ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

Issue 403, 23 September 2013

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International news

INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE FOCUSES ON PROTECTING WEST COAST FROM OIL SPILLS

September 18 - States and provinces on the Pacific Ocean will gather this year in Seattle to discuss emerging issues in energy and how best to protect the West Coast from oil spills.

The Washington Department of Ecology is hosting this year's annual meeting. The task force, known as the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force, is composed of Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii.

The states will update one another on their spill-response programs and initiatives. They'll also learn about how the transportation of energy is changing along the West Coast; characteristics of new and emerging fuels; arctic issues; and risks of oil spills from vessel traffic.

The meeting is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25, in the Microsoft Auditorium at the Seattle Central Public Library, 1000 Fourth Ave. The meeting is open to the public, and will be broadcast online. RSVP with Linda Helmick – lihi461@ecy.wa.gov.

The task force was authorized by a Memorandum of Cooperation signed in 1989 by Governors of Alaska, Oregon, Washington and California, and the Premier of British Columbia following the Exxon Valdez and Nestucca oil spills. These events highlight the common concerns regarding oil spill risks shared by West Coast states and provinces, and the need for cooperation across shared borders.

The task force provides a forum where members can work together to implement regional initiatives to help protect 56,600 miles of coastline stretching from Alaska to California, and includes the Hawaiian archipelago.

The task force is committed to improving, preventing, preparing for and responding to oil spills. It collects and shares data on spills, coordinates spill prevention projects, and promotes regulatory safeguards.

Washington State Department of Ecology Read more

Incident reports

USA: COLORADO FLOODING OIL SPILL REPORTS

September 19 - Oil spill dumps over 5k gallons of crude across flood-drenched Colorado

Photo: An oil well pad is surrounded by flood waters in Weld County, Colorado September 17, 2013. (Reuters/Rick Wilking)

More than 5,250 gallons of crude oil have spilled into a river in Colorado, contaminating much of the same region that was ravaged days earlier by a monumental flood that left no fewer than eight residents dead.

The Denver Post reported on Wednesday evening that the Colorado Department of Natural Resources was alerted of the spill that afternoon by Anadarko Petroleum, a Texas-based oil and gas exploration company.

The crude reportedly emptied out of damaged tanks south of the town of Milliken where theSt. Vrain and South Platte Rivers meet near Boulder, the county's most populous city with almost 100,000 residents. *RT News* Read more

September 19 - 18,000 gallons of oil spill into Colorado waters

As the floodwaters recede, the number of gallons of oil spilled into Colorado waters is rising. The Colorado Oil & Gas Association is trying to explain how more than 18,000 gallons of oil spilled into Colorado waters this week.

The first two major incidents involving the extensive network of oil and gas wells in the flooded areas occurred in the South Platte River and the St. Vrain River. *9News.com* Read more

September 20 - State now tracking 10 oil and gas spills in Colorado flood zones

Photo: Oil booms spread across a creek from an Anadarko site south of Milliken Colorado Thursday morning, September 19, 2013 as flood waters are starting to recede from last weeks floods. (Andy Cross, The Denver Post)

Rushing floodwaters loaded with heavy debris damaged oil and gas pipes and tanks, causing the two large spills that state and federal regulators were tracking Thursday.

Another eight releases, whose cause is undetermined, were classified as minor by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission — sheens, for example, coming off of a piece of equipment rather than a measurable volume of petroleum product. *Denver Post* Read more

September 20 - Colorado confirms more oil spills but flood flows complicate clean-up

State regulators raised their tally of oil and gas storage tanks toppled in the flood to 24 and documented more spills Friday, bringing the total to more 22,000 gallons of oil contaminating Colorado's South Platte River valley. *Denver Post* Read more

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YEMEN: TRIBESMEN BLOW UP YEMEN'S MAIN OIL EXPORT PIPELINE: GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

September 14 - Tribesmen bombed Yemen's main oil pipeline in the central Maarib province on Saturday, a government official said, the fourth attack on the pipeline in a month.

The attack, which stopped oil flows from the Maarib fields to the Ras Isa oil terminal on the Red Sea, caused a fire and damage to the pipeline about 40 km (25 miles) from where it starts in Maarib, the official said. No casualties were reported.

The pipeline was set on fire earlier this month after threats by a Yemeni tribe following a siege on its leader's house by security forces. *Yahoo News* Read more

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Incident reports (continued)

IRAQ: MAJOR PIPELINE RUPTURE DEEPENS IRAQI OIL INDUSTRY WOES

September 17 - Iraq's oil exports were cut sharply by a pipeline leak and work at southern ports, industry sources said, raising concern among buyers of prolonged outages despite Iraqi assurances. *The Daily Star (Lebanon)* Read more

[Your editor was unable to find any information about the amount of oil leakage or any clean-up operations undertaken]

Other news

USA: LAWSUITS AGAINST EXXON MOBIL MOUNT OVER BIG OIL PIPELINE SPILLS

Photo: A 22-foot long rupture on Exxon Mobil's Pegasus pipeline sent around 200,000 gallons of crude oil into a residential neighborhood in Mayflower, Ark.

