



Chapter 9000

Area Planning and Documentation

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Area Planning and Documentation

NWACP STATEMENT:

In 2009, the Region 10 Regional Response Team and the Northwest Area Committee jointly agreed to transition the NWACP into a more usable format, which includes a multi-year, targeted evolution of the Plan into a new major re-organization. The new format and organization of the Plan will ultimately include an Administrative or Policy Volume or Section, and an Operational Volume or Section which will include manuals, job aids and other tools for responders. Additionally, each Chapter of the Plan will be reorganized to include some guiding statements at the beginning: **“NW Area Committee Expectations”** and **“Critical Elements of Chapter ___”**. These preliminary statements are intended to help the Plan user to understand the intent and anticipated outcome from the use of that chapter or section. This formatting transition of the NWACP is expected to be completed incrementally, over a number of annual revision cycles.

9100 Regional Response Team and Northwest Area Committee Membership

The Regional Response Team and the Northwest Area Committee are a consolidated body comprised of federal, tribal and state representatives with jurisdiction over oil and hazardous material response and planning efforts in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. This group includes two coastal and one inland area committees, and the Region 10 Regional Response Team (RRT). While each area committee and the RRT retain jurisdiction over and legal responsibility for its area, the RRT/Northwest Area Committee meets and functions as a unified organization addressing spill preparedness and planning in the Pacific Northwest. To facilitate decision making within this consolidated effort, an Executive Committee is formed and is comprised of a representative from each agency including U.S. Coast Guard, District 13; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10; U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Columbia River; U.S. Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound; Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service); Department of Commerce (NOAA); Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers); Department of Energy; Department of Health and Human Services ; Department of Interior; Department of Justice; Department of Labor (OSHA); Department of Transportation; Federal Emergency Management Agency (Department of

Homeland Security); General Services Administration (GSA); State of Idaho, Bureau of Homeland Security; State of Oregon, Department of Environmental Quality; and State of Washington, Department of Ecology. The RRT also retains its incident specific functions to support the OSC and Unified Command. The RRT/Northwest Area Committee solicits advice, guidance, and expertise from all appropriate sources and establishes workgroups as necessary to accomplish preparedness and planning tasks. The RRT/Northwest Area Committee directs development and maintenance of the Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP).

9110 Area Committee Organization

The Northwest Area Committee is jointly chaired by the Captains of the Port (COTP) for Puget Sound and Portland and EPA's Emergency Response Program Manager. Washington, Oregon, and Idaho lead response agency representatives serve as co-vice chairs. Members have voice and vote at all Area Committee proceedings. Robert's Rules of Order govern all meetings. Motions will be carried by a simple majority of votes cast by member agencies but most decisions are arrived at by consensus. The Area Committee meets as determined by the membership but at least semiannually. Workgroups meet as necessary. The Area Committee does not constitute a formal Federal Advisory Committee; therefore each agency is responsible for funding its own participation.

9111 Area Committee Members

The Northwest Area Committee includes member-representatives from the following:

- U. S. Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound
- U. S. Coast Guard Sector Columbia River
- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region Ten
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
- Other federal agencies, including the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, United States Navy, United States Food and Drug Administration.
- Other state agencies, including the Oregon State Public Health Officer, Oregon State Fire Marshall, Washington Department of Health, Washington Military Department Division of Emergency Management, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.
- Local government agencies
- Tribes
- Non-governmental organizations
- Industry
- Response Contractors

Participation at Northwest Area Committee meetings includes tribal representatives, public, and other members of the spill response community.

9120 Regional Response Team

The National Contingency Plan (NCP, 40 CFR Part 300) states that regional planning and coordination of preparedness and response actions shall be accomplished through the RRT. The NCP also outlines the concept of two components of the RRT: the standing RRT and an incident-specific RRT. The role of the standing RRT includes evaluation of communication systems and procedures, planning, coordination, training, evaluation, preparedness, and related matters on a region-wide basis. In the Northwest Area, these activities are conducted concurrent with the Area Committee. As evidence of this, the Northwest Area Contingency Plan/Regional Contingency Plan has been adopted by both the RRT and the Area Committee as the spill contingency plan for the Northwest Area. The NWACP/RCP is essentially a Memorandum of Understanding by which all RRT and Area Committee member agencies will conduct responses to releases of hazardous substances and oil discharges.

The role of an incident-specific RRT is determined by the operational requirements of the response. An incident-specific RRT may be activated when the response exceeds the capabilities of the Area where it occurs, transects state boundaries, or may pose a substantial threat to public health or welfare or the environment. An incident-specific RRT may also be activated upon a request by the FOSC or any RRT representative. Generally, the RRT may be used to assist the FOSC in obtaining additional federal resources. The incident-specific RRT may also monitor and evaluate reports from the FOSC, advise the FOSC on the duration and extent of the response, recommend specific actions related to the response, assist the FOSC in preparing information for the public, and, if necessary, recommend the appointment of a different FOSC for the response.

Further, Subpart J (40 CFR §300.900; Use of Dispersants and Other Chemicals) outlines specific roles and responsibilities of the RRT and Area Committee, or certain RRT representatives, with respect to the use of particular response technologies. Section 300.910 states that RRTs and Area Committees shall address, through the planning process, the appropriate use of dispersants, surface washing agents, surface collecting agents, bioremediation agents or other miscellaneous oil spill control agents listed on the NCP Product Schedule and the appropriate use of burning agents. The NCP allows RRTs and Area Committees to develop preauthorization or expedited approval plans for the use of the substances listed above. The NCP also states that the EPA RRT representative, the affected state(s), DOI, and DOC must approve all preauthorization plans. For situations not addressed by preauthorization plans, the EPA RRT representative may authorize the use of products listed on the NCP Product Schedule or burning agents. As appropriate, this authorization should be given with the concurrence of the affected state(s) and in consultation with DOI and DOC. It should be noted that a FOSC may authorize the use of an NCP Product Schedule substance without the concurrence of the EPA RRT representative when the use of the

product is necessary to prevent or substantially reduce a hazard to human life. An incident-specific RRT can be deactivated when the Chair determines that the FOSC no longer requires RRT assistance.

9121 RRT Co-Chairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Manager, Emergency Response
EPA Region Ten (ECL-116)
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
Office telephone: (206) 553-1200
24 hour number (206) 553-1263

U.S. Coast Guard
Unit Chief, Planning Division
13th Coast Guard District
915 Second Avenue
Seattle, WA 98174
Office telephone: (206) 220-7001
24-hour number (206) 220-7015

When the RRT is activated for response actions, the chair shall be the member agency providing the OSC/RPM in accordance with 40 CFR 300.115(c). On incident-specific activations, participation by RRT member agencies will relate to the technical nature of the incident and its geographic location. When the RRT is activated, state government representatives have the same status as any federal member of the RRT. Section 9126 includes RRT activation procedures.

9122 On-Scene Coordinators

Response operations dealing with emergencies involving discharges of oil or hazardous substances requiring a Federal lead, will be carried out by pre-designated On-Scene-Coordinators, as identified below:

Inland Area: Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 24-Hour Contact Number – (206) 553-1263

Inland spill notifications for EPA should be made through the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802, who will then immediately pass the report along to the Region 10 Duty Officer. If responders need to speak directly to an EPA Region 10 Duty Officer, the above 24-hour contact may be used. If the Duty Officer cannot be reached through the above number, the responder may contact EPA Region 9, San Francisco, at (800) 300-2193, or EPA Region 8, Denver, at (888) 901-1638, who provides backup services to EPA Region 10. EPA Regions 9 and 8 have the ability to contact Region 10 Duty Officers through alternate means.

EPA Region 10 pre-designated OSCs are located in the following cities. All may be reached by calling the above number. All EPA Region 10 OSCs may respond to any location in Idaho, Oregon, or Washington.

- Seattle, WA – 9 OSCs
- Portland, OR – 2 OSCs
- Boise, ID – 1 OSC
- Coeur d'Alene, ID – 1 OSC
- Anchorage, AK – 2 OSCs

Coastal Area: United States Coast Guard

Commander
U.S. Coast Guard
Sector Puget Sound
1519 Alaskan Way South
Seattle, WA 98134
(206) 217- 6001

Commander
U.S. Coast Guard
Sector Columbia River
2185 SE 12th Place
Warrenton, OR 97146
(503) 861-6211

**9123 Federal Representatives
Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)**

U.S. Forest Service
Fire & Aviation Management
1740 SE Ochoco Way
Redmond, OR 97756
(541) 504-7204
Fax (541) 504-7215

Department of Commerce (NOAA)
NOAA Office of Response and Restoration
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115-0070
(206) 526-6317
24 Hour Spill Line: (206)526-4911

Department of Defense (United States Army Corps of Engineers)
Northwestern Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 2870
Portland, OR 97208-2870
(503) 808-3903

Department of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
Emergency Preparedness
P. O. Box 550 (A6-35)
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 376-8519

Department of Health and Human Services
Emergency Coordinator
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Department of Health and Human Services
1200 Sixth Ave., Room 1930
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 615-3600

Department of Homeland Security (FEMA)

FEMA Region 10
Federal Regional Center
Preparedness, Training, and Exercise Division
130-228th St. SW
Bothell, WA 98021-9796
(425) 487-4775

Department of Homeland Security (USCG)

Commander (dr), Response Division
Thirteenth Coast Guard District
915 Second Avenue, Room 3540
Seattle, WA 98174
(206) 220-7256

