

## ESSEX COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

**ENHANCED 911**

702 STOWERSVILLE ROAD, PO BOX 30  
LEWIS, NY 12950  
OFFICE 518-873-3900 / FAX 518-873-3963

DONALD JAQUISH  
DIRECTOR/FIRE COORDINATOR

MICHAEL BLAISE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR/911 COORDINATOR

WANDA WADE  
PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CLERK

TIFFANY LEE  
SENIOR RECEPTIONIST

PATRICIA OSIER  
SENIOR DATA COLLECTOR

LORI KILBURN  
DATA COLLECTOR

Dr. E. Douglas Harris  
The University of Texas at Dallas  
PO Box 830688  
WT11  
Richardson, TX 75083-0688

May 22, 2013


Dear Dr. E. Douglas Harris,

Essex County Emergency Services has received your notification of the possible termination of the EPLAN Program that UT Dallas maintains. As a County Emergency Management Office, we extensively use this program to stay up-to-date with the reporting agencies and the hazardous chemicals they carry within our county. This helps us prepare, plan, and mitigate should an unfortunate event occur. This program goes hand in hand with our response procedures, plans, and preparations and has proved extremely useful.

We wish to support UT Dallas in the continuation maintenance and operation of this extremely valuable site, and have sent a letter of protest to the Department of Homeland Security.

If you need further assistance please feel free to contact Director Jaquish at 873-3901.

Sincerely,

  
Donald Jaquish  
Director  
Essex County Emergency Services



# Orange County



123 S. 6th Street  
Orange, Texas 77630

May 14, 2013

University of Texas at Dallas  
PO Box 830668  
WTII  
Richardson, TX 75803-0688

Re: Orange County LEPC Support of E-Plan

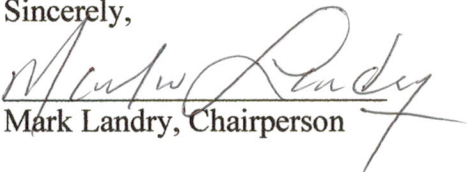
Dear Dr. Harris;

The members of the Orange County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) voted during their May meeting held on May 8th, 2013 to send a letter of support for the E-Plan hazmat program. E-Plan has assisted the LEPC with regulatory issues to inform local emergency responders of hazards at local commercial and industrial sites. The Tier-II reporting system has provided local emergency responders with volumes of information about hazardous materials for many years. The challenge for emergency responders was to have this information available during an actual incident. The E-Plan program put the Tier-II reporting information on the emergency scene where it is needed most.

If the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) follows through with the plan to eliminate funding for the E-Plan program, local emergency responders and the public they protect will feel the affect. Tier-II reporting will continue yet the availability of this information on an emergency scene will diminish. Other web based programs provide similar information to emergency responders but E-Plan exclusively provides facility specific information at a secure web site.

The Orange County LEPC supports the E-Plan program and urges continued fiscal support from DHS.

Sincerely,

  
Mark Landry, Chairperson



The miracles of science™



Honeywell



Energizing Chemistry



Packaging Better Ideas.™







**Morrystown-Hamblen Emergency Management Agency**  
Hamblen County Courthouse  
511 West Second North Street  
Morrystown, Tennessee 37814  
(423) 581-6225  
[cbell@co.hamblen.tn.us](mailto:cbell@co.hamblen.tn.us)

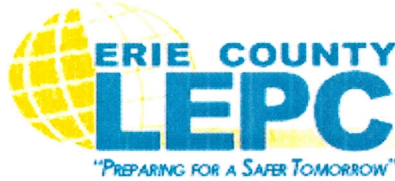
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To: E. Douglas Harris  
From: Chris Bell, Director  
Regarding: E-Plan

The Morrystown-Hamblen EMA would like to request and recommend to the administration of the University of Texas at Dallas the continuation of the E-Plan through UT Dallas. It has been a tremendous resource for the logistics in planning and the response to incidents here in Hamblen County. We have been able to streamline the preplanning information received from our Fire Departments conducting these walk-throughs and the TIER II information that is easily accessed through our participation in the E-Plan into one information package. Our TIER II reporting entities also appreciate the ease and convenience of entering all the information online and knowing that the information will be available to all the agencies that will need that information. This is particularly true if the entity has an event that would need the local responding fire department or hazmat team. These teams have quick accessibility of information to assess the event based on the information through the E-Plan site.

Please consider the best action steps to take to continue the E-Plan being made available to those states and local jurisdictions that have signed up and are using the site for TIER II reporting.

*Chris Bell*



Nicole Gerber  
Chair

45 Elm Street – Buffalo, NY 14203  
[www.erie.gov/depts/lepc](http://www.erie.gov/depts/lepc)

July 8, 2013

Dear Dr. Harris,

Please accept the enclosed letters on behalf of the Erie County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) based in Erie County, New York to support the continuation of the University of Texas at Dallas E-Plan program. In our county, businesses and facilities use the E-Plan online program for their Tier II filing and it is widely accepted and used by local first responders.

Since our local use of the E-Plan program for electronic filing of Tier II reports, users have noted its ease of reporting and accessibility of data, as well as the benefits of online reporting to the state. The program has allowed Erie County to easily retrieve chemical data to assist with emergency preparedness and planning and incident review. The program also allows for convenient and timely outreach to facilities to remind them of local and state submission requirements and deadlines. E-Plan has been widely accepted and utilized by our county, businesses and emergency response personnel, and representatives have been more than willing to write to show their support of the numerous benefits to continuing such a widely successful national program.

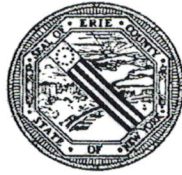
Also, when discussing the current E-Plan situation at a recent LEPC meeting, users present agreed that a nominal fee for program use is reasonable to request if continued funding is not designated to the University. The majority agreed their companies would be acceptable to sharing in the cost.

If you need additional letters or show of support for the E-Plan program hosted by the University, please let us know how we can assist. Thank you very much for all your time and work with E-Plan and best wishes for a successful campaign for renewed funding.

Sincerely,

Nicole R. Gerber, PhD  
Erie County LEPC Chair





# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**Daniel Neaverth Jr.**  
Commissioner

## DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

45 Elm Street – Buffalo, NY 14203

716 858-6578 – FAX 858-7937

[www.erie.gov/emergency](http://www.erie.gov/emergency)

June 28, 2013

Erie County Local Emergency Planning Committee  
Stephanie Burgess – Chair, Tier II Sub-Committee  
45 Elm Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: Letter of support for E-Plan Online Tier II Reporting System

Dear Ms. Burgess:

As the Commissioner of Erie County Emergency Services, I am deeply concerned to learn that the Department of Homeland Security has decided to discontinue funding the E-Plan Online Tier II reporting system that is hosted by The University of Texas at Dallas.

