

ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The ISCO Newsletter is published weekly by the International Spill Control Organisation, a not-for-profit organisation supported by members in 45 countries. ISCO has Consultative Status at IMO and 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.

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International news

U.S. SHIP READIED FOR POSSIBLE SYRIAN CHEMICAL ARMS DESTRUCTION



December 2 - The U.S. government has begun outfitting a ship in its reserve ready force with equipment to enable it to destroy some of Syria's chemical weapons at sea in the event Washington is asked to assist in the effort, a defense official said on Sunday.

The Maritime Administration vessel MV Cape Ray is being equipped with the newly developed Field Deployable Hydrolysis System, which was designed by the Defense Department to neutralize components used in chemical weapons, a defense official said on condition of anonymity.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which supervising the disposal of Syria's chemical arms, said last week the United States had offered to destroy some of the components on a U.S. ship and was looking for a Mediterranean port where the work could be carried out. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CAPABILITY IN WEST, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

The 2013 conference for the [Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa \(GI WACAF\)](#) organised by IPIECA and the [International Maritime Organization \(IMO\)](#) in cooperation with the Government of Namibia, took place from 4-8 November 2013 in Swakopmund, Namibia.

Key regional government and industry stakeholders attended the biennial event with the aim of strengthening oil spill response capability in the region. The theme for the 2013 conference was 'Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Capability in West, Central and Southern Sustaining momentum in a changing world of oil spill risks'. As well as reflecting on the successes of the project so far, the conference explored the changing profile of oil spill risks in the region

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International news (continued)



which would shape future demand for training and exercises.

The outcomes of the event will feed into the next two-year programme of GI WACAF activities, which will include enhanced focus on cross-boundary issues to be explored through a more developed framework of specialised training and bi-lateral / multi-lateral exercises undertaken at the sub-regional level.

This event is the fifth of its kind to be organized since the launch of the GI WACAF Project. The previous conferences were held in Gabon (April 2006), Republic of Congo (December 2007), Cameroon (November 2009) and Nigeria (2011). The Conference gathered the main industry and government stakeholders from 22 West, Central and Southern African countries, namely: Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Togo. Source: [IPIECA](#)

Incident reports

NIGERIA: OIL SPILL COATS RIVER, SEA NEAR ENI NIGERIA FACILITY

December 2 - A large oil spill near Nigeria's Brass facility, run by ENI, has spread through the sea and swamps of the oil producing Niger Delta region, local residents and the company said on Monday.

ENI said it was not yet possible to determine the cause of the spill.

There are hundreds of leaks every year from pipelines that pass through the delta's creeks, damaging the environment and the profits of oil companies including ENI and Royal Dutch Shell, especially when production has to be deferred. Vast stretches of the delta's unique mangrove swamps are blackened and dead from oil pollution.

"During loading operations on a tanker on November 27, an oil spill in the sea was seen. Operations were immediately suspended and resumed only after it was verified that the vessel's structures were not damaged and were not leaking," the company said in an emailed statement. *Reuters* [Read more](#)

USA: TUG SPILLS OIL IN BROWNSVILLE SHIP CHANNEL

December 2 - The U.S. Coast Guard is overseeing the cleanup of 500 gallons of diesel Monday, that spilled from a tugboat in the Brownsville Ship Channel near the turning basin.

At approximately 3 a.m. Sunday morning, the Coast Guard received a report that an unknown amount of petroleum product had leaked near the turning basin. A Coast Guard pollution investigator determined that the tug Vickie Gates had spilled an estimated 500 gallons of Red-Dye Diesel while conducting an internal transfer. The Coast Guard responded to assist with containing the pollution. Vickie Gates has accepted responsibility for the spill and has contracted an oil spill response team to clean up the diesel. *The Maritime Journal* [Read more](#)

Incident reports (continued)

AUSTRALIA: RADIOACTIVE SPILL IN KAKADU STIRS RAGE



Disaster: A truck and crane are swamped by acid slurry. All personnel were evacuated before the tank burst. Photo: Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation

December 9 - It began as a 10-centimetre tear in a leach tank at Ranger uranium mine, in Kakadu National Park. Within an hour it turned into what some are calling one of the worst radioactive accidents in Australia's history.

"It's a massive failure," said Justin O'Brien, chief executive of the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, which represents the local Mirarr people. "It's hillbilly mining, and it's not good enough."

About 12.30am on Saturday morning, mine staff noticed liquid squirting from a crack in Leach Tank 1, a large above-ground tank containing more than 1.4 million litres of highly acidic radioactive slurry. Using a crane, they attempted to cover the crack with a steel plate, before noticing a second hole.

All personnel were then evacuated, shortly after which the tank burst, spilling more than 1 million litres of mud, water, sulphuric acid and radioactive liquid. Such was the force and volume of the spill that the crane was damaged and pushed back a metre. It is understood the radioactive liquid then flowed outside the "bunded area", or nearby containment banks, onto grassed areas and into the mine's stormwater and drainage system.

