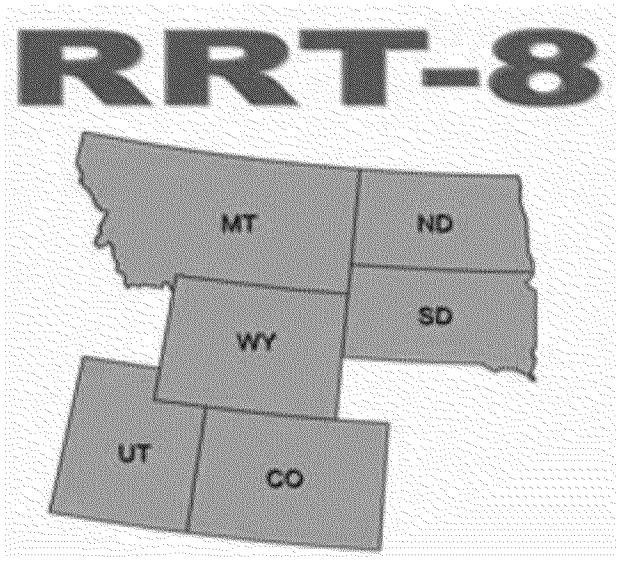

Region 8 2014 RRT Annual Report

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Executive Summary

As was the case in previous years, Region 8 remained busy throughout 2014. . Advances in horizontal drilling and fracking have led to record breaking crude oil production from the Bakken Formation in the Williston Basin, located in Region 8. . This has in turn led to increased interest in oil and gas related incidents and in rail and pipeline transportation of oil, gas and associated products.

EPA Region 8 Programs were credited in a White House report, published on June 6, 2014, that described progress on Executive Order (EO) mandates. This recognition was for piloting a GIS web-based application, called T.E.R.A. (The Emergency Response Application), that allows users to see various data layers of chemical/oil facility data and sensitive receptors, which supports the Enhancing Information Collection and Sharing Sub Working Group. Executive Order 13650 was issued in 2013 by President Obama, aimed at improving public awareness and emergency response to chemical storage facilities. This was a direct result of the deadly fire and explosion at the West, Texas ammonium nitrate plant.

Below is a summary of the reports received by the National Response Center (NRC) for the year.

Report Activities:

Activity dates: 1/1/2014 12:00 AM MST - 12/24/2014 11:38 AM MST

STATE	OIL	HAZ	RADIATION	OTHER
CO	188	42	0	52
MT	27	13	0	13
ND	80	21	0	20
SD	13	8	0	8
UT	62	27	0	20
WY	52	19	0	16
TOTAL	**422**	**130**	**0**	**129**
GRAND TOTAL	**696** (includes 13 unclassified in the Hotline)			

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I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES

A. Major/Noteworthy Response Activities

Red River Supply Warehouse Fire

At approximately 9 a.m. on July 22, EPA Region 8 Emergency Response Program received notice from North Dakota Department of Public Health of a major chemical fire involving the Red River Supply warehouse in Williston, North Dakota (site). The chemical fire started at approximately 1 a.m. that morning and had been burning intensely since. Concerns at the site included public exposure to the smoke plume, contaminated runoff to storm water, and potential impacts to the Little Muddy River and the Missouri River. Due to the nature of the fire, which involved significant quantities of chemicals, the local fire department let the fire burn itself out with minimal use of water for fire suppression. The city put out an advisory for residents within one half-mile of the site to either evacuate or shelter in place. The phone duty EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) discussed emergency air monitoring needs with the health department. The 81st Civil Support Team assisted in air monitoring at the time. At approximately 10 a.m. OSC Paul Peronard was deployed to the site to provide additional emergency air monitoring equipment and assistance. As a result of fire suppression operations, a copious amount of contaminated fire water was generated. The majority of this was contained on-site and collected in frac tanks. However, some of the contaminated water breached containment berms and entered the Little Muddy Relief Channel (the "Canal"). The contaminated water dropped the dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in the Canal quite severely, resulting in some fish kills. Aerators and pumps were used to raise the DO and to strip contaminants from the water. These efforts were later judged to be successful and the systems shut off. Subsequent monitoring showed that DO levels remained satisfactory, and all water controls and treatment systems have been removed.

Aftermath of the fire showing debris cleanup.

