



Geographic Response Plans for Housatonic and Naugatuck in Connecticut	November 6, 2018 – 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Site Selection Meeting Summary	Seymour Fire Department Regional Training Facility 26 Deforest St Seymour, CT
<p>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 is facilitating the development of 10 Geographic Response Plans or GRPs, for the Housatonic and Naugatuck Rivers in Connecticut. GRPs are map-based plans tailored to protect specific sensitive areas from oil spill impacts. They show first responders where sensitive areas are located and/or where to place oil spill protection resources to protect those areas. GRPs can save time during the critical first few hours of an oil spill response.</p>	
<p>A Housatonic and Naugatuck GRP Work Group consisting of Federal, State, and local environmental emergency response partners will identify the candidate area(s) for development of these GRPs. Members of the Work Group will represent state and federal agencies, local governments and organizations, stakeholder groups, the oil industry, and spill response professionals.</p>	
<p>This was the first meeting of the Connecticut GRP Work Group. The purpose of this meeting was to review the preliminary Site Selection Matrix, examine candidate sites, develop additional information about resources at risk, spill threat, and site accessibility at each site, and select ten (10) sites for GRP development along the Housatonic and Naugatuck Rivers. The workgroup identified four (4) sites for GRP development on the Housatonic River, and six (6) to be developed on the Naugatuck River.</p>	
Participants	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beacon Falls Conservation Commission • CT DEEP • CT DOA • Moran Environmental Recovery • Naugatuck Fire Dept • Town of Newtown • Nuka Research • Save the Sound • Town of Stratford • US Coast Guard • US EPA 	
<p>For a complete list of participants, contact Alyssa Hall at alyssa@nukaresearch.com or Mike Popovich at Popovich@nukaresearch.com.</p>	
Agenda	
<p>Introduction and Opening Comments: Mike Popovich (Nuka Research) opened the meeting by thanking the participants for attending the site selection meeting and reiterating that this meeting is a crucial part of the process as the group will decide where the GRPs will be developed on the rivers.</p>	
<p>Project/Site Selection Process Overview: Mike Popovich then provided: 1) a general project overview and timeline; 2) an overview of GRP design and content; and finally, 3) reviewed the drafted site selection matrix (SSM) for the Housatonic and Naugatuck Rivers, and discussed the different variables that were relevant to the sites, including sensitive habitats, historical sites, conservation areas, and spill risk. He reviewed the process of using the SSM and that the workgroup can use it to provide context to support their local knowledge while making the decisions of where to develop GRPs.</p>	
<p>Review of Site Selection Delineation, Priorities & Resources at Risk: The floor was opened to a general group discussion to identify, prioritize and select sites for GRP development. The group focused on those river areas where there is both a risk of oil spills and where there is access to the rivers themselves. The sites were decided upon as follows:</p>	
<p>NOTE: <i>In some cases, sites listed below were not specifically discussed during the meeting but are instead sites that include several individual locations that were discussed and subsequently grouped</i></p>	



into a single GRP. For example, the Waterbury (NR-03) site listed below will include within it the Great Brook, Mad River, and Waterbury Sewage Treatment Facility (STF) sites, all three of which were discussed as potential development sites during the meeting. Because these sites are being included into one GRP, and in order to meeting our goal of developing 10 GRPs, Nuka Research has included “new” sites for GRP development that were discussed but not included in the original 10 sites agreed upon during the meeting. These sites include Hop Brook/Linden Park (NR-04) and Sunnyside/Two-mile Brook (HR-04).

All current GRP names are tentative and subject to change up to the conclusion of the final work group meeting

1. Naugatuck River Sites:

NR-01 Torrington:

The Torrington Water Pollution Control Facility was identified as the primary site to develop booming tactics in the Torrington area and which can serve as a staging area. Torrington is the first densely populated area downstream from Stillwater Pond, the northern Naugatuck River boundary of this project’s development area. Consideration should be given to developing multiple mapping areas for this Torrington GRP.

NR-02 Chase Brass Industrial Complex:

The Chase Brass location was not identified on the draft Site Selection Matrix but was specifically suggested by CT DEEP during the meeting based on spill history in the area and suitability of this site to support river access and booming operations.

