

## I.8 USE OF IN SITU BURNING

### Observations:

- In Situ Burning (ISB) was carried out as part of the Deepwater Horizon incident response.

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#### Contingency Plan

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided additional air quality monitoring in accordance with their prescribed procedures.

- ISB proved to be an effective tool for removing large volumes of oil from the water's surface, preventing impact to environmentally and economically sensitive areas.

On-Scene Coordinator (OSCO) and success of ISB operations during the Deepwater Horizon incident demonstrated the capability of this important response tool.

The Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) saw an immediate need to use ISB for this incident, but recognized that this would be the first time that large-scale burning would be used operationally for an oil spill in the United States. The FOSC quickly approved the request from BP to conduct ISB, which led to the resourcing of personnel and vessels within 48 hours. The ACP and Region VI ISB Plan were consulted for procedures and locations of ISB equipment as well as for the names of specialists who could advise the Unified Command (UC) on the operational procedures for ISB use. (Region IV Regional Response Team (RRT) also has an ISB Plan that is similar to that of Region VI, but since burning was conducted only in Region VI, this paper focuses on the Region VI Plan.) The Region VI RRT was consulted as provided for in the relevant ACPs, the Region VI ISB Plan, and the Eighth Coast Guard District protocol. An ISB Branch was established within the Operations Section of the Houma ICP to monitor the effectiveness of burning operations, and ISB was aggressively used when conditions were safe and conducive to its effective implementation.

The RRT VI ISB Plan is robust and allows the FOSC to approve ISB seaward of three nautical miles of the coasts of Louisiana and Texas without further consultation or approval, with the