



ISCO NEWSLETTER

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NEW ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION NETWORK LAUNCHED BY THE IAEA

The Environet - The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Network on Environmental Management and Remediation - is being established to work as a facilitator to increase effectiveness and efficiency in the sharing of international experience on good practices for remediation of radiologically contaminated sites. The network is also aimed at introducing the life-cycle approach to nuclear and non-nuclear (NORM) operations in order to minimize the need of future remediation measures.

The objectives are to 1) coordinate support to organizations and/or Member States by making available the relevant skills, knowledge, managerial approaches and expertise, related to environmental remediation; 2) offer a broad and diversified range of training and demonstration activities with a regional or thematic focus by providing hands-on, user-oriented experience, and disseminating proven technologies; 3) facilitate sharing and exchange of knowledge and experience amongst organizations with advanced environmental remediation programmes, in pursuit of good practices; identify and treat improper past practices and assure the longer term knowledge management in support of public and environmental protection and site monitoring; and 4) create a forum in which experts' advice and technical guidance may be provided on the IAEA's programme in the area of environmental remediation. Press release from IAEA published by Environmental Expert Newsletter at <http://www.environmental-expert.com/resultteachpressrelease.aspx?cid=7374&codi=71467>

USA: AMERICAN SALVAGE ASSOCIATION (ASA) SPONSORS NATIONAL MARITIME SALVAGE CONFERENCE AND EXPO

The National Maritime Salvage Association Conference and Expo was held October 6-8, 2009, in Arlington, VA. The conference brought together a broad mix of expert representatives and prominent companies from the maritime salvage industry in the United States along with leaders from the shipping industry, the P&I clubs, spill management teams and Qualified Individuals, salvage service and product providers and industry consultants. The regulatory community was very well represented by members of the US Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the US Navy and others.

Topics presented to the group included the much anticipated implementation of the wide reaching new salvage regulations in the US and discussions on environmental salvage considerations, salvage and media relations and the relationship between port operations and salvage capabilities. Additional presentations included case studies of general interest and on advancing positive communication among stakeholders prior to and during salvage operations. The third day of the conference was reserved for a comprehensive set of training sessions on operational and commercial topics of interest. A highlight of the agenda was the presentation of the ASA's 2009 Rapid Response Award to Representative

Elijah Cummings, Chairman of the House Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee.

The convention and expo followed the ASA's fall meeting, which was conducted on October 5, 2009. This year's meeting was notable in that a new group of officers were elected, including: President, Mauricio Garrido (Bisso Marine Co., Inc.), Vice President, Tim Beaver (Global Diving and Salvage, Inc.), Secretary Treasurer, Paul Hankins (Donjon-Smit, LLC), and an Executive Committee consisting of Dan Schwall (Titan, a Crowley Company), Dave DeVilbiss (Global Diving and Salvage, Inc.), Bob Umbdenstock (Resolve Marine Group) and Associate Member Representative Jack Ringleberg (JMS Naval Architects and Salvage Engineers). [Thanks to Bill Hazel of Marine Pollution Control for contributing this report]

NEW ZEALAND: MARITIME AND MARINE PROTECTION RULE AMENDMENTS UPDATE

A number of amendments to maritime rules and marine protection rules have been approved by the Minister of Transport and came into force on 30 July 2009. These include: Marine Protection Rule Part 132 – Dispersants and Demulsifiers Amendment Rules 2009; Marine Protection Rule Part 130C – Regional Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plans 2009; Marine Protection Amendment Rules 2009 – Parts 120, 121A, 121B, 123A, 170 and 200; Maritime (various amendments) Rules 2009 – Parts 21–80. More info at: <http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/Publications-and-forms/Safe-Seas-Clean-Seas/Issue-29-14.asp>

UK: NEW CHAIRMAN APPOINTED AT UK SPILL ASSOCIATION

The UK Spill Association Board met on 3 September 2009 and agreed that Glyn Humphries of Briggs Environmental be appointed Chairman of the UK Spill Association with effect from the AGM on 28 January 2019. Mark Calvert will be standing down from the Board after over 5 years, from the launch of UKSpill in October 2004, as Director and then Chairman. The Board also established a Corporate Governance Committee, with the immediate past Chairman and a Board Director to oversee administration and management of the Association. Mark Calvert, and John Jones, of Veolia will be the initial appointees for 2 years. <http://www.ukspill.org>

USA: PRINCIPLES FOR GREENER CLEANUPS AND SUPERFUND GREEN REMEDIATION STRATEGY.

