

**Minutes of the
Upper Mississippi River
Hazardous Spills Coordination Group Meeting**

April 20-21, 2004

**Four Points Sheraton
Rock Island, Illinois**

John Whitaker of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. on April 20, 2004. The following Spills Group members and observers were present:

Roger Lauder	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Rodney Tucker	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
John Whitaker	Missouri Department of Natural Resources
John Grump	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Scott Strotman	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District
Clint Beckert	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (Day 2)
Brad Palmer	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (Day 2)
Patrick Cuty	U.S. Coast Guard, District 8 New Orleans
Joe Snowden	U.S. Coast Guard, MSO St. Louis
Dave Webb	U.S. Coast Guard, MSD Quad Cities
Renee Lagasse	U.S. Coast Guard, MSD Quad Cities
Steve Faryan	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
Ann Whelan	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
Ginger Molitor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office
Gary Haden	McKinzie Environmental
Dave Suman	City of Rock Island Water Supply (Day 2)
Barb Naramore	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

Minutes of the October Meeting

The minutes of the October 22-23, 2003 UMR Spills Group meeting were approved as written.

Overview of the UMR Spills Group and Plan

For the benefit of new members of the Spills Group, John Whitaker provided a brief overview of the group's history, noting that it was formed in 1989, shortly after enactment of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The Spills Group was established to provide state and federal agencies with the means to coordinate their notification and response activities on the Upper Mississippi River, a multi-jurisdictional resource. Founding agencies include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control

Agency, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, an organization formed by the Governors of the five UMR states, provides staff support and coordination to the group. Each agency is represented through a primary point of contact (POC), as well as any additional participants whom the agency chooses to identify. The Spills Group typically meets twice per year, usually in the Quad Cities.

Barb Naramore briefly described the *UMR Hazardous Spill Response Plan and Resource Manual* developed by the group. The UMR Plan sets forth a series of protocols agreed to by the signatory state and federal agencies. These protocols cover the full range of response activities and issues on the UMR, from notification and incident command to vessel detainment and waste disposal. The UMR Plan also includes a series of resource appendices that provide detailed information about potential spill sources, water intakes, access points, response equipment, and other features along the river.

John Grump noted that Spills Group members recently surveyed users of the UMR Plan. Survey results indicate that users highly value the resource appendices, but suggest that many users' familiarity with the plan's protocols has waned over the years. Grump said raising the profile of the protocols within the state and federal signatory agencies is an important next step for the group. As one effort toward this end, Grump suggested re-signing the plan's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) as part of the next updates. This would acquaint agency leaders, many of whom were not in their current positions when the MOA was last executed, with the UMR Plan.

Net Environmental Benefits Analysis

Ann Whelan described the Net Environmental Benefits Analysis (NEBA) process, which brings responders and resource experts together to examine the ecological consequences of various response options in a particular area. The Coast Guard initially developed NEBA for application in coastal areas, where there was a particular focus on the use of dispersants. However, Whelan emphasized that NEBA also has potential utility on inland rivers and lakes. The recent pilot NEBAs on the UMR and Lake Superior were designed to explore this potential and determine how the process might best be modified to suit the inland zone.

Whelan explained that CDR Mike Drieu of the Eighth District has arranged to make the Coast Guard's NEBA contractor available to support two workshops on the UMR. The first of these workshops was held March 24-26 and focused on Lake Onalaska in lower Pool 7. The second workshop, which is scheduled for April 27-29, will involve Pool 19 from Fort Madison to Keokuk. Whelan said EPA, the Great Lakes Commission, and NOAA collaborated on the January 2004 Isle Royale NEBA workshop and did not use the Coast Guard's contractor.

Patrick Cuty noted that the Pool 7 NEBA involved a canola oil spill. The limited data available on canola oil's behavior proved to be a challenge for workshop participants. He also said the Pool 7 workshop would have benefited from more involvement by responders.

Whelan said participants were generally satisfied with the portion of the workshop where they were asked to rank the impacts of different response options, including natural recovery, on various resources. She noted that dispersants are not approved for use in freshwater and *in-situ*

burning is generally less controversial in the inland zone than on the coasts. As a result, there was relatively little conflict among participants regarding the suitability of response options. Traditional (e.g., boom) and non-traditional (e.g., barges in place of boom) mechanical options were considered together, essentially as different ways of accomplishing the same thing.

Whelan described the workshop evaluations as generally favorable, with some suggestions for improving the process. Whelan also noted that many of the response experts were struck by the variety and significance of the UMR's natural resources. Barb Naramore said the workshop helped to underscore the kinds of tradeoffs that might need to be made in responding to a major spill on the river. For example, measures taken to limit the impacts to waterfowl could increase the damage to mussels and other benthic invertebrates. Naramore said the discussion also demonstrated the need to communicate with recreational and commercial vessel operators in the event of a spill. There are often many people out on the river who could either help or hinder response, and whose personal safety may also be at risk from a spill. Whelan noted that Fish and Wildlife Service representatives suggested organizing duck hunters to assist with waterfowl hazing operations as an option for minimizing resource damage. Grump expressed concern that hazing birds could increase their exposure by driving them into oiled wetlands.

In response to a question from Steve Faryan, Whelan said the key NEBA product will be insights from the specific scenario that can be generalized to the UMR more broadly. According to Whelan, insights regarding natural resource needs in the event of a spill will be especially valuable, particularly given the limited range of response options. She noted that some of the resource managers participating in the Pool 7 workshop expressed interest in prioritizing resources for protection, something that resource experts on the river have previously been quite reluctant to do.

Naramore said the Pool 7 workshop underscored the importance having a breadth of natural resource expertise available to support response decision making. With no single resource manager having sufficient knowledge to fully inform responders, strengthening field level communications is critical. She noted that many resource managers participating in the workshop expressed their willingness and desire to become more engaged in supporting response efforts.

Whelan stressed that response resources on the UMR are quite limited, compared with what is generally available on the coasts. She expressed hope that the NEBA process will provide insight regarding the level of response resources needed to minimize environmental damage from spills on the river. While it will not be feasible to hold a NEBA workshop for every pool on the UMR, Whelan said conducting the process in several representative areas should yield insights that can be applied more broadly. Computer modeling may assist in this extrapolation effort.

Gary Haden asked about the end product of the NEBA effort. Whelan said NEBA may have a variety of useful applications, including support for Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) efforts; identification of local planning needs, such as a bird hazing plan or pre-designation of collection points; and support for the planning section in an actual response. Naramore said NEBA can provide a framework for incident-specific decisions by identifying basic principles and approaches in advance. Resource and response experts can then work

within that framework to make decisions appropriate for the unique circumstances of a given spill.

Whelan and Naramore also noted that Pool 7 workshop participants from the UMR Refuge raised the possibility of having refuge personnel participate directly on the Spills Group.

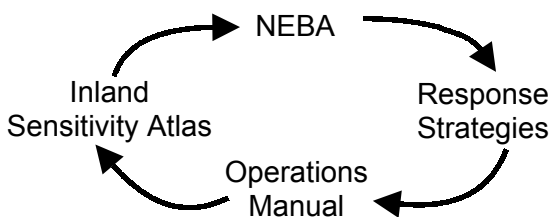
Whelan suggested that the Spills Group set aside time at its fall meeting to consider NEBA further, at which time insights from the Pool 19 workshop will also be available to inform the discussion.

Advanced Concepts in Planning

Ann Whelan presented a conceptual model for building on the area planning process to enhance preparedness. She noted that the area plans were initially intended to:

- Develop notification lists
- Develop response resource lists
- Establish command relationships
- Identify worst-case scenarios
- Identify sensitive areas
- Expedite use of alternative countermeasures

According to Whelan, the area plans, including follow-on training and exercises, have been largely completed. The traditional approach would be to employ the plans and then perhaps repeat the same process to update them at some point in the future. As an alternative, Whelan suggested engaging in the following cycle of environmental planning:



The inland sensitivity atlases, the first generation of which is almost complete for Region 5, provide spatial and attribute information about sensitive resources and potential spill sources. The maps are a valuable screening tool for emergency responders. NEBA can then use the sensitivity atlas information when bringing resource managers and responders together for cross training and prioritizing response activities. As a next step, site-specific response strategies can be developed. This process seeks to identify strategies for particular sites and confirm their feasibility in light of actual site conditions. The fieldwork required to develop the response strategies also serves to ground truth the sensitivity maps. As the final step in the loop, Whelan said EPA would like to develop an operations manual for freshwater environments, noting that most of the material available in marine-oriented manuals is not useful for freshwater. The operations manual would include information on tactics actually used in rivers, lakes, wetlands, drainage ditches, and other freshwater environments. Whelan

said she envisions that the manual would be primarily web-based, but would also be available on CD with various printable products. According to Whelan, EPA's Emergency Response Team in New Jersey has drafted an operations manual that is currently open for comment. Whelan said she would provide the URL for the draft to Spills Group members interested in reviewing the document.

