



Alaska Regional Response Team

Meeting Summary

Anchorage Federal Building
Anchorage, AK
January 29, 2014

Meeting Summary

Members Present:

Mark Everett, USCG
Gary Folley, ADEC
Chris Field, USEPA
MAJ Christian Anderson, USDOD
Pamela Bergmann, USDO
Gary Sonnenberg, USDA
Brian Swanson, USGSA
Doug Hildebrand, USDOE
Doug Helton, USDOC
Joe Sarcone, USDHHS

Members attending by phone:

None

The following agencies were not present nor participating by phone: DOS, DOL, DOJ and FEMA.

The meeting began with introductions by the meeting attendees and telephonic participants. The Co-chairs, Mr. Chris Field (EPA) and Mr. Mark Everett (USCG), provided an overview of the actions since the previous meeting in September 2014. Mr. Everett reviewed the proposed updates to the Biennial Work Plan.

Mr. Everett and Mr. Field opened discussion on proposed changes to the ARRT Charter. Discussion included concerns about balancing transparency and inclusion of the ARRT member agencies with decision-making and the need for efficiency and productivity. Other concerns raised included the timely communication of the responses to comments submitted and adequate review time of documents prior to meetings. A teleconference will be held at a later date to discuss the draft revisions to the charter, the comments received on the draft, and responses to the comments.

Mr. Nick Knowles (EPA) presented an overview of the upcoming Alaska Shield 2014 exercise scheduled to take place March 26-April 2, 2014. The exercise scenario will be a re-creation of the 1964 Good Friday earthquake and tsunami. The multi-agency exercise will include numerous venues in Alaska and the lower 48, including National Response Team (NRT) participation. ARRT involvement will include a notification and activation call for information purposes; however, the date and time of the call will be unannounced.

Status updates were provided for the following Working Groups, Task Forces and Committees:

- Endangered Species Act Consultation Workgroup (Update by Ms. Marcia Combes, EPA): The final Biological Assessment has been prepared and will be delivered to The US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (hereafter "the Services") by the first week of February 2014. The Biological Opinion from the Services is expected in summer 2014. Updates and revisions to the Unified Plan and Subarea Contingency Plans will be addressed at that time.
- Cultural Resources Protection Committee (Update by Ms. Pamela Bergman, DOI): The Cultural Resources Committee had no recent activity to report.

- Wildlife Protection Committee (Update by Ms. Pamela Bergman, DOI): The Wildlife Protection Committee has not held a recent meeting; however related committees or working groups have been active. The initial outreach for the update to the *Wildlife Protection Guidelines for the Pribilof Islands* has begun. This update will be Revision 8 and is expected to be completed this year. The CANUSDIX Wildlife Working Group has initiated updates to the *CANUSDIX Wildlife Response Guidelines*. This working group is not part of the ARRT. The CANUSDIX Resource Agency Working Group is working on an update to the *CANUSDIX Guidelines for Resource Agency Input to Places of Refuge, Dispersant Use; and In-Situ Burning Decision-Making*. Revisions to both are expected to be completed prior to Summer 2014 and will be submitted to the USCG and Canadian Coast Guard.
- Tribal Engagement Task Force (Update by Mr. Knowles, EPA): The Task Force has completed the draft *Guidelines for Coordination and Consultation with Federally-Recognized Tribes*. Comments from both the ARRT members and federally-recognized tribes have been incorporated and the guidance will next be submitted to EPA and USCG legal counsel for review. Ms. Bergman stated that DOI tribal specialists have some significant concerns with the guidance and asked for coordination with the task force work and the DOI staff to address their concerns.
- Regional Stakeholder Committee Workgroup (Update by Mr. Steve Russell, ADEC): A proposal to revise the Regional Stakeholder Committee is expected to be submitted to the ARRT at the May 2014 meeting.
- STC Dispersant Working Group (Update by CAPT Dan Travers, USCG): Tribal consultation and Stakeholder outreach meetings were held in November and December 2013. Additional meetings for Government-to-Government consultation are scheduled the first week of February, in conjunction with the Alaska Forum on the Environment conference. Comments on the draft plan are due February 15, 2014.

