

WARREN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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County Line Road
Glens Falls, N.Y. 12801
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TO: LEPC Members
FROM: Tom Jenkins, Chairman
DATE: November 13, 1990
RE: Meeting

A meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee will be held on November 20, 1990 at 10:00 A.M.

This meeting will be held in Room 6-103 of the Municipal Center.

TDJ:jd

WARREN COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

September 11, 1990

Members Present

Thomas Jenkins, Deputy Director
Office of Natural Disaster & Civil Defense

Donald Sheeley, M.D., Director
Dept. of Emergency Medicine, Glens Falls Hospital
Replacing Michael C. Robinson, M.D.

Trooper Steve Craig
New York State Police

Sgt. Robert J. Hebert
New York State Police

William M. Roden
Environmental Columnist

Marvin Lemery, Administrator
Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement

Sheriff Fred Lamy

Chief Carl Carlton
Glens Falls Police Dept.

Joan Dillon
Secretary LEPC

Members Absent

Chief Thomas Donohue
Glens Falls Fire Dept.

James G. Marshall, Publisher/Editor
The Post Star

James Canavan, Coordinator
Emergency Medical Services

Herbert E. Riedel
Senior Citizens Council

Ron Davies, President
Ames Goldsmith, Inc.

Philip J. Arthur
Environmental Control Manager
Finch Pruyn & Company, Inc.

Karen Rae, Director
Greater Glens Falls Transit System

Members Absent (continued)

Hammond Robertson, Supervisor
Town of Queensbury

Joan Grishkot, Director
Health Services

Hon. Robert D'Andrea
Assemblyman - 108th District

The meeting was opened by Tom Jenkins, Chairman, at 10:17 a.m.

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted. The chairman reported on activities since the last meeting, as follows:

The DEC printout of Warren County facilities listed under SARA Title III regulations now appears to be up-to-date following communication from the Civil Defense Office asking that companies not covered by the regulations be removed from the list. Ciba-Geigy's main plant remains, but that is thought to be due to the fact that 1989 information is the latest available.

Warren County is planning to get involved in flood reporting to National Weather Service. Personnel to do the actual reporting have not been lined up, but is hoped this will be accomplished soon.

The Stewart's Bridge dam project by Niagara Mohawk contractors appears to be monitored satisfactorily. Metering at the control center in Guilderland and surveillance at the site seem quite adequate. A group from the Upper Hudson River Task Force toured the center in Guilderland recently and were quite impressed with the automatic monitoring there. A siren has been installed on the river below the dam and can be heard in Lake Luzerne. Alerting procedures have been revised in Niagara Mohawk's emergency plan so that Warren County is first on the list to be alerted, and will in turn alert others. The chairman is to tour the dam site this afternoon (9/11/90).

Improvements being made to the EOC to make it operable in an emergency were described. Telephones for all departments, water storage, food storage, facilities for RACES communications, and exercise of emergency generators, water well, etc. are among the measure being taken.

RACES conducted a full-scale exercise on June 24 and demonstrated impressive communications capability. The Civil Defense Office has provided equipment to them as a means of encouragement to remain active.

The chairman attended a conference on Emergency Response and Communications sponsored by the New York Power Pool. The focus was on dealing with the public and the news media during a crisis. Straightforward answers and truthful information are crucial, but it is important that only one spokesperson should give out information.

An exercise was held at Hallmark Nursing Home in July, simulating a loss of water supply. West Glens Falls Fire Department and West Glens Falls Emergency Squad participated. A water buffalo was supplied by SEMO. Civil

Defense taped the exercise. The experience was worthwhile not only for practice, but also some shortcomings in the facilities were found.

The Deputy Civil Defense Director assisted the Red Cross in opening and operating a shelter in Whitehall on July 27, 1990, when 25 residents had to be evacuated, housed and fed due to a gunman holed up in an apartment building.

The Deputy also met with the Sheriff, DPW Superintendent, and SEMO representatives regarding communication problems with SEMO radios at Prospect Mountain. Steps have been taken to eliminate exposure to lightning damage. Eventually, all communications should be consolidated in a new microwave system to be installed when and if the new jail is built.

After the conclusion of the chairman's report, Mr. Lemery gave an update on fire and ambulance services. The "fly car" concept whereby remote areas can be covered by highly-trained personnel in as short a time as possible when life-threatening emergencies occur has been proposed to the County for funding. partial funding at best is expected in the coming year. Dr. Sheeley of Glens Falls Hospital spoke glowingly of the exploits of Advanced Life Support Teams and is wholeheartedly in favor of the fly car concept.

Mr. Lemery expressed apprehension at the reduction in the ranks of volunteer firemen due to new laws and regulations as well as the stresses of two-worker families, other conflicting activities, etc.

Mr. Jenkins reported that he and Ms. Dillon will be attending the Disaster Preparedness Conference in Albany this month.

The committee will meet next on Tuesday, November 20, 1990 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.