

U.S. Department of the Interior – Fact Sheet

Agency Role.

Provide assistance on environmental issues in the preparation of RCPs and ACPs. Provide technical assistance and expertise to the OSC on appropriate response techniques for environmentally sensitive areas. Provide other technical and scientific information as appropriate, including information from natural resource damage assessment activities that might assist in response activities. Trustee participation and expertise can help the OSC assess environmental risks from spills and releases, and design risk-reduction measures.

Capabilities and Abilities.

DOI may be contacted through the Regional Environmental Officer, who is the designated member of the RRT. Department land managers have jurisdiction over the national park system, national wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries, and the public lands. In addition, bureaus have relevant expertise as follows:

- **Fish and Wildlife Service.** Provide technical expertise concerning federal threatened and endangered species; migratory birds; national wildlife refuges; certain marine mammals; and certain anadromous fish. Provide expertise concerning spill prevention and control measures in areas used by protected resources, and also on the effects and advisability of the use of spill countermeasures. Oversees wildlife rescue and rehabilitation operations; chain-of-custody requirements; and permitting requirements
- **National Park Service.** General biological, natural, and cultural resources managers to evaluate, measure, monitor, and contain threats to park system lands and resources; archeological and historical expertise in protection, preservation, evaluation, impact mitigation, and restoration of cultural resources; emergency personnel.
- **Minerals Management Service.** Regulation of offshore oil spill prevention, response planning and preparedness; engineers and geologists expert in offshore oil and gas exploration, development, and production facilities and associated pipelines, including safety and pollution control; a sponsor of oil spill response technology research; biologists, toxicologists, and oceanographers expert in offshore living resources.

Additional expertise pertaining to hazardous materials, hydrology, geology, and minerals is available to the RRT through the Regional Environmental Officer.

Response Scenarios.

Availability of bureau personnel and equipment to support pollution response activities are dependent on location and type of incident (i.e., impacting a park/refuge, T&E species, migratory birds, supporting habitat). DOI and OSC will enter into a PRFA to authorize a ceiling for reimbursable response costs associated with the incident.