



## ARRT MEETING JUNEAU, ALASKA

**Location:** Federal Building, 709 W. 9th Street, Juneau, AK

**Room:** 285-B (GSA Conference Rm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**Date:** February 22, 2012 (Wednesday)

**Time:** 1300 – 1745

**Phone line:** 866 742 9901 pass code: 2019627

Time	Topic	Coordinator/Speaker
<b>13:00</b>	Arrival / Sign-In	
10-min	Welcome / Introductions / Safety Brief	ARRT Coordinators
60-min	Review & Update Biennial Work Plan for 2013 - 2014	ARRT Coordinators
30-min	Pre-authorization clarification Memo for ARRT and the NRT	EPA Co-Chair
<b>14:45 – 15:00</b>	Break	
20-min	Marine Debris (Japanese Tsunami)	USCG Co-Chair
30-min	ARRT member and Dispersant Working Group comments on NRT Subsea Dispersant Monitoring Guidelines	ARRT Coordinators & Chair, Dispersant Work Group
15-min	New ARRT Website Demonstration	EPA Co-Chair
30-min	Unified Plan Updates	ARRT Coordinators
<b>16:35 – 16:55</b>	Break	
30-min	Discussion of Preparation for Shell Drilling Operations	Ms. Christy Bohl, BSEE
60-min	Roundtable Discussion of Preps for Shell Drilling Ops	All ARRT
5-min	Closing Remarks	ARRT Co-Chairs
<b>OOA 17:45</b>	Adjournment	

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



## Alaska Regional Response Team

Meeting Summary  
Juneau Federal Building  
709 W. 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Juneau, AK  
Feb 22, 2012

**MEMBER ATTENDANCE:** Copy attached.

“Alt.” denotes an alternate member. (Note: Y\* denotes participation by teleconference.) For a complete list of meeting attendees, including contributing agency representatives, see the attached meeting attendance sign-in sheets.

**Quorum:** Yes. Co-Chairs Chris Field (USEPA), Commander Mark Everett (USCG), and Larry Dietrick (ADEC) presided.

**Other Meeting Attendees:** Copy attached.

**Agenda:** Copy attached.

**Opening Remarks:** Mr. Field and CDR Everett welcomed attendees. Mr. Field introduced Mr. Larry Stanton, of USEPA Headquarters and Chair of the National Response Team (NRT). Mr. Field also noted that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) will now be represented in the ARRT meeting, although not yet as a voting member. He noted increased attention on Alaska and the Arctic, from senior leadership, and the public.

CDR Everett and Mr. Dietrick, echoed Mr. Field's comments, and spoke to the agencies' increased preparedness activities in the Arctic and Western Alaska.

### **REVIEW AND UPDATE BIENNIAL WORK PLAN FOR 2013-2015 – ARRT CORDINATORS:**

Cecil McNutt (USCG) introduced the topic of updating the Biennial Work Plan (BWP). Work is beginning this year to develop the 2013 - 2015 work plan. He asked the ARRT members to review the current plan and the status of the projects itemized in the plan as the basis for next year's plan.

1. **Science & Technology Committee/ Dispersant Use Guidelines, Revision #1.** This has not yet been completed. Work was delayed pending the new NRT Guidelines. The Science and Technology Committee (STC) Dispersant Work Group anticipates returning to this project, with projected completion in 2012.
2. **Wildlife Protection Committee:** The charter is complete, pending approval by the ARRT at tomorrow's meeting. The committee will address the way forward to implement revision five to the Wildlife Protection Guidelines.
3. **Cultural Resources Committee:** A draft final charter will be presented for approval at the next ARRT meeting.
4. **Subarea Contingency Planning:** The Northwest Arctic Subarea Contingency Plan (SCP) is complete and has been signed by the FOSCs. The North Slope SCP and Southeast SCP are out for review, with finalization and promulgation anticipated in early summer of 2012. The SCP Work Group has begun to update the Bristol Bay and Western Alaska

SCPs. These are expected to go out for public review in 2012. Updates to the Interior and Prince William Sound SCPs are expected to begin later in 2012.

