



# ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

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Today

## USA: DEEPWATER HORIZON – BP TO REMOVE FAILED BOP FROM WELL

August 28<sup>th</sup> - BP is preparing to remove the failed blowout preventer and capping stack from atop **its damaged Macondo oil well in the Gulf of Mexico** today and Sunday, National Incident Commander Thad Allen said. The device itself could be removed on Monday or Tuesday and replaced with another blowout preventer on Wednesday, barring bad weather or any mechanical obstacles, Allen said.

The blowout preventer is being replaced with one that will better withstand an increase in pressure when the well is pumped with mud and cement via a relief well next month.

Allen also said Friday that **BP's attempt to "fish" three pieces of pipe out of the blowout preventer before it is replaced has failed**. "We've come to the conclusion that any more attempts at fishing are probably not going to result in success," Allen said. "This is due to the apparent fragility of the pipe. It keeps breaking and falling off to the side."

The bottom kill calls for pumping the damaged well with mud and cement, via a relief well, at 18,000 feet below the water's surface. Although oil has not flowed inside the well since it was stuffed from the top with mud and cement this month, the relief well is considered the final step in plugging the well.

Allen said the BP crews are still on pace to intercept the Macondo well with the relief well on Sept. 7 or 8. It would take a 96 hours from that point to seal the well permanently.

Read the complete text of this report at: [http://www.nola.com/news/gulf-oil-spill/index.ssf/2010/08/bp\\_to\\_removed\\_failed\\_blowout\\_p.html](http://www.nola.com/news/gulf-oil-spill/index.ssf/2010/08/bp_to_removed_failed_blowout_p.html)

## NIGERIA: OUTRAGE AT UN DECISION TO EXONERATE SHELL FOR OIL POLLUTION IN NIGER DELTA

*Oil pipelines in Okrika, near Port Harcourt. The UNEP denies it has been influenced by Shell, which paid for its \$10m, three-year study. Photograph: Ed Kashi*

A three-year investigation by the [United Nations](#) will almost entirely exonerate [Royal Dutch Shell](#) for 40 years of [oil](#) pollution in the Niger delta, causing outrage among communities who have long campaigned to force the multinational to clean up its spills and pay compensation.



The \$10m (£6.5m) investigation by the UN environment programme (UNEP), paid for by Shell, will say that only 10% of oil pollution in Ogoniland has been caused by equipment failures and company

negligence, and concludes that the rest has come from local people illegally stealing oil and sabotaging company pipelines.

The shock disclosure was made by Mike Cowing, the head of a UN team of 100 people who have been studying environmental damage in the region.

Cowing said that the [300 known oil spills in the Ogoniland region of the delta caused massive damage](#), but added that 90% of the spills had been caused by "bunkering" gangs trying to steal oil. These are the first few lines of an interesting article in the Guardian Newspaper. You can read the complete article at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/aug/22/shell-niger-delta-un-investigation>

## **PAKISTAN: MUZAFFARGARH OIL SPILL THREATENS ENVIRONMENT**

An oil spill in Muzaffargarh district has gone largely unreported even though raging floodwaters washed away thousands of tons of oil and chemical stored in the district's three major oil depots, posing a threat to the environment, *The Express Tribune* has learnt. The oily water is feared to spread across large swathes of land and could travel right up to the Arabian Sea, leaving the ecosystem of the area flooded, land damaged and bruised.

According to data gathered from a district official, there are three big oil storage facilities located in the district. PSO's Mehmood Kot depot is the main source of supply for diesel, kerosene and lubricants to all the bulk supply depots in Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. Lalpir depot is the other facility with a capacity to stock 61,000 tons of fuel oil and 9,000 tons of diesel oil. It feeds Kot Addu Power Station and AES Lalpir Power Generation. Parco, the nation's largest oil refinery, also maintains a big storage facility in Muzaffargarh, supplying petrol, diesel, kerosene and lubricants across the country. The official said the refinery also stocked a large quantity of different types of chemicals in its storage tanks. Read more: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/42034/muzaffargarh-oil-spill-threatens-environment/>

## **UK: NORTH SEA OIL SPILLS SOAR: WATCHDOG**

The number of North Sea oil spills soared in 2009/10, a British watchdog said on Tuesday as it warned the energy sector to "up its game".

Independent regulator the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) said the offshore oil and gas industry had been warned about its safety record as new statistics showed "unplanned hydrocarbon releases" up by more than a third year-on-year.

It comes as the industry faces heightened scrutiny worldwide in the wake of the recent massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

"I am particularly disappointed, and concerned, that major and significant hydrocarbon releases are up by more than a third on last year," Steve Walker, head of HSE's offshore division, said in a statement.

