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## Region 2 Regional Response Team 2013 Annual Report

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### Executive Summary

RRT2 does not have any Challenges, Lessons Learned or Best Practices to share from incidents or activities in the region this past year.

### **REGION II REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Period of Report: January 1, 2013– December 31, 2013**

Mr. Mike Faulkner  
National Response Team  
U.S. EPA Headquarters  
OEM/ MC 5104A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Faulkner:

As required by Section 300.115 of the National Contingency Plan (NCP), the Region II Regional Response Team (RRT-II) 2013 Annual Report is submitted for the period of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

### **I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES**

#### **A. MAJOR/NOTEWORTHY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

##### T/V STENA PRIMORSK

On December 20, 2012, the T/V STENA PRIMORSK ran aground near Albany, NY, carrying 280,000 barrels of light crude. OSRO utilized Hess Albany's piping system to



offload cargo onto three separate barges. No product was lost during the transfer and there was no waterway impact. T/V was transferred to Bayonne, NJ for repairs.

BOSTON NO. 30 BARGE

On December 14, 2012, while lightering, the Boston No. 30 Barge spilled an unknown amount of No. 6 fuel oil into Mariner's Harbor and the Kill Van Kull. The response and investigation continued into 2013, and 156,000 gallons of oil-water mixture was collected. A hole in the #2 port tank was discovered, with an unknown cause.

MIKE B BARGE

On April 13, 2013 the Barge Mike B spud system failed, which caused a spud to puncture the barge's hull. The barge took on water and was in danger of sinking at the Steeple Chase Pier, Coney Island, NY. The full 500-gallon diesel fuel tank was removed, which mitigated the pollution threat.

VOPAK

On July 22, 2013, the USCG transferred OSC responsibilities for the VOPAK historic spill site in Perth Amboy, NJ to EPA Region 2. It was determined that the site is no longer actively discharging No. 6 Fuel Oil.

CRANE BARGE, VERNON BASIN

On August 16, 2013, a crane and barge sunk in Vernon Basin, Brooklyn, NY with approximately 630-gallons of oil and 20-gallons of antifreeze on board. Boom and absorbents were deployed to mitigate environmental impact. Recovered items include: eight 30-yard containers filled with oiled debris and saturated sorbents, five 55-gallon drums, 20-gallons of antifreeze and one 275-gallon diesel tank.

SIMS METAL FACILITY

On August 19, 2013, a large industrial fire occurred at Sims Metal Facility Management on the Arthur Kill in Jersey City, NJ. USCG confirmed no waterway pollution as firefighting runoff was successfully collected in a containment pool.

CASABLANCA BARGE

On September 13, 2013, the barge Casablanca reported a spill of an unknown amount of No. 6 fuel oil. The #4 fuel tank overflowed during transfer; approximately 6,000 gallons of fuel oil was discharged into the Kill Van Kull. Two OSROs responded, and USCG and NYC DEP monitored the clean up.

B. RRT-II MEETING SUMMARIES



**SPRING 2013:** The RRT-II Spring 2013 meeting, scheduled for March 12-13, 2013, was cancelled due to sequestration.

**FALL 2013:** RRT-II convened on September 19-20, 2013 at the EPA Facility in Edison, NJ. The following topics were presented:

#### Responses

EPA Region 2 presented the response to, monitoring and lessons learned from fire responses at the following hazardous material facilities: Chloe Foods and TCI.

EPA and NYSDEC response, mitigation and lessons learned from the Hillcrest Recycling Fire and TCI Fire.

USCG District 1 presented the USCG proposed Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System consolidation, oil spill preparedness and training.

USCG Sectors New York and Long Island Sound presented recent oil spill responses.

USCG Sector Buffalo presented an update to the M/V JODREY, and the effectiveness of their Geographic Response Plans and tribal engagements. They also presented rail road cross-border coordination.

USCG Atlantic Strike Team presented their staffing, capabilities and recent response operations, and Hurricane Sandy operations.

#### Hurricane Sandy

Several presentations provided lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy, including the National Parks Service use of GIS/ERMA, FEMA/NOAA/USCG/EPA ESF Coordination and Lessons Learned, NYSDEC's coordination, prioritization and response to marina spills, home heating oil tanks, flooding and responder logistical needs.

#### Wildlife

NOAA Fisheries presented the Protected Resources Program and the requirements of marine protected species during oil spill response operations.

Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation presented native marine life, wildlife entanglement and stranding response, and the capabilities of the Specially Trained Animal Response Team (SMART).

#### New Technology

The RRT was briefed on API's Alternative Response Technology Working Group Report, which contains recommendations including the establishment of a



Response Technology Evaluation Unit in the Incident Command System organization during oil spill responses.

Meeting presentations are available on the RRT II website at <http://www.rrt2.nrt.org>

C. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES

The Long Island Sound and the Port of New York/New Jersey Area Committees continue to revise their Area Contingency Plans.

II. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING

A. TRAINING

Training				
Date	Days	Event	City	ST
January 23, 2013	2	Sector Long Island Sound ICS-339	New Haven	CT
February 12, 2013	4	District 1 ICS-300	Boston	MA
March 25, 2013	5	Sector New York ICS-300/400	Staten Island	NY
April 16, 2013	4	Sector Long Island Sound ICS-300	New Haven	CT
June 2013	1	Facility Security Officer Course	Port Elizabeth	NJ
July 2013	1	SCAT Training	Mt. Laurel	NJ
August 5, 2013	2	Sector New York Maritime Transportation System Recovery Unit (MTSRU) Training	Staten Island	NY
August 26, 2013	5	USCG Advanced Pollution Responder Course	Portsmouth	NH
November 4, 2013	5	Sector New York ICS-300/400	Staten Island	NY
December 16, 2013	5	NOAA Science of Spills	Falmouth	MA

B. EXERCISES/WORKSHOPS

Industry-Led National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) FSE

The USCG's Sector Long Island Sound and Sector New York held a joint Full Scale, Industry-Led, PREP exercise on September 17, 2013. The industry leads were McAllister Towing and Transportation Co. and Reinauer Transportation Companies, LLC. The purpose was to test the ability of industry, federal, state, and local partners to manage a vessel worst case discharge that impacted two Federal Regions, two States, two USCG Sectors, and multiple local governments. The scenario involved the grounding of a tank barge in Sector New York's area of responsibility and resulted in an oil spill that was



projected to impact the Connecticut shoreline in Sector Long Island Sound's area of responsibility. The location of the exercise and the designated Incident Command Post was at State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime College in Throgs Neck, NY.

<b>Oil Spill Exercises</b>				
Date	Days	Event	City	ST
September 17, 2013	2	Sector Long Island Sound/Sector New York PREP FSE	Throgs Neck	NY

<b>Government Initial Unannounced Exercises</b>				
Date	Days	Event	City	ST
April 3, 2013	2	Government Initiated Unannounced Exercise	New Haven	CT
May 2013	1	Government Initiated Unannounced Exercise	Brooklyn	NY

<b>Non-Oil Exercises</b>				
Date	Days	Event	City	ST
January 31, 2013	1	Sector NY ATRFP FSE	Staten Island	NY
June 13, 2013	1	Sector Long Island Sound AMSTEP FSE	Bridgeport	CT
August 15, 2013	1	FEMA All Hazards Plan TTX	Boston	MA
September 30, 2013	1	New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Exercise Series	New York & New Jersey various locations	NY/NJ

<b>Equipment Deployment Training/Exercises</b>				
Date	Days	Event	City	ST
June 3, 2013	3	Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System (VOSS) Deployment Drill, CGC KATHERINE WALKER	Bayonne	NJ
USCG pre-positioned equipment deployment (trailer) drills conducted at all Sectors				
USCG quarterly notification drills conducted at all Sectors				

<b>Impending Exercises/Workshops/Training</b>				
Date	Days	Event	City	ST
January 30, 2014	1	Port of New York/New Jersey Area Committee Executive Steering Committee Meeting	Staten Island	NY
<b>Impending Exercises/Workshops/Training (cont'd)</b>				
Date	Days	Event	City	ST



February 10, 2014	5	Sector Long Island Sound ICS-300/400	New Haven	CT
March 11, 2014	1	Long Island Sound Area Committee Meeting	Port Jefferson	NY
March 4, 2014	1	Maine/New Hampshire Area Committee Annual Seminar	Portsmouth	NH
April 9, 2014	2	RRT 2 Meeting	Albany	NY
April 24, 2014	1	Sector Long Island Sound PREP TTX	New Haven	CT
July 21, 2014	5	District 1 ICS-300/400	Boston	MA

C. FEDERAL, STATE, and LOCAL PLANNING / COORDINATION EFFORTS

Effective Chemical Risk Management Project, Federal Region 2 (ECRM2)

On August 1, 2013 President Obama signed an Executive Order (EO) to improve chemical facility safety and security. The EO created an Interagency Working Group, co-chaired by DHS, EPA and OSHA. Among the actions to be undertaken in support of the Interagency Working Group is a "pilot" project aimed at leveraging the diversity of experience, capability and perspective among several federal agencies, state agencies and local responders. That pilot, the Effective Chemical Risk Management Project, Federal Region 2 or "ECRM2" for short, will help to identify the best ways in which we can improve our national management of chemical risk, and where we should be targeting our resources in order to achieve the best possible result for the American people.

