**Northwest Joint Area Committee Meeting**

**Inland Area Meeting**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Tuesday 8 June 2021, 0900-1515 hours**

**Attendance record provided following summary notes**

**Presentations shared during the meeting may be found at the following link:**

**Joint Area Committee Presentations 8 June 2021**

**Welcome and Opening Statements from Inland Area Co-Vice Chairs**

Introductions and welcome comments presented by Stephanie Wenning (EPA R10), Mark Dietrich (IDEQ), Wes Risher (ODEQ), Dale Jensen (WA Ecology). Notable items: Dale Jensen is retiring August 27th, 2021, and this meeting will be his last representing WA Dept. of Ecology.

**OSC Reports**

**EPA (Eric Vanderboom, FOSC EPA R10)**

* NRC Notifications (7 March-7 June 2021): 504
* RRT Activations: 0
* OPA Projects: 2
* CERCLA Projects: 2
* Notable Incidents Presented: Northeast Portland Mercury ER in Portland, OR; Stayton Tank Truck Spill ER in Stayton, OR; Railroad Ave Mystery Spill ER IN St. Maries, ID; and E-Cycle Time Critical Removal Action in Sequim, WA.
* Agency Personnel Updates: EPA FOSC Madison Baxter has relocated to EPA Region 6. EPA R10 will seek to fill a FOSC position in Seattle.

**IDEQ (Mark Dietrich and Steve Gorski)**

* Notable Incidents: The state of Idaho has no significant incidents to report since the last Joint Area Committee Meeting in March 2021.

**ODEQ (Mike Greenburg, SOSC, Program Lead)**

* Department Updates: Mike Greenburg has relocated to Boise, ID and will continue to serve as the Oregon Program Lead until May 2022, after which he is scheduled to retire.
* Notable Incidents Presented: F/V Tiffany Response. SOSC Greenburg presented an overview of the continuing response to fishing vessel Tiffany, a derelict vessel abandoned on the Columbia River since 2011. Multiple federal, state, and local response agencies continue to remove and prevent discharge of hazardous materials from the vessel. Hazardous materials included oil, PCB containing substances, and other hazardous materials. Response challenges include locating the vessel owner, dangerous underwater conditions surrounding the vessel, high cost of response actions, and funding challenges of differentiating CERCLA from OPA subject materials. Cost of response to Tiffany to date is over $1 million.

**WA Dept. of Ecology (Dave Byers, SOSC, Response Manager Spills Program)**

* Notifications / Incidents Count: Oil: 2,798, Hazmat/Pollutant: 1,112, Vessel Incidents: 93, Vessel Spill: 51, Drug Lab: 99.
* Department Updates: Spills in WA State have remained consistent. Hiring and purchasing restrictions have been lifted for the Department. Ecology has hired a responder in Spokane, and intends to hire additional personnel (5 positions in the Response Section), and purchase new equipment (trucks, new FTIR, RAMEN, and 5-gas monitor instrumentation, and mercury vapor instrumentation for eastern Washington). Ecology serves in a safety capacity for responding law enforcement for illegal drug operations, and illegal drug lab responses continue to increase. Most illegal drug lab responses are indoor marijuana growing operations, which generate a variety of hazardous chemicals and illegal herbicides.
* Grant Updates: The statewide firefighting and equipment grant for oil and hazardous materials response is open, and 3.1 million worth of equipment to distribute to local/tribal/state agencies. The application for this grant closes in the middle of June. The Coastal Protection Grant just closed, and $250,000 in restoration projects were granted.
* Notable Incidents Presented: Ecology also supported ODEQ in response to the F/V Tiffany, as highlighted by ODEQ .

**USCG Sector Columbia River (LTCD Wes Geyer, Chief Dean Anderson)**

* NRC Notifications (7 March -7 June 2021): 64
* RRT Activations: 0
* Federal Projects: 7
* CERCLA Projects: 3
* Notable Incidents Presented: FV Tiffany: Sector Columbia River worked with contractor Ballard, and state and local partners to mitigate release of hazardous materials from the derelict vessel Tiffany, abandoned on the Columbia River.
* Trainings: The Sector has three personnel stepping into Pollution Responder roles, and two personnel breaking in to FOSC roles, and 12 personnel scheduled to attend the NW Oil Spill Control Course in August 2021. The next Sector Columbia River Area Committee Meeting will be in September 2021. Sector Columbia River will participate in the Non-Floating Oil Workshop 16-17 June 2021.

**USCG Sector Puget Sound (CAPT Patrick Hilbert, LTCD Brett Ettinger)**

* NRC Notifications (7 March-7 June 2021): 103
* RRT Activations: 0
* Federal Projects: 6
* CERCLA Projects: 1
* Notable Incidents Presented: Large Marina Fire in Quartermaster Harbor on Vashon Island, WA and the P/C Norwester response near Stewart Island in the San Juan Archipelago.
* Trainings: The Sector held an IMAT exercise in late May 2021, and welcomed one new FOSC and two new Pollution Responders.

**Update on Spill Planning in the Northwest**

**Sector Puget Sound ACP Update (CAPT Patrick Hilbert and LTCD Brett Ettinger)**

Updates to the Sector Puget Sound ACP were signed by Capt. Hilbert on 1 June 2021. Updates in the ACP included 1.) adjusted language for tribal references as recommended by the Makah Tribe, 2.) the addition of two annexes (Annex 1 and Annex 2) resulting from the ESA Consultation with the Services and the resulting Biological Opinion (Annex 1 addresses listed ESA Wildlife and Habitat, Annex 2 addresses best practices), and 3.) updates to Section 9730 with 20 GRSs in the Sector area of response. The Sector also integrated comments received from the Port of Tacoma and the WA Dept. of Ecology, and updated the Contact Lists section. Thank you for the participation from Ecology for valuable input on the Sector ACPs. The schedule for updating the ACP is set by USCG D13 and is in alignment with Sector Columbia River, and signing will be in 2021. In future years, the update will likely be in alignment with the cycle that has historically been set for the NWACP review.

