



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII  
901 NORTH 5TH STREET  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

May 3, 2000

Ellis W. Merschoff  
Regional Administrator, Region IV  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, TX 76011

Dear Mr. Merschoff:

Subject: **Tabletop Exercise of the Omaha/Council Bluffs Sub-area Contingency Plan(O/CB SACP)**

The purpose of this letter is to invite you or a representative from your agency from the Omaha area to participate in a tabletop exercise to be conducted in Omaha, Nebraska on Thursday, May 18, 2000. This exercise will help us to evaluate the effectiveness of the Omaha/Council Bluffs Sub-area Contingency Plan. The plan's primary focus is emergency response to a catastrophic release of hazardous materials or oil in the O/CB metropolitan area. Representatives from six metropolitan area counties, two states and several federal agencies will participate in this exercise.

Our exercise activities begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Douglas County EOC, located in the basement of the City/County Building, 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha. Enclosed find an exercise agenda, exercise objectives and parking information. The exercise should conclude around 4:30 p.m. Please note that lunch will be provided in the EOC facility.

While there are numerous motels available in the area, the Country Suites at 2210 Abbott (712-347-5600) or the Ramada Inn also located on Abbott (402-342-5100) are conveniently located east of downtown. Both can be found by following signs to the Eppley Airport.

So that our planning groups can provide the proper number of meals and participant handouts, please call me at (913)551-7005 by May 10, 2000 to let me know if you will be attending.

Sincerely,

  
Janice J. Kroone  
On Scene Coordinator

Enclosures



## **POSSIBLE O/CB SACP TABLETOP EXERCISE OBJECTIVES**

### **ALERT AND NOTIFICATION**

Determine the thoroughness and usefulness of the O/CB SACP to alert, mobilize and activate state, local, federal and private organizations that may be required to respond to a hazardous material release.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Determine the capability of local, state, federal and private responders to establish and maintain communications essential to support incident response and recovery operations.

### **COORDINATION AND CONTROL**

Demonstrate the capability of local, state, federal and private responders to direct and control emergency response activities through the operation of an Incident Command System (ICS), and manage recovery operations through the operation of a Unified Command System (UCS).

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

Determine the capability of local, state, and federal responders to formulate a Joint Information Center and disseminate accurate, concise information to the public and news media.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Determine the capability of Incident Command and/or Unified Command to identify accurately hazardous materials involved in an incident, and assess the hazards associated with the material during both the emergency and post emergency phases of the incident.

Determine the capability of the Incident Command and/or Unified Command to make decisions for population protection.

### **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Determining the capability of Incident Command and/or Unified Command to locate, mobilize and manage personnel, equipment, supplies, facilities and services required for response to a major incident.

### **HEALTH & MEDICAL**

Determine the adequacy of medical personnel, equipment and facilities to support a major incident.

## **O/CB SACP TABLETOP EXERCISE PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The purpose of the O/CB SACP Tabletop Exercise is to evaluate the thoroughness and usefulness of the O/CB SACP; to determine the capability of local, state, federal and private responders to coordinate their response to a major HAZMAT release per O/CB SACP guidelines; and to enhance coordination and cooperation among private and public agencies from six counties, two states, and the federal government.

## **TABLETOP EXERCISE PARKING**

The best way to reach parking at the EOC in the City/County building is to approach from the west on Harney St., go to 19<sup>th</sup>, which will be the southwest corner of the City/County Building. Stay in the left lane and go about ¼ block further east on Harney. There is a driveway to the left that goes under the building. Stay in the left lane of the drive and enter the "A" level parking. Go to the elevators (a guide will meet you there). Go up to the "F" level. That is where the security kiosk is located. Check in with the guard who will put you on the elevator down to the "C" level where the EOC is located.

## **SYNOPSIS OF EXERCISE SCENARIO**

The exercise scenario begins with a catastrophic hazardous materials release caused by the derailment of many railcars from the approaches to and off of the railway bridge over the Missouri River east of Blair, Nebraska. Airborne and water born releases threaten portions of Washington and Douglas Counties in Nebraska, as well as Harrison and Pottawattamic Counties in Iowa.

## **THIS EXERCISE IS PREPARATION FOR MORE TRAINING**

This tabletop exercise is a prelude to a functional exercise (November 2000) and a full scale exercise (fall 2001) of the O/CB SACP. The exercises will increase in complexity. They are certain to involve the population centers of Omaha, Council Bluffs and Bellevue. We envision the last exercise with a large mass casualty situation that will involve metropolitan area hospitals, fire and rescue departments, and law enforcement agencies during the initial stages. Effective mutual aid will be important.

