

TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 7 FALL 2021 MEETING

September 22, 2021

A virtual meeting of Region 7 Regional Response Team (RRT)-7 member agencies and regional stakeholders convened at 0800 on September 22, 2021. Todd Peterson of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Eighth District (D8) welcomed participants, reviewed the agenda, and informed the group of procedures to be followed throughout the meeting. Peterson then asked attendees whether corrections were needed to minutes of the previous meeting. As no request for revisions occurred, Peterson said the minutes would be finalized and posted to the RRT-7 website. He then turned the meeting over to Co-Chairs Adam Ruiz of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Michael Sams of USCG D8 for opening comments.

Notes: Agendas, meeting presentations, and final minutes from past meetings are accessible at response.epa.gov/R7RRT. A list of meeting participants is on page 12.

Opening Comments

Ruiz welcomed the group and stated that this was his first RRT-7 meeting as RRT-7 EPA Co-Chair. He announced that his predecessor, Ken Buchholz, had retired in July 2021. Ruiz expressed enthusiasm for his involvement with the group and the agenda for the meeting. He then turned the floor over to Sams who welcomed the group and Ruiz. Sams said that Eric Nold, Todd Peterson, and Eric Deselich had assembled a good agenda for the meeting, and he welcomed Rachel Page of Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech). Sams then moved to the first agenda item.

Review of RRT-7 Priorities

Sams explained that the RRT-7 Executive Committee (EC) includes the RRT-7 Co-Chairs, Alternate Co-Chairs, and RRT-7 Coordinators. The EC maintains an ongoing list of priorities and will continue to seek input from the larger group on these efforts. Sams presented RRT-7 priority activities as follows:

Priority 1 – Monthly EC Teleconferences: Monthly teleconferences continue as planned among EC members to ensure ongoing and effective administration of RRT-7.

Priority 2 – Incident-Specific Conference Calls: On September 20, 2021, participants on an incident-specific RRT-7 call discussed and approved the use of Formula 1, a bioremediation agent, to speed cleanup of a petroleum-contaminated area affected by the New Hampton Train Derailment. Nold will distribute the meeting summary to key RRT-7 members and participants on the call, and upon their verification of it, it will be posted on the RRT-7 website.

Priority 3 – Region 7 Integrated Contingency Plan (RICP) Update: A minor annual update is expected in January 2022. Sams informed attendees that they should soon send any submittals of requests for revisions to the 2021 plan to one or both RRT-7 Coordinators to ensure sufficient time for the larger group to discuss/address proposed revisions. Major plan updates occur every 5 years, with the next major revision due in 2025.

Priority 5 – Develop Inland Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) Course: Delivery of a virtual SCAT course to EPA Region 7 Federal On-Scene Coordinators (FOSC) occurred in late August 2020. EPA FOSC Joe Davis is working on additional deliveries to partner agencies participating in subareas throughout Region 7.

Priority 6 – RRT-7 Members List: RRT-7 Coordinators maintain an up-to-date contacts list of primary and alternate RRT-7 representatives. Sams asked the group to submit changes in agency representation to the RRT-7 Coordinators as these occur. He reminded the group that each voting member agency must maintain one primary representative and at least one alternate representative to RRT-7.



National Response Team's Abandon Vessel Authorities and Best Practices Guidance

Sams and National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) Regional Manager Christopher Marcy provided an update on the NRT's updated guidance (2020), including actions that have occurred since the last RRT-7 meeting. Marcy also provided a refresher of NPFC processes and procedures. Sams announced that he, Peterson, and Marcy had participated in a conference call with Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR), Region 7 FOSCs, and USCG D8 officials to discuss specifics regarding access to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF).

Marcy discussed the history of the OSLTF and how funding is provided for oil removal activities and initiation of Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) operations. This funding pays claims for loss and damage due to oil discharges. Marcy explained that costs often recovered from responsible parties contribute to cleanup. Marcy also overviewed administration of the OSLTF when Stafford Act does not apply to spill response operations. Marcy then overviewed assignment of NPFC case management teams and team boundaries according to USCG Districts and EPA Regions. He highlighted factors justifying access of the OSLTF including determinations that a discharge or substantial threat of a discharge affects navigable waters. Marcy explained how the FOSC decides the appropriate response actions and how substantial threat determinations have discrete chronological endpoints. Marcy also went over the major differences between the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) and the National Response Framework (NRF). He discussed the key takeaways from his presentation and emphasized how FOSCs must communicate early and often with NPFC, because the fund should be opened early and can be closed easily if not needed.

State Agency Reports

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Adam Broughton

Executive Summary: Broughton reported that the State had returned to pre-Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) status. IDNR staff have an option to work for a limited number of days at an alternative work location with approval by their supervisor. IDNR utilizes many communication tools (i.e., Teams, Zoom, Google Hangouts) based on abilities of responding agencies to use various applications. IDNR Records Center personnel continue to convert paper files to an electronic format.

