



Region 6 Regional Contingency Plan Volume 1

Final: 12/18/2019

- Volume 1: Region 6 RRT Regional Contingency Plan (RCP)**
- Volume 2: Region 6 Inland Area Contingency Plan (ACP)**
- Volume 3: Region 6 Coastal Area Contingency Plans (ACPs)**
- Volume 4: Region 6 Supporting Documentation for Plans**



LETTER OF PROMULGATION

In accordance with the provisions of Section 105 of the [Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act \(CERCLA\) of 1980](#), the [Clean Water Act \(CWA\) of 1977](#), a [National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan](#) was developed by the [National Response Team](#).

[Section 300.210](#) of the [National Contingency Plan \(NCP\)](#) states that regional contingency plans shall be prepared for each federal region.

The Region 6 Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) has been developed with the cooperation of all designated federal and state agencies.

This RCP is effective upon receipt and supersedes the previous plans of Region 6 in their entirety. This revised RCP has been published electronically and is available for viewing or download from the Region 6 RRT website: response.epa.gov/rrt6-homepage

Comments and recommendations regarding this RCP are invited and should be addressed to Bray Fisher, U.S. EPA RRT-6 Coordinator, fisher.kelsey@epa.gov or Todd Peterson, USCG RRT-6 Coordinator, todd.m.peterson@uscg.mil.

This RCP will be kept under continual review. Changes, additional information, or corrections will be promulgated as necessary, but the entire RCP shall be reviewed every five (5) years.

Signed: December 18, 2019

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Section A. Purpose and Objectives ([40 CFR § 300.1](#))

In 1968, after several large oil spills in the preceding years around the world, the President directed the federal government to develop a plan to effectively respond to oil spills. The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, more commonly known as the National Contingency Plan (NCP) was the result of this effort, and provides the organizational structure and procedures for preparing for and responding to discharges of oil and releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants. This plan's primary objective is to provide a coordinated approach to respond and mitigate the effects of spills into U.S. waters, as well as inland areas, by the effective use of national, regional, state, area, local, and industry contingency plans. The original 1968 NCP also established national and regional reaction teams, which are now known as the [National Response Team \(NRT\)](#) and Regional Response Teams (RRTs).

The President of the United States delegated responsibility for amending the NCP to the Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), which coordinates activities with members of the NRT prior to publication for notice and comment. The NCP ([Section 300.210\(b\)](#)) calls for the establishment of a nationwide system of Regional Contingency Plans (RCPs) based on federal regions. This RCP is applicable to pollution planning, preparedness, and response operations taken by all federal, state and local agencies within Region 6, pursuant to the authorities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Section 311 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended. The RRT in each region is responsible for developing and maintaining the RCP for their area.

The purpose of the Region 6 Regional Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (RCP) is to provide the organizational structure and procedures for preparing for and responding to discharges of oil and releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants by the Region 6 Regional Response Team (RRT).

The RCP describes the mechanisms by which the Region 6 RRT assists the FOSC before a response, through planning and training activities; and through the response with organizational and coordination assistance. As provided under [Section 300.115](#) of the NCP, the RRT is responsible for providing advice and support to the FOSC when activated during a response. This RCP provides the concept of operations for the RRT and each member agency's capabilities to provide resources during a response. Three fundamental activities are performed pursuant to this RCP:

- (a) RRT preparedness, planning, and coordination to support a FOSC during a response to a discharge of oil or release of hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminants.
- (b) Notification and communication to the RRT during a discharge or release.
- (c) RRT support of an FOSC's actions at the scene of a discharge or release.

Section B. Authority and Applicability ([40 CFR § 300.2](#))

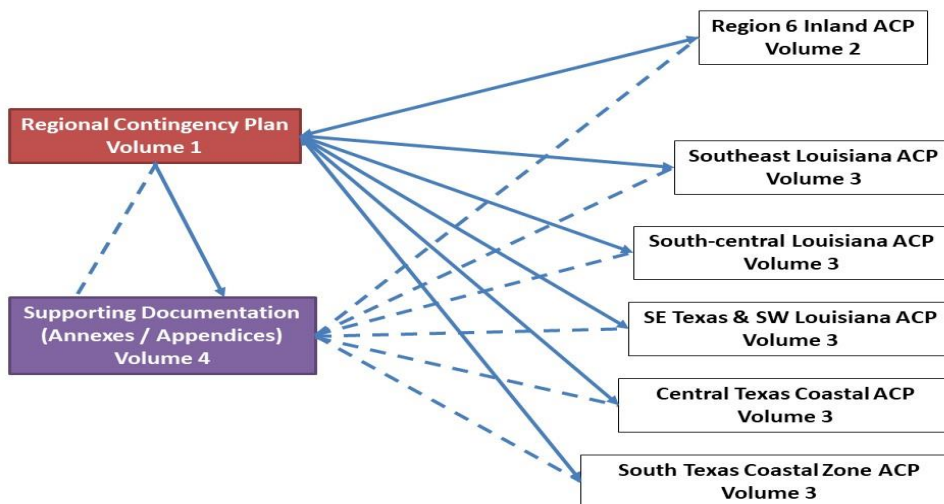
Development, revision, and maintenance of the NCP is required by section [105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9605](#), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), Pub. L. 99-499, (hereinafter CERCLA), and by [section 311\(d\) of the Clean Water Act \(CWA\), 33 U.S.C. 1321\(d\)](#), as amended by the [Oil Pollution Act of 1990 \(OPA\), Pub. L. 101-380](#).

The Region 6 RRT derives its framework for policy and program direction from [Executive Order 12580](#), as amended by [Executive Order 12777](#), the NCP, the [Region 6 RRT By-Laws](#), and the Region 6 RCP. The RRT develops its program initiatives from the RRT membership with guidance from the NRT. [Executive Order 12580](#) directed which federal agencies would provide

representatives to the RRT, the Co-Chairs or Chair of the RRT during standing and activation periods, and other entities which may be represented on the RRT.

Section C. Scope ([40 CFR § 300.3](#))

Under this regional system of planning, [Volume 1](#) consists of the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP), which outlines and describes how the federal and state agencies on the RRT can support an On-Scene Coordinator during a response. [Volume 2](#) consists of the Inland Area Contingency Plan (ACP), which describes U.S. EPA's role and responsibilities during an oil spill or hazardous substance release in their area of responsibility. [Volume 3](#) consists of the Coastal ACPs, which describe the USCG's role and responsibilities during an oil spill or hazardous substance release in their areas of responsibility. [Volume 4](#) consists of the Supporting Documentation, which is a compilation of documents supporting Volumes 1-3.



This RCP applies to and is in effect for the following incidents:

- (a) Discharges of oil into or on the navigable waters, on adjoining shorelines to navigable waters, into or on waters of the exclusive economic zone, or may affect natural resources belonging to, appertaining to, or under the exclusive management authority of the United States; and,
- (b) Releases of hazardous substances into the environment, and pollutants or contaminants which may present an imminent and substantial danger to public health or welfare of the United States.