September 14 - Six months ago, 200,000 gallons of oil came rushing through the streets here, winding past homes and a shopping plaza before eventually ending up in a popular fishing lake.

The culprit would later be determined to be a 65-year-old oil pipeline owned by Exxon Mobil Corp., of the type that federal pipeline officials had warned for two decades posed a higher risk of failure because of an old manufacturing flaw. Two years earlier, another Exxon pipeline had ruptured on Montana's Yellowstone River despite government warnings about high floodwaters.

Now litigation is mounting against the Irving-based oil giant, contending that it was negligent in maintaining its 8,000-mile U.S. pipeline network. At the center of the lawsuits is the question of whether Exxon officials heeded the government warnings and took the necessary steps to protect against accidents as seen in Arkansas and Montana.

Exxon declined to make executives or attorneys available for an interview. But in response to written questions, the company said inspections before the spills had yielded no evidence that the pipelines were about to fail. *Dallas Morning News* Read more

USA: EXXON MOBIL: OIL SPILL TRAINING PLANNED ALONG YELLOWSTONE RIVER

September 16 - Oil spill training will be held across central and eastern Montana in coming weeks to help emergency responders deal with events like Exxon Mobil's 2011 pipeline break into the Yellowstone River.

The Texas oil giant is paying for the training as part of its settlement with the state over water pollution violations. Exxon Mobil agreed to pay $1.6 million in cash and other penalties after the 63,000-barrel spill near Laurel fouled dozens of miles of shoreline along the scenic Yellowstone.

The spill training is being conducted in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. *Missoulian* Read more

CANADA: B.C. UPGRADING LAND SPILL RESPONSE IN CASE MAJOR RESOURCE PROJECTS PASS

September 16 - Of the 3,500 "environmental emergencies" B.C.'s land spill management team handles each year, 10 per cent pose an environmental or human risk that take weeks, months or years to control. That's about one major gas leak, oil spill or lumber incident per day.

With numbers like that, it's no wonder local representatives were skeptical about the province's emergency response system at an update on B.C.'s spill preparedness at the UBCM on Monday.

B.C. is in the process of revamping the system so industry pays for its "fair share" of the response and the clean up, said Jim Hofweber, executive director of the Environmental Management Branch.

"Usually you don't get that chance until you've had a major catastrophic spill," Hofweber said, but the premier's demands regarding the major pipeline projects have hastened the upgrades.

Industry is willing to foot the bill for a contingency fund to alleviate the public's fears and get a social licence to operate, he said. *Vancouver Metro* Read more

USA: SHIPPER WILL PAY FOR HAWAII MOLASSES SPILL CLEANUP

Photo: Workers from Pacific Environmental Corporation pumped out a broken Matson pipeline located under the neighboring Horizon shipyard dock in Honolulu Hawaii on Wednesday Sept. 11, 2013. An estimated 233,000 gallons of molasses spilled into the water on Monday. Photo: Honolulu Star-Advertiser, Cindy Ellen Russell

September 17 - The chief executive of the transit company responsible for spilling 1,400 tons of molasses in Hawaii waters says the company will fully pay for cleanup and other costs without passing them on to taxpayers or customers.

Matson Navigation Co. CEO Matt Cox said Monday that he is sorry for the spill, and the company won't ship molasses until it's confident a similar spill will not occur. "We've let you down, and we're very sorry," Cox said.

Cox said it's too early to know how much the spill will cost to clean up. He spoke after taking a boat tour of the harbor and nearby waters with state officials, lawmakers and reporters.

Crews working the water and shorelines have collected about 25,000 dead fish and other animals from surrounding waters since the spill was discovered Sept. 9, officials said Monday. *SFGate* Read more

"Superfund Money Is Available for Honolulu Molasses Spill"

September 18 - U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz says federal Superfund dollars can help with the response to the massive molasses spill in the Honolulu Harbor that has killed thousands of fish and put Hawaii in the national spotlight for the past week.

The Superfund program is dedicated to cleaning up toxic and hazardous waste sites. Besides money, it provides a mechanism to force those responsible for the pollution — in this case Matson Navigation Co. — to carry out clean ups or reimburse the government.

