

Conference Call Participants:

Craig Carroll, Joe Reina, Steve Spencer, Don Shanin, Dennis Pepe, Marcia Mialono, Tom Bergman, Richard Merritt, Phil Campagna, Russ Colomo, Charlie Henry, Arron Demo, John Ratcliffe, Ragan Broyles, John Tintera, Phil Meyers, Royce Swayne, Linda Howell, and Greg Pollock.

- Craig Carroll gave briefing of EPA activities: 4 Mission Assignments (helicopter over flights, RNA, boats for SAR, and debris collection).
- EPA established a staging area in Lafayette, LA lead by OSC Warren Zehner.
- USCG has approx. 1,200 personnel focusing on Search and Rescue (SAR). They have rescued over 3,000 people.
- USCG also conducting channel surveys on river. They have received 152 NRC reports (77 salvage incidents, 270 barges on Mississippi River banks).
- USCG also reports considerable damage offsite, 5 platforms adrift, considerable pollution on both sides of levee system.
- USCG and EPA will together in order to avoid duplication and establish priorities, including a joint Incident Management Team (IMT). USCG / EPA will have personnel at JFO.
- USCG offered EPA space at their base camp in Alexandria, LA.
- The current EPA / USCG Boundary of Jurisdiction will not be determination for responses.
- Discussion was held on the Chevron / Texaco pipeline. USCG determined too many wellheads in the surrounding area of leaking pipeline to conduct a burn. At 1330 they secured release and contractor clean-up is underway.
- From south of Empire, LA, there is complete sheening.
- Approximately 300 boats on land in Venice, LA.
- Hundreds of drums and tanks scattered across river basin.
- USCG continues to make SAR a priority but their Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSRO's) are responding and conducting clean-up actions.
- EPA offered additional OSC's to USCG to oversee present clean-up.
- EPA will contact John Temperilli for IWG partnerships.
- DOI personnel are also involved in SAR. and will pursue migratory bird issues at a later time.
- Wildlife Refuge in Venice, LA is seriously damaged due to debris.
- EPA requested states provide any SOP's developed on natural disaster responses.
- TGLO is sending trucks and boats to assist in SAR. They will be staging at Zephyr field in Kenner, LA.
- LDEQ requested TCEQ's assistance; 16 personnel with communication trailer – strike team is being deployed to assist LDEQ.
- Next conference call will be conducted at 1530 central time on Saturday September 3, 2005.

## RRT NOTES

September 3, 2005 1530

- EPA has been requested to send 50 personnel to conduct land/soil assessments for temporary housing.
- Mendon, LA has tentatively been scheduled to approximately 100,000 people in temporary housing
- EPA personnel along with LDHA will conduct water treatment facilities surveys.
- Corp of Engineers getting a Mission Assignment of 1.5 billion- oil/hazardous wastes.
- ASPECT flyover showed low levels of methanol being released from warehouse fire in New Orleans.
- An additional fire on a barge loading area showed no large spikes – small amounts of ammonia and methanol.
- LDEQ has expressed concern about railcars containing chemicals not intended to be stored long periods of time. They survey them daily.
- EPA/Coast Guard/LDEQ will join together as unified command to deal with oil/hazardous waste issues.
- Coast Guard monitoring 30 action pollution cases. They are prioritizing which hazards need immediate attention.
- Oil Spill in Venice owned by Bass from two tanks containing approximately 25,000 bbls of oil Coast Guard is monitoring situation and cleanup will be initiated by Oil Mop Co.
- ESF-10 presently has 4 Mission Assignments in response to the hurricane
- Region 4 ESF-10 has requested for Mississippi a 10 million dollar MA and Alabama a 5 million dollar MA to deal with sunken boats and chemical facilities.
- Incident Commander for Region 6 EPA Incident Management Team (IMT) is OSC Ken Clark. IMT is still being set up at LDEQ.
- White House has become more visible in the operations of the response, and has instructed all agencies to deploy whatever resources are needed to facilitate the response.
- Craig Carroll asked all RRT members to keep cell phones on in case RRT is activated.
- OSC Mason discussed present and potential environmental issues that may occur in shelters in states accepting evacuees.
- The USDA – NRT representative indicated the USDA will need to do large assessments of slaughter houses and other agriculture related facilities to determine water concerns.
- TCEQ Strike Team has integrated with LDEQ. Will be sending out teams to Lake Ponchartrain for assessment of spills
- EPA HQ issued a Water waiver to Corp of Engineers concerning dewatering operations.
- Reports vary on how long it will take to completely dewater the City of New Orleans. This depends on how many pumps will be up and running.
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- Federal Occupational Health (FOH) has indicated that responders receive Hep. A and Tetanus if in the field, if they are responding to the New Orleans Area.
- Coast Guard is tracking 175 oil spills, reported mainly through the National Response Center.
- Oklahoma reported that the State is expected to accept approximately 5 thousand evacuees.
- No future RRT meeting scheduled at this, but will notify all members if another call is warranted.

## RRT NOTES

September 8, 2005 1400

- RRT 6 held a quick conference call to update members on situation.
- Mason gave an EPA Update
  - Water Sampling
  - Search and Rescue
  - Ground and Air Reconnaissance
  - ASPECT Plane Flights
- Discussion of communication difficulties: GSA is working to remedy issues; Nextel has issued thousands of phones in area for responders
- If you are really having difficulty reaching someone on their cell phone, send a text message to their phone; seems to be working better than voice calls
- John Temperelli reported that any assets that may be available through the Industry Work Group (IWG) probably have already been mobilized and being utilized
- Under the NRP structure, IWG connectivity presently should still be through first response organizations (e.g., Garner, Eagle, etc.)
- Federal agencies wanting to utilize private resources still follow the standard Mission Assignment process through FEMA/State and the agency's own contracting programs.
- Discussion concerning the de-watering activities and discharging into Lake Pontchartrain. A memo from EPA HQ provides process for EPA OSC to waive permit requirements for discharges.
- Carroll indicated that EPA Incident Management Team is working to pull together all agencies that have been sampling the waters (USEPA, USGS, LA DEQ) to ensure consistency on sampling, and dissemination of the data. Contrary to other reports, USACE is not pulling samples.
- If anyone has questions on the water sampling, they should contact Ben Banipal for EPA ([banipal.ben@epa.gov](mailto:banipal.ben@epa.gov))
- EPA is in the process of developing an overall water sampling plan to cover the entire region, as well as a comprehensive sediment sampling plan.
- EPA did pull samples in the Lake next to the Causeway.
- Spencer (DOI) expressed concern on coordination issues with DOI resources as the response / recovery operations progress. Unified Command (EPA, USCG, DEQ) need to ensure that DOI personnel are included into operations and planning.
- Hoover indicated that TCEQ will begin rotating their staff, who are working with DEQ on hazmat response issues.
- Mason indicated that all state / local assets volunteering to work in the area should go through their own state emergency management office to go through the EMAC process.
- FEMA is looking to establish a safety / health team to address all safety / health issues for responders. This team would include representatives from FEMA, EPA, CDC, OSHA, and state officials.
- No future RRT meeting scheduled at this, but will notify all members if another call is warranted.

### Attendees:

Steve Hurst, DOT  
Tom Bergman, ODEQ  
Steve Mason, USEPA  
Henry Delgado, DHHS  
Russ Colomo, GSA  
Steve Spencer, DOI  
Bill Merchant, TRRC

Greg Pollock, TGLO  
Craig Carroll, USEPA  
Royce Swayne, USACE  
Phil Campagna, USEPA  
Pat Hoover, TCEQ  
John Temperelli, IWG / Garner Services