

AD-HOC INDUSTRY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GROUP

INTERGENERATIONAL CROSS-TRAINING WORKSHOP: NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION

AGENDA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

Washington, DC

9:30 AM

WELCOME

Barbara J. Goldsmith, Executive Director, Ad-Hoc Industry Natural Resource Management Group; President, Barbara J. Goldsmith & Company LLC

Kegan Brown, Partner, Lowenstein Sandler LLP

9:45 AM

ADVANCING COMMON OBJECTIVES AND PRACTICES: BACKGROUND OF WORKSHOP AND DESIRED OUTCOMES

Barbara J. Goldsmith

10:00 AM

OPENING REMARKS: NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AT US DOI - CURRENT PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES

Eva Vrana, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Environmental Management, US Department of the Interior

Introduced by:

Emily Joseph, Director, Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment, US Department of the Interior

10:45 AM

CURRENT TOOLS IN THE TOOLBOX: A REVIEW OF NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION GUIDANCE AND RESOURCE MATERIALS

Speakers will set the stage for the Workshop identifying the current “tools” available to public and private parties relative to natural resource damage assessment and restoration practices and issues. Such resources may include formal guidance documents, best practice materials, trainings, workshops, etc. Gaps and opportunities to expand the “toolbox” will also be identified.

Moderator

Emily Morrison, Ph.D., Senior Environmental Scientist, ARCADIS

Panelists

Daniel Hahn, Ph.D., Regional Resource Coordinator, Assessment & Restoration Division, SE Region, US Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Timothy Hoelzle, Deputy Director, Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment, US Department of the Interior

Steven Miller, Deputy Assistant General Counsel, US Department of Energy

Tara Waikem Flynn, Sr. Projects Counsel, Barbara J. Goldsmith & Company LLC

Tara Whittle, NRDA Biologist, Texas General Land Office

12:00 PM

BREAK FOR LUNCH

12:45 PM

ASK ME ANYTHING: CERCLA AND OPA: WHAT SETS THEM APART IN NRDA APPLICATION?

While the federal natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) regulations under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Oil Pollution Act are voluntary, they often provide a construct for both public and private parties to work through a assessment process and identify restoration options. The facilitator will guide a discussion concerning similarities and the differences when approaching an NRDA for an oil spill under OPA or a hazardous waste site under CERCLA.

Facilitator

Barbara J. Goldsmith

Discussants

Kimberly Katzenbarger, Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, US Department of Commerce/National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Jeffrey Talbert, Partner, Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP

1:30 PM

INTERACTIVE SESSION 1: SHARING PRACTICES AND OPTIONS IN A CERCLA SITE APPLICATION

This interactive session of the program will kick off with the presentation of a natural resource damage case example that involves the release of hazardous substances under CERCLA. Discussants, based on their respective experiences, will work through various decision points and options within the NRDA and restoration process to see if common resolution and endpoints can be reached – or, alternatively, what gaps, challenges or opportunities might lead to same.

Facilitator

Kegan Brown

Discussants

Margaret Byrne, Northeast Region Spill Response Coordinator and Northeast Region Natural Resource Damage Assessment & Restoration (NRDAR) Coordinator, US Fish and Wildlife Service

William H. Desvouges, Ph.D., President and Owner, W.H. Desvouges & Associates

Annie Gibbs, Partner, Environmental Scientist, Windward Environmental

Kaylene Ritter, Ph.D., President and Founder, Natural Nexus LLC

3:00 PM

BREAK

3:15 PM

INTERACTIVE SESSION 2: SHARING PRACTICES AND OPTIONS IN AN OIL SPILL SITE APPLICATION

This interactive session of the program will kick off with the presentation of a natural resource damage case example that involves the release of oil under OPA. Similar to Interactive Session 1, discussants, based on their respective experiences, will work through various decision points and options within the NRDA and restoration process to see if common resolution and endpoints can be reached – or, alternatively, what gaps, challenges or opportunities might lead to same.

Facilitator

Jean Martin, Senior Counsel, BP

Discussants

Robin Bullock, Ph.D., Director, Center for Environmental Remediation and Assessment and Faculty, Environmental Engineering, Montana Technical University

Brian Ferrasci-O'Malley, Partner, Nossaman LLP

Jason Kinnell, Principal Economist and Founding Partner, Veritas Economic Consulting

Jon Wiebe, Restoration Program Manager, Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries

4:45 PM

ACTIONS FORWARD: WHAT'S NEEDED TO MEANINGFULLY SUPPORT THE NEXT GENERATION OF NRDA PRACTITIONERS

A panel will reflect on the presentations and interactive sessions from the Workshop to identify which of the issues, methodologies and insights discussed will be most important to share with the broader multi-stakeholder practitioner community. Panelists will also offer commentary on the current “tools” available to NRDA practitioners and what could be useful actions moving forward to expand or supplement presently available resources.

Moderator

Stephanie Maggio, Ph.D., Ecological/Environmental Risk Assessor, GHD

Panelists

Katherine Hausrath, Lead Counsel, Montana Natural Resource Damage Program

Mike Johns, Ph.D., Partner Emeritus, Windward Environmental

Thomas Pearce, Counsel, Latham & Watkins LLP

5:15 PM

SUMMARY REMARKS

5:30 PM

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