



## RECAP OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2014 STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION MEETING

The October 3, 2014 SERC meeting was held at the Betty Easley Conference Center in Tallahassee, FL. The Recap, presented and summarized below, was enhanced by discussions/dialogues which ensued at the October 2, 2014 meetings of SERC's Training Task Force and the LEPC Staff & Chairs. The SERC meeting was chaired by FDEM Director Bryan Koon. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. and proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance and a roll call of SERC members.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **Approval of July 18, 2014 SERC meeting Minutes.** The July 18, 2014 meeting Minutes were approved unanimously upon voice vote with no modifications or amendments proposed.

### NEW BUSINESS

- **Local Emergency Planning Committees Appointments.** Ms. Isabell Parker (FDEM staff) requested approval of membership modifications recognized for each LEPC. Mr. John Gibbons and Mr. Michael Arnold each requested one modification be made to the listing to reflect a proposed member previously submitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management. SERC unanimously approved all changes requested by each of the LEPC Districts, including the requested modifications.

The membership changes approved for the Tampa Bay LEPC District for the quarter were: the redesignation of Primary/Alternates for U.S. Coast Guard (to *LCDR Todd Harfiel/ENS George Daws*) and the Primary for the Florida Department of Health (to *Mr. Gary Frank*).

- **Approval of LEPC Plans.** Ms. Isabell Parker recognized that each of the 11 Local Emergency Planning Committee's updated their Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plans in accordance with the respective FDEM/LEPC contracts. According to Ms. Parker, "*all of the Plans were found to be in compliance with the respective criterion.*" Acceptance of the Plans, including revisions, were approved unanimously by the SERC.
- **Thomas Yatabe-SERC Award Nominations and Certificates of Appreciation.** Ms. Isabell Parker recognized that the SERC Agenda materials contained a listing of proposed "Thomas Yatabe Award" winners selected by each of the LEPCs as well as the proposed recipients of "Certificates of Appreciation." The prestigious award signifies "*Outstanding contribution made in the implementation and support of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act through achievement(s), accomplishment(s) or superior participation in hazardous material planning or response.*" The SERC unanimously approved all Award selections as well as recipients of Certificates of Appreciation. The recipients for LEPC District 8 will remain nameless within this Recap to maintain an element of surprise. The Awards will be presented in conjunction with the January 2015 SERC meeting or February 25, 2015 LEPC meeting.

## REPORTS

- **Report from SERC's Training Task Force (TTF).** The following highlights of the October 3, 2014 TTF meeting were identified by TTF member Mike Murphy:
  - Shipboard Response Workshop/Training. The U.S. Coast Guard, Private Industry, Cruise Ship Lines, and Public-Sector First Responders will meet on October 30<sup>th</sup> in Tallahassee at the State EOC at 8:00 AM. The morning session will primarily focus on the capabilities of each of the entities and the afternoon session will be reserved for training and a simulated exercise. Mr. Doug Wolfe and one other expert will advise on the overall capabilities of Florida's hazmat response teams and, in particular, how they could/should be integrated with response to offshore incidents. One primary benefit is that the hazmat teams could arrive on scene much earlier than USCG's response team since they will be deployed from Mobile, AL. Could get preliminary data for full response. Noting the Ports in Florida and the established hazmat teams supporting these areas, Mike Murphy would like to have representation from Tampa, Pensacola, Miami & Jacksonville.
  - Regional Functional Exercise Model. Development of "Regional Functional Exercise Model" has been assigned as a task and added to the Training Task Force's (TTF) "Project Tracking Chart." The status of this task will be addressed future TTF teleconferences and at TTF meetings until completed. The objective is to provide more clear and consistent exercise formats.
  - Oil Spill Responce Course. An Oil Spill Response course is being added to the curriculum of the 2015 Hazmat Symposium scheduled for January 21-23, 2015.
  - Hazmat Team Assessments. The capabilities of all Type 1 and Type 2 Hazmat teams will be assessed by Mr. Matt Marshall and/or Mr. Scott Chapell over the next two years who will travel to the respective team locations to perform the assessment. Mr. Marshall & Mr. Chapell recently completed the assessment of the Sarasota County Hazmat team. An assessment of the Pinellas County Hazmat has been scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup>. In addition, matrices outlining the specialized equipment owned by each of the Hazmat teams and the capabilities/qualifications of each hazmat team member were developed and recently transmitted to Mr. John Koenke of the Florida State Fire College.
  - 2015 Hazmat Symposium. Mr. Lee Newsome reported that the 2015 Hazmat Symposium is progressing nicely. As in the past, the 2015 Hazmat Symposium will be held in conjunction with the annual Fire Rescue East Conference held in Daytona Beach in January 2015. Improvements for this year's Conference include: addition of Hazmat 101 and Oil Spill Response courses; addition of another four-hour training session, making the training sessions 2½ days in duration; addition of two segments to the Hazmat Teams competition; and providing training for hazmat team competition members while being sequestered.
  - New Fire Department Regulations. Chief Mike Murphy advised that changes recently proposed to fire department regulations may be of "significant concern to volunteer fire departments and some regular fire departments."
  - Hazardous Materials Responder of the Year. Lt. Matt Marshall advised that each year an individual is awarded the Florida Hazardous Materials Responder of the Year in conjunction with the Fire Rescue East Conference. The Florida Association of Hazardous Materials Responders is currently soliciting nominations for the award. Nomination forms and more information is available from the Florida Fire Chiefs Association website (<http://www.ffca.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3460>).

