

May 31, 1983

Regional Response Team Activities 1982-1983

Robert J. Bowden, Co-Chairman
Regional Response Team, Region V

H. Van Cleave, Chairman
National Response Team

On April 21, 1983, the Region V Regional Response Team held an annual business meeting at the offices of the Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago, Illinois. In attendance were:

Robert J. Bowden	USEPA	(co-chairman)	Chicago, IL
Lt. Cmdr. J.B. Manclark	USCG	CCGD9 (MPES)	Cleveland, OH
Barnard A. Bouhantlin	USCOE		Chicago, IL
Capt. Lloyd C. Burger	USCG	COTP	Chicago, IL
Cdr. Gary Thornton	USCG	COTP	Chicago, IL
David Dennis	Mich-DNR		Lansing, MI
Lt. David Gault	USCG	Dist. #2	St. Louis, MO
Capt. Matthew Woods	USCG	Dist. #2	St. Louis, MO
Sheila Minor Huff	USDOJ		Chicago, IL
Glenn Moore	ORSANCO		Cincinnati, OH
Jack Barnette	ILL-EPA		Maywood, IL

The main purpose of the meeting was to review the revised Regional Contingency Plan. Major differences in the revised plan include the provisions for CERCLA and the hazardous waste program and the revised relationship between the USCG and the USEPA on predesignated OSC's. EPA is in substantial agreement with Coast Guard District 2, but there is still uncertainty with Coast Guard District 9 regarding incidents outside of the Coast Guard geographical limits, which involve marine casualties.

The previous meeting was April 14, 1982. The RRT was activated on four occasions since then April 30 - May 1, 1982 - Activated by U.S. Coast Guard due to a benzene barge on the Lock and Dam at Alton Illinois. The barge was successfully refloated and removed from the dam without a major release.

July 14, 1982 - Activated by USEPA and Michigan DNR to consider emergency action required at Liquid Disposal, Inc. and G&H Landfill in Utica, Michigan. Superfund action was recommended and landed to fence off seeps of toxic materials from G&H Landfill and to prevent liquid discharges from the L&I site.

October 20, 1982 - Activated by USEPA to consider emergency action at the Old Mill waste disposal site at Rock Creek, Ohio. Superfund emergency action was recommended and taken to remove 700 tons of PCB contaminated xylene wastes from site.

April 6-8, 1983 - Activated by Coast Guard to explosion, fire and oil spill on Mississippi River opposite St. Louis, MO. An extensive cleanup of oil from sloughs in flood plain on Illinois side of river was conducted by the Coast Guard.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was heavily involved in both incidents on the Mississippi River and made a valuable contributing to the study at Liquid Disposal Inc., by evaluating lagoon dikes for stability. The Region V RRT, has noted that the Dept. of Defense has not designated representatives to response teams below the national level. The RRT strongly recommends that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers be designated as a participating agency on the RRT and that the DOD designate any other organizations it seems appropriate.

In Region V, state officials are almost always the first on scene in emergency situations and oil spills. Furthermore, since all six Region V states have effective response programs, there is frequently no Federal response required. In view of this fact, the Coast Guard District 2 representative made a recommendation that a mechanism be developed under which state OCS's could access the 311 fund and CERLLA funds in emergencies. At present all such access is by way of Federal officials which, could lead to harmful delays under emergency conditions.

cc: All Attendees
W. Sadders III ✓
R. Bartelt
G. Ragan
A. Winkhofer ✓

RJBOWDEN:jjj 5-31-83 (typed by RA office)