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

# PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

**0800 – 1700 Tuesday 17 OCTOBER 2017**

**Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Officer**

**Portland, Oregon**

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

## Safety Briefing, Introductions, Opening Remarks

Dr. Zachary Penney, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), provided an introduction and safety briefing. He also briefly discussed the history, organization, and membership of CRITFC. Ms. Elizabeth Petras, United States Coast Guard (USCG) District 13 (D13), introduced the co-chairs for opening remarks. Ms. Beth Sheldrake, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomed everyone to the meeting in Portland, Oregon, and introduced herself. Mr. Bruce Gilles, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), welcomed the attendees to the meeting and thanked CRITFC for sharing their space. CAPT David Berliner, USCG Sector Columbia River (SCR), welcomed visitors and expressed his excitement for the agenda. He also introduced Rear Admiral (RMDL) David Throop, USCG D13.

## RDML Throop Keynote Address

RMDL Throop thanked everyone for attending and highlighted the resources that the Regional Response Team/Northwest Area Committee (RRT/NWAC) works to protect. He described his recent work over the last five months leading USCG D13 and acknowledged the partnerships and professionalism of the RRT/NWAC members, participants, and stakeholders. He highlighted the prominence of the Goble response and noted the excellent coordination between the state of Oregon and the USCG. He also discussed the recent Mosier Unit Train derailment response, which closely resembled the Spill of National Significance (SONS) exercise that happened nine months before the derailment. He acknowledged the foresight of RRT/NWAC members in exercising and then applying the plan to mitigate the environmental impact of the derailment. RDML Throop also expressed his support of continued tribal involvement in the RRT/NWAC through attendance at meetings, drill/exercises, and in real responses. He also noted that the USCG is working towards revitalizing area contingency plans across the nation to improve consistency among plans. He committed to seeking input from NWAC partners to ensure that their feedback is considered during the revitalization.

## NW Area Committee and NW Area Contingency Plan Overview,

Ms. Petras, gave a presentation on interagency spill coordination, the organization and membership of the Area Committees, the organization and membership of the RRT, various levels of response planning, major components of the National Contingency Plan (NCP), the role of an On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs), the organization of the Unified Command (UC) during a response, Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) that are targeted for the first 12 to 24 hours of a response, the organization of the NWAC and the selected 2017 Task Forces. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/01_NWAC%20NWACP%20Overview,%20EP.pptx).

Ms. Clark discussed the recent hosting changes to the RRT website and the upcoming NWAC Summit, which will take place in downtown Seattle on 07 December 2017 at the Jackson Federal Building. She referred attendees to the RRT website to find more information. Please submit your task force ideas and presentations to Ms. Clark and Ms. Petras by 10 November 2017.

## 2017 Task Force Summaries

Ms. Petras and Ms. Clark then discussed the 2017 Task Forces. The 2017 Task Forces are described below:

* **Tribal Outreach and Technical Training Task Force**
  + Introduced Tribal Coordination Specialist role to the draft 2018 Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP) under the Liaison Officer.
  + Developed a set of talking points for RRT/NWAC members to use when conducting outreach to tribes.
  + Started development of a training plan leading up to the SeaRiver tabletop in which was conducted in April 2017. Will continue to identify other opportunities to develop the training plan and curriculum.
  + Will continue to research funding opportunities available to tribes for developing spill response capacity.
* **Non-Floating Oils**
  + NWACP now referencing American Petroleum Institute (API) operational tactics and planning guidance to locate, recover, and dispose of oils that may sink or submerge.
  + Wholesale replacement throughout the plan for consistent use of the term “non-floating oils.”
  + Updated the 96-Hour Checklist and the Resources at Risk Checklist.
* **Fire to Environmental Response Task Force**
  + Created a 3-hour course for local firefighters and hazardous materials teams. Initial roll out will be in Oregon in January 2018.
* **96 Hour Toolkit Task Force**
  + Developed new plan boilerplates, including a pre-filled Open Action Tracker form and a 234 form, Sampling Plan, Demobilization Plan, and Decontamination Plan.
  + Will be posted on an Area Plan tools page, available for training or use in drills and spills.
* **In-Situ Burning Task Force**
  + Created a web-based [interactive map](http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?layers=71b2baa592a043f3913e3709258a2c9a) that depicts our In-Situ Burn (ISB) policy (case-by-case areas and pre-authorization areas).
  + Updated the plan to include details about timing and work flow for ISB use decisions.
  + Updated the ISB checklist and created additional tools for documenting ISB decisions.
  + Clarified the role of regional air authorities and local health departments in case-by-case areas.

