



NEW YORK STATE
DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
STATE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Jerome M. Hauer, Commissioner

Steven Kuhr, Director

August 28, 2012

David DeMatteo
NYS Office of Emergency Management
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12226-2251

Dr. Douglas Harris
University of Texas at Dallas
800 West Campbell Rd.
Richardson, Texas 75080

Dear Dr. Harris,

It has come to my attention that the Federal government is considering to discontinue its financial support of the E-Plan system. We believe that doing so will negatively impact preparedness at all levels of government. Key considerations in this important decision should include the following items:

- The United State Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Tier2 Submit program is designed to capture Tier II inventory reports. The program has a long, maligned history of use. The program is archaic, handicapped with software incompatibilities, corrupt files, is not user-friendly, and contains executable files that are often recognized as potential threats on government-type servers. The Tier2 Submit program is not used by any jurisdiction in NYS and has been found by industry to be very cumbersome. The program has limited compatibility with response plume models, such as CAMEO, and does absolutely nothing to support the state's efforts for Tier II reporting compliance audits under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).
- The inventory data reported and contained in platforms for the Risk Management Program (RMP) is limited to a select list of chemicals. The same holds true for the CFATS (6 CFR) list of chemicals. These respective lists of chemicals are not all inclusive of each other, or inclusive of the list of chemicals required under EPCRA, which poses significant challenges for us to consolidate and address at the state and local level. Most importantly, the scope of RMP and CFATS is limited to on-site preparedness, and neither of these stove-piped programs informs each other, nor do they inform the EPCRA planning community which is ultimately responsible for off-site preparedness. The use of E-Plan helps to streamline the data and serves as a catalyst to support facility-specific, off-site consequence planning by local planners and response agencies both pre-event and real-time.

- The products reported in E-Plan are received in response to EPCRA regulatory reporting requirements, most of which includes both RMP and CFATS data. As such, the data in the E-Plan system contains much more data than can be acquired and actually managed under the RMP. This complete data set has proven to support our preparedness efforts, our response/recovery efforts during a disaster, and has facilitated a *complete* chemical risk assessment in preparation for several National Special Security Events (NSSEs).
- Prior to the New York State's decision to use E-Plan, the state solicited several nationally-recognized software vendors for their services to provide a platform for chemical inventory reporting. The basic and most simple platforms cost in excess of \$230,000.00 for the State-level interface, and an additional \$75,000.00 for each of the state's 57 independent local emergency planning committees (LEPCs). State and local governments simply cannot absorb this cost, which are compounded by server issues, network challenges and system maintenance. The E-Plan system has been offered to the states at no cost. As such, it has been widely accepted by state emergency response commissions (SERC), LEPCs, and fire departments that serve as the front line of defense in response to a chemical emergency. The E-Plan system has proved to be invaluable in New York State. The financial support of E-Plan benefits dozens of states, hundreds of LEPCs, and thousands of first responders that would otherwise have no means to quickly retrieve inventory information.
- In response to an annual Federal requirement, the State receives thousands of chemical inventory reports on or before March 1 of each year. Prior to bringing E-Plan into NYS, these reports were received in hardcopy, electronic, Tier2 Submit, or via email format. The variance in reporting made it next to impossible for officials to condense, collate and maintain all of those reports for use. In the advent of E-Plan, we now have one formalized reporting platform that is efficient, effective, reliable and secure. Our ability to manage that data has not only supported us operationally, but has also helped to respond to FOIL requests, and has directly supported several EPA-sanctioned audits of industry in New York State. No other Federal reporting platform can do this.
- Since launching E-Plan in NYS, we have noted an increase in reporting compliance in excess of 500%. This success is attributed to our outreach, and the fact that E-Plan has been widely accepted by industry in NYS. Further, E-Plan is fully compatible with other software systems, which has made it a choice for supporting other plume mapping programs and EOC management software. Purely simple, this is success! It validates our position that E-Plan was the clear choice for us to use in New York State.
- In New York State, we have developed and delivered curriculum to support the use of E-Plan. We've held courses, workshops, webinars, and even conducted outreach to the *whole community*, as appropriate, to institutionalize the system in NYS. Further, we have created guidance for LEPCs on how to incorporate the system locally, amending LEPC by-laws for institutionalizing the system locally, and produced fact sheets on how to enable first responders with access to E-Plan data in a fast-moving emergency.
- Regardless of the technical or feasibility issues associated with other types of reporting platforms, the staff from E-Plan has been providing outstanding customer support. Our experience with Federal agencies engaged in the inventory reporting arena has not favorable, and it appears that many questions we pose to our Federal counterparts chronically go unanswered. The staff from E-Plan has been an outstanding partner in our efforts, and has provided a reliable and unequivocal wealth of support to us in implementing the system in the State.

