



**Alaska Regional Response Team**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Valdez Convention & Civic Center, Valdez, AK**  
**August 30, 2011 (Tue)**

**Member Attendance:** Copy attached.

“Alt.” denotes an alternate member. (“Y\*” denotes participation by teleconference.) Review the attached meeting attendance sign-in sheets for a complete list of meeting attendees including contributing agency representatives, such as On Scene Coordinators (OSC), speakers, and members of the public.

**Quorum:** Yes. Co-Chair Chris Field (USEPA), and acting Co-Chair Commander Mark Everett (USCG) presided.

**Other Meeting Attendees:** Copy attached.

**Agenda:** Copy attached.

**Opening Remarks:** Mr. Field welcomed attendees, and thanked Cecil McNutt (USCG) for arranging the tour of the TAPS terminal facility. CDR Everett echoed Mr. Field’s remarks.

**Biennial Work Plan:** Mr. McNutt introduced the topic of the current work plan for discussion.

**Work Plan Issue 1: Subarea Plan Work Group**

Calvin Terada (USEPA) asked whether the current schedule of subarea contingency plan (SCP) revisions is too ambitious. He noted that currently, revisions to the Northwest Arctic, North Slope and Southeast Alaska SCP’s are all slated for this calendar year. Mr. Terada requested that the SCP update schedule be revised to move the Interior SCP update to CY 2012. Mr. Terada noted that the North Slope and Interior plans are primarily the purview of USEPA. He further requested that a draft revision of the Interior SCP be presented to the RRT at the Fairbanks meeting of the ARRT, scheduled for October 2012.

Larry Iwamoto (ADEC), stated that the Northwest Arctic and North Slope SCP’s are currently on schedule for public and agency review and are both expected to be promulgated near the end of 2011 or early 2012. The Work Group is planning updates to the Bristol Bay and Western Alaska SCP’s in 2012. Mr. Iwamoto will brief the ARRT on the status of these SCP’s tomorrow, on day two of the ARRT meeting. He noted that these SCP’s have not been updated since 2001 and, as such, are currently the oldest plans.

Mr. McNutt remarked that the Subarea Committee currently has no charter and recommended that one be created in lieu of 10 charters for 10 subarea committees.

Mr. Field stated that, should a charter become necessary, one charter could cover all 10 subarea work groups, but questioned whether it would be appropriate for the ARRT to direct the SCP Work Group to create such a charter, since the work group does not report to the ARRT.

### **Issue 2: Dispersant Use and In-Situ Burn (ISB) Guidelines**

Mr. McNutt asked whether the RRT should revisit the existing schedule for revising the guidelines.

Mr. Terada stated that the workgroup was awaiting resolution of issues surrounding inter-agency consultations required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and asked whether this item should be tabled until these issues are resolved or at least until a way forward has been determined.

CDR Everett noted that the ARRT is also waiting for the National Response Team (NRT) to promulgate ISB guidelines or revisions to the National Contingency Plan (NCP). He stated that the work plan should continue to carry this item, but that the RRT needs to wait on national guidance. He further noted that personnel needed to carry out a revision of the RRT policy are currently engaged in resolving the ESA issue.

Pamela Bergmann (USDOJ) stated that, during the most recent meeting of the Science and Technology Committee, there was discussion regarding whether Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act should be addressed in ISB guidelines. Ms. Bergmann asked what role tribal consultation and public involvement efforts will play in the process of revising these guidelines.

Mr. McNutt summarized the discussion by stating that ISB will remain on the work plan in the "active monitoring" section, with work continuing later during the next two years, pending issuance of national guidelines and resolution of other issues.

### **Issue 3: Wildlife Protection Working Group**

Ms. Bergmann reported that this group is working to complete revision 5 of the Wildlife Protection Guidelines (WPG). Regarding the workgroup charter, Ms. Bergmann stated that the working group must convene to address substantive comments received in response to the most recent draft, but that production of the charter is expected to be completed as scheduled in the Biennial Work Plan (BWP).

### **Issue 4: Dates of the BWP**

Ms. Bergmann recommended that the years cited under the title of the BWP be changed from 2011 – 2013 to 2011 – 2012.

CDR Everett agreed that the current title may cause confusion and should be altered to clarify the duration of the plan. He also noted that, although the plan spans a two-year period, it is revised annually, to reflect changes that have occurred during the previous year.

