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Minutes of the
South Dakota Emergency Response Commission Meeting
Joe Foss Building
June 30, 2026
10:00am Central Time

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<https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=36>

Tina Titze called the meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves and the roll was called. A quorum was present.

State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Members Present: Doug Hinkle, Jason Humphrey, Whitney Lutkmeier, Jackie McGuire, Tina Titze, Dustin Willett

SERC Members Absent: David Ackerman, Andrew Canham, Sean Kruger, Janae Tostenson

Others Present: Kelsey Newling (South Dakota Department of Agricultural and Natural Resources (DANR), Sara Title III Coordinator), Stephanie Silbernagel (South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Senior Secretary), Rhett Howard (Office of Emergency Management), Erin Joyce (Emergency Planner, EPA Region 8), Kerry Hicks (EPA), Michael Murphy (South Dakota Task Force One, South Dakota Department of Homeland Security), Brad Eggers (Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency), Dan Richards (Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA))

Jackie McGuire was introduced as the new SERC board member, replacing Trish Kindt, who retired in early June. Jackie has had seven years of experience with ICR, the department's spills team, serves as the EPA Region 8 Regional Response Team member representing South Dakota, and has extensive experience handling spill cases.

SERC Elections:

Chairperson Tina Titze asked for a motion to approve a new chair for the SERC Board. Dustin Willett nominated Tina Titze as the new chair. Motioned by Dustin Willett,

seconded by Jackie McGuire. Doug Hinkle made a motion that nominations for chair cease and a unanimous ballot be cast, seconded by Jason Humphrey. Motion carried 6-0.

Chairperson Tina Titze asked for a motion to approve a new Vice Chair for the SERC meeting. Dustin Willett nominated Whitney Lutkemeier as Vice Chair of the SERC, seconded by Jackie McGuire. Tina Titze requested a motion to close nominations. Motioned by Jason Humphrey, seconded by Jackie McGuire. Motion carried 6-0.

Federal Updates:

Erin Joyce provided an update on EPA Region 8 activities. There was an EPA-led hazmat exercise held on May 27 in Yankton with participants from EPA Region 7, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Nebraska. Over 50 people attended, and it was a very successful event.

Dan Richards gave an update for PHMSA. PHMSA recently underwent restructuring that shifted several responsibilities within the agency. Accident investigators are responsible for responding to incidents on-site, remaining in the cold zone to collect information, conduct follow-up, and work toward determining root causes. The former community liaison positions in PHMSA have been moved out of the regional structure and placed under PHMSA Headquarters within the Outreach and Engagement Division, led by Clayton Hatfield. These community liaison roles have been reclassified as Safety Outreach Specialists, who focus on outreach events, publications, data-related work, and respond to public inquiries.

Brad Eggers gave an update for CISA. CISA is gradually rebuilding staff capacity. Currently, Protective Security Advisor coverage is being handled by Brad in Rapid City and Rick Miller in Pierre. On the cyber side, Jim Edman is supporting operations in Pierre, and efforts are underway to fill the vacant Rapid City cyber position in the coming months. Recently, CISA participated in a tabletop exercise with OneOK Pipeline in Cheyenne, WY, which was valuable given the OneOK Pipeline comes to Rapid City. In addition, CISA is actively supporting special events, including preparation for the upcoming Mount Rushmore fireworks.

Approval of March 31, 2026, SERC Meeting Minutes:

Kelsey Newling gave an update on a change made to the March minutes of a spelling error. Chairperson Tina Titze asked for a motion to approve the updated March 31, 2026, SERC meeting minutes. Motioned by Doug Hinkle, seconded by Dustin Willett. Motion carried 6-0.

TRI Report submittals – DANR

Kelsey gave an update on the TRI Report submittals report. The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is an annual report required from facilities that manufacture, import,

process, or otherwise use EPCRA Section 313 chemicals above established threshold quantities during a calendar year. These facilities must submit their reports to both EPA and the SERC, detailing summarized emissions, discharges, waste sent to landfills, and materials sent for recycling or off-site treatment. The reporting deadline is July 1st. So far, 96 facilities have submitted their reports. Typically, we see approximately 100 to 115 submissions annually.

