

Spill Response Planning and Readiness Assessments

Eric Chang Norfolk Southern Railway
Jeff Pierce AECOM

Norfolk Southern performed spill response planning and readiness assessments at several facilities that are required implement a Facility Response Plan (FRP) and/or a Navigable Waters Response Plan with three primary objectives:

1. Evaluate the current compliance status of planning documents and tools.
2. Identify the steps to improved processes and implementation.
3. Create an opportunity for facility staff to receive hands-on planning and readiness guidance and instruction.

The program evaluated response planning and readiness through a combination of desktop reviews and onsite facility implementation inspections. The response actions were evaluated using the applicable core components of the FRP and Navigable Waters Response Plan that the United States Coast Guard National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) Guidelines indicate must periodically be exercised. An unannounced deployment drill was conducted accompanied by an After Action Report.

This presentation will provide an overview of the process and tools used to execute the assessment program and will summarize the themes of the challenges identified. A review of lessons learned in the program implementation will also be discussed.