



Canada/US Joint Inland Response Plan; CANUS Workshop & Exercise Overview



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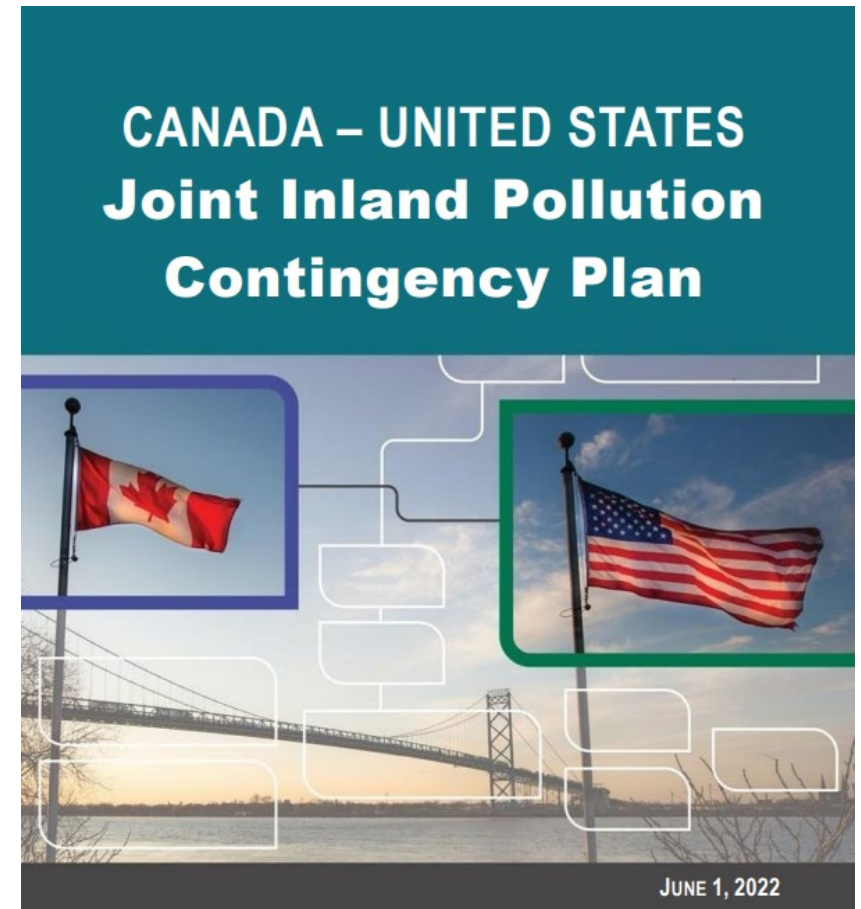
Environment and
Climate Change Canada
Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada



Background and History

- First MOU signed in 1985, first Plan in 1994
- Signed June 1, 2022, by both United States and Canada (Updated 2009, 2022)
- Compliments the Canada–United States Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (USCG) for pollution that threatens marine waters of both countries

