



<p>Geographic Response Plans for Blackstone and Pawtuxet – Rhode Island Project</p>	<p>September 12, 2017 – 1:00 - 3:00 PM</p>
<p>Final Work Group Meeting Summary</p>	<p>RI DEM Office 235 Promenade Street Providence, Rhode Island 02908</p>
<p>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 is developing 10 Geographic Response Plans or GRPs, for the Blackstone and Pawtuxet Rivers in Rhode Island. 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 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 Blackstone and Pawtuxet 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 last meeting of the Blackstone and Pawtuxet GRP Work Group. During this meeting, the project was introduced to all participants, the work group was asked for additional participation in all phases of the project, and the preliminary site selection information was disseminated for review and input from Work Group members and their constituents.</p>	
<p>Participants</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US EPA • RI DEM • USCG • USCG • Pawtuxet River Authority • Nuka Research 	
<p>For a complete list of participants, contact Alyssa Hall at alyssa@nukaresearch.com or Mike Popovich at popovich@nukaresearch.com.</p>	



Agenda

Introduction and Opening Comments: Mike Popovich (Nuka Research) opened the meeting by providing an overview of the project objectives and timeline, and reviewing the general process of creating Geographic Response Plans. He emphasized the importance of collaboration in the development of the GRPs, and asked the stakeholders to add their thoughts about the final GRP documents to make sure that these documents weren't missing critical information that would be helpful to first responders. He informed the workgroup that there may be opportunities to test these GRPs in the future through projects initiated by EPA Region 1 or RI DEM. We also informed the workgroup that Nuka Research and Planning Group has been contracted to develop 10 more GRPs in Connecticut this upcoming year.

Activities Since Last Meeting: Since the last workgroup meeting (the Site Selection Meeting in February 2018), site surveys were conducted on both rivers (April/May), tactics for each GRP location were developed by a smaller sub-group, and the GRPs were subsequently drafted and prepared for final work group review and comment.

Review and Comments on Draft GRPs: Each GRP was reviewed during the meeting. Comments and feedback received for each GRP is enumerated below:

Blackstone River GRPs

Woonsocket West (BR-01)

BR-01A: No comments.

BR-01B: No comments.

Woonsocket East (BR-02)

BR-02A: No comments.

BR-02B: No comments.

Manville Dam (BR-03)

The GRP should include information on the submerged structure below the dam. The original wooden dam is still in place under the water in the dam, which could be a hazard during recovery.

Ashton Dam (BR-04)

There are proposed hydropower projects pending at Ashton and Albion Dams. While nothing is approved or in place now, they may impact the ability to implement some tactics on this GRP. We should add language in the GRP that hydropower projects could impact GRP tactic implementation.

Lower Lonsdale Marsh (BR-05)

No comments.

Pawtucket (BR-06)

No Comments.

Pawtuxet River GRPs



Warwick Mall (PX-01)

There is open access to the pond across from the EX 02 boom, where we could consider adding an additional exclusion boom tactic. When there is high water, a person could kayak between the river and the pond, which would mean the pond is vulnerable.

Pontiac Ave. Boat Ramp (PX-02)

No comments.

Jefferson Blvd. (PX-03)

No comments.

Warwick Ave. (PX-04)

The brook that is behind the dam located at the southeast corner of Belmont Park called Cranberry Brook, the name of which will be added to the GRP. The dam at Cranberry Brook is old and no longer impeding water flow. As such, the dam icon and information will be removed from the GRP.

Closing Comments: All edits and changes that participants would like to suggest need to be received by Nuka Research and Planning Group no later than 5pm EST September 14, 2018. Final documents need to be submitted to US EPA by September 20, 2018, the project closing date.

Next Steps:

Nuka Research will:

- a. Post meeting summary on project website and accept feedback on GRP documents until Friday, September 14, 2018.
- b. Submit final GRP documents and data to US EPA by September 20, 2018.
- c. Post final documents and presentations used in this meeting on the project website.

Project Website: www.inlandgrpne.com

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