



USA: DEEPWATER HORIZON - BP, U.S. OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE HOW TO FINALLY PLUG GULF WELL

BP Plc and U.S. officials are evaluating how to proceed with a relief well that is intended to make sure BP's damaged well will never leak again. BP has been ordered by U.S. officials to finish the relief well after pressure tests failed to prove there's no further risk of oil leaking from the well, National Incident Commander Thad Allen said yesterday in a press conference in Schriever, Louisiana. BP and government scientists are reviewing how to move forward after determining that about 1,000 barrels of oil are trapped in the Macondo well by a cement plug poured from the top last week.

"The relief well will be finished and we will kill the well," Allen said. "The question is how to do that."

Injecting mud and cement from the bottom, as had been planned, may force oil out the top and wreck the existing seal, creating a new route to the surface for oil and gas, Allen said during a conference call. BP stopped the leak July 15 after the well gushed an estimated 4.9 million barrels, making it the world's largest offshore accidental oil spill. BP pumped cement into the top of the well last week. The pressure test indicates the cement plugged the well's central core, or production casing, then flowed into the oil reservoir and back up to plug the annulus, a space between the production casing and the outer casing that runs all the way to the top of the well. Read more: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-08-14/bp-u-s-officials-to-determine-how-to-finally-plug-gulf-well.html>

INDIA: MAJOR OIL SPILL FEARS AS SHIPS COLLIDE OFF MUMBAI COAST



August 7 - A cargo ship grounded at a worrying 25-degree tilt and discharging three to four tonnes of oil by the hour after a collision with another vessel barely five nautical miles off the city coast in the morning kept the navy, coast guard and port officials on high alert all of Saturday. Around 9.50 am, Panamanian container vessel MSC Chitra, while leaving JNPT Nhava Sheva port, collided with the inbound MV Khalijia-3, which was involved in another mishap off Mumbai on July 18. It had been recently repaired and crew and salvagers were taking it to the port when the collision took place in the vicinity of the Prongs Reef Lighthouse, said coast guard officials, adding

that the situation has become very serious. Read the complete report at: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Major-oil-spill-fears-as-ships-collide-off-city/articleshow/6273458.cms#ixzz0whVr4LXW>

Update: August 12 - Oil escaped from two of the ship's fuel tanks, and containers fell off as the vessel listed, posing a navigational hazard. As many as 31 of the 1,219 containers on board the MSC Chitra held hazardous chemicals including pesticides, PTI news agency reported. An

estimated 400 to 500 tons of fuel oil may have spilled from the vessel which was carrying 2,662 tons. Read more: <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/news/339129.harbour-reopens-oil-spill.html>

AUSTRALIA: OIL PRODUCERS IN AUSTRALIA TO AGREE TO SPILL PLAN, REVIEW SAYS

BHP Billiton Ltd. and Woodside Petroleum Ltd. are among oil producers in Australia that are set to sign a pact to provide aid if there was an oil spill in the nation's waters, the Australian Financial Review reported.

The agreement, planned after recent major oil spills including the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, will be the first formal procedure for dealing with a spill, the newspaper reported. The pact will allow equipment and personnel to be gathered if there was a spill, without having to organize costs, it said. More: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-08-08/oil-producers-in-australia-to-agree-to-spill-plan-review-says.html>

USA: ADM. THAD ALLEN ON WHAT CAN BE LEARNED FROM THE GULF OIL SPILL

An interesting article in the Washington Post (August 10) - The administration was getting hammered for a slow and disorganized response to the environmental disaster, and the president wanted to know, then and there, what resources Allen needed to get the job done. Obama made clear, in Allen's words, that "there would be no do-overs." Read the article at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/09/AR2010080904869.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>

USA: THE LEGACY OF THE GULF SPILL: WHAT TO EXPECT FOR THE FUTURE?

