



## Alaska Interior Subarea Committee Meeting

**Agenda**  
**Fairbanks, Alaska**  
**October 16, 2012**

**Please note: As part of a federal initiative to enhance Area Planning in Alaska, as guided by the National Response Team, day one of this meeting will be conducted as an Interior Subarea Committee meeting. As such, the meeting is chaired by Federal and State Emergency Response Chiefs and On-Scene Coordinators. This meeting is open to all emergency preparedness and response stakeholders.**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Coordinator/Speaker</b>
<b>7:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Arrival and Sign In</b>	<b>EPA &amp; USCG Coordinator</b>
8:00 a.m.	Welcome/Safety Brief	Nick Knowles, EPA
8:15 a.m.	Welcome and Facility Information	Lindsey Lien, BLM
8:30 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions. Explanation of New Meeting Format	Calvin Terada, Gary Folley, Matt Carr, Bob Whittier, Tom DeRuyter
9:30 a.m.	Break	
9:45 a.m.	Inland Subarea Plan Updates Discussion	Matt Carr, EPA, FOSC
10:00 a.m.	Response Topics, Training Initiatives	Bob Whittier, EPA, FOSC
10:15 a.m.	Interior Planning and Response	Tom DeRuyter, ADEC, SOSC
10:30 a.m.	Guest Speaker, Local Emergency Planning Commission	TBD
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Lunch (not provided)</b>	
12:30 p.m.	Facilitated Discussion of Subarea Contingency Plans and the Planning Process	Calvin Terada
1:30 p.m.	Guest Speaker, Alyeska Pipeline Services	Earl Rose
2:00 p.m.	Guest Speaker, Alaska Clean Seas	Bark Lloyd, Ron Hocking
2:30 p.m.	Break	
2:45 p.m.	Guest Speaker, Alaska Railroad	Matt Kelzenberg
3:15 p.m.	Public Comment	Public Stakeholders
3:45 p.m.	Closing Remarks / Hotwash of new format	Calvin Terada
<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	

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

10/16/2012

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**Alaska Regional Response Team  
Alaska Interior Subarea Committee Meeting  
October 16, 2012  
Fairbanks, AK**

**Meeting Summary**

**Attendees: See attached sign-in sheet**

**Introduction of Attendees and Discussion of Meeting Format (Mr. Calvin Terada, EPA)**

Mr. Terada welcomed the meeting attendees and introduced the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) co-chairs, Mr. Chris Field (EPA) and Mr. Mark Everett (USCG). He reviewed the meeting format: it is an informal, conversation-based meeting with some presentations. Mr. Terada then requested that attendees introduce themselves.

Meeting attendees, participating by phone were: LT Kion Evans (USCG, Sector Anchorage); Mr. Mark Kahklen (USDOJ, BIA); Mr. Larry Dietrick (ADEC), and Mr. Doug Mutter (USDOJ).

**Unified Plan and Interior Subarea Contingency Plan (Mr. Matt Carr, EPA)**

Mr. Carr provided an overview of the Unified Plan and the Subarea Contingency Plans (SCP). This included the federal and state requirements, the organization of planning areas, and format of the Unified Plan. He also reviewed the format and structure of the Subarea plans.

In response to a question, it was clarified that the current Interior SCP does not include Geographic Response Strategies. Geographically specific response plans are included in industry contingency plans, such as the Alaska Railroad and Alyeska Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

**EPA Response Topics and Training Initiatives (Mr. Bob Whittier, EPA)**

Mr. Whittier reviewed the EPA spill prevention and response readiness activities. The current emphasis is on arctic and/or cold weather response. Recent efforts include establishment of a basic ordering agreement for emergency air transportation charters; capacity building and outreach to rural and tribal communities; Facility Response Plan (FRP) reviews; Spill Prevention, Containment and Countermeasure (SPCC) and FRP inspections; and the development of a cold weather response and operations training module. Initiatives for Interior Subarea include the development of GRSs, Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) training, and to identification of gaps within Federal/State and industry plans.

