

Delaware River Booming Exercise

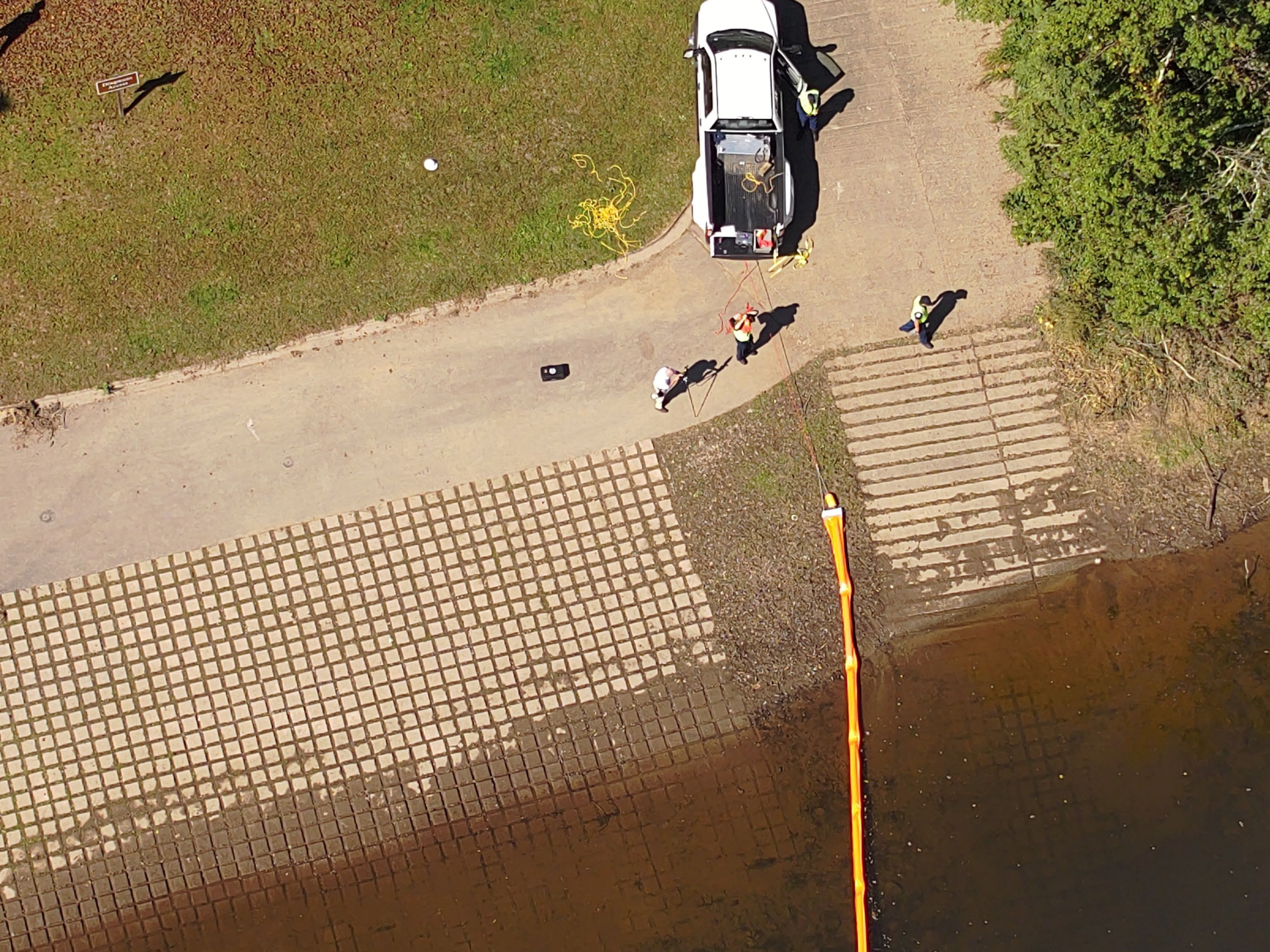
October 3rd and October 4th, 2023

Exercise

- ▶ Contingency planning effort was initiated as a result to NPS request to EPA to help update and revise the NPS Spill Response Plan for the Upper Delaware River. Two main segments are:
 - ▶ Delaware Water Gap (~Milford, PA to Route 80 bridge: PA & NJ, ~40 miles)
 - ▶ Upper Delaware River (~Hancock, NY to Port Jervis, NY/Milford, PA, ~70 miles)
- ▶ Two Tabletop Exercises leading in (Dec '21, May '22)
 - ▶ Coordinated with federal, state, and local partners (EPA R2/R3, NPS, FWS, DOI, PA, NJ, NY, counties)
- ▶ Draft Geographic Response Plans (GRPs):
 - ▶ Delaware Water Gap segment (PA/NJ), Summer/Fall '22
 - ▶ Exercise was design to implement and test strategies

