

**REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 10 / NORTHWEST AREA COMMITTEE (RRT/NWAC)**  
**PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**  
**APRIL 5, 2007**

**LOCATION:** Red Lion Hotel, Richland, Washington

**PARTICIPANTS:** [4.5.07 attendance list.](#)

**PUBLIC SESSION AGENDA:**

**THURSDAY APRIL 5, 2007**

- 8:00 – 8:15     **WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS**  
(Mary Halverson, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security; Dale Jensen, WA Ecology; Jeff Christensen, ODEQ; Chris Field, EPA & CAPT Joe Rodriguez, USCG D13)
- 8:15 – 8:40     RRT/NWAC Overview (Matt Bernard, USCG D13)
- 8:40 – 9:15     Workgroup Updates
- Steering Committee
  - GRP
  - Communications and Public Outreach
  - Response Technologies
  - Hazardous Substances
  - Wildlife
- 9:15 – 10:00    Wildlife Response Plan (Charlie Hebert, USFWS & Andy Carlson WA DFW)
- 10:00 – 10:15   Columbia River/Snake River Spill Response Initiative (Mark Layman, WA Ecology)
- 10:15 – 10:30   **[BREAK]**
- 10:30 – 11:30   Outreach from Dept. of Energy on Radiation Response Assets and Capabilities (Kathy Beecher, DOE)
- 11:30 – 12:00   Drinking Water Contamination/Security (Calvin Terada, EPA)
- 12:00 – 1:30    **[NO HOST LUNCH]**
- 1:30 – 2:00     Clean Air Act Risk Management Program – What is it and how is it reducing the risks of releases and consequences from facilities that store/use toxic chemicals (Calvin Terada, EPA)
- 2:00 – 2:30     Trends which may impact response operations (EPA, States, USCG)
- 2:30 – 3:30     Agency Updates
- 3:30            Announce meeting date for September and Adjourn.

**MINUTES:**

**WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS**

Captain Joe Rodriguez (USCG D13), Chris Field (EPA) and Matt Bernard (USCG D13) called the meeting to order at 0800. They welcomed everyone to Richland and led introductions around the room.

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

Matt Bernard (USCG D13) provided a presentation that detailed how the RRT / NWAC gains authority to respond to Hazardous Substances, Pollutants and Contaminants. He explained the creation of the National Response Plan (NRP) and how it implements the response authorities. Mr. Bernard outlined the role of the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) and the authority they possess in the setting of emergency response. He explained that the National Contingency Plan (NCP) mandates that each region create an Area Contingency Plan. Additionally he described how the NWAC was significantly upgraded after the Exxon Valdez tragedy.

Mr. Bernard 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

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national level. He then described how the individual Workgroups function and how the Steering Committee directs specific Workgroups to work on certain issues.

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. Mr. Bernard 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:** Matt Bernard (USCG D13) [presented](#) things the Steering Committee has been working on including:
  - Continue to work on the three priorities to the 2007 Strategic Plan:
    - Develop policies and procedures to address multi-incident and/or SONS/INS response in the Northwest
    - Ensure GRPs are regularly updated, through a public process, to incorporate relevant and appropriate information necessary to protect areas of environmental and special economic importance.
    - Develop and implement an outreach program to increase stakeholder awareness of the NWACP and RRT/NWAC member agency roles, responsibilities, and capabilities.
  - NWACP Revision (June 2007).
    - Integrate the Dispersant Use Checklist.
    - Update to Hazardous Substance chapter.
    - Integrate NIMS updates.
    - Addition of Wildlife Rehabilitation to the Planning Chapter.
    - Addition of Wildlife Response Plan.
  - Continue to coordinate the workgroups and task forces.
- **Geographic Response Plan (GRP):** Jack Wylie (ODEQ) gave an [update](#) on GRP workgroup happenings. He indicated that the last meeting of the workgroup was on 7 March 2007. Washington has planned meetings with the Quinault and Makah tribes amongst other stakeholders for updates to the GRPs in the state. The Lower Snohomish River GRP is out for public comment and hope to have it finalized by the end of 2007. Ecology's GIS layers with regards to their GRPs will be able to be viewed using a free GIS viewing software ArcReader. Oregon updated the existing Coos Bay GRP, and it will be out this spring. The workgroup continues to solicit information regarding Economic Resources to include in the GRPs. The Navy Portal Project is complete and will go online shortly; GRP GIS layers will be available on the Portal. The next meeting will be 15 August 2007 at WA Ecology in Lacey, WA.
- **Communication and Public Outreach:** Nhi Hoang (WA Ecology) gave an update on the workgroup. The JIC manual has been adopted by the committee. The workgroup met for the first time in 2 years recently. The workgroup will push the lessons learned/comment form in the NWACP. A community based survey has been proposed to determine how best to interact with the community. The group would like to utilize the RRT/NWAC website an information portal to the public during an incident. The next meeting is in August and there are plans to meet quarterly. CAPT Rodriguez (USCG D13) asked the workgroup to help with public outreach for RRT/NWAC meetings.
- **Response Technologies:** Matt Bernard (USCG D13) gave an [update](#) for Ruth Yender (NOAA). The last meeting was 19 January 2007 in conjunction with a Canadian Regional Environmental Emergencies Team (REET). They identified a need to do more trans-boundary planning. The dispersant use policy has been reviewed by the

