

Regional Response Team (RRT) Annual Report

Region:	2	Calendar Year:	2018
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A. Annual Meetings

	Dates	Location	# of Attendees	Website for presentations
1.	June 13-14, 2018	Jersey City, NJ	70	http://www.nrt.org/RRT2June2018
2.	October 30- Nov 1	Burlington, VT (Joint 1&2)	Approx. 125	www.nrt.org/RRT1and2October2018
3.				

B. Activations / Notifications

1.	Dates:	1/1/2018 to 8/02/2018	Event:	Ruptured Electric Utility Transmission Cable: B3402 C3403 Marina Spill, Jersey City, NJ.	ACT	NOT
	Issue / Concern:	Continued response to a dielectric oil spill from a buried electric power cable under the Hudson River (see the 2017 annual report).				
	Agencies Involved:	USCG Sector New York; NPFC; EPA Region II; NOAA-ERD; NOAA-NMFS; U.S. Army Corps; New Jersey DEP.				
	Decisions Made:	<p>USCG Sector NY transferred FOSC responsibility to EPA Region 2 on 5/18/18. As of August 2, 2018, EPA determined the response was complete based on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, the transmission lines are filled with nitrogen, eliminating the threat of discharge of oil within the marina. • Measures to liberate oil within the sediments of the marina and oil trapped within the seams of the bulkhead of the pier have been conducted. Further actions are not feasible due to stability issues with the adjacent bulkhead, and would not be cost beneficial in eliminating the threat to the environment or human health and safety. • After collecting air samples and water/oil samples for several months, tracer gas added to the lines after the leak was repaired were not detected in concentrations above background in any of the samples. • Slight sheen is still observed periodically in an isolated area within the marina. The sheen dissipates rapidly and is not able to be mechanically recovered. The readily biodegradable properties and low viscosity of the dielectric fluid assist in the natural attenuation of the sheen. • Chemical countermeasures would not be effective based on the amount of sheen observed. <p>Additional information can be found at: https://response.epa.gov/B3402C3403MarinaSpill</p>				
2.	Dates:		Event:	Galaxie Chemical Corporation; Paterson, NJ	ACT	NOT
	Issue / Concern:	<p>On May 14, 2018, EPA was notified by NJDEP's Bureau of Emergency Response of a fire within the abandoned Galaxie Chemical Corporation facility, located in Paterson, NJ. The facility occupies an entire city block. NJDEP requested EPA assistance and formally referred the Site to EPA on May 18, 2018.. The building contained inorganic dyes, acids, corrosives, and flammable materials. Beginning on July 3rd, EPA performed an Emergency Removal Action to address an estimated 950 drums and pallets and approximately 3700 small containers at the Site. Site work was completed in December 2018.</p> <p>Additional information can be found at: https://response.epa.gov/GalaxieChem</p>				
	Agencies Involved:					

	Decisions Made:					
3.	Dates:		Event:		ACT	NOT
	Issue / Concern:					
	Agencies Involved:					
	Decisions Made:					
4.	Dates:		Event:		ACT	NOT
	Issue / Concern:					
	Agencies Involved:					
	Decisions Made:					
5.	Dates:		Event:		ACT	NOT
	Issue / Concern:					
	Agencies Involved:					
	Decisions Made:					

C. RRT Exercises – None in CY 2018

1.	Dates:	August & Sept.	Event:	(Bayway Refinery TTX, 8/15-16) Colonial Pipeline Functional Exercise (9/18-19)		
	Agencies Involved:	EPA, USCG, NJDEP, NYSDEC, NOAA				
	Summary of exercise:	While not formal RRT exercises, EPA and USCG participated in two industry OPA exercises, held in August and September 2018, which tested cross-jurisdictional and cross-regional coordination. In both exercises, the scenario originated in EPA response jurisdiction and reached USCG jurisdictional waters, requiring coordination of FOSC and COTP authorities and responsibilities between EPA and USCG, and clarity of those roles within the Unified Command. The September exercise scenario impacted both Regions 2 and 3, and would have triggered the establishment of a cross-regional incident-specific RRT.				
	Dates:		Event:			
2.	Agencies Involved:					
	Summary of exercise:					
	Dates:		Event:			
3.	Agencies Involved:					
	Summary of exercise:					
	Dates:		Event:			

D. Changes in RRT Leadership – None in CY 2018

Agency	Outgoing Personnel	Incoming personnel
1)		
2)		
3)		

E. Best Practices and Lessons Learned by the RRT (which may help other RRTs)

F. Federal, State, and Local Planning and Coordination Efforts

Federal, State, and Local Planning and Coordination Efforts continue through Region 2's implementation of procedures established under EO13650, including guidance on how to share information among federal, state, and local partners.

Chemical: EPA, DHS and OSHA continue to share facility-specific information in accordance with each agency's requirements, policies, and procedures. EPA shares such information on an as-needed basis with federal, state, and local partners. In Fall 2018, the agencies began planning a 2019 Inspector Day, intended to highlight case studies demonstrating federal/state/local government coordination.

Oil: Given regulatory and emergency management similarities between chemical and oil facilities, EPA R2 extends its EO13650 efforts to federal/state/local agencies involved in oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response. EPA and USCG continue to coordinate Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises (GIUEs) to exchange information on oil spill preparedness, and to conform with a PREP guideline requirement to avoid conducting GIUEs at facilities that have successfully passed an exercise within 36 months. Additionally, EPA, USCG, and NYSDEC are engaged in complex compliance monitoring and enforcement activities for a multi-facility Brooklyn, NY company. EPA and NYSDEC jointly identified the source of an inland oil spill into navigable waters, and coordinated enforcement efforts with the Respondent to include environmentally beneficial projects. EPA and NJDEP have also collaborated inspection and enforcement activities at two oil facilities requiring specialized attention.

G. Challenges and Issues (and Operational Requirements Which May Require NRT Attention)

In November 2018, RRTs 1 and 2 sent a letter to the NRT, requesting NRT efforts to enhance the nationwide availability of information for the planning, preparedness and response to spills of dielectric, synthetic and mineral insulating oils.