



## **Connecticut State Emergency Response Commission Local Emergency Planning Committee Regional Boundary Policy**

**Policy Adopted - September 14, 2006**

- 1) The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) supports any efforts made towards Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) regionalization.
- 2) The SERC expects the Regional LEPC Chairperson to work with municipalities and their existing LEPC Chairs to ensure that all Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA) roles and responsibilities are met.
- 3) The SERC recommends to LEPCs that the document entitled "LEPC Roles and Responsibilities Checklist" be utilized when researching and evaluating regionalization.

Based on these parameters, the following LEPC Regional Boundary Policy and terms should be taken into consideration by a LEPC while researching joining a regional LEPC:

- A) Any community wishing to join a Regional LEPC must submit a written request to the SERC and the Regional LEPC for consideration.
- B) The request must include a brief description of the new association, the endorsement of the parties involved, and the mutual benefits of such an association.
- C) The request must be signed by the Chief Elected Official of the municipality indicating the intent of a LEPC to join such an association.
- D) The Regional LEPC Chair, upon favorable review of the intent, will then issue an invitation for the LEPC intent to join the region.
- E) If the review of the request is not favorable, the Regional LEPC Chair will so inform the requesting LEPC of the regional decision.
- F) A copy of the Regional LEPC Chair reply must also be sent to the SERC for its record keeping purposes.
- G) Upon receipt of all necessary information, SERC will place the request on the next regularly scheduled meeting agenda. At the discretion of the SERC, a decision may be made immediately or, if additional review is deemed necessary, it will be made at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- H) All affected parties will be notified of the SERC's decision.

The following factors may be considered by the SERC while reviewing a LEPC request to join a Regional LEPC:

1. Flexibility of border towns (band-width) to switch regions due to changing response requirements and political expectations;
2. Inter-town operating venue and synergism;
3. Known major chemical hazards in the community or near the political boundaries that may effect response requirements;
4. The municipality's LEPC Emergency Plan (date of plan, has the plan been exercised and when);
5. Whether the new association will result in a logical capability for preparing for and responding to emergencies;
6. The support of the adjacent communities to the new boundary;
7. The municipality's historical record regarding its ability to main an active LEPC and to meet the federal requirements of Title 42 § 11001(c) et seq.

Under EPCRA, the LEPC is obligated under the law to perform specific roles and responsibilities. This policy regards the role of LEPCs for the implementation of EPCRA and their relationship to the SERC. Any regionalization efforts must be in harmony with and support these regulatory requirements.

### **Background Information**

In reviewing the various regionalization models, it was concurred by the SERC Subcommittee that the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) regionalization model has merit and that the existing LEPC regionalization efforts were, in fact, creating a similar footprint. In the eastern part of the state however, DEMHS Region 5 was split into two district regions. The SERC Subcommittee considered the splitting of DEMHS Region 5 and recommends that this be allowed for there is no need to combine the two regions at this time.

The SERC Subcommittee therefore concluded that the current DEMHS Regional Planning Boundary Map has merit and, for consistency, encourages future regional growth within the boundaries of these new designated areas.