Hazardous Materials Program

NM Radioactive & Hazardous Materials Committee Meeting, November 2026

DHSEM Mission Summarized



Working to protect the people of New Mexico through a comprehensive and coordinated program of mitigating hazards, preparing for emergencies, preventing attacks, and recovering from disasters.

SERC
Summarized



The **State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)** is a Federally-mandated body that supports state-wide compliance with the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The Commission works to improve preparedness, response, and recovery for hazardous materials emergencies across the state.

DHSEM & Hazmat



DHSEM supports Hazmat preparedness by:

- Administering the SERC
- Managing the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant
- Collecting and managing Tier II data and fees
- Coordinating partnerships and capacity -building
- Supporting trainings and exercises

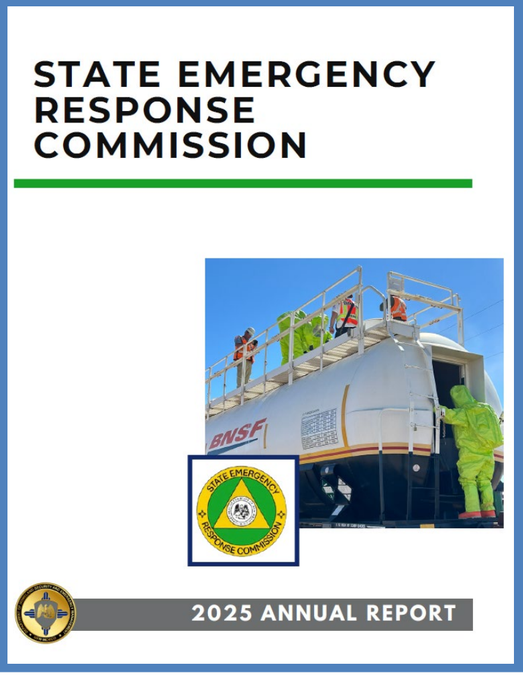
State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)



Commissioners:

- Jos Lesscher (Chair)
- Jess Lewis (Vice Chair)
- Jackie Onsurez
- Karen Sanders
- Ron Fitzherbert
- Sec. Jason Bowie
- Scott Overpeck

2025 Annual Report Released



2026 Highlights



New Mexico Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan

HMER

December 2027~~3~~

Hazardous Materials Safety Board (HMSB) Sub -Committee

- Tasked with rewriting the state's Hazardous Materials Emergency Response (HMER) Plan. Group meets monthly.

Policy Sub -Committee

- Working on Tier II fee matrix policy language change.

EPCRA & Tier II Compliance in New Mexico Manual

- Shared via SERC website

Partner Engagement and Learning

- Presentations from EMNRD WIPP Route Training Program, NM Tech Hazardous Waste & Safety, NMED Emergency Response Bureau, Plutonium Caravan Project

Tier II



An increase of 1,888 sites from 2025!

23,217

Number of Tier II facilities reported to DHSEM for RY 2025

$250

Maximum reporting fee per site (for 28 or more chemicals)

Hazardous Chemicals Information Act ties fees to Tier II reports (EPCRA-mandated facility reports)

Current fee cap has not been adjusted for inflation. The SERC hopes to increase the max payment from $250 to $750.

Additional collected funds will be to local hazmat preparedness and response.

The SERC's Policy sub-committee is going to advance this policy change effort.

Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs)



Mandated by EPCRA, LEPCs are tasked with developing emergency response plans for their communities, specifically for hazardous chemical emergencies. The SERC supports LEPCs.

In New Mexico:

- Some rural counties want to combine into Regional LEPCs (REPCs).
- Resolution passed: LEPCs can appoint own members without SERC approval.