The mine's operator, Energy Resources Australia, said no one was hurt, and that "multiple containment systems" prevented the spill having any impact on the Kakadu National Park. "All water monitoring points have reported normal readings," the company said.

But locals are not so sure. "They can claim that the stormwater system is not connected to the environment," Mr O'Brien said. "But they need to demonstrate that to us beyond reasonable doubt, because we have lost trust." *Sydney Morning Herald* [Read more](#)

Other news

CANADA: LATEST NEWS STORIES AND ARTICLES

November 27 - 6 hours to contain inlet oil spill



Photo: Tanker and container ship traffic in Burrard Inlet. If an oil tanker will to spill its load, it would take about 6 hours before responders could contain the spill. Photograph by: file, North Shore News

An oil spill in the District of North Vancouver could go untreated for nearly six hours, according to a representative from the Western Canadian Marine Response Corporation who spoke to council Monday. The discussion, which was likely a prelude to a larger public hearing, centred around the possible twinning of 980 kilometres of Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline and the risks in moving greater quantities of oil along B.C.'s shoreline. "Six hours sounds like an awfully long time to build a boom at our closest beach," said Mayor Richard Walton. "That could be catastrophic." *North Shore News* [Read more](#) Thanks to Gerald Graham of World Ocean Consulting

CANADA: LATEST NEWS STORIES AND ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

December 3 - Canada unprepared for oil spill in Strait of Juan de Fuca



Photo: Patos Island in the newly created San Juan Islands National Monument. Facing a route taken by Canadian tankers, it would be directly in the path of any oil spill. (Joshua Trujillo/Seattle P-I file)

Canada is not ready to respond to an oil tanker spill — large or small — in the Strait of Juan de Fuca or inland waters shared by Washington's San Juan Islands and British Columbia's Gulf Islands, according to a panel appointed by pro-oil Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The Canadian waters "with the highest probability of a large spill occurring" are at the southern tip of Vancouver Island as well as the Cabot Strait and the Gulf of St. Lawrence in Eastern Canada, the panel concluded. And places with the "highest potential" for smaller spills include the southern coast of British

Columbia, including Vancouver Island. *Seattle PI* [Read more](#) Thanks to Gerald Graham of World Ocean Consulting

December 4 - Federal government unveils new report on oil spill preparedness (See Publications on Page 11)

As the fierce debate grows over proposed pipeline projects along the B.C. coast, a new report is making recommendations on how to better prepare for an offshore oil spill.

The report was commissioned by the federal government and proposes unlimited penalties for polluters, but critics say the findings shouldn't ease any fears.

The report was written by a government-appointed panel and includes 45 recommendations — including regular drills and quicker spill response. Most notably, the report recommends potential polluters should be responsible for all clean-up costs, removing the burden from taxpayers. *Global News* [Read more and watch video](#) Thanks to Gerald Graham of World Ocean Consulting

December 4 - Federal panel says time to upgrade tanker ship oil spill rules as traffic jumps

Photo : Investigators look over tanker cars, in Nantes, Que. on July 11, 2013. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Ryan Remiorz

Potential polluters should be prepared for a worst-case scenario and face unlimited liability in the case of an oil spill from one of their tanker ships, a government-appointed panel recommends.

The three-member panel of experts has delivered a report with 45 recommendations for improving Canada's preparedness for oil spills from tankers and barges.

It's the first major review of Canada's ship-source oil-spill regime since it was implemented in the mid-1990s and forms a key part of the federal Conservative government's efforts to reassure Canadians about the impacts of an energy resource boom.

The 66-page report notes that two current pipeline proposals alone — by Enbridge (TSX:ENB) and Kinder Morgan — could bring another 600 tankers through British Columbia waters, while posing new hazards by transporting diluted bitumen and liquefied natural gas. *Edmonton Journal* [Read more](#)



CANADA: LATEST NEWS STORIES AND ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

December 4 - Vancouver unprepared for oil tanker spill, says city

Municipal and regional emergency planners do not have adequate information to develop response plans and ensure public safety in the event of an oil tanker spill in and around Vancouver waters. Deputy city manager Sadhu Johnston reached that conclusion in a report he presented to city council Wednesday that outlined how current response capacity to a spill is “complicated, uncoordinated, insufficient and untested.” “In summary, our emergency responders believe that we have insufficient information to plan a safe response — and we do play a role in that response,” said Johnston, who noted the job of responding to a spill and paying to clean it up is mired in a “complicated web” of regulatory bodies. “It’s unclear who’s responsible for doing what.” Even Western Canada Marine Response Corporation, which is based in Burnaby and funded by the oil shipping industry and Transport Canada, cannot handle a spill of more than 20,000 tonnes of oil, he said. *Vancouver Courier* [Read more](#) Thanks to Gerald Graham of World Ocean Consulting

December 5 - Worst-Case Scenario for Oil Sands Industry has Come to Life, Leaked Document Shows

As environmentalists began ratcheting up pressure against Canada’s tar sands three years ago, one of the world’s biggest strategic consulting firms was tapped to help the North American oil industry figure out how to handle the mounting activism. The resulting document, published online by WikiLeaks, offers another window into how oil and gas companies have been scrambling to deal with unrelenting opposition to their growth plans.