The New York State Emergency Response Commission has adopted E-Plan as the best practice for submitting Tier II reports as it is a highly-efficient, user-friendly online Tier II reporting system. Facilities can easily file their chemical inventories, Material Safety Data Sheets, maps, and emergency plans of their locations. This readily accessible system also allows local first responders to have immediate facility-specific hazardous chemical information of the businesses within their jurisdictions.

Tier II reports are also critical for first responders for facility and incident pre-planning, providing them with important information to prepare for the chemical hazards they will face when arriving at the scene of a facility emergency. Traditionally, facilities that are required to report under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) have used the hard-copy Tier II form in conjunction with the EPA's Tier2 Submit software. Such paper copies are not available to first responder personnel when needed. E-Plan information and its immediate accessibility can save lives.

On behalf of Erie County Emergency Services, I strongly support the continued funding of E-Plan.

Sincerely,

Daniel Neaverth Jr.  
Commissioner  
Erie County Emergency Services

# *SOUTHTOWNS HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM*

A division of the Town of Hamburg Fire Chiefs Association  
P.O. Box 465  
Hamburg, NY 14075  
(716) 649-2777 Fax (716) 649-2990  
Email: sthazmatteam@hotmail.com

May 17, 2013

Erie County Local Emergency Planning Committee  
Stephanie Burgess – Chair Tier 2 SubCommittee  
45 Elm Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear Ms. Burgess;

As the Team Leader for an Emergency Response Organization, a Volunteer Firefighter, and a member of the Erie County, NY LEPC, I find it very disheartening to learn that the Federal Government has decided to eliminate the funding for the e-Plan Tier II reporting system which is hosted by the University of Texas at Dallas.

Traditionally, facilities required to report under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), have used the hard-copy Tier II form in conjunction with the EPA's Tier2 Submit software. In contrast, ePlan is a highly-efficient, user-friendly online Tier II reporting system for Industry and First Responders. This system allows First Responders to have immediate, remote online access to hazardous chemical information for all facilities within their jurisdiction. Several years ago, prior to the e-plan program, a group of eight volunteers from various emergency response agencies within Erie County attempted to convert the paper documents into an electronic data format so that the information was more readily accessible. The task of inputting over 400 records was overwhelming and we had to abandon the project.

The Tier II reports are a key to pre-planning for First Responders so they will know the hazards they will face when arriving at the scene of a chemical emergency. When the paper copies were used they were not readily available and usable to the First Responders. Having the electronic data also allows emergency response agencies such as the Southtowns Hazmat Team access to a user friendly searchable database that can be used when reviewing our response capabilities before making equipment purchases. This ultimately saves money for the local communities and makes response capabilities more efficient. It is for these reasons that the NYS Emergency Response Commission has adopted ePlan as the best practice for submitting Tier II reporting.

On behalf of the Southtowns Hazardous Materials Response Team and the Erie County LEPC, I strongly support the continued funding of ePlan. I also believe that requiring the reporting community to pay any type of fee to utilize the ePlan will result in a mix of paper and electronic reports which will cause the reporting system to become even more unusable to responders

Sincerely,

Joseph Casper  
Team Leader



# **ECPHL** ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES



**Mark Poloncarz**  
County Executive

**Gale R. Burstein, M.D., MPH**  
Commissioner of Health

May 13, 2013

Erie County Local Emergency Planning Committee  
Stephanie Burgess – Chair, Tier 2 Sub-Committee  
45 Elm Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: Letter of support for e-Plan Online Tier II Reporting System

Dear Ms. Burgess;

My name is Michael Simkins and I am the Laboratory Operations Manager for the Erie County Public Health Laboratories located in Buffalo, NY. I represent the Dept. of Health and the Public Health Laboratories as a member of the Erie County LEPC. Additionally, I am a Hazardous Materials Specialist with the Erie Co. Hazardous Materials Response Team where I currently serve a Vice-President of that organization.

I am deeply concerned to learn that, due to unfavorable economic conditions and poor priorities management within the Federal Government, that the Department of Homeland Security has decided to no longer fund e-Plan Online Tier II reporting system which is hosted by the University of Texas at Dallas.

The Tier II reports are a key resource to pre-planning for First Responders so they will know the hazards they will face when arriving at the scene of a chemical emergency. Traditionally, facilities required to report under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) have used the hard-copy Tier II form in conjunction with the EPA's Tier2 Submit software. Paper copies are often not available to First Responder personnel when required.

e-Plan is a highly-efficient, user-friendly online Tier II reporting system for Industry and First Responders. This system allows First Responders to have immediate, remote online hazardous chemical information for all facilities within their jurisdiction. The NYS Emergency Response Commission has adopted e-Plan as the best practice for submitting Tier II reporting.

***As a Hazardous Materials First Responder, I firmly believe that the information available via e-Plan provides not only an excellent pre-planning resource, but could, ultimately, be a life-saving tool during a hazardous materials incident.***

On behalf of the Erie County Public Health Laboratories and the EC LEPC, I strongly support the continued funding of e-Plan. I also believe that the reporting community would be receptive to paying a small fee of say \$25 to utilize e-Plan if other funds are not accommodated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Simkins".

Michael R. Simkins, BS, MLT(ASCP), CLCP(NCA)  
Operations Manager  
Erie County (NY) Public Health Laboratories



503 Kensington Avenue • Clinical Center Building AA • Buffalo, NY 14214  
(716) 898-6100 • (716) 898-6110 FAX



# TOWN OF AMHERST

Department of Emergency Services & Safety

HARLEM ROAD COMMUNITY CENTER, 4255 HARLEM RD.

AMHERST, NEW YORK 14226

www.amherst.ny.us

Phone: (716) 631-7121

Fax: (716) 631-7205

Email: [jzymanek@amherst.ny.us](mailto:jzymanek@amherst.ny.us)

(716) 839-6707

Emergency Services / Safety

JAMES J. ZYMANEK

Director

May 13, 2013

Erie County Local Emergency Planning Committee  
Stephanie Burgess – Chair Tier 2 SubCommittee  
45 Elm Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: Letter of support for ePlan Online Tier II Reporting System

Dear Ms. Burgess;

My name is James Zymanek and I am Director of Emergency Services & Safety for the Town of Amherst in NY and member of the Erie County, NY LEPC.

I am deeply saddened to learn that, due to unfavorable economic conditions within the Federal Government, the Department of Homeland Security has decided to no longer fund the ePlan Online Tier II reporting system which is hosted by the University of Texas at Dallas.

The Tier II reports are key to pre-planning for First Responders so they will know the hazards they will face when arriving at the scene of a chemical emergency. Traditionally, facilities required to report under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) have used the hard-copy Tier II form in conjunction with the EPA's Tier2 Submit software. Paper copies are not available to First Responder personnel when required.

ePlan is a highly-efficient, user-friendly online Tier II reporting system for Industry and First Responders. This system allows First Responders to have immediate, remote online hazardous chemical information for all facilities within their jurisdiction. The NYS Emergency Response Commission has adopted ePlan as the best practice for submitting Tier II reporting.