On Wednesday, Schatz held a teleconference for constituents. State and federal officials updated listeners on the status of the spill and how the agencies are monitoring any environmental impacts. Besides the state Department of Health, which has the lead in the response operation, federal agencies that have been mobilized are the Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. *Honolulu Civil Beat* Read more

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USA: HALLIBURTON GETS MAX FINE FOR DEEPWATER HORIZON

September 19 - Halliburton Energy Services Inc. (Halliburton) pleaded guilty to destroying evidence pertaining to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster and was sentenced to the statutory maximum fine, the Justice Department announced. In addition, a criminal information was filed today charging a former Halliburton manager, Anthony Badalamenti, 61, of Katy, Texas, with one count of destruction of evidence.

"These announcements mark the latest steps forward in the Justice Department's efforts to achieve justice on behalf of all those affected by the Deepwater Horizon explosion, oil spill, and environmental disaster," said Attorney General Eric Holder. "Halliburton and one of its managers have now been held criminally accountable for their misconduct, underscoring our continued commitment to ensuring that the victims of this tragedy obtain justice, and to safeguarding the integrity of relevant evidence. I am grateful to all of the Justice Department leaders, federal investigative agency partners, and state and local allies whose tireless work made this outcome possible – and whose daily efforts will help to prevent such incidents from happening in the future." *The Maritime Executive* Read more

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USA: BP SUES LOUISIANA OFFICIALS AFTER BEING ORDERED TO REMOVE OIL SPILL BOOM ANCHORS FROM STATE WATERS

September 19 - BP sued the state of Louisiana Thursday to block an order that the company remove from state waters thousands of metal anchors that were used to hold down oil spill booms following the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Baton Rouge, asked that Department of Natural Resources Secretary Stephen Chustz and Assistant Secretary Keith Lovell be blocked from enforcing a state law requiring the removal of navigation obstructions. BP argued the anchors were part of the federally-directed response to the oil spill, and thus governed by the federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990. *The Times Picayune* Read more

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Other news (continued)

JAPAN: PREMIER URGES FULL DECOMMISSIONING OF FUKUSHIMA NUCLEAR SITE

Photo: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in orange hard hat, is briefed during a tour of the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power complex. (Japan Pool / AFP/Getty Images / September 19, 2013)

September 19 - Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe toured the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power complex Thursday and urged its owner to abandon hopes of restarting the only two intact reactors and concentrate instead on unfinished cleanup operations, Japanese media reported.

Three of Fukushima's six reactors suffered meltdowns after the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami, and the fuel-cooling containment pool was seriously damaged at a fourth unit.

Japan is currently nuclear-free, as all 50 of its reactors are closed for maintenance, repairs, safety checks or inoperability. *Los Angeles Times* Read more

OIL INDUSTRY UNVEILS NEW CONTAINMENT CONCEPT TO IMPROVE SUBSEA WELL INCIDENT PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

September 4 - Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) and the Subsea Well Response Project (SWRP) today revealed details of their collaboration to further develop existing subsea well response capability through the provision of a subsea well containment concept supplemented by a containment toolkit.

This concept, engineered into a template containment system, is described in the Subsea Well Containment Guidelines. It relies on standard readily available well test riser and surface equipment deployed offshore from a drilling rig to safely flow to surface, process and dispose of well hydrocarbons. The containment toolkit comprises equipment that is not currently available in the industry at short notice.

Containment capability is designed to complement a subsea well incident response in scenarios where capping alone is not sufficient to stem the flow of well fluids and to capture and dispose of them in a safe and controlled way.

The containment toolkit components will be stored and maintained ready for transportation at strategic international locations to facilitate timely response around the world, andwill be available for industry use from the end of 2014. *OSRL* Read more

No news reports from your part of the world? You can help correct this by sending interesting stories in English language to the editor at info@spillcontrol.org Contributions will be acknowledged.

ISCO News

ISCO'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS RECRUITMENT OF INTERNS

Following on observations that more and more organizations are successfully using social media (such as facebook and twitter) to increase interest in their activities and objectives, two members of our committee have suggested that we look towards young people that may be able to assist.

There is a problem insofar as we currently have no-one who has the time or required familiarity with using the social media.

We are hopeful that one or more of our younger readers may be able to help – or know someone else who can.

One possibility is a college student with a strong interest in the environment, someone who supports ISCO's mission "To raise worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, to promote technical development and professional competency, and to provide a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisations".

The work can be carried out from home and for the foreseeable future would be unpaid – but can be rewarding in other ways, affording an opportunity to network with many others with shared interests.

If you can help, please send an email to the Secretary at info@spillcontrol.org

Cormack's Column

In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 145 in a series of articles contributed by Dr Douglas Cormack.

