

RRT-II 2011 Annual Report

Region II Regional Response Team (RRT-II) 2011 Annual Report

February 22, 2012

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Mr. Mike Faulkner
National Response Team
USEPA Headquarters
OEM/ MC 5104A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Faulkner:

As required by Section 300.115 of the National Contingency Plan, the Region II Regional Response Team Report is submitted for the period of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES

A. MAJOR/NOTEWORTHY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Pre-positioned "First-Aid" Trailer Divestment Activity in Sector New York

Sector New York is currently considering divestment of their pre-positioned "First-Aid" pollution response equipment trailers located in Sandy Hook and Bayonne, NJ as well as at Saugerties, NY. These trailers were initially mandated to provide small caches of available pollution response equipment in various locations within each FOSC's Area of Responsibility while Oil Spill Response Organizations, CO-Ops and commercial contractors established robust equipment caches in the years following passage of OPA 90. Sector New York feels that there are adequate, readily available resources (from OSROs, Co-ops and other commercial contractors) within their AOR and there is no longer a need to maintain the small amount of equipment available within these trailers. In accordance with Headquarters and First District directives promulgated in 2007, Sector New York will conduct a thorough needs assessment and gap analysis and will seek input and approval from their Area Committee and the First Coast Guard District prior to divestment of this equipment.

Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee

Hurricane Irene entered Region II on August 28, 2011 as a hurricane, but was downgraded shortly thereafter as a tropical storm with the eye of rotation passing over coastal New Jersey and Long Island, to the East of New York City, before continuing North through Connecticut to New England. Storm surges in the New York City area were well below predicted highs of 12 feet, while New Jersey and Upstate New York suffered damage from strong winds and higher than expected rainfall from the slow-moving storm. Damage to structures, trees and vessels located along coastal areas of New Jersey and along the Upper Hudson River Valley in New York were wide spread and required weeks to clean up. The most significant damage resulted from heavy precipitation west of the rotation and heavy winds and surf on south facing beaches especially which resulted in severe flooding and significant coastal erosion.

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EPA Region II supported disaster response operations in both States by activating its Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) to coordinate response activities, and to provide updates to EPA Regional and Headquarters management. The REOC also operated as liaison with the federal and state agencies participating in the response. EPA Region II received Mission Assignments to conduct oil and hazardous materials field operations, including cleanup and disposal of hazardous materials and oil, and response to orphan containers, in both NJ and NY.

Representatives of First Coast Guard District staffed the FEMA Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) to provide representation for both ESF-9 and ESF-10. The USCG Sector New York focus was support of local governments, re-establishment of commerce in the Ports of New York and New Jersey, and response to environmental issues as a result of the storm. Major lessons learned included the value of using the MTSRU to help prepare the port to safely ride out the storm in addition to quickly recovering from the effects of the storm, and the use of ECDIS-capable vessels of opportunity to conduct ATON verifications vice waiting for weather to subside sufficient for aviation verifications.

On September 7th, heavy rain from the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee brought flooding to the Susquehanna River valley, dropping 10-12 inches of precipitation. In the Binghamton area, record flooding was observed along the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers. USGS river gauges recorded water levels as high as 17 feet above flood stage, topping previous record heights. EPA subsequently received a mission assignment to conduct oil and hazardous materials field operations within the impacted counties in NY.

Kinder Morgan Discharge into Secondary Containment

On 12 September, Sector New York received a National Response Center report regarding a diesel oil storage tank leak at the Kinder Morgan Waterfront Facility (KMI) in Staten Island, NY. The tank has the capacity for 3 million gallons and is located within the facility's containment, and the containment is measured at 110% of the entire facility's storage capacity. Sector New York's Federal On Scene Coordinator's Representative (FOSCR) confirmed the diesel oil was contained on the 243 acre facility. There was no impact to the adjacent waterway and no waterway restrictions or closures were established. The leak was located at Tank 11, and was between the tank and the shutoff valve, around 1000 yards from any waterway. The Sector New York FOSCR met with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), New York Fire Department (NYFD), KMI Fire Department, and the New York Office of Emergency Management (NYOEM) to discuss course of action. The EPA is the lead agency for the spill response and mitigation. The KMI Fire Department and FDNY were able to patch the leak.

FOSCR reported that a total of 46,000 gallons of No. 2 Fuel Oil was discharged into the containment area. KMI transferred 2.8 million gallons of fuel oil to an adjacent tank, used 5 vacuum trucks to remove the discharged oil in the containment area to storage tanks, and commenced long-term remediation of the affected area on 13SEP11. During the response, SECNY was kept informed of remedial actions by NYSDEC. SECNY

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continued to follow up with the response until EPA indicated that the response and remediation was under control.