Joint Inland Pollution Contingency Plan





Canada/US Bi-National Plans, Inland & Coastal

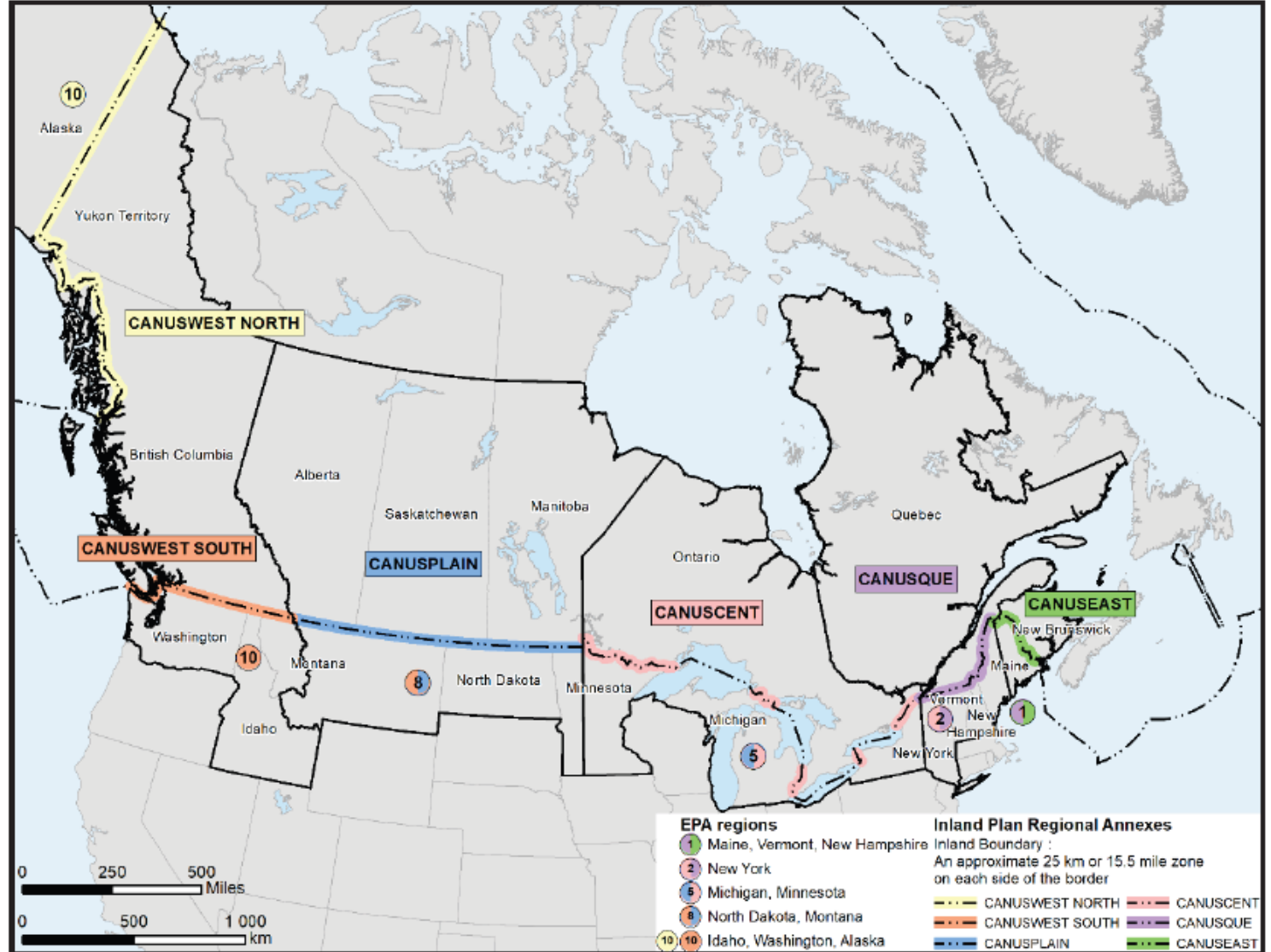
CANUS – Inland, EPA/ECRC

- CANUSWEST
 - -North
 - -South
- CANUSPLAIN
- CANUSCENT
- CANUSQUE
- CANUSEAST

CANUS – Maritime, USCG/CCG

- CANUSPAC
- CANUSLAK
- CANUSLANT

U.S. States and Canadian Provinces Along the Border Comprise Six Regions that Participate in the Inland Plan





Canada – US Joint Inland Pollution Contingency Plan

- The **objectives** of the Inland Plan are:
- To provide a **binational coordination mechanism** to ensure appropriate and effective **cooperative preparedness and response** measures between Canada and the United States with respect to significant polluting incidents along the inland boundary;
 - To develop systems for **notification** within the area covered by the Inland Plan;
 - To set forth measures for **monitoring and restricting** the further spread of released pollutants in an expeditious manner; and
 - To ensure the availability of **adequate resources** to respond to a significant pollution incident.
 - To ensure that coordinated **public information** releases are made in a timely fashion to the public in both countries.



Canada – US Joint Inland Pollution Contingency Plan

- The Inland Plan applies to emergencies:
 - That occur within **25 km** of the US-Canada border and affects both countries
 - Cause, or may cause, **damage to the environment** along the inland boundary
 - May constitute a threat to **public safety, security, health, welfare, or property**
 - Facilitate the provision of assistance when only one country is affected, but the polluting incident is of such **magnitude** to justify a request for assistance from the other country
- **Scope:**
 - Includes all federally recognized Tribal Nations (U.S.) and Indigenous Peoples (Canada).
 - Pollutants include any hazardous substance, contaminant, radioactive element, compound or mixture that may cause physical harm to living organisms.



Emergency Management in Canada

Emergency Management Act (2007)

- Legislative foundation for an integrated approach to federal emergency management activities
- Minister of Public Safety Canada is responsible for coordinating emergency management activities among federal government institutions and in cooperation with provinces, territories and other entities, including monitoring potential and actual emergencies through the Government Operations Centre and coordinating requests for emergency assistance.

Federal Emergency Response Plan (FERP; 2011)

- All-hazards framework that guides federal emergency response operations
- Facilitates requests for assistance to support emergency response
- Identifies the lead for 13 emergency support functions to federal institutions in a manner consistent with their organizations' mandates



NEEC's OPERATIONAL MANDATE

NOTIFICATION



NEEC Notification Desk



Delivered by Environmental Notifications Operations Officers

- Receive incident notifications
- Distribute incident notifications
- Triage notifications for escalation by a NEEC response

