

MEETING SUMMARY

SPRING 2026 REGION 7 REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM MEETING

EPA Region 7 Regional Office – 11201 Renner Blvd, Lenexa, Kansas
March 25-26, 2026

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 - Day 1

An in-person meeting of Regional Response Team (RRT)-7 member agencies and regional stakeholders convened at 08:30 on March 25, 2026, at 11201 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa, Kansas with additional virtual attendees joining through teams. Co-Chair Adam Ruiz of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Co-Chair Dr. Keyth Pankau of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Heartland District (CGD-H) welcomed participants to the meeting. Eric Nold, EPA RRT-7 Coordinator, then reviewed administrative items and the meeting agenda. Nold asked if corrections were needed to the previous minutes. As none was requested, RRT-7 Co-Chairs made opening remarks and reviewed the RRT-7 Priorities List with the group.

Note: The agenda, presentations, and minutes for this meeting can be accessed at response.epa.gov/R7RRT.

The meeting agenda proceeded as follows:

1. Review of Minutes

- Nold, EPA Region 7 (R7)

2. Start of Meeting and Opening Remarks from Co-Chairs

- Adam Ruiz, EPA R7
- Keyth Pankau, CGD-H

3. Review Priority List

- Keyth Pankau, CGD-H

4. Action Item Review

- Eric Nold, EPA R7

5. History of the National Contingency Plan (NCP)

- Presented by Health Smith, EPA R7

6. Open Forum

- Facilitated by Adam Ruiz, EPA R7

7. Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)

- Presented by Devan Tucking-Strickler, Kansas Department of Emergency Management (KDEM)

8. Subarea Plan Overview

- Presented by Joe Krauska, EPA R7

9. Subarea Reports, EPA R7 On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) / Subarea Coordinators

- Central Kansas Wetlands – Krauska on behalf of Todd Campbell
- South Central Nebraska – Krauska on behalf of Scott Koertner
- Greater St. Louis – Krauska
- Quad Cities - Krauska on behalf of Joe Davis
- Great Rivers – Krauska on behalf of Anna Dismang
- Omaha-Council Bluffs – John Frey
- Siouxland – John Frey

10. State Agency Report Outs

- Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) – Thomas Buell
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) – Sean Counihan, Cody Garner
- KDHE – Joseph Nolan, Delbert Smith, Michael Seastrom

- Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) – Adam Broughton

11. EPA Superfund Division Remarks

- Bob Jurgens EPA R7

12. Federal Agency and Tribal Report Outs

- EPA R7 – Adam Ruiz
- Department of Homeland Security:
 - CGD-H – Keyth Pankau
- Department of the Interior – Courtney Hoover
- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
 - Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response – Catherine Olguin
 - Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry – Cory Kokko

13. Closing Remarks – Day 1

- Adam Ruiz, EPA R7
- Keyth Pankau, CGD-H

Thursday, March 26, 2026 – Day 2

14. Tabletop Exercise – Mixed Facility Scenario

- Presented by Jeff Pritchard, and Yvonne Smith EPA R7

15. USCG Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOOSC) Reports

- Sector Upper Mississippi River – LTJG Allison Aitken
- Sector Lower Mississippi River – MST3 Esparza
- Marine Safety Unit Paducah – LT Adam Denmark

16. Kansas City Metro World Cup 2026 Preparations/Planning

- Presented by Kellen Ashford – EPA R7

17. EPA Regional Administrator Remarks

- Jim Macy EPA R7

18. Open Forum

- Facilitated by Adam Ruiz – EPA R7

19. Review Priorities, Action Items, and Future Meeting Dates

The following action items were proposed for consideration to the RRT-7 Executive Committee (EC) during the meeting.

- R7 RRT Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to be uploaded to new R7 RRT website and SharePoint site. Discussion to be held on converting the SOPs to a Standard Operating Guide.
- Regional Integrated Contingency Plan (RICP) review Section 300.155 Public Information and Community Relations to determine if language is needed to address implementing an Information Collection Plan for a major oil spill or hazardous materials (HAZMAT) incident.
- RRT-7 meeting schedule is as follows:
 - Summer 2026: Virtual, 26 Aug 26
 - Spring 2027: EPA R7 Office, 17-18 March 27
 - Summer 2027 Virtual 25 Aug 2027 (proposed)
 - Spring 2028 EPA R7 Office 8-9 Mar 2028 (proposed)

20. Closing Remarks by Co-Chairs / Meeting Adjournment

- Adam Ruiz, EPA R7
- Keyth Pankau, CGD-H

Meeting Attendees

Notes: Day 1: 26 in-person and 26 remote, Day 2: 27 in-person and 25 remote, Total Participants: 53

