# REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 10/NORTHWEST AREA COMMITTEE (RRT/NWAC)

# PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

**0800 – 1630 Wednesday 24 June, 2015**

**Silver Mountain Resort**

**610 Bunker Avenue**

**Kellogg, Idaho 83837**

**Sign-in sheets can be viewed** [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/6-24-2015%20Public%20Meeting%20Sign%20In.pdf)**.**

## Safety Briefing, Introductions, Opening Remarks

Ms. Heather Parker, US Coast Guard (USCG) District 13 (D13), gave a safety briefing and conducted introductions.

Calvin Terada US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomed the group and discussed a previous Conoco Phillips drill that took place at the same great venue.

CAPT Travers USCG Sector Columbia River (SCR) welcomed the group to the meeting and mentioned that things in his sector have been relatively quiet. He informed the group that there is a new Marine Safety Specialist Response (MSSR) position at the sector. The new individual will regularly attend the area committee meetings.

Jeff Rylee Idaho (ID) Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) welcomed the group and stated that ID incidents are way down. He surmised that grant money for training/equipment that have been issued in recent years have been working as intended (better preparing local agencies).

Caj Matheson, Coeur D’Alene (CDA) Tribe welcomed the group with a tribal prayer. He described the tribal history in the CDA valley and traditional land uses of his tribe in addition to thanking the group for their contributions towards keeping the environment clean.

Earl Liverman (EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) welcomed the group and discussed previous cleanups in the CDA watershed. He mentioned the development of an exercise/drill with Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) and local/state/federal partners. The exercise will be comprised of two sessions. The first is a sit down discussion with response organizations to begin discussing response approaches to a derailment scenario. Several weeks later, there a will be a drill/tabletop (in Sand Point, ID) to exercise assets and test Geographic Response Plans (GRPs). The tabletop will be held to apply what was learned during previously held meetings/trainings/drills. The scenario will be a derailment with a small fire and several rail cars. Mr. Liverman also distinguished differences between the ID Regional Response Teams (ID RRTs) versus the federal RRTs

### A Local Perspective

Mr. Bob Howard, Bonner County Emergency Management Director, provided a welcome to the meeting and to Bonner County. He discussed Bakken oil transport through the region, response assets, and partnerships with organizations to respond to incidents. He mentioned a project with BNSF and EPA and also discussed staffing limitations.

Mr. Cory Foster, Shoshone County Emergency Services Director, welcomed the group and discussed partnerships with industry and provided an overview of response assets. He indicated that first responder resources/capabilities are limited in his county. Ongoing efforts for contingency plans are in the works with mining industry for tailing ponds.

## NW Area Committee and NW Area Contingency Plan Overview

Ms. Josie Clark, US EPA, gave a presentation on the Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP), the federal RRT, and GRPs. She also discussed the ID Yellow Book, which is the ID state contingency plan which is in effect in ID until a federal plan is implemented. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/01_Kellogg%20RRT_NWAC%20Basics.pptx). More info on the NWAC/RRT can be found [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/Default.aspx).

## Bridger Pipeline Release

Mr. Paul Peronard, US EPA Region 8 On-Scene Coordinator gave a presentation on the Bridger Pipeline Bakken release in Montana in JAN 2015 that impacted the Yellowstone River. He discussed the following topics in varying levels of detail:

* Site conditions,
* Initial response actions by Bridger Pipeline,
* Drinking water systems impacts and response actions,
* Pipeline oil recovery actions,
* River oil recovery actions, and
* Environmental impacts.

The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/02_Bridger%20Pipeline%20Yellowstone%20River%20Response.pptx).