*Prior award winners from District 8 were: William Bailey of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue in 2002; Steve McCarthy of Pinellas Park Fire Department in 2004; Ronald Rogers, Jr., of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue in 2005; George Bessler of City of Seminole Fire Rescue in 2006; and Scott Ehlers of Tampa Fire Rescue in 2012.*

- **Hazards Analysis (HA) Working Group Report.** Spokesperson Dwayne Mundy indicated that the HA Working Group previously identified concerns regarding lack of payment for analyses containing error(s), lack of a defined period for FDEM staff to review submittals, identification of errors within E-Plan which have an effect on HA Input, lack of training for personnel conducting hazards analyses, and internal inconsistencies within Contract. In response to most of these issues, Mr. Paul Wotherspoon identified that the following modifications will be incorporated into the Contracts:

- all HA Contracts will be fixed fee;
- a deadline of 21 business days from receipt will be established for FDEM to review and accept or acknowledge errors regarding HA submittals;
- a deadline of 10 business days from receipt of notification will be provided to the Contractor to resolve all errors and resubmit corrected analysis(es) in order to qualify for payment for that facility;
- each of the Contracts will contain a bulleted listing of priorities of review to be administered by FDEM;
- SharePoint is the suggested destination point for all submittals due to file size capacity. However, submittals may still need to be broken down into multiple files in order to accommodate the 100 MB threshold limitation; and
- the Contracts will be retroactive to July 1, 2014.

While Mr. Wotherspoon did acknowledge that the delay in Contract issuance and execution may have created a hardship on some of the Contractors with a larger number of facilities in which to conduct analyses, no extensions of the time periods will be granted.

Both Linda McWhorter and Paul Wotherspoon did acknowledge during several discussions about a disconnect in communications between FDEM and the LEPC and FDEM and the Counties. Ms. McWhorter stated that they were going to continue moving forward in addressing these communications gaps to streamline this process. It was stated over and over, from the group that the overall task at hand is to, once again, make every attempt to have the grant issued as close to the issue date of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Ron Mills, FEPA President & SERC Member provided a letter dated September 26, 2014, addressed to Ms. Linda McWhorter - Chief of FDEM's Bureau of Preparedness and asked that it be made part of the SERC meeting *Minutes*. In summary, the letter documented several concerns, including: lack of timely execution and submittal of HA Contracts; stern stipulations contained in the initial/present Contract; lack of timeline for FDEM to review; lack of addressing prior HA Working Group recommendations; lack of preparation of *Minutes* associated with the HA Working Group meetings; and the prior lack of timely payments for services rendered.

Mr. Mundy concluded by recognizing and thanking Mr. Richard Butgereit for working with him to incorporate the HA data into Gator along with E-Plan data and locations of vulnerable facilities. Mr. Mundy believes that the combined work product will be of tremendous use when first responders are required to determine vulnerability zones based on a hazardous materials incident. It is hoped that such an effort can and will be implemented statewide.

