

RRT-III MEETING NOTES

May 4, 2023

USGS Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland

Thursday, May 4, 2023

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Cindy Santiago welcomed everyone and added some administrative comments about speaking loudly and clearly. Participants then introduced themselves. Mike Towle, Dave Ormes, and Dave Pugh welcomed all participants and partners. They appreciated everyone taking the time to attend and looked forward to great presentations and report outs.

Geoff Donahue welcomed the group to Maryland on behalf of the Maryland Governor Wes Moore and Serena McIlwain, Secretary of the Environment. He continued with brief information about Prince George's County.

RRTIII Coordinator Report

Cindy discussed the other RRTs and their meeting dates with a presentation:

- RRT 1
 - Meeting in June 2023, location TBD
- RRT 2
 - Next meeting will be in July and will be held virtually
 - In-person meeting scheduled for the fall, location TBD
- RRT 3
 - Fall meeting December 5-7, tentative location of Lancaster, PA
- RRT 4
 - Meeting May 16-18 in Baton Rouge, LA (joint with RRT6)
- RRT 5
 - Fall meeting in October in Lansing, MI
- RRT 6
 - Joint meeting planned with Region 4
- RRT 7
 - Meeting Sept 27-28 at the EPA Cave Warehouse in Kansas City
- RRT 8
 - Meeting October 11-12 in Denver, CO
- RRT 9
 - Meeting in July in Phoenix
- RRT 10
 - Meeting in June in Boise, Idaho (specific date and location TBD)
- Alaska
 - Meeting in September
- Oceania
 - Meeting in June, virtually
 - Fall meeting in December in Honolulu
- Caribbean
 - Next meeting will be in the fall in the Virgin Islands

Other Events:

- New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Association Conference
 - April 17-21, 2023 in Atlantic City, NJ.
- The International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC)
 - May 13-16, 2024, in New Orleans, LA.
- Interspill
 - 2025, date and location TBD
- SPILLCON
 - September 11-15, 2023, in Brisbane, Australia.
- International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference
 - Held June 8-11, 2023, in Baltimore, MD.
- Clean Pacific Conference
 - No dates available
- Clean Waterways Conference
 - April, 2024, in Cincinnati, OH

For More Information:

Visit the RRTIII Website at www.nrt.org/RRT3

Visit the RRTIII Events Calendar at https://nrt.org/event/events.aspx?site_id=35

We need your input on:

- Conferences
- Meetings
- Workshops
- Exercises
- Training
- Other events that we can share in your area, nationally and internationally
- Retirements

Spotlight for Dave Ormes

- Mike Towle spoke about the retirement of Dave Ormes and his influence on the RRT3. He was a major force in the RRT3, he is part of the reason the RRT3 is successful and full of comradery. Dave makes this group feel like a family. Mike presented Dave with a paper thanking him for his years of contribution.
 - Dave touched on the transformation of the RRT and the work that was done. He commented on the value of the experience, noting that everyone becomes friends by the end.

Presentations and Outbriefs

- Whistle Blower Protection – Natalie Starks (OSHA)
 - Natalie introduced the Whistle Blower Protection program and related statutes
 - She started with the conditions that create a whistle blower and the conditions in which someone can file a complaint
 - Examples of adverse employment action
 - Discharge
 - Failure to recall

- Blacklisting
 - Reduce in pay
 - Failure to hire
 - Failure to promote
 - Explained where OSHA has jurisdiction
 - Discussed what can be included as a remedy
 - Showed statistics for cases
 - See presentation for details
- Recent Latex Incident – Kevin Higgins (USCG Sector Del Bay)
 - Kevin discussed what happened with the incident, including a timeline and what actions the Coast Guard took
 - Spill happened at Trinseo between 9:15 – 10:15, went into Mill Creek, and ended up in the Delaware River
 - 8,000 gallons of latex released
 - Discussed responders, response actions, complications, funding, and lessons learned
 - See presentation for details
- Recent Train Derailment – Brian Moore (PA)
 - The incident is still under investigation and response so Brian did not go into detail at this time, but will report out at another RRT3 meeting at a more appropriate time.
 - Brian introduced the role of Social Media like TikTok, compared to more traditional press releases.
 - Citizens are consuming information that may not be completely true because it is posted by an uninformed person, and it sometimes triggers an emotional response from the public.
 - How do you reach individuals who are not using traditional means of media for news and information. How do we put it on a platform that they are using in a manner that they are consuming it.
 - Very brief, graphics, explanations, engaging speaker, a couple of bullet points.
 - This is hard because there will always be a conflicting source that is not looking to inform on the truth but is instead looking towards viewership
- Social Media and Response – Andrew Doyle, FEMA and social media and PIO Instructor
 - Andrew started with the basics of social media in the context of environmental response, and how to use it as a resource
 - He reviewed different platforms for a basic understanding of how each work best
 - Twitter has a great media following
 - Facebook is often more private
 - NextDoor is geographical focused, so is great for emergency alerts
 - YouTube is a great place to show videos
 - See Click Fix helps the public communicate with local government
 - Waze allows people to report road blocks
 - PEW Research has up-to-date social media information
 - He noted some of the problematic aspects, like fake pictures, videos, and content
 - It's important to build trust and engagement in social media so people know where to go when they want information

