



Meeting Minutes Nevada Commission on Homeland Security

Attendance	DATE	Thursday, September 22, 2016	
	TIME	9:30 A.M.	
	LOCATION	Division of Emergency Management Executive Conference Room 2478 Fairview Drive Carson City, Nevada 89701	
	METHOD	Video-Teleconference	
	RECORDER	Karen Hall	
Commission Members	Present	Legislative & Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Others	Present
Governor Brian Sandoval	X	Derek Armstrong	X
Joseph Lombardo		Karen Burke	X
Chuck Allen		Caleb Cage	X
Gregory Cassell	X	Gonzalo Cordova	X
Lisa Christensen		Chris Ipsen	X
Robert Fisher	X	Michael Roberson	
Adam Garcia			
Frank Gonzales	X	Samantha Ladich – Sr. DAG	X
Mark Hutchison	X	Karen Hall (Analyst/Staff)	X
Ikram Khan	X		
Tom Lozich	X		
William McDonald	X		
Charles Moore	X		
Richard Perkins	X		
Rosemary Vassiliadis	X		
Troy Wade			
Bill Welch	X		

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Governor Brian Sandoval, Chairman of the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security (Commission) called meeting to order. Roll call was performed by Karen Hall, Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (NDEM/HS). Quorum was established for the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Sandoval opened discussion for public commentary. Steve Curtis, representing the Nevada Save the Grid Coalition, spoke to grid resiliency efforts within the state emphasizing micro grids and innovative solutions to power issues in the state. Susan Newton and Phil Newton spoke to additional concerns regarding

vulnerabilities affecting the electrical grid within Nevada. Mrs. Newton placed emphasis on the public's need for reliability of this grid, and there is tremendous concern about examining solutions to this problem including the suggestion that Nevada become a pioneer in driving a secured power grid. Additional emphasis was placed on isolating Nevada's electrical grid and increase power production within the state, with Mr. Newton speaking to the Nevada Secure the Grid Coalition's effort in being a voice to make this happen. Robert Frank spoke to organizing civilian assistance to protect the grid against terrorism, cyber warfare, and EMP threats. Craig Smith spoke to his extensive military and civilian experience in support and association with the coalition, and how it can assist with the unique capabilities and infrastructure within the state.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Governor Sandoval called for approval of the meeting minutes from the Commission meeting held June 23, 2016. Motion to approve minutes as presented was provided by Dr. Ikram Khan, Quality Care Consultants, and a second provided by Lieutenant Governor Mark Hutchison. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Governor Sandoval shared recent correspondence addressing concerns about resource availability associated with our election system. Citing correspondence from Senator Tom Carper, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Governor spoke to the attention being given on active measures influencing the election process, including cyber security issues. Included was a reference to a document outlining resources available via the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as well as other federal agencies. Governor Sandoval spoke to his communication with Secretary Jae Johnson, and the availability of resources to the state including cyber hygiene scams, assessments, and access to the Cyber Integration Center. Stressing that these communications in no way should be interpreted that Nevada has any election system issues, the Governor spoke about his communications with Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske, and it appears that eight states have also requested information on this subject from DHS. Additional discussion included a possible update to the Commission regarding active measures the state has taken to protect against cyber challenges.

5. UPDATE ON THE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Chief Caleb Cage, NDEM/HS provided an overview on the contents of the Division of Emergency Management's (DEM) Annual Report emphasizing statutory requirements and how DEM is resourced to carry out its important duties for the state. Additional commentary was provided on the four phases of emergency management that drive the organization, and efforts placed upon preparedness and building of capabilities statewide through planning, training, and exercise efforts in addition to the distribution of grant funding. Chief Cage also spoke to regulatory changes affecting the Disaster Relief Account (DRA) and the Emergency Assistance Account (EAA) in addition to providing a copy of the updated State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (SCEMP) per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 414

that drives Emergency Management. In short, this is a baseline plan on how the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is activated, what the concept of operations is, and continuity of government. The plan was updated in 2014, and again in 2016.