### **Issue 5: Cultural Resources Work Group**

Ms. Bergmann reported that work to draft a charter has not yet begun, but that she expects that a final draft will be completed prior to the end of CY 2012.

### **Issue 6: Other Projects not on Work Plan**

Ms. Bergmann suggested that projects exist which may not be included on the BWP, but involve many players on the RRT. Obligations to these projects by RRT participants

may preclude or take priority over projects on the BWP. Examples of such activities include the Northwest Arctic Ecological Risk Assessment, and the CANUSDIX exercise. Mr. Field agreed that these should be on the Work Plan.

Dr. John Whitney (DOC NOAA) also agreed.

CDR Everett asked where the line would be drawn to determine what is, or is not included in the Work Plan. He stated he was cautious of cluttering the work plan, by adding too many items that are not the purview of the ARRT. He then recommended adding a "Projects of Interest" category to the Work Plan, for projects that affect RRT members but are not under the auspices of the RRT.

Ms. Bergmann stated that she is amenable to adding a "Projects of Interest" category.

#### **Issue 7 - Tribal Outreach & Consultation Work Group**

Mr. McNutt recommended that this item be postponed to 2012 to allow Nick Knowles (USEPA) to come up to speed as new EPA ARRT Coordinator.

Mr. Field expressed concern about making this a work group, and suggested that it could be designated as a task without being a work group. Mr. Knowles will be working on this later.

Cindy Sacks (USDOT FAA) noted that the President of the U.S. recently issued an extensive Executive Order to address tribal consultation. She also noted that the Denali Commission has means and ability to pave the way for interaction between Federal agencies and Alaska tribes. She further noted that the commission has recently promulgated guidance and formed committees for involvement with tribes. She recommended that Mr. Knowles contact the Denali Commission.

#### **Issue 8 – RRT Response Aids**

Mr. McNutt stated that this will be addressed in CY 2012.

#### **Issue 9 – ESA Consulation**

Mr. McNutt stated that this item is addressed in the next agenda item.

#### **Issue 10: Preparedness Training**

Mr. McNutt stated that most of these itemized training opportunities will target OSCs. He requested that, as training is scheduled, he be notified so that he can post the information on the ARRT public website.

Ms. Bergmann asked the RRT to consider conducting such training in conjunction with an OSC meeting. She further noted that a number of ARRT agency personnel have recently gained hands-on experience conducting emergency Section 7 ESA consultations for releases occurring in Western Alaska. As a result, the need for Section 7 training may be less urgent than previously thought.

**Issue 11: Lessons Learned**

Mr. McNutt explained that lessons learned are incorporated into ARRT meetings by granting OSCs an opportunity to present an after-action “report out” to the ARRT, following a response event. He stated that these reports will be made available to the subarea planning workgroup

**ESA Work Group Brief:**

Marcia Combes (USEPA) presented a status report on efforts to respond to legal action, and to achieve compliance with Section 7 ESA. The points were noted by Ms. Combes:

- Formation of the Work Group was triggered by a notice of intent to bring suit filed by The Center for Biological Diversity, alleging failure of USEPA and USCG to comply with Section 7 ESA in developing the Alaska Unified Plan (AUP).
- The Work Group consists of representatives from USEPA, USCG, NMFS, and USFWS.
- A kickoff meeting was held in April 2011.
- In May 2011, the workgroup requested lists of endangered species in the affected areas from the resource agencies (USFWS and NMFS). The workgroup received the species lists from the resource agencies in June.
- A Statement of Work has been developed by USCG to contract for the preparation of a Biological Assessment (BA) document, as required under Section 7. The USCG has received a proposal from a vendor in Seattle. The proposal currently under review. It is intent of USCG to award a contract for BA preparation prior to the end of FY 2011. A project schedule will be determined after the contract is awarded.
- It is the intent of the workgroup to conduct formal consultation at the level of the AUP, thereby ensuring compliance, without necessitating separate consultations for each subarea plan. Some geographic specific issues, however, must be addressed.
- Following submission of the BA to the resource agencies they will prepare a Biological Opinion that either will, or will not concur with the BA's findings.

CDR Everett asked if any of the members had questions about the process in general. He noted that this experience has taught him a great deal about ESA, and he advised the group that the BA is really the beginning of the process, not end of it.

CDR Kurt Clarke (USCG) asked whether completion of this process will preclude ESA consultations for future Alternative Planning Criteria (APC) requests?

