**TELECONFERENCE MINUTES**

**Regional Response Team 7 spring 2022 MEETING**

**March 23, 2022**

A virtual meeting of Region 7 Regional Response Team (RRT)-7 member agencies and regional stakeholders convened at 0800 on March 23, 2022. Todd Peterson of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Eighth District (D8) welcomed participants, reviewed the agenda, and informed the group of procedures to be followed throughout the meeting. Peterson reminded attendees calling via telephone, as opposed to joining with Microsoft Teams, to contact Eric Deselich or Rachel Page of Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech) to ensure their inclusion in the list of meeting participants. Peterson then asked attendees whether corrections were needed to minutes of the previous meeting. As no request for revisions occurred, Peterson said the minutes would be finalized and posted to the RRT-7 website. He then turned the meeting over to Co‑Chairs Adam Ruiz of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Michael Sams of USCG D8 for opening comments.

Notes: Agendas, meeting presentations, and final minutes from past meetings are accessible at [response.epa.gov/R7RRT](https://response.epa.gov/R7RRT). A list of meeting participants is on page 11.

**Opening Comments**

Ruiz welcomed the group and expressed anticipation for a great RRT-7 meeting and discussion. He then turned the floor over to Sams who welcomed the group. Sams thanked everyone involved in assembling the agenda for the meeting, and then moved to the first agenda item.

**Review of RRT-7 Priorities**

Sams explained that the RRT-7 Executive Committee (EC) includes the RRT-7 Co-Chairs, Alternate Co-Chairs, and RRT-7 Coordinators. The EC maintains an ongoing list of priorities and will continue to seek input from the larger group on these efforts. Sams presented RRT-7 priority activities as follows:

Priority 1 – Monthly EC Teleconferences: Monthly teleconferences on the second Wednesday of the month continue as planned among EC members to ensure ongoing and effective administration of RRT-7.

Priority 2 – Incident-Specific Conference Calls: No Incident-Specific Conference Calls occurred since the last RRT-7 meeting.

Priority 3 – Region 7 Integrated Contingency Plan (RICP) Update: A minor annual update occurred in January 2022, and the plan was distributed in late February. The next annual update will occur in early 2023. Major plan updates occur every 5 years, with the next major revision due in 2025. Sams also asked the group to provide any feedback regarding the RICP and updates.

Priority 4 – Develop Inland Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) Course: EPA Region 7 Section Chief Heath Smith provided an update on Priority 4. Smith announced EPA FOSC Joe Davis is working on additional SCAT training deliveries to partner agencies participating in subareas throughout Region 7 this summer.

Priority 5 – RRT-7 Members List: RRT-7 Coordinators maintain an up-to-date contacts list of primary and alternate RRT-7 representatives. Sams asked the group to submit changes in agency representation to the RRT-7 Coordinators as these occur. He reminded the group that each voting member agency must maintain one primary representative and at least one alternate representative to RRT-7.

**Incident-Specific RRT (ISRRT) Notification Exercise**

EPA FOSC and RRT-7 Coordinator Eric Nold updated the group on ISRRT notification exercises, including actions since the last RRT-7 meeting. Nold announced occurrence of the most recent ISRRT notification exercise earlier in the morning before this RRT-7 meeting. Nold explained the distribution process and the distribution list that consists of 43 RRT members plus a few additional individuals. While several agencies reported preference for text messages over voice notifications, Nold explained that the system employs three modes of notification for each event. The group determined that tribes should be included in future tests of the system to ensure all partners were able to use the system. Nold stressed the importance of maintaining an accurate distribution list and reminded the group to list primary and alternate RRT-7 contacts in their meeting presentations, including tribal representatives to RRT-7. Nold then said another test of the notification system was expected during the morning of the following day.

**State Agency Reports**

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Adam Broughton**

***Executive Summary:*** Broughton reported that the State had returned to pre-Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) status with telework options. IDNR staff have an option to work for a limited number of days at alternative work locations with approval of their supervisors.

