

101 Katherine Street  
Buffalo, NY 14210  
(716) 852-4705  
(716) 852-0790  
[www.linde.com](http://www.linde.com)

May 15, 2013

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

Niagara County Local Emergency Planning Committee  
Timothy Lockhart  
Warren J. Rathke Public Safety Training Facility  
5574 Niagara Street Ext  
Lockport, NY 14095

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

Dear Ms. Burgess and Mr. Lockhart;

My name is Jack Pederson and I am the Bulk Supply Area Manager of the Linde LLC Company of Buffalo, NY and member of the Erie County, NY LEPC and the Niagara County, NY LEPC.

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

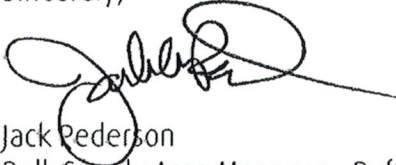
The Tier II reports are key to pre-planning for First Responders so they will know the hazards they will face when arriving at the scene of a chemical emergency. Traditionally, facilities required to report under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) have used the hard-copy Tier 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. For Industry it is an extremely easy and user friendly way to ensure all of the data necessary is communicated to all of the proper authorities so it is available at their time of need. I strongly support the continued use and support of ePlan because it is the right thing to do.

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 Linde LLC and the Erie County and Niagara County LEPC's, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack Pederson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jack Pederson  
Bulk Supply Area Manager - Buffalo  
Linde LLC

P.O. Box 2368

Conway, SC 29528

7/29/2013

E. Douglas Harris

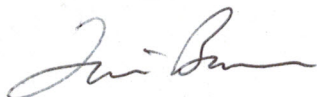
800 West Campbell Road

WT11 Richardson, TX 75080-3021

Dear Mr. Harris:

I have been involved with the SARA Title III Tier II reporting for the past thirteen years, in which the first several years the forms were done by hand each year. I'm very disappointed to hear that the E-Plan may be going away. The E-Plan method of submitting annual data saved numerous man-hours each year because of the data base that was used to replicate facility information. The system was very easy to use, which made the process less stressful. If there is any way to keep the E-Plan system I would be very grateful.

Sincerely,



Timothy D. Brown





Sunoco, Inc. (R&M)  
Auto Lab Building  
100 Green Street  
Marcus Hook, PA 19061

May 23, 2013

Mr. Patrick Meehan  
204 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

And

Mr. Nelson Peacock  
US Department of Homeland Security  
Office of Legislative Affairs  
Mail Stop 0150  
Washington, DC 20528

RE: E-Plan Tier II reporting

Dear Mr. Meehan and Mr. Peacock:

We recently discovered that as of September 30, 2012 funding for the E-Plan Online Tier II reporting will no longer be provided. As the owner and/or operator of almost 900 gas stations across 17 different states, we found the system to be useful in communicating our hazardous chemicals to the appropriate agencies to fulfill our Community Right to Know responsibility. We understand that the First Responders also have access to this system to get up-to-date information on hazardous chemicals stored at facilities.

This system is an important part of the Community Right to Know process and is a wealth of knowledge for first responders. Please reconsider funding and continuing this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Celeste", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jennifer Celeste  
Manager, Product & Regulatory Support  
Sunoco Marketing Performance & Compliance

Cc: E. Douglas Harris, University of Texas at Dallas, 800 West Campbell Rd, WT11, Richardson, Texas  
75080  
file



Lennox International Inc.  
2140 Lake Park Boulevard  
Richardson, Texas 75080-2254

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 799900  
Dallas, Texas 75379-9900

Telephone: 972.497.5000  
Facsimile: 972.497.6668  
[LennoxInternational.com](http://LennoxInternational.com)

June 5, 2013

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express support for the E-Plan program and respectfully request that E-Plan be funded on an ongoing basis.

E-Plan is used by a majority of facilities within Lennox International Inc.'s family of companies to store and submit Tier 2 chemical inventory data. E-Plan has proven to be a convenient, easy-to-use, web-based tool for complying with EPCRA's Tier 2 reporting requirement. We have been pleased to see a growing number of states adopt E-Plan as their Tier 2 reporting tool, and have actively encouraged other states, where our facilities are located, to do the same.

For companies, such as ours, with facilities in a large number of states, the availability of a single, standard reporting tool provides significant advantages over having to use and support a variety of disparate tools. Even in states where E-Plan is not the specified reporting tool, we are able to store our Tier 2 data in E-Plan and export the data to electronic or hardcopy formats suitable to satisfy the non-E-Plan states' reporting requirements.

Loss of the E-Plan reporting tool would significantly complicate Lennox International's Tier 2 compliance efforts. Currently, E-Plan is the only non-commercial, web-based Tier 2 reporting tool available to use. After a decade of funding, we question why this highly successful program would not receive ongoing support and development as opposed to being cut.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the benefits to industry of the E-Plan program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert G. Johnson'.