In closing, I would offer that no Federal reporting system or mechanism provides states and locals with the capability and capacity to manage chemical inventory data like E-Plan allows for. Many states have embraced the use of E-Plan due to the lack of support in this arena from the Federal government. To decrease funding to the E-Plan system would be a detriment to not only all the good progress that has been made, but would negatively impact state and local preparedness.

I would submit that if the Federal government is seeking to consolidate reporting platforms in an attempt to save costs, the easiest, simplest and centralized way to do that is to require the RMP and CFATS industry to report on the E-Plan system. From there, the E-Plan data could be mined by Federal agencies for their use and serve as a source of "one-stop shopping" for all chemical inventory information. Further, I would strongly recommend that the funding to support E-Plan should be significantly increased to accommodate the additional room for growth, development and management of data.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please let me know if you would like to discuss this further, including in person.

Sincerely,



David DeMatteo,
Planning Section Chief
SARA Title III Program Director

Susana Martinez
Governor



Gregory A. Myers
Cabinet Secretary

Anita Tallarico
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

April 8, 2013

University of Texas at Dallas
800 West Campbell Rd.
Richardson, Texas 75080

To Whom It May Concern,

Recently, we have learned that the E-Plan online database that UT Dallas has supported for many years may be shutting down due to the lack of funding. This is the first year for New Mexico Hazardous Materials Program with E-Plan Tier II Reporting, and we cannot even express our disappointment of such news. For the last four months that we have used E-Plan, we have grown so dependent on its capabilities that it would be close to a disaster not to be able to use it for our Hazardous Materials Program. I will list below a few of the great advantages of E-Plan.

- 1) E-Plan is online database for Tier II Reporting. This means that it becomes the facilities/companies responsibility to upload and maintain their Tier II inventory. What that means for New Mexico Program? This fact alone alleviates the responsibility of our one-person program (New Mexico Hazmat Program has only one administrator) to obtain such records via regular mail on a CD and upload these records to Tier 2 Submit software. If the record is deficient, it may take days to contact the responsible facility in order for the record to be revised to meet requirements.
- 2) E-Plan is online database for Tier II Reporting. This means that our local emergency responders which are spread out throughout New Mexico have immediate access to all Tier II records in the case of emergency or for emergency preparedness activities (any activity from hazard analysis to Commodity Flow Studies). What that means for New Mexico Program? Hazardous materials facilities are not a mystery anymore. Our county emergency managers are logging in and making big plans for emergency preparedness. We are getting requests after requests from them for training on how best to use E-Plan for their agencies. People are getting excited that we have come to the 21st century and they are using a contemporary technology to accomplish more in their everyday work.
- 3) E-Plan has features that no other FREE program has. What that means for New Mexico Program? New Mexico has no funding to purchase special software for our Tier II Reporting. We only have two choices, Tier 2 Submit and E-Plan. Some of the great features of E-Plan are: free of charge, instant access, simple database (no special training required), mapping of single or multiple facilities using

Google Map or Google Earth (we have special GIS service but it is not simple to run it; it requires special training), plume modeling (very easy to run), exporting capabilities in 3 types of file for easy manipulation and sorting, more mandatory fields for facilities to complete. I can write a large document on each of these great features of E-Plan. The only good feature of Tier 2 Submit is that is free of charge.

- 4) Using E-Plan ensures great accountability.

What that means for New Mexico Program? Until this year when we started using E-Plan, we had no idea which companies reported, which reported poorly, and which paid their filing fee. By using E-Plan, our efficiency and accountability during this Tier II season has increased manifold.

- 5) E-Plan personnel had provided us and our facilities with great customer service.

What that means for New Mexico Program? Having E-Plan and the E-Plan personnel made our work easy. We do not have to worry about IT issues, internet access issues, and if we could not help our facilities, the E-Plan personnel would be there for us to assist. We had great positive feedback from all companies that needed E-Plan assistance.