Personnel Changes: Staffing levels at IDNR field offices have been stable, although several retirements have occurred in other parts of the department in recent months. Zachary Ellison is the new Primary RRT-7 representative for Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD), and Jacob Nicholson is the alternate representative. Additionally, Alex Murphy announced his departure from the department and will be replaced by Tammie Krausman as Public Information Officer (PIO). Joe Sanfilippo recently retired from duties at Field Office 1, with Shane Dodge taking his place. Director of Iowa HSEMD Joyce Flinn retired, and John Bensen has been assigned acting Director of Iowa HSEMD pending appointment of a permanent replacement.

Laws/Regulations/Policies: IDNR is in the process of updating the State's spill reporting rule. The State is looking at reportable quantities for specific substances including petroleum products, transformer oils, and anhydrous ammonia. IDNR is refining the language and electronic followup information for report submittals.

Planning and Coordination Efforts: IDNR staff addressed no incidents since the previous RRT-7 meeting. IDNR participated in the Annual Field Office County Sanitarians Meeting on May 22nd, and continues virtual drought meetings biweekly for headquarters personnel and monthly for other personnel. Additionally, the Catastrophic Planning Workgroup continues to meet quarterly in a virtual setting.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Joe Dom

Executive Summary: KDHE continues to utilize virtual tools (i.e., Zoom, Teams) during COVID-19, providing flexibility for staff during a changing environment. KDHE attends incident command meetings with members of upper-level executive team and response team regarding COVID-19 three times a week. Staff were sent home on September 3, 2021, and will continue to work from home until further notice.

Personnel Changes: Staffing of the following key positions at KDHE remains stable:

- Secretary of KDHE Dr. Lee Norman lee.norman@ks.gov (785) 296-7851



- | | | | |
|--|---------------|--|----------------|
| • Director, Division of Environ. | Leo Henning | leo.henning@ks.gov | (785) 296-1535 |
| • Director, Bureau of Environ. Remediation | Bob Jurgens | bob.jurgens@ks.gov | (785) 296-1662 |
| • Chief, Assess. and Restoration Section | Joe Dom | joe.dom@ks.gov | (785) 296-1914 |
| • Manager, Site Response Unit | Darryl Morgan | darryl.morgan@ks.gov | (785) 296-8065 |
| • Spill Coordinator | Delbert Smith | delbert.smith@ks.gov | (785) 368-7301 |
| • Assistant Spill Coordinator | Colby Gouge | colby.gouge@ks.gov | (785) 296-1679 |

Significant Incidents/Events/Responses: The following significant incidents and lessons learned occurred:

Northern Natural Gas – Natural Gas spill in rural Ellsworth County, Kansas:

- *Type/Quantity:* An estimated 197.7 million cubic feet of natural gas.
- *Cause:* Fire resulting from an explosion.
- *Date:* July 22, 2021.
- *RP:* Northern Natural Gas.
- *Key Activities:* Pipeline was shut in, and escaping natural gas was allowed to burn off. Nearby roads were closed to limit access to the site. This was the second Northern Natural Gas incident within a 2-week span.
- *Agencies Involved:* Northern Natural Gas, county emergency management, and local fire and sheriff departments.

Hazardous Material Spill, Hickory Creek, Kansas (Cherokee County):

- *Type/Quantity:* Sodium hydroxide, compressed ether, construction sealers and caulks, diesel fuel, and motor oil.
- *Cause:* Transportation accident.
- *Date:* April 10, 2021.
- *Key Activities:* Booms were placed downstream to prevent spread of diesel and oil. Materials from the trailer were removed by hand to minimize the release, and contaminated soil was removed and replaced with clean soil.
- *Agencies Involved:* KDHE, Kansas Highway Patrol, local emergency management, local police/sheriff, and spill response contractor.

Metrics/Trends/Challenges: The following spills and environmental responses occurred from March 17 through September 12, 2021:

- 39 pipeline spills
- 35 railroad spills
- 93 motor vehicle / over-the-road transports
- Six aboveground storage tanks (AST)
- One underground storage tank (UST)
- 105 facilities, transformers, and other fixed sources
- 37 spills from other sources (e.g., source not listed in database).

Laws/Regulations/Policies: KDHE worked with stakeholders to develop a law to report releases of pollutants and respond to releases to facilitate cleanup of pollutants in Kansas. The law requires the responsible party (RP) to report the release and conduct actions in response to the release. The RP may incur a fiscal penalty for violations. KDHE will develop regulatory language regarding reportable quantities of hazardous substances. KDHE continues to draft new regulations for review and input by the stakeholder group regarding Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) reportable quantities and any discharge to Kansas waterways.

Exercises/Trainings: Select KDHE staff will receive a virtual 8-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) refresher training this fall. Currently, KDHE does not plan to conduct exercises or workshops while COVID-19 measures are in place. Delivery to staff of blended in-person/virtual 40-hour HAZWOPER training is occurring as needed. Training on WebEOC update started in January 2020 and continues.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR), Brad Harris and Alan Cortvrient

Executive Summary: MoDNR is working to develop a new spills database, with completion of this activity likely by November 2021. While virtual training of MoDNR staff continues, MoDNR hopes soon to move to more effective, in-person training deliveries. Additionally, MoDNR continues to update office and file reports, and train staff to be duty officers.