Department of the Interior

U.S. Department of the Interior
Regional Environmental Officer
620 SW Main Street, Suite 201
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 326-2489

Department of Justice

U.S. Department of Justice
Torts Branch / Civil Division
Room 7-5395 Federal Building
P. O. Box 36028
Room 7-5395 Federal Building
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3463
(415) 436-6630

Department of Labor (OSHA)

U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA
Assistant Regional Administrator
1111 Third Avenue, Suite 715
Seattle, WA 98101-3212
(206) 553-5930

Department of Transportation

Office of Transportation Safety
RETREP
Federal Aviation Administration
Northwest Mountain Region, ANM-4DD
1601 Lind Ave, S W
Renton, WA 98055
(425) 227-2000

Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Emergency Response Unit Manager
1200 Sixth Avenue, Mail Stop ECL-116
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-1200
FAX (206) 553-0175

General Services Administration (GSA)

General Services Administration (10FZX)
Regional Emergency Coordinator
400 15th St. SW
Auburn, WA 98001-6599
(253) 931-7108

9124 State Representatives

State of Idaho

Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

Director
8040 Guard Street
Boise, ID 83720
(208) 422-5725
Fax (208) 422-4485

State of Oregon

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Environmental Cleanup and Emergency Response Program Manager
811 S.W. Sixth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 229-6391
24 hour contact through OERS at 1-800-452-0311

State of Washington

Washington State Department of Ecology

Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program Manager
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-8711
(360) 407-7450

9125 Tribal Representatives

Makah Indian Tribe

Makah Tribal Council
PO Box 115
Neah Bay, WA 98357
(360) 645-2201

9126 RRT Activation Procedures

The Regional Response Team has duties outlined in the National Oil and Hazardous Substance Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 CFR, Part 300, September 15, 1994, to provide support during a response to an oil or hazardous substance spill or release. The NCP provides information concerning what conditions should exist for the RRT to be activated and what services would likely be expected during activation.

The two principle components of the RRT mechanism are a *standing team*, and *incident-specific teams* formed from the standing team when the RRT is activated for response. This document provides guidelines on the procedures for activation of an incident-specific team and is not intended to inhibit or impede agency-to-agency requests. The role of the incident-specific team is determined by the operational requirements of the response to a specific discharge or release. A quick response sheet for the activation follows section 2j with example emails.

1. **Purpose:** This document provides general guidelines for activation of the RRT, in accordance with the NCP.
2. **Task Directed of the RRT:**
 - a. Monitoring and evaluation of reports from the OSC/RPM; advise the OSC/RPM on the duration and extent of response; and recommend specific response actions.
 - b. Request other federal, state, local governments, or private agencies to provide resources under their existing authorities;
 - c. Help the OSC/RPM prepare information releases for the public and for communication with the NRT.
 - d. Review major policy issues with regard to response actions for dispersants usage in Case by Case area.
 - e. Review major policy issues with regard to response actions for in-situ burning
 - f. Review major policy issues with regard to response actions for use of surfactant cleaners
 - g. Review major policy issues with regard to response actions for use of solidifiers
 - h. Review major policy issues with regard to response actions for use of Bioremediation
 - i. If circumstances warrant, make recommendations to the regional or district head of the agency providing the OSC/RPM that a different OSC/RPM should be designated; and
 - j. Submit reports to NRT as significant developments occur.

Quick Response Sheet For RRT Co-Chair Activation of Regional Response Team 10

The Regional Response Team has duties outlined in the National Oil and Hazardous Substance Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 CFR, Part 300, September 15, 1994, to provide support during a response to an oil or hazardous substance spill or release. The NCP provides information concerning what conditions should exist for the RRT to be activated and what services would likely be expected during activation.

The two principle components of the RRT mechanism are a *standing team*, and *incident-specific teams* formed from the standing team when the RRT is activated for response. This document provides guidelines on the procedures for activation of an incident-specific team and is not intended to inhibit or impede agency-to-agency requests. The role of the incident-specific team is determined by the operational requirements of the response to a specific discharge or release.

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 - e. Review major policy issues with regard to response actions for in-situ burning
 - f. Review major policy issues with regard to response actions for use of surfactant cleaners
 - g. Review major policy issues with regard to response actions for use of solidifiers
 - h. Review major policy issues with regard to response actions for use of Bioremediation
 - i. If circumstances warrant, make recommendations to the regional or district head of the agency providing the OSC/RPM that a different OSC/RPM should be designated; and
 - j. Submit reports to NRT as significant developments occur.

1. <u>Indicate the Type of Situation for Activation of the RRT:</u>	
The following are situations that could require activation of the RRT:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Has there been a request by the FOOSC or SOOSC to the RRT Co-Chair lead Agency (jurisdiction) to activate RRT?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Has there been a request by an RRT member to the RRT Co-Chair lead Agency (jurisdiction) to activate RRT?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Has there been an oil discharge or hazardous material release which may pose a serious threat to the public health, welfare, the environment, or to regionally significant amounts of property?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the incident an oil discharge or hazardous material release that is a worst case discharge as described in 40 CFR 300.324?
2. <u>Who Chairs the Activated RRT?:</u>	
Chaired by lead Agency (jurisdiction) (Agency that is FOOSC for spill.)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	EPA
<input type="checkbox"/>	USCG
3. <u>Determine Type of Activation</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full activation:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have all of the RRT member agencies and affected states been activated by the Lead Agency Chair?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partial Activation:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have specific agencies and affected states been activated by Lead Agency Chair?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have all RRT agencies and affected states been notified?
4. <u>RRT Activation Process:</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Step 1: OSC or designated representative provided a brief and summary of issues to the EPA or USCG RRT Co-Chair, depending on location of the spill.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Step 2: The RRT Lead Agency Chair, in consultation with others as needed, decides to activate the RRT and determines the participating agencies.
<p>Co-Chairs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard, District 13</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10</p> <p>Members</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Commerce (NOAA)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Defense (Army Corps of Engineers)</p>	<p>Alternate Members</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Commerce, NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Federal Highway Administration</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> USCG Sector Columbia River, and Sector Puget Sound</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Oregon State Public Health Officer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Oregon Emergency Management Director</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Washington State Department of Health, Secretary of Health</p>

	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Energy <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Justice <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Labor (OSHA) <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Emergency Management Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Health and Human Services <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Interior <input type="checkbox"/> General Services Administration (GSA) <input type="checkbox"/> State of Idaho, Bureau of Homeland Security <input type="checkbox"/> State of Oregon, Department of Environmental Quality <input type="checkbox"/> State of Washington, Department of Ecology <input type="checkbox"/> Food and Drug Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington Military Department, Director of Emergency Management Division Tribes <hr/> Other <hr/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Step 3: The RRT Lead Agency Chair instructs their staff (RRT Coordinators / Command Centers) to coordinate a phone conference for the activation. (Use NRC or other connection to get the teleconference line set up for the number of members expected to call in, see Section 7)</p> <p>Call in Time: _____</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Step 4: RRT Lead Agency Chair calls for a meeting activation of all participating members that are needed checked off on the member list indicated in Section 8 Points of Contact..</p>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Have staff call and email or fax all members expected to participate in the activation with the teleconferencing information and a short synopsis of the situation. (see attached example)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> All other members of the RRT and affected states are to be notified by e-mail with a general synopsis of the situation if it is a partial activation of the RRT.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Step 5: During the initial phone conference, the RRT Lead Agency Chair will provide the following information:</p>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> The lead agency Chair for the activated RRT.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reason for and background of the activation;	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Status of the incident and the response, as known;	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Relevant RRT activities to date;	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Type of activation (full or partial); if partial, the agencies/states involved and why they were selected;	
	<input type="checkbox"/> For all cases that involve dispersant decisions add the following site from the National Contingency Plan should be read for clarification: 40CFR300.915(b) For spill situations that are not addressed by the preauthorization plans developed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the OSC, with the concurrence of the EPA representative to the RRT and, as appropriate, the concurrence of the RRT representatives from the states with jurisdiction over the navigable waters threatened by the release or	

	discharge, and in consultation with the DOC and DOI natural resource trustees, when practicable, may authorize the use of dispersants, surface washing agents, surface collecting agents, bioremediation agents, or miscellaneous oil spill control agents on the oil discharge, provided that the products are listed on the NCP Product Schedule.
<input type="checkbox"/>	For all cases that involve in-situ burning decisions add the following site from the National Contingency Plan should be read for clarification: 40CFR300.915 (c) The OSC, with the concurrence of the EPA representative to the RRT and, as appropriate, the concurrence of the RRT representatives from the states with jurisdiction over the navigable waters threatened by the release or discharge, and in consultation with the DOC and DOI natural resource trustees, when practicable, may authorize the use of burning agents on a case-by-case basis.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Step 6: The lead agency Chair of the activated RRT will provide the following:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide specific information and assistance requests to other agencies and states
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide participating member agencies/states with planned response actions;
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify the Incident Command Center to support the activated RRT; (i.e. EPA, CCGD13 or State Operations Centers)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prioritize requests and establish deadlines for completion of tasks;
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide point of contact for furnishing updated information to each member agency/state;
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide the Lead Agency Chair’s 24 hour contact information;
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish a schedule for future conferences.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Step 7: The RRT Lead Agency Chair and Co-Chair and will continue to conduct the meetings as needed and act on RRT requests. Next Meeting(s) Date/Time:
5. Does the NRT Need to be Notified?:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The decision to notify the NRT for advice lies with the EPA and USCG RRT Co-Chairs. This can be done:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Whenever there is insufficient national policy guidance
<input type="checkbox"/>	A technical matter requiring a solution, a question concerning interpretation of the NCP,
<input type="checkbox"/>	A disagreement on discretionary actions among RRT members that can’t be resolved at the regional level,
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact the National Response Center with the request for NRT Notification ((800) 424-8802)
6. Terminating RRT Activation:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Termination of RRT involvement will be initiated by the RRT Co-Chair, in consultation with the RRT, lead agency chair, and OSC/RPM, after assumed tasks have been completed and RRT involvement is no longer considered necessary.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff to message to all members of RRT of the termination of the activation
7. Conference Call Services	

