

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

January 13, 2004

Executive Director
National Response Team
USEPA Headquarters - MC 5104A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Sir:

As directed by Section 300.115 of the National Contingency Plan, the Region II Regional Response Team Report is submitted for the period of January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003.

I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES

A. MAJOR/NOTEWORTHY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES:

USPS Hamilton Postal Facility - EPA Region II served within the Unified Command and provided technical assistance to the US Postal Service at the Hamilton Township Postal Facility in New Jersey, in efforts to remediate the anthrax contamination at that facility. EPA OSCs provided assistance with issues such as cleanup and decontamination techniques, sampling and monitoring, and disposal of contaminated materials and PPE. Fumigation of the Hamilton facility was conducted on October 24 and 25, 2003. EPA ERT's Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) unit was mobilized during fumigation actions. Post fumigation collection of spore strips from inside the facility was conducted; sampling and analysis results are expected to be received by the Environmental Clearance Committee in January for review and determination of future actions. For more information contact the EPA RRT Coordinator.

RRT advisories were made for the following incidents:

M/V STELLAMARE - The M/V STELLAMARE capsized during loading operations in Albany, NY on December 9, 2003. Three crewmembers were killed and several were injured during the incident. Approximately 9,000 gallons of a combination of #6 and #2 oil were discharged. Operations were complicated by severe weather conditions, complex traffic management requirements to allow commerce to transit the river, and the fact that much of the discharge came from the $\frac{3}{4}$ of the vessel that was completely submerged during the response. Salvage and refloating operations lasted one month. Coast Guard costs exceeded \$140,000.

T/B BRUSSEL'S - The T/B BRUSSELS suffered a material failure of its transfer pipeline during bunkering operations, resulting in over 5,000 gallons of oil being

discharged over the side. Approximately 1,000 gallons impacted the shore line of Coney Island. A unified command was established to conduct shoreline clean up.

APM Terminal - While transiting the Port of New York, the M/V MAERSK SEALAND discovered 5 damaged containers. Monitoring was conducted and the containers were removed from the vessel and placed into a secure area within APM Terminals. The containers were inspected and found to be leaking Organophosphorous Pesticide. Additional testing/monitoring was conducted in Level B to determine the extent of leakage and contamination. After several weeks the contractor removed all damaged boxes, overpacking them for shipment. The cause of the incident was determined to be improper loading and lack of blocking and bracing.

B. RRT MEETINGS:

The NY/NJ RRT II held two meetings during the period of this report:

Morristown, NJ	June 10-11, 2003
West Point, NY	October 21-22, 2003

For additional information on the agendas and action items from these meetings, please contact the RRT Coordinators.

C: COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES:

Nothing significant for the period of this report.

II. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING

A. TRAINING:

EPA Region II continues to provide CAMEO training for state and local responders and planners at locations throughout the Region. During the period of this report, CAMEO training was conducted throughout New York and New Jersey through nine course offerings.

B. EXERCISES/WORKSHOPS:

Exercises:

PREP Drill, NY: On August 13-14, EPA Region 2 conducted a government-led area exercise under the Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP). The two-day exercise, developed by NSFCC, EPA Region 2 and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), was designed to test the coordination of response procedures between EPA and NYSDEC, the EPA Region 2 Regional Disaster Plan, and the implementation of area command within EPA's Regional Response Center (RRC). The exercise tested communications and coordination between the RRC in

Edison and NYSDEC's new Emergency Response Coordination Center in the Port of Albany, NY. Approximately seventy EPA Region 2 staff participated at the RRC, and approximately 50 personnel from NYSDEC, NYSEMO, EPA, ATSDR and the USCG's National Strike Force Coordination Center and Atlantic Strike Team participated in the exercise in Albany.

Radiological Emergency Preparedness, NJ: On September 9, 2003, at the invitation of the NJ Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM), three EPA OSCs attended the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) exercise, and participated in operations at both the NJOEM and Ocean County OEM emergency operations centers.

PREP Drill, PA: On November 12-13, 2003, a government-led PREP exercise was conducted by MSO Philadelphia. The scenario focused on the response to a major oil spill resulting from a terrorist attack. The multi-agency response at the federal, state(s), and local levels evaluated the shift from Incident to Unified Command, the ability to manage response aspects unique to a terrorist-initiated event under the guiding principles of HSPD-5, assess the use of the National Interagency Incident Management System Incident Command System, coordinate initial Unified Command response objectives with the FBI, integrate local health officials into the response organization, and activate the incident-specific Regional Response Team.

Gateway Response, NL: USCG, EPA, FEMA, the FBI, NJDEP, NJOEM and numerous other federal, state and local government agencies, participated in Gateway Response, a full scale multi-jurisdictional exercise involving chemical and radiological weapons conducted at the Port of Newark on November 15, 2003.

