



ISCO NEWSLETTER

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MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
12-16 APRIL 2010
International Oil Spill Conference
www.spillcon.com



SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS



IOPC FUNDS: NEW RATIFICATION

Morocco will join the Supplementary Fund with effect from 4th February, 2010
<http://www.iopcfund.org/>

AUSTRALIA FORMS COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE MONTARA OIL SPILL

The Australian government has renewed its commitment to make sure that the Montara oil spill is handled openly and transparently by the establishment of an Investigation Commission. According to the Australia embassy in Jakarta Tuesday, the commission will investigate into the oil spill, including its cause, impact and responses, and make a recommendation on measures, if needed, to prevent a recurrence of the incident.

The commission will handover its report to the Australian government by the end of April 2010. The priority of the Australian government since the beginning of the leak was to overcome the spill and minimize its impact with the support of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) which coordinates responses to cleaning Australia from the incident. More at: <http://www.antara.co.id/en/news/1260933233/australia-forms-commission-to-investigate-montara-oilspill> [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group for this link]

USA: JURY ORDERS BP TO PAY \$100 MILLION

BP must pay more than \$100 million in damages for exposing contract workers to toxic substances at its Texas City oil refinery in April 2007, a federal jury in Galveston said on Friday in the latest setback for the troubled plant.

The mammoth verdict arose out of a case brought by a BP contractor who claimed the British oil giant's failure to maintain equipment and provide adequate safety controls led to a poisonous chemical release that sent more than 100 workers to area hospitals on the evening of April 19, 2007.

The company said it was "shocked and outraged" by the jury's decision and vowed to appeal.

Though none of the 10 plaintiffs in the case suffered major long-term health effects from the incident, the jury decided to punish BP with one of the biggest penalties in recent memory from the Galveston court. <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/energy/6778021.html>

NIGERIA: OIL INDUSTRY ON RECEIVING END OF HARSH CRITICISM



“Alagoa Morris sped toward Ikarama as soon as he got word of the fire. He took a taxi from Yenagoa, the capital of Nigeria's Bayelsa State, to the Imbiama Junction, where he rented a motor bike and raced down the narrow roads to Ikarama. From miles away, he saw a column of smoke towering above the small rural community.

It was March 1, 2009, and Morris, a project officer for Friends of the Earth Nigeria, had received an urgent message that a fire had broken out at the site of a major oil spill. The spilled crude, which had streamed from a Shell Petroleum pipeline into the nearby Oya and Obrun lakes, had been sitting for months. When Morris arrived in Ikarama, he found that the site he had been pressing Shell to clean up was in flames. "The fire gutted all the plants and trees around the two lakes and was burning even on top of the water," he recalled." From an article in "The Nation". Read more at <http://www.thenation.com/doc/20100104/chavkin> [In the interest of balanced reporting, the ISCO Newsletter will be ready to print an industry response to this article.

USA: EIGHTY-THREE CROWLEY OWNED/MANAGED VESSELS HONORED WITH 2009 ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Crowley Maritime Corporation was recently honored at a Chamber Shipping of America awards ceremony with Environmental Achievement Awards for 2009.

The awards recognized the environmental excellence of 83 Crowley owned or managed vessels for operating at least two years without any environmental incidents. The Crowley vessels recognized have provided a combined total of 675 years of service without incident. Fifteen of the vessels have each operated 10 years or more without an incident. Read more: <http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/2009-12-17-eighty-three-crowley-ownedmanaged-vessels-honored-2009-environmental-achievement-awards/>

USA: METHANOL HANDLING AND RESPONSE TRAINING VIDEO

The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) examined the Methanol Safe Handling Manual published by the Methanol Institute. According to the Methanol Institute, the manual was designed to be a resource for current information on methanol's properties, potential environmental and health and safety hazards, safe handling practices, emergency response procedures, fire safety, and risk communication.

The EMR-ISAC confirmed that the Methanol Institute is offering a free DVD that can be another resource for training. The DVD discusses basic physical components, key risks of handling methanol, ways to minimize exposure, fire and release into the environment, and event response. For general operating procedures, first responders can also refer to the Emergency Response Guidebook, guide #131.

The following useful links have been provided thanks to pcjr of the Hazmat 101 Group.

The Methanol Safe Handling Manual

<<http://www.methanol.org/pdfFrame.cfm?pdf=MethanolSafeHandlingManualOct2008.pdf>>

MSDS

<<http://www.methanol.org/pdfFrame.cfm?pdf=MethanolMSDS.pdf>>

Training video

<<http://www.methanol.org/contentIndex.cfm?section=hse&topic=specialReports&title=Index>>

Emergency Response Guidebook, guide #131

<<http://wwwapps.tc.gc.ca/saf-sec-sur/3/erg-gmu/erg/guidepage.aspx?guide=131>>

ERMA: ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE MANAGEMENT APPLICATION



ERMA is a web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) tool designed to assist both emergency responders and environmental resource managers who deal with incidents that may adversely impact the environment. The application can assist in response planning and is accessible to both the command post and to assets in the field during an actual response incident, such as an oil spill or hurricane. The data within ERMA also assist in resource management decisions regarding hazardous waste site evaluations and restoration planning.

