

The United States Electrical Grid- “A Nation unprepared-Surviving the Aftermath”

Donald Dixon

March 14, 2016

To: Sparks City Council

Mayor and Manager

From: Donald E. Dixon

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Subject: The United States Electrical Grid- "A Nation Unprepared-Surviving the Aftermath"

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you. I must admit this opportunity brings back "mixed memories" for as I was Personal Administrator "(Human Resources Director) for Washoe County in the 1970's for nearly five years. In many respects it was like a post graduate class in civics for I learned how relentlessly difficult and complex local government can be. I applaud your effort. That said, I must also say I see no chance of your job being less difficult- As the man said quote "You aint seen anything yet". I also need say, that if you are already aware of the information that I am presenting in this short presentation, please consider it as additional emphasis from a concerned citizen.

With specific reference to my presentation subject, I believe that those who have been warning us that the Electrical Grid is at risk of partial or complete failure with the potential failure (possibly for weeks or longer) the result of one or more of a number of exposures are right. The potential for catastrophic consequences exist. I have come to this conclusion after much research and reflection and believe that such could happen at any given time (this week-10 years?) And that ultimately it is the Responsibility State and Local Government, and community leadership to provide a vital role in managing the risk.

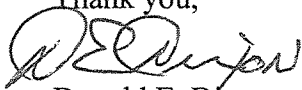
In support of that assertion I wish to present to you a copy of Ted Koppel's recently published book "Lights Out" A Cyber-Attack, A Nation under attack, Surviving the Aftermath (2015). In addition, I recommend the City attend a White House sponsored conference on "Space Weather Action Plan Impact on Disaster Planning". This conference is on April 27, 2016 in Bloomfield, Colorado.

The organizers of the conference have provided us a conference "Focus" as follows:

"The program will focus on a panel round table discussion of the updates of the "National Space Weather strategy" and action plan that will be presented by Bill Murtagh of the White House OSTP. Mr. Murtagh will update us on the most recent action plan tasks and sub-tasks now being assigned various Federal Agencies. Goal two of the National Space Weather Strategy asks the - "Whole-of-community to begin planning implications and exercises for long-term regional and National blackouts. This has profound continuity and disaster planning. Successful mitigation will require a higher level of local community sustainability in life line infrastructures that include; power, communication, water and sewer, healthcare, emergency and law enforcement. High impact events will make it unlikely for outside help to arrive within (4) days but, instead might take more like 40 or 400 days----." (Space Weather Action Plan Impact on Disaster Planning.,2016)

If there is a plan in place that meets anything near the 400 hundred day stipulation, I would so appreciate by being advised. I would also appreciate the opportunity to meet with you once again soon after April 27, 2016. I am presenting you copies of this presentation.

Thank you,



Donald E. Dixon

References

Koppel,T.,(2015) Lights Out (A Cyber Attack, A Nation Unprepared, Surviving the Aftermath)

InfraGard National EMP.(2016),Space Weather Action Plan Impact on Disaster Planning:

Journal of The National Space Weather Strategy, (1-4).



\$11.54

WED, APR 27 AT 1:00 PM, BROOMFIELD, CO

Space Weather Action Plan Impact on Disaster Planning

By: InfraGard National's EMP SIG

\$11.54

UPDATED Time Slots and Bonus Program Element on Power Grid Impacts:

InfraGard National EMP SIG at the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Workshop

Impact of the National Space Weather Action Plan on Disaster Planning: Presentation by Mr. Bill Murtagh of the White House OSTP and Roundtable Response by Government and Private Sector Leaders on April 27, 2016

Omni Interlocken Hotel, 500 Interlocken Boulevard, Broomfield, Colorado 80021

Cost: In person: \$10. Registrants* will receive a free copy of the EMP SIG's that retails on Amazon.com for \$19.95 and light refreshments.

(* This is the only registration needed for the EMP SIG meeting conducted at the NOAA Space Weather Workshop but does not include access to the Space Weather Workshop except for the Wednesday "End User Impact - Electric Power Grid" session held from 130-310. Registrants are encouraged to also register for the Space Weather Conference at:

It is possible to register for just one day of the NOAA conference. Tuesday's sessions will be especially relevant.)

Seats are limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis. A waiting list will be provided for those who attempt to register beyond the initial set of available tickets. There will be no refunds once a ticket is issued.