Whelan said the cycle she outlined is intended to be repeatable, with feedback among the individual steps and improvements as knowledge is enhanced. She said all elements of the cycle will contribute to EPA's goal of elevating the role of science and environmental considerations in response planning. Whelan said the cycle should help area committees to focus their future efforts and expressed optimism that it will enhance agencies' response capabilities, while also providing a template for industries to use in their internal planning. EPA Region 5 intends to attempt this integrated planning process on Isle Royale, a remote area in Lake Superior with high value resources and vulnerability to spills from vessels and the Park Service's own fuel storage.

Gary Haden observed that it has frequently been difficult to get local officials actively involved in sub-area planning efforts because they do not experience spills often and thus do not view them as an important issue. He questioned whether this reluctance might be an impediment to the advanced planning outlined by Whelan. Whelan said OPA planning and, more recently, counterterrorism efforts, are gradually increasing local officials' focus on threats to water resources.

Roger Lauder noted that locals have traditionally viewed rivers as the responsibility of the Coast Guard and Corps of Engineers. With new homeland security responsibilities and resources, those officials are now seeking to address threats to drinking water, wastewater treatment, and other potential targets. Barb Naramore reported that industry participants have been key to the success of the response strategies work in the Twin Cities. Initially, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency used its regulatory authority to leverage the private sector's involvement. However, according to Naramore, the industry participants quickly came to see the value of the effort and have now taken considerable ownership of the process, to the point where the private companies have pre-staged equipment and are seeking to develop strategies for additional portions of the UMR. Naramore acknowledged that local public sector officials have not taken a very active role in the Twin Cities work, but said this has not been a significant impediment so far.

Overview of Coast Guard District Eight

Patrick Cuty provided an overview of the Coast Guard's Eighth District, which operates in part or all of 26 states. This includes 10,300 miles of inland rivers and 1,200 miles of coastline. There are 2,800 active duty Coast Guard members assigned to District Eight, along with 915 activated reservists, over 5,600 auxiliary members, and approximately 190 civilian employees. Fourteen of the nation's 24 busiest cargo ports and five of the top ten fishing ports are in the district. By almost any measure, the Eighth District is far larger than any of the Coast Guard's other districts. Prior to the 1996 merger of the St. Louis-based Second District into the Eighth District, District Eight covered five states and had 227 staff at the district level. Currently, eight years after the merger, the district headquarters has 168 staff to oversee operations in its 26 states.

Cuty explained that the Eighth District includes three distinct operating environments — i.e., the inland rivers, coastal ports/intercoastal waterway, and offshore. Three groups, Group UMR, Group LMR, and Group Ohio Valley, handle search and rescue and aids to navigation on the inland rivers in District Eight. The Inland River Vessel Movement Center tracks vessels carrying certain dangerous cargoes, using mandatory reports from the vessel operators. An Inland River Crisis Action Plan, developed in coordination with industry, the Corps of Engineers, and others, establishes protocols for modifying and halting operations under certain low water, high water, and ice conditions. Coordination is a major element of District Eight's responsibilities, including its participation on six Regional Response Teams and its cooperation with a wide range of industry and other interagency groups.

According to Joe Snowden, implementing the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) of 2002 is having a major impact on the Coast Guard. Many marine safety resources have been redirected to security missions, including armed vessel boardings. Snowden said the Coast Guard will be more visible on the UMR this summer with its increased operating tempo. He noted that the recall of reservists is the largest in the Coast Guard since World War II.

Dave Webb explained that the regulations implementing MTSA 2002 were promulgated in December 2003 and govern a range of vessels and facilities. Regulated vessels and facilities were required to submit security plans by December 31, 2003, with penalties of \$25,000 for failure to do so. July 1, 2004 is the deadline for vessel and facility operators to implement their plans. Permanently moored vessels are not required to develop vessel plans.