RESPONSE



NEEC's Emergency Operations Centre



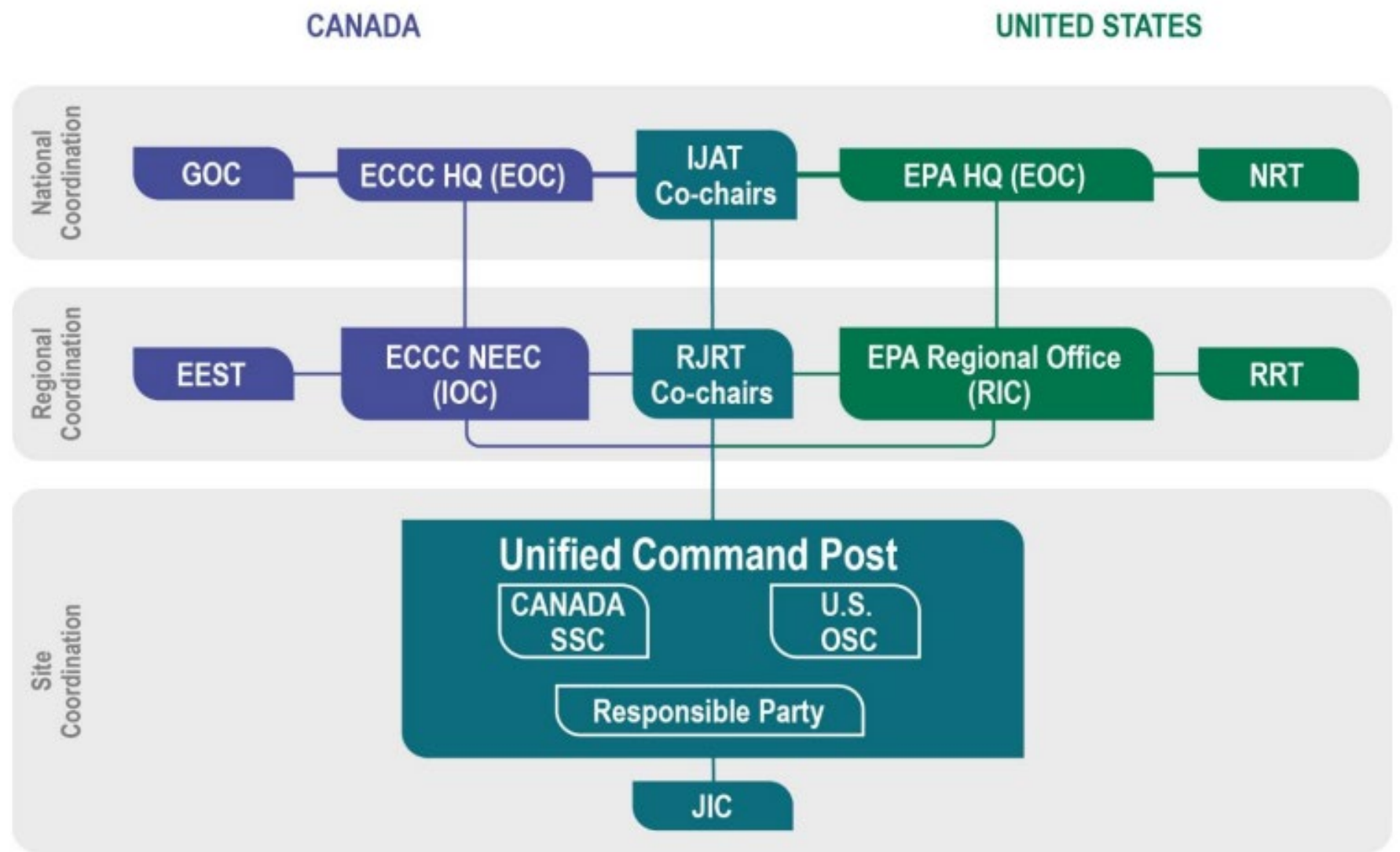
Provided by Environmental Emergency Officers and Geomatics Specialists

- Coordinate the federal government's provision of technical advice and scientific expertise
- Ensure the environment is protected from pollution events from ***all economic sectors***



APPENDIX B – BINATIONAL CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS DIAGRAM

- INSTITUTIONS IN CANADA**
- ECCC Environment and Climate Change Canada
 - EEST Environmental Emergencies Science Table
 - GOC Government Operations Centre
 - HQ Headquarters
 - IOC Incident Operations Coordinator
 - NEEC National Environmental Emergencies Centre
- BINATIONAL TEAMS**
- EOC Emergency Operations Center
 - IJAT International Joint Advisory Team
 - JIC Joint Information Center
 - OSC On-Scene Coordinator
 - RJRT Regional Joint Response Team
 - SSC Scientific Support Coordinator
- INSTITUTIONS IN THE U.S.**
- EPA Environmental Protection Agency
 - HQ Headquarters
 - NRT National Response Team
 - RIC Regional Incident Coordinator
 - RRT Regional Response Team





