

**REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 10 / NORTHWEST AREA COMMITTEE (RRT/NWAC)  
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2006**

**LOCATION:** Governor Hotel, Portland, Oregon

**PARTICIPANTS:** [9.21.06 attendance list.](#)

**PUBLIC SESSION AGENDA:**

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2006**

- 8:00 – 8:15     **WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS**  
(Captain Pat Gerrity, USCG Sector Portland and Jack Wylie, ODEQ)
- 8:15 – 8:40     RRT/NWAC Overview. (Beth Sheldrake, EPA)
- 8:40 – 9:15     Workgroup Updates
- Steering Committee
  - GRP
  - Communications and Public Outreach
  - Response Technologies
  - Logistics
  - Hazardous Substances
  - Wildlife
- 9:00 – 10:00    Review of Deep Draft Vessel Casualties and Prevention Recommendations for OR & WA Outer Coast (Captain Gerrity and LCDR Sean Schenk, Sector Portland)
- 10:00 – 10:10    **[BREAK]**
- 10:10 – 10:45    Portland Office of Emergency Management (Patty Rueter, Planning & Mitigation Manager)
- 10:45 – 11:10    Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Planning (LT Shad Scheirman, Sector Portland)
- 11:10 – 11:45    RRT/NWAC Agency Updates
- 11:45 – 1:00     **[NO HOST LUNCH]**
- 1:00 – 1:15     M/V Solar One Spill in the Central Philippines (Ruth Yender, NOAA)
- 1:15 – 2:00     RRT/NWAC Agency Updates, continued.
- 2:00             Set Meeting Dates for 2007 and Adjourn.

**MINUTES:**

**WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS**

Captain Pat Gerrity (Sector Portland), Chris Field (EPA) and Matt Bernard (USCG D13) called the meeting to order at 0800. They welcomed everyone to Portland and led introductions around the room.

**OVERVIEW OF THE RRT / NWAC AND THE NW AREA CONTINGENCY PLAN**

Beth Sheldrake (USEPA) provided a [presentation](#) that detailed how the RRT / NWAC gains authority to respond to Hazardous Substances, Pollutants and Contaminants. She explained the creation of the National Response Plan (NRP) and how it implements the response authorities. Ms. Sheldrake outlined the role of the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOOSC) and the authority they possess in the setting of emergency response. She explained that the National Contingency Plan (NCP) mandates that each region create an Area Contingency Plan. Additionally she described how the NWAC was significantly upgraded after the Exxon Valdez tragedy.

Ms. Sheldrake went on to further explain the elements of the spill contingency planning and response from the local to federal level, outlining how the system is activated from the local level to the national level. She then described how the individual Workgroups function and how the Steering Committee directs specific Workgroups to work on certain issues. She focused on three new Workgroups: Logistics, Communications and Public Outreach, and Wildlife.

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It is expected that RRT members will participate in the three meetings per year, be familiar both with the services offered by their organization and the Contingency Plan, and will keep contact information current so that they may be activated during a response. Some recent activations include the Bellingham Pipeline Explosion, New Carissa grounding, Thermo Fluids fire, and the Dalco Passage Oil Spill. Ms. Sheldrake also discussed the use of the RRT / NWAC website ([www.rrt10nwac.com](http://www.rrt10nwac.com)) to manage information including the GRPs and the Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP), and to facilitate comments from the response community and the public.

