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

# PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

**0800 – 1630 Tuesday 17 May, 2016**

**Boise City Hall West, Sawtooth Room**

**333 North Mark Stall Place**

**Boise, Idaho 83704**

**Sign-in sheets can be viewed**[here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/NWAC%20Sign-in%20Sheet_5-17-16.pdf)**.**

## Safety Briefing, Introductions, Opening Remarks

Ms. Heather Parker, US Coast Guard (USCG) District 13 (D13), began the meeting. Mr. Jeff Rylee, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (IBHS), conducted a safety briefing. Attendees introduced themselves.

Mr. Jeff Rylee welcomed the attendees and noted the agenda is focused on oil and the State of Idaho has 3,100 miles of river. My Rylee discussed the recent Idaho Hazmat conference that was conducted and was well attended. Finally he discussed the use of the Idaho bridge call system that is used during hazmat responses.

Mr. Mike McCurdy, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), noted that Mark Dietrich is currently in Spokane, Washington conducting training and further discussed the use of the bridge call system.

CAPT Berliner, US Coast Guard Sector Columbia River (SCR), welcomed the attendees and noted CAPT Travers is retiring next Friday.

Mr. Calvin Terada, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), welcomed all the attendees especially the tribal and response partners and welcomed all to the inland zone.

## NW Area Committee and NW Area Contingency Plan Overview

Ms. Josie Clark (EPA) gave a presentation on the organization of the Northwest Area Committee (NWAC) and the Regional Response Team (RRT), interagency spill coordination, the members of the NWAC and the RRT, and the basics of the National Contingency Plan (NCP). Finally, the presentation outlined the current Task Forces and their overall mission for the year. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/01_NWAC%20%26%20NWACP%20Overview.pptx).

## Tribal Engagement

Mr. Terada led a Tribal Resource needs panel and noted this is a continuation of the panel series which started at the February 2016 NWAC meeting. He thanked the six panelists for participating.

Mr. Brian Briggs, Fire Chief for Fort Hall Fire and Emergency Management System (EMS) (representing the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe) noted the reservation was organized at Fort Bridger Treaty with the Western and Eastern Shoshone Tribes and Shoshone Bannock on July 3, 1868. The tribal historical range was from Jackson Hole through the Snake River Plains and through the Boise area. Due to a clerical error that referenced the Kansas Prairie instead of the Camas Prairie, the original size of the reservation (1.5 million acres) was reduced to 547,000 acres. This is the first attendance to an NWAC meeting; however, they have been working with their local RRT 6 and 7 in the Pocatello and Blackfoot areas which cover two major highways (I-15 which travels north from Utah into Montana, I-86 which travels east into Pocatello). The waterways through the area include the Snake River, the Portneuf River, and the Blackfoot River all of which at some point cross one of the major interstates. The Fire Department and Tribes are attempting to become more engaged in hazardous materials response. At one time, they were a backup team for the RRTs. All of the fire responders have technician level training which is maintained. There are numerous pipelines through the reservation including the Williams natural gas line and the Tesoro gasoline and diesel lines and a storage tank that is adjacent to the reservation.

Mr. Audie Huber, Natural Resources Intergovernmental Affairs Manager for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, spoke next. Mr. Huber reported he began working on railroad issues approximately 3 years ago when Union Pacific (UP) proposed a new track across the reservation. During this time, they began to understand the massive increase of product being transported via rail. The reservation is in northeastern Oregon and was established under the Treaty of 1855. It consists of 150,000 acres. The tribes have worked to restore fish in the Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River systems. For the past 130 years, there has been UP rail line that ran through the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Mr. Huber noted there have been numerous historical spills associated with the UP line. The tribe is concerned with containment of a spill in such a remote area. Mr. Huber stated there is also concern with booming strategies along the Columbia River that might not be protective of the 32 treaty fishing sites between the Bonneville and McNary dams. He suggested that booming strategies are not designed in such a way that would prevent impact to these important locations as well as other first foods sites or cultural resources (such as archeological and petroglyph sites). Mr. Huber also mentioned that CRITFC has good communication with fishers on the river, and recommends leveraging those connections during a spill.

