

RRT-III MEETING NOTES

May 5, 2020

Conference number: 1-866-299-3188

Participant code: 215-814-3256

Welcome and Roll-Call:

Welcome from Cindy Santiago. *See RRT III Coordinator's Report for upcoming meeting, exercise, training dates.*

Co-chairs – Mike Towle and Dave Ormes welcomed all participants. This is not ideal way to have an RRT meeting, but it is a good solution for continuing some of our normal operations. Glad you were able to participate.

The Draft Report-outs were sent out yesterday. Please review these documents for more details on items addressed in today's call.

FOSC Report-Outs:

EPA Region III – Ms. Debbie Lindsey, EPA Lead OSC – *see report-out for details.*

- Notable Cases: Since last RRT3, EPA has three notable cases to report; Martinsburg Chlorine, D&D Fuel spill, and Lower Delaware Valley mystery odor – details are in the Report-Out document.
- The EPA response posture remains unchanged during this COVID pandemic. EPA has implemented health and safety steps to address any required field-work, so that our personnel and other responders can safely work in the field. Travel has been restricted to emergency responses. The schedule for future Exercises and Training have been postponed or cancelled – only virtual interactions are allowed until restrictions are removed.
- Personnel Changes: Myles Bartos will be the new EPA Lead-FOSC; Debbie will remain and provide guidance for Myles during this transition.

Sector Delaware Bay (SDB; Sector Delaware Bay Area Committee) – Capt. Scott Anderson, COTP/FOSC – *see report-out for details.*

- Notable cases:
 - At the November 2019 RRT3 meeting, SDB highlighted two cases on no notification and false documentation. In the first, the Responsible Party (RP) pled guilty and received \$8M fine. In the second, the case went to trial in December 2019. The RP in this incident was found guilty of four counts; sentencing on hold since April 2020. This is the third successful federal crimes case won in last few years.
 - Coordinating with EPA and State representatives since July 2019; trying to track down mystery odor through vessel inspections, notice of arrivals, etc.
- Training:
 - The Maritime Incident Response Team delivered 32 hours of marine firefighting training to more than 240 firefighters and USCG personnel. The grant-funded, shipboard firefighting training is designed for land-based fire departments/companies.
- Exercises: In January, SDB participated in a Tri-State Bird Rescue (TSBR) exercise. One of the lessons learned is that TSBR does not have enough personnel to perform Incident Management Team (IMT) role/functions during an incident. Our Auxiliary IMT personnel can be inserted into the response organization to feed critical information to the response from TSBR. This lesson learned has been identified as a best practice and was shared with all of the COTPs.
- Continue checking in with OSROs within the region.
- Change of Command Updates: CAPT Anderson is retiring in June and will be replaced by CDR Johnathan Theel (current Deputy Sector Commander). Chief of Response, CDR Kristi Bernstein transferring to Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach and will be replaced by CDR Brett Workman.

Sector Maryland-National Capital Region (SMD-NCR; Maryland and Potomac Area Committee) – LT Justin Valentino – *see report-out for details.*

- Notable Cases: SMD-NCR experienced three notable cases; see report-out for details.
- Exercises: COVID has caused the Sector to postpone the majority of Exercises and cancelled our April Area Committee meeting. We are currently looking into ways to conduct our meetings and exercises virtually.

- Change of Command Updates:

Departing	Arriving
LCDR Lee Gorlin	LCDR Christopher Rosen
LT Justin Valentino	LT Silvia Sigler
MSTC Sean Devine	MSTC Alex Olbert
MST1 Jeff Nagel	MST1 Michael Schneider
MST1 Bill Easterling	MST1 Duskin Deichl
MST2 Erin Westoby	MST2 Andrew Walters
MST2 Shayna Etheridge	TBD From MST A-School

Sector Virginia (Virginia Area Committee) – Capt. Sam Stevens, Deputy Commander – *see report-out for details.*

- Notable cases: see report-out.
- Training: COVID planning and internal mechanisms.
- Exercises: In March, prior to COVID restrictions, Golden Ray simulated during TTX with Area Committee and port partners – 14th annual S&R forum (200 from 35 agencies and boats).
- Communications networks – continue to work on getting the system working
- Hosted the inaugural all-hazards committee meeting in February – thank you Renee – now an annual meeting – great success.
- Thanks to SDB for sharing your unexploded ordnance (UXO) plan – Sector Virginia recently responded to a UXO event.