The Gulf of Mexico's capacity to recover from previous environmental assaults — especially the 1979 Ixtoc explosion — provides encouragement about the prospects for its post-Deepwater future. But scientists remain worried about the BP spill's long-term effects on the health of the Gulf and its sea life.

"In June 1979, workers on the the Ixtoc I oil platform in the Bay of Campeche attempted to seal the exploratory well on the sea floor 160 feet below. A sudden burst of pressure sent a volatile bubble of oil and natural gas up the pipe, where it ignited and exploded. The burning rig collapsed and fell into the Gulf of Mexico, where the busted wellhead had started spewing oil. The flow could not be stopped until the following March — 290 days later. During that time, approximately 3 million barrels flowed into the Gulf, according the well's owner, Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex), the Mexican state oil company, though that was likely an underestimate. The resulting spill washed onto nearby beaches, coral reefs, and mangrove swamps and spread northward, hitting a stretch of the Texas coast."

Read this interesting article by John McQuaid at: <http://e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2302>

BULGARIA, ROMANIA: OIL SPILLS DETECTED OFF BLACK SEA COAST

Several oil slicks have been detected in the Black Sea off the coast of Bulgaria and Romania via satellite monitoring by the BlackSea-online.com project. "Significant oil spills were identified in Bulgarian and Romanian shelf waters, in particular near cities of Varna and Constanta," states the report of the non-commercial monitoring organization.

The total area of the oil slicks is reported to be more than ten square kilometers. The distance from them to the Bulgarian and Romanian coasts is about 30 km. According to the experts of the environmental project, the pollution has the character of marine spills but its precise origin is unclear. The spill are dated to July 19, 2010. The satellite images show four major oil slicks, three of which are up north and closer to the Romanian Black Sea coast, and only one of which is near Varna. Read more: http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=118831 [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group, for providing the link to this report]

USA: GREAT LAKES COMMISSION D9 PLANNING WORKSHOP

Member of ISCO Executive Committee, Marc K. Shaye, represented ISCO as a speaker at the planning workshop held over August 11-12. Highlights included discussion of initiative to develop an operational risk assessment model which may track some of the concepts now applied in the Process Safety Management regulatory approach which is being adopted more and more and is comparable to the ISO standards approach. Marc reviewed ISCO's history, its members and its objectives with those in attendance and advised that the US Coast Guard recognizes ISCO and its members as a strong resource for response and planning in the Great Lakes.

USA: BP UNVEILS 'SAND SHARK' TO DEEP CLEAN OIL-STAINED BEACHES

BP PLC on Tuesday unveiled its new beach cleaning machine in Orange Beach. The \$300,000 prototype combines modified versions of a machine used in road construction to collect aggregate and a pull-behind sifter normally employed in brick and mortar making.

Promising a deep cleaning of the northern Gulf Coast's oil-stained beaches, BP PLC on Tuesday unveiled the latest implement in its efforts: A \$300,000 beach cleaning rig that combines machinery typical found on highway construction sites and in brick making.



Two months in the making, the so-called Sand Shark is wider than the beach cleaning machines that have been scouring local shorelines this summer. It's also able to collect smaller tarballs and can extract bits of oil from up to 18 inches below the beach's surface. To read more, click on - http://blog.al.com/live/2010/08/bp_unveils_sand_shark_to_deep.html

USA: FMC TO TEAM WITH UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS INVESTIGATING BIOREMEDIATION APPROACHES TO THE GULF COAST OIL SPILL

FMC Corporation has teamed with a number of university researchers to investigate augmented bioremediation of oil from the Deepwater Horizon incident in coastal wetlands and marshes in the Gulf of Mexico. The Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton State University, Texas A & M Galveston Dept. of Marine Biology, Tarleton State Dept. of Engineering and FMC have formed a research group that will combine naturally occurring microbes with nutrients and PermeOx Plus®, FMC's engineered oxygen-releasing chemistry, to "supercharge" the bacteria for the aerobic digestion of the weathered oil. The team will investigate efficiencies and biodegradation rates of various commercially-available product combinations and will monitor short and long term ecological effects of the treatments on flora and fauna of these sensitive wetland areas. Read more: <http://www.environmental-expert.com/resultEachPressRelease.aspx?cid=25639&codi=187881>

