



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

Issue 210 7th December, 2009

Email info@spillcontrol.org Web <http://www.spillcontrol.org>



IMO: ELECTION OF COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN



The newly elected IMO Council for 2010-2011 met on Thursday, 3 December, and elected Mr. Jeffrey G. Lantz (United States) as its Chairman and re-elected Mr. Dumisani Ntuli (South Africa) as its Vice-Chairman.

Jeff Lantz is Director, Commercial Regulations and Standards for the Coast Guard's Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security and Stewardship. His responsibilities include the development of U.S. national maritime safety and environmental protection regulations and policies and overseeing U.S. initiatives in the development of international maritime safety, security and environmental protection standards. Mr. Lantz also oversees the Coast Guard's program of verifying U.S. flag vessels comply with national and international safety, security and environmental protection engineering regulations and policies. <http://www.imo.org> <http://www.uscg.mil/flag/docs/cg52.pdf>

NIGERIA: UNEP LAUNCHES ASSESSMENT OF OIL-CONTAMINATED SITES IN THE NIGER DELTA

A major assessment of the impacts of oil production in the Ogoni region of the Niger Delta has been jointly launched by the Governor of Rivers State and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Bori, Nigeria. The assessment, which was requested by the Government of Nigeria, will last approximately one year.

Oil exploration and production in the oil-rich Niger Delta region started during the 1950s, but operations were suspended in the early 1990s due to local public unrest. The oil fields and installations in Ogoniland have since remained dormant. Environmental contamination from these operations has not been remediated to date, or only partially remediated. In addition, further spills have resulted from lack of maintenance, oil tapping, and damage to oil infrastructure and facilities over the last 15 years.

The findings of the environmental assessment will be used to make recommendations on the appropriate levels of remediation needed to rehabilitate the land to a condition that is environmentally acceptable, on the basis of international standards.

The total budget for the assessment is USD 9.5 million, which is provided by the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC). The SPDC is a joint venture operated by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, Shell, Elf/Total and Agip, in which the Government of Nigeria has a stake of 55 percent.

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=602&ArticleID=6382&l=en>

IRELAND: UPCOMING MEETING OF THE ISAA “ALL-IRELAND” ACCREDITATION SCHEME STEERING GROUP

A meeting of the Steering Group is scheduled for Tuesday 15th December and will take place at 1030 am at the Lisburn office of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. The agenda will include a preview of the new Handbook of ISAA Accredited Spill Response Organisations in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and a report on matters arising from a meeting of the ISAA Board held in London on 3rd December.

Intending attendees are requested to advise the ISAA administrator at info@spillcontrol.org

CANADA-UNITED STATES JOINT INLAND POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

The Canada–United States Joint Inland Pollution Contingency Plan (the “Inland Plan”) provides for a cooperative mechanism for preparedness for and response to polluting incidents that cause, or may cause, damage to the environment along the inland boundary or may constitute a threat to public safety, security, health, welfare, or property. The Inland Plan may also facilitate the provision of assistance when only one country is affected, but the polluting incident is of such magnitude to justify a request for assistance from the other country.

The purpose of the Inland Plan is to facilitate a coordinated and integrated federal response to a polluting incident along the inland boundary and to provide a mechanism for cooperative responses among all levels of government. This also includes all federally recognized First Nations (Canada) and Tribal Nations (U.S.). The Inland Plan provides for a binational coordination mechanism to ensure appropriate and effective cooperative preparedness, notification, and response measures between Canada and the United States.

The Joint Inland Pollution Contingency Plan can be downloaded at:
http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/docs/er/us_can_jcp_eng.pdf

USA: DOT ISSUES MUCH-ANTICIPATED RULES TO ENHANCE PIPELINE SAFETY

December 3, 2009 - U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced new Federal regulations for operators of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines. The two rules to be published in the Federal Register will include a requirement for operators of natural gas distribution pipelines to adopt integrity management programs similar to current requirements already in place for larger transmission pipelines. In addition, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is calling for strengthened management and oversight of control room operations for all types of DOT-regulated pipelines.

“President Obama and I are both committed to the safety of America’s transportation systems, including pipelines,” said Secretary LaHood. “The new rules are not only solid investments in public safety, but also in corporate systems risk management as they will continue to add value for years to come.”

“The public deserves and expects a national pipeline transportation system that meets the highest safety standards,” said PHMSA Administrator Cynthia L. Quarterman. “These rules will improve public safety by requiring integrity management programs and installation of excess flow valves for the first time for natural gas distribution pipelines, in addition to improving the operations of the nation’s pipeline system control rooms.” Read more at: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2009/dot18609.htm> [Thanks to pcjr of Hazmat 101 Group for this news alert]

INDIA: BHOPAL WATER STILL TOXIC 25 YEARS AFTER DEADLY GAS LEAK, STUDY FINDS

Groundwater found near the site of the world's worst chemical industrial accident in [Bhopal](#) is still toxic and poisoning residents a quarter of a century after a gas leak there killed thousands, two studies have revealed.

Delhi's Centre for Science and the Environment said that water found two miles from the factory contained pesticides at levels 40 times higher than the Indian safety standard.

