

# **2020 Work Plan for Regional Response Team III**

## **SCOPE AND STRUCTURE**

The annual Region III Regional Response Team (RRT3) Work Plan outlines the specific action items that the RRT will address, initiate, or develop during the calendar year. This plan will set the priorities of the RRT and offers priorities for consideration by On-Scene Coordinators (OSC), workgroups and committees, and area planning managers. This is a living document subject to the direction of the co-chairs, input from the RRT3 members, and the needs of the OSC.

The development of the RRT3 Work Plan sets the annual project/issue priorities for the organization. The goal of this document is to define means for continuous improvement of the federal and state/commonwealth capabilities and plans to respond to an oil or hazardous substance incident. The work plan is generated from:

- Setting the priority for the issues or projects having the greatest need to be addressed by the RRT to ensure enhanced readiness of the RRT3 members to support OSCs when called upon to respond to an incident.
- The issues or projects within the RRT's administrative or operational span of control.
- The issues or projects addressed annually being achievable by the RRT based on member agency work load, funding, and expertise.
- Identifying best practices and policies from other regions and identifying features or information that would be useful in improving area planning in Region III.
- Providing a forum to exchange information on oil spill and hazardous substance response technology and procedural advances and prioritizing and coordinating the RRT combined resources and funding for optimum outcomes.
- Enhancing public outreach/education and to advance participation by federally recognized tribes in spill preparedness and response planning, including membership in the RRT.
- Involving other stakeholders and all interested parties in spill preparedness and response planning.
- The work plan is a living document. The issues or projects addressed annually by the RRT may be adjusted or changed at any time by the RRT or Executive Committee based on the changing needs of the response community.

The RRT Executive Committee, with input from Workgroup Chairpersons, will develop the RRT3 Work Plan for submittal to the National Response Team (NRT) by January 31st of each calendar year. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and United States Coast Guard (USCG) RRT Coordinators are typically responsible for ensuring that the Work Plan is finalized.

## **MISSION**

The mission of the RRT3 is to protect public health and safety and the environment by ensuring a coordinated, effective, and efficient response to significant oil or hazardous substance incidents within the area of responsibility for the RRT3, including Federal Region III.

## **VISION**

- We will provide prompt, reliable, knowledgeable, and competent assistance to our OSCs and member agencies. Our actions will be decisive and purposeful.
- We will be recognized as a quality organization committed to adding value to federal, state/commonwealth, local, and industry efforts to mitigate the effects of oil, hazardous substance,

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and other incidents covered by the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)/National Response Framework (NRF).

- Our membership will include all relevant segments of the regional response community. We will work as an efficient and effective team, pooling our talents and experience to provide the best possible assistance to pollution responders.
- We will be proactive and progressive in our deliberations to earn the respect of the entire response community for our resourcefulness and innovation.

### **PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES FOR 2020**

Priorities are meant to advance, in part or in whole, our stated goals and initiatives, but may also reflect more immediate needs or requirements. Priorities for the 2020 year include:

#### **Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) Rewrite Workgroup**

1. **Enhance the quality and utility of the Region III Regional Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (R3RCP).**

- Consider revisions to and update the R3RCP as appropriate. This is a living document that will be updated as information is provided or gained including:
  - incorporating best practices and policies from other regions,
  - incorporating lessons learned from significant incidents, and
  - addressing emerging technologies, industry preparedness and new initiatives, and other state or federal initiatives.
- In conjunction with the Federal and State OSCs, continue to evaluate opportunities to restructure the Region's Area Planning including: reorganization of the current family of plans to NCP-compliant RCP and ACPs; and achievement of a steady-state compliance with all federal and state agency mandates.
- Encourage and provide opportunities for RRT3 members, OSCs, and other responders to attend training relevant to the RCP, as appropriate.
- Maintenance of the R3RCP will be handled by the USEPA RRT3 Coordinator and the USCG D5 District Response Advisory Team (DRAT) and posted to the RRT3 Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) Website ([www.nrt.org/RRT3\\_RCP](http://www.nrt.org/RRT3_RCP)).

#### **Training Workgroup**

2. **Provide training, information, communication, and coordination mechanisms to the Federal OSCs, Unified Commands, the Area Committees, and the RRT3 membership.**

- Provide opportunities for RRT3 members to participate in activities that benefit regional and local planning and response to incidents involving oil, hazardous substances, and all hazards.
- Periodically query the membership on topics of importance to maintain relevance of presentations and training opportunities. Make this list available to the other workgroup chairs to use for their sessions.