	The National Response Center (NRC) is equipped and ready to provide conference call services. Simply call 1-800-424-8802 . You will need to provide a point of contact, number of participants, time, and duration of call. They will provide a phone number for the participants to call into (“meet-me” conference).
8. <u>Points of Contact:</u>	
	Use Current Member Contact List on RRT 10 internet private site. (http://private.rrt10nwac.com/)

RRT Activation Example E-Mail/Message

SUBJ: Activation of RRT 10 for EPA Thermo Fluids response in Portland, OR-TODAY @ 10 am Pacific

Region 10 RRT –

EPA Region 10 Federal On Scene Coordinators Michael Szerlog and Dan Heister are requesting an activation of the Region 10 RRT to discuss funding issues that have arisen during our response to the Thermo Fluids fire that occurred on Monday, March 15th in Portland, Oregon. The purpose of this Incident Specific RRT activation is to make the RRT aware of the funding issue and raise the possibility that RRT 10 will raise this issue to the NRT, if necessary. A conference call line has been set up for 10 - 11:30 am Pacific time today and the call in number is 202-267-2174.

While the entire Region 10 RRT is welcome to join in on the conference call, the specific agencies being requested for this activation are:

- USEPA
- US Coast Guard, District 13
- Dept of Interior
- Dept of Commerce (NOAA)
- State of Oregon
- State of Washington
- State of Idaho

Also, due to the USEPA/USCG jurisdictional boundary on the Willamette River (Oregon City Falls), we would like to request that Associate RRT Member Sector Columbia River also be included in the activation (see below for further discussion).

Background

After Oregon DEQ's request for assistance, EPA began its response to this fire and resulting oil release to Johnson Creek, a tributary to the Willamette River, on Monday afternoon, March 15th. The fire broke out earlier in the day. Although the responsible party is conducting much of the response work, EPA is directing the response as required by the NCP. The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSTLF) was opened to initiate EPA's response. A PRFA (Pollution Removal Funding Authorization) was also issued by the FOSC to US Fish and Wildlife Service for assistance in protecting fish and wildlife species and habitat in the area. Shortly into the response, the presence of hazardous substances (acid and asbestos) was also identified and EPA has initiated a concurrent CERCLA assessment, with CERCLA funding, to evaluate the potential threat caused by these hazardous substances. The majority of the response efforts have been and

continue to be protection of Johnson Creek and the Willamette River from the impacts of the released petroleum products.

Although this is a waste oil facility, analytical results do not show significant amounts of any CERCLA hazardous substances in the oil.

Below is the email from the NPFC documenting the freezing of oil spill funds for this response.

EPA has set up a web site for the Thermo Fluids response. The web site also includes the POLREPS that have been developed to date. Please do not release this web site to the public at this time.

<http://www.epaosc.org/>

Issue

The National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC), managed by the USCG, has capped the funding allowed for this response at the initial request of \$46,000. With this amount of funding, EPA estimates that we will have to demobilize from the site beginning at approximately 12 noon today, Friday, March 19th. Due to the petroleum exclusion in CERCLA, EPA does not believe we have the statutory authority to continue the response without OSTLF/NPFC funding. The FOSCs on-scene estimate that EPA needs to remain in its oversight role for approximately an additional 5 days until the threat to Johnson Creek has been abated. Oregon DEQ is very concerned that if EPA leaves the site, the responsible party will not fulfill its responsibility to abate the impacts of the discharge of oil into the environment.

If the NPFC does not reverse its decision to cut off funding by 12 noon today, EPA would like RRT 10 to elevate this issue to the National Response Team.

Ancillary Issue

The USEPA/USCG jurisdictional boundary on the Willamette River is the Oregon City Dam/Falls which is upstream of the confluence of Johnson Creek with the Willamette River. In the geographic boundaries section of Chapter 1000 of the NWACP it states:

"According to Section 300.140(b) of the NCP, if a discharge or release effects more than one zone, determination of the FOSC shall be based on the area vulnerable to the greatest threat. If the area vulnerable to the greatest threat cannot be determined, the Unified Command shall establish an Incident Command System that adequately accounts for effective response in both zones. If transition of FOSC from one agency to another is necessary, the transition shall follow the guidelines outlined in Section 1410 of this plan."

EPA wants to confirm that USCG Sector Columbia River is aware of the response and supportive of EPA's role as the FOSC.

(for all cases that involve dispersant decisions add the following site from the National Contingency Plan for clarification: 40CFR300.915(b) For spill situations that are not addressed by the preauthorization plans developed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the OSC, with the concurrence of the EPA representative to the RRT and, as appropriate, the concurrence of the RRT representatives from the states with jurisdiction over the navigable waters threatened by the release or discharge, and in consultation with the DOC and DOI natural resource trustees, when practicable, may authorize the use of dispersants, surface washing agents, surface collecting agents, bioremediation agents, or miscellaneous oil spill control agents on the oil discharge, provided that the products are listed on the NCP Product Schedule.)

(for all cases that involve in-situ burning decisions add the following site from the National Contingency Plan for clarification: 40CFR300.915 (c) The OSC, with the concurrence of the EPA representative to the RRT and, as appropriate, the concurrence of the RRT representatives from the states with jurisdiction over the navigable waters threatened by the release or discharge, and in consultation with the DOC and DOI natural resource trustees, when practicable, may authorize the use of burning agents on a case-by-case basis.)

9130 Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is responsible for ensuring the NWACP/RCP remains a valuable response tool for local, state and federal responders in the Northwest Area. At the direction of the RRT and Northwest Area Committee, the Steering Committee shall undertake efforts to review and improve the NWACP/RCP, conduct outreach activities to increase the general understanding of the NWACP/RCP, and make recommendations to the RRT and Area Committee regarding planning and preparedness activities. The Steering Committee is also responsible for coordination of workgroups and ensuring assigned tasks are carried out. The following is a list of the primary duties the Steering Committee is responsible for in coordinating the workgroups:

- Development and update of the Strategic Plan as required, working with the RRT/NWAC members to identify work priorities and a schedule for completion;
- Assign projects and track workgroup and task force progress;
- Review workgroup and task force charters and workplans to assure they reflect Steering Committee priorities and are kept up to date;
- Assure each workgroup or task force has an appointed contact on the Steering Committee;
- Coordinate the development of new workgroups or task forces as needed and as directed.

Additionally, Steering Committee members are to attend at least one or more workgroups or task force meetings per year.

The Steering Committee includes members from EPA, USCG (District 13, MSO Puget Sound, and MSO Portland), the States of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, NOAA, the Department of Interior, and FEMA. EPA and the USCG District 13 currently co-chair the Steering Committee.

9140 Workgroups

The RRT, NW Area Committee, and Steering Committee have commissioned a number of workgroups to conduct planning and preparedness activities on their behalf. The workgroups have been issued charters that broadly outline strategic objectives for the next 2 to 5 years. Membership on these workgroups may include representatives from industry, environmental groups, cleanup contractors, and other interested parties. Executive RRT/NWAC members are appointed as sponsors to work groups. Workgroups may include facility owners/operators, shipping company representatives, cleanup contractors, emergency response officials, marine pilots associations, academia, environmental groups, consultants, response organizations, and concerned citizens. Local community members may be a valuable source of information for workgroups regarding local knowledge of resources, oceanographic, weather and logistical problems. Workgroups are responsible for development of charters and yearly workplans that are reflected in the Strategic Plan and reviewed by the Steering Committee. Information on the progress of each workgroup will be forwarded to the Steering Committee through its point of contact on the committee.

The following is a list of the current RRT/NWAC Workgroups. Additional workgroups or Task Forces may be established as needed to address specific subjects, unique problems, etc. Charters and current action plans for each of these workgroups may be found on the RRT/NWAC web site.

- Communications & Public Outreach
- Geographic Response Planning
- Hazardous Substances
- Logistics
- Marine Fire Fighting
- Science and Response Technologies
- Wildlife
- Places of Refuge

9150 Task Forces

Task Forces are formed for short term projects on specific issues. They may be formed at the direction of the Executive Session members or the Steering Committee as needed. The Steering Committee will coordinate and give a charter to the Task Force outlining the starting and completion dates and goals and objectives that it is to meet and accomplish.

9200 Plan Review and Process**9210 Plan Implementation**

Agencies signatory to this plan must participate in a training process to ensure familiarity with its contents. Other participating agencies are encouraged to use this plan in all response training. Signatory agencies agree to establish an annual training program within their agencies to ensure that all parties:

- Understand and are fully aware of their respective roles and responsibilities.
- Understand their role in the Unified Command System (UCS).
- Understand how their agency coordinates and communicates with other parties and agencies.
- Understand what and where their assignments will be at a spill scene
- Understand the overall level of commitment their agency is to devote to spill response operations
- Understand how they will be notified and when to respond to such notification.

