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

# PUBLIC SESSION NOTES

**0900 – 1500 Tuesday 01 September 2020**

**Virtual Meeting**

**The attendee list can be viewed** [**here**](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/10-17-17_Public%20Meeting%20Sign-in.pdf)**.**

## Introduction/Welcome/Initial Remarks

CAPT Jeremy Smith, United States Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Columbia River (SCR) welcomed everyone and gave remarks that were appreciative of the fact that the meeting could still be held, given the restraints. He thanked the state partners, tribes, and Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSROs) for attending. He reported that the Coastal Area Contingency Plan (ACP) is now a robust plan and addresses the needs of tribal partners, including the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI). This has allowed an expanded involvement in worst case discharge exercises and helped with outreach with local partners and first responders. USCG is looking forward to making improvements to what is already a robust plan.

Ms. Linda Pilkey-Jarvis, Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), let everyone know that Dale could not be here today and that he sends his greetings. She noted that Ecology appreciated the effort put into continuing these meetings.

Mr. Mike Greenburg, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), thanked Ecology for hosting the webinar. He noted that ODEQ has not had a lot of interaction with USCG since COVID-19, but he is looking forward to seeing how the plans will work.

## Sector Columbia River Area Contingency Plan Timeline and Q & A Session

LCDR Wes Geyer, (USCG SCR) gave a presentation of the history that lead to the creation of the Coastal ACP. CWO Shannon McGregor continued the presentation with key details that led to the current day.

FAQs can be found at this link:

<https://homeport.uscg.mil/my-homeport/contingency-plans/area-contingency-plan?cotpid=43>

The presentation can be viewed [here](https://ecologyandenvironment.sharepoint.com/sites/Projects/START/CORE%20Task%20WIP/NWAC_RRT%20Support%20TO-0505-002/Task%201%20-%20NWAC%20In-Person%20Meetings/NWAC-RRT%20Meetings/2018%20May/Public%20Presentations/01_NWAC%20NWACP%20Overview.pptx).

## Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Ms. Janet Niessner (CTCLUSI) introduced Stacy Scott, of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO).

Ms. Scott gave a presentation on cultural awareness and history of the tribe, including the process it took to be federally recognized.

She noted that the health of the Coos Bay/Jordan Cove estuary is very important to the tribe, and traditional Cultural Property covers approximately 16 square miles in area: identified as the estuary subtidal area.

Ms. Scott noted the contributing components, such as elements important to the culture of the Coos. Examples include viewsheds, myth tale sites, gathering sites, religious or spiritual sites, landmarks, or natural resources that support the vitality of tribal members. There are 154 sites that have 56 contemporary uses. She also listed not-contributing components that the Coos considered not important to Coos culture, such as roads, bridges, commercial, agricultural and residential lands.

Ms. Niessner provided an overview of the tribal government structure.

The presentation can be viewed [here](https://ecologyandenvironment.sharepoint.com/sites/Projects/START/CORE%20Task%20WIP/NWAC_RRT%20Support%20TO-0505-002/Task%201%20-%20NWAC%20In-Person%20Meetings/NWAC-RRT%20Meetings/2018%20May/Public%20Presentations/01_NWAC%20NWACP%20Overview.pptx).

## Lower Columbia River Geographic Response Plan Update

Ms. Darcy Bird (Ecology) gave an update on Geographic Response Plans (GRPs). She discussed the process to update the lower Columbia River GRPs. She provided an overview of GRPs and their contents, including planning documents, booming procedures, 2-page information sheets and critical notifications.

Ms. Bird noted that new formats are now available on the Oil Spills 101 website.

https://www.oilspills101.wa.gov/

The presentation can be viewed [here](https://ecologyandenvironment.sharepoint.com/sites/Projects/START/CORE%20Task%20WIP/NWAC_RRT%20Support%20TO-0505-002/Task%201%20-%20NWAC%20In-Person%20Meetings/NWAC-RRT%20Meetings/2018%20May/Public%20Presentations/01_NWAC%20NWACP%20Overview.pptx).

## Next Meeting, Goals, and Dates

LCDR Geyer reported that the next Sector Columbia River Area Committee meeting will be held in January or February. The agenda includes a discussion about the shift in area committee paradigm.

## Drill & Exercises Program Update

Mr. Scott Smith, ODEQ, provided a rundown on the drill program for ODEQ. 2020 started off strong, but drills scheduled in March became an issue. He reported that Marathon had a real-life incident and may get credit for a worst-case discharge drill. He let the group know there are upcoming remote drills on the schedule through November.

## How are we Responding to COVID-19

Mr. Mike Greenburg reported on the ODEQ COVID-19 stance. ODEQ has explored how to support responses remotely. He noted the field procedures ODEQ follows when physical presence is necessary: they maintain 10 feet and one responder per vehicle. ODEQ has been able to support some responses remotely, but others needed on site support. ODEQ purchased a large shelter to allow space out of the elements but still be distant.

Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis reports that Ecology has been following the same restrictions and safety procedures that others have been following and adhering to governors’ orders. Ecology has not seen a real reduction in the number of responses but are careful to which are responded to in person. Ecology exploring adding the virtual response components to support remotely.

Sector Puget Sound is ensuring they have appropriate PPE. They have held both separate and remote Incident Command Posts (ICPs). They also report that quarterly notification drills are beginning again, and the sector is looking to support them virtually.

CWO McGregor reported about a response that involved an On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) transfer of authority with United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). USGC was first to the scene and offered assistance to Federal OFC (FOSC) Richard Franklin, since USCG was in a better situation to handle it. This vessel response took place in Astoria/Warrenton, OR, just beyond USCG jurisdiction.

Ms. Beth Sheldrake (USEPA) reported a downtick in responses; however, EPA is currently engaged in two mercury responses. Previous planning has paid off on how to respond appropriately. She reported EPA is working nationally to plan for virtual Incident Management Teams (IMTs) for situations such as the wildfires and trying to determine how best to support these efforts.

Ms. Heather Parker United States Navy (Navy) reported the Navy is following similar measures, including distancing and masks. The Navy is planning end of year hybrid models with both physical and virtual components. She reported that paradigm may stay with us as future model for responses.

Mr. Don Pettit, (ODEQ): Marathon was good about responding to the exposed pipeline.

As an aside, Ms. Elizabeth Petras, USCG District 13 (D13) inquired about what virtual platforms are working to best support responses. The consensus was that teams has worked really well but all have been usable.

## Wildfire Response

FOSC Randy Nattis (EPA) gave a presentation on the 2018 California wildfires and EPA support of wildfire debris removal. Topics included household hazardous waste (HHW) and asbestos removal, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mission assignments, state roles, timelines and command structure and organization

The presentation can be viewed [here](https://ecologyandenvironment.sharepoint.com/sites/Projects/START/CORE%20Task%20WIP/NWAC_RRT%20Support%20TO-0505-002/Task%201%20-%20NWAC%20In-Person%20Meetings/NWAC-RRT%20Meetings/2018%20May/Public%20Presentations/01_NWAC%20NWACP%20Overview.pptx).

## Pending Legislation, Initiatives, Trainings, etc.

Mr. Mike Zollitsch (ODEQ) reported there is not a whole lot going on for Oregon. The legislative session had a walkout, and nothing was finalized regarding oil spills or response legislation. The budget request that was submitted to the legislature had requested additional OSC support and backfill for OSC positions. This was intended on being the year for supporting emergency responses, but other funding issues have hampered that effort. ODEQ is having a hard time finding 24 or 40-hour HAZWOPER training for new staff.

Mr. Dale Jensen, (Ecology) reported that Ecology is working on a policy bill around the response account, which has a funding cap of approximately $9 million. Ecology has been successful in accessing federal funds, but the state fund has been helpful to fill gaps. He reported they recently had a spill that was not qualified for federal funding, and it depleted the state fund. Ecology is looking at increasing the cap, and to try to re-establish at the $25 million level.

Mr. Jensen also reported about how the new federal definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS) could affect the state. Historical spills could be reimbursed but new ones may not be an option. This will end up being another justification to increase the fund cap.

An additional topic Mr. Jensen brought to the group was the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) decision around maximum vapor pressure on crude by rail tankers. The state Attorney General’s office chose not to appeal the decision, but Ecology moved forward with reporting requirement rulemaking. New additional information requirements apply to both rail and pipeline. This is a benefit and will allow the state to get more information on gravity and vapor pressure metrics.

Mr. Mark Dietrich, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), reported that Idaho has no pending legislation and has scaled back on training events. Idaho is looking on getting more engaged in getting involved in hazmat in the transportation right of way. They are looking at a training program for maintenance and responders who come across these hazards.

LCDR Geyer reported for Sector Columbia River about trainings for FOSC for new members and getting them recertified for this area.

Sector Puget Sound echoed the same efforts as Sector Columbia River, and says upcoming meeting information is forthcoming.

Ms. Sheldrake reported on the EPA staffing transition and that they are working on the final stages of the hiring process. EPA is engaged in many responses that have depleted both personnel and financial resources. She also noted that a new START contractor will begin in October.

Ms. Niessner reported that CTCLUSI has finalized Health and Safety guidance and internal guidelines to complement the Estuary Response Plan. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and IDEQ provided language they were able to borrow, which was very helpful.

Ms. Haley Kennard (Makah Tribe) reported that there was not much to update about the Makah, but the meeting with the USCG went well.

Ms. Julie Carter, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) reported on the Tribal contingency plan, and that it was a good process to go through.

## Closing Comments

CWO McGregor thanked the attendees for coming to the meeting.