Geographic Response Strategy Development Project – Connecticut River in Connecticut Connecticut River Tactics Sub-Group Meeting Summary	June 15, 2023 – 1:00 – 2:00 PM Held virtually via Zoom Meeting

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 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.

A multi-agency, multijurisdictional workgroup consisting of Federal, State, and local environmental emergency response partners have identified the candidate area(s) for the development of these GRS. Nuka Research will facilitate the Work Group and the GRS development process. This project will be completed in August 2023, and we anticipate two (2) Work Group meetings and one (1) Sub-Group meeting to be held over the life of this project.

This meeting was the Tactic Sub-Group meeting of the Connecticut River GRS Work Group. The purpose of this meeting was to review the 15 Connecticut River draft tactic maps, examine each tactic carefully, and gather any additional information to capture on the tactic maps or in the GRS.

Participants

- CT DEEP
- US EPA
- Nuka Research
- USCG Sector LIS

For a complete list of participants, contact Sam Butler at Sam@nukaresearch.com or Mike Popovich at Popovich@nukaresearch.com.

Agenda

Introduction and Opening Comments: Mike Popovich (Nuka Research) opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending the site surveys and providing a brief overview of the purpose of conducting tactics meetings. Mike also provided a brief review of some of the iconography used in each GRS.

Review of Post-Site Survey Project Activity: Site surveys were conducted on May 16th and 17th, 2023[1] with a small group of experienced spill responders including personnel from EPA Region 1, MassDEP, CT DEEP, USCG Sector LIS, Wethersfield Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission, Cromwell Conservation Commission, Windsor Conservation Commission, Windsor Fire Department, Windsor Locks Department of Emergency Management, Glastonbury Water Pollution Control Authority, Glastonbury Fire Department, Glastonbury Department of Emergency Management, Suffield Department of Emergency Management, Chester Harbor Management Commission, and the CT State Historic Preservation Office.

Project/Tactic Review Process Overview: Mike Popovich then provided a general project overview of all the sites selected during the site survey process on Google Earth. He then presented to the group the draft tactic maps for review. Mike explained the naming and Site ID convention and mentioned that all of this is subject to change based on the group's input up until the final product.

[1] Site surveys were based on the site survey schedule sent to the Work Group on March 22, 2023, and published on the project website.

Connecticut River Draft Tactic Map Review Comments:

Donald Barnes Boat Launch
Mike Popovich provided a summary of the intended tactic, which calls for a DV tactic with shoreside recovery near the Staging Location and an EX tactic at Freshwater Brook. Mike then provided a summary of threats from a railroad nearby.

- Rick – Can we get flow rate data for this section?
- Mike – Yes, we should be able to use USGS data to extrapolate that information.
- Rick – Boom along the left side of the river may be impacted by strong river flow, can we add secondary booming tactics?
- Mike – We typically don't, but we could certainly do that.
- Rick – In the recent Thames River incident, we needed a secondary section of boom to contain the oil.
- Karen – It is up to you guys to decide whether to add a secondary boom.
- Mike – We can depict graphically that secondary booming is "suggested" and may be needed to overcome strong currents.
- Rick – The State has two boxes of 1,800ft of boom ready to roll, so if we need more boom, we could use that.
- Mike – Let's include this information in the special considerations section of the GRS.
- Diane – Willie Whitmore (NOAA) might be able to help get river flow rate data if the USGS stations don't provide what we need.
- Mike – NOAA's Adios platform does not have data that extends far enough inland through the river.

Windsor Locks Canal
Mike Popovich provided a summary of the intended tactic, which calls for a DF tactic to deflect oil away from the Windsor Locks and a DV tactic within the canal to divert oil from travelling further into the canal.

No additional comments.

Kings Island Boat Launch
Mike Popovich provided a summary of the intended tactic, which calls for an EX tactic at Beaman's Brook, and a DV tactic across the river.

No additional comments.

Windsor Meadows Boat Launch
Mike Popovich provided a summary of the intended tactic, which calls for a DV tactic with shoreside recovery near the Staging Location.

No additional comments.

Riverside Park
Mike Popovich provided a summary of the intended tactic, which calls for a DV tactic with shoreside recovery near the Staging Location. Mike noted that the blue tactics indicate an "ebb tide" strategy, and the red tactics indicate a "flood tide" strategy. Mike described that the flood tide tactic is shorter because oil is projected to flow along the deepest part of the river, and not the entire width of the river.

- Mike – Should we indicate the access pathway along the side of the river opposite the Staging Location?
- Diane – Yes, we should.
- Rick – As long as we can access this pathway with a vehicle, we should.
- Diane – Yes, you can access it with a vehicle.

- Diane – The water drop icon identifies the Park River auxiliary conduit. The old Park River channel is in between the conduit and the Park River icon. I can follow up to identify whether this is an intake or outtake site.
- Mike – Is the outfall icon (from original tactics map) also a conduit?
- Diane – It may be stormwater discharge, but I'm not sure. Keep it as is for now.