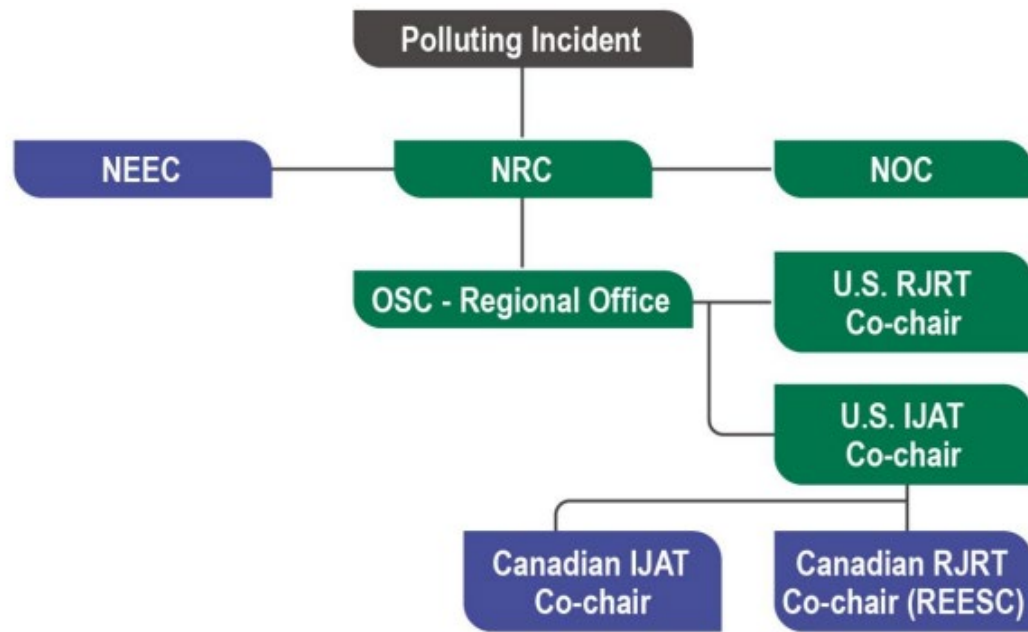
Canada/US: Inland Plan activation

- The Inland Plan may be activated by the Regional Joint Response Team (RJRT) Co-chair from the country where the incident originated, after consultation and consent of the RJRT Co-chair from the other country, and both International Joint Advisory Team (IJAT) Co-chairs.
- The polluting incident must be significant:
 - Substantial threat of the spread of pollutants into the inland boundary of the other country
 - OR such spreading has already occurred,
 - OR if the polluting incident is of sufficient magnitude to justify a request for assistance from the other country.

The deactivation of the plan can be made after consultation and consent between the OSC (U.S.), SSC (Canada), IC, and RJRT and IJAT Co-chairs



Notification Procedures in the US



INSTITUTIONS IN CANADA

NEEC National Environmental Emergencies Centre
REESC Regional Environmental Emergencies Science Coordinator

BINATIONAL TEAMS

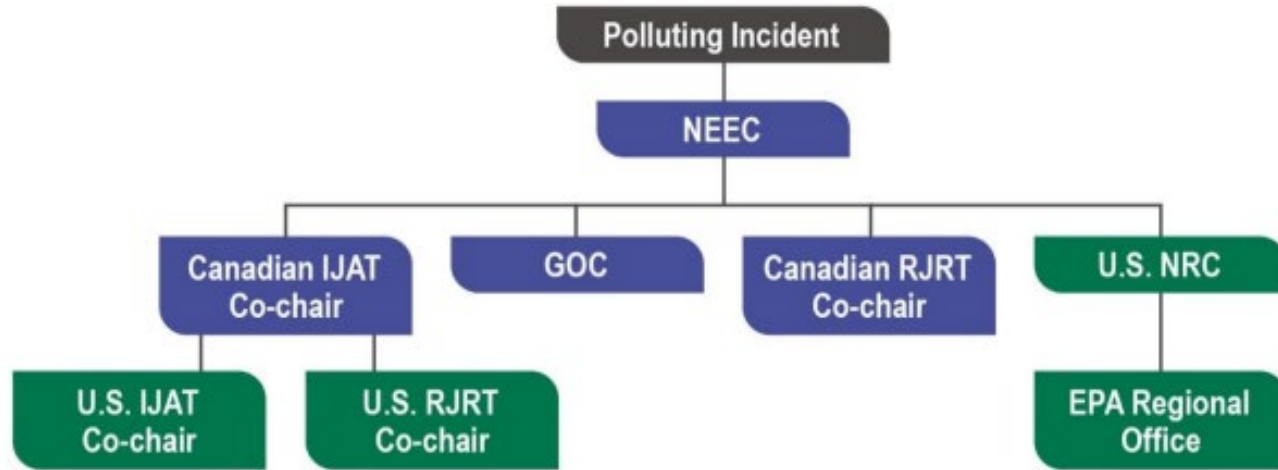
IJAT International Joint Advisory Team
RJRT Regional Joint Response Team

INSTITUTIONS IN THE U.S.

NOC National Operations Center
NRC National Response Center
OSC On-Scene Coordinator

- NRC is notified of a transboundary pollution incident → NRC notifies NEEC
- Significant polluting incident in the United States → NRC notifies appropriate U.S. OSC on duty, who is to follow up with the U.S. RJRT Co-chair and the U.S. IJAT Co-chair.

