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## Region II Regional Response Team

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### 2012 Annual Report

### Executive Summary

RRT2 does not have any Challenges, Lessons Learned or Best Practices to share from incidents or activities in the region this past year. While there have been several significant incidents within the region over the past two years - including two hurricanes - the lessons learned and best practices observed during those incidents were reviewed and discussed during the 2012 RRT meeting, and/or will be discussed at our upcoming meetings.

### **REGION II REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Period of Report: January 1, 2012– December 31, 2012**

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 (NCP), the Region II Regional Response Team (RRT-II) 2012 Annual Report is submitted for the period of January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

### **I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES**

#### **A. MAJOR/NOTEWORTHY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

Significant response and coordination activities associated with Hurricane Sandy are presented first in this report, followed by other major/noteworthy non-Sandy response activities which occurred in the region during 2012.

## HURRICANE SANDY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Hurricane Sandy, a Category 1 hurricane, made landfall near Atlantic City, New Jersey on October 29, 2012. Storm surge and high winds caused massive damage and flooding along the New Jersey and New York coastlines.

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 assessments and field operations, including cleanup and disposal of hazardous materials and oil, and response to orphan containers, in both NJ and NY. EPA also received mission assignments to conduct assessments of drinking and waste water treatment systems in both states, and to provide OSC oversight of dewatering operations at numerous locations in lower Manhattan.

Representatives from EPA Region 2 and the First Coast Guard District also staffed the ESF-10 desk at the new FEMA Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) located at Naval Weapons Station Earle in Colts Neck, NJ. In addition, a Unified Command was established on Staten Island, NY, with Incident Commanders from USCG, EPA, NJDEP and NYSDEC, to coordinate response efforts within Sector NY and EPA Region 2's areas of responsibility.

The table below identifies potential amounts of oil spilled and recovered from fuel storage tank facilities and municipalities by responsible parties in New York and New Jersey as of 1400 on December 14 2012, as a result of Hurricane Sandy.

<b>Major Facilities that Spilled and have Recovered Oil in NY/NJ</b>				
Operational Periods: 11/06/2012 to 12/14/2012				
<b>Major Facility</b>	<b>Complete (%)</b>	<b>Potential Max. Spilled (Gal.)</b>	<b>Total Recovered (Oil + Water, Gal.)</b>	<b>Estimated Oil Recovered (Post-decant, Gal.)</b>
Motiva	100	400,000	457,519	162,900
Kinder Morgan	100	9,996	1,279,992	N/a
Phillips 66	100	7,770	5,922	N/a
Beach Channel High School	100	20,000	6,691	N/a
Bay School	100	7,500	9,716	N/a
Rockwood Park School	100	14,000	8,498	N/a

### RRT-2 Concurrence on the Use of Solidifiers in Response to the M/V CADDELL

At 1400 on November 27 2012, an incident-specific RRT teleconference was hosted by USCG First District to discuss the proposed use of solidifiers aboard the grounded M/V CADDELL, a 184.5' tank ship that had grounded on the shoreline of Staten Island, NY, as a

result of Hurricane Sandy. After being briefed on the on-going response actions and planned salvage operations, the RRT concurred that the solidifier “C.I.Agent” should be applied before the vessel was craned and transported to an on-shore processing facility, to mitigate the environmental impact from the residual oil on the vessel, and to reduce the quantity of oily wastewater that was being generated by pumping out the engine room after each high tide cycle. The application of C.I.Agent took place late on the week of November 26, 2012.