Robert G. Johnson  
Manager, Environmental Affairs  
972-497-7532 office  
972-569-7114 cell  
[robert.johnson@lennoxintl.com](mailto:robert.johnson@lennoxintl.com)



**NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND  
AND  
UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND**



Aug 29, 2012

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to respectfully request your support for the continuation of funding by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for E-Plan, an emergency response system designed by the University of Texas at Dallas' Cyber Security and Emergency Preparedness Institute. The ability to have critical and accurate hazardous chemical facility information readily available for our subordinate units is critical in being able to provide timely recommendations regarding relocation of assets and personnel in order to ensure continuity of operations during an incident. Your support will allow us to further our mission while enhancing the current system for users nationwide.

The ability to assess and respond intelligently to hazardous material events in the first hour is necessary to help reduce the loss of life and decrease property damage. E-Plan provides our subordinates the appropriate information needed in order to efficiently react to events at hazardous chemical facilities. A cut in federal support by DHS would not only threaten the continuation of this program, but it would also reduce our ability to respond to hazmat disasters in a timely and effective manner.

We understand the difficult choices that need to be made as federal officials seek to reduce the deficit. However, if the country is to remain on a prosperous path, we must continue to invest in programs that ensure safety, improve the lives of Americans, and provide an economic return for our nation. As such, we urge you to support the continuation of funding for E-Plan.

Sincerely,



Peter A. Lofy

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army

Deputy, NORAD-NORTHCOM CBRN Branch



# International Association of Fire Chiefs

4025 Fair Ridge Drive • Fairfax, VA 22033-2868

Telephone: (703) 273-0911

Fax: (703) 273-9363

Internet: [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org)

27 July 2004

Mr. James Staves  
Director, Emergency Preparedness Center  
University of Texas at Dallas  
P.O. Box 830688  
EC-32  
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

Dear Mr. Staves,

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has been very interested in E-Plan for the last two years. We are pleased that you have worked so closely with the IAFC HazMat Committee and its chairman, Chief John Eversole, to incorporate our suggestions into E-Plan to make it more secure and easier to use.

Firefighters 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 firefighters 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.

E-Plan, developed by EPA Region 6, provides 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, must be made available to first responders and emergency planners on a need-to-know basis only and within a secure platform. IAFC has a consistent record of stressing the need to protect these types of information from broad public access.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs believes that E-Plan's structure, security management and operating principles provide a good model for delivery of federal and state agency maintained data to first responders nationwide.

We encourage you to continue to work to expand E-Plan from a regional program in EPA Region 6 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas) to a nationwide program for firefighters, emergency managers and first responders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Garry L. Briese", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Garry L. Briese, CAE  
Executive Director

April 13, 2006

From: Gregg Dawson  
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2006 3:47 PM  
To: 'green.richard@epamail.epa.gov'  
Subject: Question about E-Plan

Mayor Green, good afternoon, we've not met but my name is Gregg Dawson and I am the regional director for Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Programs for the North Central Texas region. I work at the Council of Governments here in Arlington and have been here just under 4 years. I spent the previous 16 years working for Bob Terrell, Libby Watson and Larry McMillen running the Emergency Operations Center in Fort Worth.

The reason I am writing is because I recently had lunch with some colleagues here in Arlington. Among them was Jim Staves who I met in my work with Dr. Harris and UTD on other projects. Jim was telling me that there may be a possibility that funding for E-Plan may be in jeopardy. I assume you are familiar with E-Team but it is a program that greatly benefits response and life safety for first responders and other support agencies in hazardous materials incidents. It can also be used for training and exercises.

I checked into how many agencies that would affect and there are six major cities in my region alone including Dallas. In addition my old employer (City of Fort Worth) was scheduled to come on soon. After thinking about this even further it appears there may be other significant programs we are dealing with that could compliment this system. We have a system called LOCATE with over 7,000 regional contacts that could benefit from this program and a GIS based-Graphical Warning System that could also potentially be enhanced. We are always looking for ways to leverage existing resources and it appears that's just what E-Plan has done by using existing sources of information and simple interfaces for first responders to use.

I know first hand how helpful this would have been in my old job. I'm no longer in operations but I do recognize a great asset to first responders when I see it. I would hate to see this go away. I encouraged Jim to get back with me but I also asked for a contact so that we could weigh in on this. I understand that EPA can not be all things to all agencies and this may require another revenue/funding stream.

I would just say in closing that this is a wonderful tool and you all have clearly provided a valuable, life saving system and it would be a shame to see it discontinued. I am not sure how we could help at this time but am willing to help Jim or others brainstorm a bit on it. Using Homeland Security funds is a possibility but would be a hard sell on reoccurring costs. Please visit our web site. Our region is really working well together and building some innovative programs for regional emergency preparedness capacity. Thanks for your time Mayor.

Gregg Dawson  
NCTCOG Emergency Preparedness/Homeland Security Programs Director  
616 Six Flags Drive  
Arlington, Texas 76005  
817.698.2321  
<http://nctcog.org/ep/>