Had the First Responders who responded to that fertilizer (Ammonium Nitrate) manufacturing facility fire in rural TX a few weeks back had access to ePlan Tier II hazardous chemical data, their lives may have been saved.

On behalf of the Town of Amherst and the EC LEPC, I strongly support the continued funding of ePlan. I also believe that the reporting community would be receptive to paying a small fee of say \$25 to utilize ePlan if other funds are not accommodated.

Sincerely,

James J. Zymanek, Director  
Emergency Services & Safety  
Town of Amherst, NY



**Burgess, Stephanie**

---

**From:** Earl Loder [eloder@tocny.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2013 7:47 AM  
**To:** Burgess, Stephanie  
**Subject:** RE: e-plan letter  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm

Hi Stephanie, 88,000 Town pop, over 50,000 visitors per day  
Earl

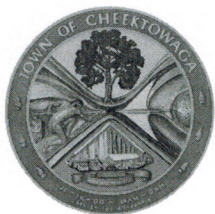
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**From:** Burgess, Stephanie [mailto:Stephanie.Burgess@Honeywell.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2013 7:30 AM  
**To:** Earl Loder  
**Subject:** Re: e-plan letter

Terrific, maybe can you tell us population served by Cheektowaga.

---

**From:** Earl Loder [mailto:eloder@tocny.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2013 06:52 AM  
**To:** Burgess, Stephanie  
**Subject:** e-plan letter



## Town of Cheektowaga Emergency Services

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*Earl Loder, Manager*



May 15, 2013

Erie County Emergency Planning Committee  
Stephanie Burgess, Chair Tier 2 Sub-Committee  
45 Elm Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear Stephanie;

I have great concern about a letter I read stating that DHS may no longer fund E-Plan. As a member of our LEPC and Emergency Manager for the Town of Cheektowaga I feel this would be a great loss for our first responders and our Tier 2 facilities. We have put E-Plan in our dispatch center and our Fire Chief's vehicles as well as our office. It is a great tool for the First responders not only for responding but also pre-planning for emergencies.

As a member of our LEPC since its formation, I have seen the problems of Tier 2 reporting by hard-copy. And E-Plan has eliminated many of these problems.

I support the Erie County LEPC in its request for the Department of Homeland Security to continue to fund the E-Plan Online Tier 2 Reporting System

Sincerely

Earl Loder  
Town of Cheektowaga  
Emergency Manager

From: Earl Loder [mailto:eloder@towny.org]  
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2013 7:47 AM  
To: Burgess, Stephanie  
Subject: RE: e-plan letter  
Attachments: ATT00001.m; ATT00002.tif

Hi Stephanie, 68,000 Town pop. over 60,000 vehicles per day  
Earl

From: Burgess, Stephanie [mailto:Stephanie.Burgess@honeywell.com]  
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2013 7:30 AM  
To: Earl Loder  
Subject: RE: e-plan letter

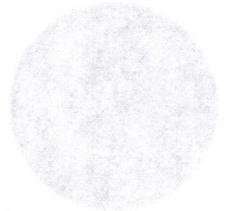
Terrific, maybe can you tell us population served by Cheektowaga

From: Earl Loder [mailto:eloder@towny.org]  
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2013 00:22 AM  
To: Burgess, Stephanie  
Subject: e-plan letter



Town of Cheektowaga Emergency Services

Earl Loder, Manager



May 12, 2013

Erie County Emergency Planning Committee  
Stephanie Burgess, Chair Tier 2 Sub-Committee  
45 Elm Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear Stephanie:

I have great concern about a letter I read stating that DHS may no longer fund E-Plan. As a member of our LEPC and Emergency Manager for the Town of Cheektowaga I feel this would be a great loss for our first responders and our Tier 2 facilities. We have put E-Plan in our dispatch center and our Chief's vehicles as well as our office. It is a great tool for the first responders not only for responding but also pre-planning for emergencies.

As a member of our LEPC since its formation, I have seen the problems of Tier 2 reporting by hand-copy. And E-Plan has eliminated many of these problems.





**Local Emergency Planning Committee**  
*Office of Emergency Management*  
Monroe County, New York

**Maggie Brooks**  
*County Executive*

**Thomas Walsh**  
*Chair*

**Frederick J. Rion, Jr., MSW, MPA**  
*Community Emergency Coordinator*

Dr. E. Douglas Harris  
Associate Dean and Research Professor  
Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science  
The University of Texas at Dallas  
P.O. Box 830688 WT 11  
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

May 22, 2013

Re: We Support the Use and Availability of E-Plan

Dear Dr. Harris,

On behalf of the Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), I provide you with this letter of full support for continuation of E-Plan, and we hereby request that the Department of Homeland Security and / or the United States Environmental Protection Agency to re-evaluate elimination of its funding.

Your electronic filing platform for submission of the Tier II chemical inventory data (E-Plan) allows us to receive the chemical inventory information in a field accessible format. Our LEPC has been receiving this Tier II chemical inventory data since 1988. On average, over 500 businesses file Tier II data with us every year, as required by the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986.

We can attest that this data when submitted on paper is voluminous, and both hard to store and challenging to access. However, when Tier II data is submitted in an electronic format, it can be efficiently processed, stored and most importantly, accessed in the field by the first responders. As such, your E-Plan can and does save lives.

Because E-Plan is so clearly the superior format, our Monroe County LEPC has been progressively implementing electronic filing of Tier II data through E-Plan over the last 5 years. To that end, we have gone as far as amending the operational by-laws for the LEPC to indicate that E-Plan is the preferred method for submission of facility specific Tier II data. We have also worked with the Rochester Business Alliance to train facility representatives on how to use E-Plan. Currently, we have over 400 facilities using the E-Plan system.

Moreover, our City and County Hazardous Materials Teams, many local fire departments, fire marshals and code enforcement officers have enthusiastically embraced E-Plan because it provides instant access to critical information during emergency incidents.

Our first responders are asked to operate in highly complex and challenging environments where rapid access to information is essential for their own safety, as well as the safety of the general public. E-Plan makes available other important information and reference materials in addition to basic chemical inventory data such as:

- maps of the surrounding area identifying locations of sensitive receptors
- facility diagrams, floor plans and building evacuation routes
- facility emergency response plans and risk management plans
- material safety data sheets and chemical profiles
- 2012 Emergency Response Guidebook
- NIOSH Pocket Guide
- WMD Information
- Chemical Hazards Emergency Medical Management
- National Weather Service / local weather data
- Links to other emergency response and management programs

E-Plan's broad range of information and reference materials make it an invaluable tool for our first responders which saves lives, limits property damage and abates environmental damage resulting from hazardous chemical releases.