Personnel Changes: MoDNR Director Carol Comer passed away, and Dru Buntin is the acting replacement. In turn, Mike Sutherland filled Deputy Director Buntin's position. Other incoming staff include the following:

- | | | |
|---|------------------|--|
| • State OSC (SOSC), Jefferson City, in training | Brian Agenbroad | brian.agenbroad@dnr.mo.gov |
| • SOSC, Jefferson City, in training | Liam Hazen | liam.hazen@dnr.mo.gov |
| • SOSC, St. Louis (Route 66), in training | Joe Krauska | john.krauska@dnr.mo.gov |
| • Office Assistant, Jefferson City | Jessica McKenzie | jessica.mckenzie@dnr.mo.gov |

Significant Incidents/Events/Responses: Incidents addressed by Environmental Emergency Response (EER) Section staff since the last RRT-7 meeting include the following:

St. Joseph Organophosphate Release:

- *Type/Quantity:* 44,000 pounds of chlorpyrifos and xylene.
- *Cause:* Commercial truck crashed into a rain-swollen, small waterway.
- *Date:* April 24, 2021.
- *Key Activities:* Water was diverted from the scene and damage to aquatic life was investigated. Containers were removed from waterway along with contaminated soil. Responders had to plan for steep right-of-way slope issues during cleanup.
- *Agencies Involved:* Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), MoDNR EER, and RP's contractor.
- *Lessons Learned:* Encourage private contractor to complete work in timely fashion.

Salisbury Crude Oil Discharge:

- *Type/Quantity:* 40 barrels of crude oil.
- *Cause:* Leak from corroded metering pump pipe at terminal; discharge stayed on gravel at the facility.
- *Date:* July 12, 2021.
- *Key Activities:* Recovery and excavation of oil and contaminated soil proceeded via mechanical and hand methods. Other activities included vapor measurement and control.
- *Agencies Involved:* EPA, MoDNR EER, Enbridge company officials, and private contractor.
- *Lessons Learned:* Vapor issues at the site slowed recovery as operations moved from mechanical removal methods to hand work by personnel with personal protective equipment (PPE).

Joplin Flying J Truckstop Discharge:

- *Type/Quantity:* 7,100 gallons of gasoline.
- *Cause:* Catastrophic failure of UST, with discharge into the tank pit and underground.
- *Date:* Reported on June 29, 2021; actual discharge date unknown.

- *Key Activities:* Soil boring exploration occurred around the tank pit along with vacuum recovery to remove gasoline. Evaluations of tank tightness and tank pit integrity proceeded before closure of the tank under MoDNR Tanks Section variance. Local and private well sampling ensued to ensure safety of drinking water.
- *Agencies Involved:* MoDNR Tanks Section and EER staff, private contractor, MoDNR Geology staff, and state tank insurance program staff.
- *Lessons Learned:* Earlier notification of the discharge would have helped containment and cleanup efforts.

Manor Chemical Fire, St. Louis:

- *Type/Quantity:* Unknown amount of petroleum solvents.
- *Cause:* Fire involving tanks and drums of chemicals; cause unknown.
- *Date:* April 29, 2021.
- *Key Activities:* The fire department extinguished the fire, and run-off water was contained. EPA and MoDNR sampled the stream, and private contractors completed the cleanup.
- *Agencies Involved:* MoDNR regional office staff, MoDNR EER, multiple fire departments, and EPA.
- *Lessons Learned:* A firm line of oversight authority was difficult to establish.

Metrics/Trends/Challenges: The following incidents/events were documented between January 1 and August 31, 2021:

- 561 petroleum and hazardous material (hazmat) incidents
- 10 methamphetamine (meth)-related incidents (trend continues downward)
- 101 on-scene responses (18 percent of all EER calls received)
- 26 outreach events across the State
- 103 calls for technical assistance.

Laws/Regulations/Policies: Letters describing MoDNR's updated spills response protocol went out to local and state stakeholders on March 2, 2021. The update was designed to remind stakeholders of EER's commitment to respond to petroleum spills of 300 gallons or more, although the reportable quantity for petroleum spills remained unchanged.

Exercises/Trainings: Since the last RRT-7 meeting, MoDNR staff attended an in-person EER training, with another in-person training scheduled for spring 2022. Staff also attended several virtual and in-person meetings, most recently at the Callaway Energy Center where MoDNR served as emergency support function (ESF)-10 representatives for the graded exercise.

Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), Kirk Morrow

Executive Summary: NDEE is in the process of recruiting and training new emergency response personnel. NDEE recently added three personnel to the emergency response team. Priorities for NDEE are aging equipment, building of new capabilities, and ongoing drafts and revisions of standard operating procedures (SOP) for the Emergency Response Program.

Personnel Changes: Morrow announced that Ed Southwick and Sara Jeffrey have replaced NDEE manager Mike Felix. Mark Lones has moved from NDEE's On-Site Section septic systems to emergency response and will work on the Quality Management Plan, Quality Assurance and Quality Control, and SARA Title ii and III submittals. Morrow reported that National Environmental Management Association (NEMA) Assistant Director Brian Tuma had announced his retirement, to be replaced by Erv Portis.

Significant Incidents/Events/Responses: NDEE staff addressed no incidents since the previous RRT-7 meeting.