**Comments, Concerns and Recommendations:**

- Recommendation: In light of the difficulty and distance involved with mobilizing response resources to remote areas, the EPA should work with local governments (cities and boroughs), tribes, and village corporations to develop strategies for response and

cooperative agreements to assist with response. (Gordon Brower, North Slope Borough [NSB])

- Concern: Currently, the Unified Plan and SCPs do not address ‘downstream’ planning for oil spills which will have impacts outside of the originating subarea. (John French, Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Committee [PWSRCAC])
- Concern & Recommendation: There is too much reliance on equipment and personnel to be mobilized and transported from outside the region and/or state. Of particular concern is the mobilization time, which may exceed the time required for an effective response. A recommendation was made that the EPA and USCG work with cities, villages and tribes to pre-stage equipment. (John French, PWSRCAC)
- Comment: There is a difficulty posed by the discrepancy between the agency approving Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan (C-Plans) not being the same agency tasked with leading the response at the same facility. (Matt Carr, EPA)
- Recommendation: The EPA, USCG and ADEC should establish MOU/MOAs with village facilities for the use of facility response equipment to be utilized elsewhere in the region in the event of a release. (Gordon Brower, NSB)
- Comment: Budget constraints have driven the nationwide consolidation of equipment. However, in Alaska it may be necessary to distribute equipment throughout the state, rather than having it consolidated in Seattle, WA. (Mark Mjones, EPA/National Response Team [NRT]). Response to this comment are as follows:
  - The EPA has equipment for crude and refined petroleum product, staged at a warehouse in Anchorage near the airport. Additional equipment is located in Seattle. A challenge for EPA is that the agency does not have a large cache of oil spill response equipment, such as boom, skimmers, and vessels. In the event of a release, the EPA will rely heavily on industry equipment, especially the OSRO’s equipment. (Calvin Terada, EPA)
  - Alaska Clean Seas (ACS) has spill response equipment on North Slope, some of which, is pre-staged along rivers in summer. They also have trained village response teams. Industry has a legal responsibility to maintain available equipment. (Bark Lloyd, ACS)
  - There are local and regional assets that can and should be tapped into for equipment, such as those maintained by the North Slope Borough or facilities storing fuel. (Gordon Brower, NSB)
  - ADEC has multiple community spill response agreements and has pre-staged equipment in many communities. These agreements and spill response caches are listed in the subarea plans. (Gary Folley, ADEC)
- Comment: Inland response differs from coastal/nearshore response. These rivers are often fast moving, and may also be shallow. Mobilization of equipment to remote locations and deployment along these rivers requires specialized equipment and responder planning. There will need to be a change in strategy, training, and response with increased trucking, railroad shipping, and expanding mining operations. The TAPS has over 800 river and stream crossings. (Earl Rose, Alyeska)
- Concern: Barges traveling up inland rivers and many FRP facilities do not have necessary or adequate response equipment or personnel. Many tank farms are at risk of

damage resulting in releases from flooding, particularly ice jam flooding. Additionally, there are multiple fuel storage tanks that are not subject to any regulation and at risk for flood or ice damage resulting in oil spills. These include heating oil tanks for residences and commercial buildings. (Bob Whittier, EPA; Bud Rice, National Park Service [NPS]; and Earl Rose, Alyeska)

- Comment: EPA Headquarters needs to be better educated on the importance and necessity of federal-industry partnerships, and the reliance upon shared resources in remote locations. In the event of a release, EPA will have to partner and rely upon industry for response support and logistics; the same industries they also must regulate. There are no other reasonable options available. Mr. Mjones stated he would take this task on when he returns to Washington, D.C. (Mark Mjones and Matt Carr, EPA)
- Concern: The State of Alaska is an ardent supporter of Unified Command and the Incident Command System (ICS). The State is concerned with federal officials from agency headquarters in Washington, D.C. inserting themselves into a response and bypassing ICS. (Gary Folley, ADEC)
- Comment: Responders and decision makers need to remember that even when working in remote locations of Alaska, people reside in these areas. These residents do not view the areas as 'wilderness.' Further, many residents of rural communities have expressed a desire to be trained for local responses. (Bud Rice, NPS)
  - The EPA has been providing some training, however the current budget allows for only one training course per year. More courses are necessary to meet the needs of Alaska. (Robert Whittier, EPA)
- Comment: It is very important to utilize local knowledge. Locals know about the ice, river movements, currents, etc. (Gordon Brower, NSB)

### **State Interior Planning & Response, Mr. Tom DeRuyter:**

Mr. DeRuyter presented recent significant spill responses in the Inland zone of the North Slope and Interior Alaska. These included the Q2/Respol drilling mud release (February 2012, near Nuiqsuit, AK), Aurora Energy turbine oil release to Chena River (September 2006, Fairbanks, AK), a crane collapse and resulting oil spill to the Chena River (June 2010, Fairbanks, AK), and Cushman Street Drum Dumping (April 2008, Fairbanks, AK).