Notification Procedures in Canada

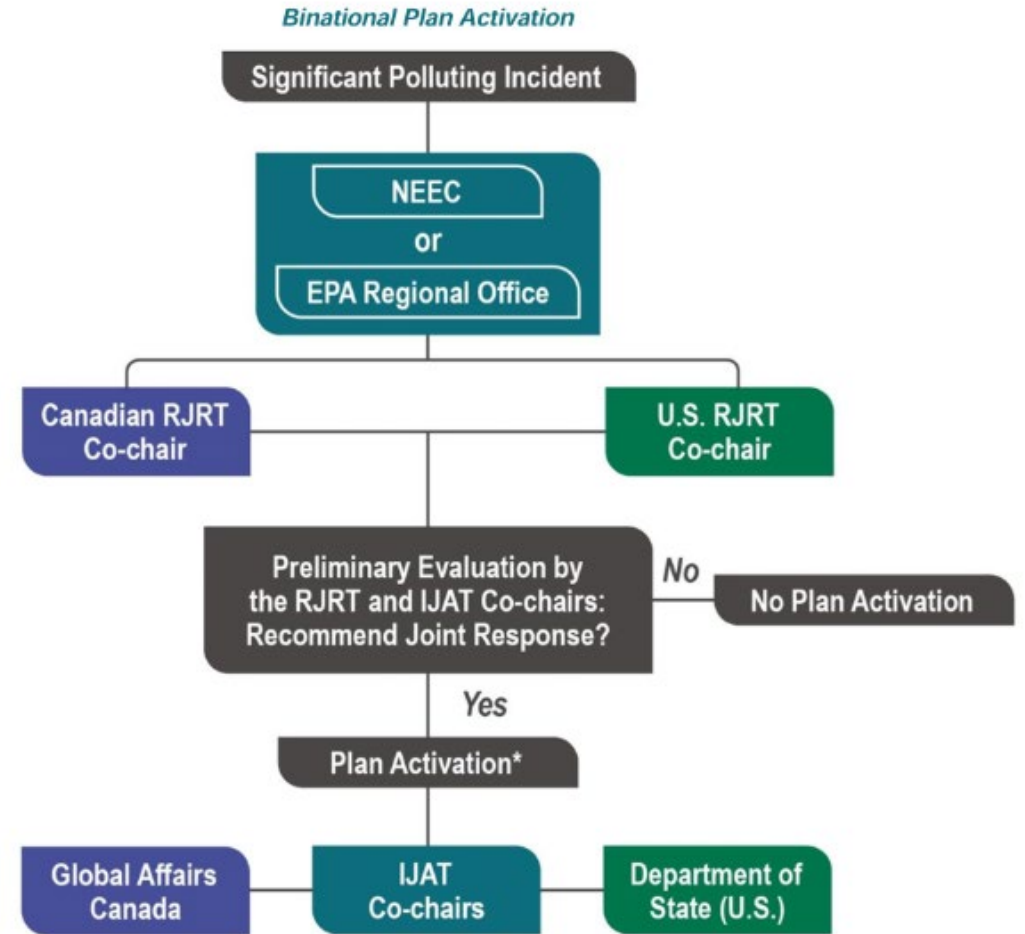


| INSTITUTIONS IN CANADA | | BINATIONAL TEAMS | | INSTITUTIONS IN THE U.S. | |
|------------------------|---|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| GOC | Government Operations Centre | IJAT | International Joint Advisory Team | EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| NEEC | National Environmental Emergencies Centre | RJRT | Regional Joint Response Team | NRC | National Response Center |

- NEEC is notified of a transboundary pollution incident → NEEC notifies NRC
- NRC is notified by NEEC → NRC notifies the appropriate EPA Regional Office
- Significant polluting incident in Canada → NEEC notifies the Canadian RJRT Co-chair, the Canadian IJAT Co-chair and coordinate with other federal entities.



Activation Procedures



*Following the verbal activation notification, the activating RJRT Co-chair is to send a written notification message.