The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/02_Task%20Force%20slides.pptx).

## Federal On-Scene Coordinator/State On-Scene Coordinator Reports

### United States Coast Guard Sector Columbia River

ENS Kira Adams, USCG SCR, gave a presentation on activities for SCR since the previous RRT/NWAC meeting, including multiple vessel incidents and a review of trainings; exercises/workshops; and federal, state, and local planning coordination efforts. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/03_Sector%20Columbia%20River%20NWAC%20OSC%20Report%20Oct%202017.ppt).

### United States Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound

ENS Dan Kinney, USCG Sector Puget Sound (SPS), gave a presentation on activities for SPS since the previous RRT/NWAC meeting, including a review of trainings; exercises/workshops; and federal, state, and local planning coordination efforts. He also discussed the Everett Marina Fire, in which five boats burned at the dock. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/04_FOSC%20Report-Fall%202017%20-%20USCG%20Sector%20Puget%20Sound.pptx).

### United States Environmental Protection Agency

FOSC Richard Franklin, EPA, gave a presentation on activities for the EPA since the previous RRT/NWAC meeting, including responses to the Riddle Chemical Barn, Baker City Mercury, and Tualatin Mercury. He also discussed recent trainings; exercises/workshops; and federal, state, and local planning coordination efforts. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/05_EPA%20OSC%20report%20_%20OCT2017.ppt).

### Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. Geoff Brown, ODEQ, gave a presentation on activities for ODEQ since the previous RRT/NWAC meeting, including the Ed Staub Trucking Rollover Oil Spill and Highway 99 Tanker Truck Rollover Oil Spill. The presentations can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/06_OR%20OSC_Gasoline%20Tanker%20Truck%20Spill%20126%20short.pptx) and [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/07_OR%20OSC_Highway%2099W,%20MP%2074.pptx), respectively.

### Washington State Department of Ecology

Mr. Dave Byers gave a presentation on activities for Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) since the previous RRT/NWAC meeting, including recent spill notifications, drill and planning activity, equipment grants, and response at the US Oil McChord Pipeline Jet Fuel Spill. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/08_WA%20OSC%20October%202017a.ppt).

### Idaho Office of Emergency Management

Mr. Dean Ehlert, Idaho Department of Environment Quality (IDEQ), described a recent Tesoro boom deployment near Pocatello and American Falls. He also discussed a Burlington Northern anta Fe (BNSF) boom deployment on the Clark Fork River and utilization of the Pend Oreille GRP. Tesoro is planning a Worst Case Drill for the coming year. No visual presentation was utilized for this report.

## Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Programmatic Overview

Mr. Rob Lothrop, CRITFC, manages the policy development and litigation group. He provided an overview of the history of CRITFC, its organization, and members. He discussed tribal sovereignty; tribal authorities over members, lands, and treaty reserved activities; and the importance of first foods and their relation to treaty rights. An overview of historic legal rulings that reinforced tribal fishery rights was provided. Mr. Lothrop discussed the “gravel to gravel” management plan to improve salmon runs by 2020 and provided examples for projects that CRITFC is currently involved in totaling approximately $100 million per year on salmon restoration. He also discussed the dispersion of Columbia River salmon in the Pacific Ocean from Alaska to the Oregon coast, as well as the international agreements on the harvest of ocean salmon. An overview of CRITFC enforcement activities was also provided. CRITFC was also involved with the Incident Management Team during the Eagle Creek fire. He elaborated on the fires impact to CRITFC and tribal fisheries. Mr. Lothrop also presented on CRITFC’s involvement in spill planning activities, including using the incident command system. He examined the EPA’s spill response objectives/tactics and compared them with his personal insights of potential tribal objectives/tactics during a response. Columbia River oil spill response strategy needs were also discussed, including: GRPs, dam protection, water quality monitoring, and tribal fishery management/operations. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/09_CRITFC%20Briefing%20for%20NWAC%20RRT.pptx).