Laws/Regulations/Policies: Effective July 1, 2021, NDEE became responsible for administering the State's Drinking Water Program. Morrow discussed how Nebraska Legislature Bill (LB) 148 transferred certain environmental, safety, and water programs from Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to NDEE.

Exercises/Trainings: During August 2021, NDEE staff completed an in-person Inland Spill Response training in Lincoln, Nebraska. EPA staff Jeff Pritchard, John Frey, and Doug Ferguson presented an 8-hour chemistry course and demonstrated air monitoring equipment. NDEE announced plans to participate in more in-person training, including Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III and Tier II events to discuss replacement of the software utilized to submit Tier II facility reports. Morrow announced that the new software will be in place by January 2022.

Federal Agency and Tribal Reports

EPA: Adam Ruiz, Jodi Harper, and Dave Hensley

Personnel Changes: Hensley announced several personnel changes in EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (ECAD). Currently, Hensley is detailed to the position of Chemical Accident Prevention (CAP) Section Chief. Hensley reported that Teri Blunk had been assigned as the Kansas Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Coordinator, and Jodi Harper had been named Missouri EPCRA Coordinator. Hensley announced that Risk Management Program (RMP) data analyst Stephen Greenwald had retired, with his replacement to be determined.

Ruiz announced various staffing changes within the Superfund and Emergency Management Division (SEMD). Ruiz had replaced Ken Buchholz as the Assessment Emergency Response and Removal (AERR) Branch Chief. FOSC Megan Schutte had transferred to EPA Region 8, and FOSC Krystal Stotts had transferred to EPA Region 6. Ruiz cited AERR plans to find replacements for Schutte and Stotts before the next RRT-7 meeting. Ruiz noted that Joe Davis is acting Response & Removal Oil Planning Section Chief, Todd Davis is acting Response and Removal Emergency Preparedness Section Chief, and Yvonne Smith is acting Federal Facilities & Post Construction Section Chief.

Metrics/Trends/Challenges: Hensley reported that COVID-19 persists as a challenge to EPA Region 7 operations. He announced completion of nine on-site inspections and 10 enforcement actions since the previous meeting. Due to COVID-19, outreach meetings and workshops had occurred virtually. Hensley informed the group of EPA's intent to transition back to in-person outreach meetings and workshops as soon as practical.

Laws/Regulations/Policies: Hensley stated that RMP draft regulations are under review and had been issued for public comment. He cited updates and uploads to EPA's website of EPCRA virtual training for states, tribes, Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC), and local planners and responders.

Exercises/Trainings: Hensley reported that EPA had conducted two RMP agriculture webinars since the previous RRT-7 meeting. He briefed the group on several trainings and meetings EPA staff had attended since the previous RRT-7 meeting, and noted upcoming trainings and meetings scheduled for the fall. The Region 7 Chemical Safety and Security Workgroup continues to meet quarterly and submit updates to State Emergency Response Commissions (SERC) and LEPCs. Finally, EPA is working to deliver 41 training modules via YouTube starting in summer 2022 that will cover the Clean Air Act (CAA) 112(r) and emergency planning topics.

USCG, RRT-7 Co-Chair, Michael Sams

Executive Summary: Sams reported that USCG is responding to Hurricane Ida in Louisiana. He briefed the group on the two affected port zones in southeast and south-central Louisiana. Sams said that Louisiana has not requested support from USCG under an ESF-10 Mission Assignment for pollution response within Louisiana's coastal zone. USCG continues to conduct the Hurricane Ida pollution response work under the OSLTF.

Sams noted ongoing USCG virtual meetings and operation under COVID-19 guidelines. He expressed hope for an in-person RRT-7 meeting in March 2022. USCG continues participation on the NRT Area Contingency Plan

(ACP) Workgroup to improve inland and coastal ACPs, as well as plan standardization. USCG continues involvement in eight NRT task forces, but future involvement is unclear.

Sams discussed USCG's desire to continue awareness training for all environmental related consultations. The training will include compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the National Historic Preservation Act during pollution response actions. Sams then reminded all that EPA provides the predesignated FOSC for inland zone responses and is responsible for inland zone pollution planning and response. The USCG is a close collaborating partner agency per existing EPA Region 7 and USCG D8 Memorandum of Agreement.

Personnel Changes: Sams announced that USCG RRT leadership had not changed since the previous RRT-7 meeting. He reported some personnel changes within the USCG D8 Incident Management Branch. The USCG D8 District Response Advisory Team (DRAT) welcomed Brandon Todd to the staff. Todd brings vast knowledge and expertise, including a previous tour at Sector Ohio Valley. Sams announced that Todd had started the position a month prior to the RRT-7 meeting, and will serve for 4 years.

Laws/Regulations/Policies: USCG held a planning workshop earlier in September, and will work to complete a major update to the Marine Environmental Response and Preparedness Manual. While a completion date for manual updates has not been specified, much progress is evident since the workshop. USCG D8 was unable to provide an in-person representative to participate in the manual update process, but USCG Headquarters will allow USCG D8 to review the draft and suggest edits to the manual update prior to its release. Sams said the updated manual will better assist spill response operations in inland waterways, which differ significantly from operations in coastal zones.