The RCP applies to preparedness, planning, and response activities taken by all federal, tribal, state, and local agencies within Region 6 that are covered under the provisions of the NCP. Region 6 includes the following geographical areas:

- State of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas
- All lands of federally recognized tribes located within the geographical boundaries of Region 6
- Boundary with Mexico
- Offshore Gulf of Mexico environment within the Eighth Coast Guard District, consistent with the geographical boundaries of the following USCG Captain of the Ports zones: Corpus Christi, Houston-Galveston, Port Arthur, Houma, and New Orleans

In subject areas where RRT policy and structure mirror that laid out in the NCP, the RCP's scope is limited to Region-specific information as described in Section D.

The NCP requires RCPs follow the format of the NCP to the greatest extent possible. Policies and operating procedures of the RRT are consistent with the NCP.

In an effort to create the most streamlined and user-friendly document possible, information from the NCP and Area Contingency Plans (ACPs), as well as the appendices contained in Volume 4 of the Planning Compendium, that apply to policies and procedures in Region 6 without modification were excluded from volume 1 of the Region 6 RCP.

Responders can reference the NCP, ACPs and appendices on our RRT website for additional information referenced in the RCP. The RCP primarily contains information whose scope and applicability are limited to Region 6. The following table lists all sections of the NCP that apply to the RRT, and states whether information pertaining to any specific section has been included in this RCP, or in the ACPs for areas within Region 6. Sections of the NCP for which RRT policy and operating procedures are identical to that laid out in the NCP are marked "No Regional Modifications."

NCP: Subpart A -- Introduction		Regional Modifications	Location
300.1	Purpose and objectives	The RCP is limited to Region 6	Section A
300.2	Authority and applicability	Executive Orders	Section B
300.3	Scope	The RCP is limited to states, locals, and tribes and offshore environment of Region 6	Section C
300.4	Abbreviations	No Regional Modifications	See NCP
300.5	Definitions	No Regional Modifications	See NCP
300.6	Use of number and gender	No Regional Modifications	See NCP
300.7	Computation of time	No Regional Modifications	See NCP
Subpart B – Responsibility and Organization for Response			
300.100	Duties of the President delegated to federal agencies	No Regional Modifications	See NCP
300.105	General organizational concepts	No Regional Modifications	See NCP
300.110	National Response Team	Expanded explanation of duties	Section D
300.115	Regional Response Teams	A description of Region 6 RRT operations and administration is included	Sections E-H

Section D. National Response Team (NRT): Organization, Role, Responsibilities ([40 CFR § 300.110](#))

Although the NRT does not respond directly to incidents, it is responsible for three major activities related to managing responses: distributing information; planning for emergencies; and training for emergencies. The NRT also supports the RRT in their activities. The NRT has three standing committees to help address issues brought to the NRT.

- (a) Response Committee: chaired by U.S. EPA, addresses issues such as response operations, technology employment during response, operational safety, and interagency facilitation of response issues (e.g., provide consistent national policy and job aid). Response specific policy coordination and capacity building also reside in this committee.
- (b) Preparedness Committee: chaired by the USCG, addresses issues such as preparedness training, monitoring exercises/drills, planning guidance, planning interoperability, and

planning consistency issues. Preparedness specific national policy/program coordination and capacity building also reside in this committee.

- (c) Science and Technology Committee: chaired by U.S. EPA or NOAA, provides national coordination on issues that parallel those addressed by the Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) on an incident-specific basis. The focus of this committee is on identifying developed technology and mechanisms for applying those technologies to enhance operational response. The committee monitors research and development of response technologies and provides relevant information to the RRTs and other organizations within the National Response System (NRS) to assist in the use of such technologies.

The NRT has duties outlined in the NCP (40 CFR § 300.110) to provide support during a response to an oil discharge or hazardous substance release.

(a) When the NRT Should Be Activated

- i. When an oil discharge or hazardous materials release:
 - (1) Exceeds the response capability of the region in which it occurs;
 - (2) Transects regional boundaries; and/or
 - (3) Involves a substantial threat to the public health or welfare of the U.S. or the environment, substantial amounts of property, or substantial threats to natural resources (e.g., Spills of National Significance);
- ii. When requested by a NRT member;
- iii. When requested by a FOSC;
- iv. When requested by a RRT;
- v. When there is competition for resources that requires national interagency adjudication; and/or
- vi. When there are questions requiring interagency input into answers at national level.

(b) Types of NRT Activation

- i. Full activation: All of the NRT member agencies are asked to assist in the NRT's activities related to the response, either face-to-face in a location designated by the NRT Chair or by conference call.
- ii. Partial activation: Specific agencies are called upon by the NRT Chair to assist in the NRT's activities related to the response. Participation will either be face-to-face in a location designated by the NRT Chair or by conference call.

Section E. Standing Regional Response Team: Organization, Role, Responsibilities ([40 CFR § 300.115](#))

Response planning and coordination is accomplished at the regional federal level through the RRT. The four major responsibilities of RRTs are: response; planning; training; and coordination.

- (a) Response: RRTs provide a forum for federal agency offices and state agencies to exchange information about their abilities to respond to a FOSC's requests for assistance. As with the NRT, the RRT does not respond directly to releases or discharges, but may be called upon to provide technical advice, equipment, or staff resources to assist with a response.
- (b) Planning: Each RRT develops a RCP to ensure the roles of federal and state agencies during an actual incident are clear. Following an incident, the RRT may review the FOSC's report to identify problems with the Region's response to the incident and improve the plan as necessary.

- (c) Training: Federal agencies that are members of the RRT provide simulation exercises of regional plans, policies, and procedures to test the abilities of federal, state, and local agencies, as well as industry, to coordinate their emergency response activities. Any lessons learned identified as a result of these exercises may be addressed in this RCP, so the same problems do not arise during an actual incident.
- (d) Coordination: The RRTs identify available resources from each federal agency and state within their regions. Such resources include equipment, guidance, training, and technical expertise for dealing with chemical releases or oil spills. When there are too few resources in a region, the RRT can request assistance from federal or state authorities to ensure sufficient resources will be available during an incident. This coordination by the RRT assures resources are judiciously used, and no Region is lacking what it needs to protect human health and the environment from the effects of a hazardous substance release or oil discharge.

The RRT is responsible for regional planning and preparedness activities before response actions, and for providing advice and support to the FOSC when activated during a response. The Region 6 RRT is comprised of members from fifteen federal departments and agencies having representatives on the NRT, plus five regional state government representatives from the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Each participating federal and state agency shall designate one member and at least one alternate member to the RRT. Federal agencies whose regional subdivisions do not correspond to Region 6 may designate additional representatives to the standing RRT to ensure appropriate coverage of Region 6.

The state's RRT representative should keep the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) apprised of RRT activities and coordinate RRT activities with the SERC. Tribal governments may arrange for representation with the RRT appropriate to their geographical location. Federal member agencies have duties established by statute, executive order, or Presidential directive which may apply to federal response actions following, or in prevention of, the discharge of oil or release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Some of these agencies also have duties relating to the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of equivalent natural resources injured or lost as a result of such discharge or release.