ERMA supports environmental preparedness, response, and recovery efforts by:

- Providing integrated and timely information to improve decision-making.
- Integrating and synthesizing various types of information on a single map interface.
- Providing fast visualization of current information.
- Improving communication and coordination among responders and stakeholders

[http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/topic_subtopic_entry.php?RECORD_KEY%28entry_subtopic_topic%29=entry_id.subtopic_id.topic_id&entry_id\(entry_subtopic_topic\)=789&subtopic_id\(entry_subtopic_topic\)=8&topic_id\(entry_subtopic_topic\)=1](http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/topic_subtopic_entry.php?RECORD_KEY%28entry_subtopic_topic%29=entry_id.subtopic_id.topic_id&entry_id(entry_subtopic_topic)=789&subtopic_id(entry_subtopic_topic)=8&topic_id(entry_subtopic_topic)=1)

SCIENCE: 'ROCK-BREATHING' BACTERIA COULD GENERATE ELECTRICITY AND CLEAN UP OIL SPILLS

14 December 2009: A discovery by scientists at the University of East Anglia (UEA) could contribute to the development of systems that use domestic or agricultural waste to generate clean electricity. Published today by the leading scientific journal, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS), the researchers have demonstrated for the first time the mechanism by which some bacteria survive by 'breathing rocks'. The findings could be applied to help in the development of new microbe-based technologies such as fuel cells, or 'bio-batteries', powered by animal or human waste, and agents to clean up areas polluted by oil or uranium.

"This is an exciting advance in our understanding of bacterial processes in the Earth's sub-surfaces," said Prof David Richardson, of UEA's School of Biological Sciences, who is leading the project.

"It will also have important biotechnological impacts. There is potential for these rock-breathing bacteria to be used to clean-up environments contaminated with toxic organic pollutants such as oil or radioactive metals such as uranium. Use of these bacteria in microbial fuel-cells powered by sewerage or cow manure is also being explored." Read more at: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-12/uoea-bc121009.php

USA: TEACHING THEM YOUNG – “SPILL” EDUCATIONAL GAME

In response to American President Barack Obama's call for greater attention to be paid to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education, some major video game industry players have teamed up to announce a set of initiatives to engage students toward science.

.....Another game called [Spill!](#), this time focusing on ecology and the business of environmental management, is also finding its way into the classroom. In the game developed by [BrandGames](#), students work as a team to clean up toxic waste. Each player fulfills one of several roles on a simulated professional services team and competes against other teams to mitigate an oil spill in the river of "New City".

Spearheaded by Deloitte, **Spill!** was distributed free of charge to 700 schools across the United States. For students, playing the game was also part of the [Virtual Team Challenge](#), a competition open to all high schools. The top players won cash grants for their local United Way chapter and their schools.

http://gamefwd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=272:fwd-news-educational-games-get-scientific&catid=56:educational-games&Itemid=54

OMAN: GULF ECO TO PRESENT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY AND TRAINING SERVICES

The fifth edition of the Gulf Eco 2010 Expo and Conference will provide the environment society in Oman with the right platform to network and source out leading environmental consultancy and training services during the three-day event from January 11 to 13, 2010 at the Oman International Exhibition Centre.

Oman International Trade and Exhibition's (OITE) Director for Sales and Marketing, Sadiq Khan, said: "With various issues now confronting the environment, Gulf Eco provides the right opportunity for industry players to look into the latest trends, innovations and solutions that best protect and preserve the environment. Environment consultancy and training services will be showcased to address the specific requirements of the Environment and Climate, Marine and Water Resources, Alternative and Renewable Energy sectors."

The staging of Gulf Eco is being organised under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment and Climate and supported by the Sultanate's key environment leaders. For more information go to: <http://www.ameinfo.com/218594.html>

USA: TRAINING COURSES FROM THE RED ANCHOR INSTITUTE, DETROIT.

ISCO Corporate Member, Marine Pollution Control has sent details of upcoming 2010 training courses at their customised training facility in Detroit, Michigan.

- 40-Hour HazWoper (OSHA 1910.120) - April 5-9, July 5-9, and October 11-15
- Permit-Required Confined Spaces (Entry/Attendant/Supervisor/Rescue) (OSHA 1910.146) - April 12-14, July 12-14, and October 18-20
- Incident Command Systems
- Specialized Chemical, Hazard Communication, and other training courses

For further information call (313) 849-2670 or email: Fenelon Ashley – fenelon@marinepollutioncontrol.com or Catherine Gibbons – cgibbons@marinepollutioncontrol.com or visit www.marinepollutioncontrol.com

LOOKING FOR AN INTERESTING CHALLENGE ?

Your editor is pleased to report that he received three responses from last week's appeal for volunteers interested in helping ISCO in their spare time – admin, research, technical support, web development and other areas.

We're still looking for someone who has skills in using the website software "Joomla" and could help with improving the site layout and uploading new material on the ISCO website. If this is something you can do, or if you'd be interested in helping in other areas, please get in touch.

..... AND YOUR EDITOR IS TAKING A BREAK

With an imminent (and very welcome) invasion by family and friends, including five grandchildren, your editor is going to take a short break from compiling this Newsletter.

The next issue will be on Monday, 4th January, 2010.

I wish you all a very happy holiday and good health and prosperity in the coming year.

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.