



Geographic Response Plans for Blackstone and Pawtuxet – Rhode Island Project

November 16, 2017 – 1:30 - 3:30 PM

**RI DEM Office
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908**

Initial Work Group Meeting

Project Overview:

Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC has been contracted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 to develop 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.

The goal of this project will be to develop ten (10) GRPs. A multi-agency, multijurisdictional workgroup consisting of Federal, State, and local environmental emergency response partners will identify the candidate area(s) for development of these GRPs. Nuka Research will facilitate the Work Group and the GRP development process. This project will be completed in September 2018 and we anticipate three (3) Work Group meetings to be held over the life of this project.

Work Group Membership and Purview:

The Rhode Island GRP Work Group is being formed to select sites and develop tactics for GRPs upon the waters of and along the shoreline of the Blackstone and Pawtuxet Rivers in Rhode Island. Members of the Work Group will represent state and federal agencies, local governments and organizations, stakeholder groups, the oil industry, and spill response professionals. Work Group meetings will be held approximately three times over the life of this project. The Work Group process is open to the public and public participation is welcomed and encouraged.

Purpose of Meeting:

This meeting will introduce the project to all participants, solicit additional participation in all phases of the project, and disseminate preliminary site selection information for review and input from Work Group members and their constituents.

Agenda

- 1:30 PM Introduction and Opening Comments.....James Carew, EPA Region 1/Jim Ball, RI DEM**
- 1:35 PM Introductions of Work Group Participants.....Group**
- 1:45 PM Project OverviewMike Popovich, Nuka Research**
- 2:00 PM Role of RI DEM Office of Emergency ManagementJim Ball, RI DEM**
- 2:30 PM Role of GRPs Within the Regional Contingency Plan.....James Carew**
- 2:40 PM GRP Development Process & Project Timeline.....Mike Popovich**
- 3:10 PM Comments and Suggestions Group**
- 3:20 PM Review Action Items Mike Popovich**
- 3:30 PM Adjourn**

Project Website: www.inlandgrpne.com

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