



# ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

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## USA: DEEPWATER HORIZON – STATIC KILL LOOKING GOOD

*GRAND ISLE, La. - Contract workers wearing protective gear retrieve oiled sorbent boom from Barataria Bay, Grand Isle, La. August 6, 2010.*

As this Newsletter went to press last week, the static kill was imminent. This went ahead as anticipated and on August 6 National Incident Commander, Admiral Thad Allen, advised “We completed cementing the well from the top. Over the last 24 hours, several things have occurred. They’ve put a layer of fluid on top of the cement and then put more mud on top of that to press it down to help add pressure to help cure the cement. That’ll be going on for 24 hours through today. They will then start pressure testing to make sure the cement is set and is holding in the well”



“We are unequivocally committed to completing the relief wells, drilling into the annulus and submitting the annulus as the bottom portion of this kill. We will do a ranging run over the next 24 hours, and then we’ll drill approximately 30 feet further down into the well, and between the 8<sup>th</sup> of August and the 13<sup>th</sup> of August, there’ll be three patterns where we will drill 30 feet, do a ranging run. That’s putting the wire down the hole and sensing where the pipe is at on the Macondo well, and we expect to be somewhere around the annulus around the 13<sup>th</sup> of August, and the drilling portion into the annulus is expected to occur somewhere between the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> of August”.

“In areas where there is no oil, we are picking up the boom, and we are decontaminating it. There’s some areas where boom was pushed up into marshlands because of Tropical Storm Bonnie. We continue to recover that as well. But in general, as we get to a point where boom is not needed in a certain location, we will pick that boom up, get it ready for redeployment and stage it but not deploy it unless it’s absolutely necessary”.

## CHINA & RUSSIA: FOLLOW-UP TO CHINESE LOSS OF CHEMICAL BARRELS



August 2 - Moscow has urged Beijing to elaborate on an incident on Wednesday, when hundreds of barrels of chemicals were reportedly washed into the Songhua River in north-east China, hit by severe floods.

The Songhua River is the largest tributary of the the Amur River, which forms the border between the Russian Far East and Northeastern China. In this connection, many Russian environmentalists have understandably voiced

concern about the incident's potential environmental fall-out. They pointed to the year of 2005, when more than 100 tons of chemicals were washed into the Songhua River, leading to a major man-made disaster in the area.

At the time, Russian and Chinese ecologists agreed to create an early warning mechanism, which they said could help contribute to environmental protection of the Amur River.

The topic was also on the table of last month's session of the Russian-Chinese Environmental Commission, which was held in the Russian Far Eastern city of Khabarovsk. For his part, Russia's Natural Resources Minister Yury Trutnev pointed to the fact that it was Khabarovsk, located in an area adjacent to the Amur River, which hosted the session. [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group, for providing the link to this report]

Read the complete report at: <http://english.ruvr.ru:80/2010/07/30/13933461.html> Listen to commentary at: <http://english.ruvr.ru/2010/07/30/13933461.html>

## **EUROPE: TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS**

The Council of the EU decided on 26 July not to oppose adoption by the Commission of a directive adapting to scientific and technical progress an existing directive on inland transport of dangerous goods (doc. 12040/10). The draft directive amends the directive's annexes in the light of a bi-annual update of international agreements on transport of dangerous goods by road, rail and inland waterways. The new provisions will apply as from 1 January 2011, with a transitional period up to 30 June 2011. The Commission directive is subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. Under that procedure, the Council can oppose an act that exceeds the implementing powers of the Commission, is not compatible with the aim or content of the basic instrument or does not respect the EU's principles of subsidiarity or proportionality. The Council having given its consent, the Commission may now adopt the directive, unless the European Parliament objects. [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group, for forwarding this news item] <http://www.europolitics.info/sectorial-policies/transport-of-dangerous-goods-art278884-46.html>

## **CALL FOR SUSPENSION OF DEEPWATER DRILLING IN MEDITERRANEAN**

*The Financial Times* has reported that plans by BP to start drilling for oil and gas off Libya within weeks have prompted growing calls for a moratorium on deepwater operations while Mediterranean states assess the environmental impact in light of the Gulf of Mexico disaster.

Stefania Prestigiacomo, Italy's environment minister, has become the first senior official within the European Union to suggest that a moratorium might be appropriate while the Mediterranean's 21 littoral states find a "common voice". Plans for deepwater drilling in the confined waters of the Mediterranean "give rise to serious concern", she told the *Financial Times* in written comments.

