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Greetings Pacific Northwest Response Community,

As many of you are aware, the Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP) is currently in a transitional period. For many years, we have enjoyed great success in our collaborative planning effort by bringing all oil and HAZMAT planning bodies within the Northwest together under the Regional Response Team/NW Area Committee umbrella to conduct highly constructive and effective response planning leading to the continued protection of this region and its environment. As we continue to grow and learn, lessons learned from the Deepwater Horizon incident have pushed us to continue to expand and challenge our way of doing business. Through those lessons learned, we now have two stand-alone Coastal Area Contingency Plans in addition to our long standing NWACP which continues to serve as the Regional Response Team 10's Regional Contingency Plan, the Inland NW Area Contingency Plan and State plans for Oregon and Washington. The goal in this change was to allow coastal contingency plans to be a little more nimble, area specific and easier to use by boots on the ground responders.

Following this change, we continue to address many questions in regards to the future of the NWACP and how the NWACP will interact with the newly formed Coastal ACPs. The Sector ACPs and an FAQ are available on the NWAC/RRT10 website, <https://www.rrt10nwac.com/>. While from a regulatory perspective the relationship between area plans and a regional plan is clear, we need to adapt existing governing bodies, relationships, and planning processes in the Pacific Northwest to adjust to this new construct.

Currently, we have formed a Core Planning Team (CPT) made up of representatives from the USCG, EPA, DOI, NOAA, State of WA, State of OR, State of ID, the Makah Tribe, Yakama Nation, and Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. This team is fully committed to preserving the best of what the NWACP, and the organizations which have supported it for almost 30 years, have long stood for while also incorporating the hard-earned lessons from the catastrophic Deepwater Horizon incident.

This year, in lieu of our traditional December annual planning summit, the CPT will be meeting to work on answering some difficult questions that will continue to support the Pacific Northwest's role as one of the premier spill response planning areas of the country. We continue to encourage you to consider contributing to the ongoing work being done by the GRP Workgroup and the Tribal Subcommittee [and participate in upcoming Area Committee meetings throughout the northwest](#). We also continuously solicit comments and input on the existing 2020 NWACP through our web site, www.rrt10nwac.com. Thank you for your patience during this transition. We are committed to keeping all of our partners and stakeholders informed regarding our progress and look forward to further communication around the end of the year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Bob McFarland – USCG
Ms. Beth Sheldrake – EPA
Mr. Dale Jensen – State of WA, Dept of Ecology
Mr. Mark Dietrich – State of ID, DEQ
Mr. Mike Zollitsch – State of OR, DEQ