Ms. Alexis Malcomb, Upper Snake River Foundation (USRF), noted that she is not present as a spokesperson of any of the tribes but to gain an understanding of the NWAC. The USRF represents the Burns Paiute Tribe, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, and the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe. The USRF works to ensure the protection, enhancement, and restoration of natural and cultural resources.

Mr. Ken Choke, Nisqually Tribal member and Emergency Management Director, noted the Tribe is working to develop relationships with the USCG and EPA. The Nisqually Reservation is located in southern Puget Sound. The tribal emergency response team has seven personnel of whom four are HAZWOPER certified. These individuals work within the tribal structure with the Marine Fleet services, Public Works, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and main Administration. This group has been operational for four years. It took two years to make tribal government understand what emergency response meant. The Nisqually Tribe has a Youth Center that is used not only for the tribe during a natural disaster but also to assist the surrounding community. Mr. Choke is the Washington representative to the NW Tribal Emergency Management Council, and recommends this as another coordination point.

Mr. Jody Brown, Water Quality Biologist, for the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians spoke next. The Stillaguamish is a small tribe of approximately 300 members in Central Puget Sound near Arlington, Washington. The Stillaguamish usual and accustomed (U&A) area covers the Stillaguamish watershed which is the 5th largest drainage basin in Puget Sound. This is the introductory year of the Stillaguamish Tribe developing a response program in response to a number of issues that have been identified on tribal properties. The tribe was impacted by the State Route 530 slide which resulted in environmental issues of concern to the tribe. They are also concerned with increases in oil and coal transport and pipelines in close proximity to areas of concern and U&A for the tribe.

Mr. Don Hurst, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Program Manager in the Environmental Trust Department spoke next. The Colville reservation consists of approximately 1.5 million acres in north-central Washington and another 1.1 million acres which have been sold to the public. The reservation was created as a result of an Executive Order by President Ulysses Grant. The reservation consists of more than 100 miles of shared water borders with other tribal lands (Spokane Reservation) or state lands (part of Lake Roosevelt). They have experience with small-scale emergency responses until last may when a tanker trailer within the reservation spill approximately 3000 gallons of gasoline 30 feet from the Sanpoil River. Mr. Hurst reported he attended the Tesoro table top exercise last month in Spokane, Washington. Ms. Cathy Moses (Colville Tribes) thanked the group for allowing them to participate. She noted that last year wildfires burned approximately 600,000 acres and in 2012 there was a major windstorm that knocked down many trees.

Mr. Dale Jensen, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), inquired of the best manner to make proper notifications and to recruit input during updates to the Geographic Response Plans (GRPs). He also asked how Ecology can work with the tribes to ensure that designated places for staging are available for use in a response and would not impact cultural or natural resources. Mr. Huber responded that the utilization of some sites along the Columbia River will prove to be more problematic due to land ownership, some of the land is owned by tribal members, some is owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and some is owned by the Corps of Engineers (Corps). Tribal fishing sites that have been utilized in the past 20 years are the most likely to be currently considered sensitive; however, there are also many culturally sensitive areas along the Columbia River. Mr. Brown responded that each tribe is managed differently and the process for notification is likely to be different for each tribe. For the Stillaguamish Tribe, initial notification should be through the tribal police department. For GRP response planning staging areas, the tribe would need to meet internally with cultural and natural resources departments to determine locations of significance either current or historical resources.

Mr. Choke responded that the Nisqually Tribe works through their e-mail system and this information has been disseminated to EPA and Ecology. He further noted Joint-Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) is partially adjacent to the reservation and the tribe has developed a relationship with JBLM for a coordinated response. The Nisqually Tribe has purchased a communications tower and has their own Federal Communication Commission license which is equipped with backup power and they are willing to share these resources with response partners. Mr. Hurst responded The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation has HAZWOPER trained responders and have training in Incident Command System (ICS) if a major spill occurred on water or land. Mr. Andy Connor, USCG D13, noted the Tribal Engagement Task force is working to create a centralized database of initial contact information. Mr. Terada noted there is a gap in the notification process in who to contact and noted at the federal level where there is a requirement to notify the Tribal Elder and inquired if there are others that should be notified? Ms. Malcomb noted Tribal Secretaries are sometimes easier to reach and suggested sending representatives to meet with each of the tribes so they know who you are and what the NWAC is all about. Mr. Huber noted all tribal structures are different and cultural and natural resources may not be connected.