Referring to a proposal by Günther Oettinger, the EU's energy commissioner, for a moratorium within EU waters, she added: "A moratorium could be a right approach for potentially dangerous drilling . . . to give Europe time to define a new and specific strategy for the Mediterranean especially in light of the risk exposed by the Deepwater Horizon spill."

Malta stands at particular risk from the deep water drilling project, being the closest EU country to the drill site. In fact, Malta lies just 515 kilometres from the site where drilling, which will be deeper than the Gulf of Mexico well, is expected to begin within weeks.

BP confirmed on Sunday night that it had a rig in place preparing for deepwater drilling in Libya's Gulf of Sirte, but that no firm date had been set for the start of drilling. The company said last week that it would begin drilling the first of five wells in the area "within weeks". The well is to be about 200 metres deeper than the Macondo well drilled by the Deepwater Horizon rig which exploded on 20th April killing 11 workers and causing the most serious environmental disaster in US waters.

Malta itself, through a contract with Heritage Oil, also plans to begin drilling later this year, with hopes of a potentially lucrative 500 million barrel find within Maltese territorial waters. Heritage Oil gave this year's exploratory drilling a chance of success between 20 and 25 per cent. Read the complete article at: <http://www.maltamediaonline.com/?p=28454>

## **USA: SPILL PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND COUNTERMEASURE (SPCC) PLANS; PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

EPA proposes to amend the date by which certain facilities must prepare or amend and implement their SPCC Plans. The Agency is proposing to provide an additional year for facilities, with a new compliance date of November 10, 2011. EPA is not proposing to extend the compliance date for drilling, production and workover facilities that are offshore or that have an offshore component, or

for onshore facilities required to submit Facility Response Plans (FRPs). Comments must be received by August 18, 2010.

## **NEW VESSELS JOIN EMSA'S OIL SPILL RESPONSE FLEET IN UK AND FINLAND**



The acceptance test of the bunker vessel OPRV *Sara* was successfully conducted by EMSA officials on 14-15 July in Portland (UK). Contracted from the Belgian Company *Aegean Bunkers at Sea*, the *Sara* will reinforce EMSA's response capacity in the Atlantic area, specifically the English Channel, adding storage capacity of 6,650 m<sup>3</sup>. Meantime, on 13-14 July in Helsinki, the icebreaker *Kontio* also passed its acceptance test. Contracted from the Finnish Company *Arctia*

*Icebreaking Oy, Kontio* will operate in the Northern Baltic Sea, with a storage capacity of 2,033 m<sup>3</sup>. Source: EMSA Newsletter for August 2010. <http://www.emsa.europa.eu>

## **USA: LEGISLATION SPURRED BY OIL SPILL**

Following the Deepwater Horizon explosion in the [Gulf of Mexico](#), U.S. lawmakers have introduced more than 80 bills related to the oil spill. With the runaway well now capped and Congress nearing the August recess, many of the bills have yet to see action. Following are highlights of the legislation that has moved out of committees.

### **DRILLING REGULATION *Outer Continental Shelf Reform Act of 2010 (S.3516)***

Sponsor: Jeff Bingaman, Senate Democrat from New [Mexico](#); Lisa Murkowski, Senate Republican from Alaska; Byron Dorgan, Senate Democrat from North Dakota; Debbie Stabenow, Senate Democrat from Michigan. Status: Approved by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee - Revamps the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act; Broadens Interior Department's role in ensuring environmental and safety standards are met before oil companies receive offshore drilling leases and permits

### ***Blowout Prevention Act of 2010 (H.R.5626)***

Sponsor: Henry Waxman, House Democrat from California; Edward Markey, House Democrat from Massachusetts; Bart Stupak, House Democrat from Michigan Status: Approved by House Committee on Energy and Commerce - Expands regulation of all "high-risk" wells, both offshore and onshore; Allows citizen lawsuits against oil producers; Prohibits drilling without blowout preventers

### ***Consolidated Land, Energy and Aquatic Resources (CLEAR) Act of 2009 (H.R. 3534).***

Sponsor: Nick Rahall, House Democrat from Virginia. Status: Approved by House Committee on Natural Resources - Prohibits oil companies with poor safety records from getting new offshore drilling leases; Permits and leases would be denied for federal law violations such as worker deaths, large fines; Introduces specific guidelines to use of oil and gas royalties.