The document identifies nearly two-dozen environmental organizations leading the anti-oil sands movement and puts them into four categories: radicals, idealists, realists and opportunists—with how-to’s for managing each. It also reveals that the worst-case scenario presented to industry about the movement’s growing influence seems to have come to life. *Inside Climate News* [Read more](#)

December 4 - Oilsands environmental agency in danger of folding



A key environmental agency working to clean up the oilsands is within weeks of folding, but board members say they’re still hopeful Environment Minister Diana McQueen will find a way to renew its industry funding. Photograph by: Gavin Young, Calgary Herald

A key environmental agency working to clean up the oilsands is within weeks of folding, but board members say they’re still hopeful Environment Minister Diana McQueen will find a way to renew its industry funding.

The Fort McMurray-based agency, which needs about \$5 million to \$8 million from the energy industry to carry on, does technical reports on issues such as air and water pollution and most of its recommendations are adopted as government policy.

This is the second year the oil industry has balked at funding CEMA, the Cumulative Environmental Management Association. “There’s been a lot of uncertainty,” said Bill Loutitt of Fort McMurray Métis Local 1935. “But we’re hoping to hear more positive news.” *Edmonton Journal* [Read more](#)

December 5 - Ewart: Actions will speak louder than words on oil spills

Photo: Boats used to respond to hazardous spills in Vancouver harbour demonstrate their capabilities last March as the federal government announced changes to improve oil-tanker safety on the west coast. An expert panel has called on the government to “ensure... appropriate resources” for marine safety. Photograph by: DARRYL DYCK , THE CANADIAN PRESS

When Transport Minister Lisa Raitt presented a government report on Canada’s preparedness for oil spills from tankers and barges this week in Vancouver she made a point of saying “the very appointment of this panel demonstrates our commitment to protect Canadians and our environment.”

No minister, not really. Following through on the 45 recommendations from the expert panel –



Other news (continued)

particularly the handful urging Ottawa to "properly resource" or "ensure ... appropriate resources" - for measures to enhance marine safety would demonstrate a far greater commitment.

Given the well-documented battles between Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives and federal scientists, Recommendation 31 in the report released Tuesday could prove to be the most challenging to implement. It states "Environment Canada should strengthen its commitment to providing leadership in scientific and environmental advice related to spill preparedness." *Calgary Herald* [Read more](#) Thanks to Gerald Graham of World Ocean Consulting

Canada: Links to other related articles, podcast and video

Canada's Serengeti by Alison Watt <http://focusonline.ca/?q=node/639>

No means No by Caitlyn Vernon <http://focusonline.ca/?q=node/64>

Rolling the dice on the Salish Sea by Judith Lavoie <http://focusonline.ca/?q=node/640>

'Never too late to engage' aboriginal groups, says Doug Eyford <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/never-too-late-to-engage-aboriginal-groups-says-doug-eyford-1.2451972>

Ottawa vows 'world class' oil safety by Tom Fletcher <http://www.burnabynewsleader.com/business/234515591.html>

Podcast: Gerald Graham of World Ocean Consulting speaks about the new federal report http://podcast.cbc.ca/mp3/podcasts/bcalmanac_20131204_66485.mp3

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJPKEKIGJDw&feature=c4-overview&list=UU6qCoMtmQQdxOAP5MdeGRaA>

USA: BP AND GULF OF MEXICO SPILL RELATED NEWS

December 3 - BP Wins Appeals Court Order Stopping Some Spill Payments

BP Plc (BP) won an appeals court order stopping some payments under a \$9.2 billion settlement tied to the 2010 **Gulf of Mexico oil spill**.

BP last month asked for an injunction halting payments to claimants whose injuries weren't traceable to the spill, contending the New Orleans federal judge overseeing the case ignored the appellate court's Oct. 2 mandate to review claims. The settlement agreement provided a formula for calculating payments to businesses without requiring proof that losses were caused by the spill.

"The district court erred by not considering the arguments on causation," the appellate panel said yesterday in a 2-1 decision, agreeing to the halt. "The issue of causation is again remanded for expeditious consideration."

BP is challenging U.S. District Judge **Carl Barbier's** decision upholding the interpretation of the agreement by the settlement's claims administrator. BP claimed the administrator, **Patrick Juneau**, approved millions of dollars in payments to businesses for "fictitious" economic losses that weren't related to the worst offshore spill in U.S. history. *Bloomberg* [Read more](#)

December 2 - First Criminal Trial Over 2010 Deepwater Horizon Disaster Kicks Off

A former BP Plc engineer accused of destroying evidence sought by the U.S. for a probe of the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill went on trial in the first criminal case arising from the disaster to go before a jury.

