



# Secure Commonwealth Panel

July 23, 2013 - Richmond

Attendees: Terrie Suit (Chair), Michael Cline, Marissa Levine, Mike McAllister, Sue Snider, Jim Redick, Bob Mauskapf.

## **Welcoming Remarks**

Terrie Suit, Chair, opened the meeting.

## **Surry Power Station VOPEX Presentation**

Mike Cline, State Coordinator for VDEM, reported that exercises needed to focus on six jurisdictions in a plume, and that exercises are required to happen bi-annually and every sixth year. The plan must demonstrate capabilities to grading evaluators, FEMA and private contractors. Failure to demonstrate correctly could result with the plants' license to operate. Four hundred and eighty-three criteria were evaluated in this exercise, with there being one performance issue and four planning issues. The Isle of White was without power during the exercise but fully passed.

Panel member asked Mr. Cline what was done to test the water. Mr. Cline stated that water was continuously sampled and officers patrolled water ways to aid in preventing access. Mr. Cline was also asked how the exercise was connected to other critical infrastructure key resources. He replied that nothing was looked as past 50 miles, just agriculture and food, which alone could have a devastating impact.

Terrie Suit discussed multi agency participation in these exercises and how helpful that collaboration can be.

## **Emerging Infectious Diseases Status Presentation**

Dr. Marissa Levine, Deputy Commissioner of VDH, gave a presentation on the update of emerging infectious diseases.

Dr. Levine briefed the panel on Influenza H7N9, originating from China and avian poultry. The strain has been active since April, with a significant number of mitigating activities having been carried out. There are three characteristics of a pandemic, with Influenza H7N9 meeting two. It is novel, causes sickness and/or death, but has no sustained transmission from person to person.

Dr. Levine also briefed the panel on Influenza H3N2, the swine origin. There are currently no cases in Virginia right now. She is working closely with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS).

Dr. Levine lastly briefed the panel on MERS-CoV. Currently, there are no cases in the U.S., but there are many serious cases in the Middle East, specifically Saudi Arabia, and eight more countries. There have been ninety cases, with forty-five ending in deaths. There is only transmission through close person-to-person contact. There will be increased travel for Ramadan and Hajj, so maintaining good healthcare practices is important. The Virginia Department of Health is continuing to communicate and update clinicians so that they are aware of ongoing and potential threats.

### **Overview: Virginia Homeland Security Integrated Project Schedule**

Mike McAllister, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, briefed everyone on the transition from Automated Critical Asset Management System (ACAMS) to the new Infrastructure Protection (IP) Gateway System. Mr. McAllister discussed COOMLINK being available within VIISE, which will allow people to log into VIISE and listen to radio transmissions.

Mr. McAllister briefed the panel on the various projects that our office is engaged in and gave a concise summary on them. Also briefed everyone that we are getting ready to start creating/compiling the special events list for the next year.

Dario Marquez asked Mr. McAllister about the Sector Specific Plans (SSP's) and where they are. Mr. McAllister responded that Presidential Policy Directive 21 (PPD-21) is changing the structure of NIPP. The private sector will have more involvement in the process and will dictate what they do in the SSP's, rather than the state.

Mr. Marquez asked if there are SSP's to secure the Commonwealth, and/or are they still being developed. Mr. McAllister stated that there is a SSP still being developed.

### **NCR Homeland Security Strategic Plan**

Sue Snider reported that the Strategic Plan was written in 2010, and that the plan must be rewritten ever five years and updated ever two and a half years. The plan is currently being refreshed now. The current plan contains four goals, sixteen objective, and thirty-two initiatives. Its strength is that it is an all-encompassing plan, but its weakness is that no one owns the implementation of the plan. It has been pointed out in a GAO report that there are no metrics on closing gaps in the plan, which will be updated in the future.

Sue Snider briefed the panel on the various goals that are part of this process and plans to keep the goals and objectives, but replace initiatives with work plans. Specific goals are interoperability, enhancing information sharing and awareness, and enhancement of CIP.

Panel member asked Ms. Snider how the plan has addressed the media. Ms. Snider stated that Public Information Officers are engaged in the process in multiple manners.

Panel member asked Ms. Snider who would be in charge of events, and who would pick those to be in charge. Ms. Snider responded that NIMS and the Incident Command System (ICS) would play a vital role in the process.

### **Updates on the Recurrent Flooding Sub-Panel**

Jim Redick reported that he is currently creating a roster of participants. Mr. Reddick is taking a PPD-8 approach with multi sector involvement, and establishing an ICS

structure. Analyzing studies will be done by JLARC/RRAP. He asked permission to have Senator Watkins as Co-Chair of the group.

### **CASAWG Update**

Bob Mausekapp reported that there is a very good variety of membership in the working group, having three subcommittees. Mr. Mausekapp stated that there needs to be more private sector partners. He is narrowing EEI's and determining information access.

Panel member asked Mr. Mausekapp if there could be a service queue for power outage in Virginia to reduce the congestion of people trying to get gas, ice, and other resources. Mr. Mausekapp stated that the "Dom" website has such a tool.

### **Closing Remarks**

Secretary Suit adjourned the meeting.