

Regional Response Team (RRT) Annual Report

Region:	2	Calendar Year:	2017
EPA RRT Co-Chair:	Eric Mosher	Email:	Mosher.Eric@epa.gov
USCG RRT Co-Chair:	Joe Boudrow	Email:	Joseph.a.boudrow@uscg.mil
EPA RRT Coordinator:	Steve Touw	Email:	Touw.Steve@epa.gov
USCG RRT Coordinator:	Annjea Cormier	Email:	Annjea.m.cormier@uscg.mil

A. Annual Meetings

	Dates	Location	# of Attendees	Website for presentations
1.	April 11-13	Burlington, VT(Joint 1&2)	150	https://nrtqa.ert.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=77
2.	October 31- Nov 2	Edison, NJ	CANCELLED DUE	TO HURRICANE OPERATIONS
3.				

B. Activations / Notifications

1.	Dates:	1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017	Event:	Ruptured Electric Utility Transmission Cable: B3402 C3403 Marina Spill, Jersey City, NJ.	ACT		NOT	
	Issue / Concern:	After 450-days continuing response to a dielectric oil spill from a buried electric power cable under the Hudson River, 1500-gal spilled dielectric oil was recovered by the RPs while they worked to locate and repair the ruptured cable costing \$50M overall by close of 2017 (includes \$10M IMAT cost to OSLTF). RP operations complicated by heavy debris piles overlying buried cable and the need to stabilize a long pier face for safety. After repair of one cable rupture, oil discharge from site sediment continues to be observed as other leaks may exist and/or sediment atop the ruptured cables has become contaminated and a secondary source of oil discharge. RPs work to delineate pockets of dielectric oil in site sediment by "lancing" (i.e., physical probing) and map locations of oil sheen when sediments are disturbed as a means of locating other potential ruptures along the buried cable.						
	Agencies Involved:	USCG Sector New York; NPFC; EPA Region II; NOAA-ERD; NOAA-NMFS; U.S. Army Corps; New Jersey DEP.						
	Decisions Made:	USCG oversight of RP response using IMAT and OSLTF. Utilities consider whether to decommission the power cable to eliminate it as a chronic source of oil pollution to the river. Long-term remediation of site sediment contaminated by dielectric oil will be needed post-response to address it as a secondary source of oil discharge regardless of cable decommissioning or not.						
2.	Dates:	3/7/2017 to 3/20/2018	Event:	CSX New Windsor Train Derailment in the Coast Guard Zone, Newburgh, NY.	ACT		NOT	
	Issue / Concern:	A three-locomotive freight train carrying three (03) tank cars of sodium hydroxide and three (03) tank cars of sulfuric acid derailed when it hit a "manlift" on the tracks. Derailment occurred in industrialized section of River Road on the west side of the Hudson River near Quassic Creek with containment and absorbent booms of each. Train came to rest upright yards from Global Oil Terminal storage tanks with 2200-gal diesel spilled to soil from locomotives fuel tanks.						
	Agencies Involved:	USCG Sector New York; EPA Region II, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Orange County HazMat.						
	Decisions Made:	Formed a Unified Command; USCG retained FOSC authority; Collection trench recovery 351-gal diesel by vac truck; Recovery wells pumped of free product; 130-yd ³ of diesel-contaminated soil excavated/replaced with clean fill; Rail bed & tracks rebuilt. Hazmat liquid transfers from derailed tank cars before returning cars to tracks.						