"This is a key indicator of how well the offshore industry is managing its major accident potential, and it really must up its game to identify and rectify the root causes of such events."

The HSE said that hydrocarbon releases jumped by 42 percent in 2009/10 compared with 2008/09.

Read more: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iEzDgcA8yvs36dD5-FR6d1c-mlrg>

## **USA: UNDERSEA OIL PLUME VANISHES IN GULF, DEGRADED BY PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN BUG**

For nearly a month, scientists sampling the site of a deepwater plume stretching southwest from BP PLC's failed well in the Gulf have been foiled. Their sensors have gone silent. Where once a vibrant -- if diffuse -- cloud of oil stretched for miles, 3,600 feet below the surface, there is now only ocean, and what seems to be the debris of a bacterial feeding frenzy.

"For the last three weeks, we haven't been able to detect the deepwater plume at all," said Terry Hazen, a microbiologist and oil spill expert at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory who has had a clutch of researchers monitoring the Gulf since late May. The disappearance is backed up by government sampling data. The plume is simply gone. And Hazen knows why. "This all fits with the fact that the bugs have degraded the oil," he said. Read more: <http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/08/24/24greenwire-undersea-oil-plume-vanishes-in-gulf-degraded-b-87391.html>

## **USA: MIT ROBOTS SELF CLEAN OIL SPILLS**

Leave it to the good folk at MIT to come up with this - researchers at this institution for higher learning have developed a robotic prototype that can autonomously navigate the surface of the ocean to collect surface oil and process it on site. This robot, called Seaswarm, could come in quite useful in oil spill situations, especially should we ever see another one on the magnitude of the BP spill this past summer.

MIT said said this fleet of robotic vehicles make use of a conveyor belt covered with a thin nanowire mesh to absorb oil. The mesh, developed by associate professor Francesco Stellacci, "can absorb up to twenty times its own weight in oil while repelling water. By heating up the material, the oil can be removed and burnt locally and the nanofabric can be reused." One robot alone is 16 feet in length and seven feet wide, using solar panels for its power source. It is said Seaswarm could potentially just be put out to sea in an oil spill situation and left for weeks to clean up the mess. Read more: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUS125711544920100826>

## **USA: CHEMICAL SPILL RESPONSE TRAINING**

Chemical spill response teams are deployed to clean up oil spills and other hazardous waste spills. These emergency responders are first required to undergo extensive safety and procedural training before handling any chemical waste.

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) has established a chemical response training program based on the Hazardous Waste [Operations](#) and Emergency Response standard, or HAZWOPER. Chemical spill responders are required to complete 40 hours of HAZWOPER training before they can receive an official certification.

Chemical response workers can further their own education with practice scenarios for emergency situations. Although first responders are required to follow the Occupational Health and Safety Administration's standard training, these practice scenarios provide supplemental training and valuable experience.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) encourages emergency responders to continue their basic chemical spill training with advanced workshops. These workshops are an annual requirement to maintain competency and update workers on new chemical response methods. Read more: [Chemical Spill Response Training | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/facts_6897003_chemical-spill-response-training.html#ixzz0xz4kB6xf)  
[http://www.ehow.com/facts\\_6897003\\_chemical-spill-response-training.html#ixzz0xz4kB6xf](http://www.ehow.com/facts_6897003_chemical-spill-response-training.html#ixzz0xz4kB6xf)

## **USA: SPILL PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND COUNTERMEASURE RULE UPDATE**

With all the attention the Gulf of Mexico oil spill has been receiving lately, little room is left for other headline grabbers. As was expected, the EPA issued a Federal Register notice on August 3 proposing an extension to the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) compliance deadline. Specifically, this proposed SPCC rule amendment extends the dates in 40 CFR §112.3 by which the owners or operators of certain SPCC regulated facilities must prepare or amend and implement an SPCC Plan, and reconciles the proposed compliance dates for new production facilities. The proposed compliance date for certain facilities is November 10, 2011. However, EPA is proposing to maintain the current November 10, 2010 compliance date for drilling, production and workover facilities that are offshore or that have an offshore component, or for onshore facilities required to have and submit Facility Response Plans (FRPs). Additionally, the Agency is proposing to delay the compliance date for certain facilities that store milk. The notice can be accessed at [http://www.epa.gov/osweroe1/content/spcc/compliance\\_dates.htm](http://www.epa.gov/osweroe1/content/spcc/compliance_dates.htm).

