

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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23 June 2021

MEMORANDUM

16452

From: LCDR C. J. Graham
Executive Director, Interagency Coordinating
Committee on Oil Pollution Research

To: Members, Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research (ICCOPR)

Subj: FY 2021 THIRD QUARTER ICCOPR MEETING MINUTES

General: ICCOPR members, member agency representatives, and invited guests met via Microsoft Teams on Wed June 23, 2021. LCDR Cliff Graham (USCG) called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and it continued until 3:30 pm. LCDR Graham (USCG) reviewed the agenda (Enclosure 1). Representatives of ICCOPR agencies that were in attendance via phone and/or video were:

CAPT Ricardo Alonso, ICCOPR Chair, USCG
Mr. Bill Vocke, ICCOPR Acting Vice Chair, BSEE
LCDR Cliff Graham, Acting ICCOPR Executive Director, USCG
Mr. Alex Balsley, USCG
Ms. Karin Messenger, USCG
Mr. Marion Lewandowski, USCG
Dr. Benedette Adewale, USCG
CAPT Greg Hall
Mr. John Tarpley, NOAA
Dr. Lisa DiPinto, NOAA
Mr. Jordan Stout, NOAA
Dr. Robyn Conmy, EPA
Dr. Walter Johnson, BOEM
Dr. Zhen Li, BOEM
Dr. Elena Melchert, DOE
Dr. Sailendra Mahapatra, DOE
Mr. Barry Forsythe, USFWS
Mr. Robert Smith, PHMSA
Ms. Jo Ellen Hinck, USGS

Guests:

Ms. Faith Fitzpatrick, USGS
Mr. Jared Trost, USGS

1. Welcome and ICCOPR Opening Remarks

- a. CAPT Ricardo Alonso (USCG) and Bill Vocke (BSEE) opened the meeting and welcomed both ICCOPR members and guests. They reported out agency updates and expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the guest speaker's support to ICCOPR.
- b. CAPT Alonso officially welcomed US Geological Survey to ICCOPR, and looks forward to hearing from their presentation on ICCOPR related projects on their R&D Portfolio.

2. General Updates/Announcements

- a. LCDR Graham (USCG) provided general updates to ICCOPR on the following topics:
 - Provided updates on the ICCOPR R&T Plan announcing that Chapter's 1-5 are ready for review and provided updates to data collection stats and efforts by the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC).

3. U.S Geological Survey Remarks and Bemidji Presentation

- a. Jo Ellen Hinck opened with remarks thanking ICCOPR Membership for welcoming USGS to the Membership, and the efforts put forth in completing the application process. Ms. Hinck also provided background on USGS, to include updates on current and future R&D projects.
- b. Jared Trost provided an in depth presentation on the the National Crude Oil Spill Fate and Natural Attenuation Research Site near Bemidji, Minnesota.
 - i. Focused on published results from this site from a broad range of scientists.
 - ii. Discussed 4 primary objectives of the project by an interdisciplinary research team and the sources of funding for the project:
 1. Source material characterization and toxicity
 2. Pathways to the environment and risk to receptors
 3. Resilience/restoration of environment
 4. Beneficial reuse of unconventional oil and gas (UOG) wastes
 - iii. Mr. Trost provided background on the unique agreement to ensure access to continued relevant research at the site. Details were also provided on the process for annual request for research proposals for 1-2 weeks of intense field work and collaboration.
 - iv. An in depth discussion on the history and description of the pipeline oil spill was provided.
 - v. On August 20, 1979 a high pressure 86 cm diameter pipeline (operating at 500 psi = 3,447 KPascals) burst in a remote region of north-central MN near the town of Bemidji. Reports up to 210,000 gallons of crude oil released in Pinewood, Minn.
 - vi. Rapid remediation efforts including pumping (83.5%), excavation and land farming (6.3%) and burning or evaporation (10.1%) resulted in removal of approximately 75% of the oil within a few days.
 - vii. Site research started in 1983. Specifically, monitoring of Natural Attenuation – biodegradation. Sorption, dilution, evaporation, chemical reactions.
 - viii. The site: an underground observatory comprising 300+ water, oil, and vapor observation wells used to study the spray zone, oil source zone, and groundwater plume.

- ix. Overview of the site characteristics today and processes by which components of the oil moved away from the spill site were presented. Additional toxicity testing with USGS are conducted with groundwater monitoring.

4. ICCOPR R&D Updates

- a. 5-minute R&D updates were provided by all participating agencies.

5. Closing Comments and Meeting Adjournment

- a. CAPT Alonso (USCG) and Mr. Bill Vocke thanked ICCOPR guests and representatives for excellent presentations, and once again welcomed USGS to the ICCOPR family. They look forward to seeing everyone again at the September meeting.
- b. The next quarterly ICCOPR meeting is scheduled for Sept, 2021. There is hope the meeting will be in person however may remain virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. LCDR adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.

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Enclosures: (1) Meeting Agenda
(2) USGS Presentation Slide Deck