According to Webb, the six Captains of the Port on the western rivers are combining to create a single regional Area Maritime Security (AMS) Plan. He explained that this will be a prevention and preparedness plan, not a response plan. Within the St. Louis MSO's area of responsibility, individual port security committees are working to develop annexes for St. Paul, the Quad Cities, Peoria, Kansas City, and St. Louis. The Coast Guard is working with these five committees to document existing infrastructure and vulnerabilities.

UMR Notification Protocol

John Grump reported that he and Ann Whelan have conducted two unannounced drills of the UMR Plan's notification protocol, one in December 2003 and a second in February 2004. As discussed at the Spills Group's October 2003 meeting, these drills were designed to test the signatory agencies' proficiency in implementing the protocol. The determination to conduct the drills stemmed from members' concern that the protocol has not been consistently and fully implemented in recent spills.

Grump briefly reviewed the notification protocol, under which the first-aware state is supposed to immediately notify other potentially affected states as well as federal agencies by voice. For incidental spills, a state may elect to notify distant downstream states the next business day by fax or phone. According to Grump, the December 2003 unannounced drill involved Minnesota as the first-aware state. MPCA notified a local Fish and Wildlife Service employee and obtained that employee's commitment to notify the Service's Region 3. However, the UMR protocol calls on the state to notify Region 3 headquarters directly. During non-business hours,

notification to Region 3 goes through the Department of the Interior's Regional Environmental Officers, whose contact information is included in the UMR Plan's notification list.

Grump said the February 2004 drill involved the lockmaster for Lock and Dam 19 as the first-aware individual. According to Grump, this person was reluctant to participate, for security reasons, until he could confirm the drill's legitimacy. This resulted in a one-day delay in the drill. When the notifications were initiated the following day, they did not proceed according to the protocol's provisions. Among the issues, staff in Iowa and Missouri did not proceed with their internal notifications upon receipt of the National Response Center fax, apparently having concluded this was unnecessary for the drill. Barb Naramore also noted that Illinois and Iowa should each have considered themselves to be the first-aware state until such time as they confirmed directly that another state was acting in this capacity. There was some uncertainty regarding whether the Corps of Engineers notified any state directly. [Note: Subsequent to the meeting, Scott Strotman was able to confirm that the lockmaster notified Iowa DNR, per the UMR Plan and the Corps' own emergency notification list for Lock and Dam 19.]

Grump outlined questions for consideration based on the drill results, including whether the UMR protocol is still what the state and federal agencies want, whether modifications are in order, and whether training is needed. He stressed that the drills were intended to provide insight into these questions and explore how the protocol is being implemented, not to point fingers or catch people in mistakes. Grump highlighted two personal perspectives: 1) notification is key to effective response and minimizing spill impacts and 2) if we have a protocol, we need to respect it and implement it consistently.

Roger Lauder asked how conversant personnel in the other state agencies are with the UMR notification protocol. He emphasized his desire to ensure that Illinois staff are prepared to implement the UMR Plan and its protocols, but said his initial inquiries suggest that the current level of familiarity within IEPA is low.

Grump suggested that each agency should exercise the protocol internally as a next step. Lauder concurred, saying he intends to ensure that all of his staff are aware of and understand the protocol. John Whitaker suggested that the agencies' internal work be followed by additional unannounced, interagency drills. After further discussion, the Spills Group agreed to the following two-step strategy: 1) each signatory agency's POC should work internally over the next three months to ensure that all relevant staff are familiar with the UMR notification protocol and are prepared to implement it; and 2) starting in September 2004, the group will resume unannounced notification drills under the lead of U.S. EPA Region 5 and Wisconsin DNR.

UMR Spill Plan Review

Barb Naramore briefly recounted the Spills Group's previous decision to survey UMR Plan users. Survey respondents were generally positive regarding the plan, and particularly valued its contact lists and resource appendices. Their most common concern related to the plan's length. Overall, the substantial majority of respondents advocated retaining the UMR Spill Plan. The Spills Group considered the survey results at its October 2003 meeting and concluded that a dedicated UMR Spill Plan should be maintained. However, the group also agreed that it would be timely and productive to conduct a comprehensive review of the current

UMR Plan. Toward that end, they formed a UMR Spill Plan Review Subcommittee, comprised of John Whitaker, Eddie McGlasson, Barbi Lee, Patrick Cuty, Dave Webb, and Barb Naramore.

