

CLAIM SUMMARY / DETERMINATION FORM

Date : 12/2/2010
Claim Number : 911012-0001
Claimant : Guilford County Health Department
Type of Claimant : Local Government
Type of Claim : Removal Costs
Claim Manager : [REDACTED]
Amount Requested : \$3,400.90

FACTS:

Oil Spill Incident: On April 8, 2008, Guilford County Environmental Health (Guilford County) was notified by the Greensboro Water resources Department of heating oil flowing into the Greensboro storm sewer system, which flows into Mile Run Creek, a navigable waterway of the US. [REDACTED] of Guilford County responded to the scene and determined that an unknown quantity of heating oil was leaching from below ground, draining into the sewer system. The source of the spill was not located.

Description of Removal Activities for this claimant: Guilford County contacted the FOSC for EPA Region 4, who concurred with response. [REDACTED] of Guilford County contracted A&D Environmental Services, Inc (A&D) to respond and recover the discharge. Invoices included personnel, equipment, and supply costs (boom, pads and drums) for mitigation of the spill. The claim also consisted of maps, state report, disposal manifests, proof of payment, and vendor rate schedule.

The Claim: On November 29, 2010, Guilford County submitted a removal cost claim to the National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC) for reimbursement of their uncompensated removal costs in the amount of \$3,400.90.

Guilford County is claiming personnel expenses of \$237.05, as well as \$3,163.85 for removal costs incurred by the contractor, A&D.

APPLICABLE LAW:

"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].

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. EPA Region 4 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. The claim was submitted within the six year statute 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

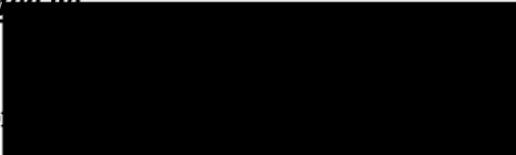
incurred as a result of these actions; (3) whether the actions taken were determined by the FOSC, to be consistent with the NCP or directed by the FOSC, and (4) whether the costs were adequately documented and reasonable.

On that basis, the Claims Manager hereby determines that the claimant did in fact incur \$3,400.90 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 #911012-0001. The claimant states that all costs claimed are for uncompensated removal costs incurred by the claimant for this incident on April 8, 2008. 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 \$3,400.90 as full compensation for the reimbursable removal costs incurred by the Claimant and submitted to the NPFC under claim # 911012-0001. 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 Claimants.

AMOUNT: \$3,400.90

Claim Supervisor 

Date of Supervisor's review: *12/8/10*

Supervisor Action: *Approved*

Supervisor's Comments: