



Geographic Response Strategy Development Project – Connecticut River in New Hampshire & Vermont		November 10, 2021 – 1:00 - 2:30 PM
		Held via Zoom Video Conference
GRS Review/Final Work Group Meeting		
Project Overview:		
<p>Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC has been contracted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 to develop ten (10) Geographic Response Strategies, or GRS, for the Connecticut River in New Hampshire and Vermont. GRS 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. GRS can save time during the critical first few hours of an oil spill response.</p> <p>A multi-agency, multijurisdictional workgroup consisting of Federal, State, and local environmental emergency response partners will identify the candidate area(s) for the development of these GRS. Nuka Research will facilitate the workgroup and the GRS development process. This project will be completed in December 2021.</p>		
Workgroup Membership and Purview:		
<p>Members of the workgroup will represent state and federal agencies, local governments and organizations, stakeholder groups, the oil industry, and spill response professionals. The workgroup process is open to the public, and public participation is welcomed and encouraged.</p>		
Purpose of Meeting:		
<p>This meeting served as a final review of the draft GRS documents developed subsequent to the site surveys conducted on June 23-24, 2021. Work group members reviewed the draft GRS and recommended changes and edits.</p>		
Participants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Hampshire DES • Vermont VDHP/SHPO • Lebanon Fire Department • US EPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vermont DEC • VT Agency of Transportation • Lebanon Town Hall • Nuka Research 	
<p>For a complete list of participants, contact Olivia Norton at Olivia@nukaresearch.com or Mike Popovich at Popovich@nukaresearch.com.</p>		
Agenda		
<p>Introduction and Opening Comments: Mike Popovich (Nuka Research) briefly explained the overall objectives of this project and the plan for reviewing and finalizing these GRS. Following the final review and a brief post-review comment period, the final GRS documents and all associated GIS data will be delivered to Karen Way with EPA Region 1. These GRS will then be integrated into the inland Area Contingency Plan (ACP) and available on the RRT1 website.</p> <p>Project/Tactic Review Process Overview: Mike briefly discussed the new GRS excel template and how the final deliverable will be 15 GRS instead of 10 due to multi-map sites. Mike and Karen also mentioned the recent decision by EPA Region 1 to shift from the use of the term Geographic Response Plan, or GRP, to Geographic Response Strategy, or GRS as part of a national effort to standardize terminology, and in order to differentiate these smaller scale strategic plans from larger Area Contingency Plans of which they are a part, all current and future EPA Region 1 Inland River GRPs will now become Geographic Response Strategies or GRS. Mike then presented the final GRS drafts to the group for review. Comments and changes resulting from this review are listed below.</p>		

Connecticut River Draft GRS Review Comments:**CR-NH-01: North Stratford/Brunswick**

- Nuka to add Nulhegan River label to the map
- Nuka to edit the spelling of Stratford River launch on page 4
- Nuka to add 802-828-1138 (VT DEC daytime spill reporting) number to contact list on all GRS

CR-NH-02: Johns River

- Nuka to correct the spelling of “flow”

CR-NH-03: Moore Reservoir

- No comments

CR-NH-04: Barnet/Monroe

- Nuka to change the river access line to a label

CR-NH-05: McIndoe Falls

- Jason Domke asked if boom segment lengths accounted for additional boom length if cascade arrays were chosen instead of single boom legs. The group discussed changing longer boom legs to cascade arrays but instead decided to keep the tactics as single line segments in GIS and increase the boom lengths to reflect the amount of boom that will be needed if cascade boom arrays are deployed (by adding 20% to each single leg boom segment).

CR-NH-06: Woodsville/Wells River

- No comments

CR-NH-07: White River Junction (A & B)

- No comments on either GRS

CR-NH-08: Charlestown (A & B)

- No comments on either GRS

CR-NH-09: Bellows Falls (A & B)

- No comments

CR-NH-10 Brattleboro (A, B, & C)

- No comments on A and B GRS
- Nuka to label the Marina on tactic map C

Comments on overall GRS

- Nuka to label river systems on all of the tactic maps
- Fix font size on page 4
- Nuka to fix automation of the equipment for all tactics section on page 1
- Nuka to edit boom lengths to reflect boom length requirements for cascade array deployment.
- Nuka to remove “None identified” from Resource Protected section on page 3 as the terminology may be confusing.

GRS Development Process & Project Timeline

Following the GRS review, Mike indicated that additional feedback is welcome until November 18, 2021. After that, EPA and Nuka Research will finalize these documents, and EPA will post them on the RRT1 website for public access.

Comments and Suggestions

Scott Dillion, VT State Historic Preservation Officer, mentioned he intends to provide additional information related to historical sites and preservation to include in these strategies. Finally, Mike and Karen thanked the group for participating throughout this project.

Next Steps:

Nuka Research will:

- a. Post meeting summary on project website and accept feedback until November 18, 2021.
- b. Post documents and presentations used in this meeting on the project website.
- c. Make edits to the draft tactic maps and GRS identified at this final work group meeting.
- d. Prepare the draft Connecticut River GRS documents and send them to the US EPA.