***Personnel Changes:*** Staffing levels at IDNR field offices have been stable, although several retirements occurred in other parts of the department in recent months. Catharine Fitzsimmons serves as the Air Quality Bureau Chief and plans to retire in March 2022, and IDNR is working to assign her replacement. Additionally, John Bensen was named Director of Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) after serving as HSEMD’s Acting Director.

***Significant Incidents/Events/Responses:*** IDNR staff addressed no significant incidents since the previous RRT‑7 meeting.

***Laws/Regulations/Policies:*** IDNR is in the process of updating the State’s Chapter 131-Notification of Hazardous Condition, otherwise known as the spill reporting rule. The State is looking at reportable quantities for specific substances including petroleum products, transformer oils, and anhydrous ammonia. IDNR announced a pause in revision of the rule until after the next State Legislative Session.

***Planning and Coordination Efforts:*** IDNR will participate in the Annual Iowa HSEMD Conference October 13-15. A virtual option for the Field Office Safety Training Course was offered in October 2021. The Public-Private Sector (P3) Engagement continues to meet quarterly in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). Additionally, the Iowa Disaster Human Resources Council continues to meet quarterly in a virtual setting.

**Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Joe Dom**

***Executive Summary:***  KDHE continues to utilize virtual meeting applications (i.e., Zoom, Teams) to provide flexibility among staff while hoping to transition to in-person work soon. KDHE announced that it is dealing with the aftermath of a windstorm in December 2021 that damaged several properties and buildings.

***Personnel Changes:*** Staffing of the following key positions at KDHE remains stable:

* + Director, Division of Environ. Leo Henning leo.henning@ks.gov (785) 296-1535
	+ Director, Bureau of Environ. Remediation Bob Jurgens bob.jurgens@ks.gov (785) 296-1662
	+ Chief, Assess. and Restoration Section Joe Dom joe.dom@ks.gov (785) 296-1914
	+ Manager, Site Response Unit Darryl Morgan darryl.morgan@ks.gov (785) 296-8065
	+ Spill Coordinator Delbert Smith delbert.smith@ks.gov (785) 368-7301
	+ Assistant Spill Coordinator Colby Gouge colby.gouge@ks.gov (785) 296-1679

Dom announced that the Secretary of KDHE, Dr. Lee Norman, had been asked to resign and will be replaced by Janet Stanek.

***Significant Incidents/Events/Responses:*** The following significant incidents and lessons learned occurred:

Western Cooperative (Coop) Electrical – Otis, Kansas (Rush County):

* *Type/Quantity:* 12 gallons of non-polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) transformer oil.
* *Cause:* Spill resulted from excessive winds blowing down a tree, causing collapses of power lines and a pole.
* *Date:* December 15, 2021.
* *RP:* Western Coop Electrical.
* *Key Activities:* Due to the extreme weather, electric companies were allowed to report numerous spills at one time. Approximately 40 spills were reported statewide over a 2- to 4-week period following the storms. The total number of spills was lower than anticipated.
* *Agencies Involved:* Western Coop Electrical and KDHE.

Union Pacific Railroad – Herington, Kansas (Dickinson County):

* *Type/Quantity:* 60,000 pounds wheat.
* *Cause:* Transportation accident.
* *Date:* September 26, 2021.
* *Key Activities:* Booms were placed in the creek with a silt fence between the spilled wheat and creek. A small amount of wheat did reach the water. Presence of endangered aquatic life downstream was noted at the time of the spill.
* *Agencies Involved:* KDHE, Union Pacific Railroad, local emergency management, and spill response contractor.

***Metrics/Trends/Challenges:*** The following spills and environmental responses occurred from September 13, 2021, through March 16, 2022:

* + 25 pipeline spills
	+ 35 railroad spills
	+ 80 motor vehicle / over-the-road transports
	+ Nine aboveground storage tanks (AST)
	+ One underground storage tank (UST)
	+ 146 facilities, transformers, and other fixed sources
	+ 18 spills from other sources (e.g., source not listed in database).