B. RRT II MEETING SUMMARIES

SPRING 2011: On April 27-28, RRT II convened in Saratoga Springs. Presentations and discussion topics included post-Deepwater Horizon issues, the Lake Champlain Planning Initiative and ERMA project, oil spill response issues in ice conditions, protection of historic properties during emergency response, and federal and state agency reports. The meeting also included a briefing and tour of the Hudson River PCB Site.

FALL 2011: The Fall 2011 RRT II meeting was postponed due to on-going disaster response activities in NJ and NY following Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

C. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Nothing to report during the period of this report.

II. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING

A. TRAINING

EPA Region II continues to provide ICS-300/400 training for regional personnel, as well as for colleagues from federal and state agencies. In addition, the region conducts annual Incident Management Team exercises for trained Key Leadership Position personnel.

B. EXERCISES/WORKSHOPS

Agricultural Emergency Management Collaboration Workshop – Sponsored by USDA/APHIS and the NJ Dept of Agriculture, the objective for this workshop, held on 11/2/2011 in West Trenton, presented a contaminated feed scenario in an open discussion to improve collaboration between various agricultural partners and stakeholders, and to assess the needs and expectations of anticipated roles, responsibilities and resources in an agricultural emergency.

Fault Line Executive TTX – Conducted by FEMA and the State of NJ on 11/17/2011, the objectives of this exercise included the identification of intergovernmental and private sector roles, responsibilities, partnerships and relationships required for coordination of a response to a catastrophic earthquake in the State of NJ.

C. FEDERAL, STATE, and LOCAL PLANNING/COORDINATION EFFORTS

Upper Hudson Valley Response Agency Regional Operational Meeting – Sector New York Incident Management Division led a team comprised of members from the Coast Guard Atlantic Strike Team, the Coast Guard Cutter WIRE, Station New York, and the Aids to Navigation Team Saugerties that meticulously planned and executed the first

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annual Regional Operational Meeting for over 85 attendees representing 31 agencies. The Hudson Valley Response Agency Regional Operational Meeting took place at the Orange County Emergency Services Center, located in Goshen, New York as well as the United States Military Academy located in West Point, New York.

The Regional Operational Meeting included a full scale boom deployment and multi-agency on-water search pattern exercises. 1,000 feet of deflection boom was deployed at Constitution Island to verify and update the booming strategy for the environmentally sensitive area. Four small boats (1 Coast Guard and 3 Other Government Agencies) were used in the extensive search pattern training and exercise among six partnering agencies.

This program improved readiness to respond to all-hazard marine incidents/SAR cases as well as increased interoperability between Coast Guard and local government agencies in Sector New York's northern AOR.

III. PERSONNEL CHANGES/ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

Federal

Coast Guard:

- Cornell Rosiu, First Coast Guard District, Environmental DRAT Supervisor
- Russell Cornelia, First Coast Guard District, Interim RRT-II Coordinator

EPA:

- No changes

States

- No changes

IV. ISSUES OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REQUIRING NRT ATTENTION

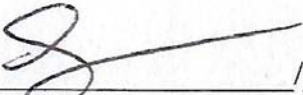
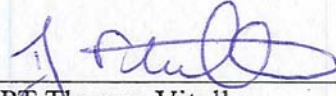
Funding for State Participation: The National financial crisis has had significant impacts on state budgets, limiting their ability to participate in exercises and training events. States have been challenged to obtain funding and approval for out-of-state travel, and this situation is likely to worsen with further state budget cuts and furlough days. Some multi-state Area Committees are beginning to see these constraints impact state participation even at the smaller Area Level. While not a new issue, or one easily solved by the NRT, it appears likely to grow in importance and may require means for remote participation in Regional Response Team and Area Committee meetings. This is especially true in Regional Response Team II due to the geographic boundaries extending from Buffalo to Delaware Bay east to New York.

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V. FUTURE PLANS

Next RRT II Meeting: The spring Region II meeting is scheduled for March 20-21, 2011 at the EPA facility in Edison, NJ.

VI. CONCURRENCE

	<u>3/6/12</u>		<u>3/7/12</u>
Mr. Eric Mosher EPA Co-Chair U.S. EPA, Region II	(Date)	CAPT Thomas Vitullo U.S. Coast Guard Co-Chair First Coast Guard District	(Date)