- **Financial Status Report.** Mr. Paul Wotherspoon indicated that the SERC Agenda materials contained numerous tables and graphs depicting a comparison of the various revenues and expenditures associated with FDEM's Hazardous Materials Planning and Risk Management Planning Programs over the past and present year. Graphics were provided in the Agenda materials to quantify and illustrate:

- Revenues received by Month for RMP & EPCRA programs since mid-FY 2012-13 through August 2014;
- Breakdown of General Appropriations and Expenditures by Category for the Hazardous Materials Planning Program for FYs 2013-14 & 2014-15 (through August 31, 2014); and
- Breakdown of General Appropriations and Expenditures by Category for the Risk Management Planning Program for FYs 2013-14 & 2014-15 (through August 31, 2014).

- **Hazardous Materials Incidents Reports.** Mr. Sam Brackett indicated that detailed listings of Section 304 investigations, as well as fixed facility and transportation-related hazardous materials incidents were prepared and included with the Agenda materials to describe incidents occurring between the period of June 1, 2014 - August 31, 2014. Such Reports included documentation of these incidents and portrayed the number of persons evacuated, injured or deceased down to LEPC District and ultimately County level.

The following constitute the hazardous material incidents recorded for District 8 during this period, including an enumeration of those evacuated, injured and/or deceased:

County	Date Released	Type	Chemical	Amount Released (Lbs.)	Business Type	# Evacuated	# Injured	# Fatalities
Hillsborough	6/22/14	TR	Gasoline	159	Aircraft Accident	0	0	1
	7/03/14	TR	Diesel Fuel	10,360	Traffic Accident	0	1	0
	7/15/14	TR	Unknown Gas	Unknown	Office Complex	250	3	0
	7/29/14	TR	Diesel Fuel	1,480	Traffic Accident	0	2	0
	8/15/14	304 (Closed)	Diluted Sodium Hypochlorite	Unknown	Resport	N/A	N/A	N/A
	8/24/14	TR	Diesel Fuel	296	Traffic Accident	0	1	0
Manatee	6/23/14	TR	Diesel Fuel	Unknown	Unknown	0	0	0
	7/15/14	TR	Diesel Fuel	185	Traffic Accident	0	0	0
Pasco	8/06/14	TR	Diesel Fuel	1,100	Traffic Accident	0	2	0
	8/11/14	TR	Gas/Diesel Fuel	~70	Unknown	0	0	0
	8/14/14	TR	Natural Gas	Unknown	Pipeline/Lightning Strike	1	0	0
	8/21/14	TR	Natural Gas	Unknown	Pipeline/Construction	0	0	0
Pinellas	6/15/14	FF	Hydraulic Oil	Unknown	Metal Plating	0	1	0
	6/16/14	TR	Natural Gas	Unknown	Pipeline/Restaurant	1	0	0
	7/03/14	TR	Hydrochloric Acid/Sodium Hypochlorite	Unknown	Traffic Accident	0	2	0
	7/15/14	FF	Pepper Spray (Possible)	Unknown	State Office Building	0	5	0

County	Date Released	Type	Chemical	Amount Released (Lbs.)	Business Type	# Evacuated	# Injured	# Fatalities
Pinellas (Cont'd)	7/16/14	FF	Propane	Unknown	Apartment Complex	32	0	0
	7/22/14	FF/304 (Closed)	Mono Sulfate/ Diclor	30	Pool Supply	50	0	0
	7/31/14	TR	Natural Gas	Unknown	Pipeline/Restaurant	4	0	0
	8/08/14	TR	Natural Gas	Unknown	Pipeline/Construction	50	0	0
	8/21/14	TR	Gasoline	Unknown	Traffic Accident	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL →</b>						<b>388</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>

KEY: FF = Fixed Facility incident / TR - Transportation-related incident / 304 - Section 304 Investigation Launched (Status)

Director Bryan Koon asked Mr. Brackett if he sees any trends. Mr. Brackett indicated that the annual releases have inexplicably gone down since 2007. SERC Member Mike Murphy mentioned that the reduction could be attributed to the fact that reportable quantities have changed over time.