CAPT Jason Fosdick (USCG) answered “no”, and advised that ESA Consultation must be conducted for each APC request.

Ms. Bergmann asked whether the APC requests will come before the ARRT.

Mr. McNutt answered that Section 7 consultation occurs prior to the request coming before ARRT for comment, so as to establish the viability of the APC before soliciting comments.

Ms. Bergmann asked whether this process included EFH consultation.

Mr. McNutt answered that it does.

Ms. Bergmann asked whether this process would preclude the need for emergency consultation with resource agencies for ESA or EFH in the event of an incident.

Mr. McNutt answered that it does not.

**Discussion on Statewide Area Planning Committee:**

Mr. Field opened discussion regarding creation of an "Area Planning Committee" (APC) under provisions of the National Contingency Plan (NCP). The following points were noted by Mr. Field.

- Exercises are an important part of readiness.
- Recently a number of high-profile developments have directed national attention towards activities in Alaska.
- The BWP calls for a Table-top Exercise to be conducted annually, at one of the ARRT working sessions, but because FOSC's are often not present at these meetings, the ARRT might not be the best venue.
- There are numerous reasons to conduct RRT Activation Exercises. They ensure that we have the ability to contact the necessary players in the event of an incident, and also strengthen our ability to get key information to the necessary players to ensure that FOSC's make informed decisions regarding the use of response measures such as ISB or chemical dispersants. Exercises afford new personnel an opportunity to meet key players from other agencies, and ensure that response personnel are familiar with response guidelines and procedures.
- We are always on the lookout for ways to improve our readiness.
- Everyone present is encouraged to read the multi-agency Incident-Specific Preparedness Review (ISPR) for the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.
- Currently, there is a great deal of activity at the subarea plan level, while there is less activity at statewide level.
- When RRT 10 (Pacific NW) meets, Day One is an APC meeting, and Day Two is the RRT meeting.
- Mr. Field would prefer that the ARRT take a step back from the specific tasks associated with area planning, and that an APC be formed to focus on these tasks. USEPA has started moving in this direction, by reducing FOSC involvement with RRT's to allow them to focus on area planning.
- The goal is to increase FOSC input in statewide planning.
- At a minimum, the ARRT needs to have better interaction with the Subarea Planning Work Group.
- Managers from USEPA, USCG, and ADEC will meet later this fall to discuss an APC and how it might interact with the ARRT.
- Lessons learned from a number of recent incidents, (DWH, Silvertip) need to be incorporated into planning efforts.
- Planning priorities should be established by the OSC's.
- It is understood that while the Statewide APC concept has some huge benefits there would also be challenges.

- There is mounting pressure for response agencies to improve Area Contingency Planning nationwide, and not to rest upon what has worked well in the past.

A discussion followed regarding Mr. Field's proposal.

Mr. Terada expressed concern over the RRT's lack of a work plan component to address issues raised in the DWH ISPR. He feels that, lacking an RRT level discussion, each member agency will be left to determine lessons learned individually. He suggested that one option may be to break the statewide APC into two committees, each with a decreased geographic scope: Marine and Inland committees. Mr. Terada solicited insight from USCG on how it is done elsewhere.

CAPT Fosdick answered that the USCG Western Alaska Port Zone oversees 8 of 10 subarea plans, and needs to prioritize. Currently, his priorities are the Northwest Arctic and North Slope subareas. He sees his highest level of risk exposure as the Aleutian Islands. He further noted that two of the sub-area plans are more than ten years old (Western AK and Bristol Bay).

Gary Folley (ADEC) noted that there is no escaping a current need for much more planning at the area level. He feels that an APC could be utilized to guide planning priorities. He stated that planning occurs at two levels: Regional and Area. It is important that OSCs direct planning priorities.

CDR Everett advised the group that USCG is currently under a great deal of pressure to have a presence in Northwest Arctic region in light of proposed hydrocarbon production activities by Shell Oil. The DWH ISPR has been distributed to USCG senior leadership. He proposed that the agencies review the ISPR and identify how it will affect them, then come together as the RRT to discuss a way forward.

Mr. Field stated that he had been unaware that the Aleutian Islands area was the highest priority for The Western AK Port Zone. He asked why that is so.