Dustin Willett asked if there is a way to view which facilities submit TRI reports. Kelsey explained that EPA provides an online tool where TRI facilities can be viewed. DANR also maintains an online viewer which includes locations for regulated tanks, reported spills, Tier II facilities, and TRI facilities. However, due to ongoing mapping and database updates, the department's TRI online mapping tool is currently not functioning. Until system updates are complete, she recommends going to EPA's website for accessing TRI facility information.

Regional Haz Mat Team Update – HLS

Mike Murphy gave an update on Regional Haz Mat Team. Planning efforts have commenced for the training schedule for the upcoming calendar year, with specific program details still under development. Additionally, preliminary coordination is underway regarding a potential exercise for regional teams to be conducted in Sioux Falls during the September–October time frame. The feasibility of this exercise remains contingent upon securing an appropriate facility willing to serve as the host site, and discussions with the prospective location are ongoing.

LEPC Roster Approval – DANR:

Kelsey Newling reported that four Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) were moved to this meeting for approval or appointment. Three counties; Beadle, Custer, and Jerauld submitted their updated rosters for approval. She also shared that the new Bon Homme County Emergency Manager notified her that their LEPC had disbanded, requiring a formal vote to appoint a new LEPC for that county.

Tina Titze asked for a motion to approve the rosters for Beadle, Custer, and Jerauld counties. Motioned by Jackie McGuire, seconded by Doug Hinkle. Motion carried 6-0

Tina Titze asked for motion to appoint the new Bon Homme LEPC Roster. Motioned by Dustin Willett and seconded by Whitney Luktemeier. Motion carried 6-0

HMEP Grants, Training and Planning Report – OEM

Rhett Howard reported that HMEP 2025 funding is nearing the 50 percent expenditure mark, with eight of the nineteen planned activities completed. Several counties are finalizing hazmat awareness plan updates. For HMEP 2026, the state application has been submitted, and eight sub-grantees have requested funds. 3 HMEP25 reimbursements requests are expected soon from Aberdeen Fire and Watertown Fire;

Watertown Fire Rescue recently completed their lithium battery fire training, and attended the 2026 Cold Zone Conference. Aberdeen Fire Rescue recently completed their (8) eight-hour road/highway ARFF Hazmat Incident training. No additional updates were available on HMEP 26 at this time.

Public Comment Period: None

Other Business

Chairperson Tina Titze gave an update on a thunderstorm that recently went through Highmore, South Dakota. A storm with straight-line winds exceeding 130 mph caused significant damage in Highmore, impacting power lines, homes, nursing homes, grain bins, and businesses. Damage assessment is ongoing. Many volunteers, along with equipment and donations, are assisting in cleanup efforts.

State agencies supporting the response include:

- Department of Transportation
- Department of Public Safety
- Highway Patrol
- Office of Emergency Management
- Department of Corrections (inmate work crews)

Highway Patrol maintained restricted access until last night; the area is now open to travel with continued security presence. Cleanup operations are extensive.

Elsewhere in the state, additional severe weather occurred, including a confirmed tornado in Andover. The system moved through during early morning hours, a period of concern for emergency management. Volunteer agencies are expected to continue supporting recovery efforts.

Jason Humphrey asked whether the event would be declared a state of emergency disaster. Tina explained that there may have been a verbal state emergency declaration, but formal requirements still need to be met before an official state emergency declaration can occur. The team is currently determining whether to proceed with a state of emergency, preparing the necessary documentation, and conducting an assessment to confirm whether required thresholds are met, including approximately 1.8 million dollars in damages needed to request federal disaster assistance. Jackie McGuire reported that DNR staff have been assisting with waste management for the Highmore storm, noting a few minor oil spills and anticipating additional issues, including wind turbines that were knocked over.

Kelsey Newling shared that the next in-person meeting will take place during the South Dakota Emergency Management Association Conference in Spearfish, which runs from September 14 through 17. The meeting is tentatively planned for September 15 at 5:00 PM Mountain Time. Once the date is finalized, she will notify everyone.

Adjourn

Chairperson Tina Titze asked for a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Doug Hinkle, seconded by Jackie McGuire. Motion carried 6-0.

DRAFT