SERC member Mark Tumlin solicited confirmation that Industries are getting better about reporting. Chris Stevens affirmed this and added that Industries are doing a much better job of calling in ALL releases, an action promoted by FDEM/SERC since there would never be a penalty imposed in the event the release did not meet a reportable quantity(ies).

Mr. Paul Wotherspoon added that he, Chris Stevens, Robert Dietrich & Grant Harvey traveled to Tampa a couple of weeks ago to meet with the Ammonia Working Group and promote the requirements of timely reporting amongst other information sharing and objectives.

Chief Mike Murphy asked whether the charts can be revised to reflect which incidents are potentially fineable by EPA so that a Supplemental Environmental Project(s) can possibly be implemented. Chris Stevens agreed that this can and will be done for future Reports.

- **Update on Staff Activities and Reports by Section.** Mr. Paul Wotherspoon indicated that various graphics were provided within the SERC Agenda materials to depict various staff functions and initiatives. These included:
  - enumeration of Hazardous Materials Incident Reports by month since 2004;
  - total facility counts of E-Plan Filing by LEPC District (as of 4/31/14);
  - monthly quantification of Technical Assistance calls received from March 2013 - Feb. 2014; and
  - enumeration of Tier 2 Data in E-Plan since 2010 in terms of the # of facilities and the # of chemicals.
- **Update on LEPC Activities.** SERC member Jennifer Hobbs (Local Emergency Planning Committees) recognized that the How-to-Comply Manual, data and resources was personally updated by the LEPC Chair for District 1 - Mr. Richard Delp. All in attendance applauded Mr. Delp for his efforts. Ms. Hobbs closed her remarks by acknowledging that the many accomplishments and initiatives of the LEPCs are identified in the Hazmatters Reports contained in the SERC meeting materials.

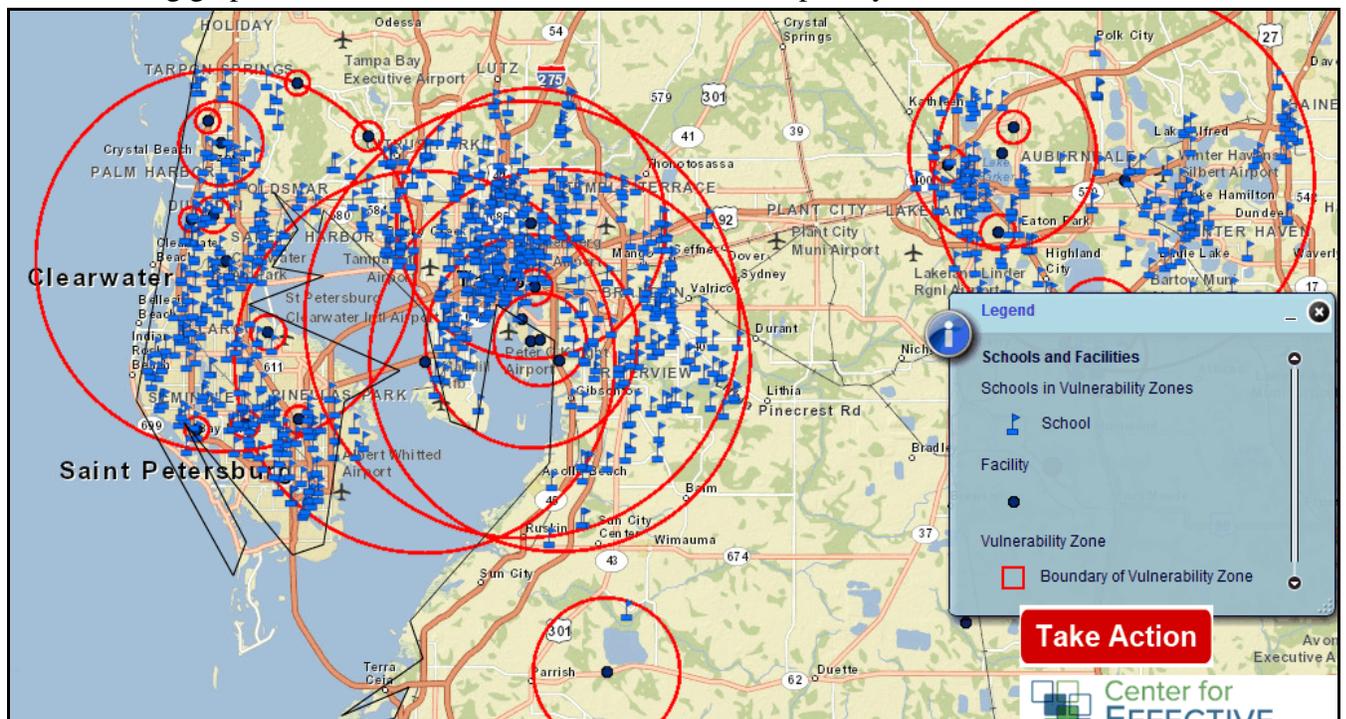
The following serve as the documented tasks identified by LEPC District 8 staff for the period of June - August 2014:

- District 8 LEPC staff was involved in a number of activities during the quarter. Staff attended the SERC quarterly meetings held at the Hilton Singer Island in Riviera Beach on July 17-18, 2014. The quarterly LEPC District 8 meeting was held on August 27th. During the meeting, Chief Jeff Patterson (Hillsborough County Fire Rescue) was elected LEPC Chair and James "JJ" Johnston was elected Vice Chair for District 8 for two-year terms, coinciding with the biennial reappointment of all LEPC members by the State Emergency Response Commission.
- The LEPC's Facility Disaster Planning Subcommittee (FDPS) met on July 23rd. The meeting included a variety of discussions topics. The primary topics included: overview of SERC and LEPC initiatives; summary of SERC meeting; and significant progress towards initiative of compiling numerous resources and links to serve as an All Hazards Guide for Businesses. As currently envisioned, it will likely be a single electronic database containing various resources and links that could/would assist facilities in planning for a variety of hazards (e.g. hazardous materials, storm surge, hurricane, flooding, tornados...) and will likely include a compilation of past planning efforts made by the LEPC, the TBRPC and the County Emergency Management departments (e.g. All Hazards Guide, Facility Business Disaster Survival Kit...). As an end-product, it is envisioned that the consolidated resources could/would be tailored to County level, where applicable.
- The LEPC's HMEP Training Subcommittee also met on August 27th with the ambition of refining the HMEP training schedule for FY 2014-15. The sole HMEP training event during the quarter was the conduct of three, shift-friendly, 24-hr. Life Safety and Command courses on dates ranging from August 4-15, 2014, primarily for the Manatee County fire department personnel. A total of 50 first responders attended the training. Other training events anticipated and previously proposed but subject to scheduling were: attendance at the annual E-Plan Conference (for One); three 8-Hr. Chemical & Chemistry courses [Pinellas]; four 3-Hr. E-Plan for 1st Responders courses [Regionwide]; Hazmat Symposium (One Lodging each County); attendance of up to 10 at 160-Hr. Hazmat Tech Certification course [Pasco/Pinellas]; and three 8-Hr. Hazmat Spill/Leak Containment courses [Pinellas]. As is customary, the pre-requisites for all HMEP training is that the course: must be designed for public-sector First Responders; must be pre-approved and deemed "cost effective" by FDEM staff; and, at minimum, must include a transportation component or nexus.
- In terms of miscellany, LEPC staff additionally: attended the (nearly) monthly Ammonia Handlers/Operators meetings (June 3<sup>rd</sup>, June 24<sup>th</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup> & August 26<sup>th</sup>); attended the final preparatory meeting for the June 14<sup>th</sup> "Community Day" event (June 5<sup>th</sup>); facilitated the monthly meetings of the Pinellas Police Standards Council (June 11<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup> & August 13<sup>th</sup>); participated in the HMEP/FDOT "Indirect Costs" teleconference (June 13<sup>th</sup>); participated in "Community Day" at DeSoto Park for the neighborhood adjacent to Port Tampa Bay gates (June 14<sup>th</sup>); facilitated the (nearly) quarterly meeting of the Preventative Radiological Nuclear Detection Committee meeting (June 19<sup>th</sup> & July 30<sup>th</sup>); submitted annual LEPC Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan update to FDEM (June 24<sup>th</sup>); attended the "Community Day" Lessons Learned meeting at the Tampa EOC (June 27<sup>th</sup>); submitted the biennial exercise After Action Report/Improvement Plan to FDEM (June 30<sup>th</sup>); attended the bi-monthly meeting of the Tampa Bay Spill Committee (July 8<sup>th</sup>); attended the tri-annual U.S. Coast Guard Area Contingency Plan meeting (July 15<sup>th</sup>); facilitated the three 24-Hr. Life Safety & Command courses conducted between August 4-15 under the HMEP Program; participated in teleconference regarding the 2015 HMEP Contract; and submitted Hazmat matters, LEPC membership modification requests, and Thomas Yatabe Award nominations in association with the next SERC meeting (August 29<sup>th</sup>).

