



ARRT MEETING JUNEAU, ALASKA

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

Room 285-B (GSA Conference Rm, 2nd Floor)

Date: February 23, 2012 (Thursday)

Time: 0730 – 1700

Phone line: 866 742 9901 pass code: 2019627

Time	Topic	Coordinator/Speaker
07:30-08:00	Arrival / Sign-In	
10-min	Welcome / Introductions / Safety Brief	ARRT Coordinators
20-min	Review and Update	ARRT Co-Chairs
10-min	ESA Section 7 Work Group Status Report	Ms. Marcia Combes, EPA Region 10 Alaska Ops Office
	OSC Reports: (Overview of Response Activities, Exercises, Planning Initiatives, Training, SCP Updates, and Lessons Learned)	
10-min	Southeast AK COTP Zone	CAPT Scott Bornemann, USCG FOSC, Sector Juneau
10-min	Prince William Sound COTP Zone	CDR Benjamin Hawkins, USCG FOSC, MSU Valdez
15-min	Western AK COTP Zone	CAPT Jason Fosdick, USCG FOSC, Sector Anchorage
09:15 - 09:30	Break	
15-min	TAPS Corridor Inland Zone (The Rest of Alaska)	Mr. Matt Carr, EPA Mr. Bob Whittier, EPA FOSC, Alaska Office
15-Min	State of Alaska	Mr. Gary Folley, ADEC SPAR Program Manager, PERP
20-min	ARRT Cultural Resources Working Group ARRT Wildlife Protection Working Group	Ms. Pamela Bergmann, DOI Alaska Regional Environmental Officer
20-min	Science & Technology Committee (STC) (Review of Inputs to NRT Subsea Dispersant Guidelines)	CDR Mark Everett, USCG Tri-Chair, STC
10-min	FEMA RISC Update	Mr. Robert Forgit, FEMA Alaska Operations
10-min	Subarea Contingency Plans – Update Process/Status	Mr. Nicholas Knowles, Planner, EPA Alaska Office
11:00 - 12:30	Lunch (not provided – dining options located offsite)	
20-min	Area Committee Needs in PWS	Mr. Mark Swanson, Executive Director, PWSRCAC
20-min	Area Committee Discussion	ARRT Co-Chairs
20-min	Update: Preparedness for Shell Drilling Operations	ARRT Co-Chairs
30-min	Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) for the Arctic	Dr. Amy Merten, NOAA, Chief, Spatial Data Branch
14:00 - 14:15	Break	
20-min	Arctic NRDA/Joint Assessment Team	Ms. Linda Shaw, NOAA Habitat Biologist, Juneau
30-min	Cruise Ship Spill Prevention Measures in SEAK	(Speaker TBA)
30-min	Member Agencies - Informal Roundtable	ARRT Co-Chairs
30-min	Public Comments	Attendees
15-min	Closing Remarks	ARRT Co-Chairs
OOA 17:00	Adjournment	

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



Alaska Regional Response Team

Meeting Summary
Juneau Federal Building
709 W. 9th St.
Juneau, AK
Feb 23, 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.

*Via Phone: Doug Mutter, USDOJ
Karin Messenger, USCG HQ
Bill Jeffries, BP Exploration*

AGENDA: Copy attached.

REVIEW OF ACTIONS SINCE LAST MEETING: Mr. Field and CDR Everett welcomed attendees. Each spoke of the increased attention and scrutiny being applied to activities and preparedness efforts in Alaska and the Arctic region. Gary Folley (ADEC), also welcomed members and attendees and concurred with Mr. Field’s observations.

ESA WORK GROUP REPORT OUT: Marcia Combes (USEPA) provided an update on the progress of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation Work Group. This was the second update to the ARRT. Following the August, 2011 ARRT meeting, a contract was awarded for preparation of a Biological Assessment (BA). A framework document has been completed, as well as species introductions, and descriptions of critical habitat. Ms. Combes expects the BA to be complete by July 2012. Following the completion of the BA, by March of 2013, the services (USFWS & NMFS) are expected to issue a Biological Opinion (BO), and an analysis of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976.

