



## Meeting Minutes Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee

<b>Attendance</b>		<b>DATE</b>	Tuesday, July 23, 2024,		
		<b>TIME</b>	1:00 PM		
		<b>METHOD</b>	Zoom		
		<b>RECORDER</b>	Loren Borst		
<b>Appointed Voting Member Attendance</b>					
<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Present</b>
David Fogerson – Chair	ABS	COL. Brett D. Compston	X	Matthew Petersen	X
Billy Samuels – Vice Chair	X	Joe Colacurcio	X	Ken Quiner	ABS
Taylor Allison	ABS	Bob Dehnhardt	ABS	Misty Robinson	ABS
Andy Ancho	X	Kelly Echeverria	X	Bill Savran	ABS
Jayson Andrus	ABS	Andrea Esp	X	Cary Underwood	X
Roy Anderson	X	Jeanne Freeman	X	Donielle (DT) Allen	ABS
Travis Anderson	X	Eric Holt	X		
Jon Bakkedahl	X	Timothy Hill	X		
Noah Boyer	X	Chris Lake	X		
Lee Cabaniss	X	Carolyn Levering	X		
James Chrisley	X	Desiree Mattice	X		
Diana Clarkson	X	Tennille Pereira	ABS		
<b>Appointed Non-Voting Member Attendance</b>					
Bunny Bishop	ABS	Melissa Friend	X	Kimberly Palma-Ortega	
Heather Lafferty	X	Selby Marks	X		
<b>Legal/Administrative Support Attendance</b>					
<b>Representative</b>		<b>Entity</b>			<b>Present</b>
Samantha Ladich – Senior Deputy Attorney General		Office of the Nevada Attorney General			X
Loren Borst – Administrative Assistant		Nevada Division of Emergency Management			X

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice Chair, Billy Samuels, State Administrative Agent (SAA) called the meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Loren Borst, Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (DEM/HS). Quorum was established for the meeting.

**2. Public Comment**

Vice Chair Billy Samuels opened the first period of public comment.

Colonel Brett Compston thanked Sherrean Whipple for service to DEM/HS and running the meetings and welcomed Loren Borst who will be taking her place.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Vice Chair Billy Samuels called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes of the May 23, 2024, Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) meeting.

Noah Boyer, Deputy, Northern Nevada Federal Task Force, motioned to approve the minutes.

Chris Lake, Executive Director, Community Resilience, seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

Jeanne Freeman, Public Health Preparedness Manager, opposed due to errors requesting the approval of the minutes be tabled until the next meeting.

Noah Boyer and Chris Lake rescinded their motions in agreement with Jeanne Freeman and Vice Chair Samuels.

**4. Public Safety Outage Program**

Amber Stringer, Emergency Management Administrator for NVEnergy, began by thanking Chief David Fogerson and the Committee for coordinating the presentation. Ms. Stringer reviewed the Wildfire Safety and Resilience Plans being implemented this fire season at NVEnergy, to include the Power Safe Program, which is also known as NDPP. Ms. Stringer explained the three major components for the Natural Disaster Protection Plan, which include prevention, things like vegetation management, system hardening and resilience, and inspections and patrols; detection components of fire cameras, meteorology staff, and risk assessments; and then protection through Fast Trip Fire Mode, PSOMS, or Public Safety Outage Management, and how PSOMS will be expanded with emergency de-energization. Ms. Stringer explained that wildfire mitigation is really a number one priority for utilities across the country, and one of NVEnergy's biggest tools is the Fast Trip Fire Mode, which is essentially where modifications are made to the line that when Fast Trip Fire Mode is enabled it creates less wildfire risk on those lines. Ms. Stringer discussed how NVEnergy may de-energize power lines as a preventative measure during periods of greatest wildfire risk through a measure known as PSOM with the intent being to eliminate the potential fire ignition based on forecasted conditions. Ms. Stringer mentioned that NVEnergy is trying to take a proactive communication approach with customers and stakeholders by ensuring that those communications are getting out prior to actually having to implement PSOM given that there is quite a bit of notice when it comes to communication with PSOM.

