

## Regional Response Team (RRT) Annual Report

<b>Region:</b>	<b>Region 4</b>	<b>Calendar Year:</b>	<b>2022</b>
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### A. Annual Meetings

	Dates	Location	# of Attendees	Website for presentations
1.				
2.				
3.				

### B. Activations / Notifications

1.	<b>Dates:</b>	12/23/2021	<b>Event:</b>	Kentucky Tornadoes - Site-Specific RRT call	<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	On Friday, December 10, 2021, a strong low-pressure system tracked from the Kansas City area to the Great Lakes region, producing a significant severe weather event across the Southeastern and Midwestern states. Several tornadoes were confirmed across the Southeast, causing devastation in several states within Region 4 (R4). The worst damage was concentrated in Kentucky, resulting in FEMA Mission Assignments issued to EPA R4 for Emergency Support Function 10 (Oil and Hazardous Materials) response assistance. The mission assignment issued to EPA R4 was based on field assessments performed by the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KYDEP).						
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	EPA R4, KYDEP, FEMA						
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	The EPA R4 identified 55 Risk Management Plan facilities, three Facility Response Plan facilities, and seven National Priority List (NPL) sites within the tornado pathways. The Region conducted facility status checks to ascertain post-storm conditions and needs for assistance. The status of all identified facilities was confirmed virtually or by an in-person visit by an OSC; no need for EPA assistance was identified at the facilities. Additionally, the remedies at affected NPL sites suffered no detrimental effects impacting. The REOC coordinated response activities with the involved EPA R4 Divisions.						
2.	<b>Dates:</b>	04/21/2022	<b>Event:</b>	Keys Energy in Key West, FL – Site-Specific RRT call	<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	On Thursday, April 21, 2022, ERRPPB management attended an incident-specific RRT IV activation and conference call to review and concur on the plans for product removal at the Stock Island Generating Facility (aka Keys Energy in Key West, FL) using Horizontal LNAPL Recovery and source recovery plan using hydrogen peroxide injection. The plans will address an ongoing release of an LNAPL, consisting of weathered light fuel oil, which is being discharged from the west bank of the facility into the Safe Harbor, which connects to the Atlantic Ocean. The discharge has been ongoing since September 2021, when it was first responded to and is believed to result from the presence of a substantial amount of fuel oil just below the vadose zone (i.e., in the smear zone) of the man-made peninsula, which was constructed from dredge spoils removed during the construction of Safe Harbor from 1950 to 1958. Member agencies had met previously to discuss the path forward, but there were several unanswered questions from natural resource trustees. Those questions were addressed on this call. Additional notes: 66,000 gallons of diesel collected Still skimming with vac trucks daily but will decrease						