***Laws/Regulations/Policies:*** KDHE worked with stakeholders to develop *Kansas Statutes Annotated* (KSA) 65‑171(v) mandating in Kansas: (1) reports of releases of pollutants, and (2) responses to facilitate cleanup of pollutants. The law requires that responsible parties (RP) report a release and conduct actions in response to a release. The law allows the Secretary to establish reportable quantities for various pollutants. The RP may incur a financial penalty for violations. KDHE continues to draft new regulations for review, with input from stakeholder groups regarding Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) reportable quantities and discharges to Kansas waterways.

***Exercises/Trainings:*** Since the last RRT-7 meeting, KDHE conducted no exercises or major trainings. KDHE plans to attend the Kansas Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Symposium in Wichita in June.

**Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR), Brad Harris**

***Executive Summary:*** MoDNR is implementing a new spills database known as MEtadata Records Library and

Information Network (MERLIN). MoDNR continues to train staff, including education regarding field reports and duty officer responsibilities.

***Personnel Changes****:* Harris announced his plans to retire on April 29, 2022, and that his replacement will be announced at the next RRT-7 meeting. Incoming MoDNR staff include the following:

* + Department Deputy Director Hannah Humphrey hannah.humphrey@dnr.mo.gov
	+ Division of Environ. Quality (DEQ) Deputy Director Art Goodin art.goodin@dnr.mo.gov
	+ DEQ Environmental Services Program Director Lynn Milberg lynn.millbery@dnr.mo.gov

***Significant Incidents/Events/Responses:*** Incidents addressed by Environmental Emergency Response

(EER) Section staff since the last RRT-7 meeting include the following:

West Alton Marina Houseboat Fire:

* *Type/Quantity:* Unknown amount of marine engine fluid and petroleum oil.
* *Cause:* Houseboats at marina caught fire and sank at the facility. Petroleum continued to rise to the surface after the fire until the houseboats were salvaged.
* *Date:* January 5, 2022.
* *Key Activities:* Other boats and structures near the fire were protected, and the oil was recovered from the bay. Oil was separated from firefighting foam that had been applied, and a plan was developed to salvage boats impacted by the fire.
* *Agencies Involved:* MoDNR, RP, RP’s contractor, local fire departments, and EPA.
* *Lessons Learned:* Patience is important when salvaging boats while maintaining oil removal operations.

Charleston Major Traffic Accident:

* *Type/Quantity:* Unknown amount of automotive fluids and petroleum from multiple vehicles and trucks, food grade acetic acid, and firefighting foam.
* *Cause:* Foggy weather caused 50 commercial and personal motor vehicles to crash, resulting in a fire.
* *Date:* March 17, 2022.
* *Key Activities:* Interstate 57 was closed for more than 20 hours to allow local officials to assist individuals involved in the accident. Hazmat cleanup was completed before re-opening of the road, and surrounding environmental impacts were assessed.
* *Agencies Involved:* MoDNR, private towing contractors, Missouri Highway Patrol, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), local fire departments, environmental contractor, and other local public safety agencies.
* *Lessons Learned:* Cleanup activities are affected by time periods required to fully understand complexity and scale of an incident, and to secure a hazmat contractor.

***Metrics/Trends/Challenges:*** The following incidents/events were documented between November 1, 2021, and February 28, 2022:

* + 241 petroleum and hazmat incidents
	+ Nine methamphetamine (meth)-related incidents (trend continues downward)
	+ 36 on-scene responses (14.4 percent of all EER calls received)
	+ 38 outreach events across the State
	+ 97 calls for technical assistance.

***Laws/Regulations/Policies:***

An updated spills response protocol was implemented on February 14, 2022. The EER Section now has more flexibility to respond to releases of petroleum and other materials. Additionally, MoDNR announced that the Clandestine Drug Lab Collection Station Program will cease operations on June 30, 2022.

***Exercises/Trainings:*** Since the last RRT-7 meeting,MoDNR staff attended an in-person EER training in October 2021, with another in-person training scheduled for spring 2022 at EPA’s Training and Logistics Center (the Cave). MoDNR attended several meetings and trainings since the last RRT-7 meeting, and plans to attend many more in 2022. These include various incident management classes, the Region 7 Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Stakeholders meeting, Region 7 Chemical Safety and Security Workgroup meetings, and Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT) classes.

**Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), Kirk Morrow**

***Executive Summary:*** NDEE is in the process of replacing and upgrading emergency response equipment. NDEE is drafting a Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan and issuing a new Quality Management Plan (QMP). Morrow said NDEE is integrating new personnel to the Department’s emergency response team and improving response procedures.

***Personnel Changes:*** Morrow indicated that NDEE is adding three new personnel to the emergency response division. These personnel already work full time at NDEE but will assist the emergency response division in addition to their current responsibilities.

***Significant Incidents/Events/Responses:*** NDEE staff addressed no significant incidents since the previous RRT‑7 meeting.

***Laws/Regulations/Policies:*** Changes to Nebraska’s State 404 Program authority under consideration in legislative committee would grant NDEE the power to issue, modify, or revoke orders prohibiting or abating discharge of dredged and fill material into any waters of the United States. Morrow also reported that the Perkins County Canal Project now enables Nebraska to develop a canal and associated storage facilities for water diverted from the Platte River. As well, Morrow announced that the NDEE Cleanup Act is in effect, which establishes a fund to clean up contaminated sites were the RP fails or refuses to act.

***Exercises/Trainings:*** Since the last RRT-7 meeting, NDEE staff completed several planning and training sessions, including a Clandestine Laboratory Site Safety Officer Training in early March at Kearney, Nebraska. NDEE staff plan to attend the Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team Training in June at Lincoln, Nebraska, and in September at Kearney, Nebraska.

**Federal Agency and Tribal Reports**

**EPA, RRT-7 Co-Chair Adam Ruiz and Dave Hensley**

***Personnel Changes:*** Ruiz reviewed several staffing changes within the Superfund and Emergency Management Division (SEMD). Danny O’Connor replaced Adam Ruiz as the Response and Removal Oil Planning (RROP) Section Chief, and Heath Smith replaced Dave Williams as the Response and Removal Emergency Preparedness (RREP) Section Chief. Since the last RRT-7 meeting, EPA’s SEMD welcomed FOSCs Brendan Martin and Eduardo Ortiz. Ruiz reported that Scott Hayes will serve as acting Superfund Division Director, replacing Mary Peterson who recently retired. Ruiz also announced that Meg McCollister was appointed Region 7 Administrator resulting in Ed Chu returning to his position as Deputy Regional Administrator.

Hensley reviewed relevant activities within EPA’s Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (ECAD) during 2021. ECAD staff attended the Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission meeting in January 2021, as well as a Missouri Emergency Response Commission Meeting in October 2021 and two Region 7 Chemical Safety and Security Workgroup Meetings in August and November 2021. Hensley also reported attendance by ECAD staff at two Risk Management Program (RMP) Webinars and the Nebraska Ethanol and Extremely Hazardous Substances Summit in fall 2021.

**USCG, RRT-7 Co-Chair, Michael Sams**

***Executive Summary:*** Sams reported that preparedness remains the primary focus of USCG D8. Sams announced completions of updates to two coastal Area Contingency Plans (ACPs), as well as conversions of four additional coastal ACPs; target completion by May 1, 2022.

USCG continues to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season and incorporate lessons learned from the 2021 season, most notably Hurricane Ida. Sams reported the USCG would be updating their existing Natural Disaster Pollution Response Guidance to address USCG’s pollution response activities using the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund in a post natural disaster environment. Sams stated that this guidance covers the entire D8 coastal zone from the Texas and Mexico border at Sector Corpus Christi eastward to the Florida panhandle (Sector Mobile, Alabama area of responsibility).

***Personnel Changes:*** Sams reported no personnel changes within the USCG D8 Incident Management Branch since the last RRT-7 meeting.

***Laws/Regulations/Policies:*** Sams stated that updates to the USCG Marine Environmental Response and Preparedness Manual are still pending with the new version expected from USCG headquarters by the end of this year or early 2023. Sams discussed USCG’s intent to continue awareness training for all environment-related consultations across all Captain of the Port zones within the Eighth District. He discussed the National Historic Perseveration Act’s Section 106 role in environmental consultations with tribes and state historic preservation offices, and compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Sams referenced use of a document developed by the National Response Team’s (NRT) National Environmental Compliance Workgroup to guide the consultation process within the Region 7 portion of the Eighth Coast Guard District.