The two principal components of the RRT mechanism are a standing team, which consists of designated representatives from each participating federal, state, and local agency, and an incident-specific team, where participation will relate to the technical nature of the incident and its geographic location. The standing RRT serves as the regional body for planning and preparedness actions before a response action to a significant oil or hazardous substance incident is taken. Except for periods of activation for an incident-specific response action, the representatives of U.S. EPA Region 6 and USCG District Eight shall act as Co-Chairs.

The standing RRT's general activities should include the development of communication systems and procedures, planning and preparedness, training and exercises, coordination, evaluation, and other related pollution preparedness matters on a region-wide basis. Members (and/or alternate members) of the standing RRT will be available as needed for quick discussion, decision-making, and advisement to a FOSC during a response to an actual discharge of oil or release of hazardous substance. Members of the standing RRT will participate in the development of procedures (such as for the use of alternative response technologies) to facilitate support to Region 6 FOSCs during a response to a discharge or release.

The Region 6 RRT has developed several preauthorizations or expedited approval processes to assist the FOSC during an oil spill response.

a. Preauthorization to conduct In-Situ Burns

The preauthorization allows FOSCs to permit responsible parties to employ the [In-Situ Burn technique](#) (with the use of burning agents) seaward of three miles of the coasts of Louisiana and Texas, with areas excluded offshore in the vicinity of certain reefs and an area off Grand Isle, Louisiana. See [Appendix 13](#) of Volume 4: Supporting Documentation.

RRT-6 has also established a policy that prescribes the process for FOSC consideration for using In-Situ Burn within the coastal zone inshore of three miles, including bays, lakes, sounds, rivers, and on land, but incident-specific RRT approval must be granted in all such cases (if burning agents will be used). See [Appendix 13a](#) of Volume 4: *Supporting Documentation*.

b. Preauthorization to Apply Dispersants – Aerial and by Boat

The preauthorization to the FOSC for dispersant use in responding to any oil pollution located in offshore waters of Texas and Louisiana which are no less than 10 meters in depth and at least 3 nautical miles from the nearest shoreline. See [Appendix 11](#) of Volume 4: *Supporting Documentation*.

c. Expedited Approval Process to Apply Dispersants Near Shore

This document is designed to provide the RRT with an expedited information gathering and decision-making process relative to the potential use of chemical dispersants on oil spills in, or threatening the near shore environment (NSE) of Region 6. This is not a dispersant use preauthorization, and therefore RRT-6 concurrence is required on a case-by-case basis with the use of this document. See [Appendix 12](#) of Volume 4: *Supporting Documentation*.

d. Preauthorization to Use Surface Washing Agents

This document prescribes the process to obtain preauthorization to coastal FOSCs for using surface washing agents identified in their respective coastal ACP. The product must be listed in the NCP Product Schedule, and only pre-identified and approved port locations listed in the ACP can be considered. Environmental consultation with the Services (DOI/USFWS and DOC/NMFS) is required before preauthorization is granted. Otherwise, the FOSC must seek concurrence from the RRT on a case-by-case basis. See [Appendix 23](#) of Volume 4: *Supporting Documentation*.

Members of the standing RRT will arrange for and/or participate in training and exercises to maintain familiarity with their respective agency potential response roles to an oil discharge or hazardous material release. For a more detailed description of the roles and responsibilities of the standing RRT, refer to 40 CFR § 300.115, as well as the [Region 6 Regional Response Team By-Laws](#), and the [Regional Response Team Job Aid](#) developed by the NRT.

e. Members of the Region 6 Regional Response Team

State Entities

- Arkansas
 - [Division of Emergency Management \(ADEM\)](#) / [Department of Energy and Environment \(E&E\)](#) / [Department of Health \(ADH\)](#)
- Louisiana
 - [Department of Environmental Quality \(LDEQ\)](#) / [Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness \(GOHSEP\)](#) / [Oil Spill Coordinator's Office \(LOSCO\)](#) / [Poison Control](#) / [State Police \(LSP\)](#)
- New Mexico
 - [Environment Department \(NMED\)](#) / [New Mexico Health Department \(NMDOH\)](#) / [Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management \(NMDHSEM\)](#)
- Oklahoma
 - [Department of Emergency Management \(OEM\)](#) / [Department of Environmental Quality \(ODEQ\)](#) / [State Department of Health \(OSDH\)](#) / [Poison Control](#)
- Texas
 - [Commission on Environmental Quality \(TCEQ\)](#) / [Division of Emergency Management \(TDEM\)](#) / [Department of State Health Services \(DSHS\)](#) / [General Land Office \(TGLO\)](#) / [Parks and Wildlife Department \(TPWD\)](#) / [Railroad Commission \(TRRC\)](#)

Federal Agencies

- [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(U.S. EPA\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](#)
 - [Coast Guard \(USCG\)](#) / [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) / [Transportation Security Agency \(TSA\)](#) / [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)
 - [Animal-Plant Health Inspection Service \(APHIS\)](#) / [Forest Service \(USFS\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of Commerce \(DOC\)](#)
 - [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of Defense \(DOD\)](#)
 - [Navy Region Southeast](#) / [Defense Coordinating Element \(DCE\)](#) / [Army Corps of Engineers \(USACE\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\)](#)
 - [Radiological Assistance Program \(RAP\)](#) / [Strategic Petroleum Reserve \(SPR\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
 - [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
 - [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry \(ATSDR\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of Justice](#)
- [U.S. Department of Labor \(DOL\)](#)
 - [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of State \(DOS\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of the Interior \(DOI\)](#)
 - [Bureau of Indian Affairs \(BIA\)](#) / [Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement \(BSEE\)](#) / [Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance](#) / [Fish & Wildlife Service \(USFWS\)](#)

- [U.S. Department of Transportation \(DOT\)](#)
 - [Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\)](#) / [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration \(FMCSA\)](#) / [Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration \(PHMSA\)](#)
- [U.S. General Services Administration \(GSA\)](#)
- [U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission \(NRC\)](#)

Section F. Incident-Specific RRT: Organization, Role, Responsibilities, and Activation (40 CFR § 300.115)

- (a) The RRT may be activated as an intergovernmental coordination team by the chair as an incident-specific response team when a discharge or release:
 - i. Exceeds the response capability available to the OSC in the place where it occurs;
 - ii. Crosses state boundaries;
 - iii. May pose a substantial threat to the public health, welfare, environment, or to regionally significant amounts of property;
 - iv. Is a worst case discharge, as described in §300.324.
- (b) The RRT will be activated during any discharge or release upon a request from the OSC, or from any RRT representative, to the chair of the RRT.
 - i. Requests for RRT activation shall later be confirmed in writing;
 - ii. As appropriate for a full activation, as determined by the Co-Chairs, each representative, or an appropriate alternate, should be notified immediately when the RRT is activated.

Using the above criteria, any RRT representative may request an incident-specific Chair to activate the RRT. The request should normally be made to the USCG Chair for coastal zone incidents and to the U.S. EPA Chair for inland zone incidents. The request may be transmitted either verbally, in writing, by fax, or electronic mail. The RRT may also be activated during a natural disaster or other Stafford Act declared event if response activities need to be addressed by the RRT (such as a use of chemical countermeasures under Subpart J) or simply to provide situational awareness to all RRT members during such an event.