Agency spill responders and key personnel are required to read this plan on an annual basis. Each agency is responsible for regular review of this document. The use of open- and closed book examinations for training purposes is encouraged.

9220 Exercises

The Federal and state agencies signatory to the Northwest Area Contingency Plan agree to adopt exercise policy consistent with the national guidance on exercise known as the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP). The PREP guidance calls for four frequencies of exercises: quarterly, semi-annually, annually, and triennially, depending on the group holding the exercise.

Government and industry will hold exercises, each initiating them according to the recommended PREP frequency. The very large, triennial exercises will be scheduled through the National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC). Note that the triennial exercises are scheduled based on Federal jurisdiction. Therefore for the Northwest Area, triennial exercises may be scheduled such that one takes place each year since there are three Federal jurisdictions. However, exercise scheduling will be coordinated to involve multiple jurisdictions whenever possible.

Typically, the groups holding exercises under PREP include oil handling facilities, tank vessels, pipeline, and Federal agencies such as the Coast Guard and EPA. Individual states are expected to tailor the PREP guidance to suit state needs and priorities without altering their approach to the point of inconsistency with the Federal program. For example, the Washington State Department of Ecology will require annual exercises of its oil handling facility and vessel plan holders. The triennial cycle and the core drill objectives are consistent with the federal drill program, except that in Washington, plan holders receive written

evaluations from the Department of Ecology as well as a tracking matrix to document progress throughout the cycle.

Federal and state agencies may use unannounced drills to test the effectiveness of oil spill contingency plans. Lessons learned from all types of drills are incorporated into plans to continuously improve our ability to respond.

9221 Exercise Scheduling

Exercise scheduling is vital to the success of a national and regional program. Large sums of money and time are involved, particularly for large exercises. Coordinated scheduling allows key players to be available and budgets to be planned. Exercises will be scheduled in two ways depending on their frequency. Large triennial or “Area” exercises as PREP calls them will be scheduled through the National Strike Force Coordination Center in coordination with regional agencies and industry. Smaller annual drills will be scheduled through a clearinghouse working within the Northwest Area Committee. This scheduling function is a task of the Steering Committee and the area drill schedule is posted at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/preparedness/Drills/drill_calendar0809.html

9222 Exercise Evaluation

PREP sees exercise evaluation as “self evaluation”. Federal agencies will likely not evaluate exercises smaller than the triennial “Area” drills, but may attend a sampling of those given. States may attend and evaluate more exercises depending on their staff workloads. Criteria by which Area drills will be evaluated will be established by the NSFCC. In Washington State, there is a high degree of interaction concerning the design, participation and evaluation of oil spill drills.

9223 Exercise Debriefing

Following spill exercises, debriefing sessions are frequently conducted to include all relevant Federal and state personnel. Any other interested personnel from other than primary response agencies, local responders, and contractors may also be invited to participate in the debrief. Debriefs are driven by original exercise objectives. The debrief may include, but is not be limited to:

- Notification
- Action Plans
- Evaluation and initiation of action
- Investigation
- Operations
- Communication
- Natural resource protection
- Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation
- Site security/traffic control
- Safety
- Public Affairs

- Funding/contracting
- Disposal
- Dispersant use issues
- Conflicts
- ICS

Necessary records of each exercise should be kept for three years. These records shall include dates, personnel present/participating in ICS positions, and a summary of the exercise to be made available to all participants and the public at large. These reports will be used to update this plan.

9230 Revision/Update Requirements

The Northwest Area Contingency Plan shall be reviewed and updated annually by the Area Committee. In addition, the Area Committee has established a staggered approach for in-depth review of all NWACP Chapters over a period of five years. Comments on the plan can be submitted to the Area Committee at <http://www.rrt10nwac.com/Comment/Default.aspx>.

9231 Plan Review/Update Process

The Steering Committee will receive recommendations for Plan revisions from workgroups, exercises/drills, training, NWACP RRT Co-Chair Guidance and other interested parties at least two months prior to the update cycle. The preferred method for submitting recommended changes is through the RRT/NWAC web site Submit Comments link: <http://www.rrt10nwac.com/Comment/Default.aspx>. Alternatively, comments and recommended changes may be submitted the Steering committee lead for the appropriate chapter. In either case the Steering Committee lead will:

- Consider the proposed change
- Make edits and minor changes
- Submit major changes to the Steering Committee for review and concurrence
- Provide feedback to the submitter on the action taken.

9240 Geographic Response Plans

Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) contain oil spill response strategies for marine and inland waters of Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Each GRP has two priorities: identification of natural, cultural and significant economic resources in a specific geographic region; and to describe and prioritize response strategies to minimize damages to these resources during an oil spill. GRPs can be located at <http://www.rrt10nwac.com/GRP/Default.aspx>

Each GRP plan has several chapters that contain:

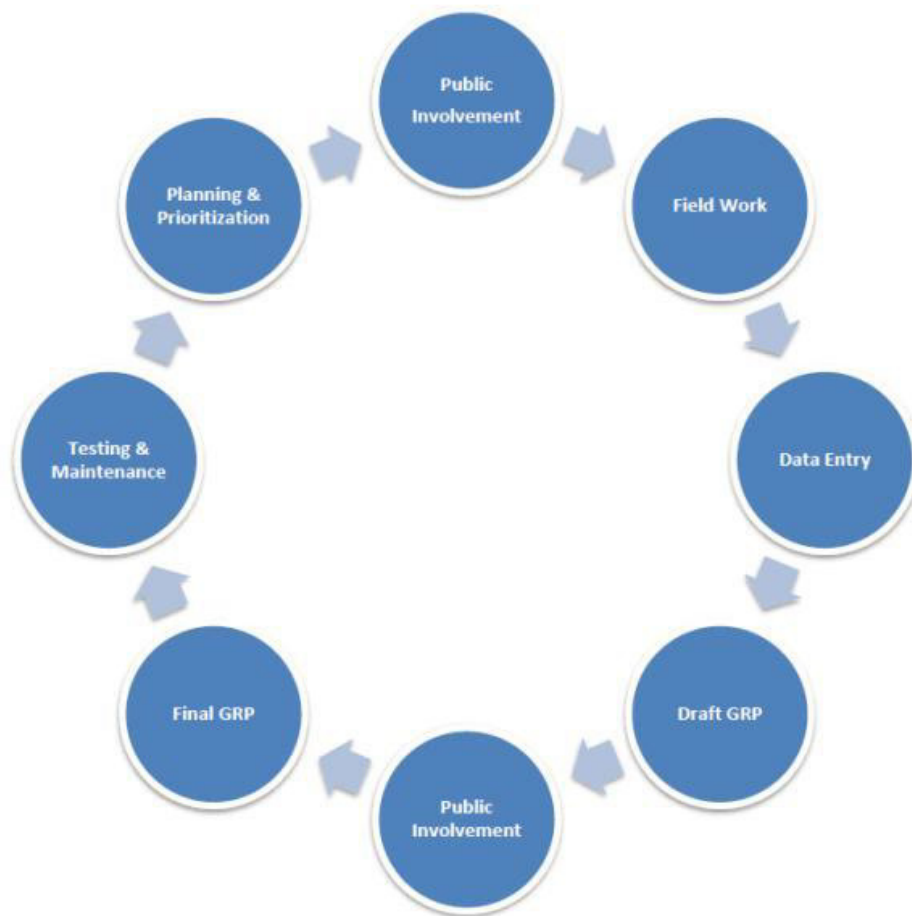
- Introduction to the plan

- Site Descriptions including Physical Features, Hydrology, Climate, Risk Assessment, and Literature References
- Reference maps and prioritized tactical strategies
- Resources at Risk and Shoreline Information
- Logistical Information for the area

9241 Process to Develop GRPs

Development of GRPs in the Northwest is a collaborative process. GRPs are developed through workshops and field work involving federal, state, and local oil spill emergency response experts, representatives from tribes, local governments, industry, ports, environmental organizations, pilots and response contractors. Workshop participants identify resources, develop operational strategies, help prioritize the strategies and pinpoint logistical support. It is important to involve local governments and local communities in the GRP development process. Field work is conducted to visit the selected sites, confirm the existence of the resource at risk and further refine the operational strategies.

Table 1 – GRP Development and Update Cycle



9242 Agencies Responsible to Develop and Maintain GRPs

Key RRT/Area Committee agencies have committed resources to manage the development and maintenance of GRPs:

- Marine GRPs in Washington state are co-managed by the Department of Ecology and the U.S. Coast Guard;
- Inland GRPs in Washington state are co-managed by the Department of Ecology and the EPA;
- Marine GRPs in Oregon are co-managed by the Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Coast Guard
- Inland GRPs in Oregon are co-managed by the Department of Environmental Quality and the EPA;
- Inland GRPs in Idaho are managed by the EPA.

9243 Testing GRPs

GRP strategies are tested during drills and spills or during the plan development process. Testing of the strategies is an important priority for the northwest response community. Deployment provides an opportunity for response contractors, plan holders and agencies to verify effectiveness of the strategy, deploy equipment, and train personnel to ensure they are prepared for a real oil spill. GRP strategies are updated based on the results of the drills.