Sams also cited progress in updates to USCG’s Fish and Wildlife and Sensitive Environments Plan. USCG has adopted a regional approach to better prioritize work with state entities and all applicable natural resource trustees during a response. Plan updates will focus on the coastal zone and are incorporated by reference into five USCG D8 ACPs. In closing, Sams reported publication earlier this year of updated pollution policy within D8’s area of responsibility. The D8 Operation Planning Direction is published annually (FY-based) and is applicable to all D8 field commands. The update reflects D8 areas of emphasis for pollution planning, preparedness, and response.

***Planning and Coordination Efforts:*** Since the previous meeting,USCG D8 has engaged in several virtual meetings, including meetings of the Region 6 and Region 8 RRTs. D8 personnel also participated this past November in the 30th Clean Gulf Conference at San Antonio, Texas. D8 plans to participate in several planning and coordination efforts in 2022, both in-person and virtual. Future coordination efforts include Region 3, Region 4, Region 6, and Region 8 RRT meetings. The next coordination event is the Annual Clean Waterways Conference during April 5th to 7th at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, Mark Junker**

Junker reported that the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska recently faced several challenges with weather events such as flash floods and extreme winds. A video showing [*impacts of extreme winds*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYFJOCaBDs4&ab_channel=MarkJunker) on a Sac and Fox truck stop canopy was shared with the group. Junker also described impacts from a Union Pacific train derailment and illegal dumping within tribal lands. Junker presented several planning and coordination activities slated for 2022, including a climate adaptation conference in March.

**Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska, Paige Hingst**

Hingst reported the Tribe’s participation in the Tribal Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Working Group (TPWG) established in April 2020. TPWG is composed of five groups that include the National Tribal Water Council, Tribal Science Council, National Tribal Toxics Council, Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee, and Tribal Pesticide Program Council. Hingst overviewed the TPWG and its goals to identify and reduce PFAS contamination on tribal lands.

**Meskwaki Natural Resource Department, Joan Flecksing**

Flecksing greeted the group and reported her new position as the Meskwaki Natural Resources Department Director. She looks forward to working with RRT-7 members.

**U.S. Dept. of Commerce (DOC) / National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Adam Davis**

Davis reported that Aaron Parker is serving as NOAA’s new Emergency Response Division Chief. He indicated that NOAA plans to return to in-person work via a phased approach beginning this spring. Davis announced recovery of more than $130 million of funds from polluters to restore 10 contaminated waterways in six coastal states. NOAA continues involvement in NRT’s Science and Technology Workgroup currently updating Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies (SMART) protocols for in-situ burn and chemical dispersant operations.

***Metrics/Trends/Challenges:***

* 177 activations to support oil spills, chemical releases, and other incident responses
* 69 training and response events both led or hosted
* Four hurricane and tropical storm responses
* 296 people trained in disaster preparedness, oil and chemical spill response, and planning
* 2,121 metric tons of marine debris removed.

Davis noted that NOAA personnel plan to attend several planning and coordination efforts in 2022, including the upcoming lecture titled *Shipwrecks from Space: Oil Slick Observations for Monitoring and Rediscovery* later this month.

**National Weather Service, Audra Bruschi**

Nothing significant to report at this time.

**U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Courtney Hoover**

DOI personnel plan to attend the Inland Oil Spill Preparedness Course from May 9 to 13 at Denver, Colorado, along with several other in-person coordination efforts in 2022. Additionally, the North Platte River exercise involving river segments in Wyoming and Nebraska is now scheduled for fall 2022 as a joint exercise with EPA Regions 7 and 8.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Dave Mosby**

USFWS continues to focus on spill response activities and prevention. In related efforts, USFWS is considering funding to support an Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) that would primarily focus on assistance during significant incidents throughout the nation that impact wildlife. Mosby reported USFWS’s establishment of a national fund to focus on smaller spills. In 2021, this funding mechanism was used to preserve the Groudscopen Fish in Perri County, Missouri.

**U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) / Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Angela Pickett**

Nothing significant to report at this time.

