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

**PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

**0800 – 1645 WEDNESDAY 30MAY2012**

**Coeur d’Alene Resort - Coeur d’Alene, Idaho**

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

**Safety Brief – Regional Response Team (RRT) Coordinators**

Heather Parker of the United States Coast Guard District 13 (USCG D13) introduced herself and Josie Clark of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Ms. Parker went through emergency safety procedures for the building.

**Opening Remarks – NWAC Co-Chairs**

Captain Scott Ferguson, Sector Commander of USCG Sector Puget Sound (SPS) welcomed everyone. Captain Bruce Jones of USCG Sector Columbia River (SCR) introduced himself and stated that in the Columbia River region, they have built very good partnerships. He added that he has been particularly impressed by the great working partnerships between the states and the various agencies. NWAC Co-Chair Calvin Terada of USEPA introduced himself and thanked everyone for attending. He emphasized that this meeting is a great opportunity to network with partner agencies.

Vice Chair Dale Jensen of the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) introduced himself and thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Mike Zollitsch of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), also a Vice Chair, introduced himself. Mr. Jeff Rylee (ID Vice Chair) from Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) and Mark Dietrich from Idaho DEQ welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Fred Abt, also of the Idaho BHS was introduced to the group.

**Idaho State/Local Agency Welcome and Response System Brief**

Mr. Jeff Rylee gave two Power Point presentations on the State of Idaho Assets and Regional Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Team Capabilities. His presentations can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/Regional%20Special%20TeamsA.ppt) and [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/RRT%20CAPABILITIES.pptx).

Mr. Greg Weigel, a USEPA Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) in Idaho stated that every emergency response in the state is initialized through the state communications system.

Mr. Terada stated that the emergency response in Idaho is different from Washington and Oregon. Every incident comes in through state communications system and is discussed in a conference call. Idaho DEQ tries to be on each call. They are not On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) and do not send a representative out to every response; they rely on their internal regional response teams (RRTs) for this, but they may go out to assist regional groups. After the emergency response (ER) phase is over, the remedial phase starts. The Idaho RRT (note this is a separate group than the RRT10) goes home after the ER phase is over, and then DEQ takes over the situation with the responsible party (RP).

**NWAC/RRT Briefing – Who we are/what we do**

Ms. Josie Clark gave a Power Point presentation on what the NWAC is. Her presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/2012%20ID%20RRT_NWAC%20Basics.ppt). Highlights include:

* Idaho has its own local plan, which is referenced in the North West Area Contingency Plan (NWACP).
* Oregon and Washington have adopted the NWACP as their state oil/hazmat response plans.

**Oil Infrastructure in WA, OR and ID Discussion – Lead by Ecology**

Mr. Dale Jensen gave a Power Point presentation on the Changing Risk Picture regarding oil pipelines. His presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/RRT-NWAC%20Meeting%20May%202012.pptx).

Captain Mingo asked Mr. Jensen about the United States which has dead-weight tonnage limits and Canada which does not. Mr. Jensen replied that this was put in place to control the amount of oil coming in at one time. Ms. Linda Pilkey-Jarvis of Ecology asked Mr. Jensen to talk about advocacy groups in the United States and in Canada. Mr. Jensen stated that are many groups that are concerned about the potential for a spill; mostly near the water, as opposed to inland. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has started to look at the impacts that a spill of these types of products will have on the environment. Mr. Gary Shigenaka of NOAA stated that it would be good to start collecting information on the products being transported so that we can anticipate what the effects will be. At this point we are not sure about the conditions under which the product will be transported; whether it will be heated, diluted, etc.

Ms. Parker mentioned that the Enbridge Pipeline company, who is working on the Northern Gateway pipeline going into British Columbia, has been collecting a lot of information about these products and has a number of relevant resources on their website: <http://www.northerngateway.ca/environmental-responsibility/>. Ms Parker also mentioned that Canada’s federal agency, the National Energy Board, is overseeing the NGP project and currently is conducting a series of hearings about potential impacts from this pipeline project, and has posted some good information on their website: http://gatewaypanel.review-examen.gc.ca/clf-nsi/hm-eng.html.

Captain Ferguson expressed concern that our region’s response gear will be outdated for responding to these types of incidents, since the behavior of these products in the water could be different from what we are familiar with.

**Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration – Terry Larson with the US Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Western Region**

Mr. Terry Larson of PHMSA gave a Power Point presentation on the DOT’s Pipeline Safety Program. His presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/RRTIdaho52212%20PHMSA.pptx).

