

Alaska Regional Response Team
 September 22, 2022, Business Meeting (Anchorage & Virtual Meeting)
Meeting Summary

Meeting Documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda • Meeting Presentations • Meeting Attendees (attached)
ARRT Documents, Plans and Guidance (New/Updated since last meeting)
<i>None currently</i>

Introductions, Tri-Chairs Report and Review of Actions Since Last Meeting

Ms. Mary Goolie, EPA ARRT Coordinator conducted a roll call of the ARRT Members and the On-scene Coordinators. Ms. Tiffany Larson, ADEC Tri-Chair, Ms. Beth Sheldrake, EPA Tri-Chair, and CAPT Phil Prather, USCG Alternate Tri-Chair offered opening remarks.

Ms. Beth Sheldrake, EPA Tri-Chair, presented an overview of the actions of the ARRT since the February 2022 meeting, (See Slide 8). Major events and milestones include the following:

- RSC Job Aid Task Force kicked-off
- Updated ARRT member and agency contact list
- National Response Team/ Regional Response Teams Co-Chairs Meeting week of February 12, 2023

ARRT Committee Reports

Dr. Lisa Fox, U.S. Department of the Interior, reported on the recent activities of the Wildlife Protection Committee and Cultural Resources Committee, and Ms. Victoria Colles, ADEC, reported on the Statewide Planning Committee. In lieu of a report on Science and Technology Committee, Mr. Scott Pegau, Oil Spill Response Institute, presented on recent Oil Spill Recovery Institute’s research activities. The table below provides a summary of the major activities of these committees and associated presentation slide numbers.

ARRT Committee	Major Activities	Presentation
Science and Technology Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report from committee, Oil Spill Recovery Institute provided an overview of their recent research projects, summarized in the presentation. 	Slides 11-19
Cultural Resources Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARRT CRC Charter – completed and submitted to ARRT Tri-Chairs for approval • Next meeting – November 2022 • Future work planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and revise the <i>Alaska Implementation Guidelines</i> 	Slide 21

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with Culturally Important Places Work Group and potentially develop new response tools 	
Wildlife Protection Committee	<p>Working on a carcass collection and documentation training video</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and administrative update of the Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska (WPG) <p>Pribilof Islands Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revising the Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines (PI WPG) Revised PI WPG will supplement the WPG Expect to finalize by 2023 	Slides 22-23
Statewide Planning Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly SPC Meetings Upcoming ACP Reviews: AWA ACP FAQs & Outreach: Plan Review Process and quarterly newsletter Recommending & coordinating Website Updates on ADEC and ARRT 	Slides 26-32

Area Committee Reports

Each of the four Area Committees provided updates on their activities ~~of the Area Committees~~ and recent major events in the areas. The ~~a~~Area ~~e~~ommittees are working on annual reviews and modifications as necessary to each of the four Area Contingency Plans, as well as other projects, exercises, and trainings to support response readiness in their areas. The tables below are a summary of the requests for support from the Area Committees to the ARRT and of the upcoming activities and work in the Area Committees (Slides 35-64).

Area Committee Requests for Support	
Alaska Inland	Support/ideas/resources for <u>oil spill prevention</u> Village Compliance Assessment
Alaska Inland	Continue conversation on logistic support from ARRT member agencies – follow-up on ARRT Tabletop Exercise conducted on 9/21/2022
Arctic and Western Alaska	Development of statewide risk assessment methodology
Arctic and Western Alaska	GIS support and improved technology for planning (trajectory and GRS validation software)
Southeast Alaska	Support for exploration of GRS documents to GIS format and improve technology to conduct validations with modeling software

Area Committee	Next Meeting	Status of ACP	Major Upcoming Exercises/ Trainings, and Projects
Alaska Inland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD, Winter 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> V2020.1, signed in March 2021 On-going work to ISB OSC Decision-making Checklist Initiating admin subcommittee for 2023 review and modifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 4-6 Hilcorp Alaska exercises Proposing Capacity Building Outreach and Training- Coordinated by EPA, ADEC, ANTHC (Spring 2023)
Arctic and Western Alaska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 1, 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> V2020.1 Signed December 2021 V2020.2: Out for Public Review; Expected by end of year. Revisions include detailed ESA consultation language, and new content on intentional wellhead ignition and unmanned aerial systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going work on salvage & marine firefighting and GRS validation
Prince William Sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 13, 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working to complete 2020.2 modifications following public comment Summer 2022. Future Considerations: updates to UAS protocol and continue to streamline formatting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PWS VMT Exercise: Oct 12th (Valdez) CG/VPD/SERVS Natural Disaster Exercise: Nov 30th (Various) PWS Tanker Exercise May 16-18 (Valdez/Anchorage)
Southeast Alaska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> V2020.1, signed in March 2021 Admin Subcommittee – Workgroup approved UAS protocols (AWA ACP) for next SEAK ACP update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PREP Full Scale Exercise April 2023, Ketchikan

The afternoon session consisted of three special topics presentations. A thorough summary of the presentations is not included in this meeting summary due the complexity and detail, interested parties should review the presentation slides.