	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	EPA R4, Florida Municipal Power Agency, FDEP			
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	Installed a hydrogen peroxide injection system at the recovery trench.			
3.	<b>Dates:</b>	07/02/2022	<b>Event:</b>	Henderson Pipeline Spill – Site-Specific RRT call	<b>ACT</b>   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   <b>NOT</b>   <input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	An easement maintenance contractor was mowing the pipeline easement along the Energy Transfer's 22-inch pipeline and struck the pipeline, discharging approximately 205,800 gallons of West Texas Intermediate crude oil, according to a second National Response Center report submitted by Energy Transfer on July 1. Pursuant to the National Contingency Plan Section 300.320(a)(2), the Henderson Pipeline spill is classified as a Major discharge. However, the possibility of the spill reaching Worst Case Discharge estimates cited previously was averted. The discharged oil entered Horse Creek, which is approximately 400 feet to the east of the rupture. Horse Creek flows into the South Fork Forked Deer River and eventually to the Mississippi River via the Obion River.			
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	EPA R4, TDEC, USFWS, TWRA, PHMSA			
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	State-listed terrestrial and aquatic species are in the general release/response area. The Chickasaw Darter (a fish) is likely to be present in Horse Creek. United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) has been in contact with the OSC. Personnel from Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) have mobilized to the site.			
4.	<b>Dates:</b>	07/28/2022	<b>Event:</b>	Eastern Kentucky Floods	<b>ACT</b>   <input type="checkbox"/>   <b>NOT</b>   <input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	During July 27 and 28, areas in eastern Kentucky experienced 8 to 10 ½ inches over 48 hours. These rains produced catastrophic and deadly flash floods and mudslides. On July 28, 2022, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky issued a State disaster declaration and requested a Federal Disaster Declaration from the President of the United States. The Commonwealth reported 16 deaths attributed to this flooding event. The Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection (KYDEP) staffed the Emergency Support Function (ESF)-3 (Water Infrastructure) and ESF-10 (Hazardous Material/Oil) desks at the KY State Emergency Operations Center (KYSEOC). KYDEP has three ESF-10 teams conducting assessments of KYDEP-regulated facilities. The EPA R4 Water Division (WD) and Laboratory Services and Applied Science Division (LSASD) Subject Matter Experts and Mobile Lab Personnel supported the Commonwealth of Kentucky under a Direct Federal Assistance mission assignment for laboratory support in Hazard, Kentucky. The EPA Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division (LCRD) participated in meetings with the Commonwealth of KY and FEMA to discuss recovery priorities. R4 EPA LCRD identified a Disaster Recovery and Mitigation (DR&M) Coordinator and convened to identify the Subject Matter Experts to support the recovery effort. The acting DR&M Coordinator participated in daily State of Kentucky Emergency Operation Status Meetings and meetings with Economic Development Administration (EDA) recovery partners. The acting DR&M Coordinator contacted the HQ coordinator for disaster mitigation and recovery (John Ferris) to obtain assistance and identified a Subject Matter Expert within Brownfields.			
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	EPA R4, FEMA, Commonwealth of Kentucky			
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	EPA R4 ESF-10 assisted in establishing account codes for anticipated future recovery work. The Acting DR&M Coordinator and the Brownfields Program Subject Matter Expert meet the week of September 5 to discuss the resources available to assist the Commonwealth of KY in its recovery efforts related to housing.			
5.	<b>Dates:</b>	9/01/2022	<b>Event:</b>	Central Mississippi Floods: City of Jackson, Mississippi Water Crisis	<b>ACT</b>   <input type="checkbox"/>   <b>NOT</b>   <input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	EPA R4 provided ESF-3 support to the City of Jackson, MS, following major flooding that damaged infrastructure at two public drinking water plants. In addition, EPA R4 assisted with the development and implementation of a resource tracking dashboard to support			

		response priorities, supported identifying trends in plant water quality sampling, supported the water quality sampling from both the conventional and membrane side of the plant and supported the investigative sampling of the distribution system.			
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	EPA R4, MSDH, MEMA and the City of Jackson, MS			
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	EPA R4 identified additional ICS training is needed for ESF-3/Water members to adequately support the response as Liaison Officers and Division Group Supervisors. ESF-3 supported the SME Role more effectively.			
6.	<b>Dates:</b>	9/29/2022	<b>Event:</b>	Hurricane Ian	<b>ACT</b> <b>NOT</b>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	On Thursday, September 29, 2022, Hurricane Ian impacted several Florida counties. A Federal disaster declaration was declared for debris removal for Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Hardee, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pinellas, and Sarasota Counties (Category A). All 67 counties and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and the Seminole Tribe of Florida for emergency protective measures (Category B), including direct federal assistance. For 30 days from the start of the incident, FEMA authorized federal funding for debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B), including direct federal assistance, at 100 percent of the total eligible costs. EPA R4 provided ESF-10, ESF-3, and Climate Resiliency SMEs which included hazmat teams, solid waste debris teams, and mobile drinking water sampling laboratories.			
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	EPA R4, FEMA, FDEM, FDEP			
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	EPA R4 now has detailed cost estimates to provide FEMA that will expedite the MA process.			

**C. RRT Exercises**

1.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>	
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>			
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>			
2.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>	
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>			
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>			
3.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>	
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>			
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>			

**D. Changes in RRT Leadership**

Agency	Outgoing Personnel	Incoming personnel
1) EPA Region 4	Brian Englert	Jed Hewitt
2) USCG District 7	Forrest Willis	Richard Lavigne
3)		

**E. Best Practices and Lessons Learned by the RRT (which may help other RRTs)**

**F. Federal, State, and Local Planning and Coordination Efforts**

EPA Region 4 has completed the inland Kentuckiana Plan, a Sub-Area Contingency Plan (SACP) along a section of the Ohio River bordering Kentucky and Ohio. This was a collaborative effort with EPA Region 5 and various state and industry partners along the Ohio River. This SACP has been prepared for the use of all agencies engaged in responding to environmental emergencies and contains useful tools for responders, providing practical and accessible information about who and what they need to know for an effective response. This SACP should be considered a subsidiary of EPA Region 4 and Region 5 Area / Regional Contingency Plans. EPA R4 also collaborated on the multiregional Great Rivers SACP.

