

ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

Meeting Notes

**0815 – 1610 Wednesday January 28, 2015
Juneau Federal Building – Conference Room 285
Juneau, Alaska**

Sign-in sheets can be viewed [here](#).

Safety Briefing, Introductions, Opening Remarks

Rear Admiral Daniel Abel, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) District 17 (D17) welcomed attendees. He noted recent accomplishments and upcoming challenges for the ARRT. He acknowledged the attendance of representatives of the Douglas Indian Association, and noted that this was the first time a federally recognized tribe had been seated as a member of the ARRT.

Mr. Cecil McNutt (USCG) provided a safety briefing and conducted introductions. The ARRT co-chairs Mr. Mark Everett (USCG); Mr. Chris Field, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and Ms. Kristin Ryan, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) welcomed attendees and gave opening remarks. Ms. Ryan noted financial challenges faced by ADEC. Mr. Field remarked on the recent arctic dispersants workshop, and the Bakken oil spill in the Yellowstone River, in which oil migrated beneath ice. He also mentioned that he and Mr. Everett would present an ARRT update at the Alaska Forum on the Environment conference, in Anchorage, on Wednesday, February 11, 2015. He also reminded the ARRT that the National Contingency Plan, Subpart J (Product Schedule) revision is available for public review and comment, and comments are due by April 22, 2015, and each ARRT member agency should submit their comments via their own organizational routing. A final decision on Subpart J is not expected for another 12 to 18 months following the close of the comment period.

Review of Actions since Last Meeting and Approval of Summary

Mr. Everett provided an overview of recent activities related to the ARRT. Highlights included the following:

- The Arctic Council Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPPR) met in Seattle, WA, in December 2014;
- Bilateral relations with Russia through Joint Contingency Plan remain on hold;
- The ARRT co-chairs submitted the Annual Report to the National Response Team (NRT);
- A new Executive Order (EO) for Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic was issued in January 2015.

Other recent issues to be discussed in further detail, during the meeting, included the Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation process, Arctic Spill of National Significant (SONS) Logistics project, Science of Dispersants Workshop, and the Draft 2015-2016 Biennial Work Plan. He also offered a brief overview of upcoming ARRT activities. He noted the change made to the next scheduled ARRT/Subarea Committee meetings to May 19 and 20 to accommodate the Shell CPX/TTX drill on May 21, 2015. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Biennial Work Plan Review and Discussion

Mr. Everett facilitated a discussion on the ARRT Biennial Work Plan (BWP). The draft final work plan was emailed to ARRT members on January 20, 2015. After the October 2014 meeting, a draft BWP was shared for review by ARRT members and state and federal On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs). Numerous comments were received; the majority were incorporated into the draft final. A discussion followed regarding prioritization of projects based on available personnel and resources. Mr. Everett asked that initial assignments be made to begin work on identified tasks including start-up of a Food Safety Policy Task Force. A copy of the BWP can be viewed [here](#).

On-Scene Coordinator Reports

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Ms. Sarah Moore, ADEC State OSC, reported on recent incidents occurring in her area of responsibility. She noted that ADEC response offices in Bethel and Wasilla have been closed. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

US Coast Guard Southeast Alaska Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone

CAPT Shannan Greene, USCG Sector Juneau, reported on spills and responses, workgroups, training, exercises, and meetings in Southeast Alaska since October 2014. She noted the importance of conducting an assessment of vessel traffic across the Great Circle Route through the Aleutian Islands to/from Dixon Entrance. She also requested that the ARRT consider reviewing existing policy regarding the use of volunteers in a response. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

US Coast Guard Prince William Sound COTP Zone

CDR Joe Lally, USCG Marine Safety Unit Valdez, reported on spills and responses in the Prince William Sound subarea since October 2014. He provided an overview of planning efforts, training, and exercises. He remarked that the Prince William Sound Subarea Contingency Plan update was complete and the updated plan was signed in October 2014. He requested ARRT support at the BP exercise in September 2015. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

US Coast Guard Western Alaska COTP Zone

CAPT Paul Mehler and LT Matt Mitchell, USCG Sector Anchorage, reported on recent spills and responses, exercises, trainings and planning initiatives in Western Alaska. CAPT Mehler requested ARRT involvement in the Shell Table-Top Exercise scheduled for May 21, 2015. He also noted that he intends to prepare a paper on the improved capabilities and readiness of the Alaska response community since the *M/V Selendang Ayu* incident in 2004. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Mr. Field commented that this response capability report will have significant overlap with the Executive Order 13580 on coordination of streamlining domestic energy permitting in Alaska (and committee on arctic response capabilities?). He requested, if possible, that CAPT Mehler complete this project by spring 2015 in anticipation of forthcoming information requests. He also asked that the Department of Interior (DOI) representative, Mr. Phil Johnson, notify the ARRT of any available information regarding the re-activation of the EO 13580 working group.

US Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Calvin Terada, EPA Response Manager, and Mr. Bob Whittier, EPA OSC, reported on the recent Mile 48 Richardson Highway truck rollover and diesel spill response. Mr. Whittier also presented information on recent EPA prevention and preparedness activities in Alaska. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

WORKING GROUP (COMMITTEE & TASK FORCE) REPORTS

ARRT Science and Technology Committee (STC)

Nothing to report.

ARRT Cultural Resources Committee

Mr. Phil Johnson, DOI, provided an update on the status of the ARRT Cultural Resources Committee. The committee has not met since the last ARRT meeting.

ARRT Wildlife Protection Committee

Mr. Johnson provided an update on the status of the ARRT Wildlife Protection Committee. The committee has not met since the last ARRT meeting.

ESA Compliance Task Force

Ms. Marcia Combes, EPA, provided an update on the status of the ESA Consultation on the Alaska Unified Plan. Biological Opinion documents from the Services (USFWS & NMFS) are expected in the next 30 to 60 days. The Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) analysis has been completed, in accordance with the Magnusson Stevens Fisheries Management Act, and final concurrence from NMFS is expected soon. The task force has set a goal of completing the consultation process and finalizing the Dispersant Use Plan for Alaska and any subsequent updates to the Unified Plan by the end of summer 2015. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Mr. Field recommended that any required changes to the subarea contingency plans, resulting from the ESA consultation, be drafted and approved concurrently with identification of pre-authorization avoidance areas, within 24 months of approval of the draft dispersant guidelines.

Dispersant Guidelines Task Force

CDR Paul "Bo" Stocklin, USCG D17, reported on the status of the Dispersant Guidelines task force. Currently, the task force is awaiting conclusion of the ESA consultation process. Once the Biological Opinion is complete, the task force will develop mitigating strategies and incorporate these into the draft, and finalize the update. It will then be subject to finalization of tribal consultation and public comment processes and final legal review. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Unified Plan Steering Committee Task Force

CDR Stocklin also reported on the ARRT Steering Committee, which was been tasked with facilitating updates to the Unified Plan. A copy of his presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Arctic SONS Logistics Task Force

Mr. Everett presented a summary of the ongoing work of the Arctic Spill of National Significance (SONS) Logistics Task Force. The working group has devised a 6-step process for the development of a logistics assessment. The next step is to define agency responses and logistics requirements to support a response to an Arctic SONS scenario. The final report is expected to be completed in Fall 2015. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

Department of Energy/Department of Homeland Security Mobile Detection Deployment Unit

Mr. Doug Hildebrand, Department of Energy (DOE), Region 8 Radiological Assistance Program (RAP-8) and Mr. Noel Mueller, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DHS/DNDO), presented information on radiological and nuclear detection program support and the Mobile Detection Deployment Unit (MDDU). Their presentations can be viewed [here](#) (DOE) and [here](#) (DHS).

Status of Dispersant Science Work Group

Mr. Doug Helton, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), gave a presentation on the Status of Dispersant Science Work Group in Seattle. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Mr. Everett added that the ARRT Science and Technology Committee did not report out at this meeting because committee activity is currently on hold pending the results and findings of this national-level work group. However, he did remark that the ARRT needs to determine whether dispersant chemicals on the current National Product Schedule will need to be re-evaluated using the new Subpart J criteria.

Alaska Not-for-Profit Oil Spill Response Organization (OSRO) Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Matt Melton with Alaska Chadux Corporation regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between the OSROs for mutual support and aid for responses. The signatories include Alaska Chadux Corporation, Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. (CISPRI), Alaska Clean Seas, Southeast Alaska Petroleum Response Organization (SEAPRO), and Ship Escort/Response Vessel System (SERVS). The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

DHS Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Program

Mr. Jim Harksen with DHS presented information on the Department's Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism program and Executive Order 13650 on chemical facility safety and security.

Concluding Comments and Remarks

ARRT members and the OSCs offered closing comments and remarks. This was followed by an opportunity for other meeting attendees to offer public comments. Individuals from three organizations

offered public comments {should include names/organizations/summary of their comments}. The comments included questions on the process to approve the dispersant guidelines, alternative planning criteria for non-tank vessels, and an update on Alaska Chadux Corporation's expansion of available resources.

The co-chairs offered closing remarks. Mr. Everett responded to some questions and concerns raised in the public comments. The co-chairs expressed their appreciation for the attendees and their participation.