Charter Oak

Mike Popovich provided a summary of the intended tactic, which calls for a DV tactic just north of the boat ramp, EX boom along the Hockanum River and Willow Brook, and passive recovery along the nearby jetty.

- Diane – EX boom is a good idea; it is a wetland area with a lot of water discharging into it.

Weathersfield Cove Park

Mike Popovich provided a summary of the intended tactic, which calls for an EX tactic at the opening of Weathersfield Cove. Mike also noted that there is a wooden gate at the park, but the gate will be modified to allow access to the roadway underneath the overpass.

- Amanda – Trees and road wash-out may impact access.
- Mike – It might be necessary to identify the Buckeye Terminal.
- Rick – Good idea.

Glastonbury

Mike Popovich provided an overview of some of the sensitive areas nearby and suggested adding a sensitivity identifier to the name of the GRS. Mike then provided a summary of the intended tactic, which calls for EX booming at the mouth of Crow Point Cove, and DF and DV booming throughout the river near the boat ramp. Mike also mentioned that the Cove is a popular spot during the boating season.

No additional comments.

Cromwell/ Mattabesset River

Mike Popovich provided a summary of the intended tactic, which calls for EX tactics along the mouth of the river, and ebb and flood tide DV tactics across the river.

- Mike – I identified a potential intake with a water drop icon.
- Rick – That may be a septic discharge from the Mattabesset Septic facility nearby. Also, the railroad goes all the way down to Old Saybrook.

Haddam Meadow Boat Launch

Mike Popovich provided a summary of the intended tactic.

- Rick – This location will be a challenge, because we have a lot of drownings at that beach (there is a sandbar, and the current is very fast along the outskirts of the sandbar (where the water depth drops to about 50ft deep). There is a lot of room for staging here. The whole field to the left of the Staging Location is also accessible if the parking lot becomes full (it is a popular spot in the summer).

Salmon River

Mike provided a summary of the intended tactic, which calls for an EX tactic at the mouth of the canal.

- Rick – The canal area is an old nuclear plant. It is not a high-threat area anymore.
- Karen – Let's keep the EX tactic there, as it would be tough to clean oil from the canal.
- Rick – Salmon River is a very sensitive area.
- Mike – Is the Goodspeed Opera House an ample Staging Location?
- Rick – Yes. Also, there are very minor threats from nearby AST fuel at the airport near that location. However, it is not a very active airport.

Chester/Parker's Point

Mike provided a summary of the intended tactic, which calls for an ebb tide DF boom array to deflect oil away from Chapman Pond, a DV boom at the boat ramp, and a flood tide DF boom on other side of the river.

- Rick – The current is strongest along the side of the river where the edge of the railroad is.
- Mike – Residents nearby might not love shoreside recovery here, but it may be necessary.

Hamburg Cove

Mike provided a summary of the intended tactic.

- Mike – It seems like there isn't a whole lot we can do near the 8-mile River.
- Rick – I would agree, the entrance of the Cove is probably the best place to deploy boom. The river current splits along Brockway Island and hugs the coast on either side.

Essex South and Middle Coves

Mike provided a summary of the intended tactic, which calls for an EX tactic at Middle Cove.

- Mike – Is this too much?
- Rick – No. We want to plan for the worst –this is where a lot of boat traffic and moorings are.
- Mike – I will identify that in the GRS.
- Rick – The Cove is very shallow, but very much worth protecting. There is a nature preserve along the backside of the Cove.
- Mike – I added an EX tactic at the opening of the island. I also added an EX tactic around the museum and into North Cove.
- Rick – I agree with these tactics. The opening to North Cove is shallow enough to walk across at low tide and there is a diesel/gas dock at North Cove.

NOTE: All current GRS names remain tentative and subject to change up to the conclusion of the final Work Group meeting

GRS Development Process & Project Timeline

Following the review of the draft tactic maps, Mike Popovich indicated that the next phase in the GRS development process is to draft the GRS documents and prepare for a final Work Group meeting. Nuka Research will draft these documents within the next few weeks and send them to the Work Group for feedback. The final Work Group meeting will occur virtually sometime between July and August 2023. The project end-date is August 31, 2023. This will allow Nuka Research time to make any additional changes identified during the final Work Group meeting. At the conclusion of this project, EPA and Nuka Research will finalize these documents and EPA will post them on the RRT1 website for public access.

Comments and Suggestions

There were no additional comments made by the sub-group.

Next Steps:

Nuka Research will:

a. Post the meeting summary on the project website and accept feedback within a set comment period.
b. Post documents and presentations used in this meeting on the project website.
c. Make edits to the draft tactic maps identified at this sub-group meeting.
d. Determine a final Work Group meeting timeframe (July/August 2023) based on Work Group feedback and schedule the virtual Zoom meeting accordingly.
e. Prepare the draft Connecticut River GRS documents and send them to the entire Work Group for feedback prior to the final Work Group meeting.

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