

Peer Review Plan

Date: 11/4/2015

BSEE Funding Source or Author's Division: Oil Spill Response Research Branch
Oil Spill Preparedness Division
45600 Woodland Road
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Title: Estimating an Oil Spill Response Gap for the U.S. Arctic Ocean

Subject and Purpose: Part of BSEE's research is committed to ensuring that functional, safe, and environmentally responsible oil spill response methods are identified and used under appropriate conditions. Understanding oil spill response limitations in the Arctic is crucial for the U.S. government and industry to develop robust spill response plans. It is important for oil spill response plan holders to know which oil spill response tactic is appropriate to the on-scene conditions, the resources available for an oil spill response, and identify resources that must be invested in. BSEE contracted Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC., to perform an oil spill response gap analysis for three areas in the U.S. Arctic Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. This analysis quantified the frequency that specific oil spill response tactics may not be feasible due to weather or environmental conditions. Conditions examined included wind, sea state, temperature, ice coverage, and visibility. Response options evaluated included mechanical recovery, in situ burn, use of dispersants, and the use of air reconnaissance to track oil.

Impact of Dissemination: This information product is considered by the BSEE to be Influential Scientific Information.

Timing of Review: November 2014 – June 2015

Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process: Review was facilitated by an independent third party, Endyna, Inc. Endyna conducted the review by individual e-mail/letters/memoranda/documents. Endyna selected a reviewer pursuant to the requirements in BSEE's Peer Review Process Manual.

Expected Number of Reviewers: Endyna used a structured process to select five (5) (an increase from three per the Peer Review Process Manual due to high international interest) peer reviewers who are independent (i.e. not involved with the report reviewed), objective, unbiased, and have significant expertise in the subject matter.

Requisite Expertise: The panel of reviewers have expertise in oil spill response in Arctic waters, the specific oil spill response tactics evaluated, and Arctic meteorological and ocean monitoring. The panel of peer reviewers achieved an optimum level of expertise across the spectrum of issues, balance and independence while minimizing any potential conflicts of interest.

Opportunity for Public Comment: No, the opportunity for public comment is not formally incorporated into the BSEE peer review plan for the peer review of this document.

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