

**REGION 5 REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM MEETING
MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA - SEPTEMBER 23-24, 1996**

AGENDA

Monday, September 23, 1996

10:30 a.m. Welcome & Introductions
 News from Minnesota - Steve Lee (MN PCA)

11:00 a.m. Issues from the Green Bay PREP Drill - Bill Sites (NOAA)

On of the issues that came to light during the PREP drill was the use of the in-situ burning protocol. LCDR Sites would like to discuss the future of the protocol.

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. State and Federal Agency Reports

2:30 p.m. Department of the Interior Update - Don Henne

Mr. Henne would also like to solicit opinions on the NRDA model from those who have used it.

2:45 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. Case Study - Manistique Harbor, Michigan - U.S. EPA

3:45 p.m. BioSolve Discussion - Ann Whelan & Steve Lee

It is anticipated that BioSolve will demonstrate their product at a future RRT meeting. This discussion is to illicit opinions on BioSolve should they get back on the product schedule.

4:00 p.m. CANUSLAK Exercise Review and Milwaukee PREP Exercise Review -
 Bob Lallier, USCG

4:30 p.m. Adjourn

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

8:30 a.m. Section 7 Consultation

This is a requirement under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Essentially it requires any Federal agency to consult with U.S. Fish & Wildlife before they take an "action" that might harm an endangered species. Thus clean-up activities are considered an action. There is no emergency exclusion for our activities. If we do this ahead of time, we can protect our OSC's from being sued for violating the ESA.

9:15 a.m. Liner Study - U.S. EPA

U.S. EPA has recently come out with this study, requested by Congress, to assist smaller companies to comply with the SPCC regulations.

9:45 a.m. U.S. EPA Response Guidelines - Tom Geishecker, U.S. EPA R5

U.S. EPA has some internal guidelines that we would like to mesh with the RCP. These guidelines describe response thresholds and other response issues.

10:00 a.m. Workgroup Reports

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Evaluation of Workgroups

Since two of the workgroups are getting ready to present completed products, it is time to revisit our list of workgroups.

11:30 a.m. Adjourn



Tuesday, October 8, 1996 11:53:45

Semi-Annual Reports Item



From: ICF/ J. Gustafson

Subject: 1/1/96 - 6/30/96

To: RRT Sub-Conf.

Attachments: VRR1-6.DOC

15K

***** NOTE: This document is also provided electronically.*****

**REGION 5 REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM (RRT)
SEMI-ANNUAL STATUS REPORT
JANUARY 1, 1996 - JUNE 30, 1996**

L. RECENT ACTIVITIES

Meetings and Calls

There was a R5 RRT meeting February 21-22, 1996 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Presentations included an overview of the "One Plan" Emergency Response Plan guidance, a possible radiological annex for the Regional Contingency Plan, and EPA/USCG Cross Training (a synopsis of which can be found below).

There was a R5 RRT meeting May 8, 1996 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Presentations included an update of the Clean Air Act Amendments, an explanation on how to tap into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, a demonstration of NOAA First Class, and case studies from EPA and USCG.

Exercises

A government led Area PREP exercise was held in Green Bay, Wisconsin on June 12-13, 1996. The scenario involved the catastrophic collapse of an oil storage tank at the Amoco Green Bay terminal which released 80,000 barrels of #2 heating oil, 20,000 barrels of which enters a drainage ditch and eventually entering the Fox River. The night before the tank collapse, a manifold gasket on the Westshore Pipeline manifold ruptures and leaks at approximately 250 barrels a hour resulting in an additional release of #2 heating oil into the Fox River. This oil is being transferred to the Mobil facility but per standard contract, the oil is Westshore's until it enters the tanks at Mobil. The exercise started off without a problem and within 6 hours of the initial notification, the Unified Command System was operating. This is due mostly to the training before the exercise and the arrival of Amoco's A Team which is extremely adept at spill response. The Unified Command System worked very well, although it was pointed out at the debrief that there wasn't enough local representation at the Unified Commander level. Alternate technologies were considered in a reasonable amount of time. In-situ burning and dispersants were quickly ruled out. some equipment was deployed but only initial response boom and skimming systems. A large equipment deployment did not

occur. The overall impressions of the exercise during the debrief was one of satisfaction and accomplishment but many comments were received regarding the selection of a large oil company to act as the responsible party for these types of exercises. Whenever anything went wrong or needed attention, Amoco had the means and desire to resolve the problem quickly and efficiently. Some individuals felt that the exercise did not evaluate a "real" scenario and that future PREP exercises should involve mystery spills or smaller companies with less response personnel. Overall the exercise was a success and developed excellent working relationships among the participants.