Contact Don Kluth or John McHugh for more information at +1 281 320 9796. [With acknowledgements to O'Brien's Command Post Newsletter]

## **INTERTANKO NOMINATES A SUCCESSOR TO PETER SWIFT**

INTERTANKO's Council will be invited at its October meeting in Singapore to appoint Joseph ("Joe") Angelo, Deputy MD, to succeed Peter Swift as Managing Director on his retirement on 31 December, 2010. In addition, Katharina ("Kathi") Stanzel has been appointed Deputy MD.

Joe Angelo has worked for INTERTANKO for six years, first as Director of Regulatory Affairs and the Americas. Prior to joining INTERTANKO he held various senior roles in the United States Coast Guard, lastly as Director of Standards for Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection, where he led U.S. delegations at the International Maritime Organization. As the existing Deputy MD, he ensures continuity and stability to INTERTANKO's membership upon Peter's departure. *"Joe is a well respected figure not only within INTERTANKO but also in the corridors of the IMO and the international shipping community. Having initially not been available for selection we are delighted*

this subsequently changed and are pleased that he agreed to take up the challenge," says Westgarth.

Kathi Stanzel joins INTERTANKO from the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC). A marine biologist by profession, she has worked in senior technical advisory and claims management roles within the marine pollution sector. *"In her twelve years with ITOPF and IOPC, Kathi has attended and been responsible for handling many major ship source pollution incidents including the Erika and Prestige,"* says Westgarth. *"Acting as a signatory on behalf of the 1971 and 1992 Oil Pollution Compensation Funds, she advises governments on oil pollution response measures and potential impacts. She has been extensively involved in the work of the OPRC-HNS Technical Group and the development of IMO guidance documents for the Marine Environment Protection Committee, focusing both on oil and other hazardous and noxious substances."* Read more at: <http://www.intertanko.com/>

## **TECHNOLOGY NEWS AND TRENDS**

The August 2010 issue of *Technology News and Trends* has been posted to the CLU-IN web site. This issue highlights...

- [Argonne National Laboratory Examines an Integrated Carbon and ZVI Source for In Situ Chemical Reduction](#)
- [Combined Cryogenic Compression and Condensation Process Used for Hydrocarbon Recovery](#)
- [Ohio EPA Tests TCE Reduction Capacity of Nanoscale Metal-Silica Hybrid Materials](#)

This issue is available at: <http://www.clu-in.org/products/newsletters/tnandt/>

## **IRELAND: DATES ANNOUNCED FOR OIL SPILL CONFERENCE IN CORK**

The first International Oil Spill Conference and Exhibition to be held in Ireland will take place in the beautiful city of Cork on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The event is being organised by the International Spill Accreditation Association at the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI), a 14,000m<sup>2</sup> facility built on a 10 acre waterside campus. It was purpose built to serve the training requirements of the School of Nautical Studies, Cork Institute of Technology and the Irish Naval Service. John Dawes, Chairman of the event organising committee, said "the college has one of the best conference facilities I have seen in the UK and Ireland".

The main auditorium has seating for 130 and is fitted out with the very latest audio-visual and other facilities. There are several adjacent meeting rooms that will allow for side meetings. The very large and brightly lit glass-fronted foyer will be used as the exhibition area. The core facility has easy access to the harbour and inland waterway, both providing ideal facilities for live demonstrations of oil spill equipment. More information about this forthcoming event will be released in later editions of the ISCO Newsletter.

## **ITOPF SEMINAR & RECEPTION – WEDNESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2010**

ITOPF will be holding an afternoon seminar on Wednesday 13th October 2010 at the City Presentation Centre, London EC1. The seminar is free of charge and will provide an opportunity for those involved in all aspects of marine spill response to familiarise themselves with the work of ITOPF and to meet our staff. The seminar will be followed by a drinks reception. More information at: <http://www.itopf.com/news-and-events/#seminar>

## **TITAN ESTABLISHES SALVAGE BASE IN AUSTRALIA**

TITAN Salvage continues to expand globally with the recent addition of a new salvage base and depot in Australia. The facility located in Cairns, Queensland is strategically located to respond to marine and environmental disasters threatening the Great Barrier Reef and other marine casualties throughout the Australasia and South West Pacific regions.

As part of the expansion, TITAN has exclusively partnered with Perrott Salvage of Cairns, a locally based salvage operator, who will serve as TITAN's regional representative. Locally based resources, including a stockpile of specialist salvage equipment in Cairns, along with strategic partnerships with key Australia-based subcontractors and TITAN's established worldwide network of salvage resources will help expand the company's global reach. Read more: <http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/titan-establishes-salvage-base-australia/>

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.