Sector North Carolina (Coastal NC Area Committee) – LCDR Mike Cavanaugh – *see report-out for details.*

- Notable Cases:
 - M/V Miss Bonnie – figured out unique method to secure scene and to prevent damage to resources – set up a spud barge to surround the vessel to calm the water – able to contain and recover all oil on board.
 - F/V Sea Angels – Browns inlet – casualty; lost propulsion – rough waters – hard aground; rescued passengers.
 - F/V Tamar Alane – federalized; lightered using Sikorski helicopters.
 - F/V Cameron Scott – aground – federalized; still in place. Fuel removed.
- Exercises: Exercises include a January 2020 USCG-led boom deployment at Station Hobucken. This same scenario happened several months later.
- Change of Command Updates: CAPT Bion Stewart will be replaced by CDR Matt Baer (Sector Charleston)

Sector Buffalo (Lake Erie Area Committee) – LT Jillian Wilson

- Notable Cases: No cases within the Region 3 AOR (Pennsylvania) to report.
- Exercises: On March 24, the Sector exercised the Biological Annex of Eastern Great Lakes ACP. Thankfully, the exercise allowed the Sector to be better prepared for the COVID response and in addressing infected people on board vessels.
- The Lake Erie Area Committee met in December 2019; next Area Committee Meeting TBD due to COVID restrictions.
- Great Lakes ACP update has been pushed back to August/September 2020 for finalization.

MSU Pittsburgh – ENS Alex Strobehn – *see report-out for details.*

- Notable Cases:
 - One case federalized and one letter of warning has been issued since last RRT3 meeting.
 - Two out of service inspected towing vessels (ITV) sank at mile marker 14.1 on the Ohio River; the case was federalized. This was a challenging response. No USCG Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) contractors are located within the AOR and COVID restrictions further impacted our abilities to respond.

The MSU ended up contracting with a BOA from Baltimore. Removed fuel from both vessels and vessel remained afloat and the case was transferred to EPA Region 3 for any enforcement actions.

MSU Huntington – CDR Paul Mangini – *see report-out for details.*

- **Notable Cases:** One notable case to report. Protestors from Wet’Suwet’en Nation staged a protest to the Trans Canada Energy building in Charleston, WV. The Company raised security levels for all facilities and notified all LEPCs in the adjacent areas. Engaged with WV State Police for security on site.
- **Exercises:** In November 2019, conducted a successful Swift Water / Flooding / ICS response to pollution exercise with the police and National Guard for a rescue training event on Kanawha River.
- **Change of Command Updates:** Executive Officer LCDR Kurt Brandstaetter is departing in July 2020 and LCDR Joshua Weidman is his replacement

Sector Ohio Valley – *not present for call.*

State/Commonwealth Reports:

Delaware – Mr. Jamie Bethard, DE DNREC & Mr. Ben Anderson, DE DNREC-WAB – *see report-out for details.*

- The State has experienced an increase in call volume; we have added a new State OSC in Newcastle the area.
- Jamie wanted to thank the other Region 3 states/commonwealths and Mike Towle for their assistance/guidance on providing information that allowed DNREC to reclassify staff position descriptions – increasing paygrades of existing staff. DNREC successfully upgraded their staff positions to be more competitive with marketplace.

Maryland – Mr. Geoff Donahue, MDE

- **Notable Cases:**
 - March 13, responded to fuel oil release from bulk storage facility. Aged tanks released product over long period of time and ground saturation drained to a small stream. A low recovery rate of oil resulted.
 - March 24, responded to an overturned home heating fuel tank truck. The tanker had undergone two complete rollovers but no fuel loss.
 - April 13, responded to an overturned/leaking LPG tanker truck in Huntington, Calvert County. Flared off the contents.
 - April 29, responded to an overturned corrosive tanker on I-68 in Cumberland, MD that impacted the Potomac River. 6200 gallons of Dodecylbenzenesulfonic acid sodium salt was on board. Approximately 3,000 gallons of the product was spilled with a small amount making it to the environment through a storm drain as heavy rain dissolved the water soluble product. MDE was able to contain and recover a large portion of the product.

Pennsylvania – Mr. Brian Moore, PADEP

- Response numbers increased 50% due to COVID with office staff not intercepting/screening calls and as PADEP staff are only response authorized in the commonwealth.
- **Notable Cases:**
 - Buckeye Township spill; no major water contamination.
 - Mystery Odor response – PADEP personnel were involved on the mystery odor response in Delaware County, PA. Examined fixed facilities and other possible sources of the mystery odor on the I-95 and rail corridors along the Delaware River – no source identified. Involved USCG and EPA in trying to determine the source. Recently had call with California South Coast Air Quality District where it was suggested that the odors may be from vessels on the river venting. The odor response was initiated after PES facility explosion and fire. Still no resolution. The response has led to a lot of interstate/agency collaboration between PA, DE, NJ, and EPA and USCG. Thanks for your assistance.