Once the incident-specific Chair chooses to activate the RRT or receives such a request from another RRT representative, the other Chair will be notified of the decision. The USCG Co-Chair will serve as the Chair for coastal zone incidents and the U.S. EPA Co-Chair will serve as the Chair for inland zone incidents. Notification of remaining RRT members will be the responsibility of the incident-specific Chair and may be delegated to the respective RRT Coordinator.

- (a) RRT Activation Activities: When activated, the RRT may meet or convene by teleconference or other means at the discretion of the incident-specific Chair and may:
 - i. Monitor and evaluate reports from the FOSC. The RRT may advise the FOSC on the duration and extent of the federal response and may recommend to the FOSC specific actions in responding to the discharge or release;
 - ii. Request other federal, state, or local government, or private agencies to provide resources under their existing authorities to assist the FOSC's response efforts;
 - iii. Help the FOSC prepare information releases for the public and for communications with the NRT;

- iv. If circumstances warrant, make recommendations to the regional or district head of the agency providing the FOSC that a different FOSC should be designated; and
- v. Submit Pollution Reports (POLREPs) or Situation Reports (SITREPs) to member agencies and other entities as significant developments occur.
- vi. Develop and post Incident-Specific summaries on the RRT-6 website.

Arrangements for meeting locations and/or teleconferences will be the responsibility of the incident-specific Chair or designated representative. The recording and distribution of summaries of meetings or teleconferences conducted upon RRT activation shall also be the responsibility of the incident-specific Chair or other designated representative. An incident-specific RRT activation may take place by telephone, by assembly, or other suitable means.

(b) Levels of Activation: Levels of activation are listed below.

- i. Alert: Notification of RRT members an incident has occurred.
- ii. Standby: Notice to some or all RRT members that their services may be needed and they are to assume a readiness posture and await further instructions. Notice may be given by phone.
- iii. Partial: Notice to selected RRT members their services are required in response to a pollution incident. The activation notice will specify the services requested and the services that will be required. The initial activation notice may be provided by telephone.
- iv. Full: Notice to all RRT members (with the exception of representatives of non-affected states) their services are requested in response to a pollution incident. The activation notice will specify the services being requested from each RRT member. The services of some members may be limited to advising the FOSC on general matters. The initial activation notice may be provided by telephone.

The RRT will be deactivated by the incident-specific Chair typically after a discussion with the RRT agencies. The incident-specific Chair, or their representative, will be responsible for notifying RRT members of the deactivation.

The dates and times for activation and deactivation should be included in POLREPs or other summaries generated by the FOSC or the incident-specific Chair and/or documented in summaries of meetings or teleconferences of the RRT. Summaries will be posted on the [RRT-6 web site](#).

Section G. Agency Representation: FOSC Assistance During a Response ([40 CFR § 300.170](#) & [300.175](#))

1. Federal Agency Participation

Federal agencies listed in 40 CFR § 300.175 have duties established by statute, executive order, or Presidential directive that may apply to federal response actions following, or in prevention of, the discharge of oil or release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminants. Federal agencies may be called upon by a FOSC during response planning and implementation to provide assistance in their respective areas of expertise.

Some of these agencies have duties relating to the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of natural resources or services equivalent to those damaged or lost as a result of such discharge or release. Specifically, federal member agency responsibilities include:

- i. Assisting the RRT and FOSCs in formulating Region 6's RCP;
- ii. Informing the RRT of changes in the availability of their respective response resources;
- iii. Reporting discharges and releases from facilities or vessels under their jurisdiction or control.

Additional federal agency responsibilities are described in 40 CFR § 300.170 of the NCP and in the National Response Framework (NRF) ESF-10 Support Annex (See [Appendix 10 of Volume 4: Supporting Documentation](#)).

During preparedness planning or in an actual response, various federal agencies may be called upon to provide assistance in their respective areas of expertise, as outlined in 40 CFR § 300.175 of the NCP.

a. United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) (40 CFR 300.175(b)(2))

EPA provides the Co-Chair of the Region 6 standing RRT and provides predesignated OSCs for the inland zone. EPA is responsible for providing expertise regarding ecological and environmental effects of pollution releases and environmental pollution control techniques. As described in the NCP, EPA is required to prepare for and respond to any release or threat of release of oil, hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants into the environment that may present an imminent and substantial threat to public health or welfare and the environment.

In addition, EPA is prepared for, and will respond to terrorist threats from weapons of mass destruction (WMD), primarily in the role of consequence management.

EPA will also advise the RRT and the OSC of the degree of hazard a particular release poses to the public health and safety, coordinate damage assessment and will generally provide the Scientific Support Coordinator for the inland zone. Access to EPA's scientific expertise can be facilitated through the EPA representative to the Research and Development Committee of the NRT; the EPA Office of Research and Development's Superfund Technical Liaisons or Region 6 scientists located in EPA Region 6 offices; or through EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT). EPA also provides legal expertise on the interpretation of CERCLA and other environmental statutes.

U.S. EPA has a number of special teams that can assist FOSCs, including the [Environmental Response Team](#), [National Decontamination Team](#), and [Radiological Emergency Response Team](#). These Teams have highly trained scientists, engineers and other technical experts who provide training and specialized assistance in multi-media sampling and analysis, hazards assessment, cleanup techniques, and waste management.

b. United States Coast Guard (USCG) 8th District (40 CFR 300.175(b)(1))

USCG reports directly to the Secretary of DHS. USCG 8th District provides the Co-Chair for the standing RRT and predesignated FOSCs for the coastal zone. The COTP zones within Region 6 comprise the following units:

- [Sector Corpus Christi \(ACP\)](#)
- [Sector Houston-Galveston \(ACP\)](#)
- Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur ([ACP](#))
- Marine Safety Unit Houma ([ACP](#))
- [Sector New Orleans \(ACP\)](#)
- [Sector Lower Mississippi River \(inland zone\)](#)

The 8th District is headquartered in New Orleans, LA, and is responsible for USCG operations spanning 26 states, including the Gulf of Mexico coastline from Florida to Mexico, the adjacent

offshore waters and outer continental shelf, as well as the inland waterways of the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, and Tennessee River systems.

The USCG maintains continuously staffed facilities which can be used for command and control, and for surveillance of oil discharges and hazardous substance releases occurring in the coastal zone. The USCG supplies expertise in the domestic/international fields of port safety and security, maritime law enforcement, navigation, and construction, and the manning, operation, and safety of vessels and marine transportation facilities.

The [USCG's National Strike Force \(NSF\)](#) provides highly trained, experienced personnel and specialized equipment to facilitate preparedness and response to oil and hazardous substance pollution incidents. The NSF totals over 200 active duty, civilian, reserve, and auxiliary personnel and includes the [National Strike Force Coordination Center \(NSFCC\)](#): [Atlantic Strike Team \(AST\)](#), [Gulf Strike Team \(GST\)](#) and the [Pacific Strike Team \(PST\)](#), as well as the [Public Information Assist Team \(PIAT\)](#) and [Coast Guard Incident Management Assistance Team \(CG-IMAT\)](#). USCG also develops and delivers exercise and training programs for the NRS.

c. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (40 CFR 300.175(b)(8))

HHS's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences \(NIEHS\)](#) provide worker health and safety training, while the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has established a surveillance system to evaluate the human health exposures to hazardous substances in emergencies.