CAPT Fosdick replied that the Aleutians are not his highest priority, but rather are his greatest concern. He predicts that this is where the next spill will occur in his port zone, and there are no resources nearby to respond. He acknowledged that there is currently no forum for a discussion regarding priorities, concerns, etc. such as the discussion on the Aleutians. In his view, however, some of these issues can be addressed in the OSC meeting, usually held after the RRT meeting. He noted that an OSC meeting has not taken place for quite some time.

CAPT Scott Bornemann (USCG) relayed a formula that states "Risk is equal to probability times consequence". He explained that spill history does not necessarily reflect the highest concern of the FOSC. He offered, as an example, that fishing vessel groundings are common but do not pose the highest risk to the port zone.

Mr. Field expressed concern with the idea of the OSC meeting taking the place of an APC, as it would not be sufficiently inclusive. He noted that the RRT is, by NRT direction, an exclusive group, and that there ought to be a forum that is inclusive of all stakeholders.

Ms. Bergman offered that, in terms of preparedness documents, such as Sub-area Contingency Plans, Geographic Response Strategies, and Potential Places Of Refuge, these processes are

extremely open to stakeholders in the subareas who desire to participate. She stated any stakeholder who expresses interest is afforded an opportunity to participate.

**CANUS/Dix Report**

Mr. McNutt gave a presentation on the CANUS/DIX exercise.

More information is available at :[www.akrrt.org/canusdix\\_2011\\_exercise](http://www.akrrt.org/canusdix_2011_exercise)

**Closing Remarks:**

CDR Everett and Mr. Field thanked the attendees for coming, and provided details for day two of the RRT meeting to take place the following day.



ARRT MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

30 August 2011

The following table lists ARRT member representatives that participated in the meeting. "Alt." denotes an alternate member. (Note: Y\* denotes participation by teleconference.) Review the attached meeting attendance sign-in sheets for a complete list of meeting attendees including contributing agency representatives (e.g. OSCs), speakers, and members of the public.

Member	Representative Name	Present Yes/No	Notes
EPA	Chris Field Co-Chair	Y	
EPA	Calvin Terada (Alt) Co-Chair	Y	
USCG	CDR Mark Everett (Pri) Co-Chair	Y	
USCG	Vacant (Alt) Co-Chair		
FEMA	Ramona VanCleve	N	Designation on File
FEMA	Robert Forgit (Pri)	N	
FEMA	Tom Wilder (Alt)	Y	
DHHS	Joe Sarcone (Pri)	Y	
DHHS	Capt Richard Kauffman (Alt)	N	
DOC	Doug Helton (Pri)	Y	
DOC	Dr. John Whitney (Alt)	Y	
DOD	Amy Schwalber (Pri)	Y	
DOD	Maj Michelle Gillaspie (Alt)	Y	
DOE	Diane Clark (Pri)	N	
DOE	Doug Hildebrand (Alt)	N	
DOI	Pamela Bergmann (Pri)	Y	
DOI	Doug Mutter (Alt)	N	
DOJ	Kevin Feldis (Pri)	N	
DOJ	R. Michael Underhill (Alt)	N	
DOT	Cindy Sacks (Pri)	Y	
DOT	Linda Bender (Alt)	Y	
DOL	Scott Ketcham (Pri)	N	
DOL	Randy White (Alt)	N	
GSA	Brian Swanson (Pri)	Y	
GSA	Frank Gremse (Alt)	N	
USDA	Sam Carlson (Pri)	Y	
USDA	Gary Sonnenburg (Alt)	N	
State of Alaska	Larry Dietrick (Pri)	N	
State of Alaska	Gary Folley (Alt)	Y	