Dr Douglas Cormack is an Honorary Fellow of ISCO. As the former Chief Scientist at the British Government's Marine Pollution Control Unit and head of the UK's first government agency, the Warren Spring Laboratory, Douglas is a well known and highly respected figure in the spill response community. He is the Chairman and a founder member of the International Spill Accreditation Association

CHAPTER 145: CAMPAIGN FOR KNOWLEDGE-ONLY ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

As a science group civil servant, I concluded that belief/counter-belief is adjustable to party-political advantage only so long as resulting policy failures are tolerably distributed across contending parties; that such adjustment is achieved by reference to partially selected facts/counter-facts by non-scientists unaware of the need for debate-terminating knowledge; that while science is synonymous with such knowledge, scientists behave as non-scientists in all fields of debate; and that belief-based policy failures thus accumulate until reality itself terminates debate with the social disharmony, violence,, revolution or war which belief-consensus never anticipates nor averts.

Again, I concluded that failure-accumulation is abetted by misrepresentation of belief as knowledge. For example, since the Torrey Canyon Incident of 1967, belief that oil and dispersants cause species-extinction/ecological-disaster has been misrepresented as scientific knowledge and extended as such to releases of all so-called hazardous noxious substances (HNS) and to all operational discharges and emissions from ships, as has belief that carbon dioxide emissions cause global warming. However, were the knowledge/belief dichotomy to be definitively differentiated we would all know that environmental damage-compensation for oil release is, with very few exceptions, a misuse of resources, the extinction/disaster believed to justify it never having been observed despite mechanical-recovery never having proved capable of its avoidance; and that damage-compensation for carbon dioxide emission is a misuse of resources, the anthropogenic global warming believed to justify it never having been shown possible let alone observed. Thus, we would all know that belief not only fails in reality, it also addresses unreality as further exemplified below.

Thus, to advance my general campaign for knowledge-only policies, I definitively differentiated the knowledge/belief dichotomy and with it those of truth/falsehood, wisdom/folly, right/wrong and good/ bad by showing in a recent book that reality stimulates our imaginations to beliefs only transformable to positive/negative knowledge by evaluation of their compliance/non-compliance with reality, or to those which can only be accepted, rejected or suspended as beliefs beyond reality-evaluation in principle or pro tem practice, but which cannot be accepted as knowledge. Thus, this book has shown that reality-evaluation of specific hypotheses (beliefs) produced the craft- and self-knowledge which secured our group-species survival from time immemorial and the science and technology which enhanced our physical welfare from the seventeenth century until now; that our knowledge-based social welfare has nonetheless been repeatedly disrupted by conflicting beliefs or by the reactions of ignored reality; and that such will continue so long as the above differentiations are absent from policy-formulation.

As to why species-extinction/ecological-disaster has not been observed in reality, my two prior books had already shown that floating layers of crude oil and HNS are only ~ 0.1mm thick; that volatile oil components and individual HNS (b. p. < 250^{o}C) evaporate fully from such layers in < 5 hours; that instantaneous evaporation, dispersion or solution from 1m^{2} of such layers would produce concentrations of no more than 100ppm in the bottom m^{3} of the atmosphere or in the top m^{3} of the water column; that actual rates are slower than instantaneous with actual concentrations being correspondingly lower and further lowered by turbulent mixing to ever greater heights and depths; and that these concentrations are ever-increasing orders of magnitude lower than the concentrations to which test organisms are exposed in measuring oil and dispersant toxicities (LC50 values), the applied dispersant : oil ratio being 1 : 20. Thus, despite its concentration-dependence making toxicity an unreal problem, the above belief still prohibits dispersant-use within arbitrary depths/distances from shore.

However, with encounter rates of response units with 0.1mm slicks being ~0.2 m^{3} per hour per metre swath width per knot of advance, we know that dispersant-spraying and/or mechanical-recovery cannot, in practice, deal per day with quantities more than are released from one impact-damaged tank; and that subsequent weather-damage release is avoidable only by cargo/bunker transfer in the nearest safe haven. Again, we know that spraying and recovery apply only to localised fractions of slicks while natural rates of dispersion apply to whole slicks; that the latter can be expressed as slick half-lives related to the viscosities of the water-in-oil emulsions of non-volatile oil components; that individual oils have thus been classed as having half-lives of 4 or 12 hours on average, of 24-48 hours or of > 48 hours, while heavy fuel oils have been classed as having half-lives of 2-4, 4-6 and 6-8 days; and that single HNS do not form emulsions while only an identifiable few have viscosities above 5cSt at 15^{o}C thus ensuring half-lives of < 4 hours for the vast majority. Yet again, as to the extents of natural dispersion and the volumes at risk, we know that over a period of 6-7 half-lives, slicks are reduced to 1% of their initial volumes whether we respond or not; and that HNS are transported in integral tanks much smaller than those of oil or in drums and other small packages none of which leak unless damaged