Mr. Greg Weigel, EPA On-Scene Coordinator, requested Mr. Hurst describe the reimbursement process for the spill on the Sanpoil River from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. Mr. Hurst responded his salary is paid for from an EPA 128(a) Grant for Emergency Response. He gave the following summary of the response. The responsible party (RP) had a contractor that conducted work and there was a steady stream of data that was being generated. The information needs of the RP were not the same as the needs of the tribe. The RP was looking at contaminant concentrations in groundwater wells when the tribe needed to know if there were detections in the Sanpoil River. The tribe was able to retain the services of a consulting firm through a Pollution Removal Funding Authorization (PRFA). The tribal consultant validated RP data and generated new data that would meet the tribal needs. Mr. Hurst noted there is significant documentation that must be created that outlines how decisions were made, but the reimbursement to the tribe was helpful. Mr. Terada explained how PRFA is generated.

CAPT Raymond, USCG SPS, inquired how to better incorporate tribes in the drills and exercises. Mr. Briggs responded the tribes should be notified of drills and exercises earlier than a few days prior to them. He further suggested that once you engage the tribe, continue to engage them and invite them repeatedly which sends the message they are respected and acknowledged as sovereign nations. Mr. Huber noted they have been invited to a number of drills but there are a great many of them and they cannot attend them all. Mr. Choke noted there are two members of the tribe that are Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) instructors and they conduct CERT classes on the reservation. Mr. Choke encouraged USCG to become engaged in Tribal events as well as inviting them to attend drills and exercises. Mr. Briggs agreed with Mr. Choke and discussed the upcoming Shoshone-Bannock events. Ms. Moses noted that the Colville Tribes also have training schedule on-line and have a public safety officer. Mr. Hurst noted if tribal expenses were reimbursable that would be helpful to encourage tribal involvement.

LTCDR John Titchen, USCG SCR, inquired if there are other places in the Incident Command Post (ICP) the tribe would like to have additional input and what positions the tribes would want to participate in. Mr. Huber responded the Umatilla have worked with other tabletop exercises and suggested that more guidance materials regarding how the Unified Command (UC) is setup and how people can participate would be useful. Mr. Dave Byers, Ecology, responded that the two primary areas for tribal members are in UC and in the Environmental Unit (EU) where tribes have more knowledge of the resources that are needed to be protected to minimize impacts. Mr. Hurst responded that during the Tesoro exercise in Spokane he participated in Operations and it was helpful in introducing him to the GRPs. On the 2nd day, he participated in UC. He had requested placement in UC to learn about it, but his tribe was not the tribe with jurisdiction. Because of the request there was a presumption he was the Tribal OSC, although he noted he had not been authorized by the tribal council make decisions. Numerous times during the drill he was noted as the Tribal OSC which could have created many different problems. The nuances of which tribe should be represented in UC vs being represented through the liaison was overlooked due to the desire to involve the tribes in the process. Mr. Bob McFarland, USCG D13, noted if the tribes have vessels of opportunity those should be made known to the USCG and the tribes should involve agency participation.

Mr. Terada inquired of the level of effort required to have a Tribal IC on either a spill or even at the drill level. Mr. Hurst responded he entered the spill on the Sanpoil River “blissfully ignorant” of the time-sensitive nature of a response. If he had needed tribal authorization, he would not have been able to make a decision on behalf of the tribe for potentially days. The Colville do not have a formal procedure to assign the role of Tribal IC. Mr. Terada inquired of Mr. Briggs if he has that roll already as a Fire Chief. Mr. Briggs responded on an initial incident he will arrive as the initial IC; however, if the incident will impact the tribe, they will stand up their Emergency Operation Center (EOC) which will then inform Mr. Briggs on decisions that are being made.

Mr. Terada inquired about whom from a tribe (emergency management director, natural resources director, cultural resources director, training director, or other persons) might participate in a response and how would the IC be identified and what if all of them stated they were the IC.