**WORKGROUP UPDATES**

- **Steering Committee:** Beth Sheldrake (EPA) [presented](#) things the Steering Committee has been working on including:
  - Publishing the 2006 NWACP (July 2006)
  - Policies for Multi Incident Responses.
  - Upcoming RRT/NWAC meeting dates
    - April 4/5 – Inland Area (Richland)
    - Sept 11/12 – Coastal Area (Seattle – in conjunction with the Clean Pacific Conference)
- **Geographic Response Plan (GRP):** Jack Wylie (ODEQ) gave an [update](#) on GRP workgroup happenings. He also noted that WA Department of Ecology's goal is to develop a GRP for Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA). In addition it is ODEQ's plan to update one GRP per year. He also recognized Dr. Dick Logan's (WA Ecology) retirement. Mr. Wylie proclaimed Dr. Logan the "Godfather of GRPs" for his vision and work in the early years of development of the GRPs.
- **Communication and Public Outreach:** Matt Bernard (USCG) stated that Randy Clark (USCG) was retiring and acknowledged him for all of his help in heading this workgroup. The group is also soliciting community feedback by offering a survey to help with public relations. Mr. Bernard also noted that WA Ecology will provide a new chair for this committee.
- **Response Technologies:** Ruth Yender (NOAA) noted the release of the new Dispersant Use Policy. The group will be looking into more remote sensing technologies.
- **Logistics:** Matt Bernard (USCG) announced that Scott Knudson has developed a charter and will be presenting it as well as soliciting membership for the committee.
- **Hazardous Substances:** Matt Bernard (USCG) explained that this workgroups only task is to update chapter 7000 in the NWACP.
- **Wildlife:** Charlie Hebert (USFWS) [presented](#) progress made in the Wildlife workgroup. The draft Wildlife Response Plan has gone through initial comment periods and continues to go through the implementation process. Mr. Hebert hopes to have the plan to the committee by March 2007 for inclusion in the 2007 NWACP.

**REVIEW OF DEEP DRAFT VESSEL CASUALTIES AND PREVENTION**

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE OREGON AND WASHINGTON OUTER COAST.**

Captain Pat Gerrity (Sector Portland) introduced LCDR Sean Schenk (Sector Portland) who [presented](#) on some of the significant historical events highlighting some history of events and near misses over the years. He also provided areas of vulnerability and statistics on vessel traffic. Recommendations from four primary post-New Carissa reports will be examined in more detail and recommendations on next steps presented to the NWAC, among others. A reviewable draft is expected in July 2007.

Captain Gerrity and Chris Field suggested creating a workgroup with stakeholders to address their concerns. Captain Metruck (Sector Seattle) mentions that the Coast Guard would be willing to work with vessels on the outer coast to address these recommendations and concerns.

**PORTLAND OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Jack Wylie (ODEQ) introduced Patty Rueter, Planning and Mitigation Manager (Portland OEM).

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Ms. Rueter provided a [presentation](#) on the city of Portland's emergency planning efforts. She focused on TOPOFF-4, a Top Officials exercise that will take place, in part, in Portland. The exercise is scheduled for October 2007 and will involve many operational periods and many agencies. She went on to explain why Portland was chosen and what benefits the city will gain from the experience.

In addition to TOPOFF-4 Ms. Rueter explained some of her office's priorities including catastrophic event planning and exercising. She focused on some of the inter-dependencies that exist and how the certain sectors affect others. Ms. Rueter also stressed the importance for Inter-Agency collaboration in planning and training for catastrophic events. She ended by providing some contact information and provided a website ([www.portlandonline.com/oem](http://www.portlandonline.com/oem)) for more information.

### **LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS PLANNING**

LT Shad Scheirman (Sector Portland) provided an [introduction](#) to planning efforts in Sector Portland in regards to LNG facilities. He started off by explaining what LNG is and what its hazards are. Statistics have shown that Natural Gas demand has steadily increased, thus creating an increase in facilities and the need to transport the product. LT Scheirman explained the varying jurisdictions involved in most facilities. He also explained the process the Applicant and the Captain of the Port goes through during the permitting process. Proceedings related to the transport of LNG can be found at [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nmc/pubs/proceed/newpromag\\_page2005/fall2005lng/1.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nmc/pubs/proceed/newpromag_page2005/fall2005lng/1.htm). After the presentation there was brief discussion on current applications pending in USCG Sector Portland.

### **M/V SOLAR ONE OIL SPILL IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Ruth Yender (NOAA) gave a brief on the M/V Solar One Oil Spill response. The spill consisted of 500,000 gallons of Intermediate Fuel Oil (IFO 215). She started by stating some of the security and logistical issues that slowed down the response. In addition to the slow response, the ship's captain was AWOL and other organizational issues caused problems. Environmental and health problems included the use of dispersants, beach clean up, utilizing proper PPE and improper disposal of waste product. Ms. Yender did note some successes including implementing a command structure, improving communications while they were there, as well as improvising and adapting to the supplies that were available. A slide show accompanied the brief.