The [Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response \(ASPR\)](#) provides the principal DHHS response and is coordinated with regional offices. Within DHHS, the primary response to a hazardous materials emergency comes from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). DHHS provides:

- i. Expertise and advice on public health and worker safety issues associated with releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances;
- ii. All health studies and surveys conducted under CERCLA;
- iii. Information concerning the health effects of toxic substances; and
- iv. Technical and nontechnical assistance in the form of advice, guidance, and resources to other federal agencies, as well as to state and local governments.

Both ATSDR and CDC maintain a 24-hour emergency response capability, wherein scientific and technical personnel are available to provide technical assistance to the OSC and state and local response agencies on human health threat assessment and analysis, and exposure prevention and mitigation. Such assistance is used for situations requiring evacuation of affected areas, human exposure to hazardous materials and technical advice on mitigation and prevention. CDC takes the lead for the above-mentioned functions during petroleum discharges regulated under the CWA and OPA of 1990. In addition, CDC is responsible for coordinating all public health responses on the federal level and for coordinating all responses with tribal, state, and local health agencies during an oil response.

ATSDR takes the lead for the above-mentioned functions during chemical releases under CERCLA. Additionally, two ATSDR representatives are assigned to Region 6 to assist in EPA/ATSDR communications. Regional representatives assist in emergency response events that involve RRT issues by coordinating with ATSDR headquarters Emergency Response and Consultation Branch and with the CDC RRT representative. Under CERCLA Section 104(i), ATSDR is required to:

- i. Establish appropriate disease/exposure registries;
- ii. Develop, maintain, and provide information on health effects of toxic substances;
- iii. Conduct research to determine relationships between exposure to toxic substances and illness;
- iv. Together with EPA, develop guidelines for toxicological profiles for hazardous substances;
- v. Develop educational materials related to health effects of toxic substances for health professionals.

In addition, the ASPR is authorized under the NCP to provide medical care and supplies during emergencies. Other DHHS agencies involved in support during hazardous materials incidents either directly or through ATSDR/CDC include:

- i. [Food and Drug Administration](#)
- ii. [Health Resources and Services Administration](#)
- iii. [Indian Health Service](#), and
- iv. [National Institutes of Health](#).

d. Department of Agriculture (USDA) (40 CFR 300.175(b)(6))

The USDA has the capability to measure, evaluate and monitor situations where natural resources have been impacted by fire, insects and disease, floods, hazardous substances and other emergencies. The USDA may be contacted through the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) emergency staff officers who are the designated members of the RRT.

The USDA is represented on RRT-6 by the USFS office in Atlanta. In addition, the USDA is among those agencies designated by the NCP as a federal Trustee for Natural Resources. Other USDA agencies include:

- i. The USFS is responsible for protection and management of national forests and grasslands. The USFS is also responsible for prevention and control of fires in rural areas, in cooperation with state foresters and appropriate federal agencies; and emergency production, availability, and utilization of timber and timber products in cooperation with the Department of Commerce. The USFS maintains specially trained incident management teams and also has the capability to provide emergency communication systems, specialized aircraft, and human support facilities for large groups of people.
- ii. The [Food and Nutrition Service \(FNS\)](#), through the Food Distribution Program, provides food as emergency assistance to disaster victims. In appropriate emergency situations, FNS will authorize state agencies to issue food stamps based on emergency procedure.
- iii. The [Food Safety and Inspection Service \(FSIS\)](#) has responsibility to prevent meat and poultry products contaminated with harmful substances from entering human food channels. In emergencies, the FSIS works with other federal and state agencies to establish acceptability for slaughter and disposal of exposed or potentially exposed animals and their products. In addition, the FSIS is charged with managing the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Program for the USDA. The FSIS tests meat and poultry products for the presence of volatile drugs, chemical residues, and other contaminants.
- iv. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) in cooperation with the Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, and Army Corps of Engineers, is responsible for emergency plans and preparedness programs for food processing, storage, and distribution through the wholesale level.

- v. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) can respond in an emergency to regulate movement of diseased or infected organisms to prevent the spread and contamination of non-affected areas. APHIS provides expertise on plant and animal diseases and health.
- vi. The [National Agricultural Statistics Service \(NASS\)](#) serves as a source of data on crops, livestock, poultry, dairy products, and labor. State statistical offices collect and publish local information on these topics.
- vii. The [Agriculture Research Service \(ARS\)](#) administers an applied and developmental research program in animal and plant protection and production; the use and improvement of soil, water, and air; the processing, storage, and distribution of farm products; and human nutrition. The ARS has the capabilities to provide regulation of, and evaluation and training for, employees exposed to biological, chemical, radiological, and industrial hazards. In emergency situations, the ARS can identify, control, and abate pollution in the areas of air, soil, wastes, pesticides, radiation, and toxic substances for Agriculture Research Service facilities.
- viii. The [Natural Resource Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#) has personnel in nearly every county in the nation who is knowledgeable in soil, agronomy, engineering, and biology. These personnel can help to predict the effects of pollutants on soil and their movements over and through soils. Technical specialists can assist in identifying potential hazardous waste sites and provide review and advice on plans for remedial measures.

e. Department of Commerce (DOC) (40 CFR 300.175(b)(7))

The DOC, through the NOAA, has two roles within Region 6:

- i. Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC): In accordance with the NCP, the SSC provides scientific support for response and contingency planning in coastal and marine areas, including assessments of the hazards that may be involved, predictions of movement and dispersion of oil and hazardous substances through trajectory modeling, and information on the sensitivity of coastal environments to oil and hazardous substances and associated clean-up and mitigation methods; provides expertise on living marine resources and their habitats, including endangered species, marine mammals and National Marine Sanctuary ecosystems; provides information on actual and predicted meteorological, hydrological, ice, and oceanographic conditions for marine, coastal, and inland waters, and tide and circulation data for coastal and territorial waters. The SSC is the chief scientific advisor for the Coast Guard FOSC.
- ii. National Resource Trustee: The Secretary of Commerce acts as trustee for natural resources managed or controlled by DOC, including their supporting ecosystems. 40 CFR § 300.600(b), (b)(1). The Secretary of Commerce also acts as trustee for natural resources managed or controlled by other federal agencies that are found in, under, or using waters navigable by deep draft vessels, tidally influenced waters, or waters of the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone, and the outer continental shelf. Therefore, all federally managed or controlled resources that are found in those waters, such as water and sediments that form navigation channels and that are managed, controlled, and maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers, and the fisheries that are controlled by the Food and Drug Administration through derivation of action levels, fall within DOC trusteeship.

