



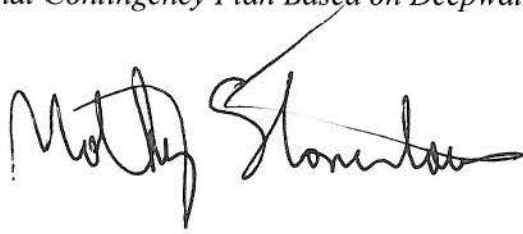
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 26 2012

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Further Clarification on Correction Action Plans for OIG Report No. 11-P-0534, *Revisions Needed to National Contingency Plan Based on Deepwater Oil Spill*, August 25, 2011

**FROM:** Mathy Stanislaus  
Assistant Administrator 

**TO:** Arthur A. Elkins, Jr.  
Inspector General

This is in response to your January 12<sup>th</sup> Memo entitled "Response to Corrective Action Plan for OIG Report No. 11-P-0534, *Revisions Needed to National Contingency Plan Based on Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill*, August 25, 2011." In this memo, you requested additional information regarding Recommendation #5, which involves the development of guidance and training of senior officials for a Spill of National Significance (SONS), which has been provided below.

**Recommendation #5: Develop guidance and training for a Spill of National Significance (SONS) that clarifies roles and responsibilities for high-level Agency officials.**

**Clarification on Corrective Action:** OSWER agrees with OIG's recommendation that senior leadership roles and responsibilities need clarification regarding a SONS. However, OSWER feels that this training and guidance should be applicable to any significant emergency response, which includes specific examples of a SONS, but also includes examples like a hurricane or an earthquake affecting a wide area with catastrophic hazmat releases and oil spills. Such guidance and training will take into account EPA's responsibilities under the NCP, as well as ESF #10 of the National Response Framework.

EPA has also updated this in its "Incident Management for Executives" training, which was updated as a result of Lessons Learned from the Deepwater Horizon spill. Training has already been presented in one region. However, due to recent budgetary constraints on travel, we anticipate this training will be completed by **October 31, 2013**. As a direct result of this training, the Agency plans to develop policy guidance on this issue, which we anticipate will also be completed by **October 31, 2013**.

We look forward to implementing the recommendation outlined in this memo, as well as the other recommendations in this report involving OSWER's participation. If you have any questions, please contact Dana Tulis, Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Management, at (202) 564-7938.