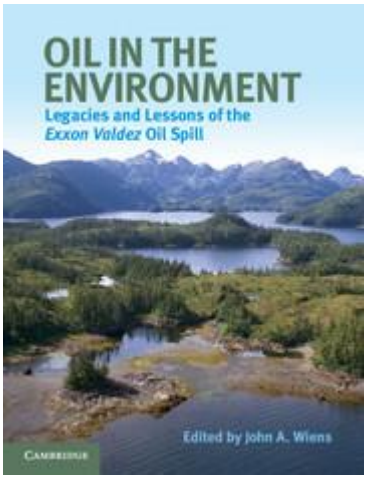
1 The *Rational Trinity: Imagination, Belief and Knowledge*, D.Cormack, Bright Pen 2010 available at www.authorsonline.co.uk
2 *Response to Oil and Chemical Marine Pollution*, D. Cormack, Applied Science Publishers, 1983.
3 *Response to Marine Oil Pollution - Review and Assessment*, Douglas Cormack, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999.

Publications

FOR YOUR INTEREST – LINKS FOR RECENT ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

ASME EED EHS Newsletter	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	Most recent issue
Bow Wave	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
Cedre Newsletter	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	July-August 2013
The Essential Hazmat News	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	August 19 issue
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	September 1 issue
USA EPA Tech News & Trends	Contaminated site clean-up information	May 2013 issue
Technology Innovation News Survey	From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination	July 1-31 issue
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	No. 38 2013
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	September 2013 issue
Soil & Groundwater Ezine	Articles, papers and reports	September 2013 issue
Soil & Groundwater Newsletter	From Environmental Expert	August 29 issue
IMO Publshing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	July 2013
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 3, 2013
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	September 18 issue
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	September 2013 issue
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	July 2013 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	September 2013 issue
HELCOM Newsletter	Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission	May 2013 issue

OIL IN THE ENVIRONMENT – LEGACIES AND LESSONS OF THE EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL



What light does nearly 25 years of scientific study of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill shed on the fate and effects of a spill? How can the results help in assessing future spills? How can ecological risks be assessed and quantified?

In this, the first book on the effects of *Exxon Valdez* in 15 years, scientists directly involved in studying the spill provide a comprehensive perspective on, and synthesis of, scientific information on long-term spill effects. The coverage is multidisciplinary, with chapters discussing a range of issues including effects on biota; successes and failures of post spill studies and techniques; and areas of continuing disagreement. An even-handed and critical examination of more than two decades of scientific study, this is an invaluable guide for studying future oil spills and, more broadly, for unravelling the consequence of any large environmental disruption.

The book's seventeen chapters are presented under five main sections – Introduction and background; Oil in the environment; Biological effects; Assessing oil spill effects and ecological recovery; and Conclusions.

Thirty-three contributors have co-operated in the production of the book, edited by John A. Wiens, Chief Scientist at PRBO Conservation Science in California, USA and Winthrop Research Professor in the School of Plant Biology at the University of Western Australia. Readers will recognise the names of many of the well-known and respected authors who are all specialists in their own particular fields. Biographical notes are included.

The book is well written in clear, concise language and is very readable, remarkably free of highly specialised technical terms that could present difficulties to a layman reader or to readers whose first language is not English.

Colour photos of first class quality are used throughout, together with well-designed colour diagrams and schematics that work well in illustrating content of text.

Each chapter has a short but helpful introduction to the topic being addressed. Contents of chapters are well laid out with clear headings and numbered for easy reference. A particularly useful feature is the summary of lessons learned at the end of each chapter. Comprehensive references for further reading are also included.

Although the focus is on the *Exxon Valdez* spill, the book is in fact an excellent introduction to the environmental issues raised by oil spills and is recommended reading for all with an interest in gaining a good understanding of the subject.

Details: Published July 2013 by Cambridge University Press

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USA: REPORT FINDS MIXED PROGRESS ON ADVANCING A RESEARCH AGENDA FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, AND SAFETY ASPECTS OF NANOMATERIALS; OVERSIGHT BY SINGLE AGENCY COULD OVERCOME BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTATION

While some progress has been made in advancing the nation's research agenda on the environmental, health, and safety aspects of engineered nanomaterials, little work has been done in implementing an integrated research strategy throughout the federal government, says a new congressionally requested report from the National Research Council. The report suggests that progress could be accelerated if a single agency with sufficient management and budgetary authority was designated to direct environmental, health, and safety research efforts and ensure implementation of a coordinated plan among the federal agencies that make up the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI).