A question was raised as to whether completion of this process would preclude the necessity of incident-specific consultations, or consultations for future revisions to existing plans. Ms. Combes and the co-chairs clarified that this Section 7 consultation will not preclude the need for incident-specific consultation, per the MOA between response agencies and the Services. In the case of updates to existing plans, this consultation will be limited in scope to plans as they existed in February of 2011. Assuming that most plan updates are administrative in nature, a formal consultation is not likely to be warranted. However, a new BA or BO could be required, if a new species were to be listed as threatened or endangered, or if new response tactics were adopted. Such would only be the case, however, in the event that the new species would be affected by the plan as written, or if the new tactics carried the potential to affect threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat. It is recommended that the subarea plan working groups work directly with the Services to obtain consensus on whether a new Section 7 consultation is required.

Mr. Field reported that Region 9 has also received a Notice of Intent to sue from The Center for Biological Diversity. Funding to respond to these actions is a concern. USCG has funded the current BA preparation effort at a cost of nearly \$500,000.

OSC REPORTS:

USCG Federal On-Scene Coordinators

SOUTHEAST ALASKA CAPTAIN OF THE PORT ZONE: CAPT Scott Bornemann, Commander, Sector Juneau, gave an overview of recent significant activities in his zone, which included the following:

- Trucano Crane Barge
- M/V Chris Sara
- M/V Kusti
- M/V Nathan E Stewart

Some challenges encountered included the difficulty of responding to a crane accident which impaired the only local crane operator, and that of finding towing vessels in Southeast Alaska. CAPT Bornemann also reported on the planning and preparedness activities of his staff in Southeast Alaska. The draft Southeast Alaska Subarea Contingency Plan (SCP) is out for agency review and tribal consultation, and is expected to be finalized later this year. Exercises planned in the Southeastern Zone for 2012 include the following:

- ICS 320 Training, April 9-11, 2012
- Equipment Deployment Drills
 - May 1 in Sitka, AK
 - September 10-14, Ketchikan, AK
- Command Post Exercise (CPX), September 25-26 in Ketchikan, AK.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND CAPTAIN OF THE PORT ZONE: CDR Benjamin Hawkins, Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Unit (MSU), Valdez, reported on recent significant activities in Prince William Sound.

Two federalized responses took place since the August, 2011 ARRT meeting. These were F/V Arctic Lady and the L/C Sound Developer. The response to L/C Sound Developer took several months, but is now complete and the vessel was relocated to an area outside of the marine zone in December of 2011.

The USCG also assisted the City of Valdez in standing up a full IMT to manage response to extraordinarily heavy snowfall occurring in January of 2012).

CDR Hawkins also reported on planning and preparedness activities conducted by his staff for the Prince William Sound subarea. An industry-led exercise was held on September 27th and 28th of 2011. An upcoming exercise is planned for July of 2012 at the Valdez Marine Terminal. The planning staff at MSU Valdez has begun reorganizing the SCP Working Group for the Prince William Sound subarea, with intent to update the SCP during 2012 or 2013.

Doug Helton (DOC-NOAA) noted that the National Response Team (NRT) is working on a derelict vessel response plan. The L/C Sound Developer may be a good case study for that effort.

WESTERN ALASKA CAPTAIN OF THE PORT ZONE: CAPT Jason Fosdick, Commander, Sector Anchorage, reported on recent significant activities in the Western Alaska Port Zone, which included the following:

- Katktovic II in Nome, AK
- P/V Rainbow Warrior in Homer, AK
- M/V Nelson Star
- Barge 'Alaska Villager' in Izebek National Wildlife Refuge
- Rustler in Nome, AK
- Barge 165-1 in Spiridon Bay
- T/V Renda fuel transfer to the City of Nome, escorted by the USCG Cutter Healy through 800 miles sea ice.
- F/V Kimberly in Jute Bay

CAPT Fosdick also reported on planning and preparedness efforts of his staff in Western Alaska. Sector Anchorage is participating in an internal Royal Dutch Shell Oil exercise scheduled for March of 2012, and a Mutual Aid Drill (MAD) organized by BP Alaska to take place in June of 2012. Planning initiatives include strengthening interagency relations and coordination, increased ICS readiness, and enhanced coordination and communication with local communities.

