U.S. Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard

Director
National Pollution Funds Center

4200 Wilson Blvd Stop 7100
Arlington VA 20598-7100
Staff Symbol: Ca
Toll-Free: 1-800-280-7118
Fax: 703-872-6113
Email: ARL-PF-NPFCCLAIMSINFO@uscg.mil

5890
March 13, 2014

VIA EMAIL: [redacted]

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
ATTN: [redacted]
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

RE: 914030-0001
FL Inv # 2011-1C-45524

Dear Ms. [redacted]

The National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC), in accordance with the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), has determined that $213.55 is full compensation for OPA claim number 914030-0001.

This determination is based on an analysis of the information submitted. Please see the attached determination for further details regarding the rationale for this decision.

If you accept this determination, please sign the enclosed Acceptance / Release Agreement where indicated and return to the above address.

If we do not receive the signed original Acceptance / Release Agreement within 60 days of the date of this letter, the determination is void. If the determination is accepted, an original signature and a valid tax identification number (EIN or SSN) are required for payment. If you are a Claimant that has submitted other claims to the National Pollution Funds Center, you are required to have a valid Contractor Registration record prior to payment. If you do not, you may register free of charge at www.SAM.gov. Your payment will be mailed or electronically deposited in your account within 60 days of receipt of the Release Agreement.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the matter, you may contact me at the above address or by phone at 1-800-280-7118.

[redacted]
Claims Manager
U.S. Coast Guard
By direction

Enclosures: Claim Summary / Determination
Acceptance / Release Agreement

CLAIM SUMMARY / DETERMINATION

Claim Number:	914030-0001
Claimant:	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Type of Claimant:	State
Type of Claim:	Removal Costs
Claim Manager:	[redacted]
Amount Requested:	$213.55

FACTS:

Oil Spill Incident: On 25 Jun 2011, the Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) was notified of a sunken vessel in Palatka, FL, that was leaking diesel fuel into the St. John's River, a navigable waterway of the United States. FWC personnel responded but were unable to physically inspect the vessel as it was located offshore. USCG Sector Jacksonville was notified and responded on 28 Jun 2011. CG personnel inspected the sunken vessel and determined that the sunken vessel was not leaking diesel fuel into the St. John's River.

The Claim: On 7 Mar 2014, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) submitted a removal claim to the National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) for reimbursement of their uncompensated removal costs of State personnel, equipment and administrative costs in the amount of $213.55.

Florida DEP is claiming $106.24 in State personnel expenses, $85.31 in State equipment expenses (vehicle and clothing) and $22.00 in State administrative documentation/photo fees.

APPLICABLE LAW:

Under OPA 90, at 33 USC § 2702(a), responsible parties are liable for removal costs and damages resulting from the discharge of oil into navigable waters and adjoining shorelines, as described in Section 2702(b) of OPA 90. A responsible party's liability will include "removal costs incurred by any person for acts taken by the person which are consistent with the National Contingency Plan". 33 USC § 2702(b)(1)(B).

"Oil" is defined in relevant part, at 33 USC § 2701(23), to mean "oil of any kind or in any form, including petroleum, fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse, and oil mixed with wastes other than dredged spoil".

The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF), which is administered by the NPFC, is available, pursuant to 33 USC §§ 2712(a)(4) and 2713 and the OSLTF claims adjudication regulations at 33 CFR Part 136, to pay claims for uncompensated removal costs that are determined to be consistent with the National Contingency Plan and uncompensated damages. Removal costs are defined as "the costs of removal that are incurred after a discharge of oil has occurred or, in any case in which there is a

substantial threat of a discharge of oil, the costs to prevent, minimize, or mitigate oil pollution from an incident".

Under 33 USC §2713(b)(2) and 33 CFR 136.103(d) no claim against the OSLTF may be approved or certified for payment during the pendency of an action by the claimant in court to recover the same costs that are the subject of the claim. See also, 33 USC §2713(c) and 33 CFR 136.103(c)(2) [claimant election].

33 U.S.C. §2713(d) provides that "If a claim is presented in accordance with this section, including a claim for interim, short-term damages representing less than the full amount of damages to which the claimant ultimately may be entitled, and full and adequate compensation is unavailable, a claim for the uncompensated damages and removal costs may be presented to the Fund."

Under 33 CFR 136.105(a) and 136.105(e)(6), the claimant bears the burden of providing to the NPFC, all evidence, information, and documentation deemed necessary by the Director, NPFC, to support the claim.

Under 33 CFR 136.105(b) each claim must be in writing, for a sum certain for each category of uncompensated damages or removal costs resulting from an incident. In addition, under 33 CFR 136, the claimant bears the burden to prove the removal actions were reasonable in response to the scope of the oil spill incident, and the NPFC has the authority and responsibility to perform a reasonableness determination. Specifically, under 33 CFR 136.203, "a claimant must establish -

(a) That the actions taken were necessary to prevent, minimize, or mitigate the effects of the incident;
(b) That the removal costs were incurred as a result of these actions;
(c) That the actions taken were determined by the FOSC to be consistent with the National Contingency Plan or were directed by the FOSC."