I truly believe that the elimination of E-Plan will set us back years. E-Plan bridges a gap in our emergency preparedness by providing the platform for facilities to supply key information in a format that is useful to first responders. This is information in a format that will save lives, prevent injuries and assist with the management of emergency incidents. The Monroe County LEPC does not have and never has had the personnel to convert the otherwise required paper submission into electronic format. We cannot afford to lose the ability to electronically access vital facility specific emergency information in the field.

A failure by the Department of Homeland Security and / or the United States Environmental Protection Agency to restore funding for the E-Plan program would be a huge step backward. Once again, I encourage the Department of Homeland Security to fully evaluate the merits of this program and restore funding for its continued operation.

Respectfully,



Thomas Walsh  
Chairman

Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee





June 24, 2013

Mr. Bryan Koon  
Director  
Florida Division of Emergency Management  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Director Koon:

This is a letter of support from the members of the South Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee - District 11 on behalf of the efforts of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) to continue the E-Plan program, currently hosted by the University of Texas at Dallas.

Over the last few years, E-Plan has developed into a full-fledged, web-driven tool valued by first responders and emergency planners alike for its ease of use and availability. This past year, Section 302 Facilities in Florida began using E-Plan as a way to enter and update their Tier2 Forms. The program has been a great success.

The South Florida LEPC voted unanimously at its May 22, 2013 meeting to support FDEM in its efforts to continue the use of E-Plan in Florida.

Should you have any questions, or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me ([gary@sentryindustries.net](mailto:gary@sentryindustries.net)) or our Coordinator Manny Cela ([celam@sfrpc.com](mailto:celam@sfrpc.com)).

Sincerely,

Gary Koen  
South Florida LEPC Chair  
Director of Manufacturing  
Sentry Industries, Inc.

cc: George Colson, SoFlaLEPC  
Paul Wotherspoon, FDEM  
Jenny Wall, UTD

MC



**NIAGARA COUNTY  
FIRE COORDINATOR &  
EMERGENCY SERVICES OFFICE**  
Public Safety Training Facility  
5574 Niagara Street Ext.  
P.O. Box 496  
Lockport, New York 14095-0496

**TIMOTHY LOCKHART**  
*Chairman*  
*Local Emergency Planning Committee*

[www.niagaracounty.com/fire](http://www.niagaracounty.com/fire)  
(716) 438-3176  
(716) 438-3173 Fax

Dr. E. Douglas Harris  
The University of Texas at Dallas  
800 W. Campbell  
Richardson Texas, 8834441

May 28, 2013

Re: Support for E-Plan Continued Funding  
Niagara County Local Emergency Planning Committee, Niagara Co. NY  
Niagara County Fire Advisory Board

Dear Sir,

Please consider this letter as full support for the continuation of the E-Plan Program as administered by the University of Texas at Dallas.

The Niagara Co. LEPC has required the use of E-Plan since 2008 for businesses and industry to meet the reporting requirements for the Community Right to Know, Tier 2 reports.

The use of E-Plan provides a living document that is accessible 24/7 with the ability to be updated throughout the year as operating conditions or situations change for the reporting business or industry.

#### Current Efforts

- The Niagara County LEPC supports the continued use of E-Plan for reporting
- Local Business have shown support for a modest fee to continue to use E-Plan
- This discontinuance of E-Plan was discussed at the Niagara Co. Fire Advisory Board meeting of May 16, 2013, with the FAB wanting to be included in this letter of support.
- Discussion at the Annual Meeting of the Niagara Co. LEPC scheduled for June 12, 2013, with the hope of other support efforts to come from this meeting

#### Future Efforts

- The Niagara Co. Director of Emergency Services will be taking this matter to the Niagara Co. Legislature, with the intent of gaining their support in contacting our state and federal officials for the continued use of the E-Plan Program

Please feel free to contact me should you need anything further on this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Timothy R. Lockhart

Chairperson, Niagara Co. Local Emergency Planning Committee

Cc: Mr. Jonathan Schultz, Niagara Co. Office of Fire and Emergency Management  
Ms. Holly Schotz -for distribution to Niagara Co. LEPC membership





May 23, 2013

Mr. Bryan Koon, Director  
Florida Division of Emergency Management  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

**RE: National E-Plan Program Letter of Support**

Dear Director Koon:

The Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is submitting this letter in support of the continuation of funding for the nationally recognized E-Plan Program administered by the University of Texas. We urge either the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to rally behind this issue and provide the needed funding to continue this important program. The State of Florida now accepts chemical data required under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act and Florida Hazardous Materials Legislation via the E-Plan Program.

As stewards of taxpayers' dollars, the LEPC feels that this program offers multiple benefits to Southwest Florida and our 1.6 million residents which increases 30% during winter months. Further, we would highly recommend the merger of CAMEO and E-Plan to provide greater efficiency and to reduce redundancy as a cost savings option.

As you are aware, E-Plan is a highly secure web-based system that instantaneously equips emergency responders with life-saving information. E-Plan was designed to make hazardous materials information readily available to first responders for planning and emergency response purposes. As such, it is obvious that the program is designed to safeguard lives and minimize property damage. Thus, it is vital that DHS or EPA be contacted to request that funding be restored to ensure all of our citizens are protected from dangerous chemicals which plays an important role in today's society.

**Director Bryan Koon**  
**Page Two, E-Plan Letter of Support**  
**May 23, 2013**

In closing, we believe that the E-Plan program will continue to make a significant contribution to the overall health and safety of the region and we urge EPA, DHS, and Congress via this correspondence to provide a resolution in this important life saving matter. Should you have any questions regarding this request for support, please feel free to contact me at (239) 338-2550.

Sincerely,



Bruce Porter  
Chairman  
Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee

BP/jlg

cc: The Honorable Senator Bill Nelson  
The Honorable Senator Marco Rubio  
Congressman Trey Radel  
Mr. Paul Wotherspoon, Florida Division of Emergency Management  
Mr. Douglas Harris, University of Texas – Dallas  
Ms. Margaret Wuerstle, Executive Director, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council  
Mr. Mathew Marshall, Southwest Florida LEPC Training Chairman  
Mr. John L. Gibbons, Southwest Florida LEPC Administrator





Mayor Robert Minning  
Chair

Mr. Andy Núñez  
Vice-Chair

Commissioner Victor Crist  
Secretary/Treasurer

Commissioner Larry Bustle  
Immediate Past Chair

Manny L. Pumariega  
Executive Director

**Tampa Bay  
Local Emergency  
Planning Committee  
District VIII**

May 29, 2013

Mr. Bryan Koon, Director  
Florida Division of Emergency Mgmt.  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

**Officers**

**Chairman:**  
**Asst. Chief**  
**Scott**  
**Ehlers**

**Subject: Support of E-Plan**

Dear Mr. Koon:

**Vice**  
**Chairman:**  
**Jeff**  
**Tobergte**

**Staff Coordinator:**  
**John Meyer**  
**727/570-5151, x 29**  
**email: johnm@tbrpc.org**

**LEPC Website:**  
**www.tbrpc.org/lepc**

Local Emergency Planning Committee District 8 is aware that funding of the E-Plan program is in jeopardy and the program may be eliminated as a result. The program was initiated in 2000 with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency. Even in the early stages, E-Plan was designed to make hazardous material inventories and facility contact information readily available to first responders for planning and emergency response purposes. With such information instantaneously available, it is evident that the program is designed to safeguard the lives of the first responders by enabling them to make informed and timely decisions when responding to a hazardous materials incidents at a facility and to minimize property damage. In addition, the convenience and ease of data entry by the facilities has also been improved and/or implemented over the years. Support of the program was eventually transferred to the Department of Homeland Security between 2008-2012.