Sams referred to in-progress awareness training pertaining to all environmental related consultations within all six Captain of the Port coastal zones. He also reported completion of the annual update to the pollution policy described in D8's Operational Planning Direction. The updated version, to be published within the next 30 days, better reflects the District's areas of emphasis for pollution planning, preparedness, and response.

Planning and Coordination Efforts: Since the previous meeting, USCG D8 has engaged in several virtual meetings, including meetings of the Region 6 and Region 8 RRTs. D8 personnel also participated virtually in a NRT Co-Chairs meeting. Additionally, Sams reported participation in two in-person FOSC Representative (FOSCR) College meetings in Houston, Texas, and St. Louis, Missouri. Future coordination efforts include the Region 3, Region 4, Region 6, and Region 8 RRT meetings; as well as a MEXUSGULF seminar and the Clean Gulf Conference (each expected to be a hybrid in-person/virtual event).

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Joseph Boyd on Behalf of Bill Campbell

Boyd stated that Campbell's current deployment to California had prevented his attendance at the meeting. Boyd reported on FEMA's efforts to respond to Hurricane Ida in Louisiana and to wildfires in California. He announced the dates of the next meeting of the FEMA Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) as November 16-18, 2021. FEMA R7 Response Division is in the process of developing an ESF Coordination SOP that will provide guidance on FEMA Region 7 coordination with federal partners. At the last RRT-7 meeting, FEMA initiated an update of the Joint State of Missouri & FEMA Region 7 New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ) Interagency Operations Plan. The plan, which awaits approval, includes a concept of operations and guidance on interagency coordination for evacuation and mass care operations related to a large-magnitude earthquake centered in the NMSZ. Boyd expressed expectation for finalization of the Region 7 All-Hazards Operations on September 23, 2021. FEMA continues to assist efforts to respond to COVID-19 as hospitalization rates within Region 7 remain stable.

Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska, Paige Hingst and Alisha Bartling

Nothing significant to report at this time.

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Misha Mazurkewycz

Nothing significant to report at this time.



U.S. Dept. of Commerce (DOC) / National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Eric Nold on Behalf of Adam Davis

Nold reported that Aaron Parker is NOAA's new Emergency Response Division Chief. NOAA continues involvement in the NRT's Science and Technology Workgroup, as well as delivery of NOAA's Science of Chemical Releases training course. Current information on various NOAA trainings is available at: <https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills>.

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Courtney Hoover

Personnel Changes: Hoover reminded the group that Regional Environmental Protection Specialist Glenn Schroeder is DOI's alternate RRT-7 representative.

Exercises/Trainings: DOI's Green River exercise (in Vernal, Utah) has been postponed until spring 2022. Additionally, the North Platte exercise on segments of the river in Wyoming and Nebraska is now scheduled for summer or fall 2022. Hoover also cited submittal of a funding proposal for an exercise of oil response along the Missouri River. Additionally, a Historic Preservation Specialist workshop and DOI's spill training course are scheduled for spring 2022. DOI continues to prepare an at-risk resources report for Region 8, and possibly for Region 7 if it indicates interest in this planning effort.

Laws/Regulations/Policies: Hoover briefed the group on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' (USFWS) proposal to revoke the final regulation dated January 7, 2021. This proposal would prohibit incidental take and apply enforcement discretion consistent with judicial precedent under the MBTA.

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) / Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Neal Suchak

Suchak reported significant turnover in the DOT Central Region through 2021. Matt Brinkly was named Acting Central Region Director, and a permanent director will be announced next month who will operate out of Kansas City, Missouri, or Chicago, Illinois. Suchak also announced hires of two additional investigators who will start training this December. He then reported his transfer to Region 9, with Dan Richards to replace him as RRT-7 representative. Suchak cited current additional training for investigators pertaining to inspections, with meetings convening virtually due to COVID-19. The DOT Kansas City office now is closed, and personnel are working from home until further notice.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Erin Evans

Nothing significant to report at this time.

U.S. Department of Labor / Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), JoBeth Cholmondeley

Nothing significant to report at this time.

General Services Administration (GSA), Eric Nold on Behalf of Sherry LoSapio

Nold reported that LoSapio is GSA's new primary representative to RRT-7.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Forest Service (FS), John LaCoste

LaCoste stated that USDA's primary representative to RRT-7, Kurt Muenchow, will retire at the end of this year, with his replacement yet to be announced. LaCoste said that FS staff continue to maximize utilization of telework across offices, with meetings and trainings conducted virtually. Personnel are expected to return to the office on January 3, 2022.

U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) / Defense Coordinating Element (DCE) VII, Brain Ebert

Ebert had nothing significant to report.



Subarea Reports

Siouxland Subarea, Eric Deselich on Behalf of EPA FOSC Doug Ferguson

- Megan Scheutte has taken an FOSC position in Region 8, and Doug Ferguson has been assigned as EPA Subarea Coordinator.
- Since the previous RRT-7 meeting, one subarea meeting (virtual) and an exercise/training planning call have occurred.
- An update of the subarea plan is in progress.

South-Central Nebraska Subarea, Eric Deselich on Behalf of EPA FOSC Tim Curry

- Since the previous RRT-7 meeting, EPA has attended one virtual meeting.
- An update to the subarea plan is in progress.
- Subarea members have completed significant planning for river reconnaissance (recon) activities on a date to be determined. The group is also discussing development of an Incident Action Plan (IAP) template for a recon within a targeted 90-mile segment of the central Platte River.

