Vendor Protocol

This protocol provides information to aid private industry and product vendors who wish to share product information with response agencies within the Region 5 area of responsibility.

IMPORTANT NOTE: RRT 5 does not pre-approve products but may offer a recommendation for pre-authorization based upon agency tests during spills of opportunity. RRT 5 will continue to look to the National Contingency Plan (NCP) Product Schedule for data and manufacturer's information on products authorized for use on oil discharges.

NCP Product Schedule:

Before a new technology or product can be used for a response, it must be on the National Product Schedule (https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/national-contingency-plan-subpart-j) as a precaution against further harming the environment. The National Response Team (NRT) Alternative Response Tool Evaluation System (ARTES) (http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-spills/resources/alternative-response-tool-evaluation-system-artes.html) protocol requires technology innovators to complete an application process, which is reviewed by the NRT, who makes recommendations on the technology's potential use and effectiveness as a reference for the FOSC. Neither of these processes offers a robust test and evaluation of the technology's effectiveness or a firm requirement that a FOSC can use to turn away vendors with unknown products.

RRT 5

The RRT's role includes communications systems and procedures, planning, coordination, training, evaluation, preparedness, and related matters on a region wide basis. This includes the evaluation of regional and local responses to discharges or releases on a continuing basis, considering available legal remedies, equipment readiness, and coordination among responsible public agencies and private organizations, and recommend improvements. The RRT may refer to the NRT on technical matters and policy guidance.

Vendor protocol for sharing information on products with RRT5 is described below.

- Contact an RRT5 coordinator: USCG Scott Binko (scott.a.binko1@uscg.mil) or USEPA Barbi Lee (lee.barbi@epa.gov)

- The coordinators will work with the RRT5 Science & Technology (S&T) Subcommittee to share information with members via email, present online and/or present in person. Subcommittee's will generally meet in person twice a year, but may conduct virtual meetings on an as needed basis.

- At RRT 5's discretion, the S&T Subcommittee may accommodate a vendor presentation at an RRT 5 meeting either in person or via a virtual platform.