Sector Anchorage is also working on multiple SCPs:

- Northwest Arctic SCP (Completed and signed February 2012);
- North Slope SCP (Out for public comment through March 31st, 2012. Final Change 2 update expected in April 2012);
- Western Alaska SCP and Bristol Bay SCP (Currently under review and revision; final update expected in Winter 2012).

USEPA Federal On-Scene Coordinators

ALASKA INLAND ZONE: Robert Whittier and Matt Carr, EPA FOSCs for Alaska, reported on recent activities in the Alaska Inland Zone. EPA recently participated with local and state HAZMAT response teams in a cold weather exercise that included a simulated railroad train derailment, and chlorine and cyanide release simulations in Fairbanks, AK. This training was part of the Alaska Shield exercise, which included a 2-day HAZMAT symposium and tabletop exercises. EPA plans to develop a cold weather response module from lessons learned from this exercise. EPA staff also participated in the August 2011 North Slope MAD, hosted by Conoco Phillips, near the Alpine field, in the Colville River delta. Mr. Carr also addressed the ongoing response to the Repsol Q2 Pad blowout incident.

Mr. Field asked whether NRT has made an effort to address the issue of existing prohibitions on federal employees accepting transportation or lodging from industry, in instances where there are no other practicable options, as is often the case on the North Slope. Larry Stanton, NRT chair, stated that the issue needs to be considered further. Mr. Carr added that EPA FOSC's have been able to work out arrangements with industry partners as necessary, and often must rely on industry for lodging and transportation due to a lack of available alternatives.

Pamela Bergmann (USDOJ) noted that complications arise from the current practice of non-response agencies developing response plans. For example, US Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), and USDOJ Bureau of

Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), both develop plans that must be implemented by FOSC's from USEPA and USCG. Mr. Carr concurred that this arrangement does complicate planning and response.

Alaska State On-Scene Coordinators

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (ADEC): Mr. Folley, ADEC Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR), Program Manager, provided an overview of the State's involvement in recent responses including the Repsol Blowout, the M/T Renda Nome fuel delivery, and M/V Morning Cedar incidents. He also explained that, for the Q2 Repsol incident, the State's response is divided between ADEC, which conducts spill response, and the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, which manages the well control response. He also described ADEC's expedited review process to waive prohibitions on operations in ice, as were required for the M/V Renda's fuel delivery to Nome. Additionally, Mr. Folley reported on the ongoing Aleutian Islands and Cook Inlet Ecological Risk Assessments, which were being conducted in conjunction with USCG. The Aleutian Islands Phase A Preliminary Ecological Risk Assessment has also been completed. A Request for Proposals for Phase B has been drafted. A Vessel Traffic Study for the Cook Inlet assessment has been finalized. Mr. Folley also spoke to ADEC's recent renewal of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) C-Plan, and enumerated several conditions of approval that ADEC required.

COMMITTEE/WORKGROUP REPORT-OUTS:

WILDLIFE PROTECTION WORKGROUP REPORT: Ms. Bergmann provided an update on the progress of the Wildlife Protection Work Group (WPWG). Revision number five to the Wildlife Protection Guidelines is underway. Draft Guidelines were sent out for comment and are due on March 31st. A meeting is scheduled for April 19th to discuss stakeholder comments received. The work group expects final guidelines to be submitted to ARRT for approval at the October 2012 ARRT meeting. Ms. Bergmann presented the draft final WPWG Charter, which she had previously provided to the ARRT membership for review. Ms. Bergmann requested that the ARRT grant final approval of the draft final charter. The charter was approved without objection. With the charter approval, the work group's name is changed to The Wildlife Protection Committee.