INSTITUTIONS IN CANADA

NEEC National Environmental Emergencies Centre

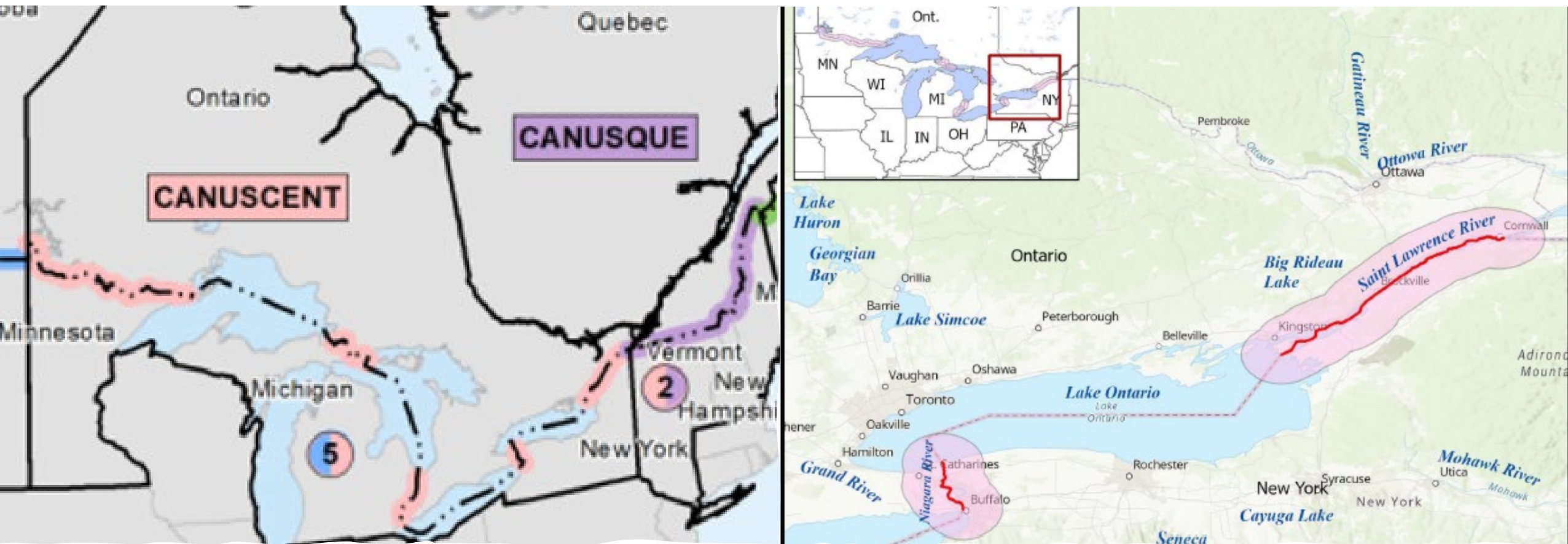
BINATIONAL TEAMS

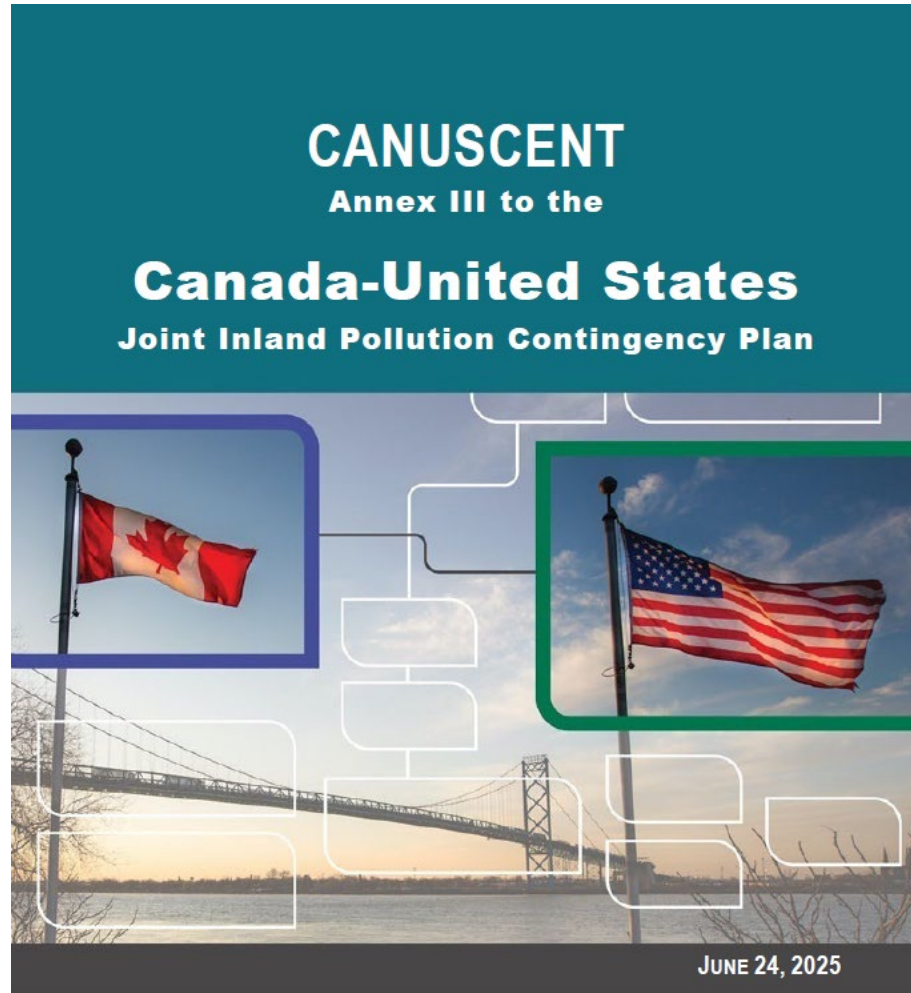
IJAT International Joint Advisory Team
RJRT Regional Joint Response Team

INSTITUTIONS IN THE U.S.