The Secretary has delegated his/her authority to act as trustee to the Administrator of NOAA. The NCP also cites as examples of DOC trusteeship the following natural resources and their supporting ecosystems: migratory birds, anadromous fish, and endangered species and marine mammals. 40 CFR 300.600(b)(1), (b)(2). Under OPA and the NCP, NOAA has specific responsibilities as a natural resource trustee that includes:

- i. Receiving notification of potential or actual spills threatening NOAA resources; and
- ii. Being consulted on the preparation of the fish and wildlife and sensitive environments annex (this includes concurring on specific countermeasures or removal actions during the contingency planning phase); and
- iii. Being consulted on removal actions during an incident; and
- iv. Implementing natural resource damage assessment activities

All of these activities are intended to minimize impacts and to restore the environment.

RRT Member: Has the primary goal to support the appropriate RRT Co-Chair who supports the federal OSC by providing advice and resources that will protect the environment effectively, mitigate collateral harm, and facilitate environmental recovery. Carries out this goal by:

- i. Serving as an access point to other DOC resources and expertise, usually outside NOAA NOS/OR&R/ERD, that have primary roles in carrying out NOAA's trusteeship role during spills;
- ii. Representing DOC in carrying out its policy responsibilities (such as trusteeship);
- iii. Helping the NOAA SSC provide technical assistance, if needed; and
- iv. Representing NOAA NOS/OR&R/ERD at meetings where the SSC cannot be present.

This member can provide:

- i. Scientific expertise on living aquatic resources for which DOC is responsible
- ii. Current and predicted meteorological, hydrologic, ice, and limnologic conditions
- iii. Charts and maps
- iv. Communication services to the general public, various levels of government, and the media via its NOAA weather wire and NOAA weather radio systems

These roles are the responsibility of all DOC representatives, whether from NOAA NOS/OR&R/ERD, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), or NOAA National Weather Service (NWS).

f. Department of Defense (DoD) (40 CFR 300.175(b)(4))

DOD has responsibility to take all action necessary with respect to releases where either the release is on, or the sole source of the release is from, any facility or vessel under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of DOD. In addition to those capabilities provided by SUPSALV, DOD may also, consistent with its operational requirements and upon request of the OSC, provide locally deployed USN oil spill equipment and provide assistance to other federal agencies on request. The following two branches of DOD have particularly relevant expertise:

- i. The United States Army Corps of Engineers has specialized equipment and personnel for maintaining navigation channels, for removing navigation obstructions, for accomplishing structural repairs, and for performing maintenance to hydropower electric generating equipment. The Corps can also provide design services, perform construction, and provide contract writing and contract administrative services for other federal agencies.

- ii. The U.S. Navy Supervisor of Salvage (SUPSALV) is the branch of service within DOD most knowledgeable and experienced in ship salvage, shipboard damage control, and diving. The USN has an extensive array of specialized equipment and personnel available for use in these areas as well as specialized containment, collection, and removal equipment specifically designed for salvage-related and open-sea pollution incidents.

g. Department of Energy (DOE) (40 CFR 300.175(b)(5))

The DOE provides designated OSCs that are responsible for taking all response actions with respect to releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, where either the release is on, or the sole source of the release is from, any facility or vessel under its jurisdiction, custody, or control, including vessels bareboat-chartered and operated by DOE.

In addition, DOE, under the Radiological Assistance Program (RAP), provides advice and assistance to other OSCs for emergency actions essential for the control of immediate radiological hazards. Incidents that qualify for DOE radiological advice and assistance are those believed to involve source, byproduct, or special nuclear material or other ionizing radiation sources, including radium and other naturally occurring radionuclides, as well as particle accelerators.

Assistance is available through direct contact with the appropriate DOE RAP Regional Office. The national 24-hour DOE contact number is (202) 586-8100 to request emergency DOE radiological assistance. Region 6 includes two RAP Regions: RAP 2 (LA, AR) and RAP 4 (NM, TX, OK). For the RAP 2 states, the 24-hour number is (865) 576-1005 and for the RAP 4 states, the 24-hour number is (505) 845-4667.

The DOE provides assistance and response assets to the designated OSC for responses to releases on or from any facility or vessel under its jurisdiction. DOE will provide the OSC for a release of a hazardous substance within their own facilities. In addition, DOE is among those agencies designated by the NCP as a federal trustee for natural resources on DOE property.

h. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (40 CFR 300.175(b)(3))

FEMA provides guidance, policy and program advice and technical assistance in hazardous materials, chemical and radiological emergency preparedness activities. FEMA monitors and provides technical assistance regarding public sector emergency response planning, training and exercising for incidents involving hazardous materials. FEMA requires the development, evaluation, and exercise of all-hazard contingency plans for all FEMA-funded jurisdictions at the state and local levels.

During a response, FEMA provides advice and assistance to the lead agency on coordinating federal assistance for preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts with other federal agencies; tribal, state, and local governments; non-organizations and the private sector.

When the President declares a disaster or emergency, FEMA coordinates federal assistance via the Stafford Act, through the activation of the NRF. Coordination with the Federal Coordinating Officer in a situation where both this RCP and the FEMA Regional Response Plan authorities are active takes place through the ESF-10. During response to a terrorist event, FEMA coordinates federal consequence management response.

For non-Stafford Act events/incident FEMA can provide federal to federal support to the lead federal agency via an interagency agreement (IAA).

i. General Services Administration (GSA) (40 CFR 300.175(b)(15))

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) leverages the buying power of the federal government to acquire best value for taxpayers and its federal customers. GSA exercises

responsible asset management. GSA delivers superior workplaces, quality acquisition services, and expert business solutions. GSA develops innovative and effective management policies.

In emergencies—as in everyday operations—GSA provides other federal agencies with what they need to do their jobs. GSA can go to the site of an incident and find suitable space for the response team to set up operations, furnish and equip the space, and set up telecommunications. GSA is capable of providing:

- i. Emergency relief supplies;
- ii. Facility space: GSA will ensure that a suitable operating facility, using pre-identified locations where applicable, is acquired and ready to occupy within 72-hours of receiving an OSC/RRT requirements and/or OSC/RRT acceptance of the space;
- iii. Office equipment: All required office furniture and equipment is provided from federal inventories or commercial sources;
- iv. Office supplies: Office supplies and other expendables are provided from inventory or other government and commercial sources. Small businesses and vendors in the affected area are used whenever possible;
- v. Telecommunications (in accordance with the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) National Plan for Telecommunications Support in Non-Wartime Emergencies);
- vi. Contracting services: Support is provided as required to augment RRT and other agency procurement functions on a case-by-case basis, using GSA contracting resources;
- vii. Transportation services including short term leasing arrangements and;
- viii. Personnel required to support immediate response activities: GSA makes available technical advisors (e.g., procurement, storage, transportation, and engineering advisory services specialists) in connection with damage surveys, appraisals, and building demolitions or repairs;
- ix. Support for requirements not specifically identified by other supporting agencies including excess and surplus property.

The GSA Regional Emergency Coordinator (REC) provides a team that may consist of one or more of the following: a REC and/or team leader, contracting officer, telecommunications specialist, and real estate/leasing specialist, if needed, to coordinate the provision of support at the incident site or operating location. Support may be furnished through GSA employees and contractor personnel who are located at the scene of the oil or hazardous substance release, or at their regular duty stations, depending on the specific requirements of the emergency situation.

