

## **R3 Inland Area Committee Meeting Notes**

Thursday, May 8, 2025  
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge  
Bateman Education Center

0900-1200

- **IAC Plan update and projects** (Myles Bartos, US EPA)
  - NRT home page → RRT3 → Plans → IACP
    - Subarea plans
  - Pilot effort in southcentral Virginia. Picking a waterway and identifying probable sources. Looking downstream and developing response strategies.
  - Some systems are paused due to possible contract change.
- **Virginia and EPA GRP partnership** (Beth Lohman, VADEQ and Myles Bartos, US EPA)
  - Virginia petroleum fund
    - Pay for leaking underground storage tanks
    - Balance is doing well, plan to use extra money for inland GRP
      - Good for training and exercise and networking
      - Meetings with private sector partners and other partners
      - Needs approval but hoping to kick off after July 1.
    - Multi-year project plan
      - Plan to hire contractor for more resources and coordination
        - Unsure how heavy of a lift they will be doing.
  - Regional hazmat teams
    - Plan for more training and validation with extra funding.
    - Bring in VDEQ
  - Common nomenclature
    - VDEQ is working on this.
    - GRP will be in a GIS environment and can be provided to fit in other response partner platforms. Each entity will have their own version, but they can fit together,
    - Myles spoke with WVDEP and PADEP. Hoping to move the initiative to Delaware and Maryland.
  - **SPS Warehouse Case Study** (Kevin Heym, US EPA)
    - Occurred in a resource rich area, over 80 fire departments responded.
    - Modeling requests
    - SPS health and safety were on-site.
    - IMAAC
      - Originally committed to soot footprint. Maps were shared with stakeholders but not with the public.

- How long did the output take? How long did the fire burn?
    - Soot footprint output was produced within an hour and the chemicals were one to two hours later.
    - Fire occurred at 2200 on Monday, triggered at 0100 and the fire burned/smoldered until the following Saturday.
    - Maps were updated two more times throughout the burn.
- People were focused on cyanide, but it may have not traveled off-site.
- Impacted water and air in three townships.
- Was there an evacuation or shelter in place?
  - Shelter in place was instated.
  - Tuesday morning, something else caught on fire and the fire department couldn't do much. After this flare up, an evacuation order was initiated for the neighboring community.
- Four hazmat teams were conducting 24-hour operations.
- Roving air monitoring occurred in communities.
- Was foam applied? No, only water.
- Was there runoff containment?
  - No, but PADEP began working on the water aspect. Two days later, the RP brought in more resources.
  - Runoff ended up going into the Delaware River.
  - Containment was initiated after the fact. A water gate was added to a creek.
- Viper
  - Equipment was set up in fixed locations. SPM Flex had a sulfuric acid chemcassette.
  - Were the readings what was expected?
    - Did not see much, but the monitoring equipment was not set up until 1700.
      - Reports EPA contractor should have been called earlier.
      - Lesson learned: should have called in more resources, four contractors instead of two. Was unable to cover more cardinal directions. RP put more air monitoring in after the fact.
  - Data was shared with the public after the fact. Operations continued for a week.
- Sampling locations were SEPTA ROW and school areas/community.
- Local IMT – initiated evacuation at 1100.
- Response was made more difficult by everything being covered in ice.
- Hardest part of the response was getting someone to make decisions and being resources in. Representative from SPS made things happen.
- SPS brought people in for debris removal.
- Chemicals that were in good condition were kept.