Amber Stringer next discussed the expansion of PSOM to emergency de-energization, noting that while PSOM is more of a proactive approach, emergency de-energization is more of a reactive approach. Ms. Stringer went on to explain that emergency de-energization is when NVEnergy will de-energize equipment when an unpredictable or uncontrolled wildfire reaches predetermined encroachment buffers to all NVEnergy generation, transmission, and distribution facilities, with the intent to reduce the potential for creating additional ignitions or exacerbating an existing wildfire when fires encroach those safety boundaries. Anticipate

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that emergency de-energizations will increase outages. They may be more frequent, larger, and more prolonged. Ms. Stringer noted the criteria for this de-energization is non-negotiable, based on the location, size, and speed of the fire, with the fire danger index and wind speed determining if de-energization is required and to what extent. Ms. Stringer stated that it does allow for public safety partners to request in writing by either police, fire, or the highest-ranking elected official in the jurisdiction, consideration for re-energization. Ms. Stringer noted that there are actually fire mitigation officers and meteorologists on staff that take in all of that information, analyze it, and then that is how the decision is made to de-energize.

Amber Stringer next discussed NVEnergy's communication plans that follow established emergency processes and the utilization of customer operations automated outage communication system. Ms. Stringer noted that customers will be receiving emails and communication whenever de-energization is taking place, hopefully beforehand, but always after, during depending on duration, and after when it is safe to re-energize. Ms. Stringer spoke to the criteria of de-energization, with that being fire containment and/or complexity related to system re-energization and noted that outage duration will be estimated as short-term or long-term through consultation with system operations, electric operations, and emergency responders managing the fires. Ms. Stringer encouraged everyone to encourage their communities to sign up for alerts on My Account for real-time outage messaging.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels asked for clarification on the requests for re-energization being in writing.

Amber Stringer clarified that send a message via email or text message would be in writing, not just a formal letter.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels raised concerns about trying to do this in writing during power outages and how available some things may or may not be, noting the differences between the urban and the rural areas when it comes to re-energization and the unintended consequences of shutting down power.

Heather Lafferty, DEM/HS, asked what programs or partnerships, if any, NVEnergy is currently doing with Nevada's disability community or power dependent. Ms. Lafferty noted many energy providers across the nation partner with local disability stakeholders, such as the Centers for Independent Living, to provide portable backup batteries, accessible car rides, hotel stays, and food replacement vouchers during wildfire safety power outages.

Meghin Delaney, NVEnergy, spoke about the Green Cross Program through NVEnergy, which is an opt-in program for any member meeting the vulnerable criteria, such as those connected to oxygen or other backup services. Ms. Delaney also noted through this program, when these de-energizations take place, the call center is mobilized to specifically call individuals to check in with them and relay the extended outage message. Ms. Delaney also stated NVEnergy is currently trying to find a solution faster than individual phone calls. Ms. Delaney offered to share the Green Cross sign-up sheet.

Noah Boyer asked why the Fast Trip Fire Mode is not enabled at all times.

Amber Stringer explained that this increases outages and affects NVEnergy's reliability and is not essential at all times.

Lee Cabaniss, Elko County Emergency Manager, expressed concern about the water supply being from pumped wells, and without electricity, there's no alternative way to obtain water. Mr. Cabaniss stated this would impact

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someone defending their space from a wildfire, but also the fire department's ability to obtain water to fight wildfires.

**5. Grant Status Report**

Keri Beach, DEM/HS, stated the grant status report as of 3-30-24 had been provided prior to the meeting. Ms. Beach opened the floor for questions.

Carolyn Levering, City of Las Vegas, noted that many SHSP Awards dating back to 2020 have \$0 funds expended on them. Ms. Levering pointed out that for FFY20, there's over \$460,000 in projects that haven't even been started according to the report, FFY21, there's over \$800,000 in the same situation, and FFY22, another \$620,000 in SHSP funding allocated to DEM/HS that don't have any indication of expenditures made, nor are there any de-obligations listed. Ms. Levering stated that when everyone works so hard to request funds out of SHSP every year, and there's never really enough to go around, this is a large amount of money that appears to go to waste, citing her concerns about lack of expenditure in those categories. Ms. Levering also noticed that management and administration funds that DEM collects out of every grant had no status on the report as to whether those funds are being utilized. Ms. Levering also mentioned that the state's cut of EMPG grants for all fiscal years were not listed on the report, as were none of the FFY23 EMPG awards for any sub applicants.