The burned and damaged buildings and debris were removed and staged for either recycling or disposal. In addition, the building pads and contaminated soil has been removed and staged for off-site shipment. The responsible party (RP), in coordination with the State of North Dakota has been identifying approved disposal/reclamation locations and begun off-site shipments. This will be overseen by North Dakota.

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Parish Chemical Site

Parish Chemical was founded in 1972 and began operations at the Site in 1978. Various rooms housed a plethora of small and medium-sized containers of (reportedly) at least 15,000 various chemicals/compounds in quantities ranging from 5-3,000 grams. The facility-supplied inventory contained no information about the contents of any inside or outside storage vessels.

EPA Region 8 Emergency Response Program initially responded to 1992 fire which resulted in the evacuation of a ½ mile radius zone around the Site as well as temporary closure of the nearby interstate highway. The fire started in an upstairs laboratory/stockroom and quickly burned out the surrounding area. The burned out area, now referred to as the "veranda," is open to the elements and located on the 2nd floor in the northeast part of the building. The area was being used as an open/unenclosed drum and container storage area. A second response action was initiated in 2008 to stabilize Site conditions.

Large containers of chemicals stored outside in one of several staging areas.

Groundwater beneath the Site during spring and early summer periods rises to the point where infiltration occurs in the impoundments and in building interior sump(s). Preliminary analytical results from groundwater samples collected from perimeter monitoring wells show elevated levels of hazardous substances in shallow groundwater underlying the Site.

In addition to the release of hazardous substance(s) noted above, the improper storage of hazardous materials posed additional threats of release. Hazardous substances were stored at the Site in leaking, deteriorating, and/or mis-labeled tanks, totes and/or drums. Incompatible wastes were being stored at unsecured Site locations.

According to EPA OSC David Romero, clean-up and packaging of all chemicals was completed in June of 2014. 1,160 drums and 92 totes of bulk assorted regulated materials have been manifested and shipped offsite, totaling 94,100 gallons.

Thousands of smaller containers of chemicals gathering dust.

EPA PREP Exercise - Spectra Energy Casper, Wyoming

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Spectra Energy, and more than two dozen federal, state, county, city and private organizations participated in an emergency response exercise at locations along Casper Creek and the North Platte River in Casper, Wyoming, on Wednesday, May 14, 2014. The full-scale exercise was conducted by EPA's National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) and was designed to comply with requirements of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 for spill-response readiness.

Over a six-hour period beginning at 8 a.m., exercise elements included operations required to assess the simulated spill situation, organize the response, develop incident objectives, and manage the initial discharge. The mock response incorporated the simulated failure of an oil distribution and storage facility and included three designated control points on the North Platte River, which is downstream from the initial discharge.

For the PREP exercise, Control Point #3 is where Evansville Fire Dept. and Sinclair Refinery used a boat to string boom across the North Platte River to collect the simulated oil spill.

Each control point was clearly marked and staffed by an exercise controller and a site safety officer who oversaw the procedures developed for participants involved in containment and recovery operations. On-site observers and signage reassured the public that the exercise is a simulation and not a "real-world" event.

The exercise was designed to address goals specific to emergency response and incident management of a regional event, including:

- Enhance response operations for a major oil release/discharge;
- Validate plans and systems needed to ensure the highest level of preparedness;
- Reinforce public/private partnerships to develop a viable local response capability;
- Meet PREP requirements and Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program guidelines for exercise conduct.

This environmental response exercise allowed participants to practice and fine tune response capabilities in a setting that approximates real circumstances. Such training is necessary to ensure that EPA, other federal and local authorities, and private companies in the area are capable of providing a rapid and effective response in the event of a real incident.

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Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Residential and School Asbestos Site

This removal action involved the removal and proper disposal of asbestos containing material (ACM) and/or other household hazardous waste on 20 properties located on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST) Reservation located in Dewey and Ziebach Counties, South Dakota. Conditions existing at the site presented a threat to public health and the environment.

Known contaminants of concern at the site are mainly asbestos and potentially other household hazardous wastes, such as mercury-containing electrical components. These are hazardous substances as defined by Section 101 (14) of CERCLA. Monday, October 21, 2014 EPA OSC, START, and Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) mobilized to CRST Reservation to conduct abatement and disposal. The removal action is complete, and crews demobilized from the site on November 5, 2014.