The U.S. EPA has developed Principles for Greener Cleanups with the goal of reducing the demands placed on the environment during cleanup of contaminated land, while continuing to protect human health and the environment. Among other things, the Principles call for EPA's cleanup programs to utilize greener approaches during any phase of site work, and establish the goal of evaluating cleanup actions more holistically to ensure protection of human health and the environment while reducing the environmental footprint of cleanup activities, when feasible. Cleanups that do not satisfy threshold requirements for protectiveness, or do not meet site specific cleanup objectives, do not qualify as a greener cleanup.

The U.S. EPA Superfund Program is seeking public comment on an initial draft Superfund Green Remediation Strategy, which sets out its current plans to reduce energy use and enhance the environmental performance of remedial and non-time critical removal actions undertaken to address hazardous waste sites. In consideration of the Principles for Greener Cleanups, the Superfund Green Remediation Strategy is an initial effort to outline key actions and related activities that can be undertaken to promote green remediation. These action items fall into three major categories: policy and guidance development, resource development and program implementation, and program evaluation. The strategy also contains several recommendations including a call for EPA to implement a series of near-term program initiatives and to establish a baseline of Superfund energy usage. The public comment period is open through November 10, 2009. View the principles and strategy and provide comments at <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/greencleanups> [Source: <http://www.clu-in.org:80/techdirect/td102009.htm> - Editor - Other interesting articles at this site]

AUSTRALIA: OFFSHORE SPILL – FIRST ATTEMPT TO PLUG LEAK FAILS

The Australian reported Wednesday that about 400 barrels of oil each day are continuing to erupt from a damaged offshore drilling rig off Western Australia's Kimberley coast after the failure of an attempt to stop the leak with mud failed. The leakage is now Australia's third-largest oil spill. Read more at: http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2009/10/07/Australian-offshore-oil-leak-continues/UPI-24001254939475/

USA: EPA STRENGTHENS ENFORCEMENT FOR CLEAN WATER ACT

In a memo to EPA staff dated July 2, 2009, Administrator Lisa Jackson announced a significantly enhanced Clean Water Act enforcement effort by the Agency through its programs and the programs administered by the states. *The New York Times* featured an article entitled "Clean Water Laws are Neglected, at a Cost in Suffering" on the front page of the September 13, 2009 Sunday edition. (See also ISCO Newsletters 198 and 196) Expect to see visible and aggressive action by EPA. Be prepared to proactively address noncompliance issues and evaluate alternatives to litigation.

In her memo, Administrator Jackson stated that "... we need to raise the bar for clean water enforcement performance. We must make sure that strong and effective action is taken when serious violations of law threaten water quality, and we must boost EPA's enforcement presence against serious violators ..." Read the complete text of this article at - <http://www.hklaw.com/id24660/PublicationId2768/ReturnId31/contentid54460/>

RUSSIA: NATO-RUSSIAN FEDERATION WORKSHOP

On 24 and 25 September, an engineer from *Cedre* took part in a "NATO-Russian Federation" workshop on the theme "Oil spills: risk management and decision support systems". This two-day workshop, organised by the Komi Republic Academy of Sciences with support from the Norwegian company Akvaplan-Niva, was followed by a survey of Pechora River, affected by repeated pipeline ruptures in 1994. This survey, organised by Lukoil, showed that the river, for the twenty-odd kilometres inspected, no longer presented any visible traces of pollution. Finally, an exercise was organised using Lukoil's skills in response on rivers and bank clean-up. <http://www.cedre.fr/>

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR RESPONDING TO HNS SPILLS (4)

Fourth article in this series - SROs looking at developing capacity to respond to Chemical/HNS spills need to be selective in deciding what kinds of incidents they should initially focus on. If available funding for investment is limited, horizons must be set accordingly and, at the outset, it must be accepted that it will be necessary to accept the need for a strict discipline that will counter any temptation to take on tasks for which the SRO is not properly prepared. To do so would be thoroughly irresponsible with potentially serious consequences, endangering the lives of employees and third parties. Insurance aspects must also be addressed.

