



Geographic Response Plan Development Project - Blackstone River in Massachusetts	November 4, 2019 – 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Site Selection Meeting	MassDEP Central Region Office 8 New Bond St Worcester, MA 01606

Project Overview:

Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC has been contracted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 to develop ten (10) Geographic Response Plans or GRPs, for the Blackstone River in Massachusetts. 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.

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 August 2020 and we anticipate two (2) Work Group meetings to be held over the life of this project.

Work Group Membership and Purview:

The Blackstone 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 River in Massachusetts. Members of the Work Group will represent state and federal agencies, local governments and organizations, stakeholder groups, the oil industry, and spill response professionals. The Work Group process is open to the public and public participation is welcomed and encouraged.

Purpose of Meeting:

This meeting will serve both to introduce this project, reviewing goals, objectives and timeline, and 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 ultimately select ten (10) sites for GRP development along the Blackstone River. We will also use this meeting to establish a preliminary schedule for site surveys, including identifying vessels available to support the surveys (if necessary) and Work Group members who are interested in surveying particular sites.

Agenda

- 1:00 PM Introduction and Opening Comments.....Karen Way, EPA Region 1/Mark Baldi, MassDEP**
- 1:05 PM Introductions of Work Group Participants.....Group**
- 1:15 PM Project/Site Selection Process OverviewMike Popovich, Nuka Research**
- 1:45 PM Review of Site Selection Criteria and Site Selection Discussion.....Group**
- 3:30 PM GRP Development Process & Project Timeline..... Mike Popovich**
- 3:40 PM Comments and Suggestions Group**
- 3:50 PM Review Action Items Mike Popovich**
- 4:00 PM Adjourn**

Project Website: www.inlandgrpne.com

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