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Canadians. The California RRT has agreed to extend the pre-authorized dispersant use zone to the California border in federal waters. A Sub-Workgroup will be formed to develop procedures for case-by-case dispersant use approvals. The group has concurred on the need to conduct more SMART (Dispersant Technologies) drills. USCG D13 studies have underscored the importance of good salvage capabilities in the Outer Coast of Washington. Solidifiers will be looked at by the Steering Committee.

- **Logistics:** No updates at this time.
- **Hazardous Substances:** Matt Bernard (USCG D13) will take over chair duties temporarily.
- **Wildlife:** Charlie Hebert (USFWS) and Andy Carlson (WADFW) identified some participants in the development of the Wildlife Response Plan and went on to introduce the plan itself. See next topic for Wildlife Response Plan update.

**WILDLIFE RESPONSE PLAN**

Charlie Hebert (USFWS) and Andy Carlson (WADFW) [introduced](#) the Wildlife Response Plan due to be integrated into the NWACP in its next revision. The plan captures what is actually done with respects to wildlife during an incident in order to get pre-approval. It has been out for comment to all stakeholders and tribes and the comments have been integrated. The plan outlines a Wildlife Branch organizational structure to be integrated into ICS during an incident. The presentation provided an outline of the plan as well as examples of implementation. The next steps are to integrate into the 2007 draft NWACP then open up for public comment on the website.

**COLUMBIA/SNAKE RIVER SPILL RESPONSE INITIATIVE**

Mark Layman (WA Ecology) [introduced](#) the Columbia/Snake River Spill Response Initiative (CSR-SRI). Mr. Layman explained the purpose and mission of the initiative, and Project Specific Spill Plans (PSSP). He identified some key ingredients to a successful response specific for the Columbia and Snake rivers. Geographic Response Plans with in each project areas are also part of the Initiative. There are some on-going training programs to help integrate these project plans into responses. These plans are focused on initial spill response before contractor arrival. Future plans include more integrated drills to test the plans, establish mutual aid agreements, make equipment caches available to all agencies involved, and get all information onto a website.

**OUTREACH FROM DEPT. OF ENERGY ON RADIATION RESPONSE ASSESTS AND CAPABILITIES**

Kathy Beecher (DOE) [presented](#) some DOE assets with regards to responding to a radiological emergency response. Ms. Beecher presented the mission of the National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA). The assets of the NNSA and DOE provide technical assistance and deploying capabilities for radiological and nuclear accidents or terrorist incidents. The Radiological Assistance Program (RAP), locally out of Richland, is a deployable team to provide assistance to any Agency requesting help. Additional resources include the Aerial Measurement System (AMS), National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center (NARAC), Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC), and Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site (REAC\TS).

Steve Gunnick provided more detail on the capabilities of the DOE assets. The RAP teams are capable of characterizing unknown isotopes and determining levels of contamination and dose rates. Mr. Gunnick described the team's typical deployment schedule. Mr. Gunnick went on to explain the other assets of the DOE and how they would typically respond.

**DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATION/SECURITY**

Calvin Terada (EPA) gave a [presentation](#) on the EPA's responsibilities during a water security incident and their water contamination response capabilities. Mr. Terada explained the role of EPA during a water contamination emergency. EPA has been tasked to determine vulnerabilities in the drinking water system of the US and has the capacity to respond to a drinking water contamination

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emergency. The EPA's Office of Environmental Cleanup works closely with their Office of Water during these incidents. Mr. Terada provided a list of equipment and sampling techniques that the EPA possesses to respond to an incident. He also provided the contact information of the persons managing water contamination for the EPA.