LEPC staff is aware that the State of Florida Emergency Response Commission actively promoted the use of E-Plan as the preferred Tier Two submittal option in association with the 2012 reporting period (i.e. due March 1, 2013). In fact, two of the E-Plan data entry training sessions were actually held right here in the offices of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council/Local Emergency Planning Committee District 8. LEPC staff was subsequently informed that an impressive 78% of all Tier Two reports for facilities within the State of Florida were submitted electronically through E-Plan in the first year alone, a tremendous accolade to the convenience of the program and all those involved in the promotion thereof.

By **unanimous** vote, we the members of Local Emergency Planning Committee do hereby extend our support of the program and extend our desire for its continued operation.

If you should have any question(s) or we can offer any assistance, please advise.

Sincerely,



Scott Ehlers  
LEPC 8 Chair

cc: Florida Legislative Delegation (from Tampa Bay Area)

FLORIDA SENATE	FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
Jeff Brandes, District 22 Bill Galvano, District 26 Arthenia Joyner, District 19 Jack Latvala, District 20 Tom Lee, District 24 John Legg, District 17 Wilton Simpson, District 18	Larry Ahern, District 66 Jim Boyd, District 71 Richard Corcoran, District 37 Janet Cruz, District 62 Mark Danish, District 63 Dwight Dudley, District 68 Mike Fasano, District 36 James Grant, District 64 Ed Hooper, District 67 Kathleen Peters, District 69	Jake Raburn, District 57 Dan Raulerson, District 58 Betty Reed, District 61 Darryl Rouson, District 70 Ross Spano, District 59 Greg Steube, District 73 Will Weatherford, District 38 Dana Young, District 60 Carl Zimmerman, District 65

Federal Delegation (from Florida/Tampa Bay Area)

U.S. SENATE	U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
Bill Nelson Marco Rubio	Gus Bilirakis, District 12 Vern Buchanan, District 16 Kathy Castor, District 14	Tom Rooney, District 17 Dennis Ross, District 15 C.W. "Bill" Young, District 13

Paul Wotherspoon, FDEM  
Jenny Wall, UTD





Dutchess  
County  
Local Emergency  
Planning Committee

# Dutchess

**Department of  
Emergency Response**

392 Creek Road  
Poughkeepsie  
New York  
12601

(845) 486-2080  
Fax(845)486-3998

May 15, 2013

Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H2-176 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Attn: The Honorable Michael McCaul, Chairman

Re: E-Plan Hazardous Material Information  
Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986  
(EPCRA) commonly known as SARA Title III.

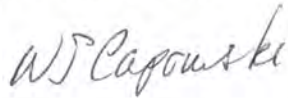
Dear Chairman McCaul,

Since 1988, the Dutchess County, New York Local Emergency Planning Committee has endeavored to comply with the requirements of SARA Title III enacted by the 99<sup>th</sup> Congress. Our activities include, but are not limited to, the cataloging of required chemical inventories from applicable facilities and making this information available to countywide decision makers and emergency responders.

Our activities have been greatly assisted by the E-Plan Hazardous Material Information database provided by the University of Texas at Dallas. E-Plan allows reporting facilities to provide their annual reports to us electronically. Since 2009, the Dutchess County LEPC has received 301 filings from facilities using E-Plan. These electronic submissions have saved the LEPC considerable time and effort as the unavailability of E-Plan submissions would require manual entry of these extensive reports into the US EPA CAMEO database.

I have been informed that the Department of Homeland Security did not elect to continue funding for E-Plan activities effective September 30, 2012. Accordingly, the University of Texas will terminate the E-Plan program on August 31, 2013. This will present a burden to our LEPC. Therefore, I am requesting your assistance to restore funding to continue the availability of E-Plan to over 7400 registered nationwide users of this valuable resource.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. Stephen Capowski".

W. Stephen Capowski, Chairman  
Dutchess County LEPC

cc: Congressman Chris Gibson  
Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney  
Senator Kristen Gillibrand  
Senator Charles E. Schumer  
Secretary Janet Napolitano  
Dr. E. Douglas Harris, University of Texas at Dallas



Harry G. Meyer  
Direct Dial: 716.848.1417  
[hmeyer@hodgsonruss.com](mailto:hmeyer@hodgsonruss.com)



Date: May 17, 2013

Prof. E. Douglas Harris  
The University of Texas at Dallas  
P.O. Box 830688 WT11  
Richardson, TX 75083

Dear Professor Harris:

Re: Proposed Termination of E-Plan

I have been a member of the Erie County New York Local Emergency Planning since 1990, and was Chair from 1993-2005. I remain active in the Erie County LEPC, as well as the adjoining Niagara County LEPC, in my capacity as Chair of the United States Coast Guard Area Maritime Security Committee of WNY.

E-Plan and its ability to populate a common database electronically has been a tremendous resource for the emergency response community. In the early years when I was LEPC Chair, I talked to many fire companies, New York State emergency management, and other responders about the tremendous potential benefits from the Tier II forms which detailed much needed information about the presence and location of hazardous materials. Unfortunately, for most fire companies and, for that matter most counties, there simply was no way that that information could be made readily available to those who needed it most when needed: emergency responders on a call to a hazardous materials facility where "something had gone wrong".

In a word, lack of money to input data into a local database meant that it was highly unlikely that emergency responders could retrieve information that they needed to protect themselves and to protect their Communities. Rather, in most instances the Tier II forms simply lay hidden away in somebody's filing cabinet, or even worse in a box, which meant that, in most instances the information was not available.

I am an attorney in private practice, and have long advocated to both New York State and Erie County that they impose a fee upon filers of Tier II information so that that data could be available for electronic retrieval. Unfortunately, my recommendations did not bear fruition: Fortunately, my successor as LEPC Chair, Stephanie Burgess, (now chair of our Tier 2 Subcommittee) very tenaciously lobbied New York Emergency Management about E-Plan electronic filings in NYS that have addressed my concerns. It would be extremely unfortunate to see this excellent service disappear.

Prof. E. Douglas Harris  
May 17, 2013  
Page 2



Overall, the availability of the common database through the University of Texas at Dallas had provided many other benefits to get a much better handle on what hazardous materials are out there. I strongly support your efforts to secure additional continued funding for E-Plan Online Tier II reporting.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry G. Meyer".