Upcoming Meetings

- Next ARRT Meeting: May 20 in Anchorage, AK
- NOAA Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) training, August 24-26 in Deadhorse, Alaska.

Review of Decisions and Assignments of Tasks (requestor)

- Request the ARRT conduct an assessment of the vessel traffic across the Great Circle Route through the Aleutians to the Dixon Entrance. (CAPT Greene)
 - Request the ARRT evaluate policy on Use of Volunteers. (CAPT Greene)
 - Request for ARRT support at the BP exercise in September 2015. (CDR Lally)
 - Request for ARRT involvement in the Shell TTX scheduled for May 21, 2015. (CAPT Mehler and LT Mitchell)
 - Request for ARRT support in developing and reviewing a White Paper on improved response capabilities in Alaska since *Selandang Ayu* incident. (CAPT Mehler)
 - Request that DOI notify the ARRT of any reports on the re-activation of the EO 13580 Working Group. (Mr. Field)
 - Determine whether dispersant chemicals on the current NCP Product Schedule will need to be re-evaluated using the new Subpart J criteria. (Mr. Everett)
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Participant Summary:

Member Agencies Present: USCG, USEPA, ADEC, USDOC, USDOD, USDOE, USDOJ, USDHHS, USDA, Douglas Indian Association

Member Agencies Not Present: DOL, DOJ, DOT, DOS, FEMA and GSA

Non-member organizations attending the meeting:

- Craig Tribal Association (via teleconference)
- SEAPRO
- CISPRI
- USDHS
- Alaska Clean Seas
- Alaska Chadux
- Gallagher Marine Systems LLC
- Shell Global Solutions (via teleconference)
- Pew Charitable Trust
- Cook Inlet RCAC
- Prince William Sound RCAC (via teleconference)



ARRT MEETING JUNEAU ALASKA

Location: Juneau Federal Building Room 285

Date: January 28, 2015 (Wed) **Call in #:** 877-436-6854

Time: 0830 – 1630

Pass code: 9534841

Time	Topic	Coordinator/Speaker
08:15 - 08:30	Arrival / Sign-In	
10-min	Welcome / Introductions / Safety Brief	ARRT Coordinators
10 min	Review of actions since last mtg/approval of summary	Co-Chairs
	Governance	
20-min	Biennial work plan review and discussion	Co-Chairs
OSC Reports:	(Overview of Response Activities, Exercises, Planning Initiatives, Training Programs, and Lessons Learned)	
10-min	ADEC SOSC State of Alaska	Ms. Sarah Moore SOSC, Southeast AK
10-min	Southeast COTP Zone	CAPT Shannan Greene, Sec Juneau
09:30 - 0945	15 minute Break	
10-min	Prince William Sound COTP Zone	CDR Joseph Lally, MSU Valdez
10-min	Western AK COTP Zone	CAPT Paul Mehler , Sec Anchorage
10-min	EPA Inland Zone	Mr. Calvin Terada EPA Region 10
	Working Group/Subcommittee/Taskforce Report Outs	
05-min	ARRT Cultural Resources Committee	Dr Philip Johnson Regional Environmental Officer – Alaska, DOI
	ARRT Wildlife Protection Committee	
20-min	ESA Compliance Taskforce	Ms. Marcia Combes EPA Region 10
11:00 - 12:30	Lunch (not provided) 1.5 hours	
	Working Group/Subcommittee/Taskforce Report Outs Continued	
20-min	Dispersant Guidelines Taskforce	CDR Bo Stocklin, USCGD17(dxc)
10-min	Unified Plan Steering Committee Taskforce	CDR Bo Stocklin, USCGD17(dxc)
10-min	SONs Logistic Taskforce	ARRT co-chair, USCGD17
	General Discussion Topics	
20-min	DOE / DHS - Mobil Detection Deployment Unit	Mr. R. Doug Hildebrand, DOE RAP-8 Mr. Noel Mueller, DHS / DNDO
13:30 - 13:45	15 minute Break	
45-min	Status of Dispersant Science Work Group	Mr. Doug Helton, DOC/NOAA, Seattle
20-min	Alaska Not-For-Profit OSRO Memorandum of Understanding	Matt Melton, GM, Alaska Chadux Corp.
14:50 - 15:05	15 minute Break	
15-min	DHS CFAT program	Mr. Jim Harkin, Regional Director, DHS
15-min	Member Agencies - Informal Roundtable	Co-Chairs
30-min	Public Comments	Attendees
5-min	Closing Remarks	Co-Chairs
OOA 16:10	Adjournment	

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



28 Jan 2015
ARRT meeting
Juneau, AK

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