Whitaker and Naramore presented an April 16, 2004 report from the Plan Review Subcommittee. That report offered the following conclusions and recommendations for the Spills Group's consideration:

1. Retain the UMR Plan with most of its current form and content, but consider: adding the National Response Center to the primary notification list, deleting the National Pollution Funds Center from the secondary contacts list, deleting the Appendix D list of UMR discharge points if the states cannot provide current lists of dischargers by river mile, and deleting Appendix F's detailed information on *in-situ* burning (ISB) and chemical oil spill treating agents (COSTAs).
2. Develop a brief emergency action guide that complements the UMR Spill Plan, but that is more portable and better suited for a broader audience. The Review Subcommittee offered an outline of what such an emergency action guide might include.
3. Enhance the linkage between the UMR Plan, the three UMR sub-area plans (i.e., Twin Cities, Quad Cities, and Greater St. Louis), and the Inland Sensitivity Maps by creating a CD containing all four plans and the maps and map tables for the UMR corridor.
4. Further evaluate options for enhancing access to and distribution of the UMR Plan.
5. Develop a strategy for ongoing training and outreach efforts.

Patrick Cuty suggested spreading the workload associated with updating some of the more demanding resource appendices. Cuty said he would be willing to take the lead in updating the equipment list. Ann Whelan suggested that adding latitude/longitude coordinates to the equipment list would be very helpful.

Steve Faryan suggested modifying the UMR Plan to highlight the need to notify drinking water intakes. Faryan said U.S. EPA notification of intake operators is probably not consistent. John Grump said he views notification of drinking water intakes as a state responsibility. Cuty stressed the need to notify other types of intake operators as well, such as power plants and major industrial water users.

Grump said the emergency action guide is a good idea, particularly because it could be distributed so much more widely than the UMR Plan. Ginger Molitor suggested having each agency develop its own customized guide. Naramore explained that the Plan Review Subcommittee's expectation is that the guide would be distributed far beyond the signatory agencies to the UMR Plan. For this reason, they envisioned designing a single guide that would be suitable for a wide range of users. Individual agencies and companies would obviously have the option of adding to the guide to suit their unique circumstances, but the UMR Spills Group would be responsible for maintaining and distributing just the single, official version of the document. Faryan said U.S. EPA Region 5 could offer the services of a graphic artist to assist with the guide's design. He also suggested that the guide reference the limited applicability of ISB and COSTAs on the UMR. Whitaker asked Spills Group members

to provide Naramore with their comments on the guide's potential content by May 21 [note: subsequently changed to June 18]. Naramore said the Plan Review Subcommittee will then create a draft of the guide for the full Spills Group's consideration.

Regarding the Plan Review Subcommittee's other recommendations, the Spills Group made the following decisions:

1. Add the National Response Center to the Spills Plan's primary notification list.
2. Eliminate the National Pollution Funds Center from the secondary contacts list.
3. Steve Faryan and state Spills Group members will determine whether they can provide updated lists of facilities discharging to the UMR (Appendix D), with river mile and city/state locations for the discharge points. If the states and U.S. EPA conclude that they cannot update the discharger list, then a caveat will be added to the list indicating that the information has not been recently updated.
4. The ISB and COSTA information in Appendix F will be retained in the UMR Plan for the time being. The question of its suitability for the Plan will be revisited after further training and outreach efforts and a subsequent survey of plan users.
5. A special CD containing the UMR Spill Plan, the three UMR sub-area plans, and the Inland Sensitivity Maps for the UMR corridor should be developed. Other content may be included as well. The Plan Review Subcommittee should consider this issue further and provide the Spills Group with a more specific proposal, including how to address questions of distribution and security.
6. Further questions concerning access, distribution, and training/outreach related to the emergency action guide, UMR Plan, and UMR CD were deferred, with a request that the Review Subcommittee offer its recommendations on these topics prior to the October 2004 Spills Group meeting.