Interior of building demolition at the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

RCP Revision Completed

R8 Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) revision was initiated December 2013. Throughout 2014, RRT member agencies participated in several conference calls and reviewed various documents to support the rewrite. R8 updated notification procedures, clarified policies, such as for use of chemical countermeasures, and reformatted the plan to follow the NCP. The Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) was sent out to the RRT members for their approval and comment, and was signed December 2014. The RCP will be posted on the R8 RRT website.

Thanks to the many RRT members who offered assistance on this massive project!

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B. RRT Meetings

Spring 2014 – April 29-30, held at the Region 8 EPA Headquarters building at 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, Colorado

Topics of discussion included:

- Silica Exposures in Oil and Gas Workers in Hydraulic Fracturing Sites
- OSRO Development in Region 8
- GSA Capabilities
- Executive Order 13650 – Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security
- Hazmat/Oil Transloading via Rail
- Sub Area Contingency plans update – Missouri, Yellowstone, and Green Rivers
- NCP Oil Spill Response

Fall 2014 – October 15-16, 2014, held at the U.S. Forest Service building at 740 Simms Street, Golden, Colorado

Presentations included:

- Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)
- Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA/DOT) – Pipeline Safety
- RCP Revision
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS/USDA)
- Tier 2 Reports and the Freedom of Information Act
- Sub Area Contingency plans update
- Member access to RRT related info (epaosc.org, webeoc, T.E.R.A. viewer, etc.)

Region 8 RCP Revision Meetings

As stated previously, the revised Region 8 RCP is complete. A working committee headed by EPA's Gina Cristiano, assisted by Bernadette Rose and Mark Wullstein, met with RRT members in person and via teleconference, to revise, update, and condense the existing RCP. Those meetings focused on different elements of the plan, including:

- "Mechanics" – the RRT evaluated the frequency for RCP updates, activation levels and other related items.
- "Resource Trustees" – the RRT discussed rules of engagement related to section 300.135 of the NCP such as how notifications will be made and who is the proper point of contact for this.
- Policy updates – the RRT reviewed updated chemical countermeasure/Subpart J related policies and procedures.

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C. Committee and Working Group Updates

Executive Order 13650

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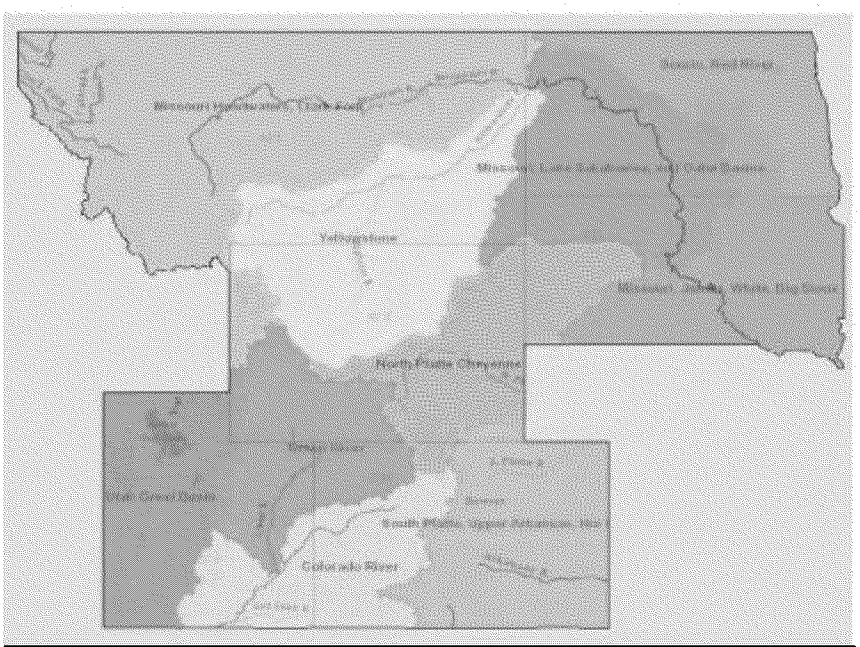
The October 15-16, 2014 Region 8 RRT meeting included a discussion with the states present (ND, SD, UT, and MT) about forming a separate working group to formulate the EO 13650 strategy. The resulting decision was that each designated state RRT member would initially be in this working group, while others could be added as needed. The Tri-Chairs of Region 8 EO 13650 implementation (EPA, OSHA, and DHS) met on November 6, 2014 to begin strategic planning and share information about federal programs. The group decided to meet monthly to develop standard operating procedures and implement goals and objectives under the EO. We see this effort as a collaboration with our state partners, since each state has specific needs and approaches to working with local responders and Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs).