**General Services Administration (GSA), Dwayne Huffman**

GSA recently underwent staffing changes in the emergency management division. Huffman took over as the Region 6 Emergency Coordinator in November 2021. A new emergency management specialist is expected to start in April 2022.

**U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Sybil Chandler**

Chandler reminded the group of DOE’s new facility location in Kansas City, Missouri (previous location had been at the old Bannister Complex). DOE continues to include an active emergency management division with orders to direct the emergency management program and address any spills and releases. DOE’s primary focus at the national level continues to be radiological spills.

**Subarea Reports**

**Central Kansas Wetlands Subarea, EPA FOSC Yvonne Smith**

* An update of the subarea contingency plan was completed in March 2022, and the next update is planned for early 2023.
* The next meeting will likely be this June at Hutchinson, Kansas.

**Greater St. Louis Subarea, EPA FOSC Jessica Evans**

* An update to the subarea plan is in progress.
* Oil training and dates for reconnaissance activities along certain segments of the Mississippi River will be announced soon.
* Virtual training on the Mississippi River Viewer, an EPA-sponsored Geographic Information Systems (GIS) application, is scheduled for April 5th and 6th.

**Siouxland Subarea, EPA FOSC Doug Ferguson**

* An update of the subarea contingency plan was completed in March 2022, and the next update is planned for early 2023.
* The next meeting is scheduled for May 3rd at Sioux City, Iowa.
* Subarea members are discussing a potential field data collection exercise.

**South-Central Nebraska Subarea, Eric Deselich on Behalf of EPA FOSC Tim Curry**

* An update of the subarea contingency plan was completed in March 2022, and the next update is planned for early 2023.
* The next meeting is tentatively planned for June at Grand Island, Nebraska.
* The Field Data Collection exercise will occur on a date later this summer.
* Select subarea members will support DOI’s North Platte Spill Exercise later this fall.

**Omaha-Council Bluffs Subarea, Eric Deselich on Behalf of EPA FOSC John Frey**

* An update of the subarea contingency plan will be completed in April 2022, and the next update is planned for early 2023.
* The next meeting is tentatively planned for this June at Council Bluffs, Iowa.
* The group is considering a tabletop exercise for later this summer.

**Great Rivers Subarea, EPA FOSC Sharon Kennedy**

* EPA FOSC Sharon Kennedy replaced Heath Smith as subarea coordinator.
* An update to the subarea plan is in progress.
* A virtual training for the Mississippi River Viewer will be announced later.

**Quad Cities Subarea, Eric Deselich on Behalf of EPA FOSC Joe Davis**

* An update of the subarea plan is in progress.
* A virtual training for the Mississippi River Viewer will be announced later.

**USCG FOSCR Reports**

**Sector Upper Mississippi River (UMR), USCG FOSCR, James Long**

***Metrics/Trends/Challenges:*** Long reported a decrease of reported spills/discharges to the National Response Center (NRC) since the previous RRT-7 meeting. Long said that Sector personnel had assisted a response to a pipeline spill in Edwardsville, Illinois. He noted no significant differences in overall numbers of spill responses since last year. Additionally, no consultations occurred since the last RRT-7 meeting period.

***Exercises/Trainings/Coordination:*** Since the previous RRT-7 meeting, Sector personnel participated remotely in the RRT-8 meeting. Sector staff also participated in FOSC/R College and ongoing internal public affairs training. Upcoming events include the RRT-8 and RRT-5 Meetings, Greater St. Louis Subarea Training, and RADPAGER training in April 2022.

**Sector Lower Mississippi River (LMR), USCG FOSCR, Eric Bearss**

***Personnel Changes:*** Eric Bearss will be departing for Naval flight training in the summer, and a new lieutenant will replace Bearss as the Incident Management Division (IMD) Chief. Bearss also announced addition of a new Assistant IMD Chief to Sector LMR.

***Metrics/Trends/Challenges:*** Since the previous RRT-7 meeting, Sector LMR received two NRC notifications, to both of which Sector LMR responded by serving in a support role to the lead responding agency. Sector LMR staff engaged in no consultations since the previous RRT-7 meeting.