To a degree, these considerations may be tempered if an SRO can form a technical co-operation partnership with one or more organizations that can provide rapid on-call support in the event that a response situation calls for expertise and other inputs that the SRO does not possess. It is strongly recommended that any SRO intent on ascending the competency ladder gives high priority at an early stage to identifying sources of technical support and developing appropriate relationships.

Another route relevant to experience acquisition is via recruitment of personnel who have the necessary knowledge and background. The ideal person will be someone who is keen to build HNS response capacity and help initiate training of staff. Such a person might also be able to assist in researching area needs in determining priorities for developing local HNS response capacity.

This is, in any case, an important task and should include a study of the types of chemicals and other HNS that are manufactured, transported, used, handled or stored within the SRO's area of operations.

The availability and capabilities of any other locally-based SROs should also be checked out. It may be more appropriate to look at complementing rather than competing and focusing on capability gap-filling. If, for example, local front-line emergency services are already well-equipped to deal with the initial response, the target role might be that of being able to accept responsibility for carrying out the next phase of the work.

VIKOMA CHOSEN TO WORK ON MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECT WITH NOFO

Vikoma International, part of the Aberdeen based Energy Environmental Group, has been chosen to work with NOFO (Norwegian Clean Seas Association for Operating Companies) to develop new solutions for oil spill response in the challenging sea conditions in the region. "Vikoma's submission proposes a completely new concept for a continuous oil recovery system that can be used in fast current environments and large swells, currently far outside of the capability of any existing boom systems", explains Neil Plater, Vikoma's Engineering Manager. *Hans V. Jensen, Head of R&D, NOFO, commented* "The project that Vikoma International Ltd has on the drawing board is particularly exciting. The British company aims to develop an oil boom that can be towed significantly faster than the booms currently in use."

Vikoma will work with the prestigious Wolfson Unit to test theories and models, using computational fluid dynamics (CFD) and advanced flow visualisation techniques, before potentially developing a prototype system for testing by NOFO. The development programme "Oil Spill Response 2010" or "Oljevern 2010" operated by NOFO, has a significant budget to bring new products into the market. The priority of the programme is to develop new and improved oil recovery technology that can operate in higher seas and stronger currents than equipment currently on the market. More info – <http://www.vikoma.com>

MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP MEETING

MOIG Technical Session - Istanbul, Turkey on 10th - 13th Nov. 2009. More info at: <http://www.moig.org/>

USA: 2ND NATIONAL HAZMAT FUSION CENTER SYMPOSIUM, NOVEMBER 4, 2009, DENVER, COLORADO.

Sessions will include current hazmat challenges and solutions, alternative fuels, and an interactive Federal Panel discussion. It is hoped to have a special presentation about catastrophic chlorine releases. More info: <http://www.hazmatfoc.com> [Thanks to Tim Butters of DG & Hazmat Group for passing on this info]

USA: NGWA HOSTS NOVEMBER CONFERENCE ON PETROLEUM HYDROCARBONS AND ORGANIC CHEMICALS IN GROUND WATER

The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) is hosting its "Petroleum Hydrocarbons and Organic Chemicals in Ground Water: Prevention, Detection, and Remediation Conference" November 2-3 in Costa Mesa, California. <http://www.pollutiononline.com/article.mvc/NGWA-Hosts-November-Conference-On-Petroleum-0001?user=2116810&source=nl:25640>

QATAR: 5TH ANNUAL HSE FORUM IN OIL, GAS & PETROCHEMICALS

18th – 21st October 2009, Doha Qatar. More info: <http://www.prlog.org/10242707-jacob-flemings-5th-annual-hse-forum-in-oil-gas-petrochemicals.html>

NOTICES OF SCHEDULED TRAINING COURSES, CONFERENCES, EXHIBITIONS

Notices for insertion in the Calendar of Events on the ISCO web site should be sent to Mary Anne Dalgleish at mrydetroit@aol.com Items for possible inclusion in the ISCO Newsletter should be sent to the editor at john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

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