### **NON-SANDY MAJOR/NOTEWORTHY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES:**

#### **Chloe Foods; Brooklyn, NY**

The Chloe Foods Facility, located at 3301 Atlantic Ave, Brooklyn, NY was a former RMP facility that prior to ceasing operations in 2011, had reported storage of 18,800 lbs of anhydrous ammonia used in its refrigeration process on site. On the evening of July 23, 2012, a seven alarm fire broke out at the facility and was eventually extinguished early the following morning. On July 27<sup>th</sup>, EPA assistance was requested by NYC OEM, since EPA had some technical information regarding the former RMP facility. EPA participated in an operations meeting with NYC OEM, NYC DEP, and NYC Department of Housing, Preservation, and Demolition (HPD). Discussions and initial assessment of the fire site showed little impact to the part of the facility that potentially housed the ammonia refrigeration system. During the initial reconnaissance, EPA conducted perimeter air monitoring for ammonia, VOCs, and explosive environments, utilizing AreaRAE and MultiRAE instruments. EPA and NYC Representatives met with the property owner representative (bankruptcy trustee) to discuss the situation and potentially obtain additional information. The property owner representative was unable to provide concrete information regarding any storage of ammonia on-site, or if the refrigeration system had been removed. With the approvals of NYC OEM and the property owner representative, EPA was able to conduct a further investigation and air monitoring within the areas of the facility where the ammonia system was located. With the assistance of an OSC who previously inspected the former RMP facility, EPA was able to determine that all ammonia storage had been removed prior to the fire. Inspection of the previous storage locations showed no evidence of ammonia. Continued air monitoring in and around the facility did not yield any detectable levels of ammonia or VOCs.

#### **TCI Recycling; Hudson, NY**

Early in the morning of August, 2, 2012, EPA was notified of a fire at the TCI facility in Ghent, New York. The facility was reportedly a hazardous materials recycling facility, specializing in PCB containing oils. EPA immediately contacted the NYS DEC responder at the scene and was informed that the facility contained materials including various recycled oils and PCB contaminated oil. It was estimated that the facility contained 80,000 gallons of oil. At that time, local emergency management officials had evacuated a 1/2 mile radius around the facility. DEC requested immediate assistance from EPA for air monitoring, air sampling and general multi-media sampling. EPA’s after-hours OSC and RST response

personnel mobilized at the scene at approximately 0800 hrs. At the time of the OSC's arrival, the fire was ongoing with a heavy plume still visible. Based on information received from DEC responders, it was projected that the plume affected a large area extending northeast from the facility. Firefighting efforts were suspended during the night when explosions were heard from within the facility. The response was located approximately 12 miles from the Massachusetts border. EPA Region 1 was advised of the situation. Two additional OSC's were deployed to assist with air monitoring activities and eventually relieve the after hour responder. Additionally, the Environmental Response Team (ERT) was notified and requested to assist on-site with environmental monitoring.

A unified command was established to respond to the immediate threat posed to public health by the hazardous substances being released via the smoke plume. The unified command included the NYSDEC, the PRP, the local fire and police and EPA. NYSDEC served as the lead for the unified command. The PRP provided technical information regarding the quantity and type of waste which was burning. The local emergency responders performed firefighting activities and evacuations. EPA provided air monitoring data to support decisions being made in the unified command. Specifically, EPA set up particulate monitors with data loggers and AreaRAEs, with real-time air monitoring capabilities for Volatile Organic Compounds, Lower Explosive Limit, Carbon Monoxide, Hydrogen Sulfide, Oxygen and Ammonia around the site perimeter. EPA also assisted NYSDEC with wipe samples for PCBs, and sampling of runoff water and soils affected by runoff water. During the early stages of the fire it was uncertain what materials were actually involved in the fire. Most of the oils present were mineral oil; however, there was some storage of oil that contained low levels of PCBs. Additional wipe samples for PCBs were taken by NYSDEC with EPA assistance in areas immediately surrounding the facility, as well as outlying areas in adjoining towns down wind and directly in the path of the smoke plume. All of these sample results were subsequently reported as non-detect for PCBs. On August 4<sup>th</sup>, the fire was extinguished and EPA, ERT and RST demobilized.

#### Hillcrest Industries; Attica, NY

On September 11, 2012, EPA received a request from the NYSDEC to investigate the Hillcrest Industries facility (Site) located on 40 Favor Street in Attica, NY. On September 12<sup>th</sup>, an OSC and EPA's technical support contractor mobilized to the Site. Reportedly since May 2012, a fire had been smoldering in a pile of glass/plastic bottles which covered an area of approximately one acre and was 40 feet high. The bottles were recycled by the company to manufacture their product. In coordination with state and local agencies, EPA took the lead on efforts to extinguish the fire inside the pile. EPA consulted with fire suppression experts and determined the best method for putting out the fire was to break up the pile of material into smaller segments and put out the pockets of fire in those sections, extinguishing them with water and, if necessary, foam. This activity began on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, and was officially extinguished on October 14<sup>th</sup>. EPA remained on site to support the implementation of a fire management and temperature monitoring plan, which was necessary until the material was processed and removed from the site.

