

A bald eagle is shown in flight, its wings spread, flying towards the right. It is positioned in front of a large, metal power line tower that extends from the top right corner down towards the bottom right. The background is a clear, light blue sky. The eagle's head is turned slightly towards the viewer.

Regional Emergency Motor Fuel Waiver Opportunity for Southern States

American Petroleum Institute
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By: Kenneth J. Nemeth, Secretary and Executive Director



Southern Emergency Response Council

- SSEB created the Southern Emergency Response Council (SERC) in 1972 to formalize an emergency response agreement for the southern region to respond to a radiological incident.
- SERC is composed of representatives from the majority of SSEB member states.
- The mutual aid agreement for radiological assistance is implemented through the *Southern Mutual Radiation Assistance Plan (SMRAP)*.
- SMRAP contains activation procedures as well as key contacts and emergency response resources from state and federal agencies.
- As the Secretariat, SSEB updates the document annually and partakes in regional nuclear power plant exercises to invoke SMRAP.

Member-reported Issues



According to Associate Members present at SSEB's 57th Annual Meeting:

1. The 2017 Hurricane Season (Nathan, Harvey, Irma, Maria)
2. EPA Fuel Waivers are individually applied for by states/
territories
3. Decisions by EPA do not reach industry in a timely way
4. Fuel deliveries are not reaching affected areas promptly
5. Fuel needs: **BEFORE, DURING, and AFTER** natural
disasters

*Associate Member Jeff Copeskey,
Exxon Mobil Corporation*



What Can We Do?



- Change is needed to address fuel needs in disaster conditions
- “We need a regional compact that would provide a regional waiver.”
- When several states are affected, a regional waiver is the answer
- Lives, homes, vehicles, businesses, industries, communications, environment, and law enforcement are at stake!

The Experience to Lead



- SSEB – interstate compact – mission – membership – experience
- SMRAP – codicil to Southern States Energy Compact (1973)
 - Governor to Governor contact in a nuclear emergency
 - Tested and exercised annually
 - Annual Meeting of Agreement States
 - Annual review/publication of state contacts, equipment, capabilities

Key Aspects of Interstate Cooperation



1. The principles of mutual assistance and regional planning are critical for interstate cooperation;
2. Regional planning is required to protect the public welfare from emergencies with interstate implications;
3. The interstate compact is a tested and trusted, legal means for cooperation among the states in matters of this nature;
4. Interstate cooperation is enhanced by responsible recognition of similarities among states' problems and needs;
5. Problems arising from dissimilar state organization structure or laws can be overcome without damage to basic requirements of a common problem; and
6. Effective state cooperation is a key aspect of “cooperative federalism” and results in a better partnership between the states and the federal government.

How Could a Codicil to the SSEB Compact Work?



1. Weather alert issued by NWS or governor calls “A State of Emergency.”
2. SSEB initiates immediate contact with governors or designees in path of impending event to opt in or opt out of the Regional Emergency Motor Fuel Waiver protocol.
3. SSEB contacts designated EPA official regarding states that have opted in and officially requests Regional Waiver.
4. EPA issues Regional Waiver; SSEB immediately notifies states and designated industry officials so fuel can be delivered:
 - in advance of an anticipated event for evacuees;
 - during the event for emergency responders; and
 - following the event for returning residents.



Transcending Boundaries



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