Governor Sandoval expressed his appreciation with the time and effort in putting this together. These documents are models that show who NDEM/HS is, and this organization is complimented often by local authorities when supporting events. Chief Charles Moore, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District also expressed his appreciation of these efforts as well.

6. UPDATE ON THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2016 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP)

Chief Cage, and Deputy Chief John Steinbeck, Clark County Fire Department provided an update on the current status of the FFY 2016 HSGP from both the state and urban area perspective. Citing historical meetings earlier in the year to review the Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness report (SPR), prioritize capabilities, and the subsequent approval of FFY 2016 projects, Chief Cage indicated that grant funding had been allocated to the State on September 1, 2016, and although the state has 45 days to pass through such funding, the grant allocations were issued by DEM on September 14, 2016, 31 days ahead of schedule. Both Chief Cage and Deputy Chief Steinbeck spoke to ongoing work and continued frustrations in being able to affect capability within the state in addition to efforts in preparing a robust discussion on real threats and hazards in order to provide the Commission with strategic options moving forward.

Governor Sandoval complimented the effort in distributing funding so quickly, and the effect this has with securing Nevadans, and emphasized his understanding with the current frustrations in being able to address more threats.

Robert Fisher expressed concern in not utilizing the public more with regard to increasing capability in the state. Of particular concern was the lack of public awareness campaigns on television and radio as a result of public messaging not being available till the start of 2017 for the "See Something, Say Something" campaign. Additional concern was presented in that the upcoming Presidential Debate would be held in Las Vegas, and there are no public campaigns on the radio. Mr. Fisher also presented concern on the accessibility and use of the Guinn Room in the event of a catastrophic event, and would like an update on the status of that room at a future Commission meeting.

7. OVERVIEW OF NEVADA ELECTRIC GRID DELIVERY ASSURANCE

General (Ret.) Frank Gonzales, NV Energy opened discussions on the overview of Nevada's electric grid delivery assurance, speaking to his confidence in this utility to provide energy to the state as a top quartile organization, and that Nevada has in place the right measures to protect the state.

Shahzad Lateef, Transmission and Distribution Operations Director for NV Energy presented a detailed overview of the electric grid security and delivery assurances including the following:

- Risks associated with interconnected bulk electrical systems, customer impacts, reputational risk, and energy market impacts;
- Attack threats including intended targets, timing of events, motivations for a specific type of attack, system impact, and responsibility;
- Types of attacks including physical and cyber; and
- Mitigation and response efforts involving policies and procedures, grid resilience, critical infrastructure protection, and mitigation techniques;

The Governor thanked Mr. Lateef for the detailed presentation, and considerable discussion by Commission members ensued with the following highlights:

- Governor Sandoval asked for clarification on generation of load demands, with Mr. Lateef indicating that the total load at peak day is approximately 8,000 megawatts (mw). Currently there is over 7,000mw of internal generation, and should there be a need, Nevada can isolate from other entities and systematically load drop/load shed to bring itself in line with generation cycles. Where critical load exists, Nevada is prepared to rotate outages;
- Additionally, the Governor inquired on what modernization efforts are in place within the current system, with Mr. Lateef indicating there are recommendations to invest into the grid by building micro-grids and looking into renewable battery systems that can sustain power requirements. In particular, the ability of incentives to battery-charged vehicle owners to provide access to battery power in the event of need. Additional discussion presented on whether Nevada is looking at battery storage, with Mr. Lateef indicating that is the case, although they are working off other pilot projects in other states to find additional ways and benefiting from learning from other's mistakes and specific state dynamics such as sunlight and temperature;
- General (Ret.) Gonzales spoke to studies currently underway in addition to 13 projects in the north, and another 10 projects in the south addressing energy sustainment in Nevada;
- Dr. Khan expressed concern over what is being done should there be electrical outages during the election and how the citizens can be assured there will not be an issue. Mr. Lateef indicated that this level of outage would require a big event. Mitigation efforts are already in place through staffing levels, recognition of high use areas, and planning efforts to minimize any outages should they occur;
- Lt. Governor Hutchison spoke to the responsibility of the government and the private sector in keeping Nevadan's safe. Mr. Lateef spoke to the issues of disclosing risk vulnerabilities, and that NV Energy understands the risk. As a result, not all efforts are disclosed due to security concerns. NV Energy works with the Department of Homeland Security on assessments. Certain vulnerabilities exist specifically where the public interaction comes close to

