



NATIONAL RESPONSE CORPORATION

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NRC RESPONDS TO LONG ISLAND SOUND OIL SPILL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: At approximately 3:00AM on February 14, 2003 a tank barge laden with more than two million gallons of No. 2 fuel oil ran aground in Long Island Sound, off of Norwalk, CT. With the report of oil leaking from the barge, National Response Corporation (NRC) dispatched oil spill response equipment and personnel to avert potential environmental impact on both Connecticut and Long Island shores. Immediate notifications from the tank barge owners along with a speedy response from NRC and its spill response contractors resulted in response equipment being on scene within 4 hours of activation. NRC's non-dedicated resources were the first on scene, well in advance of the 12-hour regulatory requirement, because of their close proximity to the event. NRC's N.Y. Harbor based dedicated response vessel, NRC GUARDIAN, a 110-foot certified Oil Spill Response Vessel, was also deployed and used its high capacity Marco skimmer to recover a substantial amount of the spilled oil.

NRC contractors from both Long Island and Connecticut responded to the spill sending 7 response vessels, approximately 20,000 feet of containment boom and 60 responders to the spill site. NRC contractors assisting in the response included Miller Marine Services, which deployed its 96-foot vessel MEGAN T. MILLER and assisted with boom and their workboats, the JENNIFER MILLER and ERIN MILLER. Miller Environmental Group responded with 10,000 feet of boom and 20 personnel. Coast Line Services deployed 1,900 feet of boom from its vessel, the NANCY and provided assistance with another workboat and personnel. Fleet Environmental Services responded with two response vessels, 4,000 feet of boom and 16 responders. Clean

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Harbors Environmental Services contributed 4,000 feet of boom and two response vessels.

The response to this President's Day weekend spill proved to be more challenging as it occurred at the same time that a powerful Nor'easter dropped more than two feet of snow in the surrounding areas. Yet despite the weather adversity, responders were able to secure the leaking oil within hours and were successful in containing spilled oil throughout the holiday weekend.

The United States Coast Guard and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection were pleased with the response efforts. "I was very pleased with the response efforts on this spill," said Charles Zieminski, Connecticut DEP's State On Scene Coordinator. "This was one of the better RP (Responsible Party) responses that I have seen. The contracting services were excellent and all of the contractors worked well together. The contractors did everything we asked them to do and then some," added Zieminski. It is estimated that most of the approximate 2,226 gallons of spilled oil was recovered and there have been no reports of tar balls on nearby shorelines or incidents of oiled or injured wildlife as a result of this spill.

Emergency response efforts were successfully concluded late Saturday night (February 15th), according to NRC's Regional Manager, Demir Aksehirli when the tank barge was towed to a terminal in Bridgeport, CT. While at the terminal, the barge will be cleaned of all remaining oil and made safe for its voyage to the Brooklyn Navy Shipyard for dry dock where it will undergo repairs.

For additional information, please contact Steve Candito at National Response Corporation headquarters at 631 224-9141, Ext. 203.

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