Webcast: The event will be webcast through the HSIN network. This is a public event where no FOUO or classified information will be presented. There will be no cost for the webcast. See this site for updated details.

Sponsors: Sponsors include: InfraGard National EMP SIG and DomPrep Journal. Other sponsors may also participate and will be named prior to the event. The InfraGard National EMP SIG wishes to thank the US Department of Homeland Security for its provision of the HSIN network and the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center for its generous support as host for this third meeting with them.

Event organizers: Mr. Charles Manto and Dr. James Terbush with support from the NOAA Space Weather Workshop team led by LCDR Paul Hemmick (Chair)

Additional program details:

Note the following time adjustment starting at 130 PM and running until 530 PM: The registrants for the EMP SIG meeting will be allowed to walk directly into the "End User Impact - Electric Power Grid" session without having to pay for the day's conference fee. If one wishes to attend the entire day, the full day registration is required. This program change will allow EMP SIG meeting attendees to attend the "Electric Power Grid" presentations on the way to the EMP SIG meeting immediately following. Attending the 130-330 PM session is not required for the EMP SIG meeting from 315-530 PM: it is just an added benefit we can provide by shifting our meeting time to the 310-530 PM slot which is this year's slot for poster sessions on Wednesday.

01:30 - 03:10 End User Impact - Electric Power Grid *NOTE: EMP SIG registrants can walk directly to that session on the way to the EMP SIG meeting and attend this session of the Space Weather Workshop at no extra charge.*

03:15 Beverage service, introductions and EMP SIG updates

03:30 Mr. Bill Murtagh presents updates from the new Space Weather Action Plan that will place requirements on various federal agencies to coordinate planning and response to severe space weather. This will include time for audience comments and questions.

04:30 Round Table Response: Leaders from government and industry will respond to Mr. Murtagh's updates with response from a representative on NOAA. There may be time for additional audience comments or questions.

05:20 Closing Remarks and Next Steps

05:30 Adjournment and Very Brief Networking

0330 Adjournment and very brief networking

FOCUS: The program will focus on a panel round table discussion of the updates of the National Space Weather Strategy and Action Plan that will be presented by Bill Murtagh of the White House OSTP. Mr. Murtagh will update us on the most recent action plan tasks and sub tasks now being assigned various federal agencies. Goal 2 of the National Space Weather Strategy asks the "whole-of-community" to begin planning and exercises for long-term regional and nationwide blackouts. This has profound implications for business continuity and disaster planning. Successful mitigation will require a higher level of local community sustainability especially in lifeline infrastructures that include power, communications, water and sewer, health care, emergency management and law enforcement. High-impact events may make it unlikely for outside help to arrive within four days but instead might take more like 40 or 400 days. Round table respondents will discuss those impacts on their organizations and their perspectives regarding business continuity and disaster planning.

Preparation: Attendees are strongly encouraged to read the <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/10/28/enhancing-national-preparedness-space-weather-events> that can be found on the White House website: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/10/28/enhancing-national-preparedness-space-weather-events> will also provide background and can be found by searching on the terms, "high impact threats" on the Amazon.com search box.

Website links: For more information, see details that will be published on the public facing website, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/10/28/enhancing-national-preparedness-space-weather-events>. For those with InfraGard membership privileges, see the EMP SIG website on the InfraGard secure portal. To join InfraGard and its EMP SIG at no cost, see: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/10/28/enhancing-national-preparedness-space-weather-events>

Media Coverage: In addition to webcast support from the US Department of Homeland Security, this program will be highlighted in a subsequent full issue publication of DomPrep Journal devoted to Space Weather with roundtable discussions disseminated to their emergency management community nationwide. The InfraGard magazine will also provide post meeting coverage.

Roundtable Participants: Mr. Chuck Manto, EMP SIG Chair, will moderate the round table participants that may include representatives from the emergency management community including medical response, NACO, NGA, Northern Command, National Guard, State of CO, VOAD, the energy and EMP/GMD protection industries. Refer back to this website for an updated list of round table participants that will include Dr. James Terbush.

Advance copies of the <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/10/28/enhancing-national-preparedness-space-weather-events> book can be reviewed and purchased at the following Amazon website in both print and Kindle versions.

Related Meetings: See this site for updated information about an EMP SIG planning meeting for the emerging Western Regional EMP SIG earlier that week and coverage of