

Columbia County LEPC Minutes – April 14th, 2026

Hybrid Meeting – Zoom & In Person at Columbia Roads Department Office

Attendees:

Natasha Parvey Community Coordinator, NXT Clean Fuels
Mike Russell, Columbia County Public Works
Kristi Ward, Georgia Pacific
Greg Hinkelman, City of Clatskanie, Administrator
Fran Erickson, CRN (Columbia River Nitrogen)
Kim Karber, Columbia City, Administrator
Margaret Magruder, Columbia County Commissioner
Chief Joe Kaczinski, Mist/Birkenfeld Fire Dept.
Sarah Burch, Environmental Coordinator, CRN

Guest(s):

Don Petiet – DEQ Emergency Response Program, Volunteer Participant
Rosemary Clement – Volunteer Participant

Call Meeting to Order at 1:10PM

Public Comment:

None

Meeting Minutes

Motion approve January 2026 meeting minutes by Greg Hinkelman seconded by Kim Karver.
Motion passed.

Membership: 47 members, no new members in 2026.- no change.

Chair Report Q1:

- Mike Russell reported not a lot of exercise. Only 1 storm incident with a mild winter for Columbia County. There was some localized flooding in Clatskanie at RV Park. Evacuations but no hazardous waste with any other incident related to the storm.
- EHS Facility Emergency Response Plans
 - The main agenda item focused on reviewing Extremely Hazardous Substance (EHS) Facility Emergency Response Plans, though Mike had not yet reached out to facilities as intended due to time constraints. The meeting provided an

opportunity for EHS facilities to share updates about their emergency response plans, though no specific updates were provided during this discussion.

- He plans to reach out to the 14 facilities in Columbia County and invite them to a LEPC meeting and get updated EHS plans.
- Plans to update or exercise
 - Fran – Columbia River Nitrogen, change in IPC Plan. Name change only, same plan as when it was Dyno Nobel.
 - Fran mentioned these were submitted to LEPC. Mike confirmed he received these plans.

Roundtable: (Information Share/Upcoming Exercises)

Mike Russell shared: State Fire Marshall- Rail Exercises Trainings coming up, Emergency Response Related. Corey- Waiting on exercise plans for the year. Next meeting in July.

Don Pettit – Announcement of a High Hazard Rail exercise last week in Klamath

Chief Joe Kaczinski – He provided an update on Northwest Natural's gas field workovers, explaining that 8 wells will be worked over this spring, involving killing the wells and potential hazards, which requires his inspection at each site

Fran Erickson- Fran shared updates about Columbia River Nitrogen's upcoming large outage in June, with contractors expected mid-May to end of May, and mentioned plans to declare an episodic hazardous waste event with DEQ. The meeting also included information about the NW Area Committee's revamping of emergency response plans, which will be shared at OERS Council in late Spring 2026, and updates about State Fire Marshal Darren Whitmer's visits to ensure correct reporting of SARA 311-312 Tier 2 reports.

Sarah Burch explained about struggles with new reporting regulations. The system deleted the data. needed to re-enter to report.

Greg Hinkelman- 77 days until his last meeting. He announced he is retiring.

Meeting Adjourned 1:27 PM

Submitted by Natasha Parvey, LEPC Information Officer 2026