***Exercises/Trainings/Coordination:*** Since the previous RRT-7 meeting, Sector LMR personnel participated in several exercises including the Government Initiated Unannounced Exercise (GIUE) – MSD and GIUE – SLMR. Bearss said that Sector LMR hoped to conduct more in-person training during 2022. Upcoming events include the RRT-4 and RRT-6 meetings, GIUE – MSD and GIUE – SLMR exercises, and an Oil Sample Shipper training. Additionally, monthly Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meetings have resumed via a hybrid in-person and virtual format.

**Sector Ohio Valley, Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Paducah, USCG FOSCR Andrew Lagarce**

***Metrics/Trends/Challenges:*** Since the previous RRT-7 meeting, MSU received no NRC notifications. No RRT activations, CERCLA responses, or consultations occurred over this period.

***Exercises/Trainings/Coordination:*** Since the previous RRT-7 meeting, MSU personnel did not participate in any training or exercises. Lagarce did report several trainings and exercises planned for 2022. The next exercise will take place on April 5 to 7 for the 2022 Clean Waterways Conference. MSU personnel also will participate in a Pollution Responder College and Spill Response Course in May 2022. Additionally, MSU continues to work with Region 7 EPA to conduct a joint Marine Transportation Related (MTR) facility inspection in May 2022.

**Open Forum**

Ruiz asked the group to convey any changes within their respective organizations in emergency response procedures as COVID-19 precautions are relaxed. Additionally, Ruiz asked the group to share any lessons learned for emergency response management during the pandemic. The group also discussed differences in emergency response practices among USCG and other agencies, as well as spill response jurisdictions. The group reviewed previous spill responses and discussed past practices in determining the primary response agency.

**Presentations**

**National Bio - and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), Katie Pawlosky and Ken Burton**

Burton reported that Dr. Chuck Dodd had departed USDA and is now working overseas. NBAF staff continue to utilize telework due to the pandemic; however, staff plan to phase into in-person work starting March 28, 2022, with a full transition by May 27, 2022.

Pawlosky and Burton overviewed various aspects of the new NBAF facility in Manhattan, Kansas. Burton said USDA continues to work with the U.S. Green Building Council and is the first/only largescale federal bio-containment laboratory in the nation to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold certification. He indicated that completion of facility construction is anticipated for late spring 2022. Full transition of programs to the new facility from Plum Island will conclude in 2024. NBAF plans to operate three Agricultural Research Services (ARS) units at the facility in Manhattan, Kansas.

**PFAS Update EPA Region 7 Superfund Division, RROP Section Chief Danny O’Connor**

O’Connor overviewed PFAS issues posed by the compounds due to their persistence in the environment and negative health impacts in humans. PFAS are widely used for commercial purposes in numerous consumer goods. O’Connor discussed the major sources of contamination and described actions by Region 7 EPA toward PFAS remediation and contamination prevention. O’Connor reported new administration’s focus at the national level on study of and response to PFAS in the environment. O’Connor presented a case study in Kennebunkport, Maine, where dairy milk was found to contain higher than normal PFAS levels.

**UMR Mile Marker 372 – Burlington Northern – Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Train Derailment, EPA FOSC Kirk Mammoliti**

Mammoliti overviewed a train derailment in mid-November 2021 along the Mississippi River at mile marker 372. A BNSF train struck the nose of a barge that had pushed into the riverbank near the tracks. The allision resulted in derailment of two locomotives and five coal cars. Each locomotive had carried about 2,300 gallons of diesel fuel, and each coal car had carried about 117 tons of coal. Approximately 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel and three coal cars discharged to the Mississippi River. USCG, IDNR, USFWS, and EPA (FOSC for response) responded to assess the incident and assist cleanup efforts. Although the track reopened a few days later, boom maintenance and fuel recovery continued through late December. Product was also recovered from potholes installed along the right-of-way. As well, Mammoliti explained actions implemented to recover coal from the Mississippi River.