NR-03 Waterbury:

Multiple sites along the river in Waterbury were discussed including Great Brook, Mad River and the Waterbury STF. Hopeville Pond Brook discharges into the Naugatuck River directly across from the STF outfall. Based on the locations of Great Brook, Mad River and the Waterbury STF, and the potential for additional sites within the Waterbury area, this GRP will likely have at least two mapping areas.

NR-04 Hop Brook/Linden Park:

Linden Park in Union City was discussed as a potential site as it is the first location where spills can be intercepted below Waterbury (based on river conditions and access). It was noted that the river is deep in some areas along this river reach. Consideration should be given to renaming this GRP “Union City” if multiple maps and/or tactical development areas are identified within the Union City area.

NR-05 Riverbend Park:

River Bend Park in Beacon Falls was identified as a logical control point and staging area based its location and the natural bend in the river at the north end of the park. As with Hop Brook/Linden Park, if additional deployment areas are identified upstream or downstream of this site (during the site surveys), consideration can be given to renaming this GRP “Beacon Falls”.

NR-06 Kinneytown Dam:

Much discussion surrounded development of a GRP for the Kinneytown Dam area both within the area immediately upstream of the dam as well as in the immediate vicinity of the Derby Ave. pump station approximately one mile north of the dam. The area of the river just upstream of the dam is typically very slow moving and booming tactics can be developed for diversion and recovery on both sides of the river. Diversion canals exist on both sides of the dam and these features should be considered when developing booming tactics.

The Derby Ave. pump station can also be considered as a booming location though adequate staging may be problematic as it is right next to a roadway and exposure risks must be weighed as this is a residential area.



2. Housatonic River Sites:

HR-01 Housatonic Meadows State Park:

Housatonic Meadows State Park was chosen as a GRP development site based on its river access and suitability as a potential collection point for upriver incidents. The rail line running along the eastern bank of the river across from the park has also been the site of past derailments and spills as the track condition in this area is not ideal.

HR-02 Addis Park:

The boat ramp at Addis Park in New Milford was identified as RP development site based on river access and relatively slow river flow in this area.

HR-03 Indian Well Park:

Indian Well State Park and boat ramp offers easy access to the river (on both sides) and offers opportunity for interception from potential spills upriver and to protect areas of the Housatonic downstream including Derby, CT and the confluence of the Naugatuck River.

HR-04 Sunnyside/Two Mile Brook:

Suggested site based on CT DEEP comments during meeting regarding inclusion of Two Mile Brook and Far River as potential future GRP development sites. A GRP developed in the area of Sunnyside and the confluence of the Housatonic River and Two Mile Brook can include tactics to protect the remaining portion of the Housatonic River and Long Island Sound including important natural as well as town and state managed shellfish beds within the Housatonic River below CT-15 as well as within Long Island Sound in close proximity to the mouth of the Housatonic.

GRP Development Process & Project Timeline

Following the site selection discussion, Mike Popovich reviewed the remainder of the project timeline including the site survey process. He stressed the importance of continued local stakeholder participation and how critical local knowledge is to the entire process. He concluded by providing an overview of and timeline for the remaining project tasks, which will include a tactics sub-group meeting, immediately following the site surveys followed by GRP development and final review by the workgroup sometime in June 2019.

Comments and Suggestions

Work Group members inquired as to whether there exists a standard way to incorporate river flow rate into these GRPs. USGS data will be reviewed and river flow rate will be included in each GRP (likely under "Special Considerations" for those GRPs where general or seasonal flow rate might dictate the feasibility of boom deployment or general spill response operations. In addition to USGS data, the National Weather Service's Northeast River Forecast Center was also identified as a source of data/information.

Next Steps:

Nuka Research will:

- a. Post meeting summary on project website and accept feedback within a set comment period.
- b. Post documents and presentations used in this meeting on the project website.
- c. Determine site survey timeframe (December 2018 or Spring 2019) based on Work Group feedback and schedule site surveys accordingly.
- d. Invite workgroup members to Site Surveys as appropriate.
- e. Form Tactics sub-group to review proposed tactics from Site Surveys.

Project Website: www.inlandgrpne.com

Contact person for additional information: Mike Popovich: popovich@nukaresearch.com 508-746-1047