ECRM2 is centered on the creation of a multi-agency, multi-government team of experts in the NY/NJ region (Federal Region 2), commissioned to accomplish the goals of the Interagency Working Group over their first year of operation, as well as supporting propagation of their products to the rest of the nation. For administrative purposes, ECRM2 is established as a sub-committee under RRT II, and includes representatives from selected RRT member agencies, as well as Ad Hoc members from outside the existing RRT organization.

To date, the ECRM2 working group has met frequently via conference calls and face-to-face meetings. Separate sub-workgroups have been established for the following issues: First Responders, SERCs/LEPCs, Tier 2 Content, High Risk Facilities/Chemicals, and Data/Information Sharing. As the ECRM2 develops a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for a unified federal, State, Tribe, and local approach for identifying and responding to risks at chemical facilities, we have begun to develop a plan to improve operational coordination among the federal, State, Tribe, and local agencies and first responders. The concepts of this plan will be used to create the SOP and assist the agencies with implementation.

Preparedness Assessment Verifications (PAV)

Sector Long Island Sound had a PAV in April 2013, and Sector New York PAVs are scheduled for March and December 2014. The PAV is a verification of each OSRO listed in the Response Resource Inventory (RRI) for that area. The USCG National Strike Force Coordination Center, local sector, and district representative, visit the OSRO to ensure their equipment is in good condition and their RRI entries are consistent with their actual inventory. The results of the PAVs showed that many OSROs did not have accurate inventories. Those corrections are made after a PAV, but it is important for planning purposes for each area to know what resource capabilities are in their areas of response.

#### Area Contingency Plan (ACP) Updates:

ACPs for all D1 Sectors will be undergoing a major revision in 2014. A few of the major areas for plan improvement include:

- Identifying preparedness gaps within the area and establishing a method to overcome limitations.
- Incorporating lessons learned from past exercises and real world events.
- Reviewing chemical dispersant and In-Situ Burn preauthorization agreements.

### **III. PERSONNEL CHANGES/ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES**

#### FEDERAL

U.S. Coast Guard:

- CAPT Edward Cubanski replaced RDML Joseph Vojvodich as Captain of the Port for Sector Long Island Sound.
- LCDR Allison Cox has replaced Russell Cornelia as the USCG Coordinator for RRT-II.

#### STATES

- No changes

### **IV. ISSUES OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REQUIRING NRT ATTENTION**

The transport of oil by railcar across the U.S. has grown tremendously over the past several years, spurred on by advances and efficiencies in oil extraction techniques. The rail industry has increased traffic, particularly across Canada and the northern plains of the U.S., to keep pace with the transportation demands from the surging volume of oil produced from wells in those areas. Transportation by rail carries oil over rivers and streams, through towns and neighborhoods, and is a potential source from which a discharge of oil may occur.



Within the National Response System (NRS) community, experience and familiarity with new, emerging sources of crude oil is limited and many responders have expressed interest in learning more about these products. The NRS community would benefit greatly from a National Response Team guidance document on response to emerging crude oils which includes comprehensive analyses of these products, and detailing the chemical composition; additive composition; reactivity; specific gravity; and other pertinent data useful during response. Additionally, information regarding best practices, tactics, tools and techniques for effectively responding to discharges of emerging sources of crude oil would enhance response capabilities and allow for the more efficient and effective deployment of valuable response resources.

**V. FUTURE PLANS**

Next RRT-II Meeting: The Spring 2014 Region II RRT meeting will be held April 9-10, 2014 in Albany, NY.

**VI. CONCURRENCE**

  
Eric Mosher  
U.S. EPA Co-Chair  
U.S. EPA, Region II

12/6/14  
(Date)

  
Joseph Boudrow  
U.S. Coast Guard Co-Chair  
First Coast Guard District

1-2-3-2014  
(Date)