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

**PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

**0800 – 1630 WEDNESDAY 24 July 2013**

**Brammer Building, Nez Perce County Commissioner’s**

**1225 Idaho Street, Lewiston, ID 83501**

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

**Safety Briefing, Introductions, Opening Remarks**

Ms. Heather Parker of the United States Coast Guard District 13 (USCG D13) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself and Ms. Josie Clark of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). She also gave a safety briefing.

Mr. Calvin Terada of USEPA welcomed all attendees to the inland. Thanked everyone for coming.

Captain Sean Mackenzie of USCG Sector Columbia River (USCG SCR) stationed in Astoria, Oregon introduced himself and the USCG members that are in attendance.

Everyone in the room introduced themselves and stated their agency/affiliation.

An introduction of the Lewiston area was conducted by Mr. Doug Zenner of the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Commissioners. The back country and fire hazards in the area and the need to create healthy forests and keep the forests clear to avoid garbage in the navigation channels.

**NWAC Overview and NWAC Plan Update:**

Ms. Josie Clark gave a power point presentation on the NWAC, and the Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP). This presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/01_2013%20ID%20RRT_NWAC%20Basics.ppt).

**Local concerns and key drivers for response**

Mr. Doug Mattoon Executive Director of Valley Vision, a local economic development agency discussed local industry and employers in the valley. The major industry in the valley revolves around agriculture. The largest employer in Lewiston is Clearwater Paper. Ammunition is important in the area as well. ATK is largest ammunition supplier in the world and they have three plants in the Lewiston area, their product is all shipped by truck. The medical industry is also important and a large employer in the area as there are two hospitals in Lewiston. All chemicals for these industries arrive by either truck or train there are no chemical barges that service the area. There is no gas or fuel oils shipped by barge up the Clearwater or Snake Rivers. Downstream in Whitman County is the McGregor Company fertilizer production facility, and a new facility is being constructed. Clearwater Paper chemicals are shipped in by rail, this is a short line that originates in the Tri-Cities and ends in Lewiston. The biggest concern in the area revolves around volatile products, such as gasoline and diesel, which is transported via rail and truck spilling into the rivers. Dry commodities are being shipped by barge.

Mr. Mark Dietrich of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) stated there are two major thruways and the area is very active. Increase in number of tractor-trailer accidents that are spilling material into the rivers and are of great concern because the accidents are almost always in remote locations with limited communication. The truck volume is increasing as a result of the oil work being conducted in North Dakota and Alberta. There has been a noted increase in the frequency of accidents in which tractor-trailers are going right into the water. Ms. Gayle Osbourn of IDEQ indicated there is no pipeline that carries diesel or gasoline that go into Lewiston; therefore, all fuel is received via truck and the routes into Lewiston are all along a river. Mr. Chris Field (EPA) stated that when EPA becomes involved during a spill they coordinate with IDEQ.

**ER Capabilities and LEPC focus**

Mr. Mel Johnson of Lewiston-Nez Perce County Emergency Management gave a presentation regarding emergency response capabilities and a focus on Local Emergency Planning Committees. His presentation came be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/02_MJohnson.ppt).

Captain Scott Ferguson of USCG Sector Puget Sounds (USCG SPS) inquired of local volunteer management in a response. Mr. Johnson stated they prefer the volunteers have been through the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program so they understand how they interact within Incident Command and the liability issues surrounding untrained volunteers.

**Group Discussion of rail to river spill scenario:**

Ms. Josie Clark presented a spill scenario. The scenario can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/03_train%20scenario_Lewiston_24JUL_v1.pptx). Further information regarding the scenario can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/03_Train%20to%20inland%20River%20Scenario_Lewiston_v4.docx).

Ms. Clark presented Habitat Management Units (HMUs) that have been established and inquired of Ms. Sara White of the United States Corps of Engineers (USACE) to expand on this concept. Mr. White indicated these are corridors up and down the length of the river (this includes eight miles upstream on the Clearwater River, eight miles up the Snake River to Lower Monumental Dam and is a total of 105 river miles) USACE manages the land adjacent to the river in a manner that is best purposes for the wildlife. The corridors are based on topography; there is no pre-prescribed width to the corridors. USACE is the land manager for the HMUs.