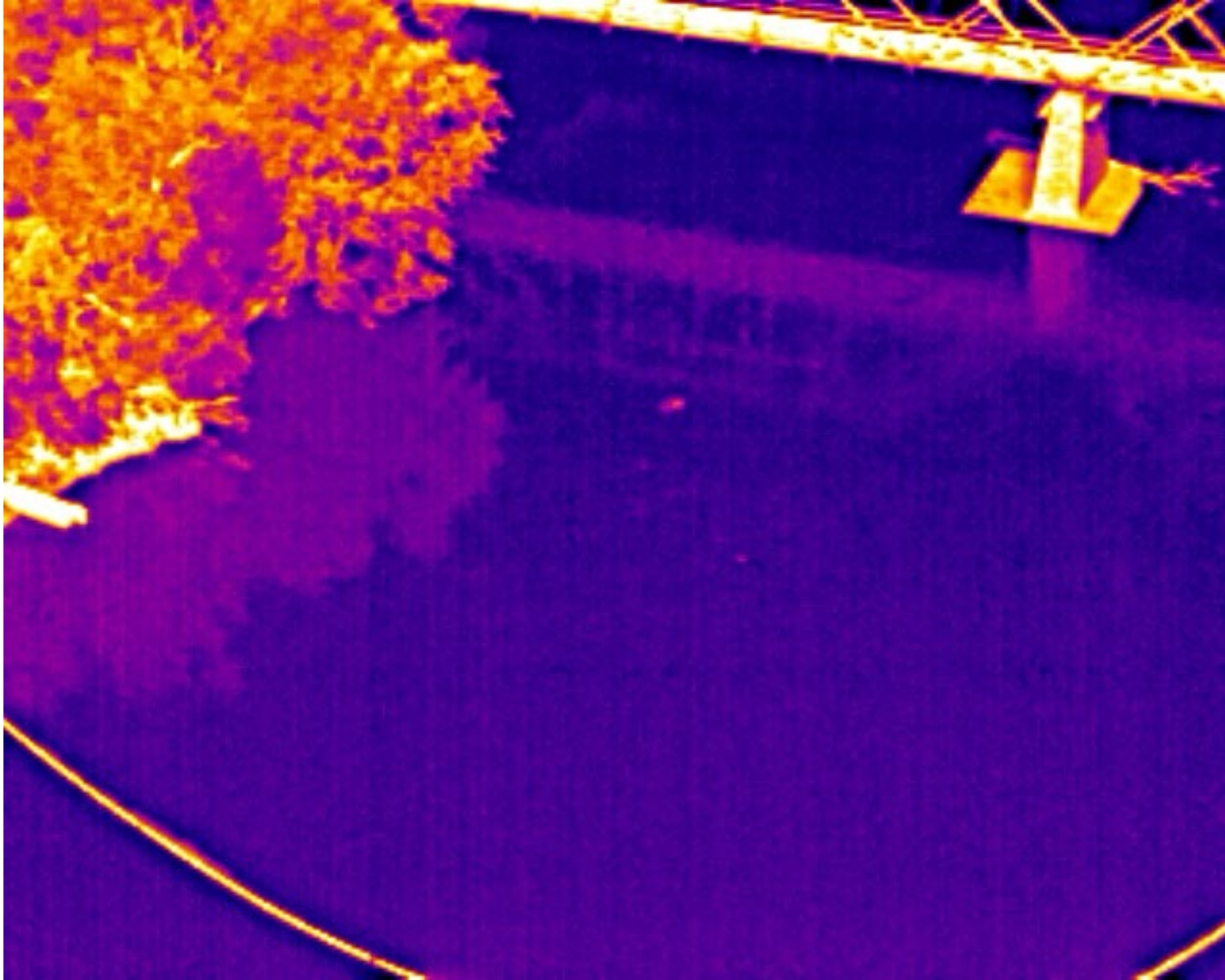
Players

- ▶ US EPA Region 2, Region 3
 - ▶ Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) contractors.
 - ▶ Emergency Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractors.
- ▶ Department of the Interior
- ▶ National Park Service
- ▶ US Coast Guard Atlantic Strike Team
- ▶ New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- ▶ Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- ▶ Warren County (NJ)
- ▶ Hunterton County (NJ)
- ▶ Pike County (PA)
- ▶ Monroe County (PA)
- ▶ Local fire departments









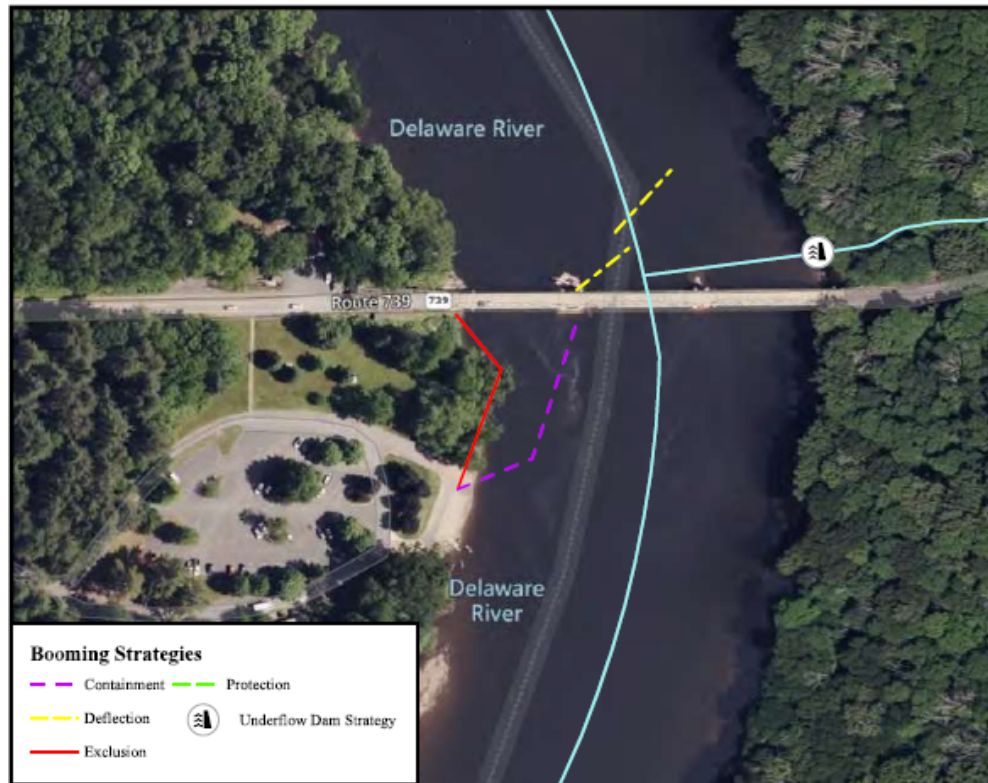
GRP Development

- ▶ Identified sensitive areas, potential targets and pathways during initial tabletop.
- ▶ A template used within EPA R2 for the draft GRP (following pages).
- ▶ Work with NPS to identify resources to protect and areas to avoid (mussel beds, Native American sites, etc.)
- ▶ Work with partner agencies to conduct field reconnaissance and identify staging areas, access points, ground truth proposed response locations and strategies.
- ▶ Work with USCG AST to develop practical and realistic booming strategies.
- ▶ Collect contact information for local response partners and points of contact.
- ▶ Work with EPA START contractor to compile information, geospatial data, photographs, and strategies into the GRP template document to create a site-specific plan.