Mr. Huber noted each tribe is different and reiterated the suggestion of meeting with each tribe to determine how the decision is made. Mr. Choke noted there is a BIA area contact (Susan King) that works in the Washington/Oregon/Idaho area and she would be a good person to contact. The Nisqually created a comprehensive emergency management plan and a hazard mitigation plan which outlines the steps for initial notification on Nisqually tribal lands.

Mr. Terada discussed the new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) authority of disaster declaration by the tribe thereby obtaining presidential recognition and asked if any of the tribes are working on how this would be implemented. Mr. Choke noted this is being discussed and how they would approach FEMA to declare a disaster. The tribe did declare an emergency during a windstorm and they tracked actions and costs and were able to recover approximately 80% reimbursement from FEMA. Mr. Choke encouraged the tribes to first work with local, county, and state partners first since they are in the area; whereas, federal partners maybe further away. Ms. Moses noted there have been two disaster declarations: one a windstorm in 2012 and for the Carleton Complex wildland fire last year.

Mr. Terada inquired if the tribes are able to receive all the training they need and if not, what types of training would be helpful to fill those gaps. Mr. Choke responded that the Nisqually Tribe has marine services with a team of six that can respond on water and have had some training with EPA. Mr. Choke has a team of seven that can respond on land. Mr. Huber noted they have been offered training in Pueblo by Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR); however, there is a problem with the volunteer members that also have full-time jobs and might not be able to take time off to attend trainings. Mr. Hurst noted the Colville Tribe needs better communication with Environmental Trust and Emergency Management Services and that they needed training in IC courses. The Colville Tribe does not anticipate developing a major spill response program. Ms. Moses noted there are more FEMA classes being offered for the Colville tribe.

Mr. Terada inquired if the panel discussion would be valuable to be held at a reservation and would anyone be willing to host? Mr. Choke responded it would be a great idea and there are likely a number of tribes that would be willing to host. He would be willing to talk to the Council to request hosting a meeting and also provide a tour of the Youth Center that also serves as their Level I shelter. Mr. Huber concurred. Mr. Hurst concurred and noted it would help push the GRPs with regards to tribal resources at risk.

## Planning for Oil Spill Response in Idaho

Mr. Nic Winslow, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad gave a presentation on railroad safety strategies, the BNSF network-wide equipment inventory, 2015 – 2016 training exercises, and outlined the resources that are present in the Northern Idaho and Puget Sound region. Mr. Colin McWilliams, (Kennedy-Jenks) gave a portion of the presentation that discussed the System Emergency Response Plan (SERP) and GRP generation in Northern Idaho. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/02_GRP%20Development%20in%20N%20ID.pptx). Mr. Mike McCurdy, IDEQ, gave a presentation that outlines the activities currently being taken by IDEQ to update the 2005 GRP for Lake Pend Oreille. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/03_State%20Planning%20for%20Lk%20Pend%20Oreille%20area.pptx).

## Air Monitoring Results from Crude Oil Derailments and Fires

Mr. Paul Nony, PhD, Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health, LLC (CTEH) gave a presentation on crude oil smoke, evaluating community impacts for air monitoring including case studies of smoke impacts in communities and community actions for smoke particulate impacts. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/04_Air%20Monitoring%20from%20Crude%20Oil%20Derailments%20%26%20Fires.pptx).

## When Oil and Hazmat Incidents Impact Air Quality

Ms. Clark, EPA, facilitated a panel discussion regarding a scenario in which gasoline spilled in Boise and is on fire.

She inquired who would be on the scene in the first ½ hour. Mr. Rylee reported Boise Fire has no particulate detection capability so they would focus on contaminants and using their four gas meters. The limitations to Boise Fire RRT4 are the number of personnel and the number of air monitoring meters; however, because all the units have similar or the same equipment, they can link the RAE units and with 101st CST which would allow them to monitor a large area. Mr. Tom Pawek, Battalion Chief, Boise Fire, would use the Bridge Call to request additional resources, such as Idaho Health District 4. Mr. Howarth, Idaho Health District 4, reported there are seven health districts in Idaho. State Public Health would not be activated until they needed toxicology assistance or laboratory support.