- What was the waste management plan? VDEQ asks based on issues with the South Hill Warehouse Fire hazardous waste characterization.
  - SPS produced a lot of plans. They removed a lot of waste right at the beginning and sent it off as RCRA hazardous waste.
- Who was unified command?
  - Welden Fire Company, Local fire departments, Montgomery Hazmat, EPA, PADEP, law enforcement, Philadelphia Water Authority
- Cause of fire was unknown. No deaths.
- EPA spent two weeks at the response.
- Why didn't the fire department use foam?
  - Fire departments are generally not using it as much. Due to the size of the fire, they were unable to get in to fight the fire in some areas. The longest ladder in Pennsylvania was brought in.
- **SPS Warehouse Case Study continued (Brian Moore, PA DEP)**
  - PADEP was running 24-hour operations with an initial focus on air monitoring.
  - The transition from 24-hour operations was a challenge due to problems with more programs cooperating and coordination sometimes disappearing.
  - VDEQ asked about issues with the hand-off point. What are you doing to close this issue?
    - In this instance, weekly updates were provided to USEPA.
  - Local resources, specifically the health department, were not used to dealing with these hazards.
  - Challenges with organization due to bringing in new personnel that do not have the organizational legacy to understand base authorities.
  - Trace downstream, below the Philadelphia intake. Sampling conducted before and after the Delaware River. Citizens were concerned about parks as there was residue in these areas.
  - More prevalent that the public wants sampling, but they are less focused on chemical analysis. They want to prove the negative.
  - The building exploded during the fire and pieces of the building landed in people's yards. Public assumed chemicals from the building are on the building material.
    - Public was concerned about asbestos in the building material. The roof had been replaced in the 1990s, so this was not a concern, but the public was not aware.
  - Was there any conflict with the RP while doing public messaging?
    - No, but there were challenges with the public wanting the list of items in the building immediately. The list was not readily accessible.

- For residents that fell into the evacuation and shelter in place, were there any internal impacts in their homes? Did the company set up claims to send residents to?
    - Yes, to all. A contractor was set up for external cleanup, but the homeowner had to coordinate internal cleanup.
  - PADEP was pushed into collections soil samples for Metals and SVOC analysis. Samples were collected downwind in public ROWs due to access agreements. These were not the best places due to vehicle use.
    - During sampling, naturally occurring arsenic was found in a school area.
  - Pennsylvania has three toxicologists, two in the department of health and one environmental.
  - Pennsylvania has five counties with public health departments. Getting them to take the lead can be challenging.
  - Fire departments were concerned what their firefighters were being exposed to.
  - Takeaways – use resources and working relationships from RRT for assistance
- **Open forum for members to raise issues**
    - VDEQ raises concern regarding succession planning.
      - Closed committee meetings make it more difficult to transfer knowledge. Believe to be some benefit of having an audience for committee meetings.
      - The group agrees.

Meeting Attendance Roster	
Attendee Name	Attendee Organization
Anderson, Bennett	DNREC
Banda, JoAnn	DOI - FWS
Bartos, Myles	US EPA
Bastias, Sabina	US EPA
Blanco-Gonzalez, Joel	US EPA
Boyd, Kevin	US EPA
Brown, Holly	VDEQ
Ciani, Lydia	START – Tetra Tech

Clark, Kevin	US EPA
Cook, Elisha	USCG D5
Csulak, Frank	DOC - NOAA
Dinkins, Sam	ORSANCO
Feist, Brian	PEMA
Fennick, Kimberly	USCG
Gaulding , Donna	DOT PHMSA
Gawarzewski, Joey	US EPA
Gaynor, Kevin	US EPA
Guzzetti, Christopher	US EPA
Heym, Kevin	US EPA
Hoppe, Michael	US EPA
Hornbacher, Robert	MDE
Klopfenstein, Brandon	Colonial Pipeline
Kormos, Dane	US EPA
Langley, Susan	MD SHPO
Lohman, Elizabeth	VDEQ
Martin, William	US EPA
McKelvey, Ray	Gallagher Marine Systems, LLC
Meadows, Nathan	WV DEP
Moore, Brian	PA DEP
Nelson, John	DOI
Nilsen, Ashley	US EPA
Nitander, Raju	DOT PHMSA
ORourke, Patrick	Energy Transfer
Pillow, Lauren	VDEQ

Pugh, David	USCG D5
Regan, Patrick	VDEQ
Scheaffer, Sarah	DOI- FWS
Smith, Jessie	START – Tetra Tech
Strickland, Brooke	VDEQ
Thorkilson, Kelly	USCG D5
Towle, Micheal	US EPA
Townsend, Tracey	OSHA
Voyles, Phillip	USCG
Walker, Max	USCG D8
Wilson, Daniel	Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research