

# NORTH CAROLINA RESPONSE COORDINATION FOR THE DEEPWATER HORIZON INCIDENT (DHI)





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**“NC SERT DHI PREPAREDNESS”**



# PURPOSE OF BRIEF

- Brief on Actions Taken To Date & Future Action Plan by the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) concerning the Preparedness & Response to the Deepwater Horizon Incident (DHI).
- Demonstrate the Collaboration & Team Building Efforts Underway.
- Get your Ideas & Recommendations.
- Answer all Questions.



# DEEPWATER HORIZON INCIDENT



- The Governor has been aggressively working to ensure North Carolina is prepared to execute a well-planned, synchronized DHI Oil Spill Response.
- The State Emergency Response Team Partners are and have been proactive early on in this incident.
- Intent is to BE INCLUSIVE, absorb the LESSONS LEARNED in the Gulf and maintain a SENSE OF URGENCY in ensuring NC has well-developed Action Plans at all times.



**- State has an Oil Spill Response Plan in place.**  
In the normal rotation of plan updates, the Oil Spill Plan was scheduled for **UPDATE IN 2010.**

**- THAT SCHEDULE WAS EXPEDITED**  
and NC had an updated plan in place on **JUNE 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**- We know that our Plans must be based on experiences in Gulf so they are FLEXIBLE, COMPREHENSIVE, and tailored to this UNPRECEDENTED INCIDENT.**



## **Participating Entities for DHI Response:**

- **US Coast Guard is responsible for the Overall Lead & Coordination of Federal Efforts.**
- **Emergency Management is responsible for the Overall Lead & Coordination of State Efforts.**
  - **DENR is the Lead Technical Agency.**
- **State is working with Subject Matter Experts from Local, State & Federal Agencies, Private Sector & Universities**



**The MAJOR PRIORITIES for the State of North Carolina have been:**

- Obtaining **PRE-IMPACT SAMPLING** to establish a **baseline of data** for Water, Marine Life, etc.
- Getting **UPDATED INVENTORY** of Response **RESOURCES & CAPABILITIES** available in the State NC as well as those available outside of our State.
- Sharing of **PUBLIC INFORMATION.**



**The MAJOR PRIORITIES for the State of North Carolina have been:**

- **MONITOR** the situation closely as it continues to unfold in the Gulf – **DAILY COMMUNICATION** with the USCG and Region IV EPA.
- **SHARING INFORMATION** with other Southeastern States – those impacted & those preparing for potential impact. Proactively responding to **LESSONS LEARNED** will be critical in the way ahead.



# FACTS

- Currently, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the USCG predict a remote chance of DHI oil reaching NC.
- MC 252 Well has been capped; volume of spill is approximately 184,000,000 gallons.
- The USCG is lead agency for Coastal Water Threats & maintains an Area Contingency Plan that addresses an oil spill response out to 200 miles. This plan is routinely exercised with federal, state and local partners.



# FACTS

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the lead agency for Inland Water Threats.
- Should NC conduct a DHI response, our actions would fall under the National Incident Command. The USCG would be the Incident Commander in a Unified Command.
- NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources is the Technical Lead for the SERT for a DHI Response.



# FACTS

- NC has 320 miles of Ocean Beaches and over 8,000 miles of Estuarine Shoreline. Preparedness Plan must Incorporate the diversified Nature of NC Shores.



# ASSUMPTIONS

- Oil from DHI could eventually reach NC.
- Response resources will be limited due to Priority in the Gulf.
- Special, “Just-in-Time” Training will be required for all DHI Responders.



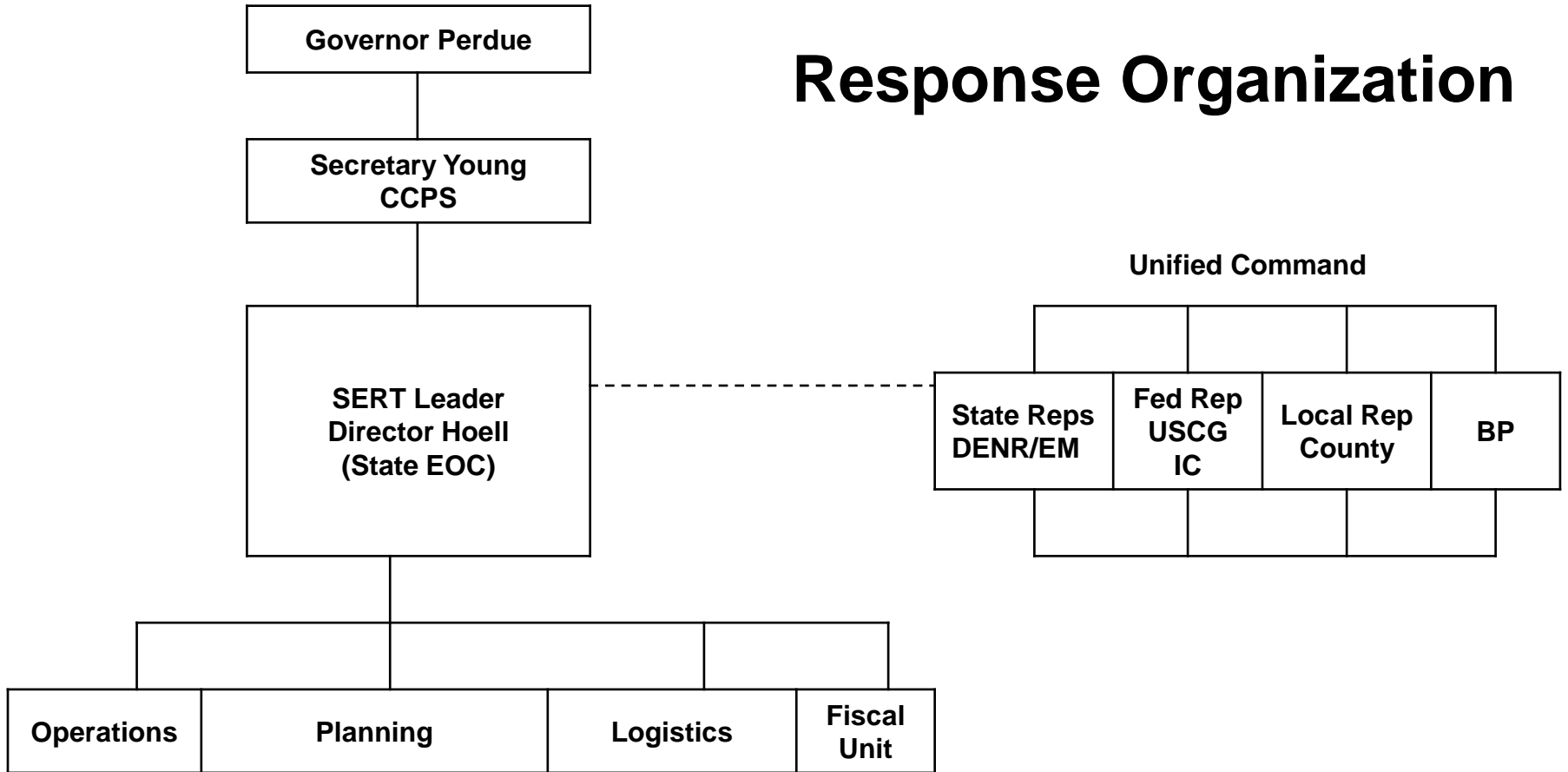
# CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

