https://acrpc.org/acrpc-remc/

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, 12 August 2026, 12:00pm

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

12:00 Call to Order

12:03 Approval of May 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes postponed until November meeting

12:05 **Resilient System Support Pods- Peter Schneider** (Senior Consultant, Engineering at VEIC-Efficiency Vermont)- presented the VEIC energy resilience pod planning framework for local governments, NGOs, and nonprofits.

VEIC is evaluating designs for a prototype Resilient System Support Pod designed as a mobile, weather-resistant asset capable. VEIC is reaching out to rural municipalities for interest in implementation

There was a discussion about the challenges of long-term maintenance costs to municipalities and maintaining operability.

12:17 **Energy Storage Systems presentation- Bob Morlino** (EMD of Pawlet, Assistant Chief of the Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department, statewide LEPC chair, and a technician with the Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team)

B. Morlino presented an overview of the safety considerations of lithium ion batteries and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS or ESS)

He discussed thermal runaway and some of the ESS operating in Vermont, both at Fixed Sites (examples in Panton and Middlebury) as well as Transportable mobile units (owned by GMP and distributed throughout the state)

He noted that non-intervention is usually the best tactic for fires for fires involving ESS batteries. Batteries will continue to burn and applying water will only slow the combustion, not prevent it. Protecting nearby property exposures may be necessary, but only if it can be done safely done. The biggest risk from ESS fires is likely to first responders.

12:50 Updates and Reminders

- **Vermont Emergency Management Update (Harry Schoppmann):**

VEM had a table with the Division of Fire Safety and their new trailer at Addison Field Days last week. We had lots of great public interactions. We are staffing the Rutland fair this week, and then Champlain Valley and then Tunbridge.

Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference is September 23rd and 24th in Burke. There will also be a virtual option for some of the sessions like there has been the past few years.

VEM needs to have a name for whoever the REMC is putting forward for the free hotel room for one night.

- **Statewide LEPC (REMC representative Dan Kuzio):** No report
- **RPC updates (Andrew L'Roe)**

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans are completed and currently available for Review (Shoreham, Addison, Orwell, Waltham)- Draft LHMPs are posted here for public and stakeholder feedback: https://acrpc.org/local-hazard-mitigation-plans/

1:00pm Adjourn

Meeting Attendance

Municipal Voting Members

(** = voting member & proxy)

** Jason Covey, Middlebury EMD and PD

** George Gardner, Ferrisburgh Em. Services

** Sandy Korda, Orwell EMD

** Ben Marks, Cornwall EMD

** Jason Paquette, Shoreham

** Charlene Phelps, Starksboro EMD

** Barb Rainville, Lincoln EMD

** Joe Szareijko, Monkton EMD

** David DiBiase, Vergennes EMD and FD, Waltham, Ferrisburgh

** Paul McMahon, Waltham EMC

(10 voting members, representing 10 communities)

Also attending,

(by Teams)

Diana Myrvang, VT Department of Health
Harry Schoppmann, VEM Regional Coordinator
Michaela Olin (ARC)
Colin Braun
Peter Schneider
Allison Ross
Rose Wall
Pete Brown
Jesse Straton

(in=person)

Bill Cunningham
Andrew L'Roe, ACRPC Emergency Management Planner