Ms. Clark inquired how soon CTEH would be on-site. Mr. Nony reported they would be on-site within six to eight hours and would begin with community monitoring starting at the airport as background then proceed to community health and safety monitoring then worker health and safety monitoring. Mr. Terada reported EPA and their Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor would also be on the Bridge Call and would activate the START team to conduct air sampling and monitoring. Mr. Terada reported EPA has the ability to activate a charter flight to get to the site as soon as possible. The vehicles with additional resources and supplies could be on the road immediately and initial personnel may be on site within six to eight hours. Mr. Smart noted Health and Human Services would be involved with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) staff to monitor health impacts. Mr. Dietrich noted IDEQ has a cooperative agreement with ATSDR and IDEQ would utilize a local person that would review community impacts and manage with fallout and outrage management.

Ms. Clark inquired how data is disseminated and coordinated. Mr. Terada responded the transition from the Yellow Book to the NWACP would be the transition point where the response would move to an ICP, the formation of a Joint Information Center (JIC) because the Bridge Call system would be flooded with so many people being involved in the response which would hamper the ability to reach consensus decisions. Mr. Rylee responded IDEQ would use the Public Information Emergency (PIER) Team consisting of Public Information Officers from various agencies including the public health districts. They would formulate the message to get it out to the public within a couple of hours.

Ms. Clark inquired if there are gaps in the process of disseminating information that causes worry. Mr. Rylee responded he worries about unnecessary fear, which may cause people to take actions that would be detrimental to the response; however, if good public information can be disseminated that would quell the public fear there would be less concern about exposures. Mr. Smart responded there is a need to find a trusted source of reliable information that provides a consistent message in order to manage public fears. He further noted there is a struggle to get the information to the people that need it the most (such as populations that do not use electronic communication) which would lead to the utilization of churches and community areas to spread the message. Mr. Terada noted that once data is being collected people would want to be able to see data as soon as it is available. He further noted there is a need to quickly decide where the data will be stored so that it is accessible to the groups that need the information. He also stated that the messaging needs to correspond with the data since once people make their own interpretation and their own story; it is harder to disseminate the correct information. Mr. Dietrich noted transparency is crucial and in this day with social media, it is difficult to get information out quickly. Mr. Winslow noted the importance of requesting a second opinion regarding your decisions prior to dissemination.

Ms. Clark inquired if the ramp up would be the same on a reservation. Mr. Rylee reported it would be the same. Mr. Rylee noted industry has recently invested in resources and have all agreed to assist each other therefore, industry would also be able to ramp up a response quickly. Mr. Smart noted there was a large fire in the middle of the Colville and Spokane Reservations. USHHS received a call requesting help for senior centers and youth center. They in turn, contacted Indian Health Services who were able to purchase air scrubbers to install in those facilities to improve indoor air quality. He reported an involvement in disaster behavioral health capabilities HHS also has teams that can be deployed to provide assistance. HHS would provide Psychological 1st Aid which would refer affected individuals to care and identify needs and grants to transition into longer term care support.

## On-Scene Coordinator Reports

### US Coast Guard Sector Columbia River

LTJG Berit Boyle gave a presentation on USCG presentation on the Area of Responsibility (AOR) for SCR, the mission of the Incident Management Division, and reviewed some of the recent cases to which the sector has responded. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/05_OSC%20Report%20USCG%20SCR.ppt).

### US Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound

LTJG Matthew Bolton gave a presentation on the statistics of spills for SPS in the previous quarter and two of the six significant responses. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/06_OSC%20Report%20USCG%20SPS.ppt).

### Environmental Protection Agency

OSC Greg Weigel gave a presentation on four responses, three in Oregon and one in Washington, which had occurred in the region since the last NWAC meeting. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/07_OSC%20Report%20EPA.ppt).

### Washington State Department of Ecology

Mr. Dave Byers gave a presentation of the responses that have been conducted since the last NWAC meeting, the Multi-Plan drill that was conducted from House Bill 1186, the drills that have been conducted since January 2016, the implementation of House Bill 1449, and an overview of three significant responses conducted this quarter. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/08_OSC%20Report%20Ecology.pptx).

### Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. Mike Zollitsch discussed drills that were conducted since the last NWAC meeting, worked to begin the updates to the Willamette River and the Multnomah Channel GRPs, and recent responses. There was no presentation associated with this update.

## Closing Comments

Mr. Weigel gave closing remarks and thanked everyone for their participation.