Captain Ferguson (USCG) inquired what steps dam personnel would take if it would be impacted from a spill. Ms. White indicated personnel would deploy boom downstream to mitigate impacts and involve the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) as soon as possible. Ms. Clark inquired where the product would be directed. Mr. White replied the response is to guide it towards a boat ramp and attempt to capture the product at the ramp that is above the dam. Captain Ferguson inquired if the fish ladders can be closed in the event of a spill. Ms. White responded the fish ladders go upstream and are not like a weir; however product can be diverted but the ladders cannot be “closed”. Mr. Kevin Brackney of Nez Perce Tribe Water Resources Division noted that the juvenile fish are the priority less so than the returning spawning adults. Winter is the low sensitivity time as there are fewer fish migrating. All of the Snake to the McNary Dam and all of the Clearwater is designated habitat for steelhead.

*How do we access Resources at risk information?*

Mr. Dietrich indicated the response would begin with the State Com system and those included on the initial call would include the EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC), United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS), Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) including the regional and state headquarters personnel. IDFG would know where critical habitat is located and would know if National Marine Fishers (NMFS) would need to become involved, although in most scenarios is would be kept with the IDFG. Ms. Parker inquired of who would make the determination to close a fishery. Mr. Dietrich indicated IDFG would make that determination. Most of the staff would be present at the Incident Command Post (ICP) or Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Ms. Parker inquired if Ecology would set up a separate ICP or if a joint ICP would be created. Mr. Byers (Ecology) responded that if there were impacts to the Washington side of the shoreline, Ecology is permitted to cross the border and join the established IC to assist with the flow of communication. Mr. Dietrich stated that in this scenario, IDEQ focus would be on the derailment or the truck accident site, and IDEQ and would quickly turn the water portion of the response over to EPA (due to limited resources), but would maintain a presence in Unified Command. Mr. Brackney inquired if Port of Lewiston has response capability for in water spills. There is very limited capability for water response in Lewiston; they would rely on the Idaho Regional Response Team which mostly consists of local fire departments. Ms. Clark inquired of the capabilities on the Clarkston side. Mr. Byers responded there is less capability now because there is no longer a regulated oil facility in Wilma, but this is no longer a regulated facility so the closest response gear is located in the Tri Cities.

Ms. White reported that Asotin County Fire and Rescue has 1,000 feet of boom that are in trailers and Lower Granite Dam is acquiring 900 feet of boom that are in fully-equipped response trailers. Mr. Dietrich reported IDEQ has boom but there is not enough to span the Snake River. Ms. Clark inquired of the availability of skimmers. Ms. White responded the only drum skimmer in the region is located at Lower Granite Dam. Captain Ferguson inquired of the presence of vacuum trucks in the region. Ms. White responded there are no vacuum trucks in the region. Captain Ferguson inquired if there are any Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSROs) in this region that can be placed under Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) in the area. Mr. Byers reported that Ecology has a certifying mechanism similar to the OSROs process which Ecology calls Primary Response Contractors (PRCs). The PRCS in the area are National Response Corporation Environmental Services and Able. The challenge since the facility in Wilma is no longer operating is the radius for response has increased and the amount of time to have resources available on-scene has increased. The cache in Asotin County is for local responders in order to hold the material not necessarily for cleanup purposes. Big Sky which is located in Spokane, Washington is a local cleanup contractor. Mr. Terada stated the lack of local resources is a gap in response capabilities, the rail companies have OSROs in place to cleanup spills; however, trucks are not required to maintain OSROs. Captain Ferguson inquired if there is not enough boom to meet the GRP requirements. Mr. Terada indicated he did not believe there is enough boom.

*Would there be tribal representation in Unified Command?*

Mr. Terada stated the Nez Perce and the Umatilla are the tribes in the area and the Yakama Tribe has historically wanted to be involved in spills. Mr. McFarland stressed the need to ensure that tribal representatives are adequately trained in the Incident Command System (ICS) in order to ensure they understand how to participate and what their role is in the response. Mr. Brackney stated the Nez Perce Tribe has adopted ICS for responses. Ms. Parker inquired if there would be subsistence issues with the tribe if a fishery was closed. Mr. Brackney replied positively there would be impacts depending on the season. The subsistence fishery on the Clearwater River is based on endangered steelhead and when the maximum number of fish (2,500 steelhead) is caught the fishery is closed. The time of year would have an impact on how much fishing would be impacted because of when the fish are present. Mr. Terada inquired if there is a consortium or organization of fish and wildlife agencies between the states to coordinate and quickly disseminate information. Mr. Byers stated he was unsure if there was such an agency but feels confident that the various state agencies work together when necessary. Mr. Terada requested additional information regarding an organization or consortium and/or how the state agencies work together be researched.