Mr. Dietrick questioned the need, value and expediency of two review periods (the agency and tribal consultation period and the public review period). He stated that these consecutive review periods are proving redundant, and yield little in the way of meaningful input from the stakeholders. Issues raised included the need for tribal consultation prior to the public review period; having interested agencies involved in the update process rather than only at the completion of the plan during a review period. The problem of maintaining a current notification and contact list for the review period was also discussed. Ms. Bergmann contended that a separate review period for RRT members is appropriate, and should be maintained. Nick Knowles (USEPA), observed that the FOSC's solicit comment in the promulgation letters, and accept comments at all times. Mr. Dietrick noted that the public review period is a State requirement, while tribal consultation is a federal requirement. These requirements could be met concurrently.

5. Tribal Outreach & Consultation Work Group: This work is pending. Mr. Knowles has been assigned the task of drafting a Tribal Consultation and Outreach policy for the RRT.
6. Response Aids/ Activation protocols: These protocols are complete and were included in the 2010 Unified Plan.
7. Response Aids/ Guidelines for embedding EPA and DOI staff into the IMT for significant marine releases for dispersant decision-making: Guidelines have not been drafted.

Gary Folley (ADEC) stated that the State supports including EPA and DOI staff in the IMT to facilitate efficient Unified Command decisions regarding the use of dispersants. Mr. Field agreed with the concept, but expressed concern regarding its implementation, faced with limited staff resources.

Mr. McNutt noted that the time allotted for this agenda item had been exceeded. He offered to draft an email to RRT members to facilitate formation of a BWP Working Group. This group will be able to continue discussion in a focused manner. Calvin Terada (USEPA), noted that this group should consist of agency decision makers able to contribute staff and dedicate resources for work items proposed in the BWP.

**PRE-AUTHORIZATION CLARIFICATION MEMO FOR ARRT AND THE NRT:** In December 2011, Mr. Field sent a memorandum to the RRT members in an attempt to clarify the status of pre-authorization for dispersant use. USEPA Region 10 Office of Council has advised Mr. Field that if one of the four agencies withdraws its approval, then the dispersant pre-authorization plan is no longer approved as required by the NCP, therefore preauthorization is not in effect, even in the formerly pre-authorized zones. Mr. Field offered a verbal summary of memo and opened discussion on the current status of dispersant use authorization.

Mr. Stanton requested that the ARRT members, particularly DOI, provide an honest assessment regarding whether an agreement on pre-authorization could be reached and a reasonable timeline for reaching it. He further requested that if indeed preauthorization was not a attainable, that the RRT members articulate this reality, so that an alternate plan for dispersant use decision making could be developed.

Mr. Dietrick expressed concern that, lacking a preauthorization agreement, operators are not required by USCG rules to stockpile dispersant chemicals and broadcast resources in the region, and that without these, dispersant use is no longer a viable tool. He further stated concern that there was no process in place to address USDOT's unilateral revocation of the preauthorization agreement.

Ms. Bergman (DOI) agreed that dispersants are an important response tool, however, asserted that the DOI agencies have determined that the decision to employ chemical dispersants ought to be incident specific. She stated her concern that with a pre-authorization plan, FOSCs would not consult with the natural resource trustees prior to implementation of dispersal. She also asserted her concern that pre-authorization implies to the public that the use of dispersants is always the best option.

Mr. Helton (DOC-NOAA) observed that with pre-authorization, the trustee consultation occurs in advance of the emergency, and that the resource agencies would be part of the Environmental Unit and, as such, would be involved in advising the FOSC. He added that implementation of a pre-authorization plan would allow for the early mobilization of dispersant resources, which could occur simultaneously with final decision making process.

Dr. John Whitney (DOC-NOAA) stated that as chairman of the Dispersants Working Group (DWG), he believes that pre-authorization can occur appropriately, within prescribed conditions. He will be speaking more on dispersant use at tomorrow's meeting.

**MARINE DEBRIS (JAPANESE TSUNAMI):** CDR Everett presented information regarding marine debris expected from the March 2011 Tsunami that struck Japan. He introduced Peter Murphy from NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, a marine debris subject matter expert (participating via telephone).

CDR Everett and Mr. Murphy noted that the earliest landfall of debris on Alaska shores was expected to occur in 2013, however, highly buoyant material may arrive sooner. It was also noted that, while a large amount of debris is expected, little debris is expected to be hazardous to human health or the environment. One of the roles of the ARRT in response to the tsunami-generated marine debris, will be to respond to potentially hazardous component (radiation contamination, oils, or other HAZMAT) of the debris.

