



---

## Region 2 Regional Response Team 2015 Annual Report

---

### Executive Summary

RRT2 does not have any Challenges, Lessons Learned or Best Practices to share from incidents or activities in the region in the past year.

Ms. Lisa Boynton  
National Response Team  
U.S. EPA Headquarters  
OEM/ MC 5104A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Boynton:

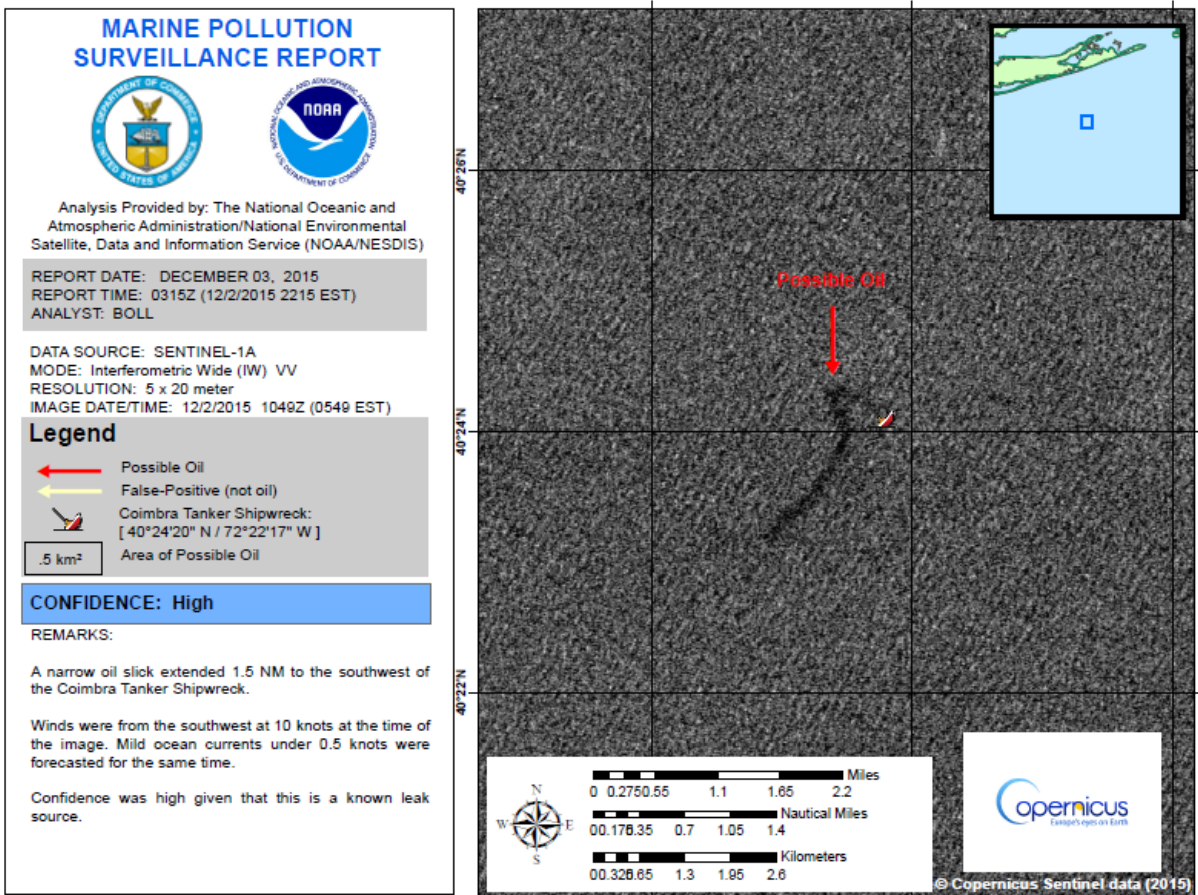
As required by Section 300.115 of the National Contingency Plan (NCP), the Region 2 Regional Response Team (RRT2) Annual Report is submitted for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

### **I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES**

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

##### NRC REPORTS OF SATELLITE ANOMALIES

In 2015, the National Response Center (NRC) received twelve reports of ocean surface "satellite anomalies" from NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NOAA-NESDIS). Each was followed by a satellite anomaly report of date/time, data source/type, satellite image of the anomaly with length/width and area estimates, distance from known waypoint and approximate location. Approximately 50% of the NRC reports were positively associated with positions of two potential oil leak sources: the tanker COIMBRA shipwreck (five times) and the USS MURPHY wreck (once). Both ships were sunk during WWII.



