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

# PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

**0800 – 1700 Tuesday 28 February 2017**

**Shilo Inn**

**Ocean Shores, Washington**

**Sign-in sheets can be viewed**[here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/28%20Feb%20NWAC%20Sign-in.pdf)**.**

## Safety Briefing, Introductions, Opening Remarks

Mr. Calvin Terada, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomed everyone to the meeting in Ocean Shores, Washington and introduced himself. Ms. Linda Pilkey-Jarvis, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) introduced herself and expressed her appreciation for having the meeting in Ocean Shores. CAPT Bill Timmons, US Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Columbia River (SCR) introduced himself, described their Area of Responsibility (AOR) and welcomed the attendees to the meeting. CAPT Joe Raymond USCG Sector Puget Sound (SPS) introduced himself and their AOR and welcomed the attendees to the meeting and introduced CAPT Linda Sturgis as his replacement and introduced CDR Jillian Malzone, Chief, Contingency Plans and Force Readiness

## NW Area Committee and NW Area Contingency Plan Overview, 2017 Task Force Summaries

Ms. Clark, EPA, gave a presentation on interagency spill coordination, the organization and membership of the Area Committees, the organization and membership of the Regional Response Team (RRT), various levels of response planning, major components of the National Contingency Plan (NCP), the role of an On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs), the organization of Unified Command (UC) during a response, Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) that are targeted for first 12 to 24 hours of a response, the organization of the Northwest Area Committee (NWAC) and the selected 2017 Task Forces. There were updates on the Task Forces from the facilitators or members. Mr. Milchak, US Department of Interior (DOI), provided information on the goals of the Tribal Outreach and Technical Training Task Force. Ms. Clark provided an update on the non-floating oils task force which is updating the tools in Chapter 9000 of the NWACP. Mr. Michael Heffner, Oregon State Fire Marshalls Office, provided information on the Fire to Environmental Response task force which will produce two products 1) training and education tools and 2) a document to define the environmental response/consequence management. Ms. Clark provided an update on the In-Situ burn task force which will revise the Chapter 9000 tools based on lessons learned from implementation of the tool during a 2016 exercise, this task force will not be revising the policy as outlined in Chapter 4000. LCDR Drew Madjeska, USCG SCR, provided an update on the 96-Hour Plan task force which will gather tools that have been developed by industry, stakeholders, local, state, and/or federal agencies that could assist in completing the items developed during the 2016 task force. Ms. Clark encouraged attendees to join task forces if they have not already and noted that all participation is welcome. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/01_OceanShores_RRT_NWAC%20Basics_FEB2017.pptx).

## New Process for Net Environmental Benefit Analysis

Mr. Mike Condon, British Petroleum (BP), gave a presentation on Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (SIMA) including the four stages of SIMA 1) compile and evaluate data, 2) predict outcomes, 3) balance tradeoffs, and 4) selection of best options. The presentation further outlined how each of these stages are evaluated in the SIMA process and stressed the importance of stakeholder involvement in the process. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/02_SIMA%20RRT10%20FEb2017%20-%20short.ppt).

## Grays Harbor Local Resources-at-Risk Panel Discussion

Ms. Marian Bailey, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), gave a presentation on the National Wildlife Refuge System which introduced the Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge, described the purposes of the refuge system, the utilization of the refuge by migrating shorebirds, the importance of stopover sites during bird migrations, and the potential impacts from an oil spill. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/03_2017%20Vol%20Training%20GH%20only%20mmb.pptx). Mr. Bob McFarland, USCG District 13 (D13) noted the largest risk of a spill in a refuge is from the smaller vessels that utilize the waterways.

Mr. Kyle Deerkop, Coast Seafoods Company, provided a video that outlines how oysters are farmed and harvested along the Washington, Oregon, and northern California coast. He focused on the importance of clean water for sustainable aquaculture. The size of the video prohibits uploading it with these notes.

Mr. Larry Thevik, Washington Dungeness Crab Fishermen Association, discussed the risks to the industry in the Grays Harbor area. Grays Harbor provides essential habitat for a number of species. He discussed the repercussions of spilled oil in the area.

Mr. Daniel Ravenel, Quinault Indian Nation, gave a brief history of the nation and their areas of importance.

Ms. Nhi Irwin, Ecology, discussed the planning efforts that are conducted in order to support updates to or creation of new GRPs.

Mr. Jesse Stark, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), gave a brief demonstration of Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) for the Pacific Northwest.

## On-Scene Coordinator Reports – Part I

### Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. Don Pettit, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) gave a presentation on responses that occurred in Oregon during 2016 including a breakdown of the types of releases/responses. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/05_2017%20NWAC%20Meeting%20DEQ%20Report%20for%20Ocean%20Shores.pptx).

### Washington State Department of Ecology

Mr. David Byers, Ecology, gave a presentation on 2016 drills conducted in Washington, spill responses conducted, HB1449 implementation (oil by rail advanced notification, crude oil movement by rail and pipeline, oil by rail required contingency planning, continued geographic response planning, develop a vessel traffic risk assessment for the Columbia River with safety recommendations, provide response equipment-cache grants to tribes and other local first responders), and highlighted some of the recent releases that were responded by Ecology staff. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/06_RRT%20OSC%20Feb%202017%20Wash.pptx).