CDR Everett requested that members share what, if any, preparation and discussion their agencies have held on the issue.

- Mr. Helton reported that DOC has detailed a Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) to Hawaii to address Marine Debris. He also noted that there is a large amount of non-tsunami marine debris impacting Alaska shores at any given time.
- Mr. Murphy reported that NOAA maintains a marine debris program website at <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov>, and an email address has been established for reporting marine debris: [disasterdebris@noaa.gov](mailto:disasterdebris@noaa.gov).
- Ms. Bergmann reported that DOI had been advised that likelihood of radioactive debris is small since the tsunami occurred prior to the nuclear crisis, but noted that some debris may have other hazardous material components, such as oil or fuel.
- Mr. Dietrick reported that the State is actively engaged in tracking this issue.

### **ARRT COMMENTS ON NRT SUBSEA DISPERSANT MONITORING GUIDELINES:**

Dr. Whitney reported that the ARRT Co-chairs had asked the DWG to review the draft guidelines from a scientific perspective. Dr. Whitney provided an overview of findings of the efficacy and toxicity of the dispersants used during the Deepwater Horizon response. He concluded that subsea application of dispersants proved very successful in preventing oil from reaching or remaining at the surface of the water. He further noted that toxicity studies found dispersants used to have constituents similar to many household products (e.g. body soaps, lotions), and were found to be less toxic than other surfactants such as household dish soaps.

**NEW EPA ARRT WEBSITE DEMONSTRATION:** Liza Sanden, (Ecology & Environment), EPA Contractor, introduced the new ARRT websites: <http://alaskarrt.org> and <http://private.alaskarrt.org>. EPA commissioned the development of a new ARRT website and an upgrade to the existing private website. The new public website content is managed from the private website, and can be readily updated by USEPA staff or contractors. The private website is primarily utilized as a document sharing site for updates to existing plans. All RRT members will have access to the private website. New users should enter their email address as the user name, and click the "NEED PASSWORD" link. This will generate an email to the user containing a new password. Members who are unable access the site should contact Ms. Sanden or Mr. Knowles for access credentials.

**UNIFIED PLAN UPDATES:** Mr. Knowles presented a list of proposed administrative changes to the Unified Plan. He requested that members review the list and concur that the changes are benign in nature so that the update can proceed as an Administrative Update. The RRT members unanimously agreed.

Mr. Dietrich proposed the Administrative Update wait until two Memoranda of Agreement between the State and EPA and BSEE are complete, so that these can be included in the update. He expects the agreements to be final by May 2012. Mr. Knowles concurred.

### **DISCUSSION OF PREPARATION FOR SHELL DRILLING OPERATIONS:**

Christy Bohl (DOI-BSEE) provided an overview of the new agencies, The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), and The Office of Natural Resource Revenues (ONRR), all of which were formed from the reorganization and dissolution of The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE). Ms. Bohl's focus was on her agency, BSEE. Following the agency overview, Ms. Bohl presented a summary of Shell's proposed drilling operations in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas and the company's oil spill response plan.

Mr. Dietrich expressed concern regarding the Interagency Work Group's (IWG) lack of state or local representation, its relationship to the Subarea Planning process and the North Slope SCP, and its relationship to the ARRT. In response, Ms. Bohl clarified that the IWG is a Deputy Director level work group, specific to this operation, with a scope much more narrow than that of the SCP. Mr. Stanton stated that such issues are being looked at, and will be addressed at the NRT level.

**ARRT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF AGENCY ROLES IN PREPARATION FOR SHELL OIL DRILLING OPS IN THE BEAUFORT AND CHUKCHI SEAS:**

Due to time constraints, this discussion was postponed to the following day.

**CLOSING REMARKS:** CDR Everett stated he believes the RRT should meet more frequently in consideration of the growing responsibility and pressing priorities facing the RRT.

Mr. Field and CDR Everett thanked the members and attendees for their participation and closed the meeting.

IM ASTER

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22 Feb 2012  
 ARRT meeting  
 Juneau Federal Building, Juneau AK

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