

1.7 USE OF DISPERSANTS

Observations:

- Prior to the Deepwater Horizon incident, Regional Response Team (RRT) VI had pre-authorized the use of dispersants for oil spill response operations for its

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Agency (EPA), Department of the Interior (DOI), Department of Commerce (DOC) and the affected States concurred with the pre-authorizations established by the RRTs.

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- The use of dispersants for this incident was conducted in accordance with the RRT VI Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) Dispersant Pre-Approval Guidelines and Checklist.
- A monitoring program for the effectiveness of surface-applied dispersants began in tandem with their application. Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies (SMART) protocols were implemented in accordance with prescribed procedures. Three tiers of monitoring occurred—visual, direct detection with fluorometry, and analytical confirmation.
- A subsurface dispersed oil monitoring program was developed during the incident because existing monitoring protocols were not designed for subsurface dispersant application. A Subsea Monitoring Unit was established at the Unified Area Command (UAC) to implement this program.
- Even though pre-authorization of dispersant use was provided by RRT VI and implemented by the FOSC, public perception was that this response tool was merely adding another toxic substance to the environment. This perception, expressed by both the media and elected