Comments on Geographic Response Plans, and the testing of GRP strategies during deployments can be made through the submit comments page - <http://www.rrt10nwac.com/Comment/Default.aspx>

9300 Planning Assumptions – Background Information

9310 Significant weather factors for Washington’s northern outer coast

There are significant weather factors for Vessel Response Plan (VRP) holders to consider when evaluating the operability of response equipment from the Hoh River north along the outer coast of Washington State to the entrance of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This is Washington’s northern outer coast.

Reference: Appendix B to Part 33 CFR155 – Determining and Evaluating Required Response Resources for Vessel Response Plan
33CFR155, 2.5

A vessel owner or operator must refer to the applicable Area Contingency Plan to determine if ice, debris, and weather-related visibility are significant factors in evaluating the operability of equipment.

Weather Factors to Consider When Planning Oil Spill Response Tactics and Evaluating Safety Plans

Fog

Fog can result in curtailing or reducing the effectiveness of:

- spill recon/monitoring, either by boat or by air
- on-water recovery
- in-situ burn or dispersant activities

Fog can create a boating safety hazard. This can be true anywhere in Washington's marine waters, but is a special problem on the northern outer coast, especially if vessels are operating close to shore where there are numerous rocks and reefs.

Fog can also be a major factor affecting where and when crews can be deployed. On Washington's northern outer coast, dense summer fogs can materialize very quickly. This presents a special challenge because many sites on this remote stretch of coastline are not accessible via boat or land trail and thus require a helicopter to insert/extract personnel, such as:

- response contractors tasked with deploying or maintaining booming strategies
- SCAT/sampling/NRDA teams
- Oiled wildlife search & collection crews

Any response planning that considers inserting personnel on remote beaches using helicopters will need to include provisions for intensive weather monitoring and ensuring that sufficient helicopters are available to accomplish the safe extraction of beach personnel within a very short time frame. Only the rarest of these sites is accessible via boat and very few can be accessed by trail. [I.e. Don't put more people on the beach in isolated sites than you can extract within a 1-hour or less time window with available helicopter assets.]

Small craft operating in nearshore waters along the northern Washington Coast (from Pt. Grenville north to Cape Flattery) should also implement safety procedures to address the possibility of fog. It is highly recommended that such vessels maintain a continuous GPS trackline that will allow them to retrace their route back to safe waters in case fog develops before they've had a chance to clear nearshore hazards such as reefs, kelp beds, rocks and islands.

Wind/Waves

All mechanical equipment used in oil-spill cleanup, including Oil Spill Recovery Vessels, have operating limits. Alternate technologies for spill cleanup such as dispersant application and in situ burning have operating limits. These limits can and do cause recovery operations to be halted, making response situations weather dependent, fog dependent or daylight dependent.

There are many operating limits that can shut down recovery operations. Generally, when winds reach a Beaufort Wind Scale of 6 and seas are in excess of eight feet, mechanical skimming is no longer viable. There are instances when the

envelope can be pushed, when seas have a long period, for example. Conversely, there are other instances when operations are no longer safe and effective, even at lower wind speeds, such as when seas are short and choppy. At Beaufort 5 and above, we must take into account skimming vessel safety, equipment integrity, and the physics of a vessel working in waves.

The specific gravity of recoverable black oil and water are close in magnitude. The oil will float on a calm day; however, when energy from the wind and waves is introduced, the oil will roil with the sea and be naturally dispersed under the surface. There, it can attach to small debris and sink or wash up on a beach or resurface as emulsified oil. In these high energy states the oil is not at the surface and available for skimmer collection.

From northern outer coast weather data, one can roughly extrapolate that the winter months do not favor open-water containment and mechanical recovery or the use of alternate technologies. In weather conditions such as these, the marshalling of resources would be better aimed at shoreline protection and cleaning versus open water operations.

Severe weather would also impact in situ burning and air-assisted dispersant operations. With in situ burning, it would be difficult getting to and corralling the oil with boom. In the case of aerial dispersant operations, the dispersant would likely be carried with the wind and either dry out on the way to the surface or not land as targeted.

Other Weather Conditions

Severe wind, surf and tide conditions can present safety hazards to boat and/or shoreline operations in any area or season, and such conditions are routinely addressed via the Site Safety Plan. Special attention, however, must be paid to situations where personnel are deployed onto beaches from which egress or extraction is limited. Examples include narrow beaches backed by bluffs or cliffs or pocket beaches located between impassible headlands. Such conditions occur throughout the NW, but are especially common on the northern Washington coast. Strong onshore winds, because of their amplifying influence on tidal height, can dramatically reduce the available amount of time during which some of these beaches are safe for personnel conducting recon, beach cleanup or other response-related tasks. The safety instructions for individual work assignments should emphasize the need for scheduling on-site work such that ample time is provided for safe egress (or extraction via boat or helicopter, if feasible) before crews get trapped.

Mitigating Factors

Vessel plan holders have a number of mitigating factors along this northern outer coastal area and they are significant.

- The implementation of the year-round rescue tug at Neah Bay reduces the potential of drift grounding.

- The International Maritimes Organization (IMO) Area to be Avoided (ATBA) applies to all ships and barges carrying cargoes of oil and hazardous materials, and all ships 1,600 gross tons and above solely in transit. The ATBA along the outer coast moves vessel traffic away from the coastline to reduce the risk of a marine casualty.
- The response community has been conducting HAZWOPER training for local first responders targeting coastal tribes.
- Both industry and the State of Washington have prepositioned additional response equipment in the northern outer coast area.
- To address the uncertainties associated with response in remote areas with dynamic weather, the Outer Coast Geographic Response Plan incorporates procedures to ensure that response assets are not committed to a remote site until we have done reconnaissance or contacted someone for real-time information on conditions at the strategy site. This saves time and allows us to ensure that we're putting our response assets where they're most likely to be effective.
- Finally, the OPA 90 regulations have addressed many other mitigating factors, including the required use of double hulled barges and tankers to transport oil.

9400 Spill and Discharge History

9500 Spill Scenarios

9510 General

An important part of contingency planning is anticipating the effects of a spill and preparing in advance for the response to spills likely to occur in the area. This chapter outlines responses to three levels of response scenarios: the worst-case discharge (the complete discharge of a vessel's cargo in adverse weather conditions, 35-million gallons), the maximum most probable discharge (the largest historical spill in the area - up to 250,000 gallons), most probable discharge (the "average" spill up to 100 gallons) for each of the two areas covered by this plan (Puget Sound Area, Portland Area), and also a single worst-case discharge scenario for the inland EPA Region Ten Area. Note that scenario discussions are separated by federal jurisdictions. This is because the requirement to develop scenarios is a federal one. These scenarios cover the range of spills likely to occur. At this time, the Area Committee is only required to develop these scenarios for oil discharges. The Area Committee will address scenario development for releases of hazardous substances in a future release of this plan.

9520 Discharge Scenarios

Worst case, maximum most probable, and most probable discharge information has been removed from the public version of this document for security concerns.

This information is available upon request at
<http://www.rrt10nwac.com/Comment/Default.aspx>.

9660 Health and Safety Manual**9670 Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies****9680 Oil Spill Best Management Practices****9690 Places of Refuge****9700 Liaison Manual****9800 Memorandum of Agreements between Participating Agencies****9900 Support and Reference Resources****9910 Glossary**

The following lists contain definitions for terms and acronyms used in this plan and in the oil and hazardous materials response community generally. While the lists may not be comprehensive, every effort was made to define and identify terms and acronyms to make this document usable to the layperson. Differences between state and federal definitions are identified where necessary.

9911 Definitions

The sources of definitions are indicated where appropriate. For enforcement purposes, refer to the applicable state laws or federal regulations.

Area Committee, as defined by sections 311(a)(18) and (j)(4) of CWA, as amended by OPA, means the entity appointed by the President consisting of members from Federal, state, and local agencies with responsibilities that include preparing an area contingency plan for a designated area.

Area Contingency Plan (ACP), as defined by sections 311(a)(19) and (j)(4) of CWA, as amended by OPA, means the plan prepared by an area committee, that in conjunction with the NCP, shall address the removal of a discharge, including a worst-case discharge and the mitigation or prevention of a substantial threat of such a discharge from a vessel, offshore facility, or onshore facility operating in or near a designated area.

Biological additives means microbiological cultures, enzymes, or nutrient additives deliberately introduced into an oil discharge to encourage biodegradation to mitigate the effects of the discharge.

Bulk means material that is stored or transported in a loose, unpackaged liquid, powder or granular form capable of being conveyed by a pipe, bucket, chute or belt system.

Burning agents means those additives that, through physical or chemical means, improve the combustibility of the materials to which they are applied.

CERCLA is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986. It is also known as the Superfund Act.

Chemical agents means those elements, compounds, or mixtures that coagulate, disperse, dissolve, emulsify, foam, neutralize, precipitate, reduce, solubilize, oxidize, concentrate, congeal, entrap, fix, make the pollutant mass more rigid or viscous, or otherwise facilitate the mitigation of deleterious effects or the removal of the oil, hazardous substance, pollutants, or contaminants from the water. Chemical agents include biological additives, dispersants, sinking agents, miscellaneous oil spill control agents, and burning agents.

Claim means a request, made in writing for a sum certain, for compensation for damages or removal costs resulting from an incident.

Coastal waters means the waters of the coastal zone except for the Great Lakes and specified ports and harbors on inland rivers. Precise boundaries are determined by USCG/EPA agreements and identified in this ACP (see Table 1-1).