### Paerdegat Basin Oil Spill; Brooklyn, NY

In the early morning of September 28 2012, a decommissioned National Grid underground gas pipeline began leaking oil while concrete was being pumped into the pipe to plug it. The oil, which contained several hazardous substances, spilled onto the ground and entered storm drains during fire department response operations. Approximately 800-1,400 gallons of oil spilled into the basin. This oil contained a mixture of volatile organic and semi-volatile organic chemicals, which are typical constituents of lubricating oil. The oil also contained mercaptans, which are used to odorize natural gas, and PCBs, commonly used in the past in gas compressor stations. In order to ensure proper coordination amongst all response partners, RRT-2 conducted an incident-specific teleconference on October 4, 2012. The successful call incorporated report-outs and feedback from 21 documented parties, and encouraged the response and recovery operation to continue in a synchronized manner.

### Conrail Vinyl Chloride Response; Paulsboro, NJ

At approximately 0700 EST on November 30, 2012, thirteen Conrail freight cars transporting chemicals and other goods derailed and overturned at a bridge crossing the Mantua Creek in Paulsboro, New Jersey. The NJ Department of Transportation reported three cars fell into the creek. Conrail reported one of the tank cars released approximately 180,000 pounds of vinyl chloride into Mantua Creek. Onlookers also reported seeing a vapor cloud rise from the scene.

Local authorities evacuated the area in a half-mile radius, and a one-mile safety zone on the water to the north and south of the bridge was established. A Unified Command, consisting of the Coast Guard, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, Paulsboro Fire Department and Conrail was established to coordinate cleanup and monitoring operations. Following the release, multiple teams were dispatched to monitor air quality in the area surrounding the incident. In addition, teams collected water samples throughout the creek to test for the presence of vinyl chloride in the water. Divers inspected a derailed car containing ethanol and found no damage of concern.

The breached rail car was filled with acetone to mix with the vinyl chloride to make the product safe and easier to remove. Response crews removed the remaining vinyl chloride from the breached tank car by vacuuming the liquid material into empty rail cars, which was completed on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Air monitoring operations were conducted throughout Paulsboro with fixed units, as well as by mobile teams from NJDEP and EPA. As of December 9<sup>th</sup>, vinyl chloride had not been detected in three days, and air testing at 262 homes and 23 businesses allowed more than 329 families and business owners to return to their homes and businesses. The evacuation order was lifted for all but approximately 30 people who live along the creek near the derailment site where heavy equipment was staged and responders continued to work. Active air

monitoring continued to be conducted throughout the area with both fixed units and mobile teams.

Operations to remove the breached rail car from Mantua Creek began on December 11<sup>th</sup>, and response crews successfully removed the breached rail car and transferred it to a barge. By December 14<sup>th</sup>, three more rail cars containing vinyl chloride had been successfully removed, and the rail car containing ethanol was removed on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The fifth and final vinyl chloride car was successfully removed on December 16<sup>th</sup>. By December 17<sup>th</sup>, the rail cars were successfully transferred from barges, re-railed and transported away from the site, the train curfew was lifted and normal train operations resumed.

Boston Marine Transport Inc./Barge Boston No. 30 Fuel Spill; Mariner's Harbor, Staten Island, NY

On December 14 2012, USCG Sector New York received a report that there was an oil spill from a single hull fuel barge identified as Boston No.30, D288302, which was moored in Mays Shipyard while lightering to another barge. Based on tank soundings, a Boston No. 30 representative reported that they believed the spill to be the result of damage to the number two port tank beneath the waterline. The extent and cause of the damage is under investigation.