EPA Environmental Protection Agency

New York State boundary with Ontario – CANUSCENT – ANNEX III
New York State boundary with Quebec – CANUSCENT – ANNEX IV

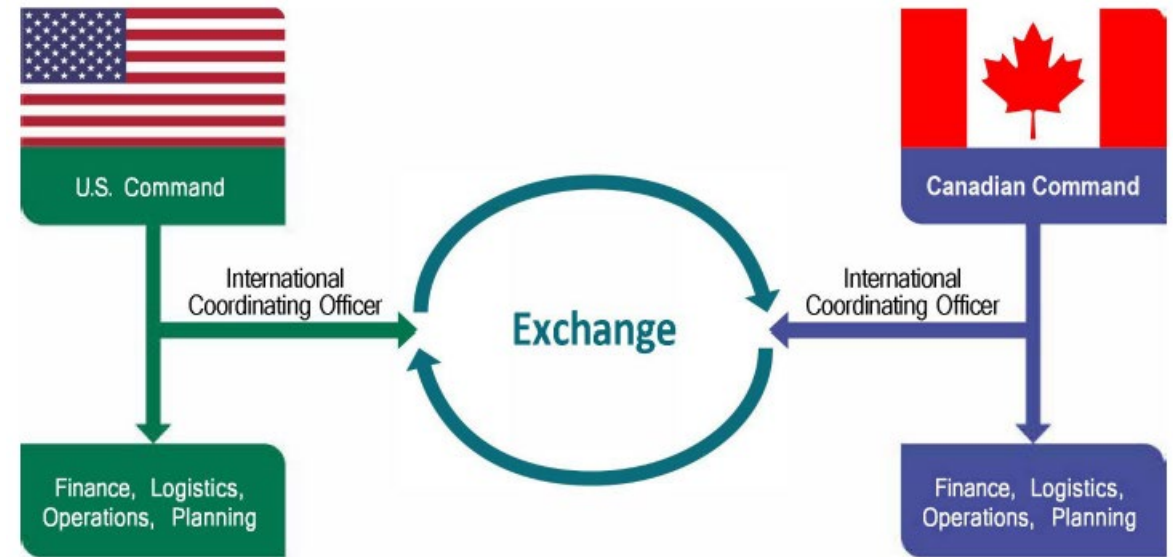




- Reflects Organizational Updates (Agency Names, etc.)
- Hyperlinks, phone numbers and addresses verified and updated (if needed)
- Section 204 – Response Coordination
 - International Coordinating Officer (ICO)
 - International Coordination Team
- Path to Annex Finalization
 - CANUSCENT – Awaiting final legal review for CANUSWEST – South Annex)
 - CANUSQUE – Track same edits

ICO – Concept of Operations

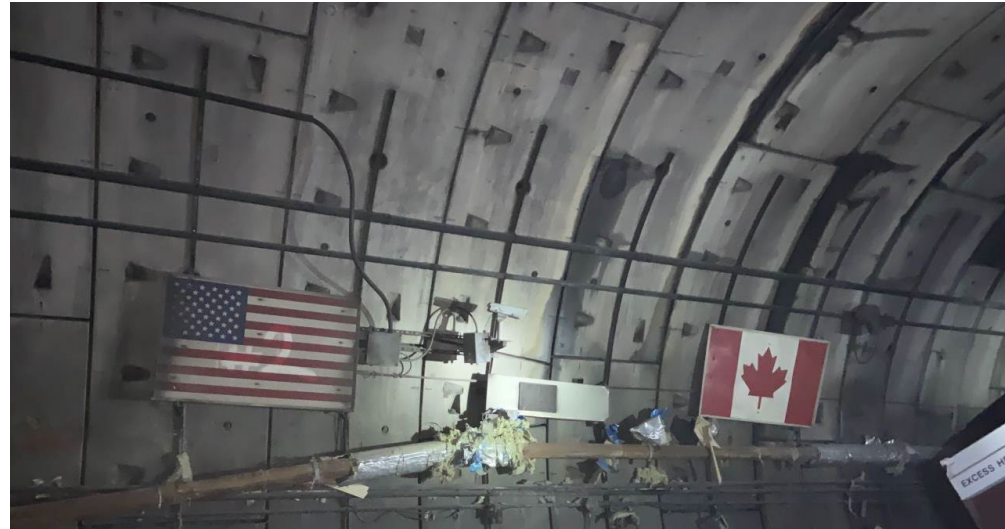
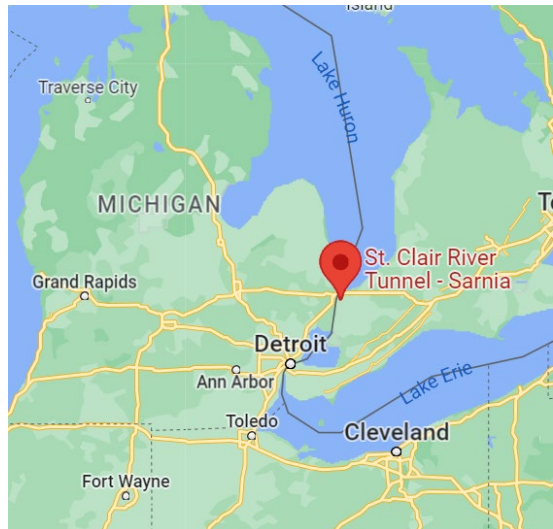
- Adopted from the USCG/CCG CANUSLAK annex
- The ICO is the primary coordinating official between the (FOSC) and the Regional Joint Response Team (RJRT) and is the advisor to the OSC on RJRT matters
- The two ICOs, each assigned to the Unified Command of the neighboring country,
- ICO - knowledgeable, senior representative with decision-making authority and ability to request and use their own country's scientific and operational resources.