[Report on the Bering Sea/ Typhoon Merbok response](#)

CAPT Leanne Lusk, USCG FOSC Sector Anchorage, gave a report on response to the Typhoon Merbok in Western Alaska. At present, the largest discharge reported/discovered is 1,000 gallons of gasoline, used oil and various hazardous substances in small containers scattered along one mile of river near Chevak, Alaska. Several overflights have been conducted in the region. The Pacific Strike Team and University of Alaska Fairbanks is using unmanned aerial systems (UAS) to further identify damaged or

missing tanks. USCG is coordinating closely with the State Emergency Operations Center and with pollution response partners at EPA and ADEC. (No presentation available)

Report on Summer 2022 Joint USCG EPA Inspections in Western Alaska

Ms. Torri Huelskoetter, EPA FOSC, gave a report on this summer's joint agency facility inspections. These inspections are presented as an opportunity to connect with the facility operations and community leaders and residents to develop strong relations and to cooperatively assess and improve fuel facilities in Arctic and Western Alaska. Many of these facilities are out of compliance in terms of operations, maintenance, and spill preparedness – but the solutions to fix these are complicated by the remote location and limited resources – both personnel and materials (Slides 68-83).

In a following discussion, Dr. Kimberley Maher, ADEC SOSC, added that EPA, ADEC, Alaska Energy Association (AEA), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the school district in Beaver, AK (Yukon Flats region) are working collaborative to address concerns regarding the old school tank farm. AEA wants to decommission the school tanks, but the school district would be required to also provide funds. AEA reached out to EPA and ADEC to collaborate with the school district to help them understand that preventative actions are cheaper than responding to a spill. The school district has identified grant funds to allow this project to move forward. USFWS is also working to procure funding to clean up the contaminated soil at the decommissioned tanks, which is located on Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge land.

Update on the Clean Water Act, proposed Hazardous Substance Rule

Ms. Sheldrake presented on the proposed new regulations under for the Clean Water Act, Hazardous Substances (CWA HS) for worst-case discharge planning under 311(j)(5). Public comment on the proposed regulations closed this summer, with final action expected no later than September 2024. Analysis of EPA, State, and other federal programs shows that no existing program covers the entirety of required CWA 311(j)(5) program elements for every CWA HS. There are overlaps with [Clean Water Act](#) federal ~~facility~~ oil facility response plan and [Clean Air Act](#) risk management plans, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste regulations, ~~;~~ Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and state programs and regulations. The new regulations will extend requirements for a response plan to facilities that meet or exceed a capacity threshold quantity of 10,000 times the reporting quantity of CWA HS if the site is located within 0.5 miles of a navigable water or conveyance and is a threat to the fish, wildlife and the environment, public health or public water systems, or at the discretion of the regional administrator. Slides 85-98 provide a detailed background and summary of the proposed regulations. Ms. Sheldrake also provided an overview of the requirements of a facility response plan (Slides 84-105).

Status Report on the National Contingency Plan, Subpart J Update

Ms. Sheldrake reported that the final rule on “Authorization of Use” and “Testing and Listing” is expected in May 2023, with an effective date of August 2023 (dates subject to change). The proposed revisions are meant to inform the use of dispersants and other chemical or biological agents and ensure OSCs, RRTs and Area Committees have relevant information to support response decision-making. The revisions have a three-pronged approach for decision-making: 1) Testing and Listing, 2) Authorization, and 3) Atypical Dispersant Monitoring (Slides 106-108).

EPA Office of Research and Development: Unmanned Aerial Systems & In Situ Burning Plume Modelling Project

Dr. Maher, SOSOC, and Ms. Liza Sanden presented on a research project at the Poker Flats Research Range to improve the forecasting and modeling of in situ burning smoke plumes. This project included four days of ISB of small quantities of crude oil to obtain aerial samples and air monitoring via the use of UAS, visual and infra-red monitoring of the plume, and ground-based air monitoring stations. EPA Office of Research and Development led this research project with support from several federal agencies and the University of Alaska. EPA Region 10 and the Pacific Strike Team established multiple ground-based monitoring stations, connected via telemetry to obtain real-time remote data sharing. The USCG and EPA were able to successfully assess the interoperability of our instruments and telemetry technology (Slides 109-113).

Marine Spill Response Corporation: Capabilities for the Aerial Application of Dispersants

Mr. Tracy Sedlack presented on the capabilities of Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC) to apply dispersants in Alaska. MSRC has Tier 1-3 Dispersant Classification for Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet and Southeast Alaska with a dedicated aircraft. While MSRC will be able to cover much of Western Alaska with the new aircraft, they are not applying for OSRO Classification. Mr. Sedlack's presentation included an overview of MSRC's dispersant program assets, and activation of the program for application of dispersants and response operations (Slides 115-133).

Meeting Close-out

There were no public comments made at this meeting.

Closing Remarks:

The tri-chairs offered closing remarks and thanked all presenters and attendees for their participation.

Upcoming Dates

- ARRT Meeting: *The dates of the Winter 2023 meeting are subject to change and will be posted on the ARRT website.*

Participant Summary:

Seventy-five individuals attended the meeting, representing twelve member agencies and additional other tribal governments, federal, and state agencies, industry, and other non-governmental organizations

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	●	
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission		●
Non-member Organizations in Attendance		
Federal Agencies		
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement		
U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service		
U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipelines and Hazardous Material Safety Administration		
Federally Recognized Tribes & Consortia		
Bristol Bay Native Association		
Industry		
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.		
Hilcorp Alaska		
Response and Environmental Services		
Alaska Clean Seas		
Marine Spill Response Corporation		

Nuka Research and Planning, Ltd.
Pearson Consulting
Non-Governmental Organizations
International Bird Rescue
Ocean Conservancy
Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI)

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