substations. Additional commentary by the Lt. Governor included concern on shutting down access of former employees when they leave NV Energy, and the extent to which background checks are performed on existing employees;

- Chris Ipsen, Desert Research Institute thanked Mr. Lateef for his presentation and spoke to a previous exercise NV energy had been involved in where an outcome was to discuss dependencies between partners. Mr. Ipsen stressed the importance of building relationships to enhance capability outside the control of NV Energy, and the Commission would be well served in focusing on resiliency and public involvement. Mr. Lateef stressed the importance of current standards, and testing done within pilot test systems. Currently, due to security issues, there isn't a true forum for private partnerships, but there are other forums for input.

8. UPDATE ON THE PANACA BOMBING INCIDENT

Chief Cage provided an overview of response and recovery efforts related to the Panaca bombing incident that occurred on July 13, 2016. Governor Sandoval spoke to having the privilege to watch the response, and he was impressed with the level of response and the community's level of concern. The Governor thanked everyone involved with this incident.

9. REQUEST TO ALLOW A CLOSED SESSION OF THE DECEMBER 13, 2016, CYBER SECURITY COMMITTEE (CSC) MEETING.

Governor Sandoval opened discussion on the request to allow a closed session of the December 13, 2016, Cyber Security Committee (CSC). Chief Cage spoke to the recent meeting of the CSC in preparation for the next fiscal year, and how that body would be prepared to make recommendations on grants and security posture. A recurrent theme was that in order to know where the state is going, there needed to be an assessment of where the state is currently. There is considerable concern about discussing threats to infrastructure throughout the state in a public forum. Referencing NRS 239C, and the ability to close a meeting to discuss such issues, Chief Cage indicated that he is working with DHS to provide a security briefing to the Committee to discuss possible assessments.

Lt. Governor Hutchison spoke to the CSC's expertise on cybersecurity, and obtaining a baseline assessment through a closed session to understand the issues facing Nevada. General (Ret.) Gonzales expressed concern with the level of classification credentials of CSC members to be able to hear the types of information they may be requested, at to get to a level of really understanding the issues, a secret clearance may be necessary. Governor Sandoval spoke to the request by the Lt. Governor, pursuant to NRS 239C.170, to discuss procedures, and he will allow this to move forward with a motion and acceptance.

Motion to approve a closed session of the Cyber Security Committee meeting on December 13, 2016, was presented by Dr. Khan, and a second was provided by Robert Fisher. All were in favor with no opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Governor Sandoval called for public commentary in both venues. Gonzalo Cordova, DHS spoke to the Regional Resiliency Assessment Program (RRAP) 2015 project conducted in Clark County for physical security and cyber assessments. A draft report was delivered to DEM and the Urban Area Security Initiative. Part of the findings of this report was to delivery cyber security training focusing on industrial control systems, and this people are already registered for this training. There is focus on interdependency, and this does tie into what some of the Cyber Security Committee is addressing currently.

Mrs. Newton spoke again about the mission of Secure the Grid Coalition and its concerns about existing efforts to secure the grid. If our grid goes down, she would like to continue discussion on what the state does then.

11. ADJOURN

Governor Sandoval called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion presented by Lt. Governor Hutchison, and a second presented by Dr. Khan. All were in favor with no opposition. Meeting adjourned.