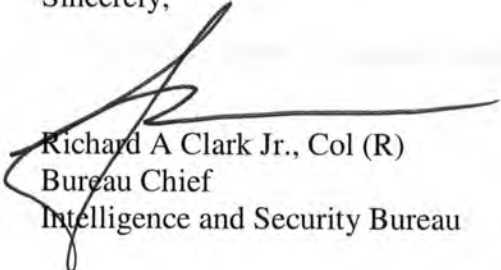
There are so many more positive attributes to E-Plan. We only enumerated the most important. To shut down this online tool is to go back to the "stone ages" for us, New Mexico. And it is not only about our State Hazardous Materials Program but it is about all our emergency management agencies and first responders. Every presentation about E-Plan that we do around New Mexico, we start with the greeting "Welcome to the 21st century."

We, the New Mexico Hazardous Materials Program, are pleading to the management of UT Dallas, to find a way to finance this program permanently. We can and we will provide any recommendation on behalf of E-Plan to other authorities if necessary in order to show our support and need for this program. You can count on New Mexico.

If you have any questions or concerns about this letter please contact Daniela Bowman, HMER Administrator, at 505-476-0617 or email at daniela.bowman@state.nm.us

Thank you for your consideration. If you need to discuss this matter any further do not hesitate to contact me personally at 505-476-0630.

Sincerely,



Richard A Clark Jr., Col (R)
Bureau Chief
Intelligence and Security Bureau



August 14, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I have worked with the staff at The University of Texas at Dallas' CyberSecurity and Emergency Preparedness Institute nearly since the E-Plan Program was developed, about 11 years. I hope you recognize the merit of the Program and the value for responders to access critical hazardous materials data quickly at any hour of the day. This is a Program that I believe should receive permanent funding.

In the interim, I highly recommend the continuation of funding by the Department of Homeland Security for the E-Plan Program.

The E-Plan Program is the only established secure source for quickly accessing facility data for both Tier Two chemical storage and Risk Management Planning sites in a variety of formats. This data is vital during an emergency and also continues to benefit DHS' Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program. This data is often used for inspections and follow-up visits. We particularly appreciate the ability to extract chemical storage data in the CAMEO format. Several fire districts in our state use CAMEO on their response vehicles.

E-Plan data is often utilized by local emergency planners in pre-disaster planning efforts. This data is used to enhance emergency response capabilities before an incident occurs, to identify storage, use, and releases of hazardous chemicals in communities, and to promote communication between facilities that handle hazardous chemicals and local planners.

Respectfully,

Sadie Whitener
State EPCRA Coordinator
Washington State Emergency Response Commission
PO Box 47659
Olympia, WA 98504-7659



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Prevent. Protect. Prepare.

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Reuben F. Young, Secretary

August 22, 2012

Rep. Bradley Miller
1127 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Miller,

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' CyberSecurity and Emergency Preparedness Institute. E-Plan is a proven program that is 11 years old and provides hazardous facility information for our area 24/7/365 at 99.999% availability. The ability to have critical and accurate hazardous chemical facility information readily available for our first responders has been proven to help save lives and minimize property damage. Your support will allow us to further our hazardous materials response 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 all first responders with the appropriate information needed in order to efficiently react to events at hazardous chemical facilities. E-Plan is the most complete hazardous chemical facility information in the U.S. available for all hazardous chemical incidents related to accidents, weather or successful terrorist activities. Additionally, the system is used for incident pre-planning, management of hazardous chemical site information, and risk and vulnerability analysis. There have been no security violations in the program since its inception 11 years ago.

Currently, more than 6,800 emergency personnel have been trained as authorized E-Plan users in 45 states and the numbers are increasing. With a time-limited window, first responders need to be able to identify potential chemical hazards and take immediate action. Our database contains comprehensive records for over 400,000 Tier II facilities in 45 states plus 18,557 risk management plan (RMP) facilities in 50 states and four U.S. territories. Additionally, the database contains all hazardous chemicals in use by these facilities and E-Plan has a proven track record of enhancing the safety of the public.

Your investment in America's universities has yielded an unprecedented number of scientific advances that have contributed significantly to our nation's economic growth. UT Dallas' E-Plan has created life-

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4201 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4201
Telephone: (919) 733-2126



OFFICE LOCATION:

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www.ncdps.gov

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North Carolina Department of Public Safety

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Reuben F. Young, Secretary

saving technologies that improve our nation's hazmat response system and leaves users with a sense of security knowing that the information provided is accurate and reliable. A cut in federal support by DHS

would not only threaten the continuation of this program, but it would also substantially 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, I urge you to support the continuation of funding for E-Plan.