Mr. Chad Bowechop, Makah Tribe, further clarified the perspectives that tribal persons may have with respect to tribal rights. He elaborated on the importance of developing relationships and deep understanding with the federal government and response partners to address multidisciplinary issues using the treaties as tool to communicate. He recommended bringing in all of the federal leads during government-to-government consultations.

## Goble Response Award Presentation

CAPT Berliner briefly discussed the major issues with the Goble response before announcing that several individuals would be receiving awards for their work on the response. RMDL Throop then presented the awards to the following participants:

* Ms. Lori Warner-Dickinson, Oregon Department of State Lands, awarded for Meritorious Public Service;
* Mr. Gary Cooper, Oregon Department of State Lands, awarded Certificate of Merit;
* Ms. Patricia Fox, Oregon Department of State Lands, awarded Certificate of Merit; and
* Mr. Scott Smith, ODEQ, awarded Certificate of Merit.

## Portland Asbestos Response

Mr. Randy Nattis and Mr. Eric Vanderboom, EPA FOSCs, and Mr. Mike Greenburg, ODEQ, presented on the response to the River Street Warehouse fire that released asbestos over the city of Portland in May 2017. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/10_RSWF%20-%20NWAC%20October%202017.pptx).

Mr. Greenburg began the presentation by describing the fire and the initial response by emergency services and ODEQ. He provided information on the discovery of asbestos in the days after the fire and the ramping up of participation by federal response partners. He highlighted the use of the ODEQ emergency operations center as well as the usefulness of the incident action plans that were developed.

Mr. Vanderboom then described the Operations Section activities that commenced during the response. He broadly described the reconnaissance, recovery of asbestos, and the activities to stabilize the fire site. He described the specific tactics used to stabilize the site by suppressing asbestos migration from the site using water and a suppressant chemical. He also described the multi-agency reconnaissance teams that searched for recoverable asbestos and the technology employed to provide real-time information to UC. He discussed how the recovery teams followed the reconnaissance teams and recovered the loose asbestos.

He also discussed the activity-based sampling that took place while personnel mimicked raking and using lawnmowers. These activities helped establish cleanup endpoints for the response. Also discussed was the use of community involvement coordinators. He thanked the many response partners (USCG, ODEQ, City of Portland, Portland Fire Department, local businesses, etc.).

Mr. Nattis then discussed the environmental unit (EU) activities and data management elements of the response. He first described EU risk assessment work that developed a conceptual site model of the site and helped establish the cleanup endpoint. He also discussed the modeling work conducted by the Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center (IMAAC) that was used to determine potential areas of impact. The EU also led efforts to collect daily air samples throughout the city and in targeted areas. Mr. Nattis then elaborated on the methods that the EU used to collect enough data to make the determination that the risks of asbestos left in the greater Portland area did not pose a risk to inhabitants. A presentation on the data management process was also provided. Topics discussed included: developing site-specific data management plans, use of a real-time common operating picture via a geospatial website, and use of the Story Map to communicate with the public. Mr. Nattis finished the presentation with an overview of current and planned activities to further remove asbestos hazards at the site.

Mr. Tim Archer, Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC), asked where the software to manage real-time data was available. Mr. Nattis responded that the software was available commercially off the shelf. An audience member asked what Mr. Nattis would have changed if given the opportunity to do the response again. He responded that the response was one of the best he had ever worked on, but wished that they had focused on building tops earlier. Mr. Pettit stated that more background (non-site related) asbestos was found in the parks than from the fire site and that it was frequently moved by the winds. Mr. Zollistch, ODEQ, also stated that the use of volunteers was excellent during the response. An audience member asked questions about use of volunteers from the Lloyd District. Mr. Vanderboom responded that they were coordinated by ODEQ and primarily worked in support of Community Involvement Coordinators. Mr. Byers asked about response funding and property owner involvement. Mr. Nattis responded that the site was federally funded using Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act EPA Regional funds and additional funding from EPA headquarters. A question about the designation of the lead federal agency was posed. Ms. Sheldrake responded that the RRT was activated for informational purposes and that the USCG and the EPA determined that the EPA would take the FOSC responsibility. This decision was later documented in a letter for the site file. Another question was asked about if any long-term monitoring study on health impacts was planned. Mr. Nattis responded that he was not aware of any planned study. Ms. Rhonda Kaeztel, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), noted that a long-term study request would need to come from a local agency. Mr. Michael Heumann, Heumann Health Consulting LLC, noted that there are several other buildings along the river that present similar risks. He inquired if there were plans for inspections at other buildings. Mr. Greenburg responded that he was not aware of any such plans.