Virginia DEM – Mr. Tom Jordan, VDEM – *see report-out for details.*

- VDEM call numbers are remaining stable.
- **Notable Cases:** political protest in Capitol building; threats deemed plausible – nothing took place but did precipitate several HAZMAT teams and the Decon team as precaution. Lots of Lessons Learned – able to

accurately gauge and verify threats through tracking intelligence.

- COVID affecting VDEM agency; fully engaged since Mid-February for Pandemic response in the state.

Virginia DEQ – Mr. John Giese and Ms. Beth Lohman, VDEQ – *see report-out for details.*

- VDEQ has been very quiet since the last RRT3 meeting.
- Notable Cases: working with EPA GIS tools – determine waste quantities, staging areas, and transportation costs. Will be used for up and coming radiation TTX. Will evaluate the tool in that includes injection pathway (radiological contamination).
- New Personnel: VDEQ has hired two new employees who are former USCG members; Megan Keyes and Renee McKinnon. They are now pollution response coordinators in Tidewater. VDEQ had suspended their field work due to COVID, but resumed field activities last week and Renee will get out there.
- Thank you to CAPT Carroll at Sector Virginia, this is the most impactful COTP. Looking to work with Capt. Stevens in the future.

West Virginia – Mr. Rusty Joins, WVDEP – *see report-out for details.*

- 1100 spill reports; 124 of which involved transportation or diesel spill
- 72 NRC reports

District of Columbia DC DOEE – Ms. Jayne Deichmeister – *not present for call.*

Agency/Partner Reports:

DHHS/CDC/ATSDR – Mr. Bob Helverson – *nothing significant to report.*

DHS/CFATS – Mr. Garrett Hansen for Donald Keen

- COVID – all CFATS inspection operations have been suspended and postponed or rescheduled. Designing capabilities for virtual inspection operations–in the testing phase right now. Continue to reach out to our CFATS stations. NOTE: Facilities must continue to comply with regulations and security and security postures. Stakeholder outreach continues.
- Working on Tier II listing for five states.

DHS Protective Security Advisor (PSA) – Mr. Ray Hanna and Mr. Bill Ryan – *see report-out for details.*

- COVID response updates:
 - DHS/PSA is headquartered in Philadelphia, PA with the same response areas as FEMA Region 3. Our Regional staff does analysis, outreach, and training; supervisory staff and PSAs/ cyber security advisors.
 - DHS/PSA is responding under mission assignments for ESF-14 – cross sector for business and industry and ESF-2 – communications.
 - Responses are primarily being conducted virtually. We are hosting several virtual security seminars.
 - Trying to conduct assessments virtually. Currently in the planning phase and how we will roll out virtual assessments. Also developing our re-start plan on for how we will begin to start back up and out into the field and interacting with our stakeholders.
 - Virtual training and exercises – trying to resolve and roll out.

DHS FEMA – Mr. Dick Polley (FEMA) – *unable to attend.*

DOC/NOAA – Mr. Frank Csulak (NOAA SSC) – *see report-out for details.*

DOD/NAVY – Mr. Alan Kersnick (NAVY MIDLANT NOSC) – *no significant events to report.*

DOD/USACE – Mr. Duban Montoya (USACE) – *Not present for call.*

DOE – Mr. Bruce Young (Argonne National Lab)

- Status is teleworking for COVID.
- Argonne is working COVID-related projects – trying to identify the atomic structure of the virus.
- Phased restart being developed and implemented.

- Training: want to offer another OSC Training course in November 2020/January 2021 timeframe.
- Thanks to NOAA courses – Ellen Ramirez NOAA satellite presentation was great!

DOI/USFWS – Mr. Lindy Nelson (DOI) and Ms. JoAnn Banda (USFWS) – *see report-out for details.*

- Teleworking DOI-wide; working towards next step for reopening. Outdoor spaces are beginning to reopen (National Parks, NWR, etc.); openings are determined site-by-site.
- Uploading information on grants/funding for states and local areas for reopening fisheries and natural and historic/cultural sites – RRT3 has established website to upload this information on opportunities.
- Lindy is leaving DOI REO program and has taken a position with the Bureau of Land Management in Milwaukee, WI; Valincia Darby and Andy Radant are available to assist RRT3 until Lindy’s position is replaced. Lindy will be missed.
- Valincia Darby – reintroduced herself to the membership participants. She will be the Point of Contact for the DOI REO program for RRT3; feel free to reach out if you need. Valincia Darby contact information: Valincia_darby@ios.doi.gov; office 215-597-5378; cell 215-913-6238.
- JoAnn Banda introduced herself. She has taken on Susan Lingenfelter’s duties as the USFWS spill response coordinator for DC, MD, PA, VA, and WV; Clay Stern is the USFWS representative to RRT3 for Delaware and PA. Susan Lingenfelter took a new position at Headquarters leading the NRDA and spill response for USFWS.
- Working on draft guidance to protect mussels and crayfish and will be having simulated spill to test that guidance in the coming months.