U.S. prosecutors charged Kurt Mix with two counts of obstruction of justice last year, alleging he deleted from his mobile phone text messages and voice mails related to the company's effort to estimate the size of the spill. Mix has pleaded not guilty. Jury selection started today for his trial in federal court in New Orleans.

The blowout of BP's deep-water Macondo well off the coast of Louisiana in April 2010 killed 11 people and set off the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history. Prosecutors allege Mix destroyed material sought for a federal probe of the disaster. Mix denies any intentional destruction of evidence.

December 3 - UK government backs BP in fight against ban from US federal contracts

The UK government has weighed in to back BP's fight against a US ban from seeking federal contracts following the fatal Deepwater Horizon blowout.

In court filings that emerged on Tuesday, the government described the ban as "excessive" and threatening "unjustified economic consequences" – marking the first time the coalition government has made a public defence of the oil giant.

The US Environmental Protection Agency barred BP last year from taking any new government contracts, following the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil rig explosion that killed 11 people and triggered the worst environmental disaster in US history. BP then sued the US government over the ban in August. *The Guardian* [Read more](#)

Other news (continued)

USA: ACCUSED OF COVERING UP OIL SPILL, NORTH DAKOTA READIES SITE TO DISCLOSE THE NEXT ONE

December 2 - North Dakota [will launch a website](#) this week to allow the public to monitor oil spills and other hazardous leaks, the Associated Press reported.

The site visitors will be able to access information on spills going back to 1975, the AP quotes an official with North Dakota's Health Department as saying. A dedicated Internet address was not yet available.

The state was under heavy criticism in October when it took officials nearly two weeks to disclose to the public an oil spill on a wheat field from a break in a Tesoro Corp. pipeline. *The Wall Street Journal* [Read more](#)

USA: NEW AERIAL VIDEO OF ALABAMA OIL SPILL QUESTIONS CLEANUP

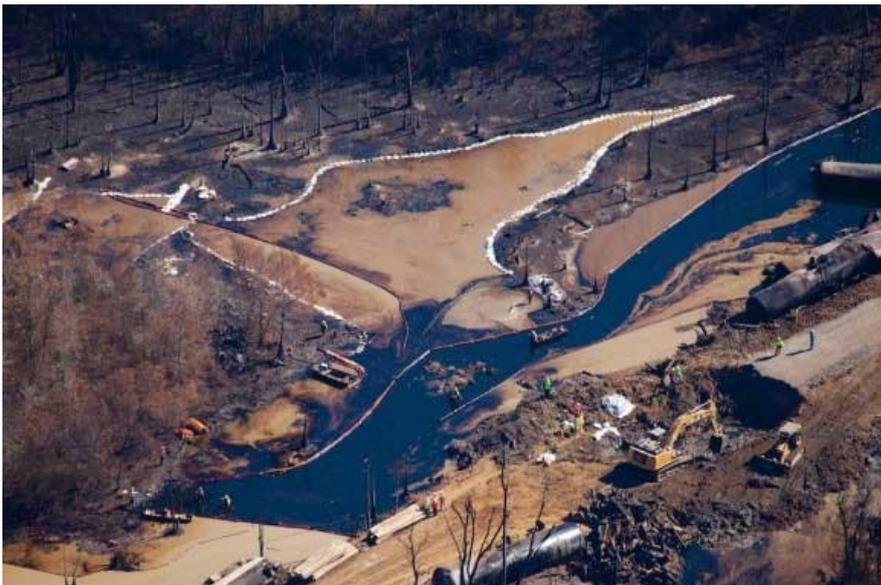


Photo: Train carrying crude oil from North Dakota wrecks and spills into wetlands near Aliceville, Alabama. (Photo: John Wathen)

December 2 - Every year, we hear about the latest oil spills, pipeline explosions and pollution...but we rarely see how people and environment are impacted over time. Public Herald is embarking on a new series to investigate the environmental legacy of fossil fuel in America and solutions for cleaning it up. We begin in Aliceville, Alabama.

Ongoing efforts to clean up an Alabama oil spill are under scrutiny after a train carrying 2.7 million gallons of North Dakota Bakken crude oil exploded, spilling into wetlands just outside the town of Aliceville. Photojournalist John Wathen captured video of cleanup efforts one week after the November 7th derailment, and the footage prompts questions about the efficacy of methods being used.

Wathen wasn't the only citizen responder in Aliceville. He was joined by Scott Smith, who's visited major oil spills across the globe to deploy his biodegradable technology, OPFLEX, that can absorb oil and other toxins from polluted water. Wathen and Smith tried to reach the wetland to assess the damage and help stop the oil from moving downstream. But they no sooner were turned away by railroad personnel and threatened with the FBI. Railroad spokesperson Michael Williams wouldn't confirm or deny the FBI's involvement and redirected Public Herald to the Bureau.