Application and Case Study

CANUSCENT – Region 5

- June 28, 2019: Sulfuric Acid Tunnel Release
 - 44 rail cars derailed in the St. Clair River tunnel between Sarnia, Ontario and Port Huron, Michigan.
 - Over 12,000 gallons of 98% sulfuric acid were released in the tunnel.
 - EPA formed a Unified Command with Canada and local officials to conduct cleanup operations.
 - The binational team successfully removed the acid, rail car, contaminated debris, and all other wreckage from the tunnel.



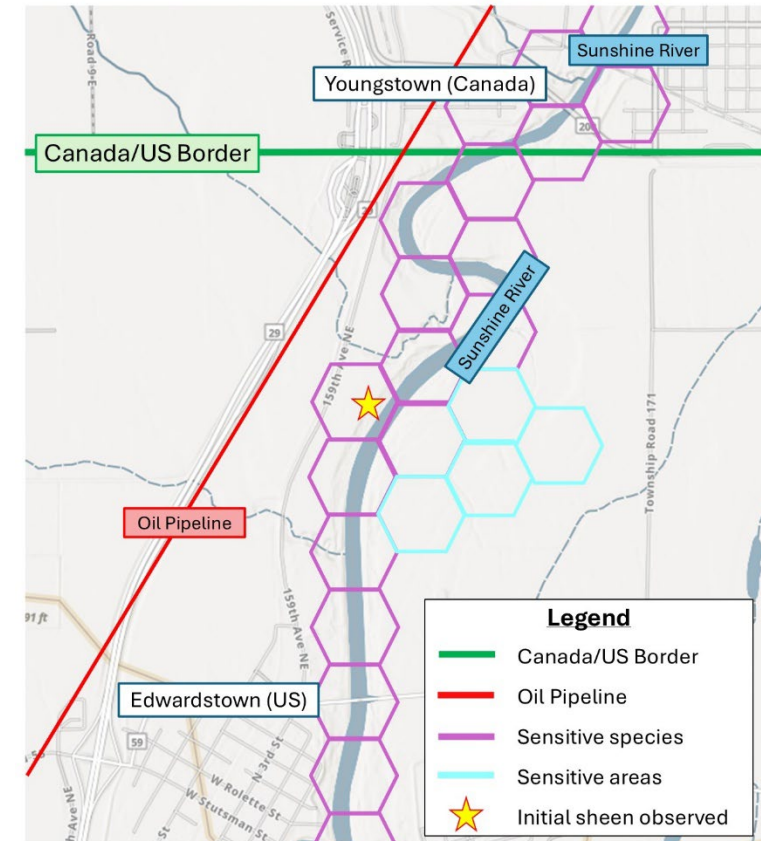
Binational Tabletop CANUS Exercise



- April 15-16, 2026, at Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, MI
- Day One: Information Sharing
 - Learn about joint capabilities of response partners
- Day Two: Tabletop Exercise of CANUSCENT Annex
 - Exercise international response involving oil pipeline near the US/Canada border

CANUS CANUSCENT Oil Spill Exercise

- Scenario:
 - Oil spill from a pipeline in a (fictional) river that crosses the Canada/US Inland boundary
 - Oil traveling downstream to impact nearby water intakes
 - CANUSCENT Annex would be activated as the incident occurred in the inland zone along shared international boundary



Disclaimer: This scenario/map has been modeled after a real location but has been modified based on the exercise to reflect the fictitious scenario. Names, resources, and other details identified in this figure are not present at actual location



Exercise Attendance

- EPA Regions 1, 2, 5, 8, and 10, HQ, and ERT.
- US Agencies:
 - EPA, USFWS, USCG, PHMSA, CBP, NOAA, DOI
- Canadian Agencies:
 - Environment & Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canada Energy Regulator, Public Safety Canada, Canadian Border Services
- EPA ERT/CBRN TAGA bus demo of equipment and capabilities
- 94 total attendees, with both in-person and virtual attendees.





CANUS Oil Spill Exercise

- **Outcomes:**
 - In-person (and virtual) collaboration and communication
 - In-depth discussion of respective authorities, protocols, and response techniques
- **Action Items:**
 - Notifications and updates
 - Binational border crossings and insurance
 - Data sharing agreements
 - Authorities to direct PRPs, hazardous waste removal
 - Future exercises and trainings
 - Advance collaboration on transport of impacted wildlife, (Canadian CWS, USFWS)





Questions?



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