

Meeting Minutes

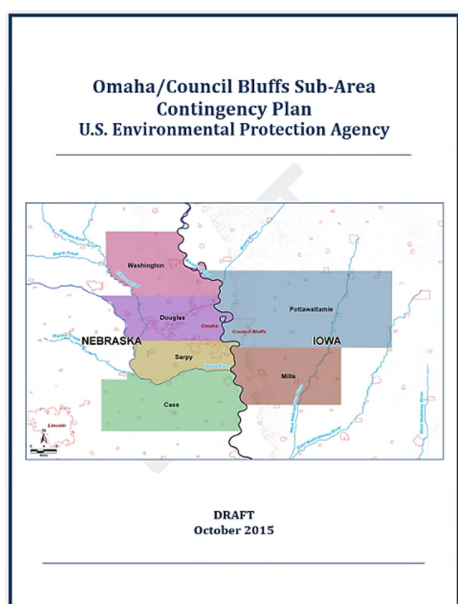
Omaha/Council Bluffs Sub-Area Committee

Council Bluffs, Iowa – October 28, 2015

The Omaha/Council Bluffs (O/CB) Sub-Area Committee (SAC) convened at 1 p.m. on March 28, 2015, at the Pottawattamie County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 227 South 6th Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa (IA). On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Megan Schuette of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 and Eric Deselich of Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech) facilitated the meeting. A telephone conference line was established for the meeting, and one SAC member participated remotely by phone. A list of meeting participants is on page 3.

Schuette began by introducing herself and welcoming the group. After member self-introductions, Deselich inquired about corrections to the previous meeting's minutes. No corrections were advised, and the group's attention was directed to the first agenda item.

Sub-Area Purpose, Objectives, and History. As several new members were in attendance, Deselich provided a short overview of the origin and purpose of EPA sub-areas (SA) in Region 7. He explained that SA outreach activities and area plans are mandated by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). SAs in Region 7 are composed of counties, municipalities, and organizations surrounding a specific sensitive area/environment where cross-border coordination has been deemed critical for effective emergency response operations. Deselich also described the role and authorities of the Region 7 Regional Response Team (RRT) in SA activities. While the RRT serves as the umbrella organization over the SAs, the group is largely self-governing and has authority to make most decisions—including the makeup of its membership and projects initiated by the group. While the SA's primary focus involves oil and hazardous materials (hazmat) response readiness, Deselich indicated that exercises and training have taken on an all-hazards approach in recent years.



O/CB Sub-Area Contingency Plan (SACP) Review. A working draft of the SACP was distributed to members a few weeks before the meeting. After reviewing select sections, Deselich explained that members' input was needed to finalize the plan, including information about state and local response assets available during a large-scale petroleum or hazmat release. The group discussed communications (land-mobile radio systems) resources and oil response equipment maintained by local hazmat teams. Doug Reed of Pottawattamie County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) reported that the County had acquired several specialized communications assets that could be listed in the plan. Mark Meints of Nebraska Department of Roads said that response agencies on both sides of the river maintain access to common radio channels/talkgroups. Deselich asked whether the Omaha urban area had developed a tactical interoperable communications plan (TICP) that could assist development of the SACP's Communication Section. The group determined that a TICP exists; however, it was not clear

which SA counties were included and when the plan had been last updated. Deselich said he would follow up with SAC members to obtain communications-related information for possible inclusion in the SACP. Additionally, William Harlon of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said that the Omaha District maintains several response assets that should be listed in the SACP. The group agreed that plan amendments—including lists of specialized response resources and point-of-contact information to request each resource—would be provided to Deselich by the first week of December. Subsequently, the plan would be finalized in January and distributed to the SAC members.

Project Discussion. Deselich reminded SAC members that potential projects had been discussed at the last meeting. Although several exercise/training ideas were considered, the group decided that an update of the SACP should be a priority. The group also agreed that development of a modern, web-based, geographic information systems (GIS) application should be initiated to replace the now inoperable Google Earth viewer developed in 2008. Schuette said that with these tasks nearly completed, the group could undertake an exercise or training project, particularly if a capability or preparedness gap relevant to the SA's purpose would be identified. Schuette reported that (containment) boom trainings had not been provided by EPA in the O/CB area for several years, and inquired if this would be desired by local responders. Individuals said that it may be beneficial but local fire departments must be contacted to gauge interest in the training. Deselich said that private industry responders could also participate in boom training, if deemed appropriate by the SAC.