The footage captured by Wathen shows clean up workers spraying what appears to be water into the oil spill.

After seeing Wathen's footage, Smith wrote to the railroad company, Genesee & Wyoming, to express his concerns about the methods being used to clean up the spill. *TruthOut* [Read more and see video](#)

NEW ZEALAND: RENA CHANGES OIL SPILL RULES

December 3 - The work of volunteers who cleaned up Bay of Plenty beaches in the wake of the Rena oil spill is being vindicated in scientific surveys and changing the way oil spills are dealt with internationally.

The community response to the heavy fuel oil that washed up along the ocean beach in early October 2011 forced Maritime NZ to change its approach to dealing with the disaster, according to an independent report released today.

Fuel oil from a ruptured tank began washing ashore across Tauranga's beaches during a storm that struck the wreck on October 10.

But according to the report into Maritime New Zealand's oil spill response, by independent reviewer Simon Murdoch, volunteers were not part of the government agencies oil spill response plan.

It was only after local council officials gained access to MNZ officials and the incident control centre, set up at the old Foodtown building on Cameron Road, was a plan for organising a volunteer effort put in place.

"This was an important adjustment to the MNZ response doctrine and the national plan," says the report released today. *SunLive* [Read more](#)

SOUTH AFRICA: RECENT PROGRESS ON MARINE POLLUTION LEGISLATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

December 2 - South Africa acceded to the 1992 CLC and Fund Conventions* in June 2004, but remains unable to access any of the compensation these Conventions provide, owing to delays in implementing the necessary domestic legislation. Happily, there has been progress recently.

The Merchant Shipping (Civil Liability Convention) Bill and the Merchant Shipping (International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund) Contributions Bill were both passed by the National Assembly this month and must now be assented to by the President. The latter will facilitate South Africa's access to the compensation provided by the Fund Convention in circumstances where a full or partial redress from the shipowner is not possible.

The Merchant Shipping (International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund) Contributions Bill and the Merchant Shipping (International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund) Administration Bill regulate the collection of levies and taxes. These bills have also been approved by the National Assembly and have been sent to the National Council of Provinces for approval. *Mondaq* [Read more](#)

MALTA: OIL SPILL IN SICILY CHANNEL WOULD RUIN ALMOST ENTIRE MALTESE COAST

December 3 - An oil spill simulation presented by WWF Italia at a seminar in Palermo a few weeks ago predict catastrophic consequences for the Maltese Islands, should a Deepwater Horizon-type accident occur in the Strait of Sicily.

The simulation, that was independently carried out by the National Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics Institute of Trieste, shows what would happen if there was an accident at one of a number of oil wells in the sea between Malta and Sicily. The projections show that a large-scale spill in the area would destroy the entire northern coasts of Malta and Gozo, as well as much of the Southern coast – from Birzebbuga to Dingli Cliffs. Such an oil slick, which would hit the Maltese coastline some 20 days after the initial spill, would spell disaster for Malta's tourism industry and biodiversity.

During the Palermo conference, WWF Italia said that the simulation was based on specific mathematic models. It shows where the sea currents would take the oil slicks and what impact they would have on the coast. The simulation even takes weather conditions, such as wind factor, into consideration. "It is based on real oceanographic studies. The dates are based on studies of actual incidents." *Malta Independent* [Read more](#)

USA: FIRST GULF OIL SPILL NATURAL RESOURCE STUDY REVEALS EXTENSIVE DAMAGE IN SHORELINE, DEEPWATER HABITATS

December 8 - The extensive damage caused by the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the ensuing cleanup efforts to natural resources along the shoreline and in deepwater habitats of the Gulf of Mexico were outlined for the first time Friday (Dec. 6) in a comprehensive environmental assessment.

The assessment, released by federal and state oil spill trustees, accompanies a plan for spending \$627 million on 44 projects aimed at restoring some of the damage outlined in the report, or compensating the public for lost resources. That plan is the third batch of projects to be paid for with \$1 billion set aside in 2011 by BP to build "early restoration" projects under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process required by the federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

The release of the report and tentative approval of the projects were announced Friday by [Interior Secretary Sally Jewell](#) at the Jean Lafitte Historical National Park's Barataria Unit in Marrero on Friday morning. *The Times Picayune* [Read more & see video](#)

USA: REPORT: GREAT LAKES ILL-EQUIPPED TO SHIP TAR SANDS SAFELY

December 5 - Recently the EPA denied Enbridge's request to extend the deadline for dredging sections of the Kalamazoo River. The company is still trying to clean up the remaining tar sands crude oil in the Kalamazoo watershed from a pipeline break three years ago. As the tar sands industry grows, a pressing issue is finding ways to transport the crude oil to Midwest refineries.

Some are hoping to ship tar sands across the Great Lakes. But critics fear another disaster like the Kalamazoo spill.