MASTEF

30 Aug 11  
ARRT meeting  
Valdez Civic Center, Valdez AK

Name	Initials	Organization	Phone Number	E-mail
Anderson, Tammie		BP (Anchorage)		
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Bergmann, Pamela	PB	DoI - OEPC - Pri (Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance - Anchorage)	(907) 271-5011	<a href="mailto:Pamela_Bergmann@ios.doi.gov">Pamela_Bergmann@ios.doi.gov</a>
Bohl, Christy	Call In	DoI - BOEMRE (Anchorage)	(907) 334-5309	<a href="mailto:christy.bohl@mms.gov">christy.bohl@mms.gov</a>
Carlson, Sam	S	DOA - USFS - Pri (Deputy Director, EMI - CERCLA Coordinator - Juneau)	(907) 586-8789	<a href="mailto:samcarlson@fs.fed.us">samcarlson@fs.fed.us</a>
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Daniel, Raychelle	Call In	Pew Charitable Trusts Pew Environment Group		<a href="mailto:RDaniel@pewtrusts.org">RDaniel@pewtrusts.org</a>
Everett, Mark(CDR) (Acting)	E	DHS - CGD17 - Alt (Exercise, Plans & Policy - Juneau)	(907) 463-2804	<a href="mailto:Mark.Everett@uscg.mil">Mark.Everett@uscg.mil</a>
Field, Chris	C	EPA - Co-Chair (Region 10 - AK Operations Office/Satellite)	(206) 553-1674	<a href="mailto:Field.Chris@epamail.epa.gov">Field.Chris@epamail.epa.gov</a>
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Walsh, Rick (Lieutenant)	W	DOD - Joint Task Force AK (Alaska District/Innendorf AFB)	907-552-7788	<a href="mailto:richard.walsh@elmendorf.af.mil">richard.walsh@elmendorf.af.mil</a>

30 Aug 11  
ARRT meeting  
Valdez Civic Center, Valdez AK

Name	Initials	Organization	Phone Number	E-mail
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Ward, Regina	<i>RW</i>	BP <small>(Anchorage)</small>		
Whitney, John (Dr)	<i>JW</i>	DoC - NOAA - AK SSC <small>(Anchorage)</small>	(907) 271-3593	<a href="mailto:John.Whitney@noaa.gov">John.Whitney@noaa.gov</a>

Name	Initials	Organization	Phone Number	E-mail
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Tom Wilder	TW	FEMA RX AAO	907-291- 4300	Thomas.Wilder@dhs.gov
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## ARRT MEETING VALDEZ ALASKA

**Location:** Valdez Convention & Civic Center

**Ball Room:** One

**Date:** **August 30, 2011 (Tue)**

**Time:** **0830 – 1700**

**Call In: Times:** 1330-1700 **Number:** 866 675 2028

**User Code:** 9078027

Time	Topic	Coordinator/Speaker
0830 -1130	ARRT member Valdez Marine Terminal Tour: <b><u>Meet at Valdez Civic Center 0845</u></b>	
1130-1330	Lunch (Not provided)	
1330 1700	Arrival / Sign-In	
5-min	Welcome / Introductions / Safety Brief	ARRT Coordinator
5-min	Overview of today's agenda	ARRT Co-chairs
60-min	Work Plan Review	ARRT-Coordinators
30-min	ESA Work Group Brief	Marcia Combes ESA Work Group Chair
30-min	EPA lead Discussion: Dispersant decision making	Chris Fields, Calvin Terada
OOA 1700	Adjournment	

Note: Time allocations are guidelines and may vary +/- 5 minutes.



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
1689 C Street, Room 119  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5126



9044.2d  
PEP/ANC

December 30, 2011  
Via Electronic Mail

CDR Mark Everett  
ARRT Co-Chair (Acting)  
U.S. Coast Guard District 17  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Mr. Chris Field  
ARRT Co-Chair  
U.S. Environmental Protection, Region 10  
P.O. Box 25517  
Seattle, Washington 90101

Dear CDR Everett and Mr. Field:

This letter is in response to Mr. Nick Knowles' November 25, 2011, email in which he provided to Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) members for their review, the draft meeting summary for the August 30, 2011, ARRT work session and the August 31, 2011, ARRT meeting. Please note that without a copy of the meeting transcripts, it is not possible to provide comments on statements in the summaries attributed to ARRT members or other presenters. Therefore, my comments are limited to factual corrections for information regarding the ARRT's Cultural Resources Working Group and Wildlife Protection Working Group.

### **August 30, 2011, Draft Summary**

Issue 5: Coastal Resources Work Group, page 2: The title of this topic needs to be corrected to read: "[Issue 5: Cultural Resources Work Group](#)."

### **August 31, 2011, Draft Summary**

ARRT Cultural Resources Workgroup, p. 6: The information in this section needs to be corrected to read: "[ARRT Wildlife Protection Working Group](#). Ms. Bergmann reported that work on a charter for the Cultural Resources Working Group will commence once work on the Wildlife Protection Working Group charter is completed." The majority of Cultural Resource Working Group and Wildlife Protection Working Group members are different individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on these draft summaries. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Pamela Bergmann  
Regional Environmental Officer – Alaska  
DOI ARRT Representative

cc: Mr. Nick Knowles, USEPA