

Maine and New Hampshire Area Committee

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Area Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 27, 2011

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Location: NH Department of Environmental Services, Portsmouth Office

Welcome and Introductions: Wyman Briggs opened the meeting on schedule. Roundtable introductions were conducted. 51 people attended the meeting.

1. New Hampshire DES Comments: Rick Berry welcomed members to the NH DES facility and noted that additional enhancements including expansions to the computer server and signage had been made in anticipation of the upcoming September 29 Functional Exercise. He noted that budgets continued to be tight within NH DES but that his staff remained very busy responding to a high case load.

2. Maine DEP Comments: Barbara Parker provided an overview of the response to several recent incidents. She noted that budgets also remained tight. She also mentioned that Mary Corr of her staff had recently retired and would not be immediately replaced and that there were some ongoing transitions within ME DEP and Maine government.

3. Federal On-Scene Coordinator Comments: CAPT Chris Roberge noted that he was excited to be newly assigned as Commander, Sector Northern New England and the new co-chair of the Maine and New Hampshire Area Committee. He noted that based on visits with his fellow co-chairs and the ambitious Workplan that the ME/NH Area Committee was the most engaged of the 5 Area Committees he has been involved with over his career. He noted that he looked forward to working with all members of the Area Committee at the upcoming exercise at NH DES and during future meetings.

4. Geographic Response Plan Strategy Updates and Deployment Testing: MST1 Sheridan McClellan of SNNE provided an update on recent boom deployment testing at the entrance to Back Cove in Portland. Four mixed teams from ME DEP and SNNE successfully deployed a 500' section of harbor fence and a 500' section of harbor boom effectively blocking off half of the entrance to the Back Cove during maximum flood tidal currents. This demonstrated that the updated booming strategy in the Geographic Response Plan is effective. Ginger McMullin of ME DEP also provided an overview of the successful boom deployment exercise completed in the Fore River over the summer and ambitious plans to test additional key strategies through boom

deployments in the Fall of 2011 and through 2012 thanks to funding authorized by the Maine Oil Spill Advisory Committee (MOSAC).

5. Update on Piscataqua River booming strategy: Rick Berry provided an update on the 2011 Piscataqua River/Great Bay Protection Strategy Design. This included an overview of how the recently reconfigured strategy for protecting Great Bay complies with potential waterway safety concerns and provides larger, lighted markers.

6. Communications Subcommittee: Val Pamboukas provided an overview of the role of the PRC Communications Subcommittee in improving the radio room operations and flow of information throughout the command post from/to the radio room. This group has developed a comprehensive communications plan including a one page “at a glance” communications guide to keep on response vessels, a modified ICS 210 message form and a list of job descriptions for Communications Unit personnel.

7. Exercise at NH DES: Carroll Brown provided an overview of the Functional Incident Command Post exercise scheduled to be held at NH DES’s Coastal Offices in Portsmouth on September 29, 2011. The exercise will involve a full standup of the interagency Incident Management Team for a worst case spill scenario impacting Maine and New Hampshire.

8. Volunteer Reception Centers/Volunteer Management: Eileen Buzzello, Americorps Emergency Management VISTA/Maine Commission for Community Service described how Americorps could assist in standing up a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) to help solicit, register and assign unaffiliated volunteers during major response operations, including a large oil spill in Maine or New Hampshire.

9. CANUSLANT 2013 Exercise/RRT1 Highlights: Wyman Briggs and D1 representatives provided an overview of the CANADA/US cross border oil spill response exercise that is scheduled to take place in June 2013 in Downeast Maine and the cross-border region.

10. Closing Comments: All co-chairs thanked everyone for their efforts and continued cooperation.