## – Available Response Strategies:

- **In Situ Burning – Approving Authority DENR Air Quality Director**
- **Dispersants & Biological Agents – Approving Authority DENR Water Quality Director**
- **Booming and/or Skimming Operations**
- **Natural Attenuation**



# CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS



# DHI TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- **NCDENR has Identified State Agencies & Universities to Provide Pre-Impact Sampling Information.**
- **NCDENR has Identified Subject Matter Experts from State Agencies, Private Sector and Universities.**
- **NCDENR is meeting with the Environmental Technical Advisory Group (ETAG) to provide Technical Advice to SERT for DHI Preparedness.**



# Environmental Technical Advisory Group (ETAG)

- The ETAG is a group of environmental specialists comprised of representatives from the following agencies of State government:
  1. Division of Water Quality
  2. Division of Air Quality
  3. Division of Marine Fisheries
  4. Division of Coastal Management
  5. Wildlife Resources Commission
  6. Division of Archives & History
  7. Division of Environmental Health
  8. Division of Waste Management
  9. Division of Parks & Recreation



# AVAILABLE RESOURCES

## – Personnel:

- Qualified Community Responder Program
- Contractors
- Volunteers (No Handling Oil Contaminated Materials)
- Inmates
- State & Federal Agencies

Coordination continues with the Governor's Office for Volunteerism & Community Service. NCEM is obtained data from NCDOC and NCNG to determine how much Manpower they have available.



# AVAILABLE RESOURCES

## – Equipment & Material:

- British Petroleum Clean-Up Contracts
- USCG Clean-Up Equipment Contracts
- EPA Clean-Up Contracts
- NCDOT Clean-Up Contracts w/Executive Order
- NCDENR Watercraft & Crews

Limited Equipment is available in the State; majority of Equipment will be Contracted. It is Important to Note that NC would be in Competition with other States for the Equipment.



# DHI RECOVERY PLANNING

- British Petroleum is officially designated the Responsible Party for the DHI & must Pay for DHI Damages.
- NCEM Recovery Chief continues to Work with Gulf State Representatives & FEMA Region IV to Identify Federal Reimbursement Programs.



# SERT ACTIONS

- **Developed a Trigger Guide for NC DHI Response Actions for Beach Clean-Up & Public Health Emergency.**
- **Developed a tactical Oil Spill Response Plan which assigns specific tasks to specific state agencies.**



# SERT ACTIONS

- **Initiated & continuing to manage the DHI Pre-Impact Sampling Initiative in order to develop a baseline standard for water and marine life.**
- **Providing a bi-weekly situation report on all Oil Spill Response actions concerning NC.**



# SERT ACTIONS

- **Created a NC Oil Spill Strategic Action Team (NC-OSSAT) consisting of members from NCEM, PH, Mental Health, DENR, AG's Office, etc.**
- **Developed a methodology for sharing Oil Spill information with the public. This has been done using press releases, websites, Facebook & Twitter.**



# SERT ACTIONS

- **Obtained NC Point of Contact for the DHI Responsible Party, British Petroleum.**
- **Sent NCEM & DENR professionals to Gulf to observe operations & report back with Best Practices.**



# SERT ACTIONS

- **Completed Inventory of Oil Spill Response Resources.**
- **Identified Volunteer Connector Organizations in 5 Coastal Counties for Oil Spill Response Volunteer operations.**



# SERT ACTIONS

- **Identified Waste Disposal Sites for Tar Balls.**
- **Created Laboratory & Toxicology Work Groups to advise the NC-OSSAT.**



# THE ROAD AHEAD

- **Refine the tactical Oil Spill Response Plan.**
- **Continue to Monitor the Gulf closely.**
- **Continue to Execute Pre-Impact Sampling.**
- **Collect Best Practices in Clearinghouse.**
- **Continue Analysis of potential Health Effects.**



# QUESTIONS?