Sample NOAA-NESDIS report of a Dec 2015 anomaly in the vicinity of the shipwreck COIMBRA.

### INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR PLANT RESPONSE; BUCHANAN, NEW YORK

On Saturday 09MAY2015, USCG Sector New York received report of an electric transformer fire and spill of approximately 17,000-gal insulating mineral oil (Soltex™ Nytro Orion I Transformer Oil) to the Hudson River at the Indian Point Nuclear Plant in Buchanan, New York. A pad-mounted electric transformer caught fire and burst. (No PCBs or radioactive materials were involved.) Containment ‘failed’ because the transformer’s fixed firefighting equipment (Deluge System) overfilled the moat around the pad and transformer oil discharged to the already full moat and flowed into the Hudson River. A second problem was encountered when the OSRO(s) responded with boom and absorbent sweep made of polyethylene which was incompatible and ineffective with the Soltex™ transformer insulating oil. As a result over the next several days, the oil reappeared in natural collecting areas of the river. One lesson learned was to use sorbent boom made of natural, coconut husk-type materials when responding to spills of this type of oil, not polyethylene. SCAT team monitoring and cleanups were done over several days afterward. The plant is working to guard against containment failure in the future.



Harbor boom deployed within the Hudson River at Indian Point Nuclear Plant, Buchanan, New York.

#### IMTT 2015 SPILL; BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY

At midnight on Saturday 01AUG2016, the Tug PETER F. GELLATLY pushing a tank barge struck the pier and the mooring lines of the M/V ISOLA BIANCA while docking at Pier Alpha, IMTT Bayonne Terminal (Bayonne, New Jersey). The pier and a pipeline transfer manifold were damaged during the allision with the pier. An estimated 400-800 gallons of No. 6 fuel was released from one pipeline into the water which overtopped pre-deployed containment boom around the ship. The terminal safely removed oil products from the remaining pipelines as the damaged pier was at risk of collapsing into the harbor.

USCG Sector New York activated a safety zone and stood up a partial IMT and ICP at the IMTT Bayonne Terminal. The Atlantic Strike Team was mobilized for air quality monitoring as reports of strong petroleum odors were being received from the Staten Island Ferry and St. George neighborhood of Staten Island, New York. USCG overflight reported 50-65 percent of the Kill Van Kull was covered in oil sheen/emulsified oil that extended east to the Narrows and west to Shooters Island, a functioning bird sanctuary. The Shooters Island was protected with 5000-ft of harbor boom and two SCAT teams were deployed; one team to Staten Island and one team to New Jersey. There were no reports of injuries however the incident was classified a Major Marine Casualty as over \$500,000 of damage was done to the terminal pier and its pipeline infrastructure.





IMTT Bayonne in the lower Hudson River and Shooters Island in Newark Bay.



Pier Alpha damaged by Tug PETER F. GELLATLY and release of 400-800 gal No. 6 Fuel Oil.



Shooters Island, a known bird sanctuary in Newark Bay is protected by harbor boom.

#### GROUNDING FISHING VESSEL; POINT PLEASANT, NJ

On 08 April 2015, Sector Delaware Bay received an NRC report of a grounded fishing vessel at Point Pleasant Beach, NJ. Sector's Incident Management Team (IMD) arrived O/S to find the 77' Commercial Fishing Vessel (CFV) hard aground 1-mile south of Manasquan Inlet. There was no damage to the hull of the vessel and no pollution occurred. The CFV CAPT GAVIN contracted Northstar Environmental and Marine Services to remove 14,000 gallons of diesel, 600 lbs. of catch, and 6,000 gallons of fresh water. Sector's IMD oversaw the 3-day evolution of pollution prevention and the vessel was towed off the beach by a contracted tug. The unified commands make up included USCG, NJDEP, and the RP.

#### **B. RRT2 MEETINGS:**

**SPRING 2015:** The RRT2 Spring 2015 meeting was held in Grand Island, NY on May 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. Presentations included:

- Implementing EO Lessons Learned/Recommendations
- Oil and Hazmat Transportation Issues Raised During ECRM2 Pilot
- Crude by Rail: Incident Management, Response Capabilities, & Recent Developments
- Status of New York Inland Area Contingency Planning
- Status of Proposed Revisions to Subpart J of the NCP
- Implementing Viper on Superfund Sites and other ERT Remote Monitoring/Sampling Capabilities



**FALL 2015:** RRT-2 convened for the Fall 2015 meeting on November 4-5 in Edison, NJ. Presentations included:

- Consensus Ecological Risk Assessment of Potential Transportation-Related Bakken and Dilbit Crude Oil Spills in the Delaware Bay Area
- Final Rulemaking on Enhanced Tank Car Standards and Operational Controls for High-Hazard Flammable Trains
- National Guard CBRN Response Enterprise (NGB CRE) capabilities brief
- Draft Regional Guide for National Historic Preservation Act Compliance during Emergency Response
- CDC Methyl Bromide Epi-Aid
- NRDA and the Deepwater Horizon Settlement
- Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research’s New Wildlife Response Annex

### C. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES

#### **RRT2 Chemical Facility Safety and Security Committee**

On May 21, 2014, RRT2 submitted “The Effective Chemical Risk Management Project Pilot (ECRM2) – Activity Report” to the NRT, detailing our activities leading to the conclusion of the regional pilot project. Since the submittal of the report, the RRT2 Chemical Facility Safety and Security Committee has continued our efforts to implement the 16 SOPs that were formulated during the pilot project. The following summaries are provided as examples of those efforts:

Tonawanda Coke Corporation (TCC), Tonawanda, NY – Following a coke oven gas release in early January 2014, EPA and OSHA closely coordinated its investigation and compliance activities at this facility. In addition, NYSDEC’s Air Program was actively involved in the investigation of the incident and the oversight of the actions taken by TCC to prevent a re-occurrence. EPA and DEC conducted joint employee interviews of TCC staff, shared all information gathered, and collaborated in the development of a 114 information request letter. EPA and DEC attorneys further coordinated on the development a joint penalty order. The OSHA penalty (which was issued earlier) was factored into the draft penalty amount, and the final order was issued with penalties payable to both EPA and DEC.

Zimmerman Fertilizer, Stanley, NY – On August 18, 2015, EPA performed a General Duty Clause (GDC) inspection at two Zimmerman Fertilizer plants after safety concerns were identified by DHS related to storage conditions of ammonium nitrate at the two facilities. The bulk blending facility is located in a residential area, with residences adjacent to the facility property, so the potential similarities to West, Texas elevated DHS’s concern. At the request of EPA, the Ontario County LEPC representative – Ontario County Hazmat – attended the inspection. The company’s emergency response plan and coordination with the local response community were reviewed as part of the inspection. As a result of the inspection, Zimmerman Fertilizer agreed to hold a meeting/exercise with their local fire department and county emergency response officials.





EPA’s inspection determined that the facility had not submitted its EPCRA Tier II inventories to the State, LEPC and Fire Department. EPA included this finding, along with other findings, in a report which was issued to Zimmerman Fertilizer. Subsequent to issuance of the report, EPA and Zimmerman representatives had a phone conference, and it was decided that EPA would issue a compliance order to formalize the items to be addressed, and the implementation schedule for the resolution of those items. Also as a result of EPA’s findings from the GDC inspections, EPA, DHS CFATS, NYS Police, NYS OEM/DHS, and NYS Dep’t of Agriculture met in October 2015 to discuss next steps. NYS has developed an ammonia nitrate security and safety plan that complies with current industry standards, which has been distributed within the industry. EPA will conduct further GDC inspections at ammonium nitrate facilities that are referred by DHS.

Data Information Sharing/High Risk Work Group: The NY/NJ Data Information Sharing/High Risk Work Group, which began through the ECRM2 Pilot, has continued to strengthen relationships built between local, state, and federal regulatory agencies. On a monthly basis, participants in the workgroup discuss a wide range of topics regarding chemical accident prevention at facilities storing or handling hazardous substances. Specifically, these topics include changes to regulations, trending industry practices in NY and NJ, and specific facilities where multi-agency coordination is necessary. Through this effort, participating regulatory agencies have learned how to obtain essential inspection and data-related information, and who to contact for multi-agency coordination. Over the last year, the following regulatory agencies have remained active in the Data Information Sharing/High Risk Work Group effort: DHS, OSHA, EPA, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

## **II. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

### **A. TRAINING**

See tables below.

