

# *Alaska Regional Response Team*

## **Oil and Hazardous Substance Contingency Planning & Response**

### ***SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE CHARTER***

**Purpose of the Committee:** The Alaska Regional Response Team's (ARRT), Science and Technology (S&T) Committee provides a forum for the ARRT to fulfill its National Contingency Plan (NCP) delegated responsibilities in Science and Technology. Specifically the NCP, 40 CFR 300.115(i)(6) states "In coordination with Area Committees and in accordance with applicable laws, regulations or requirements, conduct advance planning for use of dispersants, surface washing agents, surface collecting agents, burning agents, bioremediation agents or other chemical agents in accordance with subpart J of the NCP."

**Committee Activities:** The committee will accomplish its purpose through three approaches.

First, the committee will act as the ARRT's interface with the National Response Team's Science and Technology Committee; coordinate efforts and disseminate information from the S&T to ARRT members; and formulate requests for information or advance planning for response technologies to the S&T from the ARRT.

Second, at the request of the ARRT, Co-chairs prepare and/or revise guidelines to support streamlined approvals, including pre-approvals, as appropriate, for response technologies in accordance with the NCP. Guideline development will be done in coordination with the Subarea planning committees. Guidelines can be for oil or hazardous substances; be applicable statewide or unique to a subarea; and be formalized in either the Unified Plan or subarea plans.

Third, at the request of the ARRT Co-chairs, the Committee may coordinate and support R&D needs, identification, prioritization, and information transfer as needed. Also, the committee may review, provide recommendations, and endorse relevant R&D efforts and protocols to further enhance spill response capabilities in Alaska.

**Committee Representation:** The committee may have representatives from agencies which conduct or sponsor response-related research and development and have NCP responsibilities on the RRT for preplanning and incident specific authorization for use of non-mechanical response methods. These agencies include: USCG, EPA, ADEC, DOC/NOAA, and DOI. Other ARRT agencies, such as USDA and AI-TC, may be invited to participate in committee meetings as well, based on specific issues. In addition non-ARRT member agencies and organizations may identify one representative to serve as an advisor to the committee. These include ADF&G, ADNR an Industry Response

Organization representative, and representatives from Native, Fishing, Recreational Tourism, Public Advocacy Groups, etc. as appropriate to the particular issues and subjects being discussed by the committee. While the goal of the committee shall be decision making by consensus, voting members shall consist of ARRT members with regulatory authority as described in the NCP. Non-binding advisory votes may be cast by all other participants. Each member shall be responsible for coordinating appropriate coordination/consultation within their respective constituency.

**Committee Leadership:** The committee will be led by members of USCG/EPA/ADEC, and reflect agency roles found in the Unified Command Response Structure and the leadership of the Subarea Planning Committees. All three agencies will actively participate in all Science & Technology Committee deliberations and activities. For the purposes of developing guidelines, the USCG and ADEC will champion those issues related to the “Coastal Zone” as co-chairs. The EPA and ADEC will champion those issues related to the Inland zone as co-chairs. For cross zone issues common to all, the three agencies will mutually agree on the lead role. The following table illustrates this concept:

<i>Inland Zone EPA/ADEC Issue Champion</i>	<i>Coastal Zone USCG/ADEC Champion</i>
Inland Zone Terrestrial ISB	Open Water Marine ISB
Tundra / Wetlands Cleaning	Dispersants
Bioremediation of shoreline adjacent to “Waters of the US”	
Other to be identified	Other to be identified

The designated lead agencies for each issue will be responsible to chair individual work sessions, schedule meetings, set agendas, and develop and assign follow-up actions and report progress to the ARRT.

All committee/subcommittee/key personnel work products and recommendations to be submitted to the ARRT or to a Subarea Committee for review and approval and/or for inclusion in the Unified Plan or a subarea contingency plan shall be first submitted to all committee members for committee approval.

**Committee Meetings:** The committee shall meet as a whole at least semi-annually to prioritize work, and report back on progress. It is anticipated that individual issue-driven sessions involving key personnel with interest, expertise, and responsibility will meet on an ongoing, as needed basis throughout the year. All committee members will be provided timely notice of meetings or work sessions, and timely review periods for copies of drafts or final work products to allow for coordination/consultation with their respective constituencies.

Effective December 24, 2003