CULTURAL RESOURCES WORKGROUP REPORT: Ms. Bergmann reported CRWG expects to present a draft final charter for ARRT review prior to the October 2012 ARRT meeting, so that the ARRT can vote on final approval at that meeting.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (STC) REPORT: CDR Everett reported on recent activities of the STC. He noted that the voting membership of the STC includes USEPA, USCG, State (Tri-Chairs), USDOJ and USDOC-NOAA. In recent months, the STC has focused on the NRT guidance memo on subsea application of dispersants. Per the request of the NRT, ARRT members reviewed the memo and submitted comments to the co-chairs. The STC will compile and send these comments to the NRT. The STC anticipates a forthcoming reactivation of the Dispersants Working Group, with an initial focus on surface application of dispersants.

Ms. Bergman spoke to the previous day's discussion on pre-authorization and whether DOI would be able to agree to a process for pre-authorization. She reported that she had

spoken with representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding this matter. The agencies are interested in further discussion on pre-authorization, but remain concerned about incident-specific consultation and science-based decisions. In speaking with Ms. Bergmann, the DOI subordinate agencies expressed concern in making binding policy decisions when the science is incomplete. Additional concerns raised by the agencies included ESA consultation and issues related to the Northwest Arctic Risk Assessment. Additionally, BIA staff members are concerned about the impact of dispersants on subsistence use, which is not specifically addressed in the current dispersant use guidelines.

Mr. Field responded that it appears that the bar for pre-authorization is much higher in Alaska than in the rest of the US, and that the process to reach a pre-authorization agreement is likely to be a more lengthy process than has occurred elsewhere. He also added that Region 4 and Region 6 have much more thorough decision matrix checklists, as compared to what is found in the Alaska Unified Plan dispersants guidelines. Mr. Field would like the ARRT to consider expanding the existing checklist, to make it more robust.

Mr. Stanton noted that, while the dispersant use decision making process may vary from region to region, and while there may be disagreements on risk-balancing and the interpretation of existing science, all RRT dispersant use decisions are science-based. He noted that, while it is true that the science is not complete on the effects of dispersants, available science has been deemed sufficient for all of the other RRT's to develop science-based, pre-authorization agreements.

FEMA RISC REPORT:

Mr. Robert Forgit (FEMA) delivered a presentation on recent activities of the Region 10 Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC). The focus of the RISC has been the upcoming Evergreen Quake 2012 exercise. The scenario is a large-magnitude earthquake occurring in the Puget Sound region. This exercise will include a functional exercise, as well as a logistics exercise in early June of 2012, and a recovery tabletop exercise in August of 2012. In 2014, FEMA plans to conduct a major earthquake exercise in Alaska, to coincide with 50th anniversary of The Good Friday earthquake of 1964. Additionally, Mr. Forgit noted there have been two recent federal disaster declarations. These were No. 4050, West Coast Alaska storm damage, and No. 5054, Kenai storm damage. FEMA is also working on a damage assessment for Cordova's extraordinarily large snow event in January. FEMA staff are also preparing for River Watch 2012, which concerns the heightened potential for catastrophic flooding of the Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages resulting from increased snowfall received this winter. The next RISC meetings are scheduled for March 20th, and 21st in Boise, ID and July 10th and 11th, in Anchorage, AK.

SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLANS UPDATE:

Nick Knowles (USEPA), Area Contingency Planner for Alaska, and ARRT Coordinator, presented an overview of the SCP update process. The SCP Work Group meets as needed to meet scheduled updates, and is comprised of representatives from ADEC, EPA, USCG, DOI and natural resource trustees. Mr. Knowles provided a summary and status of the SCP update schedule:

- Northwest Arctic SCP Change 1 has been signed and promulgated.