In a second study, the UK-based Bhopal Medical Appeal (BMA) found a chemical cocktail in the local drinking water – with one carcinogen, carbon tetrafluoride, present at 2,400 times the World Health Organisation's guidelines.

Read more at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/dec/01/bhopal-chemical-studies-toxic-levels>

USA, ALASKA: CLEANUP CREW CHANGES TACTICS FOR SLOPE SPILL

State environmental officials changed their cleanup approach Saturday at an oil pipeline spill on Alaska's North Slope. Because of extremely cold temperatures -- 15 below Saturday morning -- and oil the consistency of cold tar, at first they thought they could just dig the oil out of the snow and ice, said state onsite coordinator Tom DeRuyter.

But the about 46,000 gallons of crude oil and natural gas mixed with water, which flowed out of the Lisburne field pipeline about a week ago, was not solid enough for that approach. "These guys are working in extremely difficult conditions," he said of the more than 100 members of the cleanup crew.

So crews have built up the snow and ice around the spill and they are going to soften the oil with steam and run it down to a lower area where it can be collected with a vacuum truck, DeRuyter said. <http://www.adn.com/oil/story/1042187.html>

TEST OF BRUSH SKIMMER CASSETTE IN RIGID SWEEPING ARM



Koseq has tested a newly developed brush conveyor skimmer cassette in one of the rigid sweeping arms of the Rijkswaterstaat vessel Arca.

An interchangeable oil collection chamber equipped with a brush conveyor skimmer cassette and a pump can easily be mounted in the rigid sweeping arm, replacing the existing oil collection chambers with the MSP 150 pump which are mounted in the rigid sweeping arms.

The brush conveyor skimmer cassette can also be height adjusted using the same features as the existing oil collecting chambers. The height of the oil collection chamber can hydraulically be adjusted and the brush conveyor cassette is protected against debris by a screen. This screen can collapse allowing the debris can flow away under the sweeping arm.

The brush skimmer cassette is well suited for recovering maximum quantities of light oils with a minimum of associated water. The recovered oil contains max. 5% water, which reduces the required storage capacity on board the vessel. More information can be found at <http://www.koseq.com>



US EPA: DECEMBER ISSUE OF TECHDIRECT

Eighteen short articles with links for more information. Topics include site remediation innovations, upcoming live internet seminars, conferences and symposia, new documents and web resources. <http://clu-in.org/techdirect>

UK: HAZMAT FIRST RESPONSE TRAINING

Training Course on 2nd March, 2010 - A unique, one-day course designed and developed by Emergency Responders from the National Chemical Emergency Centre, together with

Responsible Care experts from the CIA & CBA and leading Hazardous Materials Specialists from the Fire & Police services.

More information: <http://the-ncec.com/assets/ProductsAndServices/Training/1st-Response-080509-final.pdf>

USA: O'BRIEN'S RESPONSE MANAGEMENT COMPLETES ACQUISITION OF PIER SYSTEMS INC.

O'Brien's Response Management Inc. (O'Brien'sRM), a global provider of environmental compliance, emergency preparedness, response management, disaster services and crisis management for numerous industry sectors and government agencies, announced it has completed its acquisition of PIER Systems Inc.

PIER Systems Inc. is a crisis communications company that has developed the PIER software application, an all-in-one, web-based solution for communications management, public relations, media monitoring, employee notification, business continuity and more. PIER provides a single, easy to use web-based control panel facilitating communication during routine events, minor incidents and major catastrophes affecting employees, the public, investors, the media and other key stakeholders in business affairs. PIER Systems also provides Strategic Services and technical support including crisis communications planning, training, exercises and implementation during a crisis or emergency response.

For more information, please contact Tim O'Leary via email at mediarelations@obriensrm.com

NORWAY: DRIFTING BUOYS FROM AADI FOLLOW OIL SLICKS AND SAVE LIVES

In May 2008 AADI (Aanderaa Data Instruments AS) entered an agreement with NOFO (The Norwegian Clean Sea Association for Operating Companies) to develop a small drifting buoy that has similar drift characteristics as an oil slick on the sea surface. Information from the Drifting Buoys is transferred by AIS and displayed on the electronic chart system onboard any vessel that has up-to-date ECDIS software according to IMO standards.

During 2009 the buoy, with a diameter of approximately 30 cm, has been tested in a number of different oil spill exercises as well as in man overboard exercises and other types of exercise.

According to the design specifications the vessels should be able to pick up the AIS signals from the buoy at a distance of at least 3 nautical miles, the tests have shown that good signals were picked up at a distance of 7 nautical miles with wave heights of 10 meters and 12 nautical miles on a calm sea.

Drop tests confirmed that the buoy will withstand a drop from the specified altitude of 50 meters above sea level, which makes it possible to drop from a fixed installation or from a helicopter.

For further information please contact Trond Gulbrandsøy, Sales Manager, on Tel: +47 55 60 49 37 or Email: Trond.Gulbrandsoy@aadi.no. This news item reproduced with acknowledgement to Oceanbuzz, the Newsletter of Intelligent Exhibitions Ltd.

AUSTRALIA: AMSA HEAD OFFICE MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

AMSA's Head Office has now moved to its new location at 82 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon. Besides the change to our physical address, all other contact details remain the same. The new address is: 82 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon, ACT 2612 All contact details can be found at www.amsa.gov.au.

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.