Early Warning Monitoring Network

Brad Palmer reported that the YSI multi-parameter sonde is operational at Lock and Dam 15, and the Corps has established a data transmission and access system. Readings from the sonde are transmitted hourly and are available on the Rock Island District's web site. However, a calibration routine has yet to be established by the City of Rock Island. Dave Suman explained that he has been waiting to obtain access to a laptop needed to calibrate the sonde. Suman said he anticipates resolving that issue in the near future and will train his staff on the equipment calibration soon thereafter, with assistance from the Corps.

Suman said the City and the Corps are still examining options for placement of the Turner fluorescence detector at L&D 15. The structure in which the monitoring equipment is housed is an historic structure, limiting options for making modifications to provide the necessary air and water supplies. In addition, Suman said the City needs to ensure that the placement of the equipment does not interfere with operation of its existing potassium permanganate feed system, also located in the structure. Suman said he anticipates that operation of the fluorescence will be especially challenging in cold weather. In particular, the detector needs

a constant flow of water from high in the water column in order to effectively detect oil products. Providing this supply will be a challenge in the winter months, according to Suman.

Suman said the experience with the YSI sonde is generally positive so far, noting that it seems to be working well for the parameters installed (i.e., temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, chlorophyll, ORP, and turbidity). However, after further consultation with the YSI representative, the Early Warning Monitoring Network Scoping Group has concluded that ammonia and nitrate probes are not feasible for riverine deployment.

Clint Beckert emphasized the importance of equipment maintenance and calibration. He expressed confidence that issues related to installation of the Turner detector are resolvable, but cautioned that routine maintenance of the YSI and Turner equipment and the resulting database will be the biggest challenges. As an example, he said that, to have confidence in the data, it will probably be necessary to monitor the database for errant values on a daily basis. In response to a question from John Grump, Beckert said the equipment maintenance demands will vary seasonally. With biological growth slowed in the winter months, the maintenance demand will be lower. He estimated that the YSI equipment will likely need to be calibrated every two to three weeks in the summer months, and probably every four to six weeks in the winter. YSI's new self-cleaning feature may extend the maintenance interval somewhat. Beckert said that calibration requires pulling the equipment from the water and taking it to the lab for cleaning and replenishment of consumables. The Corps has used similar YSI equipment for quite some time and has found that on-site calibration and maintenance is not really feasible.

In response to a question from Steve Faryan, Palmer and Beckert said it would be possible to test the Turner fluorescence detector once it is deployed. Beckert explained that the Turner requires the user to select a particular contaminant as the calibration standard. Typically, the most likely or most representative contaminant is chosen. While the equipment is set to optimally detect the selected contaminant, it is also able to detect other materials that fluoresce in similar ranges.

Beckert said zebra mussels should not be a problem for the YSI sonde because the equipment is retrieved frequently for calibration and cleaning. However, the exotic mussels could be an issue for the Turner's water supply line. Suman suggested that, if a small submersible pump is used for the supply, this could be retrieved periodically and cleaned. Beckert cautioned that zebra mussel veligers could also be pulled into the fluorescence detector instrumentation through the supply line.

Faryan thanked the Corps of Engineers and the City of Rock Island for the work they have done on the L&D 15 pilot station.

UMR Spill Plan Routine Maintenance

Barb Naramore reported that she distributed the updated UMR Spill Plan to the signatory agency POCs on February 13, 2004. She reminded the group that the established distribution strategy is for the UMRBA to provide the updates to each of the POCs, who are in turn responsible for distributing the UMR Plan to all of their plan holders. The UMRBA does not maintain records of each agency's plan holders, and decisions regarding the appropriate scope

of distribution are left to the signatory agencies. However, there is a general expectation within the Spills Group that each POC will ensure distribution to all relevant response and resource staff within their agency. In the case of state agencies, this also includes distribution to staff in sister agencies as necessary (i.e., emergency management and resource managers may be in different agencies than the response staff). State agency POCs are not responsible for distributing the UMR Plan to federal agency staff within their state; this is the responsibility of the federal agency POCs. State agency POCs may, at their discretion, distribute the Plan to local officials along the river.