**Review Priorities and Future Meeting Dates**

Nold reviewed the RRT-7 meeting schedule as follows:

* Fall 2022: EPA Training and Logistics Center (TLC), September 21/22
* Spring 2023: St. Charles or Kansas City, Missouri, March 29/30 (proposed) – joint RRT-5/7
* Fall 2023: EPA TLC, September 27/28 (proposed)
* Spring 2024: EPA TLC, March 27/28 (proposed).

**Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

RRT-7 Co-Chairs recognized three individuals for their dedicated service as agency representatives to the RRT-7: Zane Steves (GSA), Kurt Muenchow (USDA), and Brad Harris (MoDNR). Ruiz and Sams then thanked the larger group for their participation in the meeting. Nold reminded the group that pertinent documents and a compilation of meeting presentations will be posted to the RRT-7 website.

**Meeting Attendees (72 total participants)**

| **Last Name** | **First Name** | **Organization** | **Phone** | **Email** | **Count** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bearss | Eric | USCG, Sector LMR | 901-521-4766 | eric.bearss@uscg.mil | 1 |
| Bissen | Joun | FEMA Region 7 | 816-812-0589 | john.bissen@fema.dhs.gov | 2 |
| Bowman | Sarah | USFWS | 612-816-6199 | sarah\_bowman@fws.gov | 3 |
| Broughton | Adam | IDNR | 515-725-0386 | adam.broughton@dnr.iowa.gov | 4 |
| Bryant | Dianna | Institute for Rural Emergency Management | 660-543-4971 | bryant@ucmo.edu | 5 |
| Burschi | Audra | NOAA  | 816-200-1400 | audra.bruschi@noaa.gov | 6 |
| Burton | Kenneth | USDA / NBAF | 785-477-3200 | kenneth.r.burton@usda.gov | 7 |
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**ACRONYM and ABBREVIATION LIST**

ACP Area Contingency Plan

ARS Agricultural Research Services

AST Aboveground storage tank

ATSDR Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

BNSF Burlington Northern – Santa Fe Railway

CERCLA Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

COOP Continuity of Operations

Coop Cooperative

COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease 2019

D8 U.S. Coast Guard Eighth District

DEQ Division of Environmental Quality (MoDNR)

DOC U.S. Department of Commerce

DOE U.S. Department of Energy

DOI U.S. Department of the Interior

DOT U.S. Department of Transportation

EC Executive Committee

ECAD Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division (EPA)

EER Environmental Emergency Response (MoDNR)

EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPCRA Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act

ERT Emergency Response Team (EPA)

ESA Endangered Species Act

FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency

FOSC Federal On-Scene Coordinator

FOSCR Federal On-Scene Coordinator Representative

GIS Geographic Information Systems

GSA General Services Administration

Hazmat Hazardous material

HSEMD Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (Iowa)

IDNR Iowa Department of Natural Resources

IMAT Incident Management Assistance Team (USFWS)

IMD Incident Management Division (USCG)

ISRRT Incident-Specific Regional Response Team

KDHE Kansas Department of Health and Environment

KSA *Kansas Statutes Annotated*

LEED Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

LEPC Local Emergency Planning Committee

LMR Lower Mississippi River

MERLIN MEtadata Records Library and Information Network (MoDNR)

MERRTT Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training

MoDNR Missouri Department of Natural Resources

MoDOT Missouri Department of Transportation

Meth Methamphetamine

MSU Marine Safety Unit (USCG)

MTR Marine Transportation Related

NBAF National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility

NDEE Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NRC National Response Center

NRT National Response Team

PCB Polychlorinated biphenyl

PFAS Per- and polyfluoroalkyl

PHMSA Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (DOT)

P3 Public-Private Sector

QMP Quality Management Plan

RICP Regional Integrated Contingency Plan

RMP Risk Management Program

RP Responsible party

RREP Response and Removal Emergency Preparedness

RROP Response and Removal Oil Planning

RRT Regional Response Team

SCAT Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique

SEMD Superfund and Emergency Management Division

SEOC State Emergency Operations Center

SMART Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies

START Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team

Tetra Tech Tetra Tech, Inc.

TLC Training and Logistics Center

TPWG Tribal PFAS Working Group

UMR Upper Mississippi River

USCG U.S. Coast Guard

USDA U.S. Department of Agriculture

USFWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

UST Underground storage tank