Last week the [Alliance for the Great Lakes](#) released a report which indicates that there are gaps in the basin's oil spill response and prevention methods. Lyman Welch, the report's author and the water quality program director at the Alliance for the Great Lakes, says one of the biggest concerns is that tar sands crude oil is extremely difficult to clean up. *Great Lakes Echo* [Read more and listen to commentary](#)

USA: FEDERAL REGULATORS SAY PCB CLEANUP IN KALAMAZOO RIVER GAINING MOMENTUM

December 5 - People in Kalamazoo won't have to wait much longer for a federal decision about what to do with an old landfill site that's full of toxic material.

Other news (continued)

The Allied site is where a paper mill dumped waste for decades. The pile is laced with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). They can cause cancer and other health effects, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The site is part of a so-called "Superfund" site the EPA has designated for cleanup.

In the spring, EPA officials met with Kalamazoo city leaders and said consolidating and capping the site was the most likely option. The EPA says studies show hazardous waste from the site is not getting into the Kalamazoo River. *Michigan Radio* [Read more](#)

INDIA: REALISING BUCKETS WON'T HELP, MBPT ROPES IN EXPERTS TO CLEAN OIL SPILL

December 5 - A month after a major crude oil pipeline leak destroyed almost 30 acres of mangroves in Mahul and extensively damaged marine life, the Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) has finally appointed two professional agencies for the clean up operation.

All this while, the MbPT labourers attempted to scoop out the oil accumulated at the leak site and adjacent areas using buckets, without much success.

The MbPT has now appointed Delhi-headquartered Engineers India Limited, a public sector undertaking, to supervise the entire operation, which will also involve Mumbai-based Labour Cooperative Society, roped in to clear the oil sludge from the creek and the shoreline. *Mumbai Mirror* [Read more](#)

NO NEWS FROM YOUR PART OF THE WORLD ?

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People in the news

ISCO MEMBER, NORTEK BV, STRENGTHENS ITS CUSTOMER SUPPORT TEAM



Nortek extends a warm welcome to its newest team member, David Velasco, who will work to expand Nortek's presence in the Asia Pacific region and Brazil.

A native of Brazil, Dave is a customer-oriented business development professional with extensive product and application expertise in the water and environmental instrumentation industries. His professional career has centred primarily in the use, development, sales and marketing of acoustic Doppler technologies.

Dave holds an MSc degree in Geology and Geophysics from Boston College (USA), as well as a BSc in Environmental Geology from Northeastern University (USA). He has extensive experience with instrumentation for measurement of water velocity in a variety of applications in oceanographic, laboratory, and river. Dave Velasco comes to Nortek most recently from SonTek in San Diego, California, where he was Product Line Manager.

Also joining Nortek's North American team headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts - Michael Mathewson and Chris Kontoes who both bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the company.

Mike joins NortekUSA with a background in ocean engineering, acoustics, oceanographic research, and general management. Immediately prior to joining NortekUSA, Mike was the General Manager at McLane Research Laboratories, Inc. and has worked in academia, research, and the marine industry for over 25 years.

His experience includes oceanography, ocean engineering, product development, project management, and technology transfer. In addition to his background in ocean engineering, Mike has also maintained an interest in marine renewable energy, ocean observation systems, and hydrographic survey.

Mike holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Cornell University and received his M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Washington Applied Physics Laboratory.

Chris joins Nortek after seven years as a Marine Instrumentation Technical Specialist at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. There he directed all field operations for a coastal oceanographic lab, trained personnel, and delivered project design and data analysis. He enjoys all aspects of working with oceanographic instrumentation, from mount fabrication and deployments to custom systems integration and sensor theory. Chris's background also includes time spent as a NOAA diver, various entrepreneurial endeavors, and is a self proclaimed "nearshore wave model ground truthing expert." In other words, he enjoys surfing.

He moves to Boston with his family as they make the abrupt transition from the land where palm trees sway to winter in the Northeast. Chris also enjoys shaping surfboards, diving, math jokes, and clearly new adventures!

Chris holds a B.S. in Global Environmental Science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

For further information on Nortek please visit www.nortek-as.com or www.nortekusa.com

DARKO DOMOVIC, ISCO MEMBER OF COUNCIL FOR CROATIA, IS REPRESENTING ISCO AT MEDEXPOL THIS WEEK.

This is the Workshop on Regional Response Capacity and Co-ordination for Major Oil Spill in the Mediterranean Sea (MEDEXPOL 2013) being held in Athens, Greece over 10-12 December. A report will be published in the next issue of this Newsletter.

Cormack's Column



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 156 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 156: THE NEED FOR KNOWLEDGE-ONLY ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Having reviewed the negative effects of preferring belief to knowledge in marine incident response, in general recycling, and in fuel-saving and associated emission-reduction in article 155, I now review the negative effects of this preferment in respect of energy sources, the intermittency of which is known to be incompatible with the need for a steadily reliable electricity supply, the purpose being to show how persistent this preferment is, and how difficult its reversal even for response to marine incidents.

