

Addison County Emergency Planning Committee

MINUTES

VSP Barracks, New Haven • May 31, 2017 • 5pm

Presentation

Dave Attig, Safety Compliance Manager with Vermont Gas, presented a short overview of the services, areas, and safety issues related to VGS and the pipeline extension to Middlebury. The turn-ons have begun in Middlebury, with East Middlebury to begin “soon.” In Vermont, the system begins in Highgate Springs where the odorant is injected into the pipeline carrying the natural gas. Ten-inch and 16” transmission lines bring the gas 118 miles to Middlebury. Safety trainings have been provided to individual fire departments in Middlebury, Weybridge, Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, New Haven, Bristol and Monkton. Training has also been conducted for fire departments in the region via the Addison County Fire Fighters Association. VGS has ensured that the departments have gas detectors (with CO detection), non-sparking wrenches, flash drives with all needed documentation, emergency response booklets, a training DVD, and visor tip cards for first responders.

Although VGS works primarily with the local fire departments, area EMDs are also contacted and kept in the loop regarding potentially hazardous situations when larger, more complex sites are involved. He noted that whenever gas is shut off, once the situation is remedied, the company goes to each building which has VGS service and ensures the gas service to that building is turned off. Once the pipeline is back on-line and refilled, each building is again visited and its service turned back on with appropriate checks of the installed appliances/equipment. Also noted were the following difference between natural gas and propane:

- Natural gas is 30% lighter than Propane, it tends to collect near ceilings and rise out of ditches. Propane collects near the floor and flows into ditches or other indentations in the ground (or floor).
- Natural gas ignites when the surrounding air contains 5–15% gas. Less than that fails to ignite because there is too little a concentration, and more than 15% fails to ignite because there is too little air to support combustion.
- Propane appliances use a richer gas mixture and burners have smaller holes. Natural gas burners have larger holes. The switch from propane to natural gas is quick and easy.

In answer to several questions about all the little flags that have been seen in the ground, Dave explained that each utility is assigned a specific color for its marking flags. Thus one can quickly determine which utility is marking out its pending project(s): Red = electric; Yellow = gas, oil steam; Orange = communications; Blue = water (potable); Purple = reclaimed water; Pink = survey; White = proposed excavation; Green = sewer.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting:

Called to order at 5:36pm

1. Introductions

2. **April, 2017 Minutes**—Motion to approve as printed by Tom S, Seconded by Tom H *Motion passed*

3. Treasurer's Report—Balance to-date: \$2,226.92 Motion to approve Report made by Tom H, Seconded by Erik. *Motion passed.*

- **Expenditures/Bills/Reimbursements**—**Motion by Beth, Seconded by Eric F, to reimburse Matt Fraley \$45.06 and Tim Boutin \$23.35 (total \$69.41)** for the meeting's refreshments. *Motion passed.*

4. SERC—[Tim] Our annual budget was submitted to the SERC. The Statute stipulated \$4,000 has been granted, but the remainder of the budget allocations (TIER II materials, a County Incident management team, CPR training, etc) required additional documentation.

5. DEMHS Report —[Ron] Ron gave notice to all that this would be his last meeting with us. He is moving on to other VEM duties and the newly appointed NorthWest Coordinator—Max Kennedy—will be joining us monthly and will be our primary point-of-contact with VEM henceforth. Ron reviewed the June trainings available, and gave a quick over-view of the staff realignments at VEM.

6. Other Business –

- Tim presented some of the news and changes being implemented in Waterbury: there is a new “Engagement Section” focusing on outreach; the EMD Program is being revamped, new classes will be offered (one 5-hour or two 2.5-hr sessions); A “Quick Burst” list of topics for LEPC meetings is available (not all topics have yet been created, but they will be coming); FEMA on-line courses will auto-incorporate into the Learning Management System (LMS) as it comes up to speed; any agency or office accepting Medicaid/Medicare payments is required to have an EOP in place (there is outreach happening to contact all and assist in this); a Bakken Crude TableTop is being planned for mid-July. The NY rails are being upgraded to carry the super-tankers that will be hauling this oil south.
- About 50% of the county EOPs have been submitted
- Salisbury Red Cross Supplies—True to her word, Kristen Binau, Regional Disaster Officer for the Red Cross, saw to it that Tom Scanlon's complaint regarding his multiple unsuccessful efforts to secure the promised cots, etc for Salisbury, was properly addressed and his long-awaited supplies were delivered.
- Annual Meeting—June 28, Rosie's, 5:00pm Deadline to return the Menu/Invitation is Monday June 19 so we can let Rosie's know what the head-count will be by the 23rd.
- Question regarding re-supply of items used in HazMat incidents: Typically, the Fire Department will call in a specialized contractor, and the supplies used will either be those arriving with the contractor, or the FD will be resupplied directly from the contractor's on-site supplies. If that is not feasible at the time, the FD will seek resupply from the contractor at a later date.
- Beth noted that 2-1-1 is now able to accept texts Monday–Friday, 8:00AM–8:00PM. Simply text the zip code of the location to 802 989-211 to begin.

8. Adjourn: Tom S MOVED, Tom H seconded, to adjourn. *Motion passed.* Time: 6:20pm

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Conway, Secretary

Upcoming Events:

- **L0954 All Hazards Safety Officer Course**—June 19–3, 8am–4pm, Waterbury
- **ACEPC Exec**—6/21, 5pm, ACRPC offices
- **ACEPC Annual Meeting**—6/28—Rosie's, 5:00pm
- **Housing Summit**—June 20, location TBD
- **V-0001 Bakken Oil Transport TableTop**—July 11,12,13, Noon–4:00pm, These are separate sessions, each in a different, yet TBD location. Watch for more info

For DEMHS/FEMA trainings & sign-up, see: <https://vermont.csod.com>

All DEMHS trainings require registration. If minimum attendee numbers are not met, course will be cancelled.

Attendees:

Ron Pentkowski—DEMHS	Tom Hanley—Middlebury EMD/PD
Erik Eriksen—Ripton EMD/Fire	Eric Forand—Bristol EMC
Tom Scanlon, Treasurer—Salisbury EMD	Sue Ann Arnebold—Orwell Assist Clerk
Troy Fox—Agrimark/Cabot	Bob Arnebold—Orwell EMD
Mike Manley—VSP New Haven	Beth Diemond—2-1-1
Matt Fraley, Chair—Vergennes Fire	Tim Bouton—ACRPC
Robin Conway, Secretary—Shoreham EMD	Laura Asermily — Middlebury SB
Dennis Pelletier—VDH EP	Dave Attig—VGS
Elder Peterson—LDS	Elder Beck—LDS