He summarized lessons learned and gaps identified from these responses. These lessons and gaps included:

- The lack of commercial or charter vessels available in Fairbanks (or elsewhere in Interior Alaska).
- Limited equipment for a response to oil in rivers.
- Additional training required.
- Many potential responsible parties (PRPs) are not 'plan holders' (Federal FRP requirements, State C-Plan) and do not have appropriate spill response resources.

**Oil Spill Response on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System [TAPS]  
(Earl Rose, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company [APSC])**

Mr. Rose presented the Trans-Alaska Pipeline oil spill prevention and response program. The presentation included prevention and preparedness measures and activities, and as response operations and tactics. APSC holds a substantial number of drills and training events annually. Response to a spill in fast-moving water is of particular concern, and a focus of drills and training.

Comments, Concerns and Recommendations:

- Concern: A response to an oil spill along the TAPS and in other inland locations will require the use of rotary wing aircraft. It was noted that Alyeska has five (5) helicopters and would be able to procure additional helicopters from its contractor. However, this would likely not be adequate to meet the needs of mobilizing equipment and personnel, and to provide reconnaissance and overflights for situational awareness. It was noted that the federal government makes it difficult to utilize federal assets, particularly DOD or USCG aircraft; and these aircraft are generally committed to other high-priority tasks and are very expensive compared to contractor helicopters. (Calvin Terada, EPA and Mark Everett, USCG)
  - The United States Department of Interior (USDO I) has 50 aircraft available in the state (owned by USDO I) and has the ability to procure additional aircraft. Jan Bennet is the contact for USDO I air operations.
- Recommendation: A request was made that Alyeska provide USDO I with an electronic copy or hyperlink to the TAPS C-Plan Environmental Atlas so it may be used and possibly incorporated in the SCP Sensitive Areas sections. (Doug Mutter, USDO I)
- Comment: Alyeska will conduct fast-water response training in 2013.

**North Slope Oil Spill Response by Alaska Clean Seas (Bark Lloyd, ACS)**

Mr. Lloyd presented Alaska Clean Seas (ACS) oil spill response programs. The presentation addressed preparedness measures and activities, a significant equipment cache, and the ACS Technical Manual. He also discussed other preparedness measures to be utilized in the event of a response, such as pre-deployed boom in rivers during summer months and pre-staged equipment. To augment response capabilities, ACS trains village response teams in addition to regular and contracted response staff. He reviewed ACS's training and exercises, and research and development efforts.

Comments, Concerns and Recommendations:

- Recommendation: The Northwest Arctic Ecological Risk Assessment process resulted in recommendations for additional village response team training. However, this recommendation was not relayed to ACS or other OSRO's that may be able to facilitate such training. A recommendation was made to determine a policy and process so as to "complete the loop" on recommendations resulting from planning processes like the Risk Assessment. (Mark Everett, USCG)

- **Concern:** Although ACS and Alyeska have a high level of training, this does not appear to be replicated by other OSROs. An item of particular concern is the training that does not attain a given level of competency but instead awards credit for attendance. The SERVs training for Vessels of Opportunities (in PWS), was given as an example of this quality of training. Mr. French requested that Mr. Rose (Alyeska) and Mr. Lloyd (ACS) communicate with their colleagues at SERVs regarding a higher level training requirements. (John French, PWSRCAC)
- **Recommendation:** The Alaska Sea Life Center has requested that OSROs and agencies coordinate with them on regarding how the center can be more involved with wildlife protection during spill response (John French, PWSRCAC).
- **Recommendation:** Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB), is currently considering options for the disposal of oily waste within the borough. Now would be an good time for ADEC and ACS to engage FNSB regarding options that may be of assistance and value for waste disposal in the event of a spill in the region.

### **Hazardous Materials Release Response by Alaska Railroad (Matt Kelzenberg, Alaska Railroad [AKRR])**

Mr. Kelzenberg presented the status of hazardous materials (HAZMAT) transport on the AKRR and response preparedness. Of particular note was the amount of HAZMAT shipped on the railroad (22% of all freight). Over 90% of this HAZMAT is jet fuel from Flint Hills refinery in North Pole to Anchorage. The railroad is also beginning to see an increase in the transport of sodium cyanide from Anchorage to the interior for mining purposes. The railroad is unique, in that it holds a Spill Contingency Plan (C- Plan) unlike other railroads, as well as a Passenger Emergency plan. The railroad conducts one C-Plan drill and one Passenger Emergency drill each year.