Several industry-led PREP exercises occurred during this report period with various levels of federal participation.

Unannounced Industry PREP Drills:

The Coast Guard routinely conducts unannounced drills according to the PREP guidelines. The purpose of these drills is to improve both industry and Coast Guard response to oil spills. The drills are held in each CG Captain of the Port zone.

EPA Region II conducted unannounced exercises at the following three FRP-regulated facilities during the period of this report:

2003	Amerada Hess, Bogota Terminal	Bogota, NJ	August 27,
2003	Region Oil	Dover, NJ	September 11,
2003	Conectiv, BL England Generating Station	Beesley's Point, NJ	September, 30, 2003

Workshops/Seminars:

On January 21-22, 2003, FEMA conducted a Senior Leaders Homeland Security Summit in New York City. This invitation-only summit brought together over 100 senior officials and selected representatives of the first responder community from NY, NJ, PR and the USVI, including all 4 State Emergency Management Directors, senior officials from NYC, the Port Authority of NY/NJ, and numerous other large cities and counties across the region. Plenary speakers included the USFA Administrator, the USPHS Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response, the Office of Homeland Security Senior Director for Response and Recovery, DOJ's Office for Domestic Preparedness, and FEMA's Office of National Preparedness. On 1/22, EPA Region 2, EPA's ERT and the USCG Atlantic Strike Team conducted a panel discussion on the federal resources available through the National Response System to respond to environmental emergencies - whether natural, accidental or deliberate.

C. FEDERAL/STATE PLANNING EFFORTS /EFFORTS TO IMPROVE STATE AND LOCAL COORDINATION:

Republican National Convention - The 2004 Republican National Convention (RNC) is scheduled to be held in New York City on August 30 to September 2, 2004. An initial Emergency Service Agencies planning meeting for the RNC was held on January 31, 2003 in NYC. Largely attended by personnel from the Secret Service (USSS) and the FBI, and hosted by FEMA, the meeting was intended to bring together Federal, State and Local emergency services agencies, and provide information to the FBI and USSS on capabilities and concerns for preparing to respond in the event of an emergency occurring during the convention. Subsequent meetings were held on an almost monthly basis; however, significant progress was not initiated until the convention was formally designated as a National Special Security Event (NSSE) on July 9, 2003. Following the NSSE designation, an Executive Steering Committee was named in July, with membership including the USSS, FBI, FEMA, USCG, NYSEMO, NYCOEM, NYPD, FDNY, and Madison Square Garden. The steering committee then named 18 subcommittees to address various issues of concern. During meetings of the Consequence Management Subcommittee, EPA and USCG have identified the types of resources and assistance that are available through the National Response System, such as EPA OSCs, ERT, the USCG Strike Team, EPA contractor support, etc.

Coastal Area Planning:

Several Coastal Area Committees are actively updating their plans to the new ICS-format prescribed by a September 2000 Commandant Instruction. For more details, contact Mr. Scott Lundgren, D1 (mor).

Inland Area Planning:

EPA developed a series of joint preparedness activities arising from the PREP exercises conducted with New York State in July and August 2003. Main areas of joint preparedness include delivery of scientific support, data management, situation reporting, and law enforcement coordination.

III. PERSONNEL CHANGES/ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

Mr. Eric Mosher has joined EPA Region 2 as the Assistant Chief of the Response and Prevention Branch, and will replace Mr. Doug Kodama as the Alternate EPA Co-Chair.

Mr. Robert Marino, Director, Bureau of Technical Support for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, has assumed the role of New York State's representative to the RRT. He replaces Mr. Thomas Plesnarski, who retired in early 2003. Mr. Dennis Farrar, Chief of NYSDEC's Emergency Response Coordination Section, has been designated as New York State's alternate RRT rep.

CDR John Steger has been designated as the NOAA representative to the NY/NJ RRT, replacing CDR Wade Blake.

New contact information is available in the latest RRT II contact list. For further information, contact the RRT Coordinators.

IV. ISSUES REQUIRING NRT ACTION:

Issues of significance for potential NRT action involve the following:

- • Clarify the roles and responsibilities for agency involvement during a terrorist-induced incident involving radiation.
- • Provide a mechanism for state and tribal representatives to receive funding or reimbursement for RRT meeting travel.
- • Re-configure RRT memberships to accurately reflect the new influence of the Department of Homeland Security.

V. FUTURE PLANS:

NEXT RRT meeting:

The NY/NJ RRT plans to hold its next semi-annual meeting during the week of April 5, 2004. The agenda and location are TBD. Updates will be sent via email and posted at <http://www.uscg.mil/d1/staff/m/rrt/rrt2.html>.

CONCURRENCE:

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Bruce Sprague (Date)
EPA Co-Chair
U.S. EPA, Region II

Captain Mark VanHaverbeke
U.S. Coast Guard Co-Chair
First Coast Guard District