Title Needed, UPDE-4

Location - Position:	Location: Dingmans Access Public Boat Ramp Position: 41.219747/-74.859088 Municipality, County: Delaware Township, Pike County State: PA
Booming Strategy:	Oil should be diverted to the west side of the river upstream of the Dingman’s Bridge and collected immediately south of the bridge, next to the boat launch. Capture the oil in slack areas and remove using skimmers and vac trucks. Seal off tributary on NJ side immediately north of the bridge to prevent oil from entering backwater area.
Anchor Type and Strategy:	Bridge pylon, shoreline anchor points, and Danforth marine anchors.
Recovery Strategy:	Vacuum truck staged at boat launch.
Situational Alternatives:	This response strategy is not prescriptive and may be modified, as needed, by Operations Chief or field supervisors based on current conditions and available resources.
Recommended Vessel and Personnel:	One (1) deployment vessel.

Note: These are the draft GRPs. The naming convention used here is incorrect and should be listed as “DEWA” instead of “UPDE”, per the NPS naming conventions.

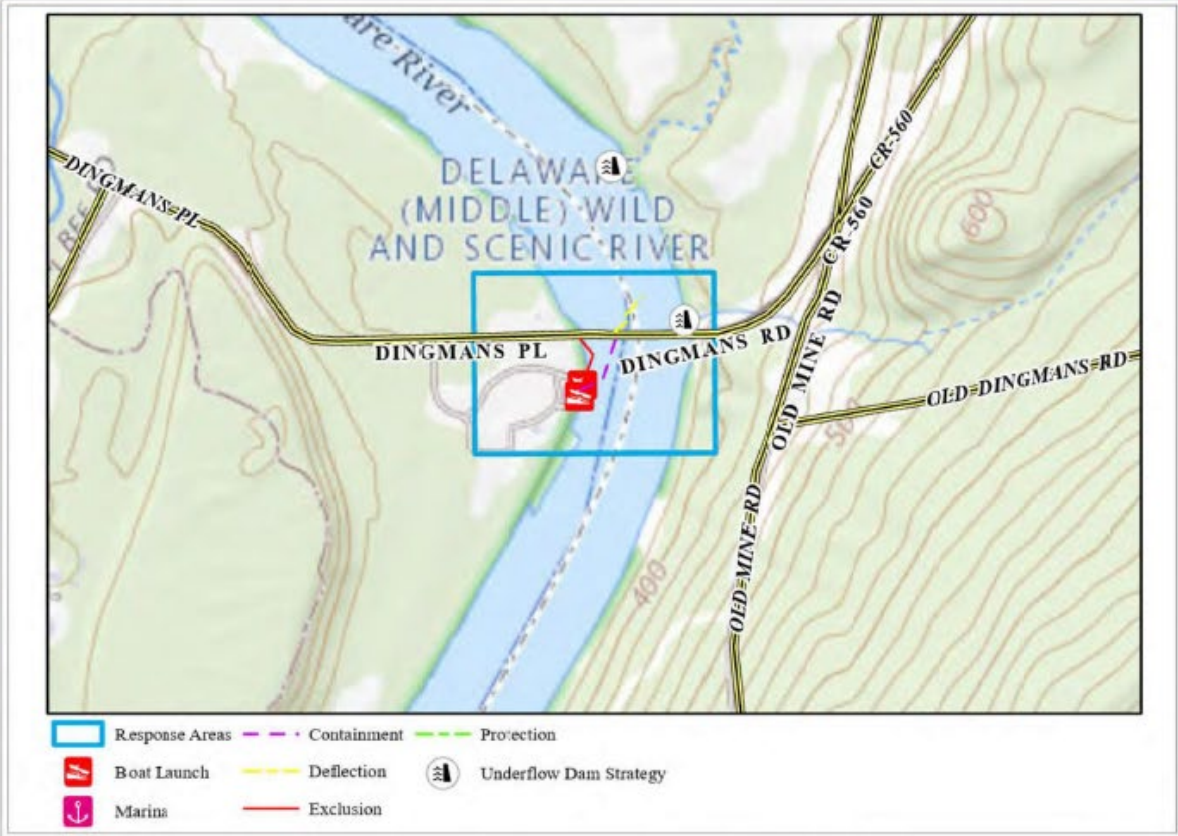


Response Notes:
Access: Route 739 to Dingmans Boat Launch
Staging Area: Dingmans Access Public Boat Ramp parking lot.
Resources at Risk: Wetland Prairie (NJ side), Paleontological Site, Sensitive Plant Area.
Recommended Section Length(s)/Anchor Weight(s): Total Boom - 775 feet (Excluding Underflow Dam Strategies)
Comments: Water can be seasonably shallow. Wooden toll bridge has \$2.00 fee. Facilities at this location include running water, electricity, paved surfaces, cell service, and boat launches.