The global market for nanotechnology is expected to exceed $3 trillion by 2015 and includes products that range from cosmetics to medical therapies to electronics. The unique characteristics and behaviors of nanomaterials and uncertainties regarding how they interact with biologic systems have spurred research on their potential risks to human health and the environment. However, despite an uptick in funding and peer-reviewed publication of research over the past decade, environmental, health, and safety research efforts are not keeping pace with the increasing and evolving applications of nanotechnology, and the potential effects of these materials on humans and ecosystems are still not fully understood.

A 2012 Research Council report presented a strategic approach for developing the research and scientific infrastructure needed to address the potential health and environmental risks of nanomaterials. It identified four high-priority research areas: quantifying and characterizing the origins of nanomaterial releases; understanding processes that affect exposure and hazard; nanomaterial interactions in complex systems ranging from subcellular to ecosystems; and an adaptive research and knowledge infrastructure for accelerating progress and providing rapid feedback to advance research. It also specified mechanisms important for implementation that include enhancing interagency coordination, providing for stakeholder engagement in the research strategy, conducting and communicating the results of research funded through public-private partnerships, and managing potential conflict of interest.

The committee that wrote the report developed a set of indicators in each category to serve as criteria for measuring progress. The new report, prepared by the same committee, uses these indicators to evaluate the progress of recent research efforts in the United States and the European Union. Given that the interval between the two reports was too short for substantial new research programs to be put in place and produce results, the committee instead examined trajectories of research and progress in developing the mechanisms needed to ensure effective implementation. Each indicator was classified as "green" for new activities or expected sustained progress, "yellow" for moderate or mixed progress, or "red" for minimal activity and few anticipated changes.

The report classifies just one indicator as green -- development of methods for detecting, characterizing, tracking, and monitoring nanomaterial transformations in simple, well-characterized media, which falls under the objective for an adaptive research and knowledge infrastructure. All other indicators for both research and implementation progress ranged from yellow to red.

In order to improve the level of progress and move the indicators toward green, the report offers specific actions and objectives for each research category. But the committee reiterates a conclusion from the first report: Accountability for implementation of a research strategy is hampered by the absence of an entity with sufficient management and budgetary authority to direct research efforts government-wide. In addition, the committee maintains that NNI would benefit from a clearer separation of authority and accountability for its environmental, health, and safety research enterprise in relation to its mandate to promote nanotechnology development and commercialization. Progress toward both of these indicators was classified as red.

The report concludes that more engaged and broadly reaching governance is needed for nanotechnology health and safety research. An important function for the organization that oversees the research will be to secure and maintain a sustained funding commitment over at least the next decade. The lead agency should also ensure that all stakeholders have access to a "knowledge commons" -- a collaborative environment for the development of methods, models, and materials and for the capture and dissemination of data. An integrated and well-coordinated program on national and global scales would help ensure that research findings provide the evidence needed to inform decisions so that potential health and environmental risks can be effectively managed and prevented.

The study was sponsored by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine are private, independent non-profit institutions that provide science, technology, and health policy advice under a congressional charter granted to NAS in 1863. The National Research Council is the principal operating agency of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering. For more information, visit http://national-academies.org. A committee roster follows.

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Publications (continued)

UK: HSE CHEMICAL CLASSIFCATION

A chemical is not just something used by scientists in laboratories.

Most people use chemicals in their home every day and many use them as part of their job. By 'chemicals' we mean single substances (such as acetone) or mixtures (sometimes called preparations) such as paints, inks glues and oils.

Most chemicals that are not dangerous if they are used properly and it is clear what to do if something goes wrong, such as a spillage. But some chemicals need more careful handling than others.

Knowing the potential for a chemical to cause harm either to people or the environment is the key to much of the current chemical legislation designed to supply, use and dispose of chemicals safely. The process that identifies the way chemicals can cause harm – the hazards – is called **classification**.

These web pages will help explain the laws on classification, the legal requirements that you may have to meet, and details of where you can find detailed guidance or where you can go for further advice.

- What is classification
- How classification works
- Harmonised classification and self-classification
- Classification and other chemical controls
- Classification of articles (objects)
- Confidentiality and using an alternative chemical name
- Poison centres

Health and Safety Executive Read more [Thanks to ADR Training UK]

Events

DATES FOR IMO OPRC-HNS TECHNICAL GROUP MEETING ANNOUNCED

The sixteenth session of the OPRC-HNS Technical Group will take place from 28 to 31 January 2014 at the IMO HQ in London

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USA: IOSC 2014 ON WATER AND AERIAL DEMONSTRATION - MAY 7, 2014

The theme of the IOSC 2014 On Water and Aerial Demonstration is "A Complete Spill Response System." The objective is to demonstrate oil spill response resources involving new and existing technology configured to increase the effectiveness of a response such as improved detection, tracking and increased encounter and recovery rates. Oil Spill Removal Organizations (OSROs), equipment manufacturers and distributors, and spill management consultants are invited to volunteer to participate in the demonstration.