Mr. Terada inquired of the discussion regarding the corridor of land managers and how to get access; while the USACE has ultimate responsibility, is there state lands or private lands, and other federal land managers, how is access obtained for the corridor. Ms. White replied that access would be obtained through the USACE even for the state and privately owned lands.

Ms. Clark inquired, under this scenario, who would be in unified command. Mr. Dietrich responded that for the state of Idaho, a representative of the Bureau of Homeland Security would represent the state and an IDEQ representative would remain in the Environmental Unit. Ms. White indicated USACE would have staff from Walla Walla Emergency Response Unit that would participate in Unified Command.

**Lower Granite River Dam Drill**

Ms. White gave a presentation of the drill that was conducted at the Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/04_USACE%20Multi-Agency%201600%207-24-13.pptx). Ms. White noted that the Snake River is a flowing river and not a reservoir; flow cannot be stopped on the river. The goal of the drill was to assess what resources are available on local, state, and federal levels. Another drill will be conducted next year in June.

**Washington State’s Changing Energy Picture**

Mr. Byers gave a presentation of oil sands transportation issues in the region. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/04_Changing%20Energy%20Picture.pptx).

**OSC Reports**

Idaho Regional Response Teams

Mr. Kevin Kalbfleisch from Lewiston Fire Department and Team Leader for the Region 2 Hazardous Materials Team gave a presentation regarding the Idaho Hazardous Materials Response Team capabilities. The power point presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/05_RRT%20CAPABILITIES.pptx).

USCG Sector Columbia River

Lieutenant John Titchen gave a presentation regarding updates from sector Columbia River. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/06_USCG%20SCR%20RRTBriefing%20JUL%202013.ppt).

USCG Sector Puget Sound

Captain Ferguson gave a presentation on spill reports from 1 January 2013 to 19 July 2013. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/07_USCG%20SPS%20FOSC%20Report_Jul_13_NWAC_mtg.pptx).

USEPA

OSC Calvin Terada gave a presentation on EPA response capabilities and responsibilities. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/08_2013%20Lewiston%20RRT_Presentation_FOSC_Report%20Terada.pptx).

ODEQ

Mr. Mike Zollitsch gave a short presentation regarding response from ODEQ. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/09_DEQ%20NWAC%20July%202013.ppt). Mr. Zollitsch proposed a case study on the recent fish kill incident for the next RRT meeting.

WA Department of Ecology

Mr. David Byers gave a presentation on Ecology actions over the previous 12 months. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/10_Ecology%20OSC%20Report%20RRT%20meeting%20July%202013.pptx).

**Clearwater Paper: Hazmat Risks and Preparedness**

Mr. Bill Hoesman, Environmental Engineer at Clearwater Paper Mill discussed Hazmat Risks and preparedness at the Clearwater Paper Mill. The Clearwater Paper mill is a sulfate pulp mill, the process involves using wood chips and converting them to paper by dissolving them in a highly caustic material then into an acidic material and then bleaching them. The mill has its own fire department. There are numerous trainings on how to manage hazardous materials at the site. No hazardous materials come to the site by barge. Wood chips do come by barge. The site is 800 acres with a waste water treatment system, a tissue mill, pulp mill, wood piles. Clearwater Paper employs approximately 1,500 people with up to 1,000 on-site during a shift. There can be as much as 300,000 pounds of chlorine on-site at any given time. The site fire department is Level A capable. There are three shifts of 4 people 24 hours per day that are all at least hazmat technicians.

**Nez Perce Depleted Uranium Case Study**

Mr. Mark Dietrich gave a presentation on a depleted uranium response at Thomason Chemical Company in Craigmont, Idaho. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/11_Depleted%20Uranium%20Response_EPAEDIT.pptx).

Ms. Diane Clark of United States Department of Energy Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) Region 8 gave a presentation regarding their role in the response. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/12_Craigmont%20Response%20RRT%20July%202013.pptx).

Mr. Gabriel Bohnee of Nez Perce Tribe Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Department discussed the role of the Tribe in the response.

**Closing comments**

OSC Calvin Terada thanked everyone for attending the meeting today and the ability to share lessons learned, to discuss other hazmat responses, and expressed appreciation of Nez Perce Tribal participation.

Captain Mackenzie expressed his appreciation of being welcomed into the Area Committee and his appreciation for the productivity of the group and the great command climate.

Mr. Dietrich stated the participation of IDEQ in the RRT is different because they do not have derelict vessels and petroleum issues but takes away good lessons learned in terms of resource protection from the work conducted by Ecology and ODEQ. Further, it helps seeing after action reports and gives a reminder that there is the possibility of catastrophic event.