## Fast Water Booming Techniques

Mr. Nic Winslow, Burlington Northern-Santa Fe (BNSF) gave a presentation on fast water booming techniques which included information on BNSF hazardous materials responsibilities during a response, BNSF manager territory boundaries, oil spill contingency planning, BNSF GRPs, oil spill response equipment availability and locations of BNSF assets, and a description of recent trainings in adverse weather events. The presentation showed lessons learned from the many fast water boom deployment trainings they have conducted in 2015 and 2016. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/07_BNSF%20Hazmat%20_Inland%20Oil%20Spill%20Boom%20Deployment%202-28-17.pptx).

## Maritime Firefighting to Spill Response

Chief Phil Jurmu, Fire Protection Agencies Advisory Council (FPAAC), gave a presentation on the council including the 13 member agencies, the area of coverage for the 13 member agencies, the components of the program, and the resources they could bring to a marine fire response. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/08_FPAAC_MFSA%202017%20RRT.pptx).

Mr. Randy Clark, USCG gave a presentation on USCG roles and responsibilities during a ship fire including authorities for firefighting efforts, vessel response plan regulations, general categories of response times, vessel owner/operator drill and exercise requirements, the various scenario-specific roles that might be deployed during a response, extent of USCG involvement during a marine fire, USCG marine fire assistance, and the transition after the fire has been extinguished. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/09_Marine%20Fire%20RRTNWAC.ppt).

## On-Scene Coordinator Reports – Part II

### United States Environmental Protection Agency

OSC Kathy Parker, EPA, gave a presentation on EPA response activities and removal activities over the previous year including responses in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/10_EPA%20OSC%20Report%20RRT%20Feb%202017%20v2.ppt).

### United States Coast Guard – Sector Columbia River

LTJG Berit Boyle, USCG SCR, gave a presentation on activities for SCR since the previous OSC report in June 2016, including the AOR for SCR; and details specific response efforts; and a review of trainings, exercises/workshops; and federal, state, and local planning coordination efforts. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/11_Sector%20Columbia%20River%20NWAC-RRT%20OSC%20Report%20Feb%202017.ppt).

### United States Coast Guard – Sector Puget Sound

CWO Brandon Todd, USCG SPS, gave a presentation on SPS activities since the previous OSC report in June 2016, including the AOR for SCR; and details specific response efforts; and a review of trainings, exercises/workshops; and federal, state, and local planning coordination efforts. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/12_FOSC%20Report%20SPS%2028FEB17%20(2).ppt).

## Open Forum

Ms. Linda Pilkey-Jarvis facilitated an open forum to discuss local concerns. Mr. Keith Ledford, Makah Nation, expressed his pleasure with the involvement of the other tribal nations at the NWAC meetings and described some of the reasons why tribal involvement in the NWAC/RRT is difficult. One reason he mentioned is that some tribal members believe that federal government officials care more about the natural resources than tribal members. He further expressed concern when an oil spill impacts the environment and then alters the culture within that tribe. An incident that occurred in the 1980s impacted shellfish rituals within the Makah Nation. CAPT Raymond reported on a Tesoro drill that the Samish attended and a Kinder Morgan drill where the Muckleshoot attended. He encouraged the NWAC to continue encouraging tribal attendance and participation. Mr. Tom Callahan, Washington State Maritime Cooperative, requested an update on planning and permits for facilities in Grays Harbor. Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis responded there are two proposals, one proposal was withdrawn and the second is moving forward to begin storing and transporting crude oil across the dock and on rail lines. The second has gone through the SEPA process including a full Environmental Impact Statement, there were a series of mitigating recommendations issued pertaining to the rail, the vessels, and facility practices. The next step is for local permits to be issued which would include the resolutions to the mitigating issues addressed during the SEPA process. It is uncertain if this proposal will proceed as there are several lawsuits filed and permits have not been issued as yet. She further noted that based on recent Washington State laws, there may be additional risk studies in Grays Harbor which could lead to additional regulations regarding pilotage. Mr. Mark Mobbs, Quinault Indian Nation, noted not only would there be a cultural impact from a spill but there would be an ecosystem impact with the removal of the driftwood. Due to ongoing lawsuits, the port is under the Ocean Resource Management Act which will require additional review. He also noted the hotel where the meeting is being conducted sits on historical use land and there are likely artifacts on the beach. These artifacts would likely be unearthed during removal of impacted beach sand. These resources are used by the Quinault people. He noted the NWAC needs tribal policy representation in additional to natural and cultural resource representation.

## Closing Comments

Mr. Terada thanked the attendees, especially the tribal partners, and encouraged their continued involvement. He also thanked the Steering Committee and co-chairs for the agenda. Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis expressed her gratitude for having the meeting in the Grays Harbor area and suggested continuing the open forum at each meeting. CAPT Timmons thanked the Steering Committee and coordinators and enjoyed the panel discussion, and thanked the trustees and stakeholders for their participation. CAPT Raymond expressed his appreciation for the agenda, and noted this is the best Area Committee in the nation.