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### Consultation, Natural Resources, & Damage Assessment (CNRDA) Workgroup

**3. Encourage continued education and tool development as well as fostering participation and coordination for consultation and damage assessment requirements for natural and cultural resources within our region.**

- Develop National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and FWS emergency consultation letters for Endangered Species Act (ESA) and EFH for USCG D5 Sectors.
- Develop best management practices (BMPs) for protected resources by response options (containment/recovery, dispersants, *in situ*/controlled burning, and other regulated chemicals and biological agents), for the habitat zones designated in the ESA Matrices within the area of response authority in Region III (offshore, nearshore, shoreline, upland, etc.).
- Initiate ESA/CH, EFH, and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) consultations for spill response countermeasures as regional policy and draft/finalize preauthorization guidance.
- Develop a Biological Assessment outline for Region III for response countermeasures.
- Develop a Plan of Action policy to address the needs of the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Section 3<sup>1</sup> (43 CFR 10.5) for incorporation into the R3RCP and area planning documents.
- Develop Guidance/training materials on when a Federal OSC should activate a Historic Properties Specialist.<sup>2</sup>
- Encourage greater committee and planning participation by federally-recognized tribes, industry, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the public regarding oil spill and hazardous substance response within the RRT3 Area of Responsibility (AOR).
- Establish a Mid-Atlantic Joint Assessment Team (JAT) as an ad hoc group of representatives from various state and federal trustee agencies, spill response organizations, and representatives from the oil industry to explore avenues for conducting cooperative NRDA in the event of an oil spill. Topics related to conducting cooperative assessments could include: collection of ephemeral data, injury assessment, NRDA case histories, recent developments in NRDA, available resources, etc.

### Information Management & Outreach (IMO) Workgroup

**4. Enhance the means to facilitate information management and effective decision making during an environmental response.**

- Expand outreach contacts and invitations to the RRT3 meetings to appropriate agencies and organizations in the geographical area of the meeting locations.
- Establish/confirm a document retention policy.
- Update/revise fact sheets and other outreach documentation and make available on the RRT3 websites.

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<sup>1</sup> The written plan of action is an integral part of the consultation process mandated by 43 CFR 10.5 whenever there is activity affecting or likely to affect Native American cultural items on Federal or tribal lands. The plan of action must document compliance with Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), especially 43 CFR 7.7 – 7.9, regarding requirements for permits on Indian lands. An example Plan of Action Checklist is available from:

[https://www.nps.gov/Nagpra/TRAINING/Plan\\_of\\_Action\\_Checklist.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/Nagpra/TRAINING/Plan_of_Action_Checklist.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> USEPA Region 9 provides an example document on the “Emergency Response Program Guidelines to Implement the National Programmatic Agreement on Protection of Historic Properties”.

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- Develop outreach materials for federally-recognized tribal partners including: what is the RRT; how does it work; what tribal involvement is needed; what are the tribal responsibilities during planning, preparedness, and response, etc.
- Update Information Management and Outreach Plan as necessary.
- Consolidate and make available on the [RRT3 Response Tools-Fact Sheets website](#) After Action Reports and/or Lessons Learned from trainings, exercises, and emergency response efforts.

### **Spill Response Countermeasures (SRC) Workgroup**

#### **5. Develop/refine response countermeasure strategies to assist the response community for spill response.**

- Review historical RRT guidance documents to be updated or revised.
- Provide presentations or training on any current issues/topics that may arise.
- Update/revise the Region III Chemical Countermeasures Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and incorporate appropriate lessons learned and any NRT directives/guidance that may be issued.
  - Address preauthorizations and policy guidance documentation; provide training, outreach, and education for all completed documents in coordination with the IMO Workgroup
  - Post all completed documents to the R3RCP website.
- Coordinate with CNRDA Workgroup on the development of a Biological Evaluation outline for response countermeasures.

### **General RRT Management - Executive Committee & RRT Support Personnel**

#### **6. Develop and implement an outreach program to improve the awareness of RRT roles, responsibilities, and capabilities.**

- Maintain the RRT3 websites with updated information.
- Schedule, make logistical arrangements, and conduct two RRT3 meetings (May and November) during the year.
- Prepare meeting summaries and action items, annual report, and annual work plan.
- Approve and utilize the training implementation plan outlining potential training opportunities for future RRT3 meetings in the designated categories: best practices, assessment, response management, spill safety, decision making, and information management and outreach.
- Incorporate incident debriefs with lessons learned as a regular part of meeting programming.
- Incorporate a “Member Agency Overview and What they bring to the RRT” as a regular part of the meeting programming.
- Coordinate with tribal interests within the region.
- Encourage RRT3 membership participation from all designated agencies and partners.
- Provide opportunities to conduct RCP exercise opportunities (notification, activation, and full-scale) over a triennial exercise period.

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### SERC/LEPC/ACP Workgroup

The SERC/Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)/Area Contingency Plan (ACP) workgroup will be inactive until the Executive Committee designates tasks to be completed by the workgroup.

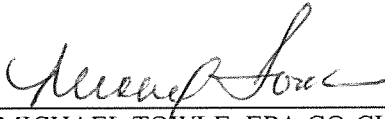
### CONCURRENCE:



DAVID T. ORMES, USCG CO-CHAIR

11/20/2019

DATE



MICHAEL TOWLE, EPA CO-CHAIR

11-20-19

DATE