Coastal zone means all United States waters subject to the tide, United States waters of the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain, specified ports and harbors on inland rivers, waters of the contiguous zone, other waters of the high seas subject to the NCP, and the land surface or land substrata, ground waters, and ambient air proximal to those waters. The term coastal zone delineates an area of federal responsibility for response action. Precise boundaries are determined by EPA/USCG agreements identified in Federal Regional Contingency Plans. Boundaries are also identified in this ACP. (Table 1-1)

Coast Guard District Response Group, as defined by sections 311(a)(20) and (j)(3) of CWA, as amended by OPA, means the entity established by the Secretary of the department in which the USCG is operating in each USCG district and shall consist of: the combined USCG personnel and equipment, including firefighting equipment, of each port within the district; additional pre-positioned response equipment; and a district response advisory team.

Contiguous Zone means the zone of the high seas, established by the United States under Article 24 of the Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone, which extends nine miles seaward from the outer limit of the territorial sea.

Discharge, as defined by section 311(a)(2) of CWA; as amended by OPA, includes, but is not limited to, any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, or dumping of oil, but excludes discharges in compliance with a permit under section 402 of CWA, discharges resulting from circumstances identified and reviewed and made a part of the public record with respect to a permit issued

or modified under section 402 of CWA, and subject to a condition in such permit, or continuous or anticipated intermittent discharges from a point source, identified in a permit or permit application under section 402 of CWA, that are caused by events occurring within the scope of relevant operating or treatment systems. For purposes of the NCP, discharge also means imminent threat of discharge.

Dispersants are chemical agents that facilitate dispersal of the oil into the water column.

Drinking water supply, as defined by section 101(7) of CERCLA, means any raw or finished water source that is or may be used by a public water system (as defined in the Safe Drinking Water Act) or as drinking water by one or more individuals.

Federally permitted release, as defined by section 101(10) of CERCLA, means discharges in compliance with a permit under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; discharges resulting from circumstances identified and reviewed and made part of the public record with respect to a permit issued or modified under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and subject to a condition of such permit.

First Federal Official means the first federal representative of a participating agency of the National Response Team to arrive at the scene of a discharge. This official coordinates activities under the NCP and may initiate, in consultation with the FOSC, any necessary actions until the arrival of the pre-designated FOSC.

Fund or Trust Fund means the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, various state funds or the Hazardous Substance Response Trust Fund.

The Geographic Response Plan (GRP) is a document, which provides oil spill response strategies and natural, cultural and economic resource sensitivity information for specific geographic areas.

Ground water, as defined by section 101(12) of CERCLA, means water in a saturated zone or stratum beneath the surface of land or water.

Hazardous substance, as defined by section 101(14) of CERCLA, means: any substance designated pursuant to section 311(b)(2)(A) of the CWA; any element, compound, mixture, solution, or substance designated pursuant to section 102 of CERCLA; any hazardous waste having the characteristics identified under or listed pursuant to section 3001 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (but not including any waste the regulation of which under the Solid Waste Disposal Act has been suspended by Act of Congress); any toxic pollutant listed under section 307(a) of the CWA; any hazardous air pollutant listed under section 112 of the Clean Air Act; and any imminently hazardous chemical substance or mixture with respect to which the Administrator has taken action pursuant to section 7 of the Toxic Substances Control Act. The term does not include petroleum, including crude oil

or any fraction thereof, which is not otherwise specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance in the first sentence of this paragraph, and the term does not include natural gas, natural gas liquids, liquefied natural gas or synthetic gas usable for fuel (or mixtures of natural gas and such synthetic gas).

Inland waters means those waters of the United States in the inland zone, waters of the Great Lakes, Lake Champlain, and specified ports and harbors on inland rivers.

Inland zone means the environment inland of the coastal zone excluding the Great Lakes, Lake Champlain, and specified ports and harbors on inland rivers. The term inland zone delineates an area of federal responsibilities for response actions. Precise boundaries are determined by EPA/USCG agreements and are identified in this ACP. (Table 1-1)

Incident of National Significance means an incident which due to its severity, size, location, actual or potential impact on the public health and welfare or the environment, or the necessary response effort, is so complex that it requires extraordinary coordination of federal, state, local, and responsible party resources to contain and cleanup.

Lead agency means the Federal or State agency that has primary responsibility for coordinating response action under this Plan. The lead Federal agency is the agency that provides the FOSC as specified elsewhere in this Plan and has the authority to direct Federal resources. The lead State agency is the agency that provides the SOSC as specified elsewhere in this Plan and has the authority to direct State resources.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is a group of local representatives appointed by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) to prepare local oil and hazardous materials spill response plans as per the mandates of CERCLA as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Title III.

Local Official means a representative of county, city, or municipality or other subdivision of state government with responsibility for representing that entity's interests in the event of an incident.

Management of migration means actions that are taken to minimize and mitigate the migration of hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants and the effects of such migration. Management of migration actions may be appropriate where the hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants are no longer at or near the area where they were originally located or situations where a source cannot be adequately identified or characterized. Measures may include, but are not limited to, provision of alternative water supplies, management of a plume of contamination, or treatment of a drinking water aquifer.

Maximum Most Probable discharge is based on historical spill data, and is the size of the discharge of oil or hazardous substance most likely to occur taking into account such factors as the size of the largest recorded spill, traffic flow through the area, hazard assessment, risk assessment, seasonal considerations, spill histories and operating records of facilities and vessels in the area.

Most Probable Discharge is the size of the average spill in the area based on the historical data available.

National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC), as defined by section 7 of Executive Order 12777, means the entity established by the Secretary of the department in which the USCG is operating whose function is the administration of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF). This includes access to the OSLTF by Federal agencies, states, and designated trustees for removal actions and initiation of natural resource damage assessments, as well as claims for removal costs and damages.

National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC), is defined by sections 311(a)(23) and (j)(2) of CWA, as amended by OPA, means the entity established by the Secretary of the department in which the USCG is operating at Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Its responsibilities include providing a variety of technical assistance and other resources to an FOSC, and administration of the USCG Strike Teams established under the NCP.

Natural resources means land, fish, wildlife, biota, air, water, ground water, drinking water supplies, and other such resources belonging to, managed by, held in trust by, appertaining to, or otherwise controlled by the United States (including the resources of the exclusive economic zone defined by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976), any state or local government, any foreign government, any Indian tribe, or, if such resources are subject to a trust restriction on alienation, any member of an Indian tribe.

Navigable waters, as defined by 40 CFR 110.1, means the waters and adjoining shorelines of the United States, including the territorial seas. The term includes:

- All waters that are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;
- Interstate waters, including interstate wetlands;
- All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mud flats, sandflats, and wetlands, the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters:
 - That are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes;
 - From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; and

- That are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.
- All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as navigable waters;
- Tributaries of waters identified in this definition, including adjacent wetlands; and
- Wetlands adjacent to waters identified in this definition: Provided, that waste treatment systems (other than cooling ponds meeting the criteria of this paragraph) are not waters of the United States.

Offshore facility means any facility of any kind located in, on, or under any of the navigable waters and any facility of any kind located in, on, or under any other waters, other than a vessel or a public vessel.

Oil naturally occurring liquid hydrocarbons at atmospheric temperature and pressure coming from the earth, including condensate and natural gasoline, and any fractionation thereof, including, but not limited to, crude oil, petroleum gasoline, fuel oil, diesel, sludge, oil, refuse, oil, vegetable oil, animal oil, coal oil, oil mixed with ballast or bilge water, and oil mixed with wastes other than dredged spoils. Oil does not include any substance listed in table 302.4 of 40 CFR Part 302 under Section 101 (14) of CERCLA.

Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) means the fund established under section 9509 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9509).

Oregon Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team, means a team of local emergency responders trained, equipped and organized to respond to oil and hazardous materials incidents in a given geographic area.

Oregon Radiation Emergency Response Team (RERT), is a group composed of individuals from the Oregon Health Division Radiation Control Section. This team will respond to any radioactive materials incident.

On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) means the official predesignated by Federal or state government to coordinate and direct response. OSC is usually modified with a lead character indicating affiliation. The Federal OSC (FOSC) and State OSC (SOSC) have the authority and responsibility to direct Federal and State resources respectively.

Onshore facility means any facility (including, but not limited to motor vehicles and rolling stock) of any kind located in, on, or under any land within the United States other than submerged land.

Preliminary assessment means review of existing information and an on-site and off-site reconnaissance, if appropriate, to determine if a discharge or release may require additional investigation or action.

Public vessel, as defined by section 311(a)(4) of CWA, as amended by OPA, means a vessel owned or bareboat-chartered and operated by the United States, or by a state or political subdivision thereof, or by a foreign nation, except when such vessel is engaged in commerce.

Release means any spilling, leaking, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing into the environment, including the abandonment or discarding of barrels, containers, and other closed receptacles, containing any hazardous substance or pollutant or contaminant.

Remove or removal refers to containment and removal of oil or hazardous substance from the water, shorelines or land or the taking of such other actions as may be necessary to minimize or mitigate damage to the public health or welfare (including, but not limited to, fish, shellfish, wildlife, public and private property, and shorelines and beaches) or to the environment. For the purpose of the NCP, the term also includes enforcement activities related thereto.

Sinking agents means those additives applied to oil discharges to sink floating pollutants below the water surface.

