



Arizona Emergency Response Commission

1110 West Washington St. Phoenix, AZ 85007 | Phone: 602-771-0397 | azdeq.gov/AZSERC

REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES – September 24, 2026

The Arizona State Emergency Response Commission convened virtually via GoToWebinar on September 24, 2026.

VOTING MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT

Gabe Lavine	AZDEMA (AZ Dept of Emergency and Military Affairs)
Cpt. Tom Neve, Chair	AZDPS (AZ Department of Public Safety)
Michael Stidham, Vice-Chair	AZDOHS (AZ Department of Homeland Security)
Joseph Pinkerman	AZCC (AZ Corporation Commission)
Tony Shamblen	AZDFFM (AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management)
Brian Darling	AFCA (AZ Fire Chiefs Association)
Edward Valinski	AZDHS (AZ Department of Health Services)

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dwayne Uhlig	AZDA (AZ Department of Agriculture)
David Egliskis	ADOT (AZ Department of Transportation)
Bryce Rucker	AZICA (AZ Industrial Commission of Arizona)
Les Presmyk	AZSMI (AZ State Mine Inspector)

GUESTS

Jeff Cantrell	AGO (Attorney General's Office)
Chris Pitman	(AZDEMA (AZ Dept of Emergency and Military Affairs))
John Tuepker	AZDPS (AZ Department of Public Safety)
Cathryn Skully	Maricopa County LEPC
Tony Badilla	Yuma County LEPC
Jason Scott	La Paz County LEPC
Catrina Jenkins	Navajo County LEPC
Justin Quarles	Gila County LEPC
Collin Fanning	Graham-Greenlee Counties LEPC
Travis Mitchell	Pinal County LEPC
Fred Heggstad	Yavapai County LEPC
Sydney Cleavenger	City of Glendale

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY PRESENT

Julie Riemenschneider	ADEQ - WPD Director
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Alicia Chacon
Michele Martinez
David Varela

ADEQ - WPD Executive Assistant
ADEQ ERU - AZSERC Coordinator
ADEQ – ERU Manager

1. Establish quorum (Roll Call)

A quorum was established. Chairman Neve noted a quorum of voting members participating virtually. Seven members are in attendance virtually, and four were absent. There were two representatives present from each of the following agencies: the AZ Dept of Emergency and Military Affairs, and the AZ Department of Public Safety. Only one representative voted on behalf of each agency.

2. Call meeting to order

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Chairman Neve announced that Director Lavine of the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs is departing the agency, marking this as his final meeting with the Commission.

Chairman Neve noted a quorum of voting members participating virtually. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

3. Welcome and introductions

Chairman Neve reviewed virtual housekeeping items for the attendees.

4. **Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Update.** Director Riemenschneider provided an update on behalf of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. During the update, she introduced David Varela as the new Emergency Response Unit Manager and Michele Martinez as the Arizona State Emergency Response Commission Coordinator. This item was presented for informational purposes only, and **no action was taken** by the Commission.

5. **Approval of Minutes** – Chairman Neve asked the Commissioners if they had reviewed the draft minutes for the June 3, Regular Session AZSERC meeting. Chairman Neve then called for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Lavine moved to accept the minutes, and Commissioner Valinski seconded the motion. Following no discussion, **the motion carried via a roll-call vote of 7-0 (4 absent).**

Chairman Neve asked the Commissioners if they had reviewed the draft minutes for the June 3, 2026, Executive Session. Chairman Neve then called for a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Valinski moved to accept the minutes, and Commissioner Lavine seconded the motion. Following no discussion, **the motion carried with via a roll-call vote of 7-0 (4 absent).**

6. Coordinators Report

- a. **America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA)** – AZSERC Coordinator, Michele Martinez, provided an overview of all disruption in water services that occurred from May 27, 2026, and September 18, 2026. This item was presented for informational purposes only, and **no action was taken**.
- b. **Highly Hazardous Flammable Trains (HHFT)** –Coordinator, Michele Martinez, provided an overview of all HHFT Confidential reports submitted from July 1, 2026, to September 18, 2026. These reports were disseminated to Commission members, impacted Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), and Fire Chiefs in accordance with the established process. This item was for informational purposes only, and **no action was taken**.

7. New Business

- a. The coordinator was scheduled to provide updates on personnel, current events, and other matters relevant to the Commission. No information was presented under this item, and **no action was taken** by the Commission.

8. Old Business

- a. **Emergency Response Plan Review Sub-committee** –The Commission discussed the primary objective of forming a sub-committee consisting of SERC members to review Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Emergency Response Plans (ERPs). This review ensures that all plans adhere to Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) § 49-125 and Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) requirements, following the formal procedures established by AZSERC.

The Commission requested that Jeff Cantrell, representing the Attorney General's Office, provide legal instruction regarding whether sub-committee membership is restricted solely to Commissioners, and whether such sub-committees are subject to Arizona Open Meeting Law requirements.

9. Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs)

- a. **Review of Emergency Response Plans.** Local Emergency Planning Committees Emergency Response plans for Yavapai, Graham-Greenlee, Santa Cruz, and Mohave counties were presented for Commissioners review and recommendations.

Chairman Neve asked the Commissioners if they had reviewed the submitted plans and called for a motion to accept them as presented. Commissioner Lavine moved to accept the Emergency Response Plans as presented, and Commissioner Darling seconded the motion. Following no discussion, **the motion carried via a roll-call vote of 7-0 (4 absent)**.

- b. **Biennial Exercise Training Status (A.R.S. §49-125 (C))** – Coordinator Martinez a status update on the LEPC biennial exercise training requirements, outlining the conducted exercises and upcoming

compliance due dates for the LEPCs. This item was for informational purposes, and **no action was taken.**

- c. **LEPC Membership Application Ratification** – Coordinator Martinez presented the LEPC Voting Membership Applications to the Commission for their review and ratification. Chairman Neve asked the Commissioners if they had reviewed the applications. Chairman Neve then called for a motion to approve the applications as presented. Commissioner Darling moved to approve the applications as presented, and Vice-Chair Stidham seconded the motion. Following no discussion, **the motion carried with a roll-call vote of 7-0 (4 absent).**
- d. **LEPC Meeting Status** – Coordinator Martinez presented the status on all LEPCs who are actively holding meetings in accordance with Arizona Revised Statue. This item was for informational purposes, and **no action was taken.**

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

11. **Resume Open Session (Roll Call) Establish Quorum** – None

12. **Executive Session Review** – None

13. **Action Item Review** – Requesting legal instruction from Jeff Cantrell of the Attorney General’s Office regarding the Emergency Response Plan Review Sub-committee.

14. **Call to the public.** No comments from the public.

15. **Future Agenda Items.** None

16. **Proposed Date and Time of Next Meeting.** Discussion held. The next regular AZSERC meeting will be tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, at 1:00 p.m.

17. **Adjournment**

There being no further business. Chairman Neve called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Darling moved adjourn, and Commissioner Shamblen seconded the motion. **The motion carried 7-0 with 4 absent.** Meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Meeting minutes _____.