Spills Group members reported the following regarding distribution of the February 2004 updates:

- Missouri — John Whitaker has distributed the updated Plan electronically to plan holders
- U.S. Corps of Engineers — Scott Strotman is unaware whether and how the February updates have been distributed within the Corps; he noted that Susan Hampton is currently in a temporary assignment; Strotman said he would attempt to determine the status of the distribution within the Corps
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — Ginger Molitor is unaware whether and how the February updates have been distributed within the Service; Naramore said Stan Smith reported having distributed hardcopies of the updated Plan pages to all of the Service's Plan holders; however, discussions at the recent Pool 7 NEBA workshop suggest that those updates may not have filtered down to all of the refuge field staff
- Iowa — Rodney Tucker has worked with his Administration to ensure distribution to Iowa plan holders while he has been on active duty in the Coast Guard's Quad Cities MSD
- U.S. Coast Guard — Patrick Cuty is unaware whether and how the February updates have been distributed within the Coast Guard; he will check with Dave Pertuz to see how the updates, which came during the transition from Harvey Dexter to Cuty, were handled
- Wisconsin — John Grump distributed hardcopies of the updates to plan holders; Grump said, in his experience, plan holders do not print out the updates if they receive them electronically
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 — Steve Faryan has updated the UMR Plan in the Region's Emergency Operations Center (EOC); Faryan explained that the individual responders in Region 5 have elected not to maintain their own hardcopies of the UMR Plan, preferring to use the EOC copy when necessary; Ann Whelan said responders would benefit greatly by having passworded, online access to the UMR Plan
- Illinois — Roger Lauder has not yet distributed the updates; Lauder must first identify current plan holders within Illinois, and will then distribute the updates; at Lauder's request, Naramore said she would resend the February 13 e-mail transmitting the updates to Lauder

Grump reiterated his suggestion that, as part of the next round of updates, the UMR Plan's Memorandum of Agreement be re-signed. He noted that the MOA was last signed in 1997 and there has been considerable turnover in agency leadership since that time. Grump said the process of re-signing the MOA will help increase awareness of the UMR Plan within the signatory agencies. Other Spills Group members concurred with Grump's recommendation.

OPA Planning and Mapping Updates

John Whitaker reported that the Greater St. Louis Sub-Area Committee will meet in conjunction with the May 3-6, 2004 Midwest Security Conference in St. Louis. The committee intends to discuss options for exercising the sub-area plan. Gary Haden observed that progress in developing an exercise strategy for the plan has been slowed by the committee's efforts to link into an anticipated Koch Pipeline exercise, which has been delayed. Haden also noted that Koch will likely want to keep its exercise narrowly focused on its specific requirements and suggested that the committee should look at other options for exercising the sub-area plan. He also said the plan likely needs to be updated.

Haden reported that Citgo is planning a tabletop exercise for its Bettendorf facility on May 20, 2004. Training classes will be held on May 18 and 19. The Quad Cities Sub-Area Committee will be participating in the exercise, and several committee members are assisting in the design process. Roger Lauder asked about Illinois EPA's involvement in the exercise, and Haden said he would provide Lauder with information concerning the effort.

Barb Naramore reported that the Minneapolis/St. Paul Sub-Area Plan and the corresponding Inland Sensitivity maps were updated last fall. The updated maps include the response strategies previously developed for the Upper Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers within the sub-area. Responders, resource managers, and industry representatives are planning a field assessment in June to develop additional response strategies. These strategies will cover a portion of the St. Croix River as well as the UMR between Hastings and Red Wing, Minnesota. That section of the UMR is immediately downstream of the sub-area, but is potentially at risk from spills originating within the sub-area.

Ann Whelan reported that the Coast Guard's spill of national significance (SONS) exercise in 2006 or 2007 will focus on lakes and inland rivers. EPA Region 5 has expressed interest in having the SONS in the region. Whelan also indicated that Region 5's area drill in 2005 will be in the Chicago metro.

Whelan said that sensitivity maps should be complete for all of Region 5 by the end of FY 04. Only a few mapping areas remain to be finalized. Whelan explained that the next step will involve updating the sensitivity maps on a state-by-state basis. Data on hazardous materials facilities will be added as part of the updating process. Minnesota is one of the two Region 5 states slated for updating in the first round. Whelan noted that Minnesota was moved ahead of Illinois in the schedule due to problems obtaining Tier II hazmat data from Illinois. The statewide map sets will be too large for a single CD, so will likely be distributed on DVD. The Region 5 Mapping Group is still exploring options for subdividing states to meet the needs of users who require CDs. In response to a question from Ginger Molitor, Whelan said Region 7 initiated a similar mapping effort on the Missouri River, but has encountered some delays

associated with contracting rules. Whelan also noted that Region 5 funded the initial mapping of the UMR counties in Iowa and Missouri. Options for updating these Region 7 counties are still being explored.

