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to: "riki alertproject.org" <riki@alertproject.org>
date: Oct 22, 2024, 11:01 AM
subject: Washington groups request action regarding oil dispersants

Hi Riki,

Thank you for this. I truly appreciate your concern and your efforts to help protect responders and the public during oil spill responses. As you mentioned at the most recent area committee meeting, we must consider human health and safety before anything else when making response decisions. Our state-wide master plan for spill response (the Northwest Area Contingency Plan) very clearly supports this sentiment, as does our agency from the top down and bottom up. While protecting the environment is at the core of our mission, responder and public health will always be our number one priority. This commitment is directly applied to oil spill response decision making through the use of the many decision-making tools found in the NWACP.

Regarding dispersant use decision making, we have several tools in section 9406 of the NWACP that allow us to consider human health and safety as part of the decision-making process. We do see areas in the plan that certainly can be more specific in this regard, and we encourage you to participate in helping us update these tools as part of our Region's plan update process.

As far as engaging with our federal partners in taking a precautionary approach to dispersant use decision making, please be assured that our State On-Scene Coordinator, alongside me as our state's Regional Response Team representative, would most certainly be fully engaged in the process and would prioritize responder and public health above all.

Again, Riki, we truly appreciate your partnership and strong voice in bringing these matters to a national level. We look forward to working with you as we further develop these ideas into our state's and region's oil spill planning framework.

Best Regards,

Carlos Clements

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