- North Slope SCP Change 2 is out for public review, with a final plan expected to be completed in April 2012.
- Southeast Plan SCP Change 2 is out for Agency and Tribal consultation.
- Bristol Bay & Western Alaska SCPs are scheduled to be updated this spring.
- Interior SCP Change 2 –Revisions to begin this summer

Mr. Knowles was asked when the Southeast Alaska SCP would be complete. He deferred to Kathy Hamblett, (DHS-USCG), who stated that there was uncertainty regarding whether or not Section 7 consultation was required for the update. CDR Everett reiterated that consultation need only be conducted in cases where it is warranted by changes to the listing status of an affected species, or changes to the plan carry the potential to adversely impact threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. He also noted that detailed records should be maintained, documenting the decision to consult or not to consult, and that any concurrence letters issued by the Services should be included in or attached to the SCP.

Mr. Field spoke to the recommended changes to area plans regarding outreach to tribes and stakeholders stemming from ACP reviews that occurred following the DWH response. Mr. Knowles stated he is working on an outreach policy, per NRT requirements. Mr. Bergmann requested that the recommendations be furnished to RRT members.

AREA COMMITTEE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Mark Swanson, Executive Director of Prince William Sound Regional Citizen's Advisory Committee (PWSRCAC) spoke to the team about PWSRCAC's support for the Alaska Area Committee concept to provide a mechanism for increased local input and involvement in the planning process. He stated that the need to include and involve local communities and stakeholders has been identified in lessons learned and after action analyses from both the Cosco Busan, and Deep Water Horizon incidents. He offered three possible approaches to an area committee addressing Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet and Kodiak:

1. One area committee developing one plan
2. One area committee developing three plans
3. Three area committees developing three plans.

The co-chairs opened discussion on an Alaska area committee concept.

Mr. Stanton asked why there are currently no Area Committees in Alaska. Mr. Carr provided a review of the history of Alaska & Federal planning directives, which predated OPA 90 and the NCP, and established a system different from that outlined in the NCP. This resulted in the Alaska Unified Plan and 10 Subarea Contingency Plans instead of a single Regional Contingency Plan with subordinate Area Plans. An area committee did not fit well in this previously established process.

Mr. Stanton remarked that the NRT leadership is concerned that the net effect of the existing structure is that the burden of too much work is placed on the ARRT, much of which could and should be delegated to local Area Committees. This seems to result in significant delay in keeping SCP's updated, and formulating interagency policy regarding non-mechanical recovery tools and tactics. He further stated that he is concerned that the Unified Plan approach is difficult to implement and that the senior leadership will likely find the UP/SCP

concept to be too cumbersome to comprehend when responding to an incident. He contends that this could result in an abandonment of the plan, much like what occurred in the Gulf of Mexico during the DWH incident. He expressed senior leadership's concern that without an area committee, there appears to be no consensus, and no familiarity at the local level of how things work in planning or will work in a response. He further voiced his concern that 10-year old plans are not acceptable and the ARRT has failed to keep SCP's current.

Responses to these comments included assertions that there are already good relationships between the agencies, the State and locals, and that these relationships have served the response effort well in exercises and responses. Several members remarked that, considering the large size of the state, small population, and limited staff able to participate in planning, additional local involvement is not possible unless a great deal more resources are brought to bear on the issue. Other members pointed out the active engagement and involvement of FOSC's with industry and local municipalities.

Members noted that despite the fact that some SCP's have not been updated for so long, the decision-making process has not been inhibited or constrained during exercises or responses, including some significant responses in areas with the ten-year-old plans. Members also contended that there will always be incidents that overwhelm the agencies and that a plan will always be out of date in some regard.

Members also remarked that this issue of committees and plan age may be more of a paperwork issue, and not a real detriment to the response. The State requires ten subarea plans, not 10 area committees.

A recommendation was made that subarea committees meet annually to review each SCP.

Mr. Swanson commented that stakeholders, such as industry, are not involved in the ARRT meetings or planning process. Representatives from the USCG disputed this assertion, citing their involvement with industry preparedness and planning, and noting that a representative from an Alaska Oil Spill Response Organization was present at today's meeting. They also noted that there are limited additional options for soliciting and facilitating local or tribal involvement.