## Task Force Process and 2015 Task Force (TF) Progress

Ms. Heather Parker, USCG D13, Ms. Linda Pilkey-Jarvis, Ecology, and Ms. Clark, US EPA, presented on 2105 efforts among the various task forces. The presenters discussed how the Task Forces are formed, the AUG 2015 deadline for products, and then briefly touched on the current status of the following Task Forces:

* **Operation Structure** - Developing division boundary guidance based on spill sizes and areas;
* **Plan Accessibility** - Creating standardized style and terminology, reducing redundancies, and exploring options for electronic format for area plan (likely to occur in 2016);
* **Liaison Manual Updates**- not an official NWAC task force, but is a joint effort between Ecology and US Navy, products will include tools for Liaison representatives;
* **Public Affairs** - Objectives are to update Joint Information Center (JIC) tools with new templates, social media guidance, and to examine related community/liaison tools.
* **Quick Reference Guide for external officials** - The Task Force objective is to develop outreach material for local/tribal officials and for those in Local On-Scene Coordinator (LOSC)/ Tribal On-Scene Coordinator (TOSC) roles.
* **Standardizing Data Elements** – The Task Force objectives are to develop standardized data elements for integrated common operating pictures (COPs) used by various response parties and determine what elements are to be included.
* **Wildlife –** The Task Force objectives are to make recommendations for equipment, infrastructure, training for wildlife plan; integrate National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) marine mammal guidance. A gap analysis is underway as a work product.

The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/03_TF%20updates_JUN%202015_hap_v2.pptx).

## Ecology Geographic Response Plan System

Ms. Linda Pilkey-Jarvis (Ecology) presented on GRP development over the last two years. She discussed previous analysis of GRP locations using geospatial tools to determine where GRPs are outdated or not published or published in an older static format. During the past two years nine GRPs were updated (primarily in the inland zone). Also discussed was a modified GRP development process (less trustee interface, public meetings, and better technology). GRP development lessons learned from the previous two years were also discussed. Ms. Pilkey Jarvis also introduced the <http://www.oilspills101.wa.gov/go/doc/5779/1792915/> web platform. Future GRP development plans were also presented. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/04_Ecology%20GRP%20NWACJuneIdahoMtg.pptx).

## Rail and Highway Hazardous Materials Response Plans

Ms. Nancy Mabile, The Mabile Group, presented on grant-funded work on rail and highway hazardous materials response plans for Bonner, Boundary, and Kootenai Counties. Local GRPs for the Pend Oreille River, the Spokane River, and along BNSF routes were discussed. The goal of the grant is to develop plans that account for all hazardous materials, not just oil. Work conducted in these efforts included research; surveys; gap analyses; and identification of potential booming locations, vulnerable surface water systems near transport corridors, access locations for equipment, current response resources, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), seasonal conditions, and training needs. Bonner County Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist Daniel Webb presented on the county’s web-based mapping tool (<http://maps.bonnercounty.us/apps/grp/>). Mr. Bob Howard, Bonner County Emergency Management Director, also discussed seasonal challenges in hazardous materials responses and future coordination with response partners.

The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/05_Mabile_NWAC%20Presentation.pptx).

## Coeur D’Alene Tribal Update

Ms. Rebecca Stevens, CDA Tribe, spoke about CDA tribal involvement in environmental restoration and damage claims for historical mine contamination. She informed the group that the CDA Tribe does not have a spill response plan, though some staff are 40-hr trained and the tribe owns some boom. The tribe relies on state and federal support during most incidents. The tribe is looking for support in developing a spill response plan. Ms. Stevens discussed the important role of the tribal cultural/historical inputs to spill response. Also highlighted was the rail to trail corridor and the relationship with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) to maintain it and prevent contamination migration. No presentation was given during this session.

Ms. Sandra Raskell, CDA Tribe, also discussed a recent creosote project site near St. Maries, ID. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/St%20Maries%20Creosote%20Cleanup.pptx).

## Life in the Coeur D’Alene Basin and responding to spills in a Superfund Site

Mr. Bruce Schuld, ID Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), presented on the current status of Bunker Hill Superfund site in the CDA valley. Mr. Schuld reported that spills (particularly from highway traffic) are very common in the CDA basin and that spill response support (equipment/staging/waste management) may be obtained through IDEQ. IDEQ will not bear the cost of spill disposal not directly related to the Bunker Hill Superfund Site and utilizing IDEQ resources requires that Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) engage in a Voluntary Consent Order with IDEQ. Mr. Mark Dietrich (IDEQ) mentioned that–though contamination has been addressed in upland areas – there is still extensive contamination in the river drainage sediments and shores and should be considered when removal actions are being considered. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/06_DEQ%20Emergency%20Waste%20Management%20in%20the%20Bunker%20Hill%20Superfund%20Site%2006-24-2015.pptx).

