDHSEM
13. Robert Eggimann, NMDOH Bureau for Health Emergency Management
14. Adele McKenzie, NMED Drinking Water Bureau
15. Stephen Connolly, NMED Resource Protection Division
16. Russell Lashley, NMED Resource Protection Division
17. LT Jared Tapia, NMSP Special Operations
18. Rachel Giarrataro, NM VOAD

B. Quorum was established.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve previous meeting minutes as written; motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees

A. **Chair Report:** No updates.

- B. **Vice Chair Report:** No updates.
- C. **Hazardous Materials Safety Board (HMSB)/ Training:**
 - Discussion over HMSB relevance for SERC; decided that DHSEM would organize a working group to review HMSB and HMER Plan to evaluate future SERC efforts.
 - Review of upcoming hazmat-related training opportunities around the state.
 - NMDHSEM sending FEMA Hazmat Team Typing sheet to SERC for situational awareness.
- D. **Policy/Legislature/Bylaws Standing Committee:**
 - Policy (put forth by CPT Mark Rowley) was approved by the SERC at the Q4 2025 meeting; however, its sponsorship was delayed. Policy suggestion now tabled for later in the year.
- E. **LEPC Standing Committee:**
 - NMAEMP Conference not doing topic tracks at the conference this Fall, so the SERC and NMDHSEM will need to propose LEPC-related presentations.
 - Union County LEPC voted to move towards REPC with Quay County. Quay County held first LEPC meeting in February.
 - Commissioners encouraged to attend LEPCs in their area.
- F. **Finance Committee:** Nothing discussed.

VI. Old Business

- A. Reiterated LANL Hazmat Challenge occurring in August 2026.
- B. DHSEM received positive feedback on monthly hazmat newsletter.

VII. New Business

- A. **Open Meetings Act Resolution – 2026 Readoption**
 - 1. Approved and signed by Chair and Vice Chair.
- B. **2025 SERC Annual Report Content Discussion**
 - 1. Tabled to next meeting.
- C. **Hazardous Waste Bureau (NMED) Presentation on Capabilities**
 - 1. Review of roles and responsibilities of the NMED Resource Protection Division, including the process for receiving spill reports and tracking their clean up.
 - Discussion of spill clean-up process for Fall 2025 incident on US-550 outside of Farmington.
- D. **State of HMEP Funding**
 - 1. HMEP funding allocated for hazmat training equipment for the State Fire Academy is being purchased.
 - 2. HMEP funding for a Commodity Flow Study - DHSEM in process of developing proposal for bids.
- E. **Discuss Possible New Tier II Fee Structure (Requested by RHMC)**
 - 1. Discussed state of current fee structure and fee allocation to State funding streams. Tabled to next meeting.

f. High Hazard Flammable Train (HHFT) Notification System

1. NMDHSEM is contact for Commodity Flow Study of train hazardous materials, it is sensitive information and has to be requested by need-to-know personnel.
2. “Ask Rail” app can be used by emergency responders to identify contents of specific rail cars in the event of an incident. Discussed DHSEM finding more information on how to support first responders at train incidents.

g. Tier II Reports Due March 1: EPCRA and Tier II Reporting

1. NMDHSEM mentioned that a manual for EPCRA/Tier II Compliance in New Mexico was created; it will be disseminated once final review is complete.

h. Public Comments

1. Luna County Emergency Manager, David Townsend, reported out on recent hazmat incident at Deming High School. Incident and clean-up was well controlled, but the incident identified the need to improve school lab hazardous chemicals storage practices and more readily available ERGs outside of science departments at schools.
 - NMED Hazardous Waste Department is actively connecting with schools across the state to improve storage of lab chemicals, including training for students.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12th, 2026 from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM in Albuquerque.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

- Moved by Vice Chair Lewis; seconded by Chair Lesscher. Motion passed unanimously.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.