Thus, while we know that the sun has a diurnal intensity variation further reduced by cloudiness; that the times of high and low tide, and tidal range change from day to day over a monthly cycle; that tidal flow-rate changes from hour to hour; and that wave-height and wind-speed vary irregularly from calm to storm: we also know that electricity demand, though variable, is never zero and must be satisfied at all times. Consequently, we know that an on-going standby capacity to meet peak and all other levels of demand with immediate response is essential regardless of reduced sunlight, variable tide conditions and/or periods of calm or storm whether short or prolonged; that only the fossil fuel and nuclear options can provide this standby capacity; that wind generated electricity is twice as expensive as the current fossil fuel/nuclear mix and would not be available were the losses not turned to profit by public subsidy; that opposition to fossil fuels is thus driven solely by belief in anthropogenic global warming not as yet reality-evaluated either way; that the current closure programme for the first two options takes no account of the impossibility of satisfying our energy needs by the so-called renewable options; and that despite this knowledge, the UK is committed by EU directives to generate 38% of its electricity from 'renewables' by 2020. Thus, we know that reversal of this preference for belief to knowledge will need definitive differentiation of the one from the other (c.f. articles 116-130).

As to the solar option, the EEC EURILIOS plant in the high solar intensity of Sicily was connected to the grid in 1981 despite the foreseeable inefficiencies of a system which reflects solar radiation by sun-tracking mirrors onto a central boiler to drive a steam turbine, and despite its operation confirming that 1% of the total land area of Europe (comparable to the existing road system) would be needed to supply its energy requirements by such means. Again, while 88% and 10% of domestic swimming pools and water systems in the USA were being respectively heated by directed collectors of solar heat by 1985, while 30% of buildings in Israel had direct solar heating, and while this heating was being stipulated for new houses, there was rightly no interest in electricity from solar generated steam. Yet again, while electricity had been generated directly from solar radiation by Becquerel (1839) it was 1954 before satellite requirements had produced a silicon cell of 6-10% efficiency, since when gallium arsenide and gallium antimonide cells have given 37% efficiencies for blue and red light respectively. Nonetheless, while cost is not a first-order consideration for satellites, and while transparent photovoltaic panels for replacement of window-glass were patented in 1991, mass market uptake even with public subsidy is unlikely, given the availability of the more cost-effective alternatives.

Again, while the medieval tide-mill and its power applications are well-known, there are few locations world-wide where the tidal range is greater than the four metre minimum for electricity generation. Thus, while a 750m barrage was built for this purpose on the Rance in 1966, the French preference for the nuclear option remains intact, while plans for such a barrage in the Bristol channel are opposed by belief in wildlife impacts regardless of whether or not it might be cost-effective. Yet again, believers advocate the harnessing of wave-power which they expect to have low wildlife and visual impacts, even though this option is not yet reality-evaluated to the extent of the tidal option; while other believers advocate wind turbines despite their visual impact, despite their known failure to generate electricity at high and low winds, and despite small scale private-domestic windmills having been acceptable only where intermittent operation is better than nothing. Indeed with no wind farm ever having been built without public subsidy, even their advocates now describe them not as a competitive power-source but as an expression of concern for the climate change which as yet lacks reality-validation.

Thus, while the beliefs in anthropogenic global warming and in species-extinction/ecological-disaster give rise to belief in technology being disharmonious with the environment (c.f. articles 1-15), we know that these beliefs create otherwise avoidable costs by prolonging spill clearance and by preventing cargo/bunker transfer from minimising the need for such clearance (c.f. articles 116-120); that belief/ counter-belief is un-resolvable by debate; and that the much-needed resolution is possible only through reality-evaluation of hypotheses derived from belief/disbelief (c.f. articles 121-130).

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	November 2013
The Essential Hazmat News	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	November 25 issue
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	December 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	October 2013 issue
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	No. 49 2013
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	December 2013 issue
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	November 2013
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 3, 2013
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	December 4 issue
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	December 2013 issue
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	October 2013 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	December 2013 issue
HELCOM Newsletter	Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission	May 2013 issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	September 2013 issue
IPIECA eNews	Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n	November 8 issue

CANADA: A REVIEW OF CANADA'S SHIP-SOURCE OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE REGIME "SETTING THE COURSE FOR THE FUTURE"

[Download the Review](#) published by the Tanker Safety Panel Secretariat. (This is a large file and may take some time to download)

NEW ZEALAND: INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF MNZ'S RESPONSE TO THE GROUNDING OF THE RENA

On 3 December 2013, Minister of Transport Gerry Brownlee released the report of the Independent Review of Maritime New Zealand's Response to the MV **Rena** Incident on 5 October 2011, carried out by former Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade Simon Murdoch.

Minister Brownlee also announced \$2.05m in funding for MNZ over three years to implement recommendations from the Review.

