

National Pollution Funds Center
News Release November 24, 1998

COAST GUARD DEVELOPS NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE CLAIMANT'S GUIDE

Washington -- The U.S. Coast Guard's National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) announced today that it has developed a Claimant's Information Guide for Natural Resource Trustee use in preparing and submitting natural resource damage claims to the NPFC for reimbursement from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF).

Managed by the NPFC, the OSLTF can be used to fund certain oil spill removal costs and compensate for certain oil spill-related damages. As a result of an October 1997 ruling by the U.S. Department of Justice, the NPFC is authorized to compensate Natural Resource Trustees for natural resource damages as it does other claimants for other damage and removal claims associated with oil spills caused by a responsible party (RP) who is unknown or is unwilling or unable to compensate for damages. The NPFC is establishing an organization to adjudicate these claims. The new NRD organization is planned to be in place by Spring 1999.

To aid Trustees in preparing and submitting natural resource damage claims to the NPFC for reimbursement from the OSLTF, the NPFC has developed an NRD Claimant's Information Guide. The Guide directs readers to the statute and regulations governing claims submission, and discusses many of the issues likely to arise during claim development. The Guide may be changed from time to time to improve its informational value. Reader questions and comments are therefore invited and, in fact, encouraged.

The Claimant's Information Guide is available on this site. Paper copies of the Guide may be obtained from:

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Comments on the Guide may be submitted to Ms. Malloy, in writing, by mail, fax, or electronic mail.

To assist readers in understanding the new responsibilities of the NPFC and to provide a context for the NRD Claimant's Information Guide, this site also includes Natural Resource Damage Claims, a concise article containing background information on the NPFC and the OPA requirements for natural resource damage claims, as well as other information on the NPFC's activities.

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