**CLEAN AIR ACT RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Calvin Terada (EPA) [presented](#) on behalf of Kelly Huynh the EPA's Clean Air Act Risk Management Program (RMP). The mission of the RMP is to prevent off-site releases of toxics and flammables. The program does this by regulating facilities that produce and store these chemicals. Transportation of these chemicals is not regulated under the RMP. Mr. Terada provided some historical chemical releases and some of the impacts of them.

**AGENCY UPDATES**

- **HHS:** Greg Thomas (HHS) said that the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act was signed by the president in December, this makes DHS the lead agency on public health and medical type responses. He also mentioned the Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration project, which is looking at technologies to bring urban areas and facilities back on-line after a biological incident.
- **NAVY:** None
- **USACE:** Paul Peloquin (USACE) announced that there is Environmental Compliance Coordinators (ECC) at the districts and at hydro-electric facilities. A recent meeting was opened up to state and EPA regulators. Good dialogue resulted and the Corp would like to see more meetings between them and "regulators". He also mentioned that the ECCs are starting to utilize GRPs.
- **WA Emergency Management:** Ron Wilson (WA EM) reported that the Emergency Management Department trains local responders annually on various aspects of responses. He announced the LEPC and Tribal planner's conference at the Quinalt Hotel from May 14-16. Some public outreach efforts have focused on ICS in schools and inventorying chemicals in schools.
- **ID DHS:** Mary Halverson (ID DHS) gave an update highlighting her departments work with LEPCs on getting them NIMS compliant. She also mentioned the update of their HAZMAT emergency response plan.
- **DOE:** Kathy Beecher (DOE) announced the DOE's TOPOFF-4 preparation efforts including a multitude of exercises with many agencies. She promised to work with EPA with regards to FRMAC integration into ICS during TOPOFF-4. She finished by mentioning a nuclear exercise sometime next year in Kitsap County near Bangor.
- **OSHA:** Steve Grossman (OSHA) mentioned some TOPOFF-4 planning work OSHA has been doing including staging personnel ready to respond to a structure collapse.
- **USCG District 13:** Captain Joe Rodriguez (USCG D13) reported on some updates to their plans to include Pandemic Flu issues. They are also working with WA on developing new protocols for Oil Spill responses. He mentioned Sector Seattle's NPrep exercise and a discussion with NOAA on doing a Safe Seas exercise on the outer coast of WA.
- **EPA:** Chris Field (EPA) thanked Calvin Terada for his work filling in for Beth while they work on staffing her position. He mentioned an extraordinary amount of cleanup (Superfund) work this coming summer. He also explained EPA's preparation efforts for the upcoming TOPOFF-4 exercise.
- **WA Ecology:** Dale Jensen (WA Ecology) announced that Ecology has had a lot of organizational changes recently. He gave an update on the equipment caches stating there are 98 statewide currently, with an additional \$1.5 million to spend on additional caches. He noted the Derelict Vessel Bill that allots ~\$2 million for removal of vessels. Mr. Jensen finished by stating the Neah Bay Tug was used effectively this year and announced an Oil Spill Summit with the USCG in June/July and he highlighted the BC

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States Task Force Clean Pacific Conference in Seattle in September.

- **USCG Sector Portland:** CDR Russ Proctor (USCG) highlighted the TOPOFF-4 planning the sector has done. This includes a Rose City RDD exercise on April 25. He also mentioned an inter-modal transportation exercise scheduled. He finished by noting a high turnover rate this summer in the sectors response section.
- **ODEQ:** Jeff Christensen (ODEQ) thanked the group for welcoming him to his first RRT/NWAC meeting. He mentioned some organizational changes within ODEQ. He noted Jack Wylie's retirement on July 1<sup>st</sup> and announced his replacement Don Pettit. He also stated some legislative updates including fee increase for vessels and facilities also to include LNG facilities and vessels.
- **OR DHS:** Michael Heumann (OR DHS) mentioned the recent rollout of the state's radiation response plan. He said they will be training counties throughout the state on the plan.
- **US Forest Service:** David Summer (USFS) noted that the Forest Service can provide on the job training and mentoring for ICS. He stated a leadership challenge, to understand RRT's role when the locals and states are overwhelmed during a large response.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The RRT/NWAC Public Session concluded at 1530.