The 45-minute demonstration will be held on the Savannah River in front of the Convention Center with refreshments and no schedule conflict with other IOSC sessions. Attendees can observe the narrated on water events directly and see the live feeds from the equipment in use on large monitors. The narration will include a description of the scenario and a brief description of the equipment included in our complete response system. The On Water and Aerial Demonstration is a great networking opportunity for conference attendees. The demonstration will follow a scripted simulated spill scenario beginning with a remote oil detection device that initiates an oil spill alert message with spill coordinates to the Responsible Party, spill management team, identified OSROs, and Coast Guard Sector or Captain of the Port (and interested IOSC attendees).

Demonstration volunteer participants should submit a description of their equipment and its capability and/or capacity on the attached application form no later than October 15, 2013. Participants are responsible for covering their own costs. An IOSC subcommittee will review all applications and make a final selection of equipment components that meet the needs of the demonstration and will operate within the complete response system we intend to demonstrate. Read more and access form

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CANADA: WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The World Conference on Disaster Management (WCDM) has now opened the Call for Papers. We are looking for expert speakers to participate in the 24th WCDM taking place June 15 - 18, 2014 in Toronto, Canada at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, North Building.

WCDM is proud to be the premier annual event for disaster management professionals, providing a global perspective on current issues and concerns in the industry.

Events (continued)

The 24th WCDM will bring delegates from over 35 countries within the fields of Emergency Management, Business Continuity, Emergency Response, Risk Management, IT Disaster Recovery, Disaster Management Research, Emergency Communications, Emergency Health, Security, HR, Environmental, Community Planning, as well as for the organizations which supply and service these professions. Further, WCDM is an ideal opportunity for academics and researchers to communicate and network with these practitioners.

For more detailed information or to submit an abstract, visit the conference website

UK: HUMAN FACTORS APPLICATION IN MAJOR HAZARD INDUSTRIES - 26-27 NOVEMBER 2013

This biennial conference, organised by the Energy Institute Human and Organisational Factors Committee and the Stichting Tripod Foundation, explores the practical application of human factors in the management of major accident hazards (MAH) in the energy and allied process industries.

The event will include special sessions on learning from incidents, supported by the Stichting Tripod Foundation, providing delegates with the opportunity to explore the use and development of Tripod and related methods for understanding and learning from incidents. More info

TURKEY: 18TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS

The 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols will take place in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 6 December 2013. More info

Training

NETHERLANDS: OIL & CHEMICAL SPILL RESPONSE COURSE

Organised by NHL Maritime Institute Willem Barentsz, 28 October – 1 November, 2013, the Oil and Chemical Training Course is “fine tuned” for people who professionally work in the field of emergency management on water and the coastline. For more information contact courses@miwb.nl

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: MANAGING THE INCIDENT SERIES DVDS

This eight DVD series is narrated by Greg Noll & Mike Hildebrand, two of the authors of the text by the same name. Titles are also available separately.

This series of training videos provides Technician Level & Command Level training for personnel who respond to hazardous materials incidents, as required by OSHA’s Hazwoper law and NFPA 472. Based on the highly-regarded manual, Hazardous Materials: Managing the Incident, this series of training videos is a valuable resource for fire fighters, hazmat teams, bomb squads, industrial emergency response teams and other emergency responders who may deal with unplanned hazardous materials leaks, spills or fire during the course of their work. More info

Products and Services

OCEANEYE™ - AERIAL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

The OceanEye™ system is a “lighter-than-air” tethered aerostat system that offers a 24/7 aerial surveillance solution for demanding maritime scenarios.

With its compact and robust design, the system is highly mobile and efficiently deployed, downsizing crew requirements and drastically reducing both cost and HSE-risk profiles of maritime aerial surveillance operations.

Equipped with high resolution (EO/IR) imaging and AIS (Automatic Identification System) receiver, the situation on the surface can be monitored from a proprietary a handheld user terminal. With customized software this terminal gives the user an aerial camera view and geo-located AIS overlay over the spill area.