**G. Challenges and Issues (and Operational Requirements Which May Require NRT Attention)**

## Regional Response Team (RRT) Annual Report

<b>Region:</b>	<b>Caribbean</b>	<b>Calendar Year:</b>	<b>2022</b>
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<b>EPA RRT Coordinator:</b>	<b>Steve Touw</b>	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:touw.steve@epa.gov">touw.steve@epa.gov</a>
<b>USCG RRT Coordinator:</b>	<b>LT Gabriella Zambrana</b>	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Gabriella.Z.Zambrana@uscg.mil">Gabriella.Z.Zambrana@uscg.mil</a>

**E. Annual Meetings – *No CRRT meetings were conducted in Calendar Year 2022***

	Dates	Location	# of Attendees	Website for presentations
4.				

**F. Activations / Notifications**

7.	<b>Dates:</b>	July-August 2022	<b>Event:</b>	St. Croix Sargassum	<b>ACT</b>		<b>NOT</b>	X
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	Accumulation of Sargassum impacting VI Water & Power Authority's (WAPA) Estate Richmond Desalination and Power Plants						
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	EPA, FEMA, USACE, USCG, DOE, VITEMA, DPNR, WAPA						
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	<p>On 7/24/22, EPA received a Mission Assignment (MA) to support ESF-3 at the FEMA Region 2 RRCC (virtually), and the Interim Operating Facility (IOF) in St. Croix. EPA arrived on island on 7/25 and reported to the IOF. The OSC met with representatives from DPNR to determine their priorities for this incident, and how EPA could assist. The OSC participated in FEMA coordination and operations meetings and met with WAPA as well. EPA provided technical assistance regarding options for the potential removal of sargassum material, and steps that could be taken to clear the material from water intakes that impact both the Estate Richmond desalination plant and power plant. EPA also conducted preliminary air monitoring with a hand-held meter. EPA noted some elevated hydrogen sulfide (H2S) readings on the sargassum-impacted beach closest to WAPA's water intake, and provided this information to FEMA and WAPA. The REOC worked with the Regional Air Program regarding permitting issues at WAPA that were being impacted by the sargassum event. Additionally, EPA provided virtual support to the ESF-3 (Infrastructure) desk at the FEMA RRCC.</p> <p>On 07/28, the OSC toured the WAPA plant with the FEMA FCO, DOE, USCG, USACE and VITEMA so that the technical team could get a better understanding of the situation. While the current wind pattern had pushed the sargassum to the beaches and away from the water intakes, there was concern that the conditions could change at any moment and cause issues at the water intakes once again. There is currently no accurate tracking of sargassum movement.</p> <p>On 07/29, the OSC reported that conditions at the beach had improved. FEMA was exploring courses of action that could be taken if the intakes/beaches were inundated with sargassum again. FEMA considered having EPA, or outside contractors, conduct air monitoring at the beach perimeter during the removal of sargassum. FEMA made preparations to bring in tanker trucks of water to the island if the desalination plant became impacted from the sargassum. The OSC worked with FEMA to determine testing protocols for the water being received for distribution. The OSC also coordinated with FEMA on the potential utilization of 2 deep water wells on the island. The OSC continued to coordinate with ECAD and WAPA with regards to any air pollutant exceedances.</p> <p>The OSC worked with FEMA and USACE to develop an SOW, including booming strategies, for sargassum removal, and evaluated permitting issues with DPNR that could arise from this task, such as impacts to sea turtles and other wildlife. Disposal of the sargassum at sea was determined to not be a feasible option due to ocean dumping regulations as well as logistics. The OSC contacted ERT regarding NIOSH requirements for personal monitoring equipment for the workers who would be removing the</p>						