Site means the area covered by the extent of contamination and all suitable areas in very close proximity to the contamination necessary for implementation of a response action.

Specified ports and harbors means ports and harbor areas on inland rivers, and land areas immediately adjacent to those waters, where the USCG acts as predesignated on-scene coordinator.

Spill of National Significance. See Incident of National Significance.

State means the states of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, and any other territory or possession over which the United States has jurisdiction. For purposes of the NCP, the term includes Indian tribes as defined in the NCP except where specifically noted.

State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) a group of officials appointed by governors to implement the provisions of Title III SARA.

Superfund. See CERCLA.

Surface collecting agents means those chemical agents that form a surface film to control the layer thickness of oil.

Tank vessel means a vessel constructed or adapted to carry, or that carries, oil or hazardous material in bulk as cargo or cargo residue.

Tribal Official is an individual designated to represent tribal interests for purposes of spill response.

Trustee means an official of a Federal, state or tribal natural resource management agency designated in Subpart G of the NCP or as designated by a state or tribe, who may pursue claims for damages in the event of a spill.

Unified Command is a version of Incident Command System where decisions are made with the joint input of several agencies representing their individual jurisdictions. Note: The FOSC has the ultimate authority to resolve any disputed decision or action.

Vessel means every watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water other than a public vessel.

Volunteer means any individual accepted to perform services by the lead agency, responsible party or unified command, which has authority to accept volunteer services. A volunteer is subject to the provisions of the authorizing statute, the NCP and this plan.

Worst-case discharge means, in the case of a vessel, a discharge in adverse weather conditions of its entire cargo, and in the case of an offshore or onshore facility is the largest foreseeable discharge in adverse weather conditions.

9912 Acronyms and Abbreviations

AC	Area Committee
ACP	Area Contingency Plan
AOR	Area of Responsibility
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
ARAR	Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements
ARPA	Archaeological Resource Protection Act
AST	Atlantic Strike Team, Fort Dix, New Jersey (USCG)
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
BHS	Bureau of Homeland Security (Idaho)
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs (U.S. Federal)
BLM	Bureau of Land Management (U.S. Federal)
BOE	Bureau of Explosives
CAMEO	Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations
CANUSPAC	Joint Canada-U.S. Marine Pollution Contingency Plan Pacific
CCG	Canadian Coast Guard
CCGD13	Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District (USCG)
CDC	Centers for Disease Control (U.S. Federal)
CDRH	Center for Devices and Radiological Health
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980
CERCLIS	CERCLA Information System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulation (U.S. Federal)

CGAS	Coast Guard Air Station (USCG)
CHEMTREC	Chemical Emergency Transportation Center
CHLOREP	Chlorine Emergency Plan
CHRIS	Chemical Hazard Response Information System
COGLA	Canadian Oil and Gas Lands Administration (Canada Federal)
COTP	Captain of the Port (USCG)
CRCI	Clean Rivers Cooperative Incorporated
CSCI	Clean Sound Cooperative Incorporated
Customs	U.S. Customs Service/Revenue Canada
CWA	Clean Water Act (33 USC 1321)
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DHD	District Health Department (Idaho)
DHS	Department of Homeland Security (Federal)
DINA	Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (Canada Federal)
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Canada Federal)
DND	Department of National Defense (Canada Federal)
DOC	Department of Commerce (U.S. Federal)
DOD	Department of Defense (U.S. Federal)
DOE	Department of Energy (U.S. Federal)
	Department of Environment (Canada Federal)
DOI	Department of Interior (U.S. Federal)
DOJ	Department of Justice (U.S. Federal)
DOL	Department of Labor (U.S. Federal)
DOS	Department of State (U.S. Federal)
DOSC	Deputy On-Scene Coordinator
DOT	Department of Transportation (U.S. & Canada Federal)
	Department of the Treasury (U.S. Federal)
DRAT	District Response Advisory Team (USCG)
DRG	District Response Group (USCG)
DWT	Dead Weight Ton
EA	Department of External Affairs (Canada Federal)
EC	Environmental Coordinator (Idaho)
Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMD	Emergency Management Division
EMR	Department of Energy Mines and Resources (Canada Federal)
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. Federal)
EPS	Environmental Protection Service (Canada Federal)
ERC	Emergency Response Coordinator (USPHS)
ERT	Environmental Response Team
ESF	Emergency Support Functions
FCO	Federal Coordinating Officer (U.S. Federal, FEMA)
FDA	Food and Drug Administration (U.S. Federal)
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FINCEN	Finance Center (USCG)

FOSC	Federal On-Scene Coordinator
FPN	Federal Project Number
FRERP	Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan
FRP	Federal Response Plan
FTS	Federal Telecommunications Systems
FWPCA	Federal Water Pollution Control Act
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Federal)
GRP	Geographic Response Plan
GRU	U.S. Coast Guard Group
GSA	General Services Administration (U.S. Federal)
GST	Gulf Strike Team, Mobile, Alabama (USCG)
GT	Gross Ton
HACS	Hazard Assessment Computer System
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
HB	House Bill (Washington)
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services (U.S. Federal)
HMER	Hazardous Materials Emergency Response
HSPD-5	Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5 (Federal)
HUD	Housing and Urban Development (U.S. Federal)
H&W	Health and Welfare Canada (Canada Federal)
IBDS	Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services
IC	Incident Commander
ICS	Incident Command System
IDEM	Idaho Department of Emergency Management
IDEQ	Idaho Division of Environmental Quality
IDHW	Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
IHCC	Interagency Hazard Communication Council (Oregon)
INEL	Idaho National Engineering Laboratory
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service (U.S. Federal)
IONS	Incidents of National Significance
IOSA	Islands Oil Spill Association
ISP	Idaho State Police
ITD	Idaho Transportation Department
JIC	Joint Information Center
JRC	Joint Response Center
JRT	Joint Canadian-U.S. Response Team
LCP	Local Contingency Plan (USCG)
LEPC	Local Emergency Planning Committee
LEPD	Local Emergency Planning Districts (Washington)
LERAA	Local Emergency Response Authority (Idaho)
L&I	Department of Labor and Industries (Washington)
LOSC	Local On-scene Coordinator
LRC	Local Response Center
LRT	Local Response Team
MARAD	Maritime Administration (U.S. Federal)
MCSAP	Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program

MEP	Marine Environmental Protection Branch (USCG)
MFSA	Maritime Fire and Safety Association (Oregon)
MIO	Marine Inspection Office (USCG)
MLC	Maintenance & Logistics Command (USCG)
MLCPAC	Maintenance and Logistics Command Pacific (USCG)
MMS	Minerals Management Service (U.S. Federal)
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRL	Minimum Response Levels
MSIS	Marine Safety Information System (USCG)
MSO	Marine Safety Office (USCG)
MSRC	Marine Spill Response Corporation
NAVSUPSALV	U.S. Navy Supervisor of Salvage
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300)
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act (U.S. Federal)
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service (U.S. Federal)
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (U.S. Federal)
NPFC	National Pollution Funds Center (U.S. Federal)
NPS	National Park Service (U.S. Federal)
NRC	National Response Center (U.S. Federal) Nuclear Regulatory Commission
NRDA	Natural Resource Damage Assessment
NRP	National Response Plan
NRS	National Response System (U.S. Federal)
NRT	National Response Team (U.S. Federal)
NSF	National Strike Force (U.S. Federal)
NSFCC	National Strike Force Coordination Center (U.S. Federal)
NTSB	National Transportation Safety Board (U.S. Federal)
OAR	Oregon Administrative Rules
ODEQ	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
ODOE	Oregon Department of Energy
ODOT	Oregon Department of Transportation
OEC	Oregon Environmental Council
OEM	Oregon Emergency Management
OERS	Oregon Emergency Response System
OHS	Oil and Hazardous Substances
OPA 90 or OPA	Oil Pollution Act of 1990
OPCEN	Operations Center (USCG)
OR-OSHA	Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration
ORS	Oregon Revised Statutes
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
OSC-R	On-Scene Coordinator Representative

OSC/RPM	On-Scene Coordinator/Remedial Project Manager
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OSHD	Oregon State Health Division
OSLTF	Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund
OSP	Oregon State Police
OSRA	Oil Spill Response Account (Washington)
OSU	Oregon State University
PAO	Public Affairs Officer (USCG)
PHS	Public Health Service (U.S. Federal)
PIAT	Public Information Assist Team (USCG)
PIO	Public Information Officer
POLREP	Pollution Report (Message format)
PP	Potential Pollution Source
PPR	Preliminary Purchase Request (Washington)
PRP	Potentially Responsible Party
PSICC	Puget Sound Interagency Coordination Center
PST	Pacific Strike Team, Novato, California (USCG)
RAT	Radiological Assistance Team
RCP	Regional Contingency Plan
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
R&D Center	U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center
RDA	Resource Damage Assessment (Washington)
RERT	Radiological Emergency Response Team
RFD	Reference Dose
RHMRT	Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team (Oregon)
RNO	Regional News Office
RP	Responsible Party
RPM	Remedial Project Manager
RRC	Regional Response Center
RRT	Regional Response Team
RSEO	Regional Superintendent Emergency Ops (Canada Federal)
RSPA	Research and Special Programs Administration
SAC	Support Agency Coordinator
SAR	Search and Rescue
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986
SARSTA	Search and Rescue Station (USCG)
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act (Washington)
SERC	State Emergency Response Commission
SFM	State Fire Marshall
SI	Site Inspection
SITREP	Situation Report (Message format)
SMC	Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator
SOLV	Stop Oregon Littering and Vandalism (Oregon)
SONS	Spill of National Significance (see IONS)
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SOSC	State On-scene Coordinator

SSC	Scientific Support Coordinator (U.S. Federal)
TAP	Trans-Alaskan Pipeline
TAT	Technical Assistance Team (EPA)
TEAP	Transportation Emergency Action Plan
TOSC	Tribal On-Scene Coordinator
USA	U.S. Army
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USAF	U.S. Air Force
USC	U.S. Code (U.S. Federal)
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDHHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
USMC	U.S. Marine Corps
USN	U.S. Navy
USPHS	U.S. Public Health Service
VR	Vulnerable Resources
VTS	Vessel Traffic Service (USCG)
WAC	Washington Administrative Code
WCC	Warning Communications Center (USDOE)
WDEM	Washington Department of Emergency Management
WDF	Washington Department of Fisheries
WDNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
WDOA	Washington Department of Agriculture
WDOE	Washington State Department of Ecology
WDOT	Washington Department of Transportation
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
WEC	Washington Environmental Council
WISHA	Washington Department of Occupational Safety and Health
WSMC	Washington State Maritime Commission
WSP	Washington State Patrol

9920 Conversion Tables

Refer to the Oil Spill Field Operations Guide (FOG) ICS-OS-420-1 dated June 2000.

