



**REGION 6 REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM (RRT)
SEMI - ANNUAL REPORT**

Period: January, 1992 – July, 1992

I. Recent Activities

A. Meetings and calls

1. RRT general meeting held February 2-3, 1992 in Baton Rouge, LA.
2. Preparedness Committee meeting March-12, 1992 at the Texas Water Commission, District 7 Office in Houston, TX.

B. Major Incidents:

1. On March 27, 1992 Hollywood Marine, Inc. notified Coast Guard Marine Safety Office New Orleans, that its tank barge (T/B) 3021 had developed a crack in way of its No. 2 port cargo tank resulting in a discharge of approximately 6930 gallons of No. 6 oil into the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Mile Marker 127. The spill affected 40 miles of river and 30 miles of shoreline.

Initially the spill threatened several municipal water intakes located along the river; however, quick action on the part of response personnel to notify local officials and to get contractors to deploy defluctive boom prevented any oil entering the intakes.

Approximately 20 barrels of were recovered as a result of the cleanup. Also approximately 200 cubic yards of oil soaked debris and 200 cubic yards of oiled sorbents were collected and disposed. Hollywood Towing assumed responsibility for all cleanup costs, including approximately \$21,000 in Coast Guard costs.

2. On April 17, 1992 Marine Safety Office New Orleans completed the cleanup of an abandoned tank battery and waste oil pit located at Tante Phine Pass in Plaquemine Parish, LA.

The cleanup consisted of removing approximately 22,050 gallons of oil and sludge from the abandoned tanks. Also approximately 75 cubic yards of oily debris was collected and burned in an adjacent pit at the cleanup site. Approximately \$1 million dollars was spent on contractors to complete this cleanup.

3. On May 15, 1992, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Morgan City received notification of a collision between the M/V DURDY DUDLEY and tow and the M/V PAT SALVAGGIO and tow.

As a result of the collision, the T/B HTCO 1802 spilled approx 100 barrelsof crude oil into the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. In the resulting cleanup by the responsible party, approximately 20 barrels of oil and 36 barrels of water and debris were recovered. Also over 9000 barrels of oil were successfully lightered from the damaged barge.

4. Empire Barges The cleanup and removal of two abandoned tank barges, Ingalls No. 1 and the Z62 was completed on May 15, 1992 by USCG Marine Safety Office New Orleans.

These barges were offloaded of hazardous waste and the barges were scrapped on site at a cost of \$1.87 million for contractors, salvage, and waste disposal MSO New Orleans expended over 4400 manhours on this project.

C. Activities General

1. On February 4, 1992 the Eighth Coast Guard District and Region VI RRT hosted a Bioremediation Seminar on the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA. Approximately 150 people attended the seminar. (The agenda of the seminar is attached.)
2. On February 5, 1992 the Preparedness Committee met at the Sheraton Hotel in Baton Rouge, LA. The status of the Region VI Bioremediation Spill Response Plan was discussed by Karen Sahatjian of EPA. The committee agreed to accept the Bioremediation Spill Response Plan for review.

The members agreed to pursue standardizing the reporting requirements for the use of alternate cleanup methodologies. Members were advised of plans for training on Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Teams (SCAT) to be held in April and May.

Other issues briefly discussed were NOAA Email, OPA 90 Demonstration Projects, Protocols for responding to Spills of National Significance, and the Gulf of Mexico Program. (A copy of the committee minutes is attached.)

3. On February 5, 1992 the Management Committee met at the Sheraton Hotel in Baton Rouge, LA. There was a discussion of recent state oil spill legislation passed in TX and LA. Also there was a review of what agencies within these states were responsible for oil and hazardous substance response.

There were two bylaw recommendations agreed upon; first, to include GSA as a Federal member agency and second, to designate GLO as a Co-primary member of the RRT for all coastal oil spill preparedness and response activities.