DOJ – Ms. Laurie Dubriel – *nothing significant to report.*

DOL/OSHA – Mr. Tom Carle (OSHA) – *see report-out for details.*

- Supporting RRCC with a mission assignment addressing components of the COVID response. The volume of inquiries to OSHA is 10 times normal.
- See OSHA webpage to find resources and information relating to protection during response in the COVID environment.
- Training: Chemical Safety Security and Transportation workgroup met in last Quarter; the 2020 workshop is on hold.

DOT – Ms. Lisa Brennan – *not present for call*

GSA – Ms. Kathleen Peek

- Replaced Maryann Toniazzo at the end of March 2020; Maryann officially retired in December 2019.
- Region 3 GSA personnel mostly working from home. Mission Assignments for ESF-7 – Logistics only reporting virtually. Anticipate we will only be responding virtually as we enter the hurricane season.
- Inundated with COVID response – space location, setting up contracts for setting testing locations, service and supply contracts.

USDA – Mr. Clay Mealman (APHIS) and USDA – (Forest Service) – *not present for call*

ORSANCO – Mr. Sam Dinkins – *not present for call*

Workgroup Report-Outs & Project Status Updates:

RCP Re-write Workgroup (Chair, Mr. Dave Ormes, USCG D5)

- Working with D9 on coordinating the D5/D9 geographical boundaries descriptions.
- Regional Contingency Plan is in good shape; everything on website has been updated and minor updates continue as needed.
- Have provided links on the RRT3 Plans webpage to the Sector ACPs and Inland Area Plans.
- Archiving Documents on the RRT3 webpage: The existing platform makes it difficult to find things; was trying to archive documents to minimize locating documents on the webpage. Unable to archive effectively. Have changed security level on documents be archived to allow them to remain but not to be visible on the public

accessible pages. If you need a specific document, contact the START contracts or RRT3 coordinators.

- Waiting on documents to be finalized from CNRDA and SRCWG and will upload those to the website once they are finalized and adopted by the RRT.

Information Management and Outreach Workgroup (Chair, Mr. Brian Moore, PADEP)

- Did not meet physically or virtually – nothing to report at this time.

Training Workgroup (Chair, Ms. Kaitlin Hess, EPA)

- Christi Torres Rosa will be the new Training Workgroup Chair. Her contact information is torres-rosa.christie@epa.gov; office 215-814-3456; cell 215-814-3456.
- Will reschedule RRT3 Notification Drill later this year.

Consultation, Natural Resources and Damage Assessment Workgroup (Co-Chairs, Mr. Frank Csulak, NOAA and Ms. JoAnn Banda, USFWS / Mr. Lindy Nelson, DOI)

- Developing a Joint Assessment Team (JAT; a NRDA focused team of federal, state, and industry partners) as part of RRT3 and guidance documents underway and team members are being identified.
- The workgroup is drafting three tribal guidance documents for federally-recognized Tribes in the Region.

Spill Response Countermeasures Workgroup (Co-Chairs, Mr. William Martin, EPA & Mr. Dave Pugh, USCG D5)

- Dispersant MOU – update complete, but on hold pending completion of the Biological Evaluation (BE) and the NCP Subpart J regulatory changes being issued by EPA.
- Workgroup beginning updates to the In-situ Burning (ISB) pre-authorization and guidance documents.
- A BE for Dispersants and ISB is being developed to meet the Endangered Species Act Consultation requirements for preauthorization. Elisha Cook continues to work on BE; and is coordinating guidance with the Services prior to submission.

Closing Remarks & Meeting Adjournment:

RRT3 Co-Chairs: Want to thank our members that are leaving us...for your contributions to the RRT.

- Dave Pugh – reminded everyone with change outs of personnel to send Cindy, Debbie, Robin updated contact information!

The goals of RRT is cooperation and assistance within the region – PADEP and DNREC provided us with excellent examples of our regional coordination and support.

Thank you for participating in this Virtual Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

RRT III Website:

www.nrt.org/RRT3

RRT III Events Calendar:

https://nrt.org/event/events.aspx?site_id=35