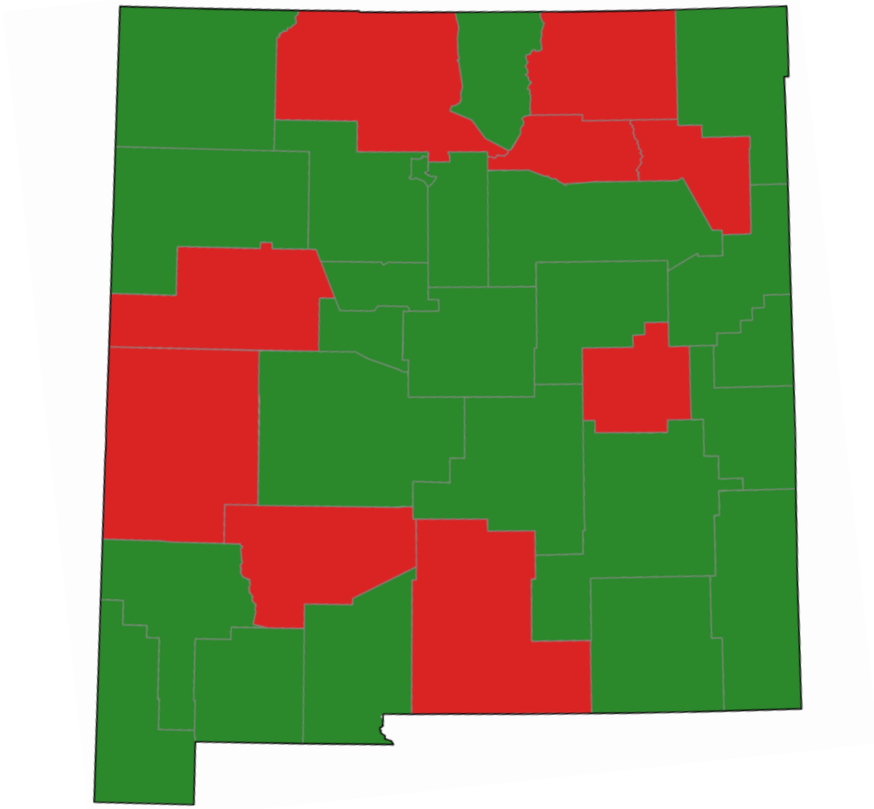


Figure 1. LEPC Status by County
-Green shows counties with an active LEPC
-Red counties do not have a current LEPC

LEPC Highlights



New LEPCs!

- Bernalillo County
- Roosevelt County
- Sandoval County
- San Miguel County
- Quay County
- Union County
- Valencia County
- Village of Ruidoso

Hosted Workshops & Exercises

- Roosevelt County
- Santa Fe County
- Socorro County
- Taos County
- Torrance County

Other Activities

- Several LEPCs supported their County's Preparedness Night Out Events
- San Juan County provided CERT training for school bus drivers

Collaboration & Emerging Threats







Relationship Building:

- CO Dept. of Ag. – Hazmat & Livestock incident response workshop
- DEA – drug lab response class at Fire Academy EMS Expo
- CBRN Working Group – Hosted by NM State Lab
- Pueblo of Laguna TERC meetings

Emerging Threats:

- Lithium-Ion Batteries
- Fentanyl drug/clandestine labs
- Decreased Federal funding

How do we stay prepared?

Safety starts with knowledge. EPCRA gives you the tools to be **informed and ready**, and helps keep our communities **healthy, informed, and protected**. Born from tragedy, it **promotes accountability and transparency, improves emergency response, and empowers communities**.

How Could the Hazmat Program Use Help?



1. Tier II fee matrix change
2. Greater inter-agency coordination
3. Support for local capability development

Number of Chemicals per Facility	Current Fee	Proposed Fee (2026 Adjusted)
1–3	$25	$75
4–6	$50	$150
7–9	$75	$225
10–12	$100	$300
13–15	$125	$375
16–18	$150	$450
19–21	$175	$525
22–24	$200	$600
25–27	$225	$675
28+	$250	$750 (maximum cap)

Thank You



Ali Rye, State Director
ali.rye@dhsem.nm.gov

DHSEM Hazmat Program
hazmat@dhsem.nm.gov

Jos Lesscher , SERC Chair
Jos.lesscher@gmail.com

Jess Lewis, SERC Vice Chair
jejlewis@srmc.unm.edu

dhsem.nm.gov

@nmdhsem