Omaha – Council Bluffs Subarea, Eric Deselich on Behalf of EPA FOSC John Frey

- An update to the subarea plan is in progress.

Great Rivers Subarea, Eric Deselich on Behalf of EPA FOSC Heath Smith

- Subarea leadership laid groundwork for a Mississippi River recon in the Cape Girardeau area, although a date for that has not been set.

Central Kansas Wetlands Subarea, Eric Deselich on Behalf of EPA FOSC Yvonne Smith

- Yvonne Smith is replacing Jeff Pritchard as Subarea Coordinator.
- An update of the subarea contingency plan is in progress.

Greater St. Louis Subarea, Eric Deselich on Behalf of EPA FOSC Jessica Evans

- An update to the subarea plan is in progress.
- Land-based recon activities within certain segments of the Mississippi River occurred earlier this year.
- One virtual meeting has occurred since the previous RRT-7 meeting.

Quad Cities Subarea, Eric Deselich on Behalf of EPA FOSC Joe Davis

- An update of the subarea plan is in progress.
- A web application developed earlier this year that includes the Quad Cities Subarea is available for members to access.

USCG FOSCR Reports

Sector Upper Mississippi River (UMR), USCG FOSCR, James Long

Metrics/Trends/Challenges: Long cited an increase of reports regarding oil discharges to the NRC since the previous RRT-7 meeting. He reported no hazmat responses, although UMR personnel had responded to five oil discharges. Long said that one discharge near Mississippi River mile 170 had involved 20,000 gallons of oily water. He reported no consultations over this period.

Exercises/Trainings/Coordination: Since the previous RRT-7 meeting, sector personnel participated in the virtual RRT-8 Meeting. Sector staff also participated in FOSC/R College training and ongoing internal public affairs training. Coordination efforts included attendance at LEPC meetings and participation in security planning, as well as updates to regional contingency plans and subarea plans.

Sector Lower Mississippi River (LMR), USCG FOSCR, Eric Bearss

Personnel Changes: LTJG Heather Stemmerman, Incident Management Division (IMD) Chief, departed LMR in June and was replaced by Eric Bearss.

Metrics/Trends/Challenges: Since the previous RRT-7 meeting, Sector LMR has received 208 NRC notifications, two of which occurred in Region 7 near Caruthersville, Missouri. Sector LMR staff engaged in no consultations since the previous RRT-7 meeting.

Exercises/Trainings/Coordination: Since the previous RRT-7 meeting, two MSU personnel participated in the District 8 FOSCR College in St. Louis, Missouri; two successful government-initiated unannounced exercises (GIUE) occurred since the previous RRT-7 meeting, as did a Valero Oil Pollution Act (OPA) 90 drill that convened earlier this month. Coordination efforts included virtual attendance at an RRT-6 meeting, and monthly LEPC meetings throughout the Sector's area of responsibility (AOR).

Sector Ohio Valley, Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Paducah, USCG FOSCR John Gulick

Personnel Changes: MSU Paducah's Commanding Officer CDR Luis Carmona was relieved by CDR Jennifer Andrew, and Executive Officer LCDR Christopher Weiser was relieved by LCDR Milhai Leta.

Metrics/Trends/Challenges: Since the previous RRT-7 meeting, the MSU has noted an increase in marine casualties due to low water levels. Paducah received one NRC notification, but no RRT activations or CERCLA responses occurred over this period. No consultations have occurred since the previous RRT-7 meeting.

Exercises/Trainings/Coordination: Since the previous RRT-7 meeting, two MSU personnel participated in the District 8 FOSCR College in St. Louis, Missouri; a GIUE is planned for spring 2022. Unit staff expect to attend the next RRT-4 meeting on a date to be announced. In a joint effort with EPA Region 7, MSU Paducah is inspecting certain marine transportation-related (MTR) facilities.

Presentations

National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), Katie Pawlosky and Chuck Dodd

Pawlosky and Dodd of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Agriculture Research Services (ARS) overviewed technical capabilities, facility operations, and emergency preparedness measures in place at NBAF. Dodd also provided details regarding closure of Plum Island Animal Disease Center and transition of operations to NBAF. Pawlosky described various aspects of the new NBAF facility in Manhattan, Kansas.

Rosebud Creek Crude Spill EPA Region 7, EPA FOSC Daniel O'Crowley

O'Crowley reviewed a crude oil spill that had occurred during April 2021 in Kingman County, Kansas. EPA Region 7 identified the possible RP as owner of an adjacent oil lease. Dense vegetation hindered cleanup efforts in and around the creek. Moreover, upon clearance of vegetation, wet conditions prevented access to the site by equipment. Two pond areas were cleared during the cleanup, and long-term oversight was transferred to the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). Completion of cleanup occurred within 33 days and cost approximately 1.1 million dollars.

Chemical and Biological Countermeasures (CBC) in EPA Region 7, EPA FOSC Jeff Pritchard

Pritchard explained the purpose of various CBCs and the process for CBC approval in Region 7. He emphasized Subpart J of the NCP, and that if a discharge does not impact jurisdictional water, completion of approval by the State is required. Since August 2021, 126 products have been listed on the NCP Product Schedule.