**Sector Columbia River ACP Update (LCDR Wes Geyer)**

Updates to the Sector Columbia River ACP include phone contact updates, with no other major changes. The Sector has reviewed comments received from response and planning partners, and some comments which required additional feedback from the suggesting parties remain to be addressed. Participants who would like to be notified of future Sector Columbia River Area meetings should email LTCDR Wes Geyer at wes.m.geyer@uscg.mil for schedule info and invitation.

**RRT10 Co-Chairs (Beth Sheldrake and Bob McFarland)**

A group of key partners continue to discuss and evaluate restructuring needs of planning in the Northwest. The group of key partners is called the Core Planning Team, and includes representation from USCG D13, EPA Region 10, Makah Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Suislaw Indians, DOI, NOAA, Washington Dept. of Ecology, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality, and the Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality. The goal of the Core Planning Team is to review the best path forward for plan and planning body restructuring in the Northwest Region 10. The group meets monthly and more frequently as needed, and discussions are ongoing. As USCG Sector Puget Sound and USCG Sector Columbia River work to create coastal ACPs, the current version of the NWACP continues to serve as the RCP for RRT10, and as the Inland ACP. Historically, the NWACP is updated annually between March-August, and signed in December. The NWACP was updated and signed in 2019, and the Core Planning Team is currently discussing update requirements and working to reestablish a regular schedule for updating the Plan. One of the necessary updates will be the inclusion of railroad contingency requirements.

**Presentation: High Hazard Rail Planning in Oregon**

**Presented by Kyrion Gray and Brandon Bertilson, ODEQ**

Presentation Overview: Presenters covered new High Hazard Rail Rules adopted in Oregon in May 2020 under House Bill 2209. The Mosier derailment in 2016 spurred the action in Oregon to adopt high hazard rail (HHR) rules. Washington Dept. of Ecology provided a programmatic template that Oregon adopted. Presenters shared rulemaking and definitions of oil, notification requirements of High Hazard Rail Route (HHRR) owners, the primary HHRR owners, and funding mechanisms of the HHR response programs. Presenters also covered contingency planning issues and how the NWACP GRPs address HHRRs. Presentations may be viewed on the NWAC/RRT10 Website.

**Presentation: Success Story: Coordination During the Umatilla Pipeline Incident**

**Presented by Mike Boykin, EPA R10; Conor Keeney, Marathon Pipeline; Bryn Thomas, ODEQ; Dave Mulligan, PHMSA; and Patty Perry, Umatilla Tribe**

Presentation Overview: Presenters reviewed successes of the recent Umatilla Pipeline Response, and shared experiences and lessons learned. In February 2020, flooding in Oregon and SW Washington caused significant damage in the region, and a Marathon pipeline crossing the Umatilla River became exposed during the flooding. Response actions stretched from February 2020 until October 2020. Unified Command included Confederated Tribes of the Cayuse, Walla Walla, and Umatilla, PHMSA, EPA, USACE, ODEQ, and the City of Pendleton. A panel discussion followed the presentation and addressed lessons learned regarding Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) requirements during response work, preparing and engineering for a worst case flooding scenario, communication of authorities with agencies less experienced in pipeline response. Successes included testing GRSs and using a virtual platform through TEAMs for communicating situational updates. Presentations may be viewed on the NWAC/RRT10 Website.

**Presentation: Kootenai River GRP Development**

**Presented by Mark Dietrich, IDEQ and Sue Ireland, Kootenai Tribe**

Presentation Overview: Presenters reviewed the BNSF train derailment that occurred on 1 January 2020 at the Kootenai River, including response operations and lessons learned. IDEQ and the Kootenai Tribe worked to mitigate releases of hazardous materials, recover the derailed train components from the river, and protect the nearby hatchery and other sensitive resources. Presenters also shared an overview of the Kootenai Tribe Fish and Wildlife Program, which work to protect and restore cultural and natural resources within the Kootenai tribal lands. Ireland provided an overview of hatchery operations, scientific explanations of the river ecology, including protected species Kootenai White Sturgeon, Kootenai River Burbot, and other species and habitat restoration that the Kootenai Tribe protects. Presentations may be viewed on the NWAC/RRT10 Website.

**Presentation: Upcoming Drill: Oiled Wildlife Response Planning in Exercises**

**Presented by Kelly Kiyohara, WA Dept. of Ecology**

Presentation Overview: Presenter reviewed WA state preparedness requirements for potentially responsible parties (PRPs) regarding oiled wildlife response planning. Requirements include deployment exercises and worst case drills which include wildlife deterrents, search and capture operations, ESA consultation, ICS implementation, and other logistical and operational needs. Union Pacific will hold a worst case exercise on the Snake River on 21 July 2021, which will seek to focus on federal and state wildlife requirements, small amphibian considerations, tribal partner coordination, and PIO capacity. Presentations may be viewed on the NWAC/RRT10 Website.

**Closing Statements and Meeting Adjournment**

Stephanie Wenning (EPA R10) and Mark Dietrich (IDEQ) thank attendees for participation.

**Next Joint Area Committee Meeting**

31 August 2021, forum to be determined.

**END MEETING**