

Alaska Regional Response Team
September 14, 2020 General Meeting (Virtual Meeting)
Meeting Summary

Meeting Documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agenda• Meeting Presentations• Meeting Attendees (attached) <p>Tabletop Exercise Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Player Handbook• Exercise Presentation
ARRT Documents, Plans and Guidance (New/Updated since last meeting)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wildlife Protection Committee maintains the Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska (WPG)• ARRT and Alaska Area Committees Guidelines for Coordination and Consultation with Federally Recognized Tribes;• ARRT Activation and Notification Procedures; and• DRAFT: Regional Contingency Plan 2020 Interim Draft

Introductions

Ms. Mary Goolie, EPA ARRT Coordinator conducted a roll call of the ARRT Members and the On-scene Coordinators. Non-member attendance was from the Adobe Connect sign-in list.

Review of Actions Since Last Meeting & Tri-Chairs Report

Ms. Denise Koch offered opening remarks. She noted that ADEC SPAR is working primarily telework. She also recommended that participants review the State COVID website for additional information.

Ms. Beth Sheldrake, EPA Tri-Chair, noted that Region 10 responders are standing up to support the response to the fires in Oregon. Additional fires are likely to trigger an EPA response.

Mr. Mark Everett, USCG Tri-Chair, presented an overview of the actions of the ARRT since the January 2020 meeting. Major events and milestones include the following:

- Continued adjustments to address COVID-19 – and ensuring the ARRT readiness to respond if necessary.
- An ARRT activation exercise on April 9, 2020 to test the ARRT’s ability to activate to support a response.
- Completion of several ARRT documents have been completed and posted to the ARRT website, including the following. These documents are available on the ARRT website.
 - ARRT Charter;

- Biennial Work Plan;
- Activation Procedures; and
- Update to the ARRT and Alaska Area Committees Guidelines for Coordination and Consultation with Federally Recognized Tribes.
- Completion and promulgation of [Wildlife Protection Committee maintains the Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska](#) (WPG) by the ARRT Wildlife Protection Committee

On the national level, the CANUSDIX Annex revision was completed and signed. Work has begun to complete the CANUSNORTH Annex. The Arctic Council EPPR is in final production of the second video, on the subject “Risks and Impacts. This video will be available at <https://vimeo.com/eppr> when complete. Ms. Sheldrake and Mr. Everett were invited to all USDA RRT representatives present on Incident-specific activations. The NRT/RRT co-chairs meeting annual was cancelled until next year. (See Slide 4)

ARRT Committee Reports

Reports were made available to the members and meeting participants in written summary and were attached to the Meeting Agenda and are also attached to this summary.

[Wildlife Protection Committee maintains the Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska](#) (WPG) have been promulgated. The WPG with all forms is available on the ARRT website. They will be posted, along with the individual forms on the ADEC References and Tools website later in September.

Area Committee Reports

Each of the four Area Committee provided updates on the activities of the Area Committees and recent major events in the areas. Significant work is being made on each of the four Area Contingency Plans. See presentation slides 27-52.

Area Committee	Next Meeting	Status of ACP	Major Upcoming Exercises/ Trainings
Prince William Sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wednesday September 16, 2020 (virtual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completed administrative update this spring; Submitted ACP submitted to USCG for 5-year review and working on incorporating changes and feedback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PWS Tanker exercise: March 22-26, 2021 (Valdez and Virtual) ● Valdez Marine Terminal Exercise: May 2021 (Valdez)
Southeast Alaska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January (date TBD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACP version 2020 ready for public review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hoonah exercise cancelled

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promulgate by end of 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juneau exercise planned, details TBD
Arctic and Western Alaska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct 2020 (details TBD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently working on Version 2020.0 Promulgate by end of 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GRS Validation exercise planned for Togiak, date TBD
Alaska Inland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Version 2020 is in final draft form, waiting to address comments received on the Southeast Alaska ACP. Promulgate by end of 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24-Hour Oil spill response course for locals and tribal responders postponed until Spring 2021 Alaska Oil Spill Technology and EPA "air monitoring during in situ burning demonstration postponed until April 2021

The Area Committees have several working groups focused on specific topics. A summary follows:

Working Group	Sponsoring Area Committee	Upcoming Meetings/ Timeline
Unmanned Aerial System	Arctic and Western Alaska	Protocol completed/ will be included in 2020.0 ACP
Intentional Wellhead Ignition	Arctic and Western Alaska	Early March, 2020
Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises	Arctic and Western Alaska	TBD
Lightering	Arctic and Western Alaska	TBD
Bulk Fuel Facilities	Arctic and Western Alaska	Ongoing work.
Hazardous Substance Response	Alaska Inland	Work ongoing
Logistics	Alaska Inland	Work ongoing
In Situ Burning	Alaska Inland	Work ongoing

The AWA Area Committee has requested ARRT to continue supporting the following working groups:

- Unmanned Aerial System Protocol -
- Intentional Wellhead Ignition Workgroup – kickoff delayed due
- Update to EPA/USCG FOCS MOU – incorporate lessons learned from MAD drill

Review and Discussion of new National Contingency Plan, Subpart J Dispersant Use policy

Mr. Matt Carr provided a summary on the status of proposed revisions to the National Contingency Plan, Subpart J dispersant use policy. Subpart J was last revised (major revision) in 1994, following the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. The 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill after action reports recommended revisions to Subpart J and EPA proposed revisions in 2015. In January 2020, EPA received notice of a lawsuit and a Subpart J work group was assembled. The details of the proposed revisions remain confidential due to the lawsuit; however, he anticipates they will be sharing the proposed new regulations with partner agency soon. (See slides 34-35)

Status of Regional Contingency Plan and Area Contingency Plans

Mr. Craig Ziolkowski, ADEC ARRT Coordinator, provided a summary of the status of the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and Area Contingency Plan revisions. He also provided an overview of the revisions structure of the revised RCP and its relations to other plans. Please see the Statewide Planning Committee report, attached to this summary on Page 7 for a proposed schedule of plan revision dates. (See slides 36-46).

Plan-related Websites
ARRT Home
ADEC Regional and Area Plan Background Information
Alaska Regional Contingency Plan
Arctic Western Alaska (AWA) Area
Alaska Inland (AKI) Area
Prince William Sound (PWS) Area
Southeast Alaska (SEAK) Area
ADEC Area Plan References and Tools
ADEC Response Planning Public Review

Ground Rules for Tomorrow's Tabletop Exercise

Ms. Goolie introduced the tabletop exercise scheduled for tomorrow (September 15, 2020). She reviewed the exercise goals, objectives, limitations and general ground rules. ARRT members were encouraged to review the exercise "Player Handbook" which was emailed to members following this meeting. (See slides 48-55)

Introduction to Updated RCP "Agency Roles and Responsibilities"

Mr. Randolph provided an overview of the revised Agency Roles and Responsibilities in the draft RCP (Part 9). He encouraged ARRT members to review the description for their agency for accuracy and completion. One of the objectives of the upcoming tabletop exercise is to validate this part of the RCP. (See slides 56-57)

Public Comment

No public comments were made during this meeting.

Parking Lot Issues:

No parking lot issues were identified

Closing Remarks:

Ms. Koch congratulated Mr. Ziolkowski for receiving the Governor's Peak Performance Award for Customer Service.

Participant Summary:

Member Agencies in Attendance		
Member Agency	Present	Not Present
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	●	
Department of Agriculture		●
Department of Commerce	●	
Department of Defense	●	
Department of Energy	●	
Department of Health and Human Services	●	
Department of the Interior	●	
Department of Justice		●
Department of Labor		●
Department of State		●
Department of Transportation		●
Environmental Protection Agency	●	
Federal Emergency Management Agency		●
General Services Agency		●
U.S. Coast Guard	●	
Non-member Organizations in Attendance		
Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.		
CISPRI		
Hilcorp Alaska		
International Bird Rescue		
Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council		
SeaAlaska		
Alaska Department of Fish and Game		
Alaska Department of Labor		
U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau Land Management		
U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs		
U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement		
U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service		

ARRT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cultural Resources Committee

- Alaska State Historic Preservation Office and DOI (committee co-chairs) are working to fill the last few remaining vacancies on the CRC
- CRC chairs plan to convene a virtual meeting in fall 2020, with quarterly meetings to follow in 2021
- Potential tasks will include updating the committee charter and identifying ways to improve the Alaska Implementation Guidelines

Wildlife Protection Committee

- ARRT co-chairs and the State of Alaska Representative to the ARRT approved a major revision to the *Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska* (WPG) on August 31, 2020 (last updated in 2012)
- Comprehensive, non-regulatory guidance document designed to help oil spill responders and contingency planners minimize the effects of oil spills on fish, wildlife, and their habitats
- Stand-alone document incorporated by reference into Alaska's four ACPs
- Will be posted on ADEC's ACP References and Tools website:
<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/tools/>
- Result of over two years of intensive efforts by the WPC, comprised of representatives from federal and state agencies, Alaska Native organizations, industry, spill response organizations, regional citizens' advisory councils, wildlife response experts, and non-governmental organizations
- Major changes include:
 - Reorganized format to match ACPs
 - New responder-focused forms, tables, and decision-making flowcharts
 - Clarification of procedures for permitting and required consultations
 - Updated reference information based on the latest science
- Improved through:
 - Field tests of draft forms and procedures during several oil spill drills and incidents
 - Extensive formal and informal public input

Science and Technology Committee

No meeting since January 2020. No report.