Mr. Field observed that the ARRT seems to have taken on too much, and can only accomplish one task at the expense of another, (e.g. focus on pre-authorization vs. SCP updates).

Several members and FOSCs noted that a new, expanded approach is not practicable, if it relies on the same staff as the existing system. The same individuals tasked with forming policy and updating plans now, would be tasked with completing these assignments under any other configuration. Efforts to involve local stakeholders have been inhibited by lack of resources and staff on the part of the agencies as well as the Tribes.

Mr. McNutt noted that tribal village communities are not indifferent, but have expressed that they are overwhelmed with consultations, and that they lack the requisite staff and training

to properly prioritize government to government communications, and give the consultation process the attention it deserves.

Mr. Field stated that he is directing Calvin Terada (USEPA, alternate co-chair) and the EPA FOSCs to look at ways to structure the October 2012 ARRT meeting to serve as an example of how an Area Planning Committee/RRT structure would work. Day one will be the Area Committee meeting, and day two will be a meeting of the ARRT.

Mr. Forgit requested that an interim meeting of the ARRT be scheduled to discuss this issue prior to the scheduled October meeting. Mr. Field advised the members that EPA and USCG and State have already met and are working on a proposed Area Committee concept. He feels that more meetings like this may be warranted in the interim between meetings of the full ARRT.

The discussion then moved to the subject of dispersant decision making. Mr. Field raised the question to the FOSCs as to whether they were satisfied with the current dispersant use process. He expressed concern that since the last exercise involving dispersant use, the role of the DOI and consultation with DOI was notionalized and therefore the current process has not been exercised by the ARRT responders. Commander Matt Jones, Chief of Operations, and Deputy FOSC for Sector Juneau, stated that the existing process is too time-consuming, and poses a detriment to the overall response. He stated that during a spill two years ago, four hours of the FOSC's time were expended consulting DOI. He suggested that this time would have been better spent directing the response effort. Mr. Stanton requested that he be provided with a description of the current process to present to the Executive Steering Committee of the NRT. Ms. Bergmann agreed to prepare a written description.

PRESENTATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE MANAGEMENT APPLICATION: Dr. Amy Merten (DOC-NOAA), Spatial Data Branch Chief, delivered a presentation on the new Arctic Emergency Response Management Application (ERMA). The Arctic ERMA website will be launched in June 2012, to coincide with the Royal Dutch Shell Oil drilling season. Additionally, NOAA has scheduled a workshop in Kotzebue, AK, on oil spill response & ERMA for May 21, 2012. The Arctic ERMA website will be made publicly available, but some content will be secure, necessitating a secure login ID to access.

ARCTIC NRDA/ ALASKA JOINT ASSESSMENT TEAM: Ms. Linda Shaw with the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration presented an overview of the Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) process, including a discussion of the three phases of the NRDA process: preassessment, restoration planning, and restoration implementation. She also reviewed near-term priorities for the Alaska Arctic NRDA. She recommended that the ARRT encourage exercise planners to insure that NRDA is incorporated in oil spill response drills.

Mr. Folley asked about the long duration of the NRDA process, noting that the NRDA stemming from the 2004 Selendang Ayu grounding incident is still ongoing. Ms. Shaw responded that this is a consequence of NRDA being a legal process and a negotiation. It extends long past the response phase, but, she noted, there is a short-term process related to the immediate ephemeral data.

CRUISE SHIP SPILL PREVENTION MEASURES IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA: John Binkley, President of the Alaska Cruise Association presented an overview of the cruise industry response to the recent Costa Concordia cruise ship grounding in Italy. Included in their response is a review of operational safety measures, resulting in new best practice recommendations. These include a new policy requiring that muster drills occur prior to departure from port. Mr. Binkley then introduced Captain Ed Page (USCG, RET), Executive Director for the Alaska Marine Exchange. CAPT Page provided an overview of the practices utilized in Alaska to stem the types of behavior that can cause or contribute to an incident like the Costa Concordia grounding. The industry has placed a great deal of emphasis on the prevention of petroleum spills. A major component of the monitoring and oversight of vessel traffic and behavior is the Automatic Identification System (AIS), which is comprised of 85 operational receiver sites in Alaska, which together, provide complete coverage of the areas of ferry and cruise ship traffic off the Alaskan coast. This allows for real-time monitoring of maritime traffic in Alaska's waters.

AGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR SHELL DRILLING OPERATIONS

EPA - Ms. Combes presented a brief review of EPA's roles in Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) planning and preparedness. These include various permitting and compliance responsibilities, review of documentation required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and activities related to emergency response and response planning.

DOI - Ms. Bergmann delivered a presentation explaining DOI's stake and involvement in OCS drilling preparedness. She explained that DOI has multiple trust resources and manages over half of all the land area in Alaska. Also under the purview of DOI is enforcement of the Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and DOI plays an oversight role in the State's enforcement of the National Historic Preservation Act. DOI also has a number of special responsibilities, which include oversight of native allotments, subsistence management on federal lands and waters, and land use permit/lease authority for much of the TAPS and all of OCS hydrocarbon production. DOI preparedness activities include ARRT membership and involvement on ARRT working groups and committees.

NOAA – Mr. Helton presented information regarding NOAA's role in preparedness and response, as it relates to planned exploratory drilling in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.

ADEC - Mr. Folley described the State of Alaska's preparedness activities for expected drilling and other events. The State is working to enhance the Northwest Arctic and North Slope SCPs. Additionally the State has funded new Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR) and Geographic Response Strategies (GRS), and has prepositioned emergency response equipment and Emergency Towing System packages. The State is also working to expand near-shore spill response planning.

USCG - CDR Everett explained that USCG has roles related to drilling activities, apart from spill response, such as providing a law enforcement presence in the event of protests at or near drilling vessels, and providing port security. He noted the increased activity and presence of the USCG in the Arctic region, including increased Arctic surveillance and intelligence activities, coastal village outreach, water safety training, vessel inspections, joint exercises with local responders, stationing of additional rotary-wing aircraft in Barrow, AK, reprioritization of SCP's,

joint reviews of offshore response plans with BSEE, and the completion of the Northwest Arctic Ecological Risk Assessment. CAPT Fosdick added that the USCG has held regular meetings with Royal Dutch Shell Oil in anticipation of upcoming drilling operations in the Arctic region.

AGENCY ROUNDTABLE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: Gary Sonnenberg (USDA-USFS), noted that many of DOI's concerns and interests are similar to those of USFS. As a resource trustee organization, USFS must adhere to laws and regulations that do not necessarily apply to the response agencies. He pointed out that Alaska is different and special, and that this fact ought to be recognized by the NRT.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION: Cindy Sacks (USDOT-FAA), noted that it may seem counter-intuitive to have USDOT represented by FAA, and not PHMSA. She explained that PHMSA has only two employees in Alaska, both of whom are too busy to devote adequate attention to ARRT membership. She also noted that this meeting was longer in duration than most ARRT meetings, and covered more material. She recommended that there be more group activities included in future meeting agendas, such as the Valdez Marine Terminal tour that members took prior to the last ARRT meeting.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY: Mr. Forgit thanked Mr. Stanton for bringing a fresh perspective to the members and for providing a broader view of forthcoming changes in the Alaskan region.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION: Mr. Folley added that he appreciated the 'straight talk' on the NRT perspective from Larry. Mr. Folley also remarked that he found this to be a productive meeting.