		<p>sargassum from the beach. On 8/03, the OSC reported that the sargassum influx had improved and that the hydrogen sulfide levels had decreased around the beach perimeter. EPA continued to provide FEMA guidance on air and water regulatory matters.</p> <p>As of 8/08, FEMA informed the OSC it was determined to be more economically beneficial for the USVI to purchase the necessary air monitoring equipment than to pay a cost share for EPA to perform air monitoring. FEMA requested that the territory inventory their existing air monitoring equipment and maintenance capability. The USVI will pursue a DHS grant to obtain funding to obtain the equipment and expertise. EPA's role will be to provide technical assistance to the USVI in the acquisition, use and deployment of their own air monitoring equipment.</p> <p>As of 08/10, the OSC reported that FEMA and USACE were considering two short term actions - installing a bubbler screen in front of the water intake and placing a boom diagonally on the eastern side of the pier - to prevent sargassum from reaching the intake. These actions may become long term actions if successful. The OSC completed EPA's participation at the IOF and departed the USVI on 08/15/2022.</p>					
8.	<b>Dates:</b>	July 2021- March 2022	<b>Event:</b>	Pier 4 Unknown Discharge	<b>ACT</b>	<b>NOT</b>	X
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	Suspected subterranean source of oil, stemming from pre-FWPCA storage tanks and transfer pipelines. Concerns were a mixture of historic knowledge, expertise in subterranean discharge responses, and potential remediation actions.					
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	USCG (Sector San Juan, D7 NPFC), EPA, NOAA, PR DRNA					
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	After oil discharge was no longer persistent, EPA/USCG determined a substantial threat was no longer present, thus transfer to EPA from USCG was not recommended.					
9.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>		<b>ACT</b>	<b>NOT</b>	
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>						
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>						
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>						
10.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>		<b>ACT</b>	<b>NOT</b>	
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>						
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>						
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>						
11.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>		<b>ACT</b>	<b>NOT</b>	X
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>						
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>						
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>						

<b>G. RRT Exercises – No CRRT exercises during the period of this report.</b>							
4.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>				
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>						
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>						
<b>H. Changes in RRT Leadership</b>							
<b>Agency</b>				<b>Outgoing Personnel</b>		<b>Incoming personnel</b>	
4) USCG RRT Co-Chair				Forest Willis		Richard Lavigne	

5) USCG RRT Coordinator	LT Andrew Garcia	LT Gabriella Zambrana
6) USCG Sector San Juan (Sector Commander)	CAPT Gregory Magee	CAPT Jose Diaz

**E. Best Practices and Lessons Learned by the RRT (which may help other RRTs)**

None during the period of this report.

**G. Federal, State, and Local Planning and Coordination Efforts**

EPA is providing technical assistance and advice to VITEMA, DPNR and other territorial agencies in the reestablishment of the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and their local contingency plans.

In consideration of hazardous conditions associated with the shutdown of refinery operations and subsequent activities associated with the removal of dangerous chemicals from systems at the refinery facility on St. Croix, (formerly the Limetree Bay Refinery, presently Port Hamilton Refining and Transportation LLLP), EPA and USCG agreed to a formal transfer of Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) responsibility for the refinery facility. Effective August 12, 2021, EPA Region II assumed FOSC responsibilities for the refinery facility until mutually agreed upon by EPA and USCG. USCG Sector San Juan retains FOSC responsibilities for the adjacent terminal facility.

In preparation for the removal under EPA oversight of anhydrous ammonia, liquified propane gas, and amines from the refinery, EPA is working with the USVI government to develop, review and exercise local contingency plans. During the chemical removal activities, EPA will conduct around-the-clock air monitoring to ensure the community's safety. EPA will display real-time air monitoring results on a publicly-available website. Additional information can be found on EPA's website at: <https://www.epa.gov/vi/refinery-st-croix-us-virgin-islands>

**H. Challenges and Issues (and Operational Requirements Which May Require NRT Attention)**

Due to limited IT capabilities at the commonwealth and territorial government level, virtual CRRT meetings were determined to be non-practical during the pandemic. As a result of the time gap and the high level of personnel changes since the last in-person CRRT meeting, the first post-pandemic in-person meeting will include a significant amount of time to reintroduce CRRT members and participants roles, responsibilities, and capabilities; review the location and contents of the Regional Contingency Plan, CRRT policies, procedures and guidance documents, etc.