9930 Sample Communications

To be developed.

9931 Forms

To be developed.

9932 Notices

To be developed.

9933 Letters

To be developed.

9934 Plans

To be developed.

9935 Reports

To be developed.

9940 Bibliography and Additional Resource Documents

The following documents are outstanding reference material that can assist in a response.

9941 Canada/United States Joint Inland and Marine Pollution Contingency Plans

The US Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Canadian Coast Guard, and Environment Canada sign bilateral plans calling for the development of area-specific annexes to address spills that cross or threaten to cross the US/Canadian Border. From the US side, these plans are maintained by the RRT Co-Chairs, EPA Region 10 and US Coast Guard District 13.

9941.1 CANUSOPS

9941.2 CANUSWEST

See <http://www.canuswest.com>

9941.3 CANUSPAC

See http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/eng/CCG/ER_International_Agreements

9942 North American Emergency Response Guide Book

<http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/library/erg>

9950 Recommended ICS Forms

There are several variations of ICS forms available. The Northwest Area Contingency Plan does not endorse any one specific ICS form format. See NIMS, Appendix A, Tabs 8 and 9. Examples of oil spill ICS forms may be found at: <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oilaid/ICS/intro.html> (Electronic ICS Forms) and http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/preparedness/Drills/ICS_Forms/ics_forms.html.

Additional ICS forms may be found at

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/ics_forms_2010.pdf and <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/ics/index.html>.

9960 Oregon Chemical Terrorism Plan

9970 Northwest Area Wildlife Response Plan

9980 Best Management Practices

As a result of the Deepwater Horizon response in 2010-2011, RRT10 and the NW Area Committee reviewed the impacts and lessons learned within Region 10 while supporting an out of area Spill of National Significance (SONS). During this review, a number of key Best Management Practices were identified and are captured below to promote successful support of any future out of region SONS or other large disaster which may require response resources within Region 10 to be deployed elsewhere, while maintaining awareness of any reduction in response readiness in Region 10, and finding solutions to mitigate potential degradation of response resource requirements.

It is anticipated that this section of the NWACP will capture other BMPs from other incidents, exercises and other pertinent sources, as appropriate, during subsequent annual revision cycles.

Incident Specific RRT Activations:

RRT10 recommends the use of Incident-Specific RRT Activation conference calls during an out of area SONS to:

- Ensure all RRT members are informed of how RRT10 response resources (personnel and equipment) deployed to the SONS may be impacting regional readiness.
- Provide a communication link between resource trustee agencies and agencies responsible for regulating response equipment, to discuss concerns.
- Share information regarding specific personnel and equipment required by the response.
- Discuss the need for additional spill prevention measures to mitigate potential or actual reductions in spill response equipment and personnel in Region 10.

For any one particular SONS or disaster, these activations may occur repeatedly, over multiple dates, as needed. To ensure the Activation conference calls are focused and inclusive, it is recommended that each RRT member is invited to join the call, while at the outset, the RRT Co-Chairs clearly state the intention and goals of the call(s).

Green-Amber-Red Matrix for Minimum Staffing:

During the Deepwater Horizon response, the U.S. Coast Guard deployed many active duty and reserve members from around the U.S. to support the response. Sector Puget Sound (SEC PS) developed a Green-Amber-Red (GAR) matrix, during this time, to track minimum staffing requirements to ensure their critical missions were implemented, while they were at reduced staffing levels. This GAR matrix outlined minimum staffing requirements, including other key factors such as qualification requirements, duty rotation, and the ability to respond to multiple incidents per current policy and national guidance. Each ranking was assigned the following value:

GREEN – indicated adequate staff were onboard and able to meet all missions on a 24/7 availability, with no limitations.

AMBER – indicated for a specific mission (*e.g.* Search and Rescue or Environmental Response), there was a degraded ability to respond in a limited capacity (*e.g.* only one incident could be responded to due to limitations in personnel or equipment or qualified responders).

RED – indicated there were no, or not enough qualified personnel or equipment, or overall ability to conduct a mission.

This GAR matrix was updated either daily or periodically throughout the week, as needed, during the height of the response to the Deepwater Horizon, based on frequency of change.

BENEFITS: This model is simple and adaptable, and provides an objective, consistent and repeatable means of sharing a measure of readiness internally and with other agencies.

LIMITATIONS: The exact values and definitions for GREEN, AMBER and RED need to be standardized, consistent, and clearly defined mutually with the community interested in this information, which should minimize confusion for scores given over different reporting cycles.

Green-Amber-Red Matrix to Determine Which Equipment to Release:

A Green-Amber-Red matrix was created by to evaluate decisions on moving equipment out of Region 10 in response to request from the Gulf during Deepwater Horizon. The matrix was designed to provide guidance to response contractors and regulated industry when requests for access to their contracted equipment were made, in order to support the Deepwater Horizon response efforts. This matrix also served the purpose of helping state and federal response agencies monitor and determine minimum levels of readiness to maintain, despite response resource draw-down. Each ranking was assigned the following value:

GREEN – this designation was given to a particular area when amount of equipment for that area was at levels of what is typically stored there under “normal circumstances”. A designation of “NO REDUCTION” meant that the existing quantity (GREEN) was the minimum level the key response agencies were not willing to fall below.

AMBER – this designation represented a range of conditions under which equipment levels were below the standard, normal operating capability for that area, and thereby required additional monitoring. For some areas, and in some cases, mitigation measures or equipment backfills were required to cover the deltas.

RED – this designation indicated that the lowest amount of equipment appropriate for a major staging area was still present. Guidance was given to area operators that if equipment were to fall below these levels at these sites, some mitigation or backfill measures would be mandatory.

Several assumptions were made during this analysis. Equipment types and amounts were reviewed from an integrated regional perspective, regardless of ownership. An assumption was also made that if necessary, a response agency would utilize its authorities to ensure industry had access to other contractors and their resources, if needed.

Several lessons were learned during this process. There is a need to verify that response agencies have active contracts, and appropriate funding regimes, to allow access to equipment on behalf of the regulated community, should the need arise. One potential method for capturing this information might be to create a spreadsheet as a tool to monitor the collective ability of response agencies to gain access to the regions' response contractors' and their resources:

EXAMPLE SPREADSHEET

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONTRACTOR	USCG Approved	State Approved	BOA	State Contract	Other Mechanism
MSRC					
NRC/NRCES					
Clean Rivers Coop					
Burrard Clean					
Cowlitz Clean Sweep					
Global Diving and Salvage					
NWFF Environmental					
Blue Sky Industrial					
Island Oil Spill Association					
<i>etc.</i>					

Equipment Tracking Website:

Response to the Deepwater Horizon spill fast-tracked the need to find a viable, transparent mechanism for tracking equipment and personnel deployments out of area, explore means for equipment backfill and mitigation measures whenever possible, as well as keep response agencies, elected officials, media, the public and stakeholders informed of the rapidly changing response readiness landscape in Region 10 during the many-month response. To this end, WA Department of Ecology developed a tracking website with the goals of:

- Document the movement of response equipment in and out of the Pacific Northwest.
- Display information in an accessible and credible means for elected officials and law-makers; media and citizens.
- Educate communities on oil spill response issues in the Pacific Northwest.
- Maintain timely information and situational awareness on requests and mobilizations out of area, as well as conduct and display analyses on impacts to response readiness due to resource deployments.

Two existing NWAC equipment tracking resources were not capable of meeting these goals:

- Western Response Resource List (WRRL) – a database which includes all Northwest resources, however not utilized to track short term mobilizations of equipment out of area.
- USCG’s Response Resource Inventory – this database is not accessible by the general public, and would require some interpretation of the information to those outside of spill response. Additionally, equipment owners did not consider this to be completely accurate and current at this time.

A tracking spreadsheet was developed and posted on a website hosted by Ecology containing additional information on the spill. This tracking tool captured information on equipment which had been deployed out of the region, ownership and location information, whether backfill or mitigation measures had been implemented, and a short analysis on how the movement of this equipment out of the area had affected spill response readiness in this area.