

**DESERT MANAGERS GROUP HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
WORKING GROUP - Meeting Minutes
February 13 & 15 , 2001 - Riverside, California
August 30, 2000**

Two meetings were held - the first on February 13, 2001 and the second on February 15, 2001. Both meetings were called to order by Co-Chair John Key at 10:00 AM at the California Desert District Office in Riverside, California. After introductions, Co-Chair John Key welcomed all those attending.

It should be noted that inclement weather that restrict traffic flow on Interstate Highway 15, and closed State Highway 138 and State Highway 62 prevented many members from attending the meeting on February 13, 2001 - several participants had to drive long distances to attend the meeting. In attendance on February 13, 2001 were:

John Key, Haz Mat Program Coordinator, BLM-California Desert District, Riverside, CA (Co-Chair)
Steve Moise, Environmental Health Specialist, Riverside County Health Local Enforcement Agency/Solid Waste Management Agency, Riverside, CA
Armand Silva, Maintenance Superintendent, CALTRANS-Region 8, Barstow, CA
Joe Voss, Environmental Health Specialist, Los Angeles County Health LEA, Los Angeles, CA
Pete Odu, Supervisory Environmental Health Specialist, Los Angeles County LEA, Los Angeles, CA
Alan Stein, Assistant District Manager - Lands, Minerals, and Renewable Resources, BLM-California Desert District, Riverside, CA
William T. Wiley, Environmental Protection Specialist, BLM-Needles Field Office, Needles, CA
Clarence Everly, DOD Coordinator, Desert Managers Group-Mojave Data Group, Barstow, CA

In attendance on February 15, 2001 were:

John Key, Haz Mat Program Coordinator, BLM-California Desert District, Riverside, CA (Co-Chair)
James Fletcher, Environmental Scientist, Water Resources Division, US EPA-Border Office, San Diego, CA
George Baker, Emergency Response Coordinator, Cal EPA, DTSC, Cypress, CA
Charles Sullivan, Field Biologist, US FWS-Barstow Suboffice, Barstow, CA
Gil Stuart, Environmental Specialist, BIA-Riverside, CA
Don Knapp, Regional Environmental Scientist, BIA-Sacramento, CA

Co-Chair John Key handed out copies of previous meetings' minutes that was held in Barstow, California on November 14, 2000 - a copy of these minutes also had been sent out under separate cover in January.

Co-Chair John Key next reported on the status of the DMG Funding request - \$1.2 million was allocated in the FY 2001 for the DMG in the BLM budget - \$ 200,000 was identified for the illegal dumping initiative. On November 27, 2000, an ad hoc group met and reviewed the 2001 annual work plan and revised it to reflect the levels of funding received. On January 31, 2001, the ad hoc group met again to review and rank the cleanup projects submitted for cleanup under the illegal dumping initiative. The amount available for cleanup had been reduced to \$ 173,000 - \$ 27,000 had been allocated by BLM Headquarters to support the DOI Coordinator in Barstow. Fourteen projects had been submitted for consideration - sites were ranked by degree of hazard, timeliness, urgency, and public interest. Seven sites were recommended for funding using current funds [Nipton, Berdoo Canyon, Route 66 Dumps (Amboy, Chambless, and Essex), Yucca Mesa, Adobe/Baseline Road, and Kelso Dunes] .

John Key gave a power-point presentation on Unexploded Ordnance (UXO): Current and Formerly Used Defense Sites in the California Desert; this presentation was the same as the one that he had given to the national BLM UXO Workshop in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 8, 2001.

Committee Reports:

Illegal Dumping Initiative: Russell Scofield was not in attendance due to inclement weather - therefore we were unable to receive current status of the illegal dump database and inventory.

Wire Burning Initiative: John Key handed out a copies of an action plan for the wire burning initiative. He also reported that he was continuing his efforts to get regulatory and enforcement agencies to recognize that wire burning is an environmental problem. This includes follow-up with Kit Davis and Roger Vintze from Cal EPA-DTSC, and Larry Caffey from the BLM-El Centro Field Office. John also reported the proposed poster presentation had been accepted for the 2001 DOI Conference on the Environment in March.

Abandoned Mine Lands Initiative: Andy Leszykowski did not attended the meeting so there was nothing new to report.

Roadside Litter: On the Tuesday meeting - CALTRANS Maintenance Superintendent Armand Silva discussed what CALTRANS was doing and where there priorities were for litter control - near the population centers. He also said that litter control work had to compete with road repair/resurfacing projects which were usually higher priority. The previous meetings decision to combine this issue into the illegal dumping initiative was also discussed.

Illegal Dumping Workshop: The California Integrated Waste Management Board sponsored a series of workshops on Illegal Dumping - three representatives from this working group participated in the workshop in San Diego on January 25, 2001(Jeff Ohlfs, Russell Scofield and John Key) - the different cleanup programs/options that CIWMB had available were discussed.

2001 DOI Conference on the Environment: This conference is coming up in March 13-15, 2001 in Albuquerque, New Mexico - the DMG-HMWG members submitted 5 abstracts for consideration - 2 for formal presentations and 3 for poster sessions. At the conclusion of the BLM National UXO Workshop, John Key's presentation on Unexploded Ordnance: Current and Formerly Used Defense Sites in the California Desert was selected for the one day UXO Forum at the DOI Conference. Formal presentations of the Illegal Dumping Program (our DMG Illegal Dumping initiative) and Hazardous Materials Response using the Incident Command System were accepted for presentation. The wire burning poster was also accepted for the poster session (another DMG initiative).

Training: John Key reported on the following: (1)Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Workshop in Las Vegas on February 6-8, 2001 - 110 personnel attended mostly from BLM - John Key participated on a panel discussion on non-standard explosive and presented a power point presentation on UXO: current and FUDS in the California Desert. (2) John Key handed out the latest training schedule/calender for California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) and reported that CSTI would be offering several Clandestine Drug Lab classes (Waste Operations, Chemical Identification, and Meth Specialist) this Spring and would again be offering their Hazardous Materials Investigations training course in late September 2001 .

New Business: None proposed

Roundtable Discussion:

John Key reported that he and Dave Anderson and Russell Scofield are continuing develop a dialog with

representatives from the California Integrated Waste Management Board on illegal dumping issues. Dave and Russell would be leading a tour of several sites in late February for the Coordinator for the Farm and Ranch Program and that Paul Ruesch, the U.S. EPA National Illegal Dumping Coordinator has indicated that he would like to visit with us and look at some of our projects during the same time-frame.

On Thursday, George Baker, Don Knapp, and Gil Stuart discussed problems in Indian Country concerning responding to hazardous materials incidents located on tribal trust lands, especially for clandestine drug labs. James Fletcher was going to check with his office to see if they could resolve this issue by providing funding for response efforts on tribal trust lands and see if EPA could assist with clarifying the current legal issue of the lack of state authority on tribal trust lands - he indicated that his office might be able to resolve this issue by discussion among the attorneys. BIA reported that they also had a tire shredder that could be used to process waste tire dumps. Training needs for annual HAZWOPER refresher training and Environmental Site Assessment training were also discussed.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2001 at 10:00 AM at the Blackrock Ranger Station, Joshua Tree National Park, near Yucca Valley, California.