Compact and lightweight, OceanEye™ can be rapidly deployed from crafts as small as fishing boats or as large as oil spill response vessels (OSRVs). Inland, OceanEye™ can be operated from the bed of a pickup truck. Less expensive and more adaptable in inclement weather than fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, drones or satellite sensing systems. More info

Company news

ELASTEC/AMERICAN MARINE APPOINTED AS THE EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE FOR MARITIME ROBOTICS, INVENTOR OF THE OCEANEYE™

See also Products and Services (above). Elastec/American Marine has produced an illustrated brochure about the system. Just click here to see this and learn more http://www.mynewsletterbuilder.com/email/newsletter/1411853465

VIKOMA AWARDED CONTRACT FOR WEIR BOOM OIL SPILL CONTAINMENT AND RECOVERY SYSTEM BY EMSA (THE EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY)

Vikoma International Limited, has announced that it has been awarded a contract by EMSA (The European Maritime Safety Agency) for an oil spill containment and recovery system, known as the Weir Boom 180

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The Weir Boom, which can collect up to 180 cubic metres per hour of pollutant has been selected to be deployed on the EMSA Stand-by Oil Spill Response Vessel 'Enterprise', an Offshore Supply Vessel (OSV) based in the Port of Varna in Bulgaria and operated by Bon Marine International.

The EMSA Stand-by Oil Spill Response Vessels are commercial vessels which can be rapidly converted to oil pollution response activities. The contracted vessels have large recovered oil storage capacities and an oil containment and recovery system.

Peter Tyler, Managing Director of Vikoma, said: "Vikoma is proud to be working with EMSA and its contracted partners, in the supply of our unique Weir Boom system which, with its unequalled wave following characteristics, will operate in the Black Sea area, from its base in Varna."

The Weir Boom system itself, comprises of an 300m deflector oil pollution containment boom and an integrated weir boom section of 70.5m which contains 3 weir pumps, spaced at 6m intervals, each capable of collecting 60 cubic metres per hour of oil. The boom is supplied on an hydraulically driven deck reel and includes a deck mounted oil recovery pump, hydraulic air fan, water pump and 2 x 105kW ATEX zoned power packs all housed within a purpose constructed 20ft shipment and storage container.

More info: http://www.vikoma.com/marine-products/containment-booms/weir-boom [Vikoma International Ltd. Is a Corporate Member of ISCO]

DEEPWATER SUBSEA WATERJET TECHNOLOGY MANUFACTURER CHUKAR WATERJET EXHIBITING AT OTC BRASIL 29-31 OCTOBER IN RIO DE JANEIRO

Operable at depths up to 3000 meters (10,000 feet), Chukar's deepwater subsea waterjet system has numerous applications for deepwater emergency response operations, underwater salvage operations, and rapid de-mobilization operations. It can cut steel up to 250 mm (10 inches) thick and quickly blast away concrete weight coatings, corrosion and marine growth at pressures up to 3800 bar (55,000 psi).

Waterjetting equipment also may be used to provide turbulence in a stream of methanol for hydrate remediation, an application Chukar developed in emergency response to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, when the company was asked to rapidly manufacture a system to clear a clogged containment system 1500 meters underwater. More info [Chukar Waterjet is a Corporate Member of ISCO]

The ISCO Newsletter is published weekly by the International Spill Control Organisation, a not-for-profit organisation supported by members in 45 countries. ISCO is dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, promoting technical development and professional competency, and to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisations. ISCO is managed by an elected executive committee members of which are **Mr David Usher** (President, USA), **Mr John McMurtrie** (Secretary, UK), **Mr Marc Shaye** (USA), **Mr Dan Sheehan** (USA), **M. Jean Claude Sainlos** (France), **Mr Kerem Kemerli** (Turkey), **Mr Paul Pisani** (Malta),**Mr Simon Rickaby** (UK),**Mr Li Guobin** (China), and **Captain Bill Boyle** (UK). The Executive Committee is assisted by the non-executive ISCO Council composed of the following national representatives – **Mr John Wardrop** (Australia), **Mr Namig Gandilov** (Azerbaijan), **Mr John Cantlie** (Brazil), **Dr Merv Fingas** (Canada), **Captain Davy T. S. Lau** (China, Hong Kong), **Mr Li Guobin** (China, Mainland), **Mr Darko Domovic** (Croatia), **Eng. Ashraf Sabet** (Egypt), **Mr Torbjorn Hedrenius** (Estonia),**Mr Pauli Einarsson** (Faroe Islands), **Prof. Harilaous Psaraftis** (Greece), **Captain D. C. Sekhar** (India), **Mr Dan Arbel** (Israel),**Mr Sanjay Gandhi** (Kenya), **Mr Joe Braun** (Luxembourg), **Chief Kola Agboke** (Nigeria), **Mr Jan Allers** (Norway), **Capt. Chris Richards** (Singapore), **Mr Anton Moldan** (South Africa), **Dr Ali Saeed Al Ameri** (UAE), **Mr Kevin Miller** (UK), and **Dr Manik Sardessai** (USA). More info on Executive Committee and Council Members can be found on the ISCO website at www.spillcontrol.org

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