Statewide Planning Committee

The Statewide Planning Committee met on 4/28/2020, 7/7/2020 and 7/15/2020. Primary discussion topics included the ARRT and Alaska Area Committees Guidelines for Coordination and Consultation with Federally Recognized Tribes and the schedule and approach for Area Contingency Plan review and revisions.

Plan	Status
Plan Review/Revisions in Process:	
Alaska Regional Contingency Plan	Interim Draft complete (included in meeting materials on Alaskarrt.org under ARRT Meetings). Finalize draft following this meeting. Public Review period planned October 2020. Promulgate November 2020.
Alaska Inland Area Contingency Plan	Public review period complete and comments resolved. Working/waiting to incorporate content from Wildlife Protection Guidelines, RCP, and relevant Southeast Alaska ACP edits.
Arctic and Western Area Contingency Plan	Incorporating into next version: USCG review recommendations, relevant Alaska Inland and Southeast Alaska ACP edits, and information from Wildlife Protection Guidelines and RCP.
Southeast Alaska Area Contingency Plan	Finalizing draft September 2020. Public Review period planned October 2020. Promulgate October 2020.
Upcoming Plan Review/Revisions:	
Prince William Sound Area Contingency Plan	Begin review and revision in Winter 2021.

Meeting Attendees: ARRT Meeting September 14, 2020

Last	First	Type	Agency	ARRT Member/ Alternate Member
Verbrugge	Lori	Federal Agency	DHHS/ ATSDR	Yes
Berg	Catherine	Federal Agency	DOC/ NOAA	Yes
Helton	Doug	Federal Agency	DOC/ NOAA	Yes
Parker	Heather	Federal Agency	DOD/ USN	Yes
Hildebrand	Doug	Federal Agency	DOE/ RAP	Yes
Cochon	Grace	Federal Agency	DOI	Yes
Johnson	Phil	Federal Agency	DOI	
Yazzie	Harrilene	Federal Agency	DOI/ BIA	
Bjorgo	Greg	Federal Agency	DOI/ BLM	
Pearson	Steve	Federal Agency	DOI/ BSEE	
Crokus	Bridget	Federal Agency	DOI/ USFWS	
Matz	Angela	Federal Agency	DOI/ USFWS	
Varela	Veronica	Federal Agency	DOI/ USFWS	
Carr	Matt	Federal Agency	EPA	
Rees	David	Federal Agency	EPA	Yes
Sheldrake	Beth	Federal Agency	EPA	Yes
Whittier	Bob	Federal Agency	EPA	
Goolie	Mary	Federal Agency	EPA	
Muller	Lori	Federal Agency	EPA	
Sanden	Liza	Federal Agency	EPA START	
Everett	Mark	Federal Agency	USCG D17	Yes
Randolph	Marc	Federal Agency	USCG D17	
Drayer	CDR Pat	Federal Agency	USCG MSU Valdez	
Gomez	LT Alex	Federal Agency	USCG MSU Valdez	
Altendorf	LCDR Jereme	Federal Agency	USCG Sector Anchorage	

Hobbie	CMDR Matt	Federal Agency	USCG Sector Anchorage	
Lusk	CAPT Leann	Federal Agency	USCG Sector Anchorage	
Richards	LCDR Matt	Federal Agency	USCG Sector Anchorage	
Smith	CMDR	Federal Agency	USCG Sector Anchorage	
Balke	LT Maren	Federal Agency	USCG Sector Juneau	
Hamblett	Kathy	Federal Agency	USCG Sector Juneau	
Incident Management Division		Federal Agency	USCG Sector Juneau	
White	CAPT Steve	Federal Agency	USCG Sector Juneau	
Gamble	Jade	State Agency	ADEC	
Koch	Denise	State Agency	ADEC	Yes
Maher	Kimberly	State Agency	ADEC	
Moore	Sarah	State Agency	ADEC	
Pikul	Dave	State Agency	ADEC	
Silfven	Laurie	State Agency	ADEC	
Spiegel	Becky	State Agency	ADEC	
Wood	Graham	State Agency	ADEC	Yes
Ziolkowski	Craig	State Agency	ADEC	
Smith	Crystal	State Agency	ADEC Central Region	
Kiesel	Curtis	State Agency	ADEC Southeast	
Alas	Jeanette	State Agency	ADFG	
Childers	Krista	State Agency	ADOL	
Day	Mike	Industry & NGO	Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.	
Paxton	Todd	Industry & NGO	CISPRI	
Dunham	Diane	Industry & NGO	Hilcorp Alaska	
Bellizzi	Michelle	Industry & NGO	International Bird Rescue	
Fletcher	Sierra	Industry & NGO	NUKA	
Swiss	Linda	Industry & NGO	PWSRCAC	
Lally	Joe	Industry & NGO	PWSRCAC	
Haldane	Mitchell	Industry & NGO	SeaAlaska	