



Greater Houston LEPC
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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

William Peterson
Fire Chief



Fire Administration
1901 Avenue K

Fire Station 1
1901 Avenue K

Fire Station 2
2630 West 15th 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

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

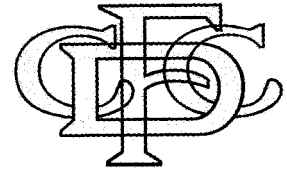


City of
Corpus
Christi

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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*Seeking
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August 16, 2005

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

james.staves@utdallas.edu

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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

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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.

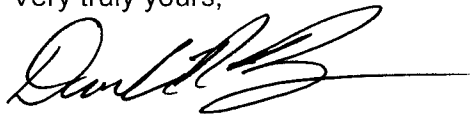
With this almost instant information, we have the information we need to protect our First Responders, the people involved in the emergency and the surrounding community.

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
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Richardson, TX 75083-0688

james.staves@utdallas.edu

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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.

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

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.

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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
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Very truly yours,

Keith Summerlin

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