Open Forum

The group discussed no additional topics.

Review Priorities and Future Meeting Dates

Nold reviewed the RRT-7 meeting schedule as follows:

- Spring 2022: EPA Training and Logistics Center (TLC), March 23/24
- Fall 2022: EPA TLC, September 21/22
- Spring 2023: St. Charles, Missouri, March 29/30 (proposed) – joint RRT-5/7.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Ruiz and Sams thanked the group for its participation and attendance. Nold reminded the group that pertinent documents and a compilation of meeting presentations will be posted to the RRT-7 website.

Meeting Attendees (66 total participants)

Last Name	First Name	Organization	Phone	Email	Count
Bartling	Alisha	Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska	402-857-3347	alisha.bartling@santeeoep.com	1
Bearss	Eric	U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Lower Mississippi River	901-521-4766	eric.Bearss@uscg.mil	2
Bissen	Joun	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 7	816-812-0589	john.bissen@fema.dhs.gov	3
Blunk	Terri	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 – CAPP	913-551-7013	blunk.terri@epa.gov	4
Boyd	Joseph	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region 7	816-797-0090	joseph.boyd@fema.dhs.gov	5
Broughton	Adam	Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)	515-725-0386	adam.broughton@dnr.iowa.gov	6
Bryant	Dianna	Institute for Rural Emergency Management	660-543-4971	bryant@ucmo.edu	7
Caldwell	Andrew	USCG, Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Paducah	270-442-1621	andrew.d.caldwell@uscg.mil	8
Ciurej	Amanda	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	308-379-6592	amanda_ciurej@fws.gov	9
Cortvrient	Alan	Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR)	573-644-3232	alan.cortvrient@dnr.mo.gov	10
Counihan	Sean	MoDNR	573-522-9279	sean.counihan@dnr.mo.gov	11
Davis	Adam	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	206-549-7759	adam.davis@noaa.gov	12
Davis	Mike	EPA Region 7	913-551-7328	davis.michaelb@epa.gov	13
Davis	Todd	EPA Region 7	913-551-7749	davis.toddh@epa.gov	14
Deselich	Eric	Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START)	816-665-9088	eric.deselich@tetrattech.com	15
Dodd	Chuck	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) – Plum Island Animal Disease Center	631-461-0109	charles.dodd@usda.gov	16
Dom	Joseph	Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)	785-296-1914	joe.dom@ks.gov	17
Dyer	Lex	Enbridge	307-233-6166	lex.dyer@enbridge.com	18
Ebert	Brian	U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), Defense Coordinating Element (DCE) VII	210-247-8839	brian.w.ebert.civ@mail.mil	19
Edwards	Jeffery	Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE)	402-471-8309	jeffery.edwards@nebraska.gov	20
Ferguson	Doug	EPA Region 7	913-551-7221	ferguson.doug@epa.gov	21
Franks	Chris	NOAA, National Weather Service (NWS)	816-268-3185	chris.franks@noaa.gov	22
Gann	Rick	MoDNR	660-385-8000	rick.gann@dnr.mo.gov	23
Gavlas	Sean	EPA Emergency Response Team (ERT)	816-516-7822	gavlas.sean@epa.gov	24
Gulick	John	USCG, Marine Safety Unit Paducah	270-994-7388	john.t.gulick@uscg.mil	25
Hall	Wendell	MoDNR	417-838-0795	wendell.hall@dnr.mo.gov	26
Harper	Jodi	EPA Region 7	913-551-7483	harper.jodi@epa.gov	27
Harris	Brad	MoDNR	573-526-4794	brad.harris@dnr.mo.gov	28
Hayes	Scott	EPA Region 7	913-551-7670	hayes.scott@epa.gov	29
Hensley	Dave	EPA Region 7	913-551-7768	hensley.dave@epa.gov	30
Hingst	Paige	Santee Sioux Nation	402-857-3347	page.hingst@santeeoep.com	31