After his presentation, Mr. Larson opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Rylee asked Mr. Larson if PHMSA coordinates the definition of “worst-case” between local communities and the safety plans. Mr. Larson answered no, but admitted that this would be a good area for improvement.

Mr. Terada asked if there are local staff members in each area of the US that coordinate through PHMSA. Mr. Larson answered that there are people dispersed throughout the region, but not in every state.

The USCG asked Mr. Larson about the emergency notification process: such as who is being notified and the timeliness of this notification. Mr. Larson answered that the process for external agency notifications depends on how much is spilled and under what conditions. They do have requirements to report to the National Response Center (NRC) within a certain amount of time. It is specified in the individual response plans who to notify and what the timeframe is.

Mr. Chris Field asked about making sure the pipeline plans are consistent with the NCP and the Area Contingency Plan (ACP). He asked who makes sure there is consistency between plans. Mr. Larson stated that when an operator prepares a plan, there is a place at their headquarters in Washington DC where they send the plan. When headquarters receives the plan, they evaluate it and make sure it is consistent with the NCP and ACP.

Mr. Larson stated that PHMSA does have the regulatory authority to shut a pipeline down if they need to; however, he has not been aware of this happening in the past. He added that PHMSA staff’s scope of work is greater than just pipelines. They also have different types of inspections that they do. He informed the group that they have not seen much corrosion/wear of pipelines from Canada; he is more concerned with problems that can happen at the stations along the pipelines than the pipelines themselves.

Joe Subsits with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission stated that Washington started their gas pipeline program in the 1980’s and that they are one of only a handful of states that inspect their pipeline facilities. The Olympic Pipeline incident in Bellingham initiated State’s decision to take on this program. PHMSA has a program to meet with agreement states (such as Washington and California) to periodically evaluate what they are doing.

**Conoco Phillips Yellowstone Pipeline**

Rob Yarborough from the newly defined Phillips 66 Company gave a Power Point presentation, which can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/Phillips%2066%20Company%20ER%20Presentation.ppt). Mr. Calvin Terada asked him about how Phillips 66 determines the point where a response will happen, if there is only a suspected release. Mr. Yarborough stated that they have become more conservative about this and are trying now to put out notifications even if there is just a potential or suspect release. This is a lesson learned from an incident on the Yellowstone Pipeline last year, and increased notifications will be implemented nationwide.

Linda Pilkey-Jarvis asked if Phillips 66 will respond to rail-car events. Mr. Yarborough responded that it depends on how the contract is written and what carrier it is. Sometimes it is not Phillips 66 product that spills.

**FOSC Reports**

USEPA: OSC Earl Liverman’s presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/EPA%20OSC%20Report_CDA%20RRT%20MAY%202012.pptx).

USCG SPS: CDR Agneta Dahl’s presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/2012%20RRT%20summary%20May12.pptx). Significant incidents from this quarter in SPS’s area of responsibility (AOR) included derelict vessels Helena Starr and Golden West. The USCG worked with the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on these. The FOSC determined them to be an imminent threat. The owners were not able to remove the pollution threat, so opened the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) and removed the threat.

The next significant case was a fire at a marina in Bellingham. There were two fatalities and the scene became a crime scene. This slowed down the process of removing the wreckage and doing the cleanup. There were a total of 12 vessels burned and there was pollution. The cause of the fire is still under investigation and there were about 400 gallons of diesel fuel recovered.

At the Vigor Ship Yard, a dry dock sank with a tug inside of it. The USCG had to salvage both the tug and dry dock. There was a 60,000 gallon spill potential, but they ended up with just minor sheening. Most of the fuel was removed. There were approximately 15 gallons discharged, mostly from equipment that was on the dry dock when it sank.

The fishing vessel *Karanna* (a Tribal Vessel) recently ran aground near Neah Bay. There is also an ongoing issue with a fishing vessel called the *Deep Sea*, which caught fire and sank near Penn Cove, Washington. Global Diving and Salvage are actively working this case.

USCG SCR: LCDR Kelly Thorkilson and CAPT Bruce Jones gave a Power Point presentation, which can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/RRTBriefing%20MAY%202012.pptx).

LCDR Thorkilson reported that the USCG Sectors are multi-mission units. If an oil spill is reported to the USCG, their response is always the same, no matter what the cause. She went on to discuss recent incidents that SCR has responded to. A car carrier called the Morning Spruce recently lost propulsion 12 miles off the mouth of the Columbia River. The vessel drifted south and SCR prepared to deliver an emergency towing system. They were also able to get some tugs of opportunity from Astoria, but then the vessel regained propulsion.

