



## **SERC-TERC Flash Update – March 14, 2017**

Hello SERCs, TERCs, and Federal Partners.

Here is a late-breaking / time-sensitive item of interest:

### **Hot Topic**

The **RESPONSE Act of 2016** ([Public Law 114-321](#)) directed FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) to establish the *Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation* (RESPONSE) Subcommittee.

- The subcommittee is to provide recommendations to the FEMA National Advisory Council (NAC) no later than December 16, 2017 regarding emergency responder training related to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads.
- The Act requires the subcommittee be composed of federal officials from:
  - Department of Homeland Security
  - Department of Transportation
  - National Transportation Safety Board
  - Environmental Protection Agency
- The Act also requires the subcommittee be composed of non-federal entities with technical knowledge and expertise from:
  - Rail industry
  - Rail labor
  - Those who offer oil for transportation by rail
  - Communications industry
  - Emergency response providers, including individuals nominated by national organizations representing state and local governments and emergency responders
  - Emergency response training providers

- Representatives from tribal organizations
- Vendors, developers, and manufacturers of systems, facilities, equipment, and capabilities for emergency responder services
- Other technical experts
- **We need your help conducting outreach encouraging top candidates to apply to become subcommittee members.**
  - *Applications must be received by close of business Monday, April 3, 2017.*
    - This timeline is necessary to comply with the law.
- For more information / how to apply: [www.fema.gov/response-act-subcommittee](http://www.fema.gov/response-act-subcommittee)
- Outreach questions? [Amanda.Johnson@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Amanda.Johnson@fema.dhs.gov)
- NAC questions? [FEMA-NAC@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-NAC@fema.dhs.gov)
- Subcommittee recommendation questions? [Lisa.Lofton@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Lisa.Lofton@fema.dhs.gov)

- - -

PLEASE NOTE: The next regular edition of *SERC-TERC Updates* should arrive in early April 2017.

The purpose of the *SERC-TERC Updates* is to identify and share new policies, guidance, and training resources that may be useful to the State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs) and Tribal Emergency Response Commissions (TERCs).