



<https://acrpc.org/acrpc-remc/>  
**QUARTERLY MEETING**

12 February 2025, 12:00pm

Zoom and In Person at ACRPC Office, 14 Seminary St, Middlebury VT

### **APPROVED MINUTES**

**12:00** Call to Order by Bob Groff  
Brief Introductions and Roll Call

**12:03** Approval of November 2024 Meeting Minutes- motion to approve by Bob Groff, second by Marty Haitz, Unanimously approved by voice vote.

**12:05** Update on Local Emergency Management Plans- Harry Schoppmann, VEM is the regional coordinator covering Addison County.  
Every town is required to update their LEMP Annually  
He has met with several towns and will be reaching out to every town about LEMP updates and moving it into a new template. The EMD has to be part of the update, and ideally it would include folks that would open the Emergency Operations Center or shelters (not necessarily first responders)  
He provides a shelter-opening guide and other handouts for community  
Harry's e-mail is [Harry.Schoppmann@Vermont.gov](mailto:Harry.Schoppmann@Vermont.gov) to schedule a meeting

Ben Marks from Cornwall asked about working with ACRPC and how the process is different  
H. Schoppmann noted that VEM is now working directly with communities since they're the one approving it. ACRPC is still working on local liaison process

A. L'Roe clarified that the 5-year Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is a separate process and ACRPC is working with several towns.

**12:15** Presentation by Green Mountain Power on **Resiliency Work to Keep Vermont Connected-** by GMP's Kyle Buxton and Mike Burke

Slides posted at <https://acrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/GMP-Resiliency-Presentation-2.13.25.pdf>

GMP serves more than 275,000 customers across Vermont

Storms are getting worse- more frequent with higher precipitation amounts in all seasons, higher wind speeds, leading to more risk for infrastructure and more outages for customers

GMP monitors 4 forecasters and multiple weather models days in advance of any storm.

They secure and pre-position GMP team, and extra crews brought in to help, as needed

They Distribute Resources to the hardest hit areas and have districts run storm response in their area for efficiency.

GMP does outreach before, during, and after storms, with regional and local updates to state and local officials, and Targeted updates by email and phone for customers on their critical care list Projects to implement a resilient energy system include:

- Undergrounding lines (doing undergrounding work on the 20 most unreliable circuits, burying power conduit/cable/telephone lines at depth of 51 inches)
- Storm hardening above ground lines (spacer-cables in diamond shape, e.g. line from Hewitt Road station into Bristol, see a 90% decrease in outages), and
- Creating additional energy storage, including microgrids (e.g. in Panton)

M. Hartz asked about contact lists for Emergency Managers- M. Burke mentioned that Tiana Smith sends out notifications and uses information provided by RPC or VEM.

A. L'Roe will get the updated EMD list to Tiana Smith at GMP

B. Marks asked about cost of undergrounding lines and whether it was less than 10x the cost of above ground lines

M. Burke answered that yes, for rural single-phase undergrounding they're getting it down to about the same cost in majority of places, still challenging if there's a lot of rock-ledge

B. Marks noted that that's a game changer and a big deal

M Burke pointed out that there are caveats- the underground lines don't carry as much power, and limited to rural areas

A. L'Roe noted that undergrounding of powerlines shows up as an action in a lot of Local Hazard mitigation Plans

M. Burke noted that in some areas, the towns are requiring re-gravelling of the entire road, and they can't become a road-company. They're trying to stay in existing right of ways off-road to avoid roads, but in some areas the only flat place that they can bury lines is the road.

For more information, contact:

Kyle Buxton, [Kyle.Buxton@GreenMountainPower.com](mailto:Kyle.Buxton@GreenMountainPower.com)

Mike Burke, [Mike.Burke@GreenMountainPower.com](mailto:Mike.Burke@GreenMountainPower.com)

## **12:40 Updates and Reminders**

A. L'Roe noted that the REMC will be holding elections for officers at the May quarterly meeting

### **Vermont Emergency Management Update (H. Schoppmann)**

H. Schoppmann noted the CARES registry program and recommended that the EMDs call the VEM Watch Officer 800-347-0488 (24/7) for information

Tomorrow (2/24) is annual Flood seminar question and answer session: [Spring Flood Seminar videos \(https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkV2VZBHkd0\\_ms1MYLjwepBxRNSu9LMvc&si=HJW6vlgjAe2hr7i5\)](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkV2VZBHkd0_ms1MYLjwepBxRNSu9LMvc&si=HJW6vlgjAe2hr7i5)

Additional update information from VEM is at the end of these minutes

The HazMat team has hired an additional person to deal with Tier II submissions and get information out to towns and REMC more quickly

### **Statewide LEPC- meeting on 1/14 (REMC representative Dan Kuzio)**

Reported that the LEPC meeting in January was brief. The only agenda points were reviewing the VHMT report that they provided to the Division of Fire Safety, the next meeting date is set for 4/8.

### **RPC updates (A. L'Roe)**

The Regional Planning Commission is down 2 staff members and trying to get caught up on several municipal Local Hazard Mitigation Plans.

