

# MEETING SUMMARY



## Geographic Response Strategy Development - Connecticut River, CT

### Final Work Group Meeting/ GRS Review

Thursday, August 3, 2023: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Held via Zoom Video Conference

### Project Overview

Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC has been contracted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 to develop fifteen (15) Geographic Response Strategies, or GRS, for the Connecticut River in Connecticut. GRS are map-based plans tailored to protect specific and sensitive areas from oil spill impacts. Members of the workgroup represent state and federal agencies, local governments and organizations, stakeholder groups, the oil industry, and spill response professionals. This project will be completed in August 2023.

### Purpose

This meeting served as a final review of the draft GRS documents developed subsequent to the site surveys conducted on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Workgroup members reviewed the draft GRS and recommended changes and edits.

### Participants

<b>Cory Atkinson</b> , State Historic Preservation Office	<b>John Mills</b> , Wethersfield Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission
<b>Randal Davis</b> , City of Hartford Development Services	<b>John Olin</b> , East Haddam Conservation Commission
<b>Bobby DiBella</b> , Glastonbury Emergency Management	<b>LT Jonathan Roth</b> , U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound
<b>Diane Duva</b> , CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)	<b>Suzanne Simone</b> , Glastonbury Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission
<b>Lisa Fasulo</b> , Essex Office of Emergency Management	<b>LT Joshua Smarzo</b> , U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound
<b>Don Gouin</b> , Portland Office of Emergency Management	<b>John Spencer</b> , Suffield Office of Emergency Management
<b>Brian Jennes</b> , East Hartford Office of Emergency Management	<b>Chloe Thompson</b> , Windsor Environmental Planner & Wetland Agent
<b>Maria Lucarelli</b> , Essex Emergency Management	<b>Bill Turley</b> , CT Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security
<b>Andrew Major</b> , U.S. Department of Interior - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services	<b>David Vihonski</b> , U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound
<b>Michael Manfre</b> , Glastonbury Water Pollution Control Authority	<b>Ila White</b> , U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	<b>Mike Popovich, Sam Butler, Haley Griffin, Olivia Norton</b> , Nuka Research

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## *Introduction and Opening Comments*

Mike Popovich (Nuka Research) opened the meeting by thanking the participants for attending and for their engagement up to this stage in the project. He briefly explained the project's milestones and objectives, then provided an overview of the process for reviewing and finalizing each GRS. On August 18th, at the conclusion of the post-review comment period, Nuka Research will deliver the final GRS documents and all associated GIS data to EPA Region 1. These GRS will then be integrated into the inland Area Contingency Plan (ACP) and available on the Federal Region 1 Regional Response Team (RRT1) website ([https://nrt.org/site/doc\\_list.aspx?site\\_id=38](https://nrt.org/site/doc_list.aspx?site_id=38)).

## *Project/Tactic Review Process Overview*

Mike noted that the final delivery of GRS/GIS materials will consist of 15 GRS sites along the Connecticut River (which includes a total of 17 individual GRS maps to account for those sites with multiple mapping areas). Mike then explained that the GRS Site IDs include identifiers for the river (CR), state (CT), and a GRS-specific number identifier (01-15). Mike also noted that some GRS sites include United States Coast Guard (USCG) priority areas, which are identified in the GRS Site ID by the letter "A" followed by a unique number tied to that specific priority area.

Mike completed his introduction to the group by providing a brief overview of GRS maps by page, with pg. 1 including the tactics map and recommended equipment needs, pg. 2 including tables showing additional information to successfully deploy each tactic, and pg. 3 including representative photographs of each GRS site. He then presented the final GRS drafts to the group for review. Comments and changes resulting from this review are listed below.