## OTHER BUSINESS

- **“KIDS IN DANGER ZONES.”** Mr. Paul Wotherspoon indicated that the Center for Effective Government recently published a study entitled “Kids in Danger Zones.” The Study analyzes the location of 3,400+ high-risk chemical facilities that must report under EPA’s Risk Management Planning Program and their proximity to public and private schools. The following results are quite startling:
  - 36 percent of all students are located within the vulnerability zone of at least one hazardous chemical facility;
  - More than 19.6 million students are vulnerable to these types of facilities;
  - San Jacinto Elementary School in Deer Park, TX is vulnerable to 41 different chemical facilities.
  - Due to the presence of 2 million pounds of Chlorine at a South Kearny, NJ facility, a 14-mile vulnerability zone had to be applied. Dependent on wind conditions, that could jeopardize students (and families) as far away as Manhattan.
  - More than 60% of all students within Utah, Rhode Island, Texas, Louisiana and Nevada. The States of Delaware and Florida are not far behind with more than 50% of students residing within at least one vulnerability zone.
  - Behind California and Texas, Florida ranks third worst in terms of number of Schools within Vulnerability Zones (2,908) and Students within Vulnerability Zones (1,495,051).
  - South Dakota is far and away the safest State in the nation in terms of this survey with only four schools within vulnerability zone(s) and the vulnerability of 337 students.
  - Five of the top 58 nationwide facilities that put 200,000 or more students at risk are located within Florida - three in Miami, one in Ft. Lauderdale and one in Hialeah.

The following graphic illustrates the vulnerabilities in the Tampa Bay area:



The Study is available by copying the following and pasting the following in your browser:  
<http://issuu.com/foreffectivegov/docs/kids-in-danger-zones-report/3?e=7174577/9516748>

- **EBOLA AND OTHER VIRUS PREPAREDNESS IN FLORIDA.** SERC Member Mark Tumlin asked SERC Member Bobby Bailey (Florida Department of Health) about status of Ebola and other respiratory infections in the midwest and how Florida is prepared. Mr. Bailey responded that guidance and updates are frequently being sent to hospitals, doctors offices, law enforcement, airport personnel... In addition, several hospitals nationwide are currently conducting exercises to test their readiness. Agencies like the Center for Disease Control are attempting to produce and stockpile supplies, to the best of their ability, in case of a national epidemic. If such disease(s) were to reach epidemic levels within the State, the Florida Department of Health would take the lead. Mike DeLorenzo identified that there are a “ton” of videos on the web to address any/all diseases and their corresponding symptoms. Mr. Tumlin added that the Ag Industry is concerned about the status of health and vulnerability of the migrant workers. Chair Koon indicated that perhaps Business Continuity Plans should be revised to the potential for a large number of employees not report to work during the 21 day incubation period. Mike Murphy added that he his concerned with the limited amount of protective gear available to first responders in the State in the event Florida experiences a big epidemic.
- **SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS.** SERC member Mike Murphy inquired when the Supplemental Environmental Projects website and database would be completed. He did acknowledge that much progress has been made towards this objective but until complete, Florida still stands to lose tremendously opportunities if the facility found to be in violation with the EPCRA were simply to pay the EPA fine. In addition, Chief Murphy suggested that the LEPCs and other entities work hard to propose and prepare SEPs of varying costs for pre-vetting and potential quick implementation. Richard Butgereit has volunteered to raise this on his priorities list in order to complete the task.

#### **COMMENTS & ADJOURNMENT.**

- **Next Meeting.** It was announced that the next SERC meeting is expected to be held on January 21, 2015 in Daytona Beach.
- **Adjournment.** The SERC meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.