Last Name	First Name	Organization	Phone	Email	Count
Hoffman	Ryan	Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC)	316-337-6200	r.hoffman@kcc.ks.gov	32
Hoover	Courtney	U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)	303-445-2503	courtney_hoover@ios.doi.gov	33
Johnson	James	EPA Region 7	913-551-7058	johnson.james@epa.gov	34
Kennedy	Sharon	EPA Region 7	913-551-7958	kennedy.sharon@epa.gov	35
Kenney	Aleshia	USFWS	309-757-5800	aleshia_kenney@fws.gov	36
LaCoste	John	USDA, U.S. Forest Service (FS)	573-341-7479	john.lacoste@usda.gov	37
Lee	Barbi	EPA Region 5	312-886-5296	lee.barbi@epa.gov	38
Long	James	USCG, Sector Upper Mississippi River (UMR)	314-269-2591	james.e.long@uscg.mil	39
Marcy	Christopher	National Pollution Funds Center	202-795-6092	christopher.marcy@uscg.mil	40
Mazurkewycz	Misha	Ponca Tribe of Nebraska	402-438-9222	mmazurkewycz@poncatribes-ne.org	41
Franke-Rose	Michael	USCG, Sector Ohio Valley	502-216-1802	michael.franke-rose@uscg.mil	42
Morgan	Darryl	KDHE	785-296-8065	darryl.morgan@ks.gov	43
Morrow	Kirk	NDEE	402-471-8584	kirk.morrow@nebraska.gov	44
Nazar	Kristen	EPA Region 7	913-551-7450	nazar.kristen@epa.gov	45
Neeley	Chris	KCC	785-259-0180	c.neeley@kcc.ks.gov	46
Nold	Eric	EPA Region 7, Regional Response Team (RRT) Coordinator	913-551-7488	nold.eric@epa.gov	47
O'Crowley	Daniel	EPA Region 7	913-551-7611	ocrowley.daniel@epa.gov	48
Page	Rachel	START	816-412-1957	rachel.page@tetrattech.com	49
Pankau	Keyth	USCG District 8, RRT Alternate Co-Chair	504-671-2236	keyth.a.pankau@uscg.mil	50
Pawlosky	Katherine	USDA National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF)	785-477-4927	katherine.pawlosky@usda.gov	51
Peterson	Todd	USCG, District 8, RRT Coordinator	504-671-2232	todd.m.peterson@uscg.mil	52
Pixler	Chris	Enbridge	918-223-2424	chris.pixler@enbridge.com	53
Pritchard	Jeff	EPA Region 7	913-551-7772	pritchard.jeffrey@epa.gov	54
Rowden	Tyler	MoDNR	573-526-3338	tyler.rowden@dnr.mo.gov	55
Ruiz	Adam	EPA Region 7	913-551-7926	ruiz.adam@epa.gov	56
Saha	Swapan	Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM)	785-207-1579	drsaha.kdem@gmail.com	57
Sams	Michael	USCG, District 8, RRT Co-Chair	504-671-2234	michael.k.sams@uscg.mil	58
Self	Adrian	USDA APHIS – Plum Island Animal Disease Center	785-532-3284	amself@ksu.edu	59
Schmaedick	Manuel	EPA Region 7	913-551-7449	schmaedick.manuel@epa.gov	60
Schroeder	Glenn	DOI	720-402-8357	glenn_schroeder@ios.doi.gov	61
Smith	Delbert	KDHE	785-368-7301	delbert.smith@ks.gov	62
Smith	Heath	EPA Region 7	816-718-4277	smith.heath@epa.gov	63
Smith	Yvonne	EPA Region 7	800-223-0425	smith.yvonne@epa.gov	64

Last Name	First Name	Organization	Phone	Email	Count
Suchak	Neal	U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)	202-839-0498	neal.suchak@dot.gov	65
Swapan	Saha	The Adjutant General's Department	785-646-2543	swapan.k.saha.nfg@mail.mil	66

ACRONYM and ABBREVIATION LIST

ACP	Area Contingency Plan
AERR	Assessment Emergency Response and Removal
AOR	Area of responsibility
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
ARS	Agriculture Research Services
AST	Aboveground storage tank
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAP	Chemical Accident Prevention
CBC	Chemical and biological countermeasures
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
D8	U.S. Coast Guard Eighth District
DCE	Defense Coordinating Element
DOC	U.S. Department of Commerce
DoD	U.S. Department of Defense
DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
DRAT	District Response Advisory Team (USCG)
EC	Executive Committee
ECAD	Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
EER	Environmental Emergency Response
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESF	Emergency Support Function
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FOSC	Federal On-Scene Coordinator
FOSCR	Federal On-Scene Coordinator Representative
FS	U.S. Forest Service
GIUE	Government-initiated unannounced exercise
GSA	General Services Administration
Hazmat	Hazardous material
HAZWOPER	Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response
HHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
HSEMD	Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (Iowa)
IAP	Incident Action Plan
IDNR	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
IMD	Incident Management Division
KCC	Kansas Corporation Commission
KDEM	Kansas Division of Emergency Management
KDHE	Kansas Department of Health and Environment

LB	Legislature Bill
LEPC	Local Emergency Planning Committee
LMR	Lower Mississippi River
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MDC	Missouri Department of Conservation
MoDNR	Missouri Department of Natural Resources
MoDOT	Missouri Department of Transportation
Meth	Methamphetamine
MSU	Marine Safety Unit
MTR	Marine transportation-related
NBAF	National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
NDEE	Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
NEMA	National Environmental Management Association
NMSZ	New Madrid Seismic Zone
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRC	National Response Center
NRT	National Response Team
NRF	National Response Framework
OPA	Oil Pollution Act
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OSLTF	Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund
PHMSA	Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (DOT)
Recon	Reconnaissance
RICP	Regional Integrated Contingency Plan
RISC	Regional Interagency Steering Committee (FEMA)
RMP	Risk Management Program
RP	Responsible Party
RRT	Regional Response Team
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SCAT	Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique
SEMD	Superfund and Emergency Management Division
SERC	State Emergency Response Commission
SOP	Standard operating procedure
SOSC	State On-Scene Coordinator
START	Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
Tetra Tech	Tetra Tech, Inc.
TLC	Training and Logistics Center
UMR	Upper Mississippi River
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
UST	Underground storage tank