Regional Response Team (RRT) Annual Report

Region:	Region 2	**Calendar Year:**	2016
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USCG RRT Co-Chair:	**Joe Boudrow**		
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EPA RRT Coordinator:	**Steve Touw**		
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USCG RRT Coordinator:	**Annjea Cormier**		
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A. Annual Meetings

	Dates	Locations	# of Attendees	Website for presentations
1.	May 12-13, 2016	Grand Island, NY	68	https://nrtqa.ert.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=63
2.	October 12-13, 2016	Edison, NJ	72	https://nrtqa.ert.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=67
3.				

B. Activations / Notifications

1.	**Dates:** 12MAR2016	**Event:**	TUG SPECIALIST sank after alliding with Tappan Zee Bridge (NY) construction barge, three crew lost	**ACT**		**NOT**	X
	Issue / Concern:	Tug on the Hudson River bottom in strong current. Safety zone enforced during recovery of three fatalities by SCUBA or marine salvage. Maximum potential spill of 5000gal diesel fuel to the river responded to using newly developed geo. response strategies.					
	Agencies Involved:	U.S. Coast Guard Sector New York; West Chester County PD and Fire; Rockland County PD; NY State Police; NYPD divers					
	Decisions Made:	Lift tug in order to safety recover 3rd crew fatality during salvage ops. Diesel fuel spill successfully controlled and cleaned up.					
2.	**Dates:** 10AUG2016	**Event:**	Mustard agent exposure of F/V WILLIAM LEE crew member when unexploded ordinance was recovered	**ACT**	X	**NOT**	
	Issue / Concern:	WWII-era munitions present potential explosion or chemical agent exposure hazards to commercial clamming crews dredging off coastal New Jersey or Long Island New York, and potential seafood contamination. Incident was second of two documented cases in recent years of mustard agent exposure of fishing crews and their catch after clearing munitions from a clam dredge. Single crew member was exposed reporting discomfort and skin blistering that Temple University's burn center diagnosed as sulfur mustard (HD) burns. Atlantic Strike Team wipe samples of the vessel were non-detect possibly because crew bleach disinfected. Vessel operators did not consider the potential for seafood contamination so their catch was delivered to market.					
	Agencies Involved:	U.S. Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay; U.S. EPA; DHHS/CDC; NOAA Fisheries					
	Decisions Made:	CDC recalled clams delivered to market by accident. USCG conveyed NOAA safety alert and U.S. Army factsheet to fishing communities warning of munitions. Command center QRCs reviewed and updated as needed reflecting new lessons learned.					
3.	**Dates:** 28JUN2016	**Event:**	Reoccurring ruptures in buried electric power cable pipelines containing dielectric fluid in metro NYC	**ACT**	X	**NOT**	
	Issue / Concern:	To meet public demand for electricity, utility companies in metro NYC (NY and NJ) have for decades relied upon buried power cables for transmission of electricity. Cables are encased in pressurized pipelines containing dielectric fluid (synthetic oil alkylate) that protects, insulates and cools the energized cable. These infrastructures have limited lifespan (~50 years) which is being reached.					

		Newer cable installations have become more complex to meet growing energy demands. The combination of aging infrastructure and increasingly complex installation likely contribute to the observed increase in ruptures to these pipelines. Pipelines are often buried beneath the bottom sediment in New York or New Jersey harbors or the Hudson River. If a fault develops and ruptures, synthetic oil alkylate spills under pressure to the waterway. On-water response is then on-going to recover oil spilling at a rate of 3-5 gals/hour to protect the cable until the fault location is pinpointed and oil recovered directly at the rupture point. Cable locate, cut, cap and repair operations often occur over several months and because of the length of time, and because cables are buried under feet of sediment with debris, coordination with state and federal agencies is necessary to ensure site safety and environmental protection concerns are met during the project. Two of these projects are currently operating requiring significant agency resources.
	Agencies Involved:	USCG Sector New York; NYSDEC; NJDEP; NY Public Service Commission; NOAA-ERD (SSC); First Coast Guard District; USFWS; NMFS
	Decisions Made:	Stand up incident-specific IMT; set of conditions on sediment dredging and reuse or disposal; environmental protective measures
4.	**Dates:** June 2016	**Event:** South Jersey Ice Cold Storage Facility; Vineland, Cumberland County, NJ **ACT** **NOT** X
	Issue / Concern:	At the request of the City of Vineland Fire Department, EPA responded to a deteriorating ammonia refrigeration system at a cold storage warehouse in a residential neighborhood. The facility's deteriorating ammonia refrigeration system (circa 1922) potentially contained 4,500 – 12,000 lbs of anhydrous ammonia gas liquefied under pressure, and presented a serious threat to the surrounding neighborhood should the system fail. Many sections of the ammonia system and the building had been frozen over, making the response more challenging.
	Agencies Involved:	EPA, NJDEP, NJSP OEM, NJ DOH, City of Vineland (Fire Department, Health Department, Police Department, EMS, Emergency Management and city officials), Cumberland County Health Department,
	Decisions Made:	See: https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-completes-500000-work-response-toxic-ammonia-threat-vineland-nj

C. RRT Exercises – None during Calendar Year 2016				
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	
Agency	**Personnel Affected**

1) New York Dept of Environmental Conservation	Primary Representative: Dennis Farrar (outgoing); Kevin Hale (incoming)
2)	
3)	

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

Nothing to report for Calendar Year 2016.

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

-Created Appendix 6: RRT II Guidance for Emergency Ocean Dumping during Pollution Response Actions

- Updated Appendix 2: Demarcation of the Inland and Coastal Zones for Pre-Designation of EPA and USCG On-Scene Coordinators for Pollution Response in NJ and NY.

-Signed a Multi-Agency Contingency Plan for Emergency Environmental Incidents in the Lake Champlain Region.

G. Issues or Operational Requirements Which May Require NRT Attention

Underwater Dielectric Fluid Spill guidance