Under 33 CFR 136.205 "the amount of compensation allowable is the total of uncompensated *reasonable* removal costs of actions taken that were determined by the FOSC to be consistent with the National Contingency Plan or were directed by the FOSC. Except in exceptional circumstances, removal *activities* for which costs are being claimed must have been coordinated with the FOSC." [Emphasis added].

DETERMINATION OF LOSS:

A. Overview:

1. MST1 [redacted] of Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville provided FOSC coordination.
2. The incident involved the substantial threat of discharge of "oil" as defined in OPA 90, 33 U.S.C. § 2701(23), to navigable waters.

3. In accordance with 33 CFR § 136.105(e)(12), the claimant has certified no suit has been filed in court for the claimed uncompensated removal costs.
4. In accordance with33 U.S.C. § 2712(h)(1), the claim was submitted within the six year period of limitations for removal costs
5. The NPFC Claims Manager has thoroughly reviewed all documentation submitted with the claim and determined that the removal costs presented were for actions in accordance with the NCP and that the costs for these actions were indeed reasonable and allowable under OPA and 33 CFR § 136.205.

B. Analysis:

NPFC CA reviewed the actual cost invoices and dailies to confirm that the claimant had incurred all costs claimed. The review focused on: (1) whether the actions taken were compensable "removal actions" under OPA and the claims regulations at 33 CFR 136 (e.g., actions to prevent, minimize, mitigate the effects of the incident); (2) whether the costs were incurred as a result of these actions; (3) whether the actions taken were determined by the FOSC, to be consistent with the NCP or directed by the FOSC, and (4) whether the costs were adequately documented and reasonable.

The NPFC confirmed the actions undertaken were reasonable and necessary and billed in accordance with the state's rates. On that basis, the Claims Manager hereby determines that the claimant did in fact incur $213.55 of uncompensated removal costs and that that amount is properly payable by the OSLTF as full compensation for the reimbursable removal costs incurred by the claimant and submitted to the NPFC under claim #914030-0001. The claimant states that all costs claimed are for uncompensated removal costs incurred by the claimant for this incident on 25 June 2011. The claimant represents that all costs paid by the claimant are compensable removal costs, payable by the OSLTF as presented by the claimant.

C. *Determined Amount:*

The NPFC hereby determines that the OSLTF will pay $213.55 as full compensation for the reimbursable removal costs incurred by the Claimant and submitted to the NPFC under claim # 914030-0001. All costs claimed are for charges paid for by the Claimant for removal actions as that term is defined in OPA and, are compensable removal costs, payable by the OSLTF as presented by the Claimant.

AMOUNT: $213.55

Claim Supervisor: [redacted]

Date of Supervisor's review: ***3/13/2014***

Supervisor Action: ***Approved***

ACCEPTANCE / RELEASE AGREEMENT

Claim Number: 914030-0001	Claimant Name: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

I, the undersigned, ACCEPT the settlement offer of $213.55 as full compensation for all removal cost claims, except those for natural resource damages, associated with the below described incident. Other than possible claims for natural resource damages, this settlement represents full and final release and satisfaction of all removal cost claims under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2712(a)(4), arising from an oil pollution incident documented in the above noted Florida case number. This settlement is not an admission of liability by any party.

I hereby assign, transfer, and subrogate to the United States all rights, claims, interest and rights of action, except those for natural resource damages that I may have against any party, person, firm or corporation that may be liable for the loss. I authorize the United States to sue, compromise or settle in my name and the United States fully substituted for me and subrogated to all of my rights arising from the incident. I warrant that no legal action has been brought regarding this matter and no settlement has been or will be made by me or any person on my behalf with any other party for costs which are the subject of the claim against the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (Fund).

I, the undersigned, agree that, upon acceptance of any compensation from the Fund, I will cooperate fully with the United States in any claim and/or action by the United States against any person or party to recover the compensation. The cooperation shall include, but is not limited to, immediately reimbursing the Fund any compensation received from any other source for the same claim, providing any documentation, evidence, testimony, and other support, as may be necessary for the United States to recover from any other person or party.

I, the undersigned, certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information contained in this claim represents all material facts and is true. I understand that misrepresentation of facts is subject to prosecution under federal law (including, but not limited to 18 U.S.C. 287 and 1001).

Title of Person Signing	Date of Signature
Printed Name of Claimant or Authorized Representative	Signature

Title of Witness	Date of Signature
Printed Name of Witness	Signature

*DUNS/EIN/SSN of Payee Please Circle one	Payee
Bank Routing Number	Bank Account Number