U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Federal On-Scene Coordinator
United States Coast Guard

Gulf Coast Incident Management Team
1250 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70113

16451
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MEMORANDUM

From: T. McK. Sparks, CAPT
Federal On-Scene Coordinator

To: Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GC-IMT)

Subj: FOSC UPDATE ON DEEPWATER HORIZON RESPONSE

Ref: (a) FOSC memo 16451 ("Middle R Process") of 7 Nov 2013
(b) Unified Command Deepwater Horizon Shoreline Clean-up Completion Plan (SCCP)
(c) GC-IMT Phase III Response Activities Completion Plan
(d) National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 C.F.R. 300

1. **DIRECTIVE.**

a. After consulting with the Louisiana OSC and the Scientific Support Coordinator, I will transition the response to the "Middle R" process outlined in reference (a). This transition will optimize and provide the focused response required for the six remaining segments within the Shoreline Clean-up Completion Plan (SCCP) (reference (b)): LAJF01-001-10A (Fourchon Beach); LAJF01-001-10B and -10D (Elmer's Island); LAPL01-001-10B and -10D (Grand Terre II); and LAJF01-024-30B (Grand Terre I). National Response Center (NRC) cases will be initiated for each of these segments so that they may be cleaned pursuant to the process set out in reference (a); no further SCCP-based administrative processing shall be completed on these segments.

b. Any provisions of reference (c) inconsistent with this directive are hereby superseded.

2. **DISCUSSION.**

a. The "Middle R" process has proved to be a robust and nimble tool. This process is fully functioning in all other Louisiana shoreline segments (as well as in Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi); it will now be applied to these last six shoreline segments as well. While not an official response term under the NCP, the term "Middle R" has been used colloquially to describe the NRC process of responding to reports of oiling across the Gulf with (1) dedicated Coast Guard teams pre-positioned for rapid response to Deepwater Horizon oil and (2) pre-stationed Oil Spill Removal Organizations on standby, ready to clean up when required. Having had ample opportunity to assess its effectiveness in responding to intermittent re-oiling events across the Gulf, I have concluded that transitioning the response to this enhanced NRC process is the most effective and efficient approach.

b. Transitioning the response process at this juncture will provide a number of advantages. The "Middle R" process requires continued but more focused response equipment and personnel. This makes it not only a more nimble tool for targeted responses across a wide geographic area, but also reduces the impact on the coastal environment. Using one single process across the entire response will streamline the effort and foster speed and efficiency.

c. It bears emphasis that this is a process transition for a continuing GC-IMT response. All response activities will be carried out consistent with reference (d) and revised as circumstances dictate.

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Response Update

Today, the Deepwater Horizon Federal On-Scene Coordinator, in consultation with the Louisiana State On-Scene Coordinator and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's scientific support coordinator, transitioned the final 2.74 miles of Louisiana shoreline to the "Middle Response" process; National Response Center cases will be immediately initiated so that cleaning of this shoreline will continue.

The "Middle Response" process is fully functioning on approximately 4,375 miles of shoreline in Louisiana, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi; it will now be applied to the last 2.74 miles of Louisiana shoreline as well. This transition involves an enhanced National Response Center process of responding to reports of oiling across the Gulf with (1) dedicated Coast Guard teams pre-positioned for rapid response to Deepwater Horizon oil and (2) pre-stationed Oil Spill Removal Organizations on standby, ready to clean up when required.

The NRC is the federal government's sole point of contact for reporting all hazardous substance releases and oil spills. Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as mariners and industry, all use this system. The public can also make pollution reports by contacting the NRC at 1-800-424-8802 or online at www.nrc.uscg.mil.

This transition continues the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team's response to the Deepwater Horizon spill while simultaneously reducing impacts on sensitive coastal environments and continues to hold BP accountable for Deepwater Horizon cleanup costs.

The directive effecting the movement of the last 2.74 miles of Louisiana shoreline into the "Middle Response" process is posted immediately below.

Media inquiries are directed to GC-IMT public affairs at 251.545.1112.