Members from the U.S.C.G. National Pollution Fund Center briefed the committee on the management of the OPA 90 Fund. It was mentioned that Raymond Churan, expressed his desire to relinquish the chairmanship. Charlie Gazda (EPA) stated he would solicit interest for his replacement. (A copy of the committee minutes is attached.)

4. On 5 February 1992, the Training Committee met at the Sheraton Hotel in Baton Rouge, La. Ms. Henderson, the Committee chairperson discussed the FY92 work plan and the progress made on accomplishing its objectives. Also briefly discussed was OSC meeting development and the use of HMIX. (The minutes of this are maintained by Rosemary Henderson.)
5. A meeting of the RRT Preparedness Committee was held on March 12, 1992 at the Texas Water Commission in Houston, TX. The following items were on the agenda; Insitu Burning, SCAT, Spill Notification Procedures, Dispersant Preapproval, National Contingency Plan, and Bioremediation Spill Response Plans. (A copy of the meeting minutes is attached.)

D. RRT Semiannual Meeting

1. On February 56, 1992 the Region VI Regional Response Team met at the Sheraton Hotel in Baton Rouge, LA. The RRT was provided an update by the USCG on abandoned barges, the District Response Group, District Response Advisory Team, changes to National Strike Force as a result of OPA 90 and Area plan development.

The EPA provided an update on their activities under OPA 90 and the assistance the states can provide in spill response. The process of using Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Teams was reviewed by state and industry representatives.

The status of the Region VI Bioremediation Response Plan was reviewed and procedures for notification of the RRT members and natural resource trustees following an oil spill was reviewed. An EPA Headquarters representative provided a brief report on the application to spill oil for testing of insitu burn application procedures.

A report was provided on Joint Response Team planning efforts with Mexico by the EPA (inland) and USCG (coastal).

2. The RRT was also provided with a report from the National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC) on the organization of the NPFC and how states can access the Fund. Also they talked about the \$50 million operating portion of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund that is available for response.
3. There were two new resolutions passed at the RRT semiannual meeting in Baton Rouge. The first resolution amended the ByLaws to include the General Services Administration as a full voting member of the Region VI Regional Response Team (made by Mr. Sekavec and seconded by Mr. Hammatt).

The second resolution accepted EPA's Region VI Bioremediation Spill Response Plan for preliminary implementation and formal review. Comments to be submitted to the Preparedness Committee in 60 days (made by Mr. Jackson with a second by Mr. Hammatt).

Mr. Hominick, General Service Administration, voted on the second resolution after GSA was admitted to the RRT.

4. The following states gave reports at the RRT meeting in Baton Rouge: Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana. The minutes attached discuss the particulars of each state report.

E. Status of RCP

1. No changes this period

F. Technical Assistance Provided or Plans Reviewed by RRT (none)

G. Training

1. The Eighth Coast Guard District in cooperation with Region VI Regional Response Team planned and conducted on July 27 and 28, 1992 a seminar on the Physical Recovery of Spills at Corpus Christi State University. Approximately 300 persons attended the seminar.

II. Organizational Changes

A. New Members

1. GSA was formally admitted to the RRT at the semiannual meeting on 6 February. An updated RRT roster was distributed at the February 5, 1992 semiannual meeting.

III. Operational Issues

A. New Agreements

1. The Standard Operating Procedures for Joint Spill Response between the USCG and Mexico Navy were signed on April 8, 1992 at a ceremony in Tampico, Mexico. These procedures are designed to help coordinate joint responses in the event of spills of petroleum hydrocarbons, or other noxious substances in the marine environment.

B. Dispersants

1. RRT agency member comments were solicited on the Upper Texas Coast/western Louisiana Coast PreSpill Authorization Dispersant Use Plan.

C. Future Plans

1. The USCG National Strike Force Coordination Center personnel in conjunction with Marine Safety Office Mobile and Eighth Coast Guard District staff are planning an oil spill exercise in Mobile, AL in February 1993.
2. Solicit from RRT agency member comments on Chevron Shipping Company's Dispersant Use Plan.