Several municipal Local Hazard Mitigation Plans across the county are being wrapped up and drafts will be submitted to the state- draft forms are available on the ACRPC website:

<https://acrpc.org/local-hazard-mitigation-plans/>

There are updated Local Liaison procedures from VEM that A. L'Roe will share

**1:00pm** Adjourn

- Minutes submitted by Andrew L'Roe, ACRPC

**Next REMC Meeting-** Wednesday, May 14, 2024  
Zoom and ACRPC Office

**2/12/2025 REMC Meeting Attendees:**

Municipal Voting Members

(\* = voting member, \*\* = voting member & proxy)

\*\* Bob Groff, Panton EMC

\*\* Martin Haitz, Addison EMC

\*\* Ben Marks, Cornwall EMC

\*\* Dan Kuzio, Starksboro EMC

\*\* Paul McMahon, Waltham EMC

\*\* Barb Rainville, Lincoln EMC

\*\* Mike Leyden, Bristol EMD

\*\* Sandy Korda, Orwell EMD

\*\* Dave Shaw, Middlebury Fire Chief

\*\* Nichole Hamer, Salisbury EMC

\*\* David DiBiase, Vergennes Fire Chief

(11 voting members all holding additional proxies, representing 11 communities)

Also attending,

(by Zoom)

Peter Brown, Middlebury College

Beth Winter, UVMHN Porter Hospital Emergency Preparedness Specialist

Harry Schoppmann, Vermont Emergency Management Regional Coordinator

(in person)

Mike Burke, Green Mountain Power

Kyle Buxton, Green Mountain Power Operations Supervisor

Andrew L'Roe, ACRPC Emergency Management Planner

Jolyon Larsen, ACRPC Energy Planner

## **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) drafts available for review:**

- Town of Starksboro: [Full Draft 9/2024](#)
- Town of Monkton: [Full Draft 9-2024, 2 page Executive Summary \(5/24\)](#)
- Town of Bristol: [Full Draft 8-2024](#)
- Town of Leicester: [Full Draft 5-2024, & 2-page Executive Summary](#)
- Town of Middlebury: [Full Draft, 3-2024](#)

VEM Update from Harry Schoppmann:

### **Input Needed For Community Warming Center and Shelter Page**

Vermont has seen a couple of stretches of extremely cold weather so far this winter, and there will surely be more. During those periods, a few cities, towns, and non-profits have opened their doors to residents who may need a place to warm up, even if it's only for a couple of hours during the day.

Vermont Emergency Management makes every effort to [list these warming centers and emergency shelters on our shelter page](#). The same page is used for cooling locations in the summer.

Our list of warming centers, open town halls, or other facilities municipalities set up for people to warm consists of only those we know of. At times, we see news reports, but for the most part, communities are asked to report them to us so we can make the public aware. This is not an official report; it is simply a way to get the word out that you are open.

Reports should be sent to [vtjic@vermont.gov](mailto:vtjic@vermont.gov). Please provide a contact, hours of operation, address, and any other pertinent information you have.

Other resources listed on the shelter page include [locations and hours of public libraries](#), a link to [community organizations](#), and preparedness information in ten languages.

### **Spring Flood Question and Answer Session February 13 - Register Now**

A series of recorded [Spring Flood Seminar videos](#) have been posted on the Vermont Emergency Management YouTube page. These videos inform local officials about how to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the impacts of the upcoming spring flood season.

You are invited to join us for a virtual question and answer session on February 13th, 12-1 pm. During this session, the National Weather Service will provide an updated spring flood outlook, and all participants will have the opportunity to pose questions to the National Weather Service and any other partner who provided a video in our series. Please be sure to view the recorded presentations before attending this event, and come prepared with questions. You must [register for this event](#), but once you register, you will receive a confirmation email and calendar appointment. Questions can be directed to [DPS.EMHSTraining@vermont.gov](mailto:DPS.EMHSTraining@vermont.gov)

## **Hazardous Material Spill Reporting**

In Vermont, any person who has knowledge of a hazardous material spill and may be subject to liability for that spill is responsible for reporting it. This includes any hazardous material spill on the land or water that:

- Is 2 gallons or more.
- Is less than 2 gallons but poses an actual threat to human health or the environment (for example, a gallon of gasoline spilled to a wetland); or
- Exceeds a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) reportable quantity. CERCLA reportable quantities of hazardous substances listed in [40 CFR Section 302.4](#) must be immediately reported to the Department of Environmental Conservation Spill Program by calling the 24-hour Hazardous Materials Spills Hotline at 1-800-641-5005 or, during regular business hours (M-F 7:45 am - 4:30 pm EST) at (802) 828-1138. Any person who has knowledge of a spill and who may be subject to liability for that spill is responsible for reporting the spill.

In addition to reporting to the Department of Environmental Conservation, any spill of hazardous material that impacts (or threatens) surface water (e.g., lakes, streams, wetlands) must also be reported to the U.S. Coast Guard via the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802.

When a spill is reported to Vermont DEC, a spill manager will determine if on-site assistance is needed to assess environmental impact and/or oversee cleanup efforts. The spill manager can provide assistance related to spill containment and cleanup, and the proper management of cleanup materials. The DEC's Spill Program can also assist with obtaining information about the hazards associated with the spilled materials, contacting other individuals with potential cleanup obligations, and, if needed, hiring a cleanup contractor.

Additional information is available on the Department of Environmental Conservation Spill Program website: <https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/spill-management> For general program questions or information about reporting requirements, contact James Donaldson at (802) 828-1138.