

Summary Notes¹
Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force
Summer Quarter Coordinating Committee Meeting
July 28, 2005
Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
555 Cordova St., Anchorage, AK

ATTENDING: Leslie Pearson and Bill Hutmacher, Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC); Lisa Curtis, California Office of Spill Prevention & Response (OSPR); Curtis Martin, Hawaii Hazards Evaluation & Emergency Response (HEER); Jon Neel, Washington Department of Ecology; Mike Zollitsch, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (ODEQ); CAPT Paul Gugg and CAPT Steve Hanewich, US Coast Guard; Jean Cameron, Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force.

DISCUSSION:

- Coordinating Committee members met with US Coast Guard Captains Paul Gugg, new Chief of Marine Safety for the Pacific Area, and Steve Hanewich, new Chief of the Office of Response. Each Coordinating Committee member provided a brief overview of their state's oil spill program and priority issues facing those programs.
 - Leslie and Bills explained that priority issues facing ADEC include coordination with the USCG regarding non-tank vessel contingency plans, a review of prevention regulations governing pipelines, and working with the USCG to review the escort tug regulations for Prince William Sound. CAPT Hanewich noted that the USCG also anticipates working with the State of Alaska regarding the need for a Risk Assessment for the Aleutian Islands, primarily where the Great Circle Route cuts through the Aleutians at Dutch Harbor.
 - Jon Neel explained that the Washington Dept. of Ecology is updating the state's contingency plan regulations as well as developing new regulations governing oil transfers. They're also reviewing spill response capacity on Washington's outer coast.
 - Oregon is currently focusing on spills from trucks and railroads, grounded fishing vessels, and the US Army Corps of Engineers dams on the Columbia, noted Mike Zollitsch. He noted that the issue of response to spills of waste oils – which is not covered by the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund since waste oils are categorized as hazardous materials – has been referred to the National Response Team.
 - Lisa explained OSPR's program, explaining that, as a division of the CA Dept. of Fish and Game, game wardens also serve as state OSCs. She also noted CA's unique Oiled Wildlife Care Network and OSPR's strong scientific branch.
 - Curtis explained that vessel groundings on remote islands, pipeline spills, and delivering wildlife care throughout the islands were the Health Department's current challenges.
- Captains Gugg and Hanewich advised the Coordinating Committee that the US Coast Guard is in the process of separating spill prevention and preparedness functions in the field as well as at the district, area, and headquarters levels. CAPT Gugg noted that he would primarily be focused on prevention efforts.
- The group then discussed the USCG's new authority to require contingency plans for non-tank vessels, reviewing the current regulations on non-tank vessels in our member states. Bill Hutmacher provided a matrix comparing the USCG NVIC on non-tank plans to Alaska's regulations. Jean explained the Task Force had adopted recommendations in 2003 regarding contingency plan regulations for facilities as well as vessels, and had recommended that non-tank vessels be allowed to follow the streamlined plan option offered by Alaska.

¹ NOTE: This is a meeting summary and is not intended as a verbatim record of all presentations or comments made during the meeting.

- Jean also noted upcoming Work Plan tasks of interest to the USCG, including Best Industry Practices for Vessels, the Task Force's interest in increasing non-tank vessel COFRs and Limits of Liability, and the Roundtable on improving response.
- Annual Meeting debrief:
 - Coordinating Committee members thought the Annual Meeting went very well, noting that they liked having the Annual Awards presented during the luncheon.
 - They liked the panel discussions, and requested copies of the PowerPoint presentations.
- The Coordinating Committee reviewed the following decisions from the Executive Session of the Task Force Members:
 - Members agreed to amend the 2005-2007 contract to show a total of \$30,600 in the Goods/Services budget and \$30,000 in the Travel budget; there is no change to the total budget.
 - Members agreed that topics related to how the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund would operate (e.g., cap/trigger versus sunset, how to include non-tank vessels, funding for prevention/preparedness, and increases in the limits of liability) would be issues which the member agencies would continue to discuss within their agencies and within the Task Force, but they were not ready at this time to develop consensus positions on these issues.
 - Members charged the Executive Coordinator and the Coordinating Committee to develop and implement a new task for the 2005-2006 Annual Work Plan focused on ways to expand information exchange and possible membership with other states and provinces, perhaps even federal agencies. They agreed that this should be done in such a way as to maintain, but supplement, the cohesive regional consensus which currently exists.
 - Members approved deleting the Annual Work Plan task requiring publication of a "regular" newsletter, since outreach to stakeholders is currently done through the website.
- The Coordinating Committee discussed various first quarter tasks under the 2005-2006 Annual Work Plan, including:
 - Drafting a new Task Statement regarding Task Force membership;
 - The need for Coordinating Committee members to promote implementation of the Places of Refuge annex by their Area Committees, as well as outreach within their agencies and to their Executive Branches regarding how a Places of Refuge decision would be made;
 - Jean will draft OSTF comments on the non-tank vessel NVIC which stress use of the Streamlined Plan format, OSRO and salvor contracts, and Incident Management Teams.
 - Jean was directed to contact Elin Storey of Washington Ecology to determine whether Elin has developed a process for sharing Lessons Learned in the NW Area.
- Other OSPR updates:
 - OSPR is working with the USCG and the American Salvage Association to determine a date for a Salvage course; Lisa will keep the Coordinating Committee posted regarding this.
 - Lisa provided Coordinating Committee members with a list of pending legislation of interest, including:
 - SB 771, which would extend the sewage, graywater, and oily bilge water dumping prohibitions currently in place for cruise ships in CA waters to all ocean-going vessels, and would also require discharge reports to the State Lands Commission. SB 771 has passed the Senate and had its second reading in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
 - SB 426 would require the Energy Commission to conduct a LNG needs assessment for the state by 11/1/2005, as well as to compare and rank all sites for which terminal applications have been filed. SB 1003 would provide authority for the state to establish

a permitting process for terminals and to attach permit conditions necessary to ensure the public health, safety, and welfare. These two bills are linked, and both have passed the Senate and been referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

- Lisa will send information to the Coordinating Committee members regarding the Clean California Conference which OSPR is hosting in Long Beach September 13-15.
- Administrative issues:
 - The Coordinating Committee will meet with EPA at their Fall 2005 meeting and with the USCG at their Winter 2005 meeting. Chris Field will be invited for EPA Region 10.
 - They also agreed that the fall meeting will be in Portland, the winter meeting in Honolulu, and the spring meeting in the Bay area in conjunction with the Response Roundtable.
 - Discussions regarding the Goods/Services budget and Annual Report costs were postponed to the October meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.