- Establish a lead and support if there are multiple agencies in a response
- Andrew discussed requirements, considerations, strategies, and best practices for posting, engaging, archiving, sharing, commenting, responding, security, etc.
- See presentation for details

FOSC Reports

- EPA
 - 432 NRC Reports
 - 7 incidents
 - Several exercises
 - Gridlock exercise
 - Biowatch
 - Kinder-Morgan discharge scenario
 - Joint R2R3 exercise on Delaware River
- Sector Delaware Bay
 - Barge fire
 - Exercise:
 - Prep Exercise
- Sector Maryland - National Capital Region
 - 56 NRC Reports
 - 15 Enforcement Activities
 - 1 federalized case
 - Notable case:
 - Latex spill
 - 100 gallons released
 - Training Opportunities
 - Prep exercise in August
- Sector Virginia
 - 93 NRC Reports
 - 1 federalized case
 - Notable case:
 - Spill at the airport
 - Source unknown
 - Stakeholder engagement and another federal partner
 - Trainings:
 - Scat exercise
 - Prep exercise
- Sector North Carolina
 - 167 NRC Reports
 - 50 letters of warning
 - 0 federalized cases
 - Notable Case:
 - Vessel spilled 66 gallons of heavy fuel oil, no discharge into the water

- MSU Pittsburgh
 - 74 NRC reports
 - 0 Federalized
- MSU Huntington - absent
- Sector Ohio Valley – absent

State/Commonwealth Reports

- Delaware
 - 0 notable cases
 - Learned a lot about the seal population
 - Exercises:
 - Tabletop exercise that was extremely valuable
 - Upcoming prep exercise
 - Upcoming exercise with dogs to sniff out oil
- Maryland
 - 7 overturned tank truck incidents since January
 - Notable cases:
 - Heating oil tank truck lost 3,400 gallons of oil that entered the tributary
 - Gasoline truck overturned with 8,600 gallons onboard
 - 2 crash and burns
 - 8,400 gallons
 - 7,400 gallons
 - Chemicals from a warehouse in Baltimore
- Pennsylvania
 - 2100 calls
 - 187 NRC Reports
 - 115 after hours emergency responses
 - Notable cases:
 - US Steel Building fire with high-pH solution
 - Ammonia Release
 - 3 additional train incidents
- Virginia
 - 400 Reports
 - Notable case:
 - Sewage release with increased interaction from stakeholders and partners
 - Reviewing response plans to further prepare for potential incidents in Virginia
 - Exercises:
 - Tabletop to review plans and discuss potential actions by agencies and partners
 - Minor sewage discharge from a restaurant. An incident specific webpage was created to corral media and the community
- West Virginia – Nathan Meadows, WV DEP

- HSER responses - 72 emergency responses
- 27 including train derailment
- Household Hazardous Waste Collections – 45 including one mercury spill
- HSER disposed of 9,966 pounds of waste and received 6,956 pounds of waste
- District of Columbia
 - Notable Case
 - Oil Spill

Dave Pugh asked for general comments about challenges of response contractors

- Some general observation about waiting to get contractors because of their prior obligations

Agency/Partner Reports

- FEMA
 - Preparing for hurricane season in Region 3, which starts June 1
- NOAA
 - 2 requests for support from USCG for responses
 - Marine Debris program awarded projects funding
 - North Carolina Coastal Federation – debris removal throughout North Carolina
 - Lynnhaven NOW – remove abandoned and derelict vessels from Virginia’s coastal zone
 - Virginia Institute of Marine Science – removal of fishing traps
 - Trainings
 - Scat Class
 - Science of Oil Spills 9/11 – 9/15 in Gloucester, MA
- DOE
 - Training
 - OSC training 6/5 – 6/9
- DOI
 - Providing info to some tools for spills
 - Trainings:
 - Prep exercises - Upper Delaware River
 - Inland Oil Spill Course
 - Inland Oil Spill Preparedness Program
 - DOI in a resource during an incident
- DOL
 - Responded to 5 releases since the last meeting
 - Factory Explosion
- DOT
 - 2 upcoming public meetings to improve safety through better communication
 - Safety of Underground Natural Storage – Broomfield CO, 5/15 – 15/17
 - Carbon Dioxide – Idaho 5/31 – 6/1
 - Outreach engagement events