3.	Dates:	3/30/2017 to 6/17/2017	Event:	Bayside Fuel Depot Terminal Spill, Gravesend Bay, Brooklyn, NY.	ACT		NOT	
	Issue / Concern:	While transferring diesel from barge to above ground bunkered tanks covered in soil at the facility, the RP's terminal operator left his post and subsequently overfilled two tanks spilling diesel into the fire suppression system and piping galleries, surface water drainage system, onto asphalt surfaces and then into Gravesend Bay. The volume of diesel spilled into the bay was estimated at 27,000-gal. With wet weather approaching, quick action by the RP cleanup contractor was needed to guard against further spillage of diesel from oil-flooded compartments on facility into the bay. Weather issues averted, cleanup actions were completed.						
	Agencies Involved:	USCG Sector New York; EPA Region II; NOAA-ERD; U.S. DOI; OSHA; New York State Department of Environ. Conservation						
	Decisions Made:	OSHA closed the facility to oil transfers in or out until after the fire suppression system was functional again. USCG FOSC authority transferred to EPA on about 6/17/2017. Sector New York issued Notice of Violation for \$16K to RP; NYSDEC fined RP \$20K; EPA cited violations of facility SPCC Plan, FRP, and oil spill itself. Agency inspections were scheduled, some unannounced.						
4.	Dates:	5/7/2017 to 5/23/2017	Event:	ConEdison Farragut Substation Transformer #3 Explosion, Brooklyn, NY.	ACT		NOT	
	Issue / Concern:	Catastrophic failure and explosion of Transformer #3 discharging more than 30,000-gal transformer oil with PCB residues into the East River of metropolitan NYC/Brooklyn. Primary source was secured however the PCB-contaminated transformer oil had entered the waterway and subsurface soil under the substation which became a continual source of oil sheen every tide cycle. Chronic oil sheens of highly populated urban river with an estimated 32-lb PCBs within the sheen (<1 to 175 ppm PCB in water samples). Emergency response phase with CG-IMAT stood up and transition to longer-term remediation phase after USCG FOSC transferred to EPA Region II to focus on remediation of contaminated subsurface soil and groundwater under the site.						
	Agencies Involved:	USCG Sector New York; USCG Atlantic Strike Team; NPF; EPA Region II; NOAA-ERD (SCC); NYSDEC; NYCEM; NYCDEP						
	Decisions Made:	Safety zone enforced on Brooklyn side of East River to control motorized and human-powered watercraft and limit potential human exposure to PCB-transformer oil sheens and create no-wake safety zone for response divers on-site. RRT-II agency reps concurred to allow the use of CIAGENT solidifier counter measures within a boom configuration to treat persistent transformer oil sheens. On 5/23/17 FOSC authority transferred from USCG Sector New York to EPA Region II.						
5.	Dates:	6/21/2017 to 8/25/2017	Event:	Ruptured Power Transmission Cable Spill of Dielectric Oil to Fresh Kills Creek, Fresh Kills, NY.	ACT		NOT	
	Issue / Concern:	Dielectric oil leaking slowly from a buried power cable into the waterway was for years monitored by the RP (Utility) when suddenly on 6/21/2017 it ruptured further and began discharging at 150-300 gal/day dielectric oil to Fresh Kills Creek (tidal). Two-months response was needed to locate/isolate and repair the rupture while keeping the cable energized for utility service to customers. More than 13,000-gals oily-water mix recovered with responses protecting environmentally sensitive areas up and downstream.						
	Agencies Involved:	USCG Sector New York; NOAA-ERD, U.S. DOI-USFWS, EPA Region II, New York State Department of Environ. Protection.						
	Decisions Made:	Active oil recovery with oil discharging over a period of 2-months because power cable had to remain energized and pressurized with dielectric oil for insulation while cable repair operations and oil response occurred simultaneously.						

C. RRT Exercises – None in CY 2017

1.	Dates:		Event:	
	Agencies Involved:			
	Summary of exercise:			
2.	Dates:		Event:	
	Agencies Involved:			
	Summary of exercise:			
3.	Dates:		Event:	
	Agencies Involved:			
	Summary of exercise:			

D. Changes in RRT Leadership – None in CY 2017

Agency	Outgoing Personnel	Incoming personnel
1)		
2)		
3)		

E. Best Practices and Lessons Learned by the RRT (which may help other RRTs)

RRT2 concurred on the USCG OSC’s request to allow the use of CIAGENT solidifier countermeasures within a boom configuration to treat persistent transformer oil sheens at the ConEdison Farragut Transformer Explosion Site, utilizing the RRT2 Solidifier Guidance Document.

FOSC authority was transferred from USCG Sector New York to EPA Region 2 following two responses in NY.

F. Federal, State, and Local Planning and Coordination Efforts

N/A

G. Challenges and Issues (and Operational Requirements Which May Require NRT Attention)

N/A