Summary of Final Changes:

Following the final work group meeting, Nuka Research received additional feedback and requests for changes from the VT VDHP/SHPO and VT DEC as follows:

VT VDHP/SHPO Cultural/Historic Resource Comments: The verbiage highlighted below was added to the *“Special Considerations”* section of each GRS as indicated. Nuka Research also updated the Cultural Resources block under Resources Protected to read, *“Cultural/Historical Resources”* and added the following verbiage: *“Connecticut River shorelines are highly archaeologically sensitive. Contact/consult the VT Div. for Historic Preservation prior to any response activities.”*

- **North Stratford CR-NH-01**
 - Staging area and shoreline deployment location are archaeologically sensitive. Limit ground disturbance.
- **Johns River CR-NH-02**
- Shoreline deployment location on or near historic bridge abutment. Avoid impacts to structural components.
- **Moore Reservoir CR-NH-03**
- Built environment with existing infrastructure including boat ramp. No cultural resource concerns.
- **Barnet-Monroe CR-NH-04**
- Diversion boom shore anchor not archaeologically sensitive. No cultural resource concerns.
- **McIndoe Falls CR-NH-05**
- Both shorelines adjacent to shoreline deployment locations archaeologically sensitive. Staging and shoreside recovery areas also archaeologically sensitive. Limit ground disturbance.
- **Woodsville-Wells River CR-NH-06**
- Shoreline deployment locations archaeologically sensitive. Limit ground disturbance. Staging area already modified so no archaeological concerns.
- **White River Junction CR-NH-07A**
- Shoreline deployment location, as well as boat ramp are located on a historic mill and hydroelectric archaeological site designated as VT-WN-0480 in the Vermont Archaeological Inventory. Area is mostly hardened for boat access and park but limit ground disturbance.
- **White River Junction CR-NH-07B**
- Vermont side of diversion boom is a built environment. No cultural resource concerns.
- **Charlestown CR-NH-08A**
- Submerged sites archaeological sites likely in areas of boom deployment locations and passive recovery area. Limit ground/bottom disturbances.
- Boat ramp and shoreside recovery areas in hardened area. No cultural resource concerns.
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- **Charlestown CR-NH-08B**
- Moderate archaeological sensitivity along shoreline near diversion boom. Limit ground disturbance
- **Bellows Falls CR-NH-09A**
- Diversion boom, shoreside recovery, and staging area on or adjacent to hardened surface of boat ramp. Area generally archaeologically sensitive so limit ground disturbance.
- Deflection boom adjacent to archaeologically sensitive area. Limit ground/bottom disturbance.



- **Bellows Falls CR-NH-09B**
- Diversion boom adjacent to railroad bed. No cultural resource concerns.
- **Brattleboro CR-NH-10A**
- Staging area, shoreside recovery, and diversion boom in area of low archaeological sensitivity due to prior disturbance from boat ramp.
- **Brattleboro CR-NH-10B**
- Staging area, shoreside recovery, and diversion boom in area of low archaeological sensitivity due to prior disturbance from boat ramp.
- **Brattleboro CR-NH-10C**
- Shoreline locations adjacent to deflection and diversion boom previously disturbed. Moderate to low potential for submerged archaeological sites. Limit bottom disturbance.

VT DEC Feedback/Comments:

Note: Actions taken are indicated in bold

- On CR-NH-07B, the White River is labeled as the Wells River. **Corrected**
- On the contacts pages for all – it looks like there’s a blank line above “911” at the top of the phone # list. Any chance that can be removed so that the numbers better align with the contact entity in the left-hand column? **Corrected**
- You have the VT F&W contact as the Essex regional office which is near Lake Champlain. I would think the main office # at HQ in Montpelier should be used instead (802-828-1000). **Number updated.**
- 802-741-5311 is the after-hours DW reporting #. Do you want to include the office hours # as well? If so, it is 802-828-1535. **Due to continued teleworking by VT state personnel, the after-hours number was left as is.**
- Should the town names on each side of the river or at least the town where the staging area is located be included somewhere on each GRS? Perhaps as part of the title if not already (i.e. John’s River, Dalton, NH CR-NH-02 or Dalton, NH John’s River, CR-NH-02). Or perhaps include the town name with the Lat Long if not in the title. **We will retitle most GRS to include the VT and NH towns that "share" each river segment depicted as follows:**
- **CR-NH-01: North Stratford/Bloomfield**
 - **CR-NH-02: Johns River (Dalton/Lunenburg)**
 - **CR-NH-03: Moore Reservoir (Littleton/Waterford)**
 - **CR-NH-04: Barnet/Monroe**
 - **CR-NH-05: McIndoe Falls/Monroe**
 - **CR-NH-06: Woodsville/Wells River**
 - **CR-NH-07: White River Junction/Lebanon (A-B)**
 - **CR-NH-08: Charlestown/Springfield (A-B)**
 - **CR-NH-09: Bellows Falls/Walpole (A-B)**
 - **CR-NH-10: Brattleboro/Cheshire County* (A-C)**
- Should the State for the WRJ GRS location section be VT considering that’s where the staging and collection would be set up? Consider the same for others where the staging location is in VT? May not work for those that have SR on both sides of the river. **Revised the "State" block on page 1 to include both states.**
- Should Lat/Long point to the Staging location? **The lat/long for each GRS is the center of each map area.**

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

Contact person for additional information: Mike Popovich: popovich@nukaresearch.com 508-524-8015