Respectfully,

Patrick M. Lake

EPCRA/CBRNE Program Manager
Technical Hazards Section
NC Department of Public Safety
Division of Emergency Management
1636 Gold Star Drive, Office 0625
Raleigh, NC 27607-3371
Office: 919-825-2277

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Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of State Police

Office of State Fire Marshal

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Salem, OR 97305-1760

(503) 378-3473

FAX (503) 373-1825

TTY (503) 390-4661

E-mail: oregon.sfm@state.or.us

<http://egov.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/>

August 28, 2012

Premier Public Safety Services

The Honorable Kurt Schrader
U.S. House of Representatives
314 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

We are 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. E-Plan is a proven program that is 11 years old and provides hazardous facility information for first responders and emergency planners. The ability to have critical and accurate hazardous chemical facility information readily available for our first responders has been proven to help save lives and minimize property damage. Your support will allow us to continue to have this information readily available while enhancing the current system for users nationwide.

The ability to assess and respond safely and efficiently to hazardous material events is necessary to help reduce the loss of life and decrease property damage. E-Plan provides all first responders with the appropriate information needed in order to effectively react to incidents at hazardous chemical facilities. E-Plan is the most complete hazardous chemical facility database in the U.S. providing valuable information for response to all hazardous chemical incidents whether the incident is caused by accident, natural hazards, or terrorism. Additionally, the system is used for incident pre-planning, management of hazardous chemical site information, and risk and vulnerability analysis. There have been no security violations in the program since its inception 11 years ago.

Currently, more than 6,800 emergency personnel have been trained as authorized E-Plan users in 45 states and the numbers are increasing. The database contains comprehensive records for over 400,000 Tier II facilities in 45 states plus 18,557 risk management plan (RMP) facilities in 50 states and four U.S. territories. Additionally, the database contains information on all hazardous chemicals in use by these facilities. E-Plan has a proven track record of enhancing the safety of the public.

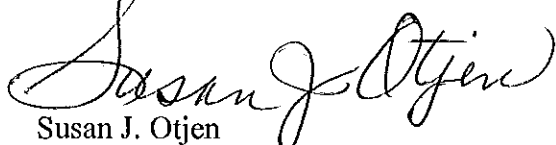
Your investment in America's universities has yielded an unprecedented number of scientific advances that have contributed significantly to our nation's economic growth. UT Dallas' E-Plan



has created a technology that improves our nation's hazmat response system and gives users a sense of security knowing that the information provided is accurate and reliable. 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 incidents 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, we urge you to support the continuation of funding for E-Plan to ensure the safety of our first responder and the communities they protect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan J. Otjen".

Susan J. Otjen
Oregon State Emergency Response Commission

cc: Mark Wallace, State Fire Marshal

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR



MICHAEL D. EDMONSON, COLONEL
DEPUTY SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services

September 11, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

We are 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' CyberSecurity and Emergency Preparedness Institute. E-Plan is a proven program that is 11 years old and provides hazardous facility information for our area 24/7/365 at 99.999% availability. The ability to have critical and accurate hazardous chemical facility information readily available for our first responders has been proven to help save lives and minimize property damage. Your support will allow us to further our hazardous materials response mission while enhancing the current system for users nationwide.

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BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR



MICHAEL D. EDMONSON, COLONEL
DEPUTY SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services

Your investment in America's universities has yielded an unprecedented number of scientific advances that have contributed significantly to our nation's economic growth. UT Dallas' E-Plan has created lifesaving technologies that improve our nation's hazmat response system and leaves users with a sense of security knowing that the information provided is accurate and reliable. A cut in federal support by DHS would not only threaten the continuation of this program, but it would also substantially 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Taylor Moss".