USA: NTSB PROBES ROLLOVERS BY HAZMAT TRUCKS - NHTSA: NEW TECHNOLOGY CAN PREVENT TRUCK ROLLOVERS



October 2009 crash in Indianapolis. (WISH)

August 3 - Stability control systems already on the market for tractor trailer trucks — including tank trucks hauling hazardous loads — could prevent nearly 3,500 rollover accidents and save an estimated 106 lives a year if they were required on trucks, a federal safety official said Tuesday.

Nathaniel Beuse, director of crash avoidance standards at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, said his estimate was based on tests of the stability systems the agency conducted with researchers from the University of

Michigan. The study found almost 4,400 injuries a year could be prevented with the systems.

Stability control systems employ sensors that tell the vehicle's onboard computer when weight is shifting or is about to shift. The computer automatically applies brakes to one or more wheels to compensate until balance is restored. There are several kinds of stability control systems. It would cost about \$1,200 to retrofit an existing tank truck with the most effective and expensive of the systems, a panel of technical experts told the board. The technology adds less than \$1,000 to the price of a new truck, they said. Read the complete text of this article at: http://www.wavy.com/dpps/news/us_news/midwest/ntsb-probes-rollovers-by-hazmat-tanker-trucks-nt10-jgr_3524981 [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group for providing this news report]

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL SPILL RESPONSE

A Power Point presentation on responding to pesticide spills. Released by Minnesota. Department of Agriculture. <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/news/publications/chemfert/spillresponse.ppt>

IRELAND: ISAA ALL-IRELAND SCHEME 2010 TRAINING DAYS EVENT WILL BE HELD AT CASTLE ARCHDALE COUNTRY PARK, NR ENNISKILLEN, N. IRELAND ON WEDNESDAY 15TH & THURSDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2010



This year, Day One will be dedicated to the Inland Oil Spill Training Course which has now been expanded to include an Introduction to Shoreline Clean-up. The classroom part of the course will be in the forenoon with the practical exercises taking place in the afternoon.

The programme for Day Two is not yet quite finalised but the provisional programme is expected to include practical application of bioremediation techniques, the role of the loss adjustor in oil spill events, waste management in the context of oil spill response and best practice in managing land contamination.

The course dinner on Wednesday evening will be held during a cruise on the beautiful Lough Erne aboard the MV Lady of the Lake. The after dinner speaker will be Captain Jack Richmond and this promises to be a very enjoyable event.

The final programme and booking form will be sent by email to stakeholders on the ISAA mailing list within the next day or two. If you are not on the ISAA mailing list and would like to receive more information about the event, please contact the Administrator at john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

QATAR: 6th ANNUAL HSE FORUM IN OIL, GAS AND PETROCHEMICALS

This event will take place over 25-27 October, 2010 under the Patronage of H.E Abdulla Bin Khaled Al-Qahtani, Minister of Health, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Health, Qatar.

The programme will be of interest to HSE professionals including those involved in oil and HNS contingency planning and emergency response. Information on the programme and speakers: <http://www.fleminggulf.com/oil-gas/middle-east/6th-annual-hse-forum-in-oil-gas-petrochemicals>

UK: ENVIRONMENTAL & CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES CONFERENCE



It is not too radical a proposition to say that Scotland is on the brink of a Green Revolution. Over the next five years tens of thousands of new jobs are expected to be created under an

exciting new strategy to invest in green technology. The forward thinking vision from the Scottish Government and their partners is of a huge expansion in businesses developing state-of-the-art technologies to tackle such things as pollution, manage waste and reduce carbon. Learn more at: <http://greenrevolution.holyrood.com/>

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.