## **B. RRT-II MEETING SUMMARIES**

**SPRING 2012:** The RRT-2 Spring 2012 Meeting was held at EPA's Edison Environmental Center in Edison, New Jersey on March 20-21 2012. The meeting attracted many attendees from a diverse list of agencies. Most notably, it included featured presentations regarding:

- Hurricane Irene/TS Lee – Response Actions, Significant Issues, Lessons Learned
- NOAA Remediation of Underwater Legacy Environmental Threats (RULET) Update
- NOAA Oil Trajectory Predictions: Cuba Deepwater Oil Exploration
- Oil in Ice Field Demonstration Jan 2012, St. Ignace, MI
- USCG OSC/ Area Committee Reports
- CANUSLAK 2012 Workshop
- Lake Champlain Planning Initiative Update
- Review of Revised Regional Contingency Plan
- EPA OSC Reports
- Regional Catastrophic RDD and IND Planning Initiatives
- Special Teams Presentations (ERT,CBRN CMAT, EPA Radiation Response, USCG AST, NOAA SSC, NJ CST)
- Federal Agency Reports (DOI, DHHS, NOAA, FEMA, USDA, EPA, USCG)



**FALL 2012:** Due to on-going disaster response activities in NJ and NY following Hurricane Sandy, the Fall 2012 RRT-2 meeting was postponed to March 12-13 2013, and will be held at the Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building in Albany, NY.

**C. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration Events – First Coast Guard District

The U.S. Navy, in conjunction with partner organizations hosted War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration events in New York, NY. The Coast Guard First District stood up an Incident Management Team and coordinated waterside safety and security with local CG units for this major marine event involving U.S. and foreign navy assets, tall ships, fireworks, and air displays. These events allowed the First Coast Guard District to validate roles and responsibilities, resource availability and authorities, organizational structures, coordination arrangements, and communications appropriate for security and response activities.

**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.

**FEMA Continuity Exercise Design Class; Newark, NJ** - RRT-2 members attended the FEMA Continuity Exercise Design Course that was presented by FEMA Region 2 from September 11-14 in Newark, NJ. The course focused on applying techniques in the development, conduct and evaluation of continuity exercises. The course also taught attendees how a comprehensive exercise program is used to target and improve critical emergency plans, procedures and capabilities within all four phases of emergency management.

<b>Training</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>ST</b>
March 14 2012	RISC 2 Meeting	New York	NY
January 26 2012	NY/NJ Area Committee Meeting (ESC)	Staten Island	NY
March 19-22 2012	FOSCR Course	Staten Island	NY
April 19 2012	NY/NJ Area Committee Meeting	Staatsburg	NY
August 15 2012	NY/NJ Area Committee Meeting	Staten Island	NY
September 3-6 2012	VOSS and HAZWOPER Training	Bayonne	NJ
September 17-21 2012	Performance Assessment Verifications	-	-
October 15-19 2012	Performance Assessment Verifications	-	-
September 28 2012	Paerdegat Basin Spill/Jamaica Bay Response	Brooklyn	NY
October 4 2012	Paerdegat Basin Spill Conference Call	Brooklyn	NY

October 29 2012 - Pres	ESF 10 – Hurricane Sandy	Colts Neck	NJ
October 29 2012	ESF 3 – Hurricane Sandy	Colts Neck	NJ
November 27 2012	M/V Caddell Solidifier Conference Call	Staten Island	NY
December 10 2012	M/V Caddell Cleanup	Staten Island	NY
November 28, 2012	UXO Recovered during Dredging	Sea Bright	NJ
December 15 2012	Boston 30 Barge Spill	Staten Island	NY
April 26-27 2012	CANUSLANT IPC	S. Portland	ME
October 17-18 2012	Response Environmental Emergencies Team (REET) Meeting	St. John	NB
October 30-31 2012	CANUSLANT MPC	St. John	NB

## B. EXERCISES/WORKSHOPS

**FEMA All-Hazards Plan TTX** – On March 14, 2012, the initial draft of the FEMA Region II All-Hazards Plan (AHP) was validated with a table-top exercise, to test the response mechanisms to provide Federal support to the Region’s jurisdictions. Several RRT member agencies participated in the exercise, conducted in NYC.

**Capstone National Level Exercise (NLE)** - EPA Region 2 participated in this NLE, conducted June 4-7, 2012, focused on the Nation's ability to coordinate and implement prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery plans and capabilities pertaining to a significant cyber event or a series of cyber events. The objectives for EPA were to assess the capability of programs to protect the IT infrastructure that directly supports the EPA Mission Essential Function during a significant cyber incident; evaluate the effectiveness of EPA to identify and support impacted Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources during a significant cyber incident in accordance with the DHS National Infrastructure Protection Plan (2009); evaluate the effectiveness of EPA information sharing across all levels of government during a significant cyber incident; and evaluate the ability of key EPA personnel and programs to make informed decisions, and communicate those decisions based upon the National Approach to Response (NAR). The EPA Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) was activated for the exercise and coordinated the region’s participation.