In Astoria, security teams were doing a boarding of a vessel and determined that the master was drunk. The vessel wasn’t actually being driven drunk across the bar, but the crew hadn’t notified anybody that the master had been drunk for several weeks.

In April, a merchant vessel in Longview was unable to pass a fire drill. They failed this three times, due to a language barrier. The crew was made up of native-speaking Chinese and they were having trouble conveying where the fire was to the bridge.

In March, commercial fishing vessel *Lady Cecilia* was coming back from a fishing trip when it went down off the coast of Washington. Four crew members were presumed dead. Another fishing vessel went down because of poor loading.

CAPT Jones emphasized to the group that the biggest threat to our AOR is tsunamis and earthquakes.

**Case Study of Silvertip Pipeline Spill, Yellowstone River - Steve Merritt, EPA OSC R8 and ExxonMobil Rep John Dunn, and Gary Shigenaka, NOAA**

Mr. John Dunn, Mr. Steve Merritt and Mr. Gary Shigenaka gave a Power Point presentation, which can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/Silvertip%20Pipeline%20Spill%20-%20For%20NWAC%20Meeting.pptx).

There was a brief discussion about lessons learned from this response regarding Unified Command (UC). Mr. Dunn stated that early in the response, everyone worked well together, but problems arose later on; many of these may have stemmed from the differences between the corporate environment of privacy and the government openness.

**SeaRiver Lessons Learned – CAPT Ferguson**

The SeaRiver exercise involved a 3-million gallon worst-case spill near the San Juan Islands in Washington. Captain Ferguson noted that this was the first time where the CEO of the company (SeaRiver) attended and was part of UC.

The CAPT reminded everyone of the response “V”. One leg is the Incident Command System (ICS) and how we manage an incident; the other leg is public perception – if we do not manage perceptions appropriately, it does not matter how well we manage an incident, the perception of poor management will continue to deviate further from reality. He urged everyone to get their staff ICS trained. The other leg of the “V” is information management.

CAPT Ferguson thought that they handled this part very well at the SeaRiver exercise. Their approach included streaming through the web of what was occuring on in the field, management of social media and a phone bank of responders answering questions. At this SeaRiver exercise, their drill players worked with their corporate staff, explained the “V” to them, spun up their information technology (IT) people to address this issue, and subsequently set up six different social media apparatuses in addition to other means of managing public perceptions and messaging. There were people from the outside chiming-in that were not part of the exercise. Captain Ferguson recommends that in the future, that we focus more on information management and exercise it.

Another piece of this issue that is important is to promote a change to the National Incident Management System (NIMS). In the Joint Information Center you have a Public Information Officer, but CAPT Ferguson thinks we need a Public Opinions Officer.

**Task Force (TF) Brief-outs**

The Task Forces are groups that each have a targeted project(s) which must be completed in sync with the NWACP revision cycle. There are eight TFs, and after their products are complete, they will disband.

Geographic Response Plans/Advanced Recovery, Dispersants/In-situ Burning and SCAT: Ms. Linda Pilkey-Jarvis gave a Power Point update on these groups. You can view her presentation [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/GRPTask%20Force%20Brief%20for%2030MAYNWAC%20Mtg.pptx).

Cultural and Historic Preservation: Ms. Allison O’Brien of the Department of the Interior (DOI) gave an update for this group. You can view her presentation [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/Task_Force_Brief_CHP.pptx).

Derelict Vessels: Lt. CDR Kelly Thorkilson presented an update on this TF. You can view her Power Point [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/Derelict%20Vessel_Task%20Force%20Brief%20NWAC_MAY12.pptx).

Wildlife: Mr. Charlie Hebert gave an update on this TF, which can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/Wildlife%20Task%20Force%20Update.RRT.5-30-12.pptx).

Places of Refuge (POR) and Outreach: Lt. CDR Agneta Dahl gave an update on these two TFs. Her presentation for POR can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/POR%20Task%20Force%20May%202012%20(1).ppt) and her presentation for Outreach can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/May%2030-%20Outreach%20TF.ppt). She pointed out that the Outreach TF is identifying organizations in communities and elected officials to conduct outreach to.

**Lochsa Repeat Spills – Kevin Brackney, Nez Perce Tribe (Water Resource Division)**

Mr. Brackney gave a Power Point presentation, which can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/Historic%20Spills_053012.pptx).

**Closing Comments**

Mr. Terada thanked Mr. Brackney for attending. He also thanked the Steering Committee for putting together the agenda.