Harry G. Meyer

cc: Ms. Nicole Gerber, Chair, Erie County LEPC  
Timothy Lockhart, Chair, Niagara County LEPC  
Ms. Stephanie Burgess, Chair Tier 2 SubCommittee of Erie County LEPC

HGM/nlk





# City Of Raleigh

NORTH CAROLINA

May 21, 2013

E. Douglas Harris  
E-Plan Online Tier II Reporting Administrator  
The University of Texas at Dallas  
800 West Campbell Road  
WT11 Richardson, Texas 75080-3021

Re: E-Plan Online Tier II Reporting System

Dear Sirs:

The City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department has received notice from the University of Texas at Dallas and the Wake County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) that the *E-Plan Online Tier II Reporting System* is scheduled to be discontinued effective August 2013 as a result of the loss of funding from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This program has been utilized by the Public Utilities Dept. during the recent 3 reporting years, as required by Wake County, for reporting highly hazardous substances that are used and stored within the department's facilities. Our department reports information regarding the location, type, and quantity of these substances for approximately 150 different locations throughout the water and wastewater service area.

The information that is provided within the electronic E-Plan system includes data required by the SARA Title III Right-To-Know Law and makes information about the chemicals stored within the facilities immediately available to Emergency First Responders. The E-Plan Online System has greatly improved the reporting process for Public Utilities by establishing an electronic data base that may be reviewed, updated and accessed at any time by the user. This current information is available to all emergency first responders that may respond to an emergency that involves one or more of the hazardous substances present at the location.

As a responsible member of the community and user of the E-Plan Online Reporting System, the City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department is requesting that the DHS continue to fund the University of Texas' operation of this highly secure and reliable program. It is important that emergency responders be provided the best available information when planning for, and responding to, chemical emergencies. Wake County is not immune to the types of disasters involving hazardous materials that have occurred recently in other parts of the country. We strongly encourage the DHS to reconsider their position and ensure adequate funding for this extremely important program.

**One Exchange Plaza**  
1 Exchange Plaza, Suite 1020  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

**City of Raleigh**  
Post Office Box 590 • Raleigh  
North Carolina 27602-0590  
(Mailing Address)  
*Printed on Recycled Paper*

**Municipal Building**  
222 West Hargett Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601



Our subject matter expert on this issue is Mr. Michael Garver, City of Raleigh Public Utilities Safety Coordinator. He can be reached by phone at 919-761-3013, and email at michael.garver@raleighnc.gov, with questions or concerns. Please feel free to contact us as this issue evolves.

Respectfully;



John Robert Carman,  
Public Utilities Director

CC: Michael Garver, City of Raleigh Public Utilities Safety Coordinator.  
Kenneth Waldroup, Assistant Public Utilities Director  
TJ Lynch, Assistant Public Utilities Director  
Whit Wheeler, Assistant Public Utilities Director

**One Exchange Plaza**  
1 Exchange Plaza, Suite 1020  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

**City of Raleigh**  
Post Office Box 590 • Raleigh  
North Carolina 27602-0590  
**(Mailing Address)**  
*Printed on Recycled Paper*

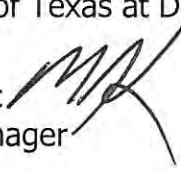
**Municipal Building**  
222 West Hargett Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601



Lexington County Public Safety Department  
**Emergency Management Division**

---

TO: Dr. E. Douglas Harris  
The University of Texas at Dallas

FROM: Michael J. Kalec   
Emergency Manager

REF: E-Plan Program

DATE: May 23, 2013

This is in response to your letter dated May 3, 2013 regarding the status of the E-Plan Program.

Lexington County Emergency Management supports the continuation of the E-Plan Program. This program has saved our Emergency Management Department numerous hours of data entry into our CAMEO System for tracking information on hazardous materials in our County.

I had recently attended an Emergency Manager's quarterly meeting at the South Carolina Emergency Management Division and we were of the agreement that our agencies could identify funding sources to continue the E-Plan Program. Each year, we have at our disposal Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) funding that we could utilize in support of Emergency Management operations in the individual counties.

For the 2013 LEMPG, Lexington County can identify a part of this funding to support the continuation of the E-Plan Program. If you have any questions I can be reached at 803-785-8343 or [mkalec@lex-co.com](mailto:mkalec@lex-co.com). We hope you will consider this request and look forward to hearing back from you.

Thank you.

Cc: David W. Kerr  
Director of Public Safety



Greater Houston LEPC  
PO Box 5159  
Houston, TX 77262-5159

Tel—(832) 541-7349  
Fax—(713) 534-6197  
HouLEPC@aol.com

31 July 2002

Mr. Jim Staves  
EPA Region VI  
1445 Ross Ave, Suite 1200  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Staves,

The Greater Houston Local Emergency Planning Committee is very interested in serving as the Beat-Test for the EPA's Electronic Plan to better utilize emergency response information. We are willing to serve as the "executive agent" for the greater Houston area—significant in that it is the largest petrochemical complex in the United States.

Implementation of the E-Plan in this region will streamline information acquisition for emergency responders from the fire service, law enforcement, and federal and state agencies typically found at hazardous materials response operations.

We have met with key local officials, including the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Fire Chiefs of the Cities of Houston and Bellaire, as well as the Harris County Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Coordinator. All recognize the system's value and are fully supportive of implementing this critical response tool in the greater Houston area. In addition, our systems management personnel are very excited about implementing the E-Plan.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (713) 928-6711 or the LEPC Administrator, Lieutenant Joe Leonard, USCG at (832) 541-7349.

**ROBERT W. ROYALL, JR.**

Chairman, Houston LEPC  
Senior Captain, Houston Fire Department

*Working together for a safer community.*



City of Plano



# Fire Department

P.O. BOX 860358 • Plano, Texas 75086-0358

972-941-7159 Fax: 972-941-7291

[www.planofire.org](http://www.planofire.org)

William Peterson  
Fire Chief



Fire Administration  
1901 Avenue K

Fire Station 1  
1901 Avenue K

Fire Station 2  
2630 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street

Fire Station 3  
3520 Sherry Drive

Fire Station 4  
6000 Roundrock Trail

Fire Station 5  
5115 W. Park Blvd.

Fire Station 6  
900 Seabrook Drive

Fire Station 7  
5602 Democracy Drive

Fire Station 8  
4621 Hedgecoxe Drive

Fire Station 9  
6625 W. Parker Road

Fire Station 10  
3540 McDermott Drive

October 17, 2002

Dr. Rita R. Colwell, Director  
The National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Colwell,

This letter is in support of the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) Computer Science Department's proposal to the National Science Foundation titled, "Infrastructure for Research on Heterogeneous Network Computing."

