

**NWCG Fire Chemicals Subcommittee Meeting**  
**March 22-23, 2022**  
**0830-1200 (Mountain Daylight Time)**  
**Meeting notes**

**Virtual TEAMS Meeting**

**A. Introductions, logistics and review agenda**

Shirley Zylstra (USFS), Dave Haston (USFS), Kristina Curtis (BLM), Angie Forbes (BLM), Joel Kerley (BIA), Darren Neuman (MN DNR, Eastern States NASF rep), Chris Jurasek (CalFire, Western States NASF rep), Larry Robillard (USFS), Caleb Berry (USFS), Ralph Gonzales (USFS), Hunter Jones (USFS), Laura Conway (USFS), Andrew Gutknecht (USFS contractor).

**B. Changes to FCSC roster**

The roster is up to date on the website.

**C. Agency/Program Updates: Each agency gave a short program update.**

**D. MRB/Long-Term Fire Retardant Contract Updates**

On-Demand LTFR contract out now. This contract combines/replaces the FOB Origin contract and Mobile Retardant Base contract (BPA) into one, multi-award BPA, includes LTFR product and ancillary mixing/loading (MRB).

**E. Old Business**

**a. EIS/Reconsultation updates**

Forest Service Draft SEIS for aerial retardant use is in public comment period which ends 3/29. Received NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion March 1. Expect final FWS Biological Opinion ~ the end of June. Operating under the provisions of the expired consultation until complete. Have received two questions from the Resource Advisor group:

1. Are there policies that allow/require reporting of intrusions on any agency lands, not just the Forest Service. If not can there be?
2. Where do we find information about what to do with excess mixed chemical (retardant, enhancer) at the end of an incident?

We will work on some guidance for the field.

**b. Fire Chemical training videos**

Videos were submitted to Office of Communication just before Christmas, waiting for final approval. Will be posted to Forest Service YouTube channel

**F. New Business/Items**

**a. Operational Field Evaluations-FR100, FR-200**

Conducted operational field evaluations on FR-100 and FR-200 (started) in Missoula last summer. Discovered co-mingling issue, NTDP WFCS is addressing issues through additional studies/testing. Report will be completed.

**b. Coverage levels of ground applied/pretreatment retardants**

**i. Risk Assessment revision**

The 2020 specification revision added the new pretreatment category of products, which have increased durability once applied. The current risk assessment does not take into account the frequency of repeat applications. NTDP WFCS is looking at how to quantify the coverage levels and frequency of application in the risk assessment.

- c. FCSC website  
Please provide any suggested additions to the website to Shirley. One suggestion was to look at other subcommittee websites for ideas.
- d. Proposed changes to aquatic toxicity testing – dilution testing  
We currently test the toxicity of the product concentrate. Product suppliers are requesting testing of the diluted product. In this way the toxicity can be compared, “as applied”. The only comment was to be sure we are comparing apples to apples.
- e. Compatibility testing  
Compatibility testing is not currently required. Currently working on potential addendum to the specifications. Once drafted it will be provided to the subcommittee for review.

G. Discussion topics submitted by attendees

- a. FMB Memo RE: On-board blending of water enhancers.  
In 2018 FMB issued direction that the federal agencies will not allow on-board blending of water enhancers. The states and BIA are interested in continuing investigation of the systems and resultant blended products. WCFS will draft a proposal outlining a way to potentially move forward with on-board injection. That document will be shared with the subcommittee.
- b. Micromotion charter with NTDP San Dimas  
WO FAM and NTDP are formalizing the support provided by NTDP for mass flow meters (micromotion) by identifying it as a recurring project. A project charter is being developed that contains the scope of work and deliverables. Tier 2 troubleshooting is provided by NTDP. Calibration is done under contract. Coordination of calibration will remain a part of the USFS Airtanker Base Manager’s duties.
- c. Status of Fortress products this fire season  
We are awaiting results of final tests and operational field evaluations. Products cannot be purchased until they are fully qualified on the QPL.
- d. Update on work with NASA re: alternative drop test  
Last year we contracted with NASA to investigate an alternative drop test process. They are investigating infrared options.