

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Summary of the Plenary Sessions**

This section of the report presents a summary of the plenary sessions offered during the training conference. The plenary sessions provide information and updates that all attendees, and especially RPMs, may find useful in their jobs.

Plenary sessions were held on the following days and times:

- Monday, May 21; Opening and Working Lunch
- Tuesday, May 22; Morning
- Wednesday, May 23; Morning and Working Lunch
- Thursday, May 24; Morning
- Friday, May 25; Closing

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## Monday, May 21

### Opening Plenary, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Speakers: Scott Sherman, Associate Assistant Administrator, EPA OSWER  
Patricia Bowlin, RPM, Region 9, NARPM Co-Chair  
Rob Stites, RPM, Region 8, NARPM Co-Chair  
Nadia Hollan Burke, RPM, Region 9, NARPM Co-Chair  
Andy Palestini, RPM, Region 3, Ground Crew Member  
Karen Mason-Smith, RPM, Region 5, NARPM Co-Chair  
Gary Turner, TIFSD, OSRTI  
Jim Woolford, Director, EPA OSRTI  
Susan Bodine, Assistant Administrator, EPA OSWER

Mr. Scott Sherman opened the conference by introducing the 2007 NARPM Co-Chairs and welcoming conference attendees to the city of Baltimore. He encouraged participants to take part in the entertainment, architecture, historic industrial sites, and museums Baltimore offers. Ms. Patricia Bowlin, Mr. Rob Stites, Ms. Nadia Hollan Burke, and Mr. Andy Palestini provided an overview of the 2007 Annual NARPM Training Conference, including courses, sessions, and after-hours activities. Ms. Karen Mason-Smith recognized Mr. Gary Turner with a certificate of appreciation and gift from the NARPM Council to thank him for his hard work in putting together the conference over the years. Mr. Turner welcomed the conference attendees and encouraged attendees to make the most of the training courses, sessions, and Resource Area.

Mr. Jim Woolford updated attendees on the Superfund Program and its accomplishments. Mr. Charles King, RPM, Region 4, was awarded the *Community Involvement RPM of the Year* award, and additional OSWER recognitions were presented. Mr. Woolford announced that the 1,000<sup>th</sup> construction complete site had been finished, and that the RPMs could be thanked for this milestone. Mr. Woolford spoke about the importance of the new Sitewide Ready for Anticipated Use (RAU) Cross Program Revitalization Measure (CPRM), institutional control implementation and tracking in the Comprehensive, Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) database, and updating five year reviews with all available information. He also explained that human exposure is used as a measure of progress, for example, where contamination is under control versus not under control.

Ms. Susan Bodine stressed the importance of teamwork. As the world leader in cleaning up contaminated sites, RPMs are the backbone of the EPA. The Superfund Program is a team, consisting of Headquarters, regions, RPMs, and others. Ms. Bodine encouraged staff involved in Superfund to use the resources available to them, such as other RPMs, the Triad approach, the ERT, the National Decontamination Team, and the Radiological Emergency Response Team.

### EPA-only Working Lunch, 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Speaker: Norman Niedergang, Division Director, TIFSD, EPA OSRTI

Mr. Norman Niedergang said that the Superfund Program had reached its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006. He then provided a brief history of the program and his initial start as one of the first RPMs. He also delivered a brief synopsis of the Superfund process and stressed the importance of community involvement. Mr. Niedergang provided an overview of TIFSD operations, notified attendees of some of the new technologies available, and stressed the importance of training for federal employees through the CERCLA Education Center (CEC), ERT Program, OSC Readiness Training Program, and Clu-In. He also encouraged RPMs to collaborate with others, such as the states, USACE, and TSP Forums.

## **Tuesday, May 22**

### **Plenary, 8:00 a.m. - 8:20 a.m.**

Speakers:       Jean Balent, TIFSD, EPA OSRTI  
                  Steve Dymant, TIFSD, EPA OSRTI

Ms. Jean Balent gave an overview of the Project Team Web sites and QuickPlace. These tools can be used for effective communication among site-specific teams or workgroups and central management. QuickPlace combines the ftp site and e-mail into one program and gives the user the option to set up discussion boards, access resources, use a calendar, identify tasks, and contact team members. EPA manages the tool, so there are no expenses to the site team. The EPA Intranet and Externet support QuickPlace, so anyone can have access, but areas can be restricted to certain users, if needed.

Mr. Steve Dymant provided sample applications of QuickPlace. QuickPlace's library function can store resource papers and sample documents. The QuickPlace discussion board functions much like e-mail, but the progress of a discussion can be followed. Large files can be exchanged, and the calendar function keeps all members up to date and aware of site schedules. The Triad Community of Practice can be used to create subgroups and forums for federal agencies, states, and private parties. The Triad Toolbox provides case studies and uncertainty tables.

## **Wednesday, May 23**

### **Plenary, 8:00 a.m. - 8:20 a.m.**

Speaker:        Dr. Elizabeth Southerland, Director, Assessment and Remediation Division, EPA OSRTI

Dr. Betsy Southerland provided an update on contaminant exposure levels and potential cleanup strategies. She reported that EPA and USACE are working together to predict the effectiveness of dredging on remedial sites. EPA is working on a model to predict asbestos exposure because the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants standard is not a health-based value. The model will exam the different types of asbestos fibers and the carcinogenicity of each. She said that the Superfund Program uses a site-specific risk-based exposure value for perchlorate; however, there is growing concern about fetal exposure to perchlorate. A study showed that one-third of women are low in iodine, and the body will absorb perchlorate with low levels of iodine. Ms. Southerland also said that the Environmental Council of States and the DoD have formed a workgroup for trichloroethylene and perchlorate at DoD sites to establish a safe human health exposure value.

### **EPA-only Working Lunch, 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

Speaker:        Dr. Vincent Covello, Director, Center for Risk Communication

Dr. Covello explained that risk communication is a science-based practice and can be used to effectively communicate with the public about cleanup sites. Goals of risk communication include enhancing knowledge and communication avenues, building trust and credibility, and encouraging appropriate behavior when handling a stressful situation. The most important risk communication guideline is the "Rule of Three" – present three key messages, repeat each message three times, and support each key message using three supporting messages or three credible sources. Other guidelines include the compassion, conviction, and optimism template and the 3/9/27 template. Dr. Covello provided media clips of national spokespersons to demonstrate the effectiveness of risk communication when speakers follow, or ignore, the guidelines of risk communication. Dr. Covello also emphasized the importance of preparing for a public meeting and anticipating what the stakeholders want to know.

## Thursday, May 24

### Plenary, 8:00 a.m. - 8:20 a.m.

Speaker: John Reeder, Director, FFRRO, EPA OSWER

Mr. John Reeder emphasized the challenges to the federal facility cleanup program and reiterated that RPMs are the backbone of the Superfund Program. RPMs are the face of EPA to communities, hold the agency's expertise, and are often the leaders of the program. Mr. Reeder also recognized several RPMs, including Mr. Steve Hirsch for his outstanding leadership, Mr. Michael Overbay, and Mr. Scott Marquess for receiving the Director's Award.

## Friday, May 25

### Closing Plenary, 8:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Speakers: Nadia Hollan Burke, RPM, Region 9, NARPM Co-Chair  
Bernie Schorle, RPM, Region 5, NARPM Co-Chair  
Karen Mason-Smith, RPM, Region 5, NARPM Co-Chair  
Rob Stites, RPM, Region 8, NARPM Co-Chair  
Patricia Bowlin, RPM, Region 9, NARPM Co-Chair  
Eliza Smith Steinmeier, Esq., Executive Director and Waterkeeper, Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper

Ms. Nadia Hollan Burke, Mr. Bernie Schorle, Ms. Karen Mason-Smith, Mr. Rob Stites, and Ms. Patricia Bowlin facilitated the discussions and report presentations during the first part of the closing plenary. This part of the closing plenary addressed general business items, such as updates from the Co-Chairs, reports from the NARPM committees, plans to elect new Co-Chairs, a brainstorming session about training needs of RPMs, and a discussion on how to improve next year's NARPM training conference.

Specific recommendations made to improve the 2008 NARPM Annual Training Conference by those in attendance include:

- Developing a compromise between hard copies handouts and electronic presentations. Consider sending out presentations to pre-registered students before the conference begins to let the student decide whether to take a hard copy of the materials or not.
- Including courses that teach concepts [e.g., Triad and Data Quality Objectives (DQO)] and include site and real world examples where the concepts and policies have been implemented to illustrate successes and lessons learned.
- Recommending an information session on the roles of OSWER and the office's smaller divisions.
- Continuing to offer contract courses.
- Continuing to offer hands-on computer resources and tools for RPMs; the QuickPlace session was excellent.
- Offering monthly Web casts on resources tools; consider hosting the NARPM newsletter on a QuickPlace site.
- Continuing to invite Dr. Elizabeth Southerland to speak at NARPM; she provided practical information that helps RPMs on a daily basis.
- Adding time on the agenda to meet with HQ regional coordinators for each region.
- Adding time on the agenda to visit Resource Area, especially exhibits such as the TAGA bus.

- Considering having the field trip on Wednesday afternoon; offer a tour of a nearby Brownfields or Superfund site.
- Inviting Dr. Covello back; more of an interactive type of training.
- Requesting HQ clarify whether or an IGCE is needed for construction.
- Informing about and sharing tools that are available to the OSCs, such as SCRIBE.
- Keeping the Military Munitions Training. It was good for HQ to be present as well as the representatives from DoD.
- Holding the training conference feedback session earlier in the week.

Ms. Eliza Smith Steinmeier discussed water quality issues within the Baltimore Harbor and Patapsco River as a result of past and present pollution sources and described the Waterkeeper Alliance. Ms. Smith Steinmeier explained that Waterkeepers (Riverkeepers) are the “eyes and ears” for a waterbody. Waterkeepers monitor and patrol a waterbody, enforce the laws, and advocate for more stringent laws and regulations. The Waterkeeper Alliance uses the Clean Water Act as a means to enforce laws because it allows citizen suits. Citizen suits force polluters to clean up contamination, pay penalties, and complete habitat restoration. These suits allow the Waterkeeper Alliance the ability to: 1) abate and clean up point-source pollution; 2) send an industry-wide message; and 3) engage the industry in community service.

The Waterkeeper Alliance began in 1966 when fishermen started to protect the Hudson River. The local Chesapeake Waterkeeper program involves 15 groups within the Chesapeake watershed, including the Baltimore Harbor and Patapsco River. Ms. Smith Steinmeier founded Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper in July 2006 with the intent to protect and restore the Baltimore Harbor and Patapsco River watershed. Industrial pollution, storm water runoff, thermal pollution from power plants, sewage spills, waterfront development, and other pollution sources must be addressed to improve water quality in those areas.