All acquisition and procurement activities by GSA are supported by written justification in accordance with current federal laws and regulations (e.g., Federal Acquisition Regulations), which, when necessary, authorize other than "full and open competition." All procurement actions, including those for multimodal transportation services, are made in accordance with GSA's statutory and administrative requirements, and use the appropriate fund citation/ reimbursement procedures. Expenses incurred by GSA in providing requested assistance to other agencies must be reimbursed.

j. Department of Justice (DOJ) (40 CFR 300.175(b)(10))

The DOJ's primary role is to serve as litigation counsel for the federal government and as legal counsel on enforcement and inter-agency matters. As a consequence, DOJ participation in RRT activities will ordinarily focus on litigation concerns of response activities and inter-agency coordination.

In this capacity, the role of the DOJ representative might include: general legal advice; review and comment on regional planning and procedural documents; and incident-specific assistance, including assigning staff attorneys when the incident may result in litigation or raise difficult issues

of inter-agency coordination. In addition, the DOJ, through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is the lead federal agency for crisis management response to all domestic terrorism incidents.

The DOJ members of the RRT serve as representatives for their agency and not as legal counsel to the RRT or its member agencies. Although the DOJ representative to the RRT is not a substitute for a member agency's in-house counsel, the DOJ representative will be able to offer the advice, views, and expertise of the Department with respect to the RRT's long-term planning and incident-specific functions.

k. Department of Labor (DOL) (40 CFR 300.175(b)(11))

The DOL, through OSHA, (and states operating plans approved under Section 18 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act) has authority to conduct safety and health inspections of hazardous waste sites to assure that employees are being protected and to determine if the site is in compliance with safety and health standards and regulations promulgated by the DOL/OSHA, or the states, in accordance with Section 126 of SARA and all other applicable standards and regulations promulgated under the Occupational Safety and Health Act and its general duty clause.

DOL/OSHA inspections may be self-generated, consistent with its program operations and objectives, or may be conducted in response to requests from EPA or another lead agency, or in response to accidents or employee complaints. DOL/OSHA may also conduct inspections at hazardous waste sites in those states with approved plans that choose not to exercise their jurisdiction to inspect such sites. On request, DOL/OSHA will provide advice and consultation to EPA and other NRT/RRT agencies, as well as to the OSC, regarding hazards to persons engaged in response activities. DOL/OSHA may also take any other action necessary to assure that employees are properly protected at such response activities. Any questions about occupational safety and health at these sites may be referred to the DOL/OSHA Regional Office.

In addition, OSHA can provide technical assistance during a response. This assistance, in a non-enforcement capacity, can provide the OSC with vital information on a wide range of worker safety topics.

l. Department of State (DOS) (40 CFR 300.175(b)(13))

The Department of State (DOS) will lead in the development of international joint contingency plans. It will also help to coordinate international response and notification efforts when discharges or releases may affect international interests, including when they involve foreign flag vessels or threaten impact beyond U.S. jurisdiction.

Additionally, DOS will coordinate requests for assistance to and from foreign governments as well as U.S. proposals for conducting research in waters of other countries.

m. Department of Transportation (DOT) (40 CFR 300.175(b)(12))

The DOT provides expertise regarding transportation of oil or hazardous materials by all modes of transportation. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) oversees the safety of more than 800,000 daily shipments of hazardous materials in the U.S and 64 percent of the nation's energy that is transported by pipelines. DOT establishes oil discharge contingency planning requirements for pipelines, for transport by rail, and for containers used for bulk transport of oil.

DOT also provides access to federal highway resources and the Federal Aviation Administration. During a presidential declared disaster, DOT, through the auspices of ESF-1 can provide the following:

- i. Monitor and report status of and damage to the transportation system and infrastructure as a result of the incident.
- ii. Identify temporary alternative transportation solutions that can be implemented by others when systems or infrastructure are damaged, unavailable, or overwhelmed.
- iii. Perform activities conducted under the direct authority of DOT elements as these relate to aviation, maritime, surface, railroad, and pipeline transportation.
- iv. Coordinate the restoration and recovery of the transportation systems and infrastructure.
- v. Coordinate and support prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities among transportation stakeholders within the authorities and resource limitations of ESF-1 agencies.

n. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) (40 CFR 300.175(b)(14))

The NRC will:

- i. Respond, as appropriate, to releases of radioactive materials by its licensees, in accordance with the NRC Incident Response Plan to monitor the actions of those licensees and assure that the public health and environment are protected and adequate recovery operations are instituted;
- ii. Keep U.S. EPA informed of any significant actual or potential releases in accordance with procedural agreements; and
- iii. Provide advice to the OSC when assistance is required in identifying the source or character of other hazardous substance releases where the NRC has licensing authority for activities utilizing radioactive materials.

o. Department of the Interior (DOI) (40 CFR 300.175(b)(9))

The DOI may be contacted through the Regional Environmental Officer, who is DOI's representative on the RRT. DOI will provide, through its Regional Environmental Officer (REO), technical expertise to the OSC and the RRT with respect to land, fish, wildlife and other resources for which it is responsible.

The REO is the designated DOI member to the RRT and can provide information concerning the lands and resources specifically under DOI jurisdiction, as well as offer technical expertise related to geology, hydrology, minerals, fish and wildlife, cultural resources, and recreation resources.

Under Executive Order 12580, DOI is among those agencies designated by the NCP as a federal trustee for natural resources. DOI has direct jurisdiction for the protection of resources on its own lands, as well as trustee responsibilities for certain natural resources, regardless of location.

The DOI natural resource trusteeship that extends beyond DOI site boundaries includes migratory birds, anadromous fish, and endangered or threatened species and their critical habitat. Within the DOI, individual bureaus have specific responsibilities and capabilities which are listed below.

Each bureau may be contacted through the DOI REO who is located in the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance Regional Environmental Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico. DOI bureaus and offices have relevant expertise as follows:

- i. [Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance](#) represents the DOI on the RRT and is responsible for coordinating RRT/DOI activities. The Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance operates within the Office of the Secretary, and is responsible for policy development and coordination of the diverse interests of DOI. The REO provides a number of services, including the DOI position on chemical countermeasure and in-situ burn decisions, liaison for technical assistance requests from the OSC, administrative

details to secure response cost reimbursement approval from the OSC, and initial coordination for Natural Resource Damage Assessments.