### **AGENCY UPDATES**

- **WA Ecology:** Dale Jensen (WA Ecology) spoke about the spill response asset contract extension, which includes a tugboat for stranded vessel recovery. The new three rule processes will include new regulations for vessels, transports and distribution. The new rules are valid as of November 1, 2006. Regarding the equipment caches, they will be located near various ports and harbors to help oil spills in the Puget Sound region. Ecology will hold a press conference announcing that all caches will be ready by June 30, 2007.
- **USCG Sector Seattle:** Captain Steve Metruck (USCG) updated the group on the transfer season and some of the personnel changes in the Sector. Sector Seattle will be moving into their new building starting in October. The building is equipped with a state of the art command center that is networked with some remote sensing capabilities in the Puget Sound. The building is to be finished in June 2007. They are also developing safe refuge locations in the area that can provide protection to troubled vessels. In an effort to reduce impacts on waterways during a big spill the USCG is attempting to establish independent teams in ICS to re-route traffic around an incident. Capt. Metruck also spoke on the Derelict Vessel and Marine Security programs.
- **EPA:** Chris Field (EPA) reported that the EPA is reviewing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with the US Army Corps of Engineers for the BP Cherry Point facility. He also noted about spill activity in Oregon involving 2000-3000 gallons. Region 10's last Katrina rotation ended in July and the staff has returned to full capacity. Full planning efforts are underway for TOPOFF-4, and EPA plans on playing a major role in the exercise. Mr. Field also reported an incident in Eugene, OR involving drinking water

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contamination. He acknowledged Matt Carr as the team leader for oil spill response, planning and prevention.

- **USCG District 13:** Matt Bernard (USCG) stressed ICS training for the various agencies involved in the RRT/NWAC. He mentioned that there has been a consolidation of response groups at USCG HQ. The USCG has also placed an increase emphasis on planning and preparation for TOPOFF-4.
- **US Forest Service:** Matt Bernard (USCG) gave an update for David Summer (USFS). 82,000 fires were officially reported this year, over 9 million acres of forest were affected. More than 80 Type 1 teams were deployed in Oregon and Washington. In the two states 937,000 acres were affected and over 3,000 fires were reported.
- **USCG Sector Portland:** Captain Pat Gerrity (USCG) reported on the Cougar Ace Car Freighter incident. He also stated that they are working with the coastal station's response capabilities. He mentioned an open house in Astoria and a Coos Bay GRP Stakeholders meeting the first weekend in October.
- **ODEQ:** Jack Wylie (ODEQ) noted some personnel changes within ODEQ.
- **DOI:** Allison O'Brien (DOI) introduced herself by giving a brief description of her experience with emergency management. She explained why TOPOFF-4 is important, as an exercise that would give the President of the United States down to the local emergency management personnel an assessment of how the various agencies performed in conjunction with the National Response Plan. This is anticipated to be conducted for 7-10 days. This will be a real-world drill, with no pre-deployment or preparation. Anticipated problems could be involvement with other nations, up to 22 representatives from other nations will be Portland during the exercise. TOPOFF-4 is also designed as a coordination of all the major military, civilian, private sector and non-profit organizations to practice a full-scale mobilization. Ms. O'Brien reiterated the need for DHS, and all of the government working groups to adhere to the Incident Command System during TOPOFF-4. This would include local state agencies, including environmental, health, fire, and police agencies. Ms. O'Brien also noted an inland oil spill response training to take place at the Olympic National Park.
- **HHS:** Andy Stevermer (HHS) reported on a recent mumps epidemic and E Coli outbreak. He also mentioned a report about a horse with rabies and a toxic spill off of the Ivory Coast. Regarding that spill cleanup efforts have not been effective.
- **OSHA:** None
- **NOAA:** Gary Shigenaka (NOAA) mentioned some modeling support they provided on an oil refinery spill in Lebanon. NOAA is working with the USCG in Port Angeles on some booming and spill response training. Washington Senator Cantwell wants to do a spill exercise off of the Olympic Coast emphasizing reduction of marine sanctuary impacts.
- **GSA:** None
- **DOE:** None
- **NAVY:** None
- **USACE:** Paul Peloquin (USACE) mentioned some table top exercises designed for COOP planning.
- **Additional Reports**
  - **Pacific States/BC Task Force:** Jean Cameron announced that Pacific States/BC Task Force is hosting a Clean Pacific event in Seattle, WA, September 13-14, 2007. She also mentioned Task Force's 2006 annual report is posted at [www.oilspilltaskforce.org](http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org).

**ADJOURNMENT**

The RRT/NWAC Public Session concluded at 1400.