The Review report can be viewed below.

[Independent Review of Maritime New Zealand's Response to the MV **Rena** Incident on 5 October 2011](#) [PDF: 1.23Mb, 118 pages]

[Minister Brownlee's media release](#) [Beehive website]

[MNZ welcomes the findings of the review](#) [media release]

A report on the **Rena** Recovery Plan's scientific monitoring programme, which has been assessing the environmental impacts of the grounding, has also been released today. It is available at www.renarecovery.org.nz.

Events

CLEAN GULF 2013: LOOKING BACK AT A VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENT AND FORWARD TO 2014

Over 1,800 oil spill prevention & response professionals gathered at the Tampa Convention Center November 12-14 for the 23rd Annual CLEAN GULF Conference & Exhibition. Each year the event attracts operators, responders and regulators from around the world to discuss best practices, catch up with old friends, and discover the latest technologies.

CLEAN GULF kicked off on November 12th with pre-conference workshops and a networking golf tournament that benefitted the American Cancer Society. On Wednesday, the conference kicked off with a Keynote Session delivered by Eric J. McNulty, Research and Professional Programs Director for Harvard's National Preparedness Leadership Initiative. Immediately following was the Mega Session, sponsored by The Response Group, led by a panel of industry experts that discussed where the offshore

Events (continued)

oil industry is headed and what action the regulatory and response community needs to take moving forward. The afternoon sessions focused on dispersants, risk assessment as a planning tool, emerging technologies, well containment & cooperative updates, unifying the unified command, case studies, training for excellence, expanding technologies, well containment & control technologies, and aging infrastructure. A networking reception, sponsored by BP, took place on the exhibit floor to end the first day of the event. The exhibit floor played host to over 150 companies showcasing their unique technologies and solutions for the spill response industry.

The last day of the CLEAN GULF Conference & Exhibition began with the State & Federal Updates. Representatives from Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, U.S. Coast Guard, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), and EPA Region 4 discussed the latest information on how to conduct business in the Gulf. Conference sessions held throughout the day focused on wildlife response management plans, response planning & preparedness, data acquisition & stewardship, subsea dispersants, health & safety, challenging cases for the salvor & the Coast Guard field perspective, international perspectives, lessons-learned, regulatory – emerging issues, logistics, common operating picture & communication, deepwater regulatory issues, and national contingency plan vs. national response framework.

The 24th Annual CLEAN GULF Conference & Exhibition will take place December 2-4, 2014, in San Antonio, Texas. For more information, visit www.cleangulf.org

FRANCE: CEDRE INFORMATION DAY 2014

The focus of the next Cedre Information Day is on "Hazardous and Noxious Substances" and the event will take place on Tuesday 1st April 2014 in Paris.

For more information on the programme and to register, click on these links - [Programme](#) and [Registration form](#).

INDIA: WORKSHOP ON AWARENESS PROGRAM ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

A workshop on Disaster management is being organised by Indian institute of Environment Management , South Indian Education Society , at its campus at Nerul Navi Mumbai on 17th December 2013. [More info](#)

Company news

USA: ASRC ENERGY SERVICES RESPONSE OPERATIONS, FOSS MARITIME ANNOUNCE JOINT VENTURE

ASRC Energy Services Response Operations, LLC, a leading offshore spill response operator in Alaska, and Foss Maritime Company, one of the nation's largest coastal tug and barge operators, have formed a joint venture to together pursue marine services opportunities throughout Alaska. The joint venture, called AES-Foss Marine, LLC, will be headquartered in Anchorage, Alaska. The venture will build upon the strengths of each company to provide marine services throughout the state.

"We strive to partner with companies that believe in responsible development and will protect our resources through safety and environmental stewardship," said Jeff Kinneveauk, President and CEO of ASRC Energy Services, Inc., the parent company of ASRC Energy Services Response Operations, LLC. "And in that regard Foss certainly is a maritime industry leader. They are also a good partner because they share, respect and understand our Iñupiat cultural values."

ASRC Energy Services Response Operations, LLC (ARO) provides a variety of offshore oil spill response equipment supported by highly trained response personnel. ARO is an indirect subsidiary of Alaska's largest native corporation, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC). *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

USA: OSEI CORPORATION PUBLISHES MARINE TOXICITY TEST SUMMARY

OSEI Corporation, "Oil Spill Eater II" is virtually non-toxic, presents the following toxicity tests on salt water , fresh water species, as well as land based species. These tests were performed by the US EPA, Environment Canada, for the South Korea government, and by industry. [Download the test results](#)

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. Products and services featured in the ISCO Newsletter and/or the ISCO website, including the International Directory of Spill Response Supplies and Services, have not been tested, approved or endorsed by ISCO. Any claims made by suppliers of products or services are solely those of the suppliers and ISCO does not accept any liability for their accuracy. Subscription is subject to acceptance of ISCO's Terms and Conditions as published on the website www.spillcontrol.org