## National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Responder Health Tool

Mr. Heumann presented on the Emergency Response Health Monitoring and Surveillance (ERHMS) system developed by National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

The intent of ERHMS is to:

* Identify exposures and/or signs and symptoms early in the course of an emergency response,
* Prevent or mitigate adverse physical and psychological outcomes,
* Ensure workers maintain their ability to respond effectively and are not harmed during response work,
* Evaluate protective measures, and
* Identify responders for medical referral and possible enrollment in a long-term health surveillance program.

Mr. Heumann descried the tool in the context of the Pre-deployment, Deployment, and Post-deployment phases of a response. Information collected in each phase is used to make a Post-Event Tracking Decision. ERHMS was developed by a multiagency federal and state group that also included labor unions. While ERHMS has been endorsed by many organizations (including all agencies on the National Response Team), it has not been implemented. Trainings are available upon request, but have not been delivered extensively in the Pacific Northwest. There are multiple training opportunities on ERHMS available online.

The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/11_ERHMS%20Presentation%20for%20RRT_101717.pptx). More information on ERHMS can be found [here](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/erhms/default.html).

## United States Department of the Navy (Navy)/United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Deployment Exercise

MST2. Ted Ohman, USCG, presented on the recent joint military equipment deployment near Blake Island in Puget Sound. The exercise involved the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), USCG, and United States Navy. The exercise was observed by Ecology and tribal groups. The goal of the exercise was to safely deploy equipment and to test communications among multiple response agencies. In addition to deploying 300 feet of boom near Blake Island, a GRP was also tested south of Blake Island by the Navy. The USACE M/V Puget was used to deploy the boom. The M/V Puget’s primary mission is debris removal but it can also support an oil spill response. A Navy Marko Skimmer simulated oil recovery. USCG Auxiliary volunteers also provided vessels for personnel transport and observation. Future exercises may include different equipment and more Incident Command System (ICS) elements. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/12_2017%20Joint%20Military%20Deployment%20final.ppt).

## Discussion of Proposed Change to the Northwest Area Contingency Plan

Ms. Josie Clark, EPA, discussed the proposed changes to the NWACP. The draft 2018 NWACP is on the RRT/NWAC website and public comments can be made through 31 October. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/13_Proposed%20Changes%202018%20NWACP.pptx).

Topics discussed include:

* Terminology changes;
* Adding the Yakama Nation to the RRT Roster;
* Updating content for news release templates;
* Adding USCG Oil Spill Response Organization (OSRO) classification guidelines for non-floating oils;
* Updates to the Tribal Nations Policy (Section 1615);
* Clarifications on Non-Floating Oils and the use of the API Operations Guides for NWACP content (Section 3320.2);
* The Community Air Monitoring (Section 9418) document submitted as a response tool;
* In Situ Burn Tool Updates (Section 9407);
* Liaison Manual updates (Section 9210) that include clarifying the Liaison Officer role in initially managing volunteers and a new Tribal Coordination Specialist position; and
* The Tribal Outreach and Technical Training Task Force conducted work related to the Tribal Coordination Specialist position, tribal outreach guidance, training plans, and funding opportunities for tribal training. Ms. Allison O’Brien, United States Department of the Interior (DOI), further discussed the Tribal Outreach and Technical Training Task Force. She described the position as follows:
  + The position reports to the Liaison Officer and is focused on assisting tribes in integrating into and navigating ICS. The position also seeks to ensure tribal representatives are fully informed of response activities and have a mechanism to communicate tribal priorities and concerns to the Liaison Officer.
  + The Tribal Coordination Specialist position is not intended to speak for the tribes.

## Closing Comments

Ms. Sheldrake thanked the attendees and the meeting organizers for the well-planned agenda with sufficient time for discussions. Mr. Gilles thanked the presenters for the excellent content and opportunities for lessons learned. CAPT Berliner thanked the attendees.