The Plano Fire Department has had a close working relationship with the University of Texas at Dallas on the E-Plan project since its inception. Plano is a pilot site for the E-Plan system and we can clearly see its benefit to our fire fighters and emergency responders. Access to the E-Plan system from various types of access devices and over networks of various capabilities is very important for the usability of the system, as are the issues relating to high-availability, reliability, and security of the system. Thus, we are highly supportive of the networking research being proposed by the UTD Computer Science Department. We will be happy to participate in any experiments that will be needed to make the E-plan system more robust, usable, and secure. We will also be happy to help in evaluating any new technologies for emergency preparedness that will be produced in this project.

We look forward to working with the UTD Computer Science Department in this and other projects.

Sincerely,

William Peterson

PH

Fire Fighters need accurate information on all hazards associated with physical structures, particularly with chemical manufacture, storage, packaging and distribution. This information, contained in EPA Tier II forms is extremely useful, but only when it can be readily accessed. Approximately 80% of the country's fire fighters are volunteers, and typically, do not have the time or resources to perform data entry and data management functions into stand-alone computer programs. Therefore, Tier II data is almost never available to the smaller municipal and rural fire departments.

The CAMEO suite of programs is a useful management tool, but it requires a significant amount of training – usually several days- and computer literacy for effective use. CAMEO also requires local Tier II data entry on the part of its end user and does not adequately allow for graphic representations of locations of chemical hazards and other information needed to develop response strategies. Some of this information can be found in other Agency databases and plans (i.e. Envirofacts, Federal Facility Response Plans, GIS databases), but, again, this requires levels of time and effort that are often prohibitive. Federal Agencies should strive to ensure that all information of potential use to fire fighters is made available in simple, readily accessible formats, such as E-Plan, which takes less than an hour to learn

E-Plan, developed by EPA region 6, is an attempt at providing an easy-to-use computer program that incorporates Tier II data, for the specific benefit of assisting Hazardous Materials Response Teams and First Responders. Information on the chemical hazards at facilities and their potential impacts, should be made available to First Responders and Emergency Planners on a need-to-know basis and within a secure platform. The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has a consistent record of stressing the need to protect these types of information from broad public access.

For the past year, the IAFC Hazmat Committee has been evaluating the EPA Region 6 E-Plan system. The system is designed to address all of the above points. In it's review and analysis of the proposed E-Plan, the IAFC Hazmat Committee proposed numerous suggestions for improvement of E-Plan security practices and general utility, all of which have been made to our satisfaction.

While we understand that, at this time, E-Plan can best be viewed as a regional pilot, the International Association of Fire Chiefs Hazmat Committee believes that the system's structure, security management and operating principles provide a good model for delivery of Federal and State agency maintained data to First Responders nationwide.

Chief Jan Dunbar

April 12, 2004



August 8, 2005

James C. Staves  
University of Texas at Dallas  
Emergency Preparedness Center  
P.O. Box 830688  
MS EC-34  
Richardson, TX 75083-0688

[james.staves@utdallas.edu](mailto:james.staves@utdallas.edu)

Dear Jim:

As a new E-Plan user, we know how useful E-Plan can be to the First Responder. E-Plan can provide multiple sources of information on specific chemicals when an emergency occurs at one of our facilities or during a transportation accident.

With over 22,000 chemicals in the data base and instant links to DOT ER Guides, MSDS's, Chemical profiles, NFPA Diamond codes, Coast Guard CHRIS data and weather data, E-Plan is a potential one-stop information resource for First Responders. With this almost instant access, we have the information we need to protect our First Responders, the people involved in the emergency, and the surrounding community. E-Plan is also a great help in pre-planning and fire inspection work.

Your continued improvements in E-Plan, such as online Registration and Training, online Tier II report filing, and the extensive database make E-Plan a great tool for the First Responder. E-Plan is important to our community and we urge that you continue to fund, support, and improve E-Plan for us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kenny Shaw'.

Kenny Shaw  
Coordinator  
Office of Emergency Management  
City of Dallas



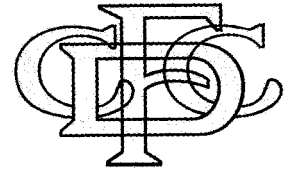


City of  
Corpus  
Christi

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

2406 Leopard  
Suite 300  
Corpus Christi  
Texas 78408  
Phone 361-880-3900  
Fax 361-887-8053  
www.cctexas.com

*Seeking  
Opportunities  
to Serve*



August 16, 2005

James C. Staves  
University of Texas at Dallas  
Emergency Preparedness Center  
P.O. Box 830688  
MS EC-34  
Richardson, TX 75083-0688

[james.staves@utdallas.edu](mailto:james.staves@utdallas.edu)

Dear Mr. Staves: Jim

As an E-Plan user, I know how useful E-Plan is to the First Responder. E-Plan provides multiple sources of information on specific chemicals when an emergency occurs at one of our facilities or during a transportation accident.

With over 22,000 chemicals in the data base and instant links to DOT ER Guides, MSDS's, Chemical profiles, NFPA Diamond codes, Coast Guard CHRIS data and weather data, E-Plan is the one-stop information resource for First Responders.

The Corpus Christi area has a significant petrochemical industrial base, as such, the need for quick, accurate, quality data is critical to any emergency.

E-Plan has provided us with such a tool. As you know Corpus Christi is working on Wifi system for our city. E-Plan will become an even greater resource at that time.

E-Plan is also a great help in pre-planning and fire inspection work. The Prevention Division has utilized this tool as a means to verify quantities of chemicals and their locations as well as current contact information.

Your continued improvements in E-Plan, such as online Registration and Training, online Tier II report filing, etc. make E-Plan a great tool for the First Responder.

E-Plan is vital to our community and we urge that you continue to fund, support and improve E-Plan for us.

Very truly yours,

Michael Hernandez  
Asst. Chief / Fire Marshal  
Corpus Christi Fire Department

James C. Staves  
University of Texas at Dallas  
Emergency Preparedness Center  
P.O. Box 830688  
MS EC-34  
Richardson, TX 75083-0688

RECEIVED SEP 0 1 2005

[james.staves@utdallas.edu](mailto:james.staves@utdallas.edu)

Dear Jim:

As an E-Plan user, I know how useful E-Plan is to the First Responder. E-Plan provides multiple sources of information on specific chemicals when an emergency occurs at one of our facilities or during a transportation accident.

With over 22,000 chemicals in the data base and instant links to DOT ER Guides, MSDS's, Chemical profiles, NFPA Diamond codes, Coast Guard CHRIS data and weather data, E-Plan is the one-stop information resource for First Responders.

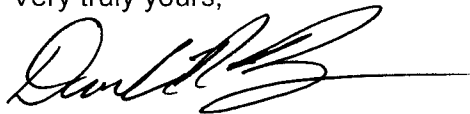
With this almost instant information, we have the information we need to protect our First Responders, the people involved in the emergency and the surrounding community.

E-Plan is also a great help in pre-planning and fire inspection work.