Recommendation: A request was made that Alaska Railroad provide USDOJ with an electronic copy or hyperlink of its environmentally sensitive areas maps so that these may be used and possibly incorporated in the SCP Sensitive Areas sections. (Doug Mutter, USDOJ)

### **Facilitated Discussion on Planning Process (Calvin Terada, EPA)**

Mr. Terada initiated a discussion on the planning process. Much of the discussion focused on improving involvement of communities and tribes for response training and planning. Recommended strategies for improved local outreach included:

1. Target the right people
2. Be Specific
3. Utilize existing gatherings (BIA Providers Conference, Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE), Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) training meetings, and Village Wildland Fire Crew training)
4. Ask tribal representatives what works for them.
5. Outreach through hub communities and video conferencing.

Following up on the lessons learned and gaps identified in earlier presentations, Earl Rose (Alyeska) recommended the following workgroups be formed to address these gaps.

1. Equipment
2. Training needed
3. Sensitive areas & mapping
4. Tactics (mechanical & non-mechanical)
5. Response strategies

A summary of the comments made during this discussion are captured in the table below.

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<b>Local Outreach</b>	
Additional training for local responders is needed	Larry Iwamoto, ADEC
Funding needs to be determined and provided to facilitate local and tribal involvement in planning and training.	Bark Lloyd, ACS
Next year's capacity building training for local responders is planned for the Prince William Sound area. EPA can (or should or will) look at scheduling options so that the training can coincide with the Prince William Sound area planning meeting.	Bob Whittier, EPA
Agencies should look to opportunities to provide training concurrent or coincident to other gatherings that already have large number of participants for rural areas such as the BIA Providers Conference, Alaska Federation of Natives and Alaska Forum on the Environment.	Pamela Bergman, DOI and Marcia Combes, EPA
The ARRT should network with some umbrella tribal groups and 'targeted' tribes.	Pamela Bergman, DOI
The Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) may be useful in reaching out to tribes for planning and training purposes.	Marcia Combes, EPA
The ARRT should coordinate through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Alaska Fire Service to network with village wildland fire teams for potential training opportunities.	Bark Lloyd, ACS
Considering that the RRT or subarea work groups are already sending out letters or emails to tribes describing the plans and requesting information and involvement without much success; a bigger incentive may be necessary.	Mark Mjones, EPA/NRT
Requests for information and involvement via mailings are generally unsuccessful; however, face-to-face meetings are productive. Generally once personally engaged, villages tend to be happy to share information.	Bud Rice, NPS
For successful village involvement, key people need to be identified in a village to gather meaningful information and gain community involvement. Face-to-face communications are important to establish and maintain a relationship. Direct contacts (via phone) to mayor, tribal president, village corporation president are recommended starting points.	Gordon Brower, NSB
The ARRT needs to follow through with invited persons, like the local fire chiefs, to determine why they did not participate.	Tom DeRuyter, ADEC

The ARRT needs to communicate and convince to potential local volunteers and participants why their involvement is important and worth their time.	John French, PWSRCAC
The ARRT needs to recognize the difference in agency priorities versus local priorities.	John French, PWSRCAC
We have a "Champaign mandate and beer budget." Successful local outreach and training requires more budget than the current or anticipated future budgets.	Matt Carr, EPA
<b>Plans and Planning Process</b>	
The PWS Area Committee model is a good model.	Larry Iwamoto, ADEC
Inland GRS need to be developed, incorporating existing industry GRSs (or equivalent).	Larry Iwamoto, ADEC
The 'big picture' of OSRO response areas and pre-staged equipment needs to be captured and presented.	Larry Iwamoto, ADEC
If this is a kick-off for Interior SCP update, local representatives are lacking.	Larry Iwamoto, ADEC
"Not all subareas are created equal." Some subareas are a higher priority for different agencies. Currently, ADEC's priority and focus is on the Aleutian subarea.	Gary Folley, ADEC
Not all area committees need to be equally active.	Gary Folley, ADEC
The ARRT should prioritize its efforts, and share the priorities with the NRT.	Mark Mjones, EPA/NRT
<b>Response Preparedness</b>	
A large spill in the Interior, will likely result in a push for military involvement in the response. However, industry will not foot that bill. ARRT and NRT will need to figure this out. Currently, the issue of the utilization of DOD assets for a non-Stafford Act response is being addressed.	Bark Lloyd, ACS; Mark Mjones, EPA/NRT and CAPT John Capliss, USCG/NRT
Ports to lighter equipment & materials need to be identified and developed.	Gordon Brower, NSB
Waste disposal sites need to be identified and developed.	Gordon Brower, NSB

Calvin Terada (USEPA) gave closing comments, and the meeting was adjourned.