Agency Updates and Reports on Recent Incidents

Scott Strotman reported that the Corps' Rock Island District has been updating its spill plans for locks and dams and reservoirs. Ginger Molitor said she is now assigned to work full time on contaminants issues for the Fish and Wildlife Service's Rock Island Field Office. Molitor said she is trying to increase communication with refuge personnel on spills. This includes ensuring that all fax notifications are forwarded to the refuges.

Rodney Tucker reported that his active duty recall to the Coast Guard is scheduled to end on September 4. He will then be returning to his position with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Dave Webb described a March train incident south of Guttenburg. According to Webb, a train hit a boulder on the rails, skidded along, and ruptured a saddle tank, releasing approximately 2,000 gallons. There was some seepage to the river, but most of the spill was absorbed in the soil. Webb said the appropriate notifications were made and the response went well, with Iowa DNR serving as the lead agency. There is expected to be some continued seepage to the river over the coming months. Five weeks into the 2004 navigation season, Webb said there have been no significant navigation incidents leading to releases, though there have been two bridge strikes and some vessel damage to lock gates. According to Webb, John Goebel also reports no significant incidents in the St. Paul MSD's zone. Webb indicated that there will be significant turnover in Quad Cities MSD staff in the coming months, including his own replacement by LT Chris Pisares in July. Joe Snowden said there are no incidents or agency updates to report from the St. Louis MSO.

Steve Faryan mentioned that EPA can do queries regarding past incidents using its Emergency Response Notification System (ERNS). Queries can be made on a variety of parameters, including facility name, operator, county, etc. Faryan said the ERNS data can be very useful for planning, facility inspections, and related efforts. He said EPA staff is willing to run custom reports from ERNS for other agencies. Ann Whelan explained that a limited version of ERNS is available online, but the full database is accessible only to EPA employees.

Faryan described EPA's involvement in a soil and groundwater contamination case in Hartford, Illinois. Petrochemicals, including gasoline, are believed to have been released by one or more of several companies that have operated in the area over the years. Residents in the community, located near Wood River, are experiencing significant problems with vapor intrusion into their homes. According to Faryan, 22 feet of product were found in a single monitoring well, and the total volume of contaminants is estimated at between one and four million gallons. Currently, cleanup is proceeding under Oil Pollution Act and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) authorities. If benzene or similar compounds are confirmed, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) authorities will also come into play.

Roger Lauder said the community is reluctant to have the affected homeowners bought out due to the economic impact this would have on the remaining residents and businesses. He asked about the possibility of temporary relocations, which would permit expedited cleanup efforts.

Faryan said his public health experts have not recommended temporary relocations. He said that, if people are relocated, EPA would not know how long it would be until they could return.

John Grump reported that there have been no significant spills in Wisconsin. Wisconsin DNR is downsizing, having recently complete a first round of layoffs. Additional layoffs will commence in July. Grump said the layoffs have precipitated significant bumping among staff.

Patrick Cuty reported that Mike Drieu will be replaced by CDR Natalie Valley this summer. Drieu will be going to MSO Savannah, where he will serve as commanding officer. Valley is a former Strike Team executive officer.

Lauder reported that Illinois EPA is operating under significant financial constraints and has lost many employees. He said it is very difficult to replace anyone who has left. Lauder reported no significant spills on the UMR.

John Whitaker reported that the Herculaneum smelter cleanup continues. Missouri has developed an online system for incident reports similar to EPA's ERNS. Whitaker said his St. Louis office has recently lost two staff people. One of the positions has already been filled and Whitaker hopes to be able to fill the other. Missouri DNR is seeking to renew the hazardous waste generator fees that fund, among other things, the state's response operations. There is some industry opposition to using these fees to fund response.

Other Business

The next meeting of the UMR Spills Group was set for October 19-20, 2004 in the Quad Cities.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.