



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II
EDISON, NEW JERSEY 08837

RRT Co-Chairs
EPA Removal Managers
EPA Oil Program Managers


May 2, 2018

The Environmental Response Team (ERT) has completed a paper entitled "Final Bakken Crude Oil: Worker Health and Safety Pilot Scale Studies". This paper presents the Bakken Crude Oil studies conducted at the Oil and Hazardous Materials Simulated Environmental Test Tank (OHMSETT) Facility in Leonardo, New Jersey during February 2015 and the Somerset County Emergency Services Training Academy Facility in Hillsborough Township, New Jersey during June 2016. Several EPA Regions provided funding to ERT for this study. Region 8 arranged for the receipt of the Bakken crude oil from an oil storage terminal in Pennsylvania and Region 3 provided transportation of the crude oil from Pennsylvania to the OHMSETT facility in New Jersey.

These cold and warm weather test were conducted in open air conditions utilizing small spill scenarios (55 gallons to 660 gallons). The primary concept behind this work was to evaluate possible benzene exposures to first responders and evaluate various air monitoring instruments that could be utilized during an incident. Flash points, oil weathering over time, and dissolution of benzene into the water column were also evaluated. Health and safety information for responders to Bakken incidents has been lacking and this paper is an important first step. The ERT paper should now be used to raise awareness of potential issues for the response community to assist first responders with safety concerns during early actions at these Bakken Crude Oil incidents.

Many of you are aware of this work and have participated in briefings by ERT at program meetings or Regional Response Team and Area Committee meetings. As the Region which hosted this important work and one of the regions which provided funding and logistical support, I am pleased to inform you that the report is now final and can be shared among our response partners.

Sincerely,


Eric Mosher, Chief
Response and Prevention Branch

Region 2 Removal Manager
EPA Co-Chair Caribbean and New York/New Jersey Regional Response Teams

Attachment: Final Bakken Crude Oil: Worker Health and Safety Pilot Scale Studies,
April 30, 2018