U.S. COAST GUARD: CDR Everett commented that the ARRT needs to take an honest and open approach to examining the way in which we conduct area planning. The ARRT may very well need to reassess its planning process, and seek ways to make improvements.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY: Mr. Field expressed his respect for the group and recognized the need to make improvements necessary to prevent senior agency leadership from taking over in the event of a major incident. Mr. Stanton added that the ARRT is, and must be an example to all other RRT's, as we face some of the greatest challenges, and defend some of the most vulnerable resources. He stressed that the current emphasis and focus on Alaska and the Arctic region is not temporary, but is expected to continue into the foreseeable future.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. John French (PWS RCAC) addressed the team, noting that local communities are very interested to participate in the planning process, particularly in the Arctic region. He noted that local communities are often inundated with requests for comments and have difficulty prioritizing the various offers of government-to-government consultation. He stated that, everywhere in the country, area committees are tied to USCG Captain of the Port Zones. Coherent planning across the subareas is needed. In regards to why the NRDA process is so lengthy, some of the

effects of an oil spill take many years to become apparent. He stated that a quick settlement may not be what is best for the community or the environment. He stated that no scientific consensus exists regarding the best methods of evaluating environmental damage.

Mr. Field asked what reservations Dr. French held regarding preauthorization of the use of dispersant chemicals, and whether those concerns apply only to their use in Alaska, or to their use anywhere in general. Dr. French replied that he has concerns about their use in general, but also special concerns, specific to their use in Alaska's waters.

Matt Melton (Pacific Environmental Corp), addressed the team, offering his thanks to The State of Alaska and USCG for their focus on maritime safety. He relayed that he'd first learned of the RRT at the Alaska Forum on the Environment conference in Anchorage, AK. He stated that as a member of the hydrocarbon production industry community, he felt welcome in this forum, and did not feel as though he and his industry colleagues had been excluded from the planning process.















ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McNutt announced that the next meeting would be held on October 16-17th, 2012 in Fairbanks, AK.

11/2/12

Name	Initials	Organization	Phone Number	E-mail
Bergmann, Pamela	PB	DoI - OEPC - Pri (Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance - Anchorage)		Pamela.Bergmann@ios.doi.gov
Bohl, Christy	CB	DoI - BOEMRE BSEE (Anchorage)	907 334-5309	Christy.bohl@bsee.gov
Bornemann, Scott (CAPT)	SB	DHS - CGD17 - FOSC (CG Sector Juneau)		Scott.W.Bornemann@uscg.mil
Carr, Matt	MC	EPA - OSC (Region 10 - AK Operations Office/Anchorage)		Carr.Matthew@epamail.epa.gov
Catalano, (Vinnie) Steve	CV	RCAC - Cook Inlet (Director of Operations - Kenai)		catalano@circac.org
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 ARRT meeting
 Juneau Federal Building, Juneau AK

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United States Department of the Interior

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May 23, 2012
Via Electronic Mail

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Mr. Chris Field
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Dear CDR Everett and Mr. Field:

This letter is in response to Mr. Nick Knowles' April 23, 2012, email in which he provided to Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) members for their review, the draft meeting summary for the February 22, 2012, ARRT work session and the February 23, 2012, ARRT meeting. My comments are limited to factual corrections for information provided to ARRT members during my presentation entitled "U.S. Department of the Interior Preparedness and Response Activities: North Slope Subarea."

February 23, 2012, Draft Summary: Page 9, Paragraph 3

The following paragraph should be substituted for existing paragraph on page 9:

DOI – Ms. Bergmann delivered a presentation on DOI preparedness and response activities for the North Slope Subarea. She explained that DOI has management responsibility for multiple trust resources in that area, including DOI-managed lands, migratory birds, selected marine mammals, and historic properties. A list was provided of the wildlife species in the subarea that have been identified under the Endangered Species Act by the DOI's Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered or threatened, or as a candidate species. She explained that DOI also has special responsibilities for Native allotments; subsistence resources on Federal lands and waters; oil, gas, and alternative energy leasing, exploration, development, and production activities on the Outer Continental Shelf and in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska; and that DOI is part of the Joint Pipeline Office for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. DOI preparedness activities include ARRT membership and involvement on ARRT working groups and committees and all 10 Subarea Committees. Ms. Bergmann also described DOI's multiple responsibilities during incident response.

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, EPA