INTERNATIONAL SPILL CONTROL ORGANIZATION

ISCO NEWSLETTER

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A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

USA: OBAMA TO NOMINATE PAPP AS USCG COMMANDANT

President Obama intends to nominate Vice Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., as Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Vice Admiral Papp would relieve Admiral Thad Allen in May 2010.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano today applauded President Obama's choice/

"The Coast Guard plays a vital role in protecting our nation--securing America's borders, protecting our ports, and providing critical aid during disasters," said Secretary Napolitano. "Vice Admiral Papp's extensive knowledge of the Coast Guard's operations and broad mission will strengthen our efforts to ensure the nation's maritime security."

As Coast Guard Commandant, Papp will lead one of DHS'st largest components--with approximately 42,000 Active Duty men and women and more than 7,000 civilian employees--and oversee Coast Guard functions as a branch of the armed services and a federal law enforcement agency. http://www.marinelog.com/DOCS/NEWSMMIX/2009dec00225.html

MEDITERRANEAN: REMPEC LAUNCHES ITS NEW WEBSITE

The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) has made the following announcement – “The Centre is pleased to conclude the year 2009 by the launch of the new version of its website aimed at facilitating access to information and at transferring part of the paper based Regional Information System (RIS) to an IT based documentation.

The new website offers all relevant information concerning REMPEC, its legal framework, its mandate, its activities, and detailed information resources pages providing documentation related to the activities implemented by the Centre. The content of the website still requires some updates while the French version is currently being translated.

We would like to bring your attention to the “country profile” section which provides updated national information in particular contact details of national competent authorities in charge of the implementation of the relevant Protocols and Conventions related to the prevention from, preparedness for and response to marine pollution.

Should the users of the website have any comments or recommendations, we would be pleased to consider them for eventual improvements of this new communication tools". http://www.rempec.org/

CHINA TRIES TO CONTAIN SPILL ON YELLOW RIVER TRIBUTARY

Hundreds of workers in northern China are trying to contain a pipeline leak that has spilled diesel fuel into a major tributary of the Yellow River. About 150,000 litres of diesel poured into the Wei river in Shaanxi province after a construction accident on Wednesday, state media reported.

Pollution has been reported up to 33km (21 miles) downstream. Locals have been warned not to use water from the river. The Yellow River is a source of drinking water for millions of people. Read more: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/8438362.stm

USA: EPA EXPLORES NEW, TOUGHER FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHEMICAL INDUSTRY CLEANUPS

The Environmental Protection Agency said Dec. 30 that it is developing new requirements for chemical companies to show they have resources to clean up environmental damage that may result from their operations. Under the superfund law, the agency said it is taking the first step to ensure that plant owners—not taxpayers—foot the bill for cleaning up damage from pollution.

In explaining its concern, the agency pointed to Vertac Chemical Co. in Jacksonville, Ark., that went bankrupt in 1986, leaving behind 29,000 drums of chemical waste and a $127 million bill to be paid by the federal government. EPA also singled out a Delaware chlorinated benzene manufacturer that folded in 2002, sticking the federal taxpayer with a cleanup bill that is expected to reach $100 million.

In all, EPA has spent some $2.7 billion through this year to clean up bankrupt chemical industry plants. Read more: http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/87/i51/8751news14.html

NETHERLANDS: DUTCH COURT TO TAKE ON SHELL NIGERIA CASES

Sunday Badon, a member of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, stands in front of a lake of oil seeping from an abandoned Shell wellhead June 16, 2006. Photo: Tom Ashby

Royal Dutch Shell and its Nigerian unit will face compensation demands in a Dutch court for alleged damage caused by oil spills in Nigeria after the court ruled on Wednesday it was competent to handle the cases. Environmental group Friends of the Earth Netherlands and four Nigerians aim to sue Shell and Nigeria-based Shell Petroleum Development Co. (SPDC) in a district court in The Hague on charges related to incidents of oil spills in Nigeria.

Shell had asked for a ruling on whether the Dutch court had jurisdiction over SPDC's Nigerian activities, but the court rejected a claim of incompetence. "The court has decided that it is competent, so we will be handling the case," said a court spokeswoman. "The facts are connected and for reasons of efficiency the cases against Royal Dutch Shell and Shell Nigeria will be handled jointly." The plaintiffs, farmers and fishermen in the oil –rich Niger Delta, say that oil leaking from Shell activities has polluted their farmlands and fish ponds, and are demanding that Shell clean up the oil and compensate them. After several failed attempts to address the issue in Nigeria, the plaintiffs decided to bring the cases to the Netherlands as Shell is a partly Dutch firm, said a spokeswoman for Friends of the Earth. "For years, these people have been trying to get Shell to clean up its mess," Friends of the Earth said. "The court decision is an initial victory for all Nigerians that have been fighting for years for a cleaner habitat and justice."

Shell has said the spills in question were caused by sabotage. Oil companies active in Nigeria have grappled with militant sabotage activities in recent years which have hit production in the world's eighth-biggest crude oil exporter. Shell will be able to enter a statement of reply to the claims on February 10, the court spokeswoman said. Shell said on Wednesday it was disappointed with the court's ruling, describing the issues as 'purely Nigerian matters'.

Friends of the Earth's Dutch arm has said Shell has the authority and the control to ensure oil spills are prevented and are cleaned up. They argue the spills are part of a systematic pattern over decades. Read more: http://planetark.org/wen/56156 [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member DG & Hazmat Group for passing on this news item]

VIETNAM: REGULATION TO IMPOSE STRICTER PENALTIES ON MARINE POLLUTERS

VietNamNet Bridge – Stricter punishments are to be meted out on those who pollute the sea under a draft decree issued by the Ministry of Transport.

If passed, those who intentionally discharge waste water contaminated with poisonous chemicals into the sea will be subject to fines of VND100 million (US$5,200), five times current levels. Those who flush out tanks containing oil into the sea will be subject to fines of up to VND30-50 million ($1,578-2,631), while those ships that are not equipped with oil filters, or which discharge oil without permission from the local maritime department, will be fined VND10-20 million ($526-1,052). Read more: http://english.vietnamnet.vn/tech/200912/Regulation-to-impose-stricter-penalties-on-marine-polluters-887010/

NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES BEGIN CLEAN-UP OF POLLUTED NIGER DELTA

In Nigeria, a major plan is underway to clean up the Niger Delta. If successful, it will reverse decades of environmental damage to the oil-rich region.

Leading the effort is the governor of Delta State, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan. Prominent oil firms have signed on to the program, which involves stopping gas flaring and oil spills and cleaning up polluted rivers and farm lands. The initiative is part of a larger goal of developing the infrastructure and economy of the area, according to the governor.

Read more: http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/west/Nigerian-Authorities-Begin-Clean-up-of-Polluted-Niger-Delta-80421847.html

REMEDIATION: TECHNOLOGY NEWS AND TRENDS

The December 2009 issue of *Technology News and Trends* has been posted to the CLU-IN web site. This issue highlights...

- Sequential In-Situ Chem/Ox and ERD Treatment of Groundwater Destroys CVOCs
- Vegetable Oil Emulsion Promotes Contaminant Degradation in Bedrock Groundwater
- Benzene and Xylene Degradation Accomplished through Ozone Sparge Technology
- EPA Issues New Policy and