## *Connecticut River Draft GRS Review Comments*

- **CR-CT-01 Enfield - Donald W. Barnes Boat Launch:** No comments.
- **CR-CT-02 Suffield - Windsor Locks Canal:** No comments.
- **CR-CT-03 Enfield - Kings Island Boat Launch:** No comments.
- **CR-CT-04 Windsor - Windsor Meadow Boat Launch:** No comments.
- **CR-CT-05 Hartford - Riverside Park:** No comments. Icons located on the GRS indicate that this portion of the river is tidally influenced.
- **CR-CT-06 Hartford - Great River Park:** No comments. Icons located on the GRS indicate that this portion of the river is tidally influenced.
- **CR-CT-07 Hartford - Charter Oak Landing:** No comments. Icons located on the GRS indicate that this portion of the river is tidally influenced.
- **CR-CT-08 Wethersfield - Cove Park:** No comments. Icons located on the GRS indicate that this portion of the river is tidally influenced.
- **CR-CT-09 Glastonbury - Keeney Cove (A117) Crow Point Cove:** No comments. An icon located on this GRS indicates a USCG priority area for protection. Icons also indicate that this portion of the river is tidally influenced.
- **CR-CT-10A Cromwell - Mattabeset River:** No comments. Icons located on the GRS indicate that this portion of the river is tidally influenced.

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- **CR-CT-10B Cromwell - Pecaussette Meadows (A118):** No comments. An icon located on this GRS indicates a USCG priority area for protection. Icons also indicate that this portion of the river is tidally influenced.
- **CR-CT-11 Haddam - Haddam Meadows Boat Launch:** No comments. Icons located on the GRS indicate that this portion of the river is tidally influenced.
- **CR-CT-12A East Haddam - Salmon Cove (A119):** No comments. An icon located on this GRS indicates a USCG priority area for protection. Icons also indicate that this portion of the river is tidally influenced.
- **CR-CT-12B East Haddam - East Haddam Public Launch:** No comments. This area will serve as a potential access point, with an area for vehicle access. Icons also indicate that this portion of the river is tidally influenced.
- **CR-CT-13 Chester - Parkers Point/Chapman Pond (A120):** John Olin (East Haddam Conservation Commission) noted an additional staging area at the East Haddam Public Boat Launch as an alternative to the staging area at Parker's Point Boat Ramp (as indicated on the GRS tactics map). In response, Mike clarified that, although the East Haddam Public Launch wasn't specifically identified on the map, it could still serve as an additional location for responders to stage equipment and deploy boom (specifically the DF tactic near Deep Hollow Brook). An icon located on this GRS indicates a USCG priority area for protection. Icons also indicate that this portion of the river is tidally influenced.
- **CR-CT-14 Lyme - Hamburg Cove (A124):** No comments. An icon located on this GRS indicates a USCG priority area for protection. Efforts are focused on the mouth of Hamburg Cove and the 8 Mile River. Icons also indicate that this portion of the river is tidally influenced.
- **CR-CT-15 Essex - South/Middle Coves (A110):** Two icons located on this GRS indicate USCG priority areas for protection.

## *GRS Development Process & Project Timeline*

At the conclusion of the GRS Review meeting, Mike Popovich indicated that additional feedback is welcome until the post-review comment deadline of **August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, when the EPA Region 1 and Nuka Research will finalize each document and post them on the RRT1 website for public access. These documents will also be incorporated into the Inland and Coastal ACPs. Mike also mentioned that Nuka Research will be presenting these GRS at the October 24<sup>th</sup>, Sector Long Island Sound Area Committee Meeting (ACM).

Diane Duva (CT DEEP) indicated that a link to project materials is located on the CT DEEP and the EPA R1 websites.

## *Final Comments and Suggestions*

Diane Duva thanked the participants for their work in providing field knowledge and local expertise throughout this project. She also thanked Nuka Research and the EPA for their assistance in facilitating the project. Mike encouraged those at the local community level to participate in their local Area Committee meetings, then thanked the group for participating in this meeting and throughout this project.

## *Action Items*

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Nuka Research will:

- Post meeting summary on project website and accept feedback on each GRS until August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Post materials from this meeting on the project website.
- Make edits identified during this final workgroup meeting to the draft tactic maps and GRS.
- Prepare the draft Connecticut River (CR) GRS documents and all GIS data and deliver to the US EPA.

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Project Website: <https://www.inlandgrpne.com/connecticut-river-ct>

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FOR ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION CONTACT:

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