- GSA
 - No significant activations
 - New Logistics Partnering Sessions to discuss research coordination during incidents and reoccurring ESF7 quarterly meetings to recap lessons learned from past events
 - Sessions:
 - GSA
 - FEMA
 - USACE
 - DOA

- ORSANCO
 - Train derailment in Ohio – monitoring water quality downstream
 - Unique incident – tracked contaminants over 400 miles downstream
 - Continued monitoring by request of water utilities for assurance
 - Significant scare among water consumers
 - 10 barges broke loose in Louisville, Kentucky.
 - No indication of release of methanol
 - Showed media and public interest

- Tri-State – absent

- USDA – absent

- DHS – absent

- DOD – absent

- DOJ – absent

- USDA – absent

- CDC – absent

Workgroup Report Outs & Project Status Updates

- Information Management and Outreach
 - Brian Moore mentioned the update on the RRT3 website, making it easier to navigate.

- Training
 - Sabina and the workgroup led updates to the potential trainings list. A new session on about MODFLOW was proposed
 - Contractor support was also added to the list

- CNRDA
 - Frank Csulak mentioned the dynamic of the workgroup
 - The group reviewed documents that they have been working on

- ESA Essential Fish Habitat Biological Guidance
 - An guide to follow that adds consistency
 - Approved February 2022 with 2 minor updates since
 - Posted internally on USCG site, working to get it posted on RRT3 site
 - Used a few times in trainings
 - Working on developing a similar document for EPA
 - Living document
- Environmental Best Practices
 - Best practices compiled and grouped by response action
 - Responder focused
 - Used in prep exercises
 - Living document
- NHPA Guidance Update
 - Process for working with Section 6
 - Asked NHPA officers to review
 - NRT is drafting a similar document
 - Potentially reopening 1997 Agreement

Closing Remarks

- Mike Towle shared his notes on the importance of presentations and looked forward to seeing everyone in December
- Dave Ormes thanked everyone
- Dave Pugh reminded that the RRT3 can convene in conference calls if needed
- Cindy wished safe travels to all

Meeting concluded at 1310.

Meeting Attendance Roster	
Attendee Name	Attendee Organization
Daniel Alexander	DC DOE
Anderson Sr, Bennett	DNREC - DE
Baer, Matthew	DHS
Bailey, David	START- Tetra Tech
Bannon, Sheena	USCG - Fifth Coast Guard District
Bartos, Myles	US EPA
Bastias, Sabina	US EPA
Boyd, Kevin	US EPA
Brett, Workman	USCG
Britton, Peggy	USCG - Fifth Coast Guard District
Brown, Holly	VADEQ
Collins, Charlie	USCG- NC
Concepcion, Roberto	USCG- MD
Conrad, Jerry	SecDelBay
Cook, Elisha	USCG - Fifth Coast Guard District
Csulak, Frank	DOC-NOAA
Dermigny, Robin	Former RRT Support
Dick, Polley	DHS-FEMA
Dinkins, Sam	ORSANCO
Donahue, Geoffrey	MDE
Elfguinn, Erica	USCG - Fifth Coast Guard District
Fish, Bradford	Energy Transfer
Fish, Lieschen	GES Inc.
Gaynor, Kevin	US EPA

Hass, Travis	USDA
Hielscher, John	National Response Corporation
Higgins, Kevin	USCG- DE Bay
Jordan, Thomas	VDEM
Jolley, Justin	USCG- Ohio Valley
Langley, Susan	SHPO
Miller, Mark	VADEQ
Moore, Brian	PADEP
Nelson, John	DOI
Oconnell, David	USCG
Oravitz, Craig	USCG- MD
Ormes, David	USCG - Fifth Coast Guard District
Pillow, Lauren	VADEQ
Polley, Dick	FEMA
Raju, Nitander	DOT-PHMSA
Robertson, Jay	Lewis Environmental
Sanders, David	GSA
Santiago, Cindy	US EPA
Scharr, Ruth	EPA
Scheaffer, Sarah	USFWS
Schiano, Francis	USCG
Scholz, Debbie	Former RRT Support
Smith, Jessie	START- Tetra Tech
Starks, Natalie	DOL
Stelmack, Mark	DOL-OSHA
Stone, Mark	

Thorkilson, Kelly	USCG - Fifth Coast Guard District
Towle, Michael	US EPA
Wall, Steven	DOC- NOAA
Watts, Courtney	START- Tetra Tech
Wickersham, Jon	Colonial Pipeline
Wilkinson, Jay	MSRC
Wiseman, Rebecca	WVDEP
Young, Bruce	DOE