**Lake Champlain Exercise; Plattsburgh, NY** - On September 28, 2012, EPA Regions 1 and 2, in partnership with USCG, NYSDEC, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, and Environment Canada, conducted an exercise in Plattsburgh, NY to support the development of a multi-agency Area Contingency Plan (ACP) covering Lake Champlain. The scenario involved a train derailment in Rouses Point, NY, in which derailed cars containing light crude oil released more than 60,000 gallons on and near a manmade pathway, which transported the oil directly in to Lake Champlain. The purpose of this exercise was to evaluate, assess, and further develop the action plan described in the Lake Champlain ACP to respond to an environmental release within the Lake Champlain region. This exercise was also designed to promote timely and effective



coordination among the entire spill community, including Federal, State, local, and private entities in response to a discharge or substantial threat of discharge.

This exercise was preceded by another TTX conducted in February 2012 with federal, state, local, Canadian and private response organizations, involving 2 'worst case' oil spill and HAZMAT scenarios.

**Sector Long Island Sound PREPEX; New Haven, CT** - On Wednesday October 10, 2012 the Long Island Sound Area Committee held its annual PREP Table Top Exercise at the New Haven Fire Academy in New Haven, CT.

In the scenario an incoming fuel barge struck and grounded at Southwest Ledge Light, spilling #6 fuel oil into New Haven Harbor. While the response is underway several individuals posing as clean-up contractors try to gain access to one of the facilities, triggering a security event inside of an oil spill response.

Exercise participants discussed the response and broken into several breakout sessions dealing with accessing OSROs, Environmental concerns, and Security.

A unique introduction to this exercise was the inclusion of the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (CT DEMHS) Region 2 Incident Management Team (IMT). The team supported the PREP exercise by conducting the registration utilizing an electronic credentialing system. There was exceptional exercise accountability and by requiring "check out" there was full participation in the table top until completion of the after action brief. Additionally this personnel data is now entered into a database that will afford the participants more rapid check-in to future real-world incidents in this area.

The Long Island Area Committee membership includes many diverse agencies but is primarily led by; US Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), and New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

The exercise was a huge success and the Long Island Sound Area Committee extends its appreciation for this exercise is extended to all attendees with a special thanks to; The New Haven Harbor Cooperative, City of New Haven and the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management Region 2 IMT.

Equipment Deployment Training/Exercises			
Date	Event	City	ST
*			
* USCG pre-positioned equipment deployment (trailer) drills conducted at all Sectors			
* USCG quarterly notification drills conducted at all Sectors			

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

The Region 2 Regional Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (RCP) was revised and approved at the March 2012 RRT meeting in Edison, NJ.

### III. PERSONNEL CHANGES/ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

#### Coast Guard:

- RDML Daniel B. Abel replaced RDML Daniel A. Neptun as Commander, First Coast Guard District
- CAPT Gordon Loebel replaced RDML Linda Fagan as Commander, Sector New York
- Joseph Boudrow, First Coast Guard District, District Incident Management & Preparedness Advisor, replaced CAPT Tom Vitullo as Co-Chair of RRT-1 and RRT-2
- CDR Eric J. Doucette replaced CDR Richard J. Schultz as Commander, Atlantic Strike Team

**EPA:** No changes.

**States:** No changes

### IV. ISSUES OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REQUIRING NRT ATTENTION

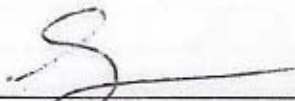
Funding for State Participation: The national financial crisis has had significant impacts on state budgets; limiting their ability to participate in exercises and training events. States have been challenged to obtain funding and approval for out-of-state travel and this situation is likely to worsen 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.


**V. FUTURE PLANS**

Next RRT-II Meeting: The next RRT meeting will be held on March 12-13, 2013 in Albany, NY at the Leo O'Brien Federal Building.

**VI. CONCURRENCE**

  
Eric Mosher  
EPA Co-Chair  
U.S. EPA, Region II

1/1/29/13  
(Date)

  
Joseph Boudrow  
U.S. Coast Guard Co-Chair  
First Coast Guard District

1/1/29/13  
(Date)