The U.S. Coast Guard Ninth District is currently participating in preparations for the CANUSLAK exercise that will take place in Cornwall, Ontario, Canada on September 16-20, 1996.

Status of Regional Contingency Plan (RCP)

The Region 5 RCP is currently undergoing a revision. Comments from agencies are due to U.S. EPA Region 5 by the end of July 1996. It is anticipated that the final version will be available in the Fall of 1996.

Technical Assistance Provided or Plans Reviewed by RRT

No plans were reviewed by the RRT
Training

The R5 RRT Training and Exercise Workgroup is currently finalizing a document summarizing the State and Federal On-Scene Coordination/Responder training requirements. The purpose of the document is to inventory state and federal response agency training requirements for employees that respond to spills and other environmental releases and to review regulatory requirements for employee training for hazardous waste operations (HAZWOPER). This information will be used as a tool for developing recommended training requirements for state and federal responders.

EPA 5/MSO CHICAGO PEER EXCHANGE PROGRAM SUMMARY

Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) are both tasked through the National Contingency Plan with extensive environment focused missions, members of both organizations are often unaware of the parameters which impact the decisions and operations of the other. This has often lead to misunderstandings and friction - most significantly during response operations. On April 16, 1996, EPA Region 5 and USCG Marine Safety Office Chicago initiated an EPA/CG Peer Exchange Program. The purpose of this program was to promote a better understanding of each organization's policies, procedures, strengths and limitations.

EPA hosted the inaugural segment of the program and MSO Chicago personnel were scheduled to spend eight working days, beginning April 10, 1996, with their counterparts at EPA 5. The CG members visited CERCLA removal site, an OPA 90 removal site, and the EPA warehouse. They were also given detailed briefings on CERCLA, SPCC regulations, and GLNPO initiatives, including M/V Lake Guardian Operations and capabilities. OCEPP provided information on

EPCRA, the Federal Response Plan, and the CAMEO programs. SPCC regulations and facility data, in particular, proved useful because it complements and expands upon the information and conditions checked during CG inspection of waterfront oil terminal facilities.

The second segment, with EPA employees spending time at MSO Chicago, took place from May 15 thru 23. Activities included a facility inspection, barge inspection, shore side patrols, vessel inspection, and an introduction to CG data bases, organizational structure, and operations. The streamline process used by the CG in addressing violations of facility regulations was especially interesting to the EPA participants. Also, MSO resources, such as containment boom, a boat for deploying the boom, and trained personnel for the operation were resources that EPA saw as potentially very valuable for quick response to uncontained, "mystery" oil spills.

Two more segments of the exchange program have taken place - one each at EPA 5 and MSO Chicago, with more planned in the near future. In addition, the program is about to be inaugurated in the Detroit area between EPA at Grosse Isle, and CG MSO Detroit, with an EPA Westlake, Ohio/MSO Cleveland program as likely FY97 possibility. For further information on the exchange program, contact Glenn Cekus, OCEPP, U.S. EPA Region 5, at 313-353-6449.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

The region 5 RRT has a new Department of Defense Representative. Mr. Mark Schultz is with the Navy, Engineering Field Activity at the Great Lakes Navel Training Center.

LCDR Ken Barton who served as the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator for the U.S. Coast Guard, Ninth District and who also chaired on the R5 RRT Countermeasures workgroup has been replaced by LCDR Bill Sites. LCDR Sites is stationed in Cleveland, Ohio.

III. OPERATIONAL CONCERNS

Issues Requiring NRT or RRT Action

On January 16, 1996, the R5 RRT sent a letter to the NRT regarding freshwater data for chemical countermeasures listed on the National Product Schedule. The letter requested guidance from the NRT on how to evaluate the existing toxicity data for freshwater applications, and what manufacturers who request pre-approval from the RRT. The R5 RRT has never received a response from the NRT on this matter.

On March 15, 1996 the R5 RRT sent a letter to the NRT regarding Region 5 Federal agencies who routinely miss RRT meetings, including those agencies that receive funding from US EPA. The R5 RRT has never received a response from the NRT on this matter.

Future Plans

Currently the R5 RRT has three workgroups that are working on projects: 1) Training and Education, 2) Cold Weather Response Brochure, and 3) RCP. The RCP should be completed by

the Fall of 1996 and the Cold Weather Response Brochure should be available in the Fall/Winter of 1996. It is anticipated that new workgroups will be formed as the above products are finalized.

The R5 RRT has decided to send all future meeting notices via the Internet. any pre-meeting attachments will be sent in the mail but as more RRT members register for NOAA First Class it is anticipated that sometime in the future, attachments will be uploaded onto First Class.

The next R5 RRT meeting is scheduled for September 24-25, 1996 in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota.

V. STATE AND LOCAL COORDINATION

None to report.