Your continued improvements in E-Plan, such as online Registration and Training, online Tier II report filing, etc. make E-Plan a great tool for the First Responder.

E-Plan is vital to our community and we urge that you continue to fund, support and improve E-Plan for us.

Very truly yours,



Donald Berger Jr.  
Fire Deputy Chief  
El Paso Fire Department  
(915) 771-1010

Thursday, November 03, 2005

James C. Staves  
University of Texas at Dallas  
Emergency Preparedness Center  
P.O. Box 830688  
MS EC-34  
Richardson, TX 75083-0688

[james.staves@utdallas.edu](mailto:james.staves@utdallas.edu)

Dear Jim:

As an E-Plan user, I know how useful E-Plan is to the First Responder. E-Plan provides multiple sources of information on specific chemicals when an emergency occurs at one of our facilities or during a transportation accident.

With over 22,000 chemicals in the data base and instant links to DOT ER Guides, MSDS's, Chemical profiles, NFPA Diamond codes, Coast Guard CHRIS data and weather data, E-Plan is a one-stop information resource for first responders.

With this almost instant information, we have the information we need to protect our first responders, the people involved in the emergency and the surrounding community.

Your continued improvements in E-Plan, such as online registration and training, online Tier II report filing, etc. make E-Plan a great tool, especially for locating chemical storage areas and determining amounts involved in the incident.

E-Plan is vital to our state, and we urge that you continue to fund, support and update E-Plan for us.

Very truly yours,

Richard I. Merritt,  
Emergency Services Operations Officer  
Arkansas Dept. of Environmental Quality



To: Shane Hitchcock  
EPA Region 4 Removal Manager  
Atlanta, GA

July 19, 2006

Dear Shane,

Many years ago, EPA Region IV responded to help us supervise a long-term PCB clean-up here in Guilford County. Since that time, you and your staff have always been available to offer guidance regarding numerous other environmental emergencies (and near emergencies) in our County. Your assistance was, without exception, impeccably organized and timely.

In-between emergencies, one of our tasks (since 1988) has been the management of SARA Title III chemical submissions. These chemical listings for the City of Greensboro businesses and industry have grown to represent over 5 billion lbs (taken at the reported maximum daily amount).

Because the information is so critical to good pre-planning and proper management is potentially life saving for our responders and the community, we have tried to harness this data many ways and with many programs. Looking back on this project, I think the most successful organization was accomplished by my counter-part in the City of High Point Fire – Barry Tilley. He supervised entering of their chemical data into the **CAMEO** program.

However, no program on the market seemed to have all the features we needed. We wanted, for example, a program to accept data efficiently from industry while relating it to other risk information (Clear Air 112r, N.C. Right-to-Know). And we needed the program to be cost effective!

Imagine how exciting it was for us to discover the **E-Plan Project!** Here are some of the features we love about this project:

#### **E-PLAN:**

- Provides First Responders with instant information on chemicals reported by our SARA facilities. The data is immediately accessible for **preplanning** and **response**.
- Provides First Responders with **health effects** on 21,000 chemicals. This is useful for fixed facility response and transport. The “Chemical Search” feature allows responders to find key information on how to contain any chemical in the data base – facility related or not.
- **Secures** our information with internet encoding. (Nick Macchiarolo explained to us that this type of security is the same internet security system as banks use to wire money transfers.)
- **Provides free on-line training.** On-line registration makes it easier for us to authorize new users.
- Assists with area complaints and **investigations**. We can now search by chemical to determine who uses a chemical in a given geographical area.
- Makes Tier Two forms relational. Finally, regulated sites in North Carolina can submit their Tier Two Chemicals through the **EPA’s Tier Two Submit Program** to the State Emergency Response Commission, Local Emergency Response Committees and Fire Departments using a **stable and technically supported** computer program. **It is great to know that EPA staff is available each week day to help our industries with their Tier Two questions.** It is even more advantageous that **E-Plan accepts Tier Two Submit directly.** I understand that, presently, E-Plan has demonstrated program stability to over 1,200 Registered users in the United States. I am proud to be one of the 1,200!

- **Supports all-hazard planning and response.** We are just beginning to understand this use of E-Plan. We learned, for example, that in the aftermath of an event such as Hurricane Katrina, that E-Plan can be used to locate facilities and match them to “orphan” compressed gas cylinders or drums of hazardous materials.

I know there are more features I could highlight to make the point that **we need to continue support for the E-Plan project**. The most important reason is that this information is critical to the lives and well-being of our emergency responders and the communities they serve. This mission, helping to keep responders safe and informed, is precisely what kept us researching solutions to the best use of hundreds and hundreds of pages of chemical data would arrive at our offices each year.

Please let me know if you need us to send this type of support to others who make direct funding decisions. I honestly know I can count on you to recommend the best ways to demonstrate the merits of this support.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Braun, Coordinator

Greensboro Emergency Management

c/o GU/Metro 911 Justice Complex  
1201 Coliseum Blvd.  
Greensboro, N.C. 27403

Phone: 336-373-2951

Fax: 336-373-2557

Email: [Marilyn.Braun@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:Marilyn.Braun@greensboro-nc.gov)

Webpage: <http://greensboroready.com>

Cc: Nick T. Macchiarolo: Nick has been an outstanding guide right from discovery to program use!

Wesley Reid: Director, Guilford/Metro 911

David Spears, Warren Ritter, David Hood: Greensboro Fire E-Plan Project

Robbie Flynt, Danny Ingram, Trent Walker: Greensboro Police E-Plan Project

Ron Campbell: Guilford County EM Coordinator who served as liaison to North Carolina Emergency Response Commission and the N.C. Division of Emergency Management.

Clarice Garrett: Chair, Guilford County LEPC

Chuck Mortimore: Guilford County LEPC assisted our office also as former Planning Director for the City of Greensboro for over 15 years as we struggled with SARA data!

Terry Wyrick and Bill Nieland: two advisors representing the many businesses with the Guilford Industry Forum and LEPC who help coordinate these programs with industry and serve as mentors.

=====

Please note that email sent to and from this address is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.

James C. Staves  
University of Texas at Dallas  
Emergency Preparedness Center  
P.O. Box 830688  
MS EC-34  
Richardson, TX 75083-0688

[james.staves@utdallas.edu](mailto:james.staves@utdallas.edu)

Dear Jim:

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With this almost instant information, we have the information we need to protect our First Responders, the people involved in the emergency and the surrounding community.

E-Plan is also a great help in pre-planning and fire inspection work.

Your continued improvements in E-Plan, such as online Registration and Training, online Tier II report filing, etc. make E-Plan a great tool for the First Responder.

E-Plan is vital to our community and we urge that you continue to fund, support and improve E-Plan for us.

Very truly yours,

**Keith Summerlin**

Keith Summerlin  
Emergency Response Coordinator  
Dept. of Health & Human Services  
Division of Health  
5800 W 10<sup>th</sup> – Suite 907  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
PH: (501) 280-4961