Sub-Area Contingency Plans

EPA OSCs continue to work on the Sub Area Contingency Plans and the Area Committee members in each area to develop oil response plans. The Missouri-Sakakawea, Yellowstone and Green River ACPs are nearing completion; plans for the Utah Great Basin, Missouri-James and Missouri Headwaters are underway (see map below). The Committees have identified response strategies and worked with natural resource trustees to vet these strategies relative to a worst case discharge. Booming locations, equipment caches and other elements have been identified and added to GIS based tools such that any Committee member can access the information quickly during an event.



Map of Region 8 Sub-Areas, based on major watersheds.

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II. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING

A. Training

Training in Region 8 included:

- 40 hour Hazwoper classes for the Denver area Tri-County, the Crow Nation in Montana, Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Durango region, Commerce City, and the Southern Ute Tribe
- 8 hour Hazwoper refresher classes for the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, Boulder County, Peterson AFB, Tri-County, and the University of Colorado
- Petroleum Spill Response Training in Colorado Springs
- Oil Spill Response training for PREP – Casper
- Oil Spill Response training - Salt Lake City, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, Rapid City, Ellsworth AFB, and Denver

B. Exercises

Exercises and/or Workshops:

- Response Support Corp Workshop – Denver
- Chemical Stockpile Emergency Planning Program (CSEPP) National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF), Pueblo, CO
- Region 8 TEPW/IP, Denver
- National Exercise Program Capstone Exercise 2014, Nationwide
- Nuclear Weapons Accident Incident (NUWAIX), Grand Junction, CO
- PREP – Final Planning Conference (FPC)
- RRT Workshop, Denver
- Adams County, CO Flood TTX
- Nuclear Weapon Accident Incident Exercise (NUWAIX) After Accident Conference, Grand Junction, CO
- PREP Full Scale Exercise, Casper, WY
- PREP Recovery TTX, Casper, WY
- Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) Recovery Management: Command and Control Workshop, Pueblo, CO
- PREP Oil Exercise, Casper, WY
- Wyoming WARN Training and TTX, Jackson, WY
- Carcass Management Logistics, Kansas City, MO
- FBI Facility Seminar/Demonstration, Denver
- RRT Workshop/Seminar, Denver
- MHA Nation Exercise for Water Sector, New Town, ND
- Enbridge FSE 2015 – Initial Planning Conference, Minot, ND
- North Dakota Hazmat Conference, Bismarck, ND
- Vigilant Guard, Salt Lake City
- Environmental Monitoring and Sampling Workshop, Pueblo, CO
- Utah Dept. of Environmental Quality – FE, Salt Lake City

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C. Major Best Practices and Lessons Learned From Responses, Trainings, Exercises/Workshops, and Other RRT Activities

TOPIC TITLE: PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR OIL SPILLS VIA PRESS RELEASES

BEST PRACTICE DESCRIPTION:

In 2013 an oil spill from a pipeline near Tioga, North Dakota resulted in over 20,000 barrels of oil contaminating a farm. The responsible party notified appropriate emergency response personnel immediately, but even after the notification, it took almost two weeks before the amount of released crude oil was determined. The public never was alerted until an AP reporter was doing follow up on the story. Now, the North Dakota Health Department puts out press releases for every significant spill. Clean-up operations continue in 2014, over a year since the initial spill.

Image of ongoing soil removal and remediation on farm contaminated by oil spill.

Sponsor: *North Dakota Dept. of Emergency Services*	**Phone:** *800-773-3259*
POC: *Ray DeBoer, NDDES Haz-Chem Coordinator* **Web link:** *www.nd.gov/des*	**E-mail:** *rdeboer@nd.gov*

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III. PERSONNEL/ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

- LT Angelique Geyer replaced LT Bryan Naranjo as Operations Officer for the USCG Pacific Strike Team
- LT Gregory Schweitzer replaced John Lomnicky as Alternate Representative for the Dept. of Commerce
- Scott F. Roscoe was removed as APHIS representative and replaced by Bethany O'Brien
- John Dean replaces Steve Morealle for the DOE representative
- CAPT Bryan Dailey replaced CAPT David Edwards as the USCG Alternate Co-Chair for the RRT
- Region 8 has asked private industry to participate in the meetings

IV. ISSUES OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REQUIRING NRT ATTENTION

There are no issues or operational considerations requiring NRT attention at this time.

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