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Route 739 Bridge and Dingmans Access Public Boat Ramp



Local Information

- Park Dispatch (emergencies): (570) 426-2457 or (800) 543-4295
- NJDEP Spill Hotline: 1-877-927-6337
- NYDEC Spill Hotline: 1-800-457-7362
- PADEP Spill Hotline: 800-541-2050
- Monroe County (PA) OEM: (570) 992-4113
- Warren County (NJ) OEM: 908-835-2047, 908-835-2030 (After Hours)
- Local Emergency Services: 911

Marinas, Docks, Boat Launches

Dingmans Access Public Boat Launch

Nearest Address

Outcome and Lesson Learned

- ▶ EPA would be the lead federal agency and join in a Unified Command (UC) with state and local partners.
 - ▶ Under the Clean Water Act (CWA) statutory authorities there are certain conditions that would trigger EPA as the lead overall agency.
- ▶ Responsible Party (RP) and NPS would be UC partner agencies, with affected States/local.
 - ▶ RP because of obligations under CERCLA/CWA.
 - ▶ NPS as the stewards of the natural and historical resources.
 - ▶ Delaware Water Gap (NPS is property owner, NJ ridge to PA ridge)
 - ▶ Upper Delaware River (NPS administers the river corridor from the ridgetop in PA to ridgetop in NY in cooperation with the states, local municipalities, and DRBC)
- ▶ Under the National Response System, NPS would act as the federal OSC until an EPA OSC arrives at the incident.
 - ▶ This is codified at 40 CFR 300.135(b): *The first federal official affiliated with an NRT member agency to arrive at the scene of a discharge or release should coordinate activities under the NCP and is authorized to initiate, in consultation with the OSC, any necessary actions normally carried out by the OSC until the arrival of the predesignated OSC. This official may initiate federal fund-financed actions only as authorized by the OSC or, if the OSC is unavailable, the authorized representative of the lead agency.*

Outcome and Lesson Learned (cont.)

- ▶ NPS may act on behalf of the OSC prior to EPA's arrival, so the pre-planned response strategies being developed are intended to provide a starting point for tactical decisions in the early stages of a spill.
 - ▶ NPS should decide on how the lead official will be determined in the event of a spill.
 - ▶ NPS should decide who should become Incident Commander (IC) to represent the agency in the UC.
 - ▶ Federal and state partners should determine the approval process of the GRPs as the non-prescriptive guidance tools.
 - ▶ As the first federal official on-scene, EPA has a similar arrangement with USCG at Lake Champlain. USCG Burlington Station role is for Search & Rescue and Aids to Navigation, but not pollution response.
 - ▶ Similar to IC designation, but the development of a Public Information Officer (PIO) position within the NPS is recommended.

Outcome and Lesson Learned (cont.)

- ▶ Structure of Exercise
 - ▶ Some players, particularly folks outside the UC/Command Staff were left without a more active role. Efforts to incorporate players more effectively are already underway for future exercise designs.
- ▶ The level of skill in boom deployment between the USCG AST and EPA ERRS contractors is vast. In future exercises, intermingling between AST and ERRS contractors are planned.
- ▶ Good discussion at the hotwash led to the identification of many of these lessons learned.
- ▶ Unanticipated challenge: Potential government shut down; planned contingencies to ensure that momentum for the exercise is not lost.

Path Forward

- ▶ Address EPA-only matters (contractor performance)
- ▶ Continue inter-agency coordination issues identified
- ▶ Adjust GRPs for Delaware Water Gap (DEWA), in conjunction with partner agencies
 - ▶ (NPS, FWS, DOI, PA, & NJ)
- ▶ Initiate additional GRP development in Upper Delaware segment (UPDE)
 - ▶ (NPS, FWS, DOI, NY, & PA)