- ii. [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(USFWS\)](#) manages, protects, and provides expertise on migratory birds, federally-listed threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitats, certain anadromous fish, inland waters and wetlands, and certain federal lands (National Wildlife Refuges, Waterfowl Production Areas, and National Fish Hatcheries). The USFWS can provide responders with information concerning these resources, as well as technical assistance concerning the effects of oil on these resources. In addition, the USFWS will help coordinate wildlife rescue and rehabilitation efforts in conjunction with the state natural resource trustee(s). USFWS is responsible for assessing damages to natural resources as a result of discharges of oil or releases of hazardous substances into the environment, and issues federal Migratory Bird Permits to qualified individuals and/or organizations that may be available to conduct wildlife rehabilitation operations related to oil spill incidents.
- iii. [U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\)](#) provides advice and information concerning geohydrologic, geologic/seismic, and geochemical data; ground and surface water data; biological resources; and maps. The U.S. Geological Survey maintains stream flow gauges throughout Region 6 and can provide historical stream flow information, assist with predicting the time/travel/trajectory of spills, and collect and analyze surface and groundwater samples.
- iv. [Bureau of Land Management \(BLM\)](#) has jurisdiction over public lands and expertise in minerals, soils, vegetation, archeology, and wildlife habitat.
- v. [Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement \(BSEE\)](#) enforces offshore (Outer Continental Shelf) energy and other resource safety and environmental regulations. Functions include: All field operations including Permitting and Research, Inspections, Offshore Regulatory Programs, Oil Spill Response, and Training and Environmental Compliance functions. BSEE also conducts oil spill response technology research and establishes oil discharge contingency planning requirements for off-shore facilities.
- vi. [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(BOEM\)](#). BOEM is responsible for managing development of the nation's offshore resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way. Functions include: Leasing, Plan Administration, Environmental Studies, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Analysis, Resource Evaluation, Economic Analysis and the Renewable Energy Program.
- vii. [Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement](#) has expertise in coal mining, coal mine wastes, acid mine drainage and land reclamation.
- viii. [National Park Service \(NPS\)](#) provides general biological, natural, and cultural resource managers to evaluate, measure, monitor, and contain threats to park system lands and to resources including national parks, lake shores, monuments, national historic sites, rivers, and recreation areas. The NPS also provides expertise on historic, archeological, architectural, and recreational resources and sites on the National Register of Historic Places. A Programmatic Agreement between the National Park Service, several historic preservation organizations and several response agencies guides Region 6 policy regarding protection of historic properties.
- ix. [Bureau of Reclamation](#) has expertise regarding engineering, hydrology, and reservoirs, and has jurisdiction over certain federal water projects including dams, reservoirs and irrigation projects.
- x. [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#) is responsible for protecting tribal trust resources, and facilitating an active role in planning and response for tribal governments who wish to do so. The

Bureau of Indian Affairs coordinates activities affecting tribal lands, and provides assistance in identifying tribal government officials.

2. State and Local Participation in Planning, Response and Preparedness

State conservation departments, through their state's representative on the RRT, shall coordinate fish and wildlife preservation measures. When necessary, the closing of areas to commercial and recreational fishing due to health hazards will be accomplished by the appropriate state agency. Each governor is requested to designate a lead state agency that will coordinate state-led response operations. That agency is responsible for designating the state's representative(s) to the RRT and the state's OSCs. The state's representative(s) may participate fully in all activities of the RRT.

The lead state agency is responsible for communicating and coordinating with other state agencies as appropriate. The lead state agency will also act as liaison with lead agencies of local government. Local governments are invited to participate in activities on the RRT as may be arranged by the state's representative. State and local government agencies are expected to develop contingency plans that are consistent with the NCP and this RCP.

State and local representatives will be encouraged, along with federal representatives, to actively participate in the development of appropriate subarea plans that are consistent with contingency plans developed by Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), as required under the [Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act \(EPCRA\)](#). Federal, state and local officials will continually work together to improve the coordination of efforts during responses to discharges of oil or releases of hazardous substances.

In general, State agency actions may range from the detection of a release or spill, through the provision of assistance to local government and support of response actions, to procurement of a contractor, to coordination of joint local, parish, county, state and federal operations, to the final inspection and approval of remedial and restoration work.

During a specific incident, the lead state agency shall take the following actions as appropriate:

- i. Notify downstream water users (municipal, industrial, and agricultural) of all discharges and releases that may threaten them;
- ii. Notify and coordinate with other state and local agencies, including state trustees for natural resources;
- iii. Be jointly responsible with local and federal representatives for:
 1. Assisting in determining the degree of hazard of the discharge or release to public health and safety; and recommending possible mitigative actions;
 2. Assisting in providing logistics (such as security, safety, medical) for all on-scene responders and equipment. This activity includes establishing local liaison with hospital, services, and police personnel, and in restricting entrance by nonessential personnel to hazardous areas; assisting in assessment of environmental damages caused by the discharge or release;
 3. Arranging for use of disposal sites;
 4. Selecting disposal sites;
 5. Selecting transportation routes to disposal sites; and
 6. Assuming responsibility for operation and maintenance of a site, if necessary and when no RP has been identified.

A. The State of Arkansas

- (1) Under the [State Emergency Response Plan](#), the [Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment \(E&E\)](#) is lead state agency for oil and hazardous materials response activities and provides a representative to the RRT.
- (2) The Arkansas Division of Emergency Management (ADEM) is a support agency for oil and hazardous materials response activities and provides the primary representative to the RRT.

B. The State of Louisiana

- (1) Under the [State Emergency Response Plan](#), oil and hazardous materials response has three primary responsible agencies. The Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) is responsible for oil spill response and recovery and provides the primary representative to the RRT.
- (2) The Louisiana State Police (LSP) is responsible for HAZMAT response and recovery and provides the primary representative to the RRT.
- (3) The Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is responsible for incidents involving radioactive substances and provides the primary representative to the RRT.

C. The State of New Mexico

- (1) Under the [State Emergency Response Plan](#), the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) is the lead state agency for oil and hazardous materials response activities and provides the primary representative to the RRT.
- (2) The New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NMHSEM) is a support agency for oil and hazardous materials response activities and provides a representative to the RRT.

D. The State of Oklahoma

- (1) Under the [State Emergency Response Plan](#), the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) is the lead state agency for oil and hazardous materials response activities and provides the primary representative to the RRT.
- (2) Oklahoma Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is a support agency for oil and hazardous materials response activities and provides a representative to the RRT.

E. The State of Texas

- (1) Under the [State Emergency Response Plan](#), oil and hazardous materials response activities has four primary and one support agencies. The Texas General Land Office (TGLO) is responsible for incidents involving state-owned lands, coastal oil spills, and onshore/offshore petroleum storage facilities, and provides the primary representative to the RRT.
- (2) The Railroad Commission of Texas (TRRC) is responsible for incidents involving public safety or environmental threats such as spills or releases resulting from the exploration, development, and production of oil or geothermal resources, and provides the primary representative to the RRT.
- (3) The Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) is responsible for incidents involving radioactive materials.
- (4) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is responsible for incidents involving hazardous materials spill response, water quality, and dam safety, and provides the primary representative to the RRT.

- (5) The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) is a support agency to oil and hazardous materials response responsibilities and provides a representative to the RRT.

Section H. Relationships – Planning and Preparedness ([40 CFR Subpart C](#))

Coordination With Other RRTs

The Region 6 RRT seeks to maximize its participation with its neighboring RRTs. As such, neighboring RRT Co-Chairs or their designees will be invited to attend all Region 6 RRT meetings and will be given agenda time for presentations upon request.

Periodically, the Region 6 RRT will seek to hold a joint meeting or exercise with a neighboring RRT. The Region 6 RRT will also, upon invitation from a neighboring RRT, provide a representative to attend their meetings as a means of facilitating inter-regional cooperation, building and strengthening useful relationships, and exchanging ideas.

In addition, EPA Region 6 and USCG District 8 have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding boundaries for hazardous substance and oil incidents within Region 6 ([Appendix 5](#)).