Kelly Echeverria, Washoe County Emergency Manager, stated that Page 55 of the report states that Washoe County Emergency Management, Homeland Security Program was late on the 10th quarterly program report, but there were only nine related to that grant. Therefore, it would be impossible to be late on the 10th when there wasn't one.

Vice Chair Billy Samuels suggested receiving the reports on a more monthly basis to be able to clear things up before reaching this point.

**6. Nevada Division of Emergency Management Change in Leadership**

COL. Brett Compston DEM/HS, opened with his Army background, stating he has spent 25 years in the Army, the first half on active duty in the Army flying Blackhawks across the world, such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, and even living in Germany for four years, and the second half here in the National Guard doing domestic operations, which is the firefighting, flood response, search and rescue, and civil disturbance operations. Colonel Compston went on to state he was recently notified that he had been qualified to promote to general if the opportunity arises, however he would be forgoing that opportunity to come to the DEM/HS because of his strong belief in the DEM/HS's role in helping Nevadans.

COL. Brett Compston next discussed his credentials. COL. Compston has two masters, the Naval Postgraduate School Executive Leaders Program and through FEMA's Vanguard program, has earned an Executive Certificate from Harvard in Public Leadership, is a Master Exercise Practitioner, a Hazmat Technician, a Dual Status Commander, and has passed his Certified Emergency Manager. COL. Compston next addressed his leadership concepts and belief in intent-based leadership. COL. Compston explained that his belief is in starting with why DEM/HS is doing what it does, explaining the end state, in creating a verbal picture of where DEM/HS is trying to go, and creating the opportunity to overcome challenges and provide resources for those that are doing the hard work. COL. Compston noted he understood that relationships matter, and he would spend time trying to build or rebuild those relationships that are essential to making DEM/HS work both internally and with state and local partners. COL. Compston stated some of his core beliefs are transparency, consistency, and being candid. COL. Compston said he abides by the rock in the storm theory in that when chaos erupts, somebody

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has to become the calm person in the room, or the one that talks slower, thinks slower, and models the behaviors. COL. Compston also explained his belief in tactical patience, therefore not always responding in an immediate manner.

COL. Brett Compston moved on to the transition being underway in that he will be shadowing Chief David Fogerson until November 2<sup>nd</sup> when he will take over as Chair. COL. Compston told the DEM/HS they can expect that he will learn, teach, develop relationships, and conduct a strategic assessment. COL. Compston noted that he and Chief Fogerson have the same conceptual visualization of where the DEM/HS is going, his love for the service philosophy and programs done, and that he will be doing a strategic assessment to update the strategic plan. However, COL. Compston state that Chief Fogerson, who comes from a fire background, likes to put out fires and deal with emergencies right now, whereas he come from a military background and is a trained strategic planner. COL. Compston noted he will have to work on his social media presence.

COL. Brett Compston recognized that with some of the fiscal changes happening, it will lead to some difficult decisions very, very early in his time as Chief that would impact everyone. COL. Compston noted what worries him most is a long-term outage of power, fuel, communications, and logistics through a National Security Emergency or a large-scale earthquake, predominantly in California, a Tahoe Basin Fire, and extreme weather. Colonel Compston noted that a comprehensive plan has been created, but the job at the state is to reinforce that plan, to synergize on the plan, and provide the cross-state resources that are needed to execute that plan.

**7. Public Comment**

Vice Chair Billy Samuels opened the second period of public comment.

Jon Bakkedahl, Carson City Emergency Management, suggested NVEnergy could be a standing person on the agenda moving forward to give updates, at least throughout the fire season, on the number of shutoffs they've done, the impacts from the local jurisdictions that they could report on that was impacted due to these PSOM events, including lack of water resources or any other medical type events that may have been impacted due to the shutdowns. Mr. Bakkedahl also requested they brief the Committee at the next meeting on if the Public Utilities Commission, PUCN, has approved this plan, and if not, when it'll be put on their public docket to see additional comments from both local jurisdictions as well as political partners that might have some input.

**8. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Billy Samuels called for a motion to adjourn.

Jeanne Freeman, Carson City Health and Human Services, motioned to adjourn.

Jon Bakkedahl, Deputy Emergency Manager/Carson City, seconded the motion.

All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.