In a related issue, Deselich said that he had recently participated in an EOC-focused functional exercise (FE) involving an oil spill response scenario. He stated that boom training had occurred in conjunction with the FE, and that the exercise/training combination had been well received by local agencies. Deselich cited the possibility of a joint FE with participation from the Siouxland SA to the north and O/CB SA agencies. For this, several EOCs along Missouri River counties would be partially activated to manage simulated spill operations. Schuette said that she would contact her EPA counterpart in the Siouxland SA to determine whether a joint FE would be feasible. Several SAC members expressed interest in the idea but indicated that their decision to participate could come after contacting other would-be participants within their respective jurisdictions.

The group decided to schedule a conference call in early December when SAC members would further discuss the FE and interest in the proposed boom training. Deselich said that he would set up a meeting poll to identify a suitable time for the teleconference.

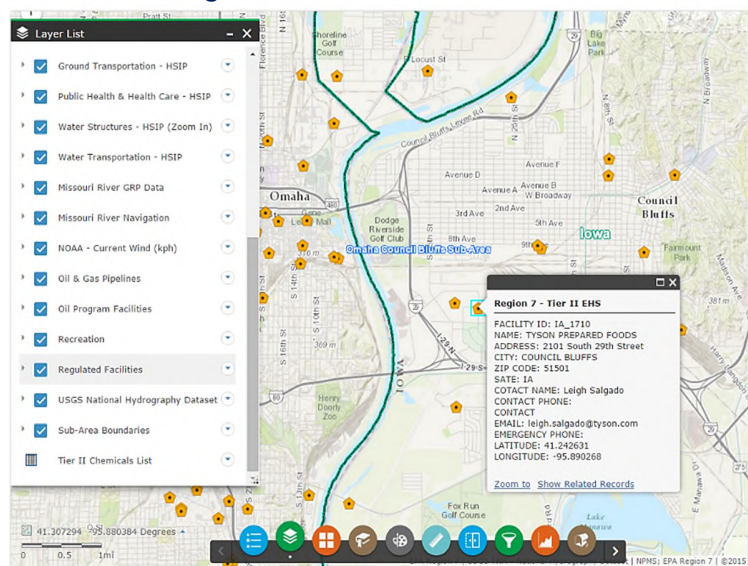
O/CB Sub-Area Viewer. After a short break, Deselich demonstrated the web-based GIS viewer recently developed for the SAC. The group went on to discuss some features available through the new tools, including geographic response plans (GRP) and booming strategies developed by EPA with partner agencies. Deselich explained that GIS-ready data from member agencies could be imported into the application, as long as members reached consensus on data sets to be viewed in the application. Individuals offered several suggestions, most notably to add a reference document describing each data set and defining acronyms used in the viewer. Currently, EPA and Tetra Tech staff can access the new viewer, and SAC members will gain access within the next month or two after a few technical issues are addressed.

Reports on Other Local Incidents. No recent hazardous materials or oil incidents were reported by SAC members.

Upcoming Events. The following events were cited by SAC members attending the meeting:

- **Inter-agency Workshop on Chemical Facility Inspection Programs** – December 17, 2015 – Lenexa, Kansas

Figure 1: O/CB Sub-Area Viewer



Note: For workshop details, go to <http://www.ttemidev.com/r7eo13650/workinggroup/>

Schedule Next Meeting and Adjournment. The group decided that the date/location of the next SAC meeting will be determined after the December teleconference. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

SAC Meeting Attendee List

Name	Organization	Phone	E-mail
Alward, Aaron	Douglas County EMA	402-504-6845	aaron.alward@douglascounty-ne.gov
Bose, Michell	Pottawattamie County EMA	712-328-5777	michell.bose@pottcounty-ia.gov
Deselich, Eric	Tetra Tech, Inc.	816-665-9088	eric.deselich@tetrattech.com
Dutton, Phyllis	OMMRS	402-717-1733	phyllis.dutton@alegent.org
Harlon, William	USACE – Omaha District	402-995-2500	william.d.harlon@usace.army.mil
Lohnes, Mark *	NDEQ	402-471-4251	mark.lohnes@nebraska.gov
Manz, Scott	Pottawattamie County EMA	712-328-5777	scott.manz@pottcounty-ia.gov
Meints, Mark	Nebraska Department of Roads	402-479-3878	mark.meints@nebraska.gov
Ngotel, Tonya	NEMA	402-471-7176	tonya.ngotel@nebraska.gov
Reed, Doug	Pottawattamie County EMA	712-328-5777	doug.reed@pottcounty.com
Schuette, Megan	EPA Region 7	913-551-7630	schuette.megan@epa.gov

Notes:

- * Participated remotely by phone
- EMA Emergency Management Agency
- EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- NDEQ Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
- NEMA Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- OMMRS Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System
- USACE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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