### **B. EXERCISES/WORKSHOPS**

Sector Delaware Bay Ecological Risk Assessment: In June 2015, Sector Delaware Bay sponsored the “Consensus Ecological Risk Assessment of Potential Transportation-related Bakken and Dilbit Crude Oil Spills in the Delaware Bay Area: Comparative Evaluation of Response Actions.” Project-specific objectives were to assess the risks from these two crude oils, and plan for the best way to respond to incidents involving these oils since they are transported via rail, barge, and tanker throughout the AOR. Another project objective was to consider specifically threatened and endangered species in accordance with USCG HQ guidance on Section 7 consultations pursuant to the



Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

This CERA assessed two types of crude oil with different properties and behavior, in five spill scenarios involving rail, barge, and tanker modes of transportation, in two seasons (winter and spring), and in three different settings (freshwater, brackish/salt water, and saltwater). Special consideration was given to T/E species throughout the process. The properties of these oils necessitated developing a new set of response actions, and evaluating the risks of the spilled oil and response actions in two phases, i.e., initial emergency phase (initial 4-6 hours) and longer-term (6 hours onward, especially 4-7 days). Due to the serious fires in recent incidents involving Bakken oil, the project assessed human health and safety risks in addition to ecological risks.

Due to the broad project scope and unlike previous ERA's where at least two workgroups separately evaluated the same scenarios and then developed a final consensus among all participants, the workgroups in this project assessed separate scenarios and achieved scenario-specific consensus, rather than a consensus across all workgroups about all scenarios.

Additional exercises and workshops conducted across the region are listed below:

<b>Oil Spill Exercises</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>ST</b>
Summer 2015	Sector Buffalo/Akwesasne-Mohawk Tribe TTX/Deployment Drill	Akwesasne-Mohawk Reservation	NY
Summer 2015	Sector Buffalo CSX/Erie County RR TTX	Erie County	NY
Fall 2015	Sector Buffalo PREP/DRAT TTX	Buffalo	NY
Fall 2015	Sector Buffalo Beyond the Border TTX	Alexandria Bay	NY
9/17/2015	Sector NY PREPEX	Port Elizabeth	NJ

<b>Seminars/Workshops</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>ST</b>
June 2015	Sector Delaware Bay Consensus Ecological Risk Assessment for Bakken and Dilbit Oils	Sharon Hill	PA

<b>Government Initial Unannounced Exercises</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>ST</b>
June 22, 2015	United Riverhead GIUE	Riverhead	NY
June 23, 2015	Roseton Generating Station GIUE	Newburgh	NY
June 24, 2015	IPT LLC GIUE	Rensselaer	NY
June 25, 2015	Paradise Oil GIUE	Ossining	NY





Sept 24,2015	Oswego Harbor Power Plant GIUE	Oswego	NY
<b>Non-Oil Exercises</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>ST</b>
March 19, 2015	FEMA NEP Operation Safe Delivery TTX	Jersey City	NJ
May 20, 2015	NJOHSP Crude by Rail TTX	Somerset	NJ
May 21, 2015	NJOHSP Crude by Rail TTX	Paulsboro	NJ

<b>Equipment Deployment Training/Exercises</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>ST</b>
May 7, 2015	BP Brooklyn Equipment Deployment	Brooklyn	NY
August 2015	Enbridge Pipeline Cross-Border Drill	Lewiston	NY
Sept 24, 2015	Paradise Oil Equipment Deployment	Ossining	NY
Nov 23, 2015	Sector Buffalo Booming Exercise	Angola	NY
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 AND COORDINATION**

CRUDE OIL TRANSPORT IN NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

Within Region 2, federal and state agencies are addressing crude oil transport issues as part of our all-hazards RCP and ACP planning efforts for both the inland and coastal zones, as well as in training and exercises with industry and local emergency response organizations. In addition, the on-going implementation of the chemical facility safety and security initiative within the region is expected to further enhance overall oil and hazardous substances planning and preparedness, through outreach to the SERCs and LEPCs.

**III. PERSONNEL CHANGES/ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES**

FEDERAL

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- Nothing to Report

U.S. Coast Guard

- LT Annjea Cormier has replaced Ron Catudal as the RRT2 Coordinator for the First Coast Guard District

STATES

- No significant changes.



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

**V. FUTURE PLANS**

Next RRT-2 Meeting: The RRT2 Spring 2016 will be held April 13-15 in West Point, NY at the United States Military Academy.

**VI. CONCURRENCE**

  
Eric Mosher  
U.S. EPA Co-Chair  
U.S. EPA, Region II  
13/31/14  
(Date)

  
Joseph Boudrow  
U.S. Coast Guard Co-Chair  
First Coast Guard District  
3/22/2016  
(Date)