Captain Taylor Moss
Commander, TESS Emergency Services

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P.O. BOX 66614, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70896



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and Vehicle
Services

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Communication
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Security and
Emergency
Management

Minnesota
State Patrol

Office of
Communications

Office of
Justice Programs

Office of
Pipeline Safety

Office of
Traffic Safety

State Fire
Marshal



Homeland Security and Emergency Management

444 Cedar Street • Suite 223 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-6223

Phone: 651.201.7400 • Fax: 651.296.0459 • TTY: 651.282.6555

<http://hsem.dps.mn.gov>

July 30, 2012

To whom it may concern:

We are 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' CyberSecurity and Emergency Preparedness Institute. E-Plan is a proven program that is 11 years old and provides hazardous facility information for our area 24/7/365 at 99.999% availability. The ability to have critical and accurate hazardous chemical facility information readily available for our first responders has been proven to help save lives and minimize property damage. Your support will allow us to further our hazardous materials response mission while enhancing the current system for users nationwide.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kris A Eide". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kris A. Eide
Director



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
PHIL BRYANT, GOVERNOR

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

ROBERT R. LATHAM, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 2, 2012

Senator Roger Wicker
U.S. Congressman
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Hon. Wicker,

We are 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' CyberSecurity and Emergency Preparedness Institute. E-Plan is a proven program that is 11 years old and provides hazardous facility information for our area 24/7/365 at 99.999% availability. The ability to have critical and accurate hazardous chemical facility information readily available for our first responders has been proven to help save lives and minimize property damage. Your support will allow us to further our hazardous materials response mission while enhancing the current system for users nationwide.

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Sen. Wicker
August 2, 2012
Page 2

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Sincerely,



Robert R. Latham, Jr.
Executive Director

Cc: Sen. Thad Cochran
Rep. Steven Palazzo
Rep. Gregg Harper
Rep. Alan Nunnelee
Rep. Bennie Thompson

ADEQ

ARKANSAS
Department of Environmental Quality

August 22, 2003

James C. Staves
University of Texas at Dallas
P.O. Box 830688
MS EC - 32
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

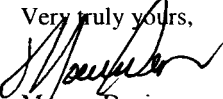
Dear Jim:

After careful review of E-Plan with my staff, I believe that E-Plan will be of great value to Arkansas and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality in responding to hazardous materials incidents. We especially appreciate the way E-Plan incorporates critical information about hazardous chemicals and presents it to the first responder in seconds. It is important to note that E-Plan uses existing data sources and contains no additional paperwork burden for industry or government.

Clearly, E-Plan is a simple but powerful new tool for all first responders in Arkansas - ADEQ personnel, firefighters, law enforcement officers, industrial fire brigades and local emergency planning committees.

We endorse E-Plan and will support all your efforts to implement E-Plan statewide. If we can be of any assistance in these efforts, please call on me.

Very truly yours,



Marcus Devine
Director

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

NEW MEXICO STATE POLICE

Bill Richardson
Governor

John Denko Jr.
Cabinet Secretary



Carlos R. Maldonado
Chief / Deputy Secretary—Operations

BGen Annette L. Sobel
Deputy Secretary—Emergency Service

Roxanna M. Knight
Deputy Secretary—Administration

November 5, 2004

University of Texas at Dallas
James C. Staves, II
P.O. Box 830688, EC 32
Richardson, TX 75083-0688

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me on October 19, 2004 to discuss E-Plan. After careful review, I believe E-Plan will be of great value to First Responders in New Mexico. It is my understanding that E-Plan is supported by EPA, and is therefore available to New Mexico at no cost. I understand that access to our data will only be provided to emergency response personnel with a "need to know", or others, at our discretion, and that the University of Texas at Dallas will forward any request for access to our data to us for concurrence. In New Mexico, we utilize the EPA Tier II submit software, and require electronic reporting by our regulated facilities. I propose that the most convenient method for providing that data to you would be on compact disk, in CAMEO / Tier II Submit format, on an annual basis. In the future, we may wish to explore options for utilizing E-Plan's on-line Tier II submit filing functions to facilitate Tier II form submission to our agency and Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), which could eliminate the need for providing data CDs.

I will serve as your principal point of contact for matters pertaining to data exchange and to training of system user's, I will also provide you with lists of personnel that should be provided user IDs and passwords for system access.

Having been a first responder for many years, I appreciate the value of the information being offered through this system. I look forward to working with you to bring this powerful tool to our first responders.

Sincerely,

Don Shainin
Hazardous Materials Coordinator

Cc: Timothy Manning, Director
Office of Emergency Management

DS/ec

Office of the Secretary 827-3370	Office of the Chief New Mexico State Police 827-9002	Office of Emergency Management 476-9600	Technical and Emergency Support 827-9133
Special Investigations 841-8053	Training and Recruiting 827-9251	Information Technology 827-9115	Motor Transportation 827-0321
			Support Services 827-9016

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