## On-Scene Coordinator Reports

### US Coast Guard Sector Columbia River

LCDR John Titchen, USCG SCR, gave a presentation on the spill cases that have been responded in the SCR Area of Responsibility (AOR) since the last NWAC meeting. Also discussed were recent derelict vessel work and the Grays Harbor Paper Mill Site. LCDR Titchen also announced that SCR will be staffing a new position MSSR position to be a four year billeted oil spill expert at SCR. The MSSRs will be part of the area committee. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/07_Sector%20Columbia%20River%20NWAC-RRT%20OSC%20Report%20June%202015.ppt).

### US Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound

CDR Brian Meier, LT Rebecca Brooks, USCG Sector Puget Sound (SPS), gave a presentation on spills in the SPS AOR since the last NWAC meeting. CMDR. Meier stated LTGJ Brooks will be leaving the sector for Washington DC in the coming days and that LT Jason Hagen will be joining SPS as replacement. He also noted that SPS will also have an MSSR in the Sector, but only for three years and that prevention efforts have been a large focus in recent months (particularly for recreational vessels). He also reported on a recent drill that tested the NWAC dispersant package development process.

CMDR Meier stated that the High-Volume Port Line is moving west (to Neah Bay). A final regulation will take effect in OCT 2015 that will place additional requirements on oil spill response organizations (OSROs). OSROs will be impacted with respect to storage capacity and making storage capacity available to their clients 50 Nautical Miles out west of Neah Bay. The OSROs have been notified of the changes in requirements. USCG SPS has been coordinating with D13, the National Strike Force Coordination Center, USCG Office of Incident Management and Preparedness at headquarters to ensure that OSROS are aware of and meet responsibilities. Mr. Bob McFarland (USCG D13) also announced that the notice of proposed rule-making is out and comments are being sought.

The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/08_CG%20SPS%20FOSC%20Report_JUN2015_NWAC_mtg.ppt).

### United States Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Earl Liverman, US EPA OSC, gave a presentation on spills in the EPA AOR and significant cases since the last NWAC meeting. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/09_EPA%20OSC%20Kellogg.0624.ppt).

### Washington State Department of Ecology

Mr. Dave Byers, Ecology, gave a presentation on recent responses, drills, derelict vessels, and the Washington State budget status. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/10_Ecology%20RRT%20OSC%20June%202015.pptx).

### Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. Mike Zollitsch and Mr. Bruce Gilles, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), gave a presentation on response planning and responses conducted in Oregon since the last NWAC meeting. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/11_NWAC_Oregon_OSC_June_2015.pptx).

## Yellowstone Pipeline Infrastructure Improvements

Mr. Mike Miller, Phillips 66, gave a presentation on the recent prevention efforts that have been put in place on the Yellowstone pipeline. Mr. Miller discussed the pipeline integrity program, which involves risk reduction/evaluation, corrosion analysis, leak detection, land movement mitigation, pipe coatings/repairs. Also discussed was pipeline control center capabilities, response teams, contingency plans, 2011 Kingston pressure loss incident, river crossings reductions, and challenges encountered in reducing risks. This presentation was not made available for posting due to business confidentiality concerns.

## Chemical Safety Executive Order Update

Mr. Chris Fields, US EPA, gave a presentation on the chemical safety and Executive Order 13650. Mr. Fields is the primary contact for this order, which identifies focus areas for improving chemical safety via coordination, information sharing, modernizing regulations/policy/practices, and training for responders. The efforts are being led in Region 10 by US EPA, OSHA, and Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Activities to date include the development of maps, technical resources/references, targeted training, and SOPs. An audience member asked about guidance for zoning/planning to avoid building in potentially dangerous areas. Mr. Fields responded that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is beginning that process. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/12_EO%2013650%20Chem%20Safety%20briefing_ARRT.pptx).

## Closing Comments

Mr. Terada (US EPA) thanked everyone for attending and acknowledged the risk management work being conducted by industry does not often get the recognition it deserves for helping prevent spills and discharges.

CAPT. Dan Travers (USCG SCR) also thanked attendees and praised the work of NWAC/RRT members and contributors and the “lean forward” perspective that the group as a whole provides to the northwest.

The meeting was then adjourned.