Informational presentations were made on the subjects listed below. Copies of the presentation slides will be available on the ARRT website.

- Department of Energy, Region 8, Radiological Assistance Program Response Capabilities (Mr. Hildebrand)
- DOI/Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Update on the revision to Outer Continental Shelf regulations, current research and the 2014 season. (Ms. Christie Bohl, BSEE)
- Non-Tank Vessel Alternative Criteria for Vessel Response Planning in Alaska (Mr. Ed Page, Marine Exchange of Alaska)

The Federal On-Scene Coordinators for the USCG and EPA presented on recent response activities, exercises, planning initiatives, training programs and lessons learned in their respective areas of responsibility. Mr. Gary Folley (ADEC) addressed the State planning initiatives.

- USCG, MSU Valdez (Prince William Sound COTP), CDR Benjamin Hawkins
- USCG, Sector Anchorage (Western Alaska COTP), CAPT Paul Mehler
- USCG, Sector Juneau (Southeast Alaska COTP), CAPT. Scott Bornemann
- EPA (Inland Zone), Mr. Bob Whittier

The Co-Chairs opened the floor to public comments, followed by an opportunity for ARRT members to offer any closing remarks.

Mr. Field gave closing remarks summarizing the day and the remaining tasks to be completed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Internet Links to PowerPoint Presentations:

[Alaska Shield](#)
[Tribal Engagement Task Force](#)
[DOE RAP-8 Radiological Response Capabilities](#)
[BSSE Update](#)
[Non-Tank Vessel Alternative Planning Criteria](#)
[Prince William Sound FOSC Report](#)
[Western Alaska FOSC Report](#)
[Southeast Alaska FOSC Report](#)
[EPA FOSC Report](#)
[State of Alaska OSC Report](#)



Alaska Regional Response Team Meeting






AGENDA


Anchorage Federal Building Annex
222 W. 8th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska
January 29, 2014

Teleconference Line: (866) 299-3188 Code: 907-271-5083#

Time	Topic	Speaker
07:30 a.m.	Arrival / Sign-In	
8:00 a.m. (10 min)	Welcome / Safety Brief	Nick Knowles / Cecil McNutt
8:10 a.m. (10 min)	Introductions	ARRT Members
8:20 a.m. (10 min)	Review of activity since last meeting	Chairs
8:30 a.m. (30 min)	ARRT Biennial Work Plan Update Proposal	Cecil McNutt / Nick Knowles
9:00 a.m. (30 min)	ARRT Charter Revision	Chairs
9:30 (15 min)	Break	
9:45 (15 min)	Alaska Shield 2014 Brief	Nick Knowles
10:00 (15 min)	Wildlife Protection and Cultural Resources Committees	Pamela Bergmann
10:15 (10 Min)	Endangered Species Act Consultation Workgroup	Marcia Combes
10:25 (10 min)	Tribal Engagement Task Force	Nick Knowles
10:35 (15 min)	Regional Stakeholder Committee revision proposal	Steve Russell
10:50 (20 min)	DOE RAP-8 Radiological Response Capabilities	USDOE (speaker TBD)
11:10 (20 min)	BSEE Update (OCS reg revision, OSR research, look ahead to 2014 season)	Christy Bohl
11:30 (30 min)	Non-Tank Vessel Alternative Compliance	Ed Page
12:00 (60 min)	Lunch (not provided)	
1:00 (15 min)	STC Dispersants Working Group	CAPT Dan Travers
1:15 (15 min)	Prince William Sound FOSC Report	CDR Ben Hawkins
1:30 (15 min)	Western Alaska FOSC Report	CAPT Paul Mehler
1:45 (15 min)	Southeast Alaska FOSC Report	CAPT Scott Bornemann
2:00 (15 min)	Interior Subarea Plan Update	Bob Whittier
2:15 (15 min)	Break	
2:30 (15 min)	State Planning Initiatives	Gary Folley
2:45 (30 min)	Public Comment	
3:15 (30 min)	Closing Remarks	ARRT Members
3:45 pm	Adjourn	

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

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