### **LIABILITY *Big Oil Bailout Prevention Liability Act (S.3305)***

Sponsor: Robert Menendez, Senate Democrat from New Jersey; 23 co-sponsors. Status: Approved by Senate Environment and Public Works Committee - Removes liability cap for offshore drilling making oil companies responsible for all cleanup costs and damages; Requires detailed oil spill response plans and predictions of worst-case scenario impacts from oil companies

### ***Oil Spill Accountability and Environmental Protection Act of 2010 (H.R.5629)***

Sponsor: James Oberstar, House Democrat from Minnesota. Status: Approved by House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure - Removes the financial liability cap for oil companies; Would require all oil rigs operated within 200 miles off the U.S. coast be owned by American citizens

### **SPILL PREVENTION AND CLEANUP *Department of Interior Research and Technologies for Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act (S. 3515)***

Sponsor: Jeanne Shaheen, Senate Democrat from New Hampshire; Jeff Bingaman, Senate Democrat from New [Mexico](#); Mark Udall, Senate Democrat from Colorado. Status: Approved by Senate Environment and Public Works Committee - Requires the Interior Department to carry out in-



depth research on oil spill prevention and response technology; Directs Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a pilot program with demonstration in deep water; Provides the program with \$25 million from a trust fund.

**SPILL INVESTIGATION Subpoena power for national commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling (H.R.5481)**

Sponsor: Lois Capps, House Democrat from California. Status: Approved by the House of Representatives - Authorizes President Barack Obama's oil spill investigation commission to subpoena witnesses and records with approval from the U.S. Attorney General; Allows Attorney General to prosecute those disobeying subpoenas.

(Compiled by Alina Selyukh; Editing by Sofina Mirza-Reid) <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE66M3Y720100724>

**TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION NEWS SURVEY AND AUGUST ISSUE TECHDIRECT**

The June 1-30, 2010 *Technology Innovation News Survey* has been posted to the CLU-IN web site. The *Survey* contains market/commercialization information; reports on demonstrations, feasibility studies and research; and other news relevant to the hazardous waste community interested in technology development. The latest survey is available at: <http://www.clu-in.org/products/tins/>

The main purpose of the USA EPA Newsletter "TechDirect" is to identify new technical, policy and guidance resources related to the assessment and remediation of contaminated soil, sediments and ground water. TechDirect can be accessed at <http://www.clu-in.org:80/techdirect/td082010.htm>

**USA: GARRIDO NAMED PRESIDENT OF T&T BISSO**

T&T BISSO, an industry leader in vessel emergency response, salvage and marine firefighting services, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mauricio Garrido as president. In his new position, Garrido will undertake the direct oversight of T&T BISSO's worldwide business activities as well as the hands-on oversight of the company's global offices.



Garrido joined T&T BISSO in 2008 as general manager of the Americas and Europe. He also serves as vice president of Salvage and Emergency Response and as director of Latin American Business Development for BISSO MARINE. Previously, Garrido worked for Titan Maritime as managing director – Americas. During his career, he was executive vice president for Resolve Marine acting as project manager and salvage master, worked as a casualty surveyor for Scandinavian underwriters and served as a naval architect and marine engineer for the National Transportation and Safety Board and the Military Sealift Command. Garrido is president of the American Salvage Association. He graduated from SUNY Maritime College with a bachelor of engineering degree in Naval Architecture and holds a U.S. Coast Guard unlimited engineer's license. Garrido is a native of Peru. Read more at: <http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/garrido-named-president-tt-bisso/>

**NOSCA – 17<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL SEMINAR**



The Norwegian Oil Spill Control Association (NOSCA) has just released the programme for the 2010 Oil Spill Seminar. Main areas of focus include the use of remote sensing in oil spill surveillance and operations, full coverage of BP's "Deepwater Horizon" oil spill clean-up, and opportunity to observe a major oil spill response exercise (offshore, inshore and onshore operations). Early registration is advised. You can download the form at: <http://www.ukspill.org/nosca-registration-form.pdf>

Details of the programme are at: <http://www.nosca.no/index.php?eid=24&mid=29>

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this Newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. If an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in the next issue of this Newsletter.