

Regular Workshop – May 20, 2010
Agenda Item 19

Agenda Item: Development of a Local Response Plan for Oil Contamination

Presenter: Town Manager and Public Works Director

Summary: On Tuesday, April 20, 2010 an offshore oil drilling platform, Deepwater Horizon, exploded in the Gulf of Mexico near Louisiana. In order to be prepared for a potential oil contamination situation, Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc. (CPE) has been asked to develop a local response plan that is presented for consideration of this item.

Attachments: 5-14-10 Memo, Public Works Director to Manager.

Recommended

Action: Pending discussion, provide direction to Manager

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 14, 2010

TO: Bruce St Denis, Town Manager

FROM: Juan Florensa, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Development of a Local Response Plan for Oil Contamination

Background

On Tuesday, April 20, 2010 an offshore oil drilling platform, Deepwater Horizon, exploded in the Gulf of Mexico near Louisiana. The rig, owned by Transocean Ltd, was under contract to BP. The rig is now submerged at the bottom of the Gulf and continues to discharge up to 5,000 barrels (210,000 gallons) per day. The oil is currently impacting the Louisiana shoreline. If the oil enters the loop current it has the potential to reach Florida. If this happens, the oil is expected to approach Florida's coast in a weathered, viscous state (i.e. tarballs). The distribution will be dependent on deepwater operations near the incident site, wave and weather conditions, and current speed.

The Florida Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP), under the direction of Secretary Michael W. Sole, in conjunction with the State Emergency Operations Center has been discussing a way that would allow for the streamlining of the county Supplemental Booming Plan approval process. A process that would allow for the protection of areas that Counties deem necessary to protect but are **outside** of the U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) Area Contingency Plan.

Such a plan has now been accepted by DEP and the USCG and is available for immediate implementation. The plan will work as follows:

1. The Counties will work with their EOC and create supplemental plans; again these Supplemental Booming Plans should be areas that are not already included in the USCG's Area Contingency Plan.
2. The Counties will submit these completed plans along with the name of the Contractor and the Contractor's cost estimate whom the County has chosen to perform the work proposed in the Supplemental Booming Plan to the State Emergency Operations Center for review and approval from the DEP & USCG.
3. Once the Supplemental Booming Plan is approved, DEP will hire the County's selected Contractor to implement the plan and will pay the Contractor for services rendered at no cost to the County.
4. DEP will then look to British Petroleum (BP) for reimbursement of expenditures incurred in order to implement the approved plan.

5. The County will be required to assist in the certification process to ensure that the Supplemental Booming Plan was followed to contract specifications.

Recommended Action

I have asked our beach engineering consultant, Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc. (CPE) to provide a proposal to assist the Town in developing a response plan that will detail the methods, equipment and operations to respond if the Town was to be impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The Response Plan will consist of offshore, nearshore, onshore, inlet and inland waterway response strategies. The Plan will also address submerged oil and the disposal of oil and oil contaminated sediments. The plan will include operational details and cost estimates for the tasks needed to implement the strategies identified in the Local Response Plan. Longboat Key's Local Response Plan will be adaptive based on observed daily successes and failures and targeted to develop effective strategies for each location and situation.

CPE will coordinate with Unified Command (United States Coast Guard and BP), the Town of Longboat Key, Sarasota County Emergency Operations Center, Manatee County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) as necessary.

The total cost to develop Longboat Key's Response Plan is \$17,105.

Please authorize us to proceed.