Name	Organization	Email	March 25	March 26	Count
Aitken, Alli	U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Upper Mississippi River (UMR)	allison.m.aitken@uscg.mil	X*	X*	1
Anderson, Emily	Phillips 66	emily.anderson@p66.com	X	X	2
Ascherl, Joseph	Iowa State Emergency Response Commission	joseph.ascherl@iowa.gov	X*	X*	3
Ashford, Kellen	EPA Region 7 (R7)	ashford.kellen@epa.gov	X	X	4
Barnes, Aaron	EPA R7	banes.aaron@epa.gov	X	X	5
Blunk, Terri	EPA R7	blunk.terri@epa.gov	X*		6
Broughton, Adam	Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)	adam.broughton@dnr.iowa.gov	X*	X*	7
Brown, Randy	EPA R7	brown.randy@epa.gov	X		8
Brunetti, Jayna	USCG Sector UMR	jayna.p.brunetti@uscg.mil	X*	X*	9
Chiccine, Catherine	EPA R7	chiccine.catherine@epa.gov	X	X	10
Counihan, Sean	Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR)	sean.counihan@dnr.mo.gov	X	X	11
Denmark, Adam	USCG Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Paducah	denmark.adam@uscg.mil	X*	X*	12
Dillon, Greg	EPA R7	dillon.gregory@epa.gov	X*	X*	13
Edwards, Jeffery	Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE)	jeffery.edwards@nebraska.gov	X*	X*	14
Eggert, Amanda	CTEH	aeggert@cteh.com	X*	X*	15
Ellis, Mark	Upper Mississippi River Basin Association	mellis@umrba.org	X*	X*	16
Esparza, Raidon	USCG Sector Lower Mississippi River	esparza.raidon@uscg.mil	X*	X*	17
Ferguson, Matthew	Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry		X	X	18
Frey, John	EPA R7	frey.john@epa.gov	X	X	19
Gallick, Christina	EPA R7	gallick.christina@epa.gov	X*	X*	20
Gaspard, Melissa	USCG		X*	X*	21
Gavlas, Sean	EPA Environmental Research Team (ERT)	gavlas.sean@epa.gov	X*	X*	22
Goeke, Nick	Tetra Tech, Inc.	nick.goeke@tetrattech.com	X	X	23
Grossman, Scott	EPA Environmental Research Team (ERT)	grossman.scott@epa.gov	X*	X*	24
Hannon, Ken			X*	X*	25
Hines, Laura	Evergy, Inc.	laura.hines@evergy.com	X	X	26



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Name	Organization	Email	March 25	March 26	Count
Hoover, Courtney	U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)	courtney_hoover@ios.doi.gov	X	X	27
Johnson, James	EPA	johnson.james@epa.gov	X	X	28
Johnson, Jona M	DHHS, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	jig0@cdc.gov		X*	29
Jurgens, Bob	EPA R7	jurgens.bob@epa.gov	X	X	30
Kenney, Aleshia	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	aleshia_kenney@fws.gov	X	X	31
Knopka, Samuel	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service	samuel.knopka@usda.gov	X*	X*	32
Koertner, Scott	EPA R7	koertner.scott@epa.gov		X	33
Kokko, Cory	DHHS, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	guc0@cdc.gov	X	X	34
Krauska, John	EPA R7	krauska.john@epa.gov	X	X	35
Laws, Richard	USCG, Sector Ohio Valley	richard.a.laws@uscg.mil	X*	X*	36
Lee, Barbi	EPA R5	lee.barbi@epa.gov	X*	X*	37
Lohnes, Mark	Nebraska DWEE	mark.lohnes@nebraska.gov	X	X	38
Macey, Jim	EPA R7	macy.james@epa.gov		X	39
Martin, Christopher	EPA R7	martin.christopher@epa.gov	X	X	40
Martin, Johnathan	Energy Transfer.	johnathan.martin@energytransfer.com	X	X	41
Nold, Eric	EPA R7, Regional Response Team (RRT)-7 Coordinator	nold.eric@epa.gov	X	X	42
Olguin, Catherine	DHHS, Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR)	catherine.olguin@hhs.gov	X	X	43
Pankau, Keyth	USCG, Heartland District (CGD-H), RRT-7 Alternate Co-Chair	keyth.a.pankau2@uscg.mil	X*	X*	44
Pritchard, Jeff	EPA R7	pritchard.jeffrey@epa.gov	X	X	45
Rigby, Donald	USCG Sector Lower Mississippi River	donald.rigby@uscg.mil	X*	X*	46
Ruiz, Adam	EPA R7, RRT-7 Co-Chair	ruiz.adam@epa.gov	X	X	47
Sekavec, Lane	Union Pacific Railroad	laneasekavec@up.com		X*	48
Skaar, Karen	DOI	karen_skaar@ios.doi.gov	X*		49
Smith, Delbert	KDHE	delbert.smith@ks.gov	X	X	50
Smith, Heath	EPA R7	smith.heath@epa.gov	X	X	51
Smith, Yvonne	EPA R7	smith.yvonne@epa.gov	X	X	52
Stecker, Simon	IDNR	simon.stecker@dnr.iowa.gov	X*		53
Suleiman, Gibran	USFWS	gibran_suleiman@fws.gov	X*	X*	54



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Sullivan, Connor	USCG, Sector Ohio Valley	connor.t.sullivan@uscg.mil	X*	X*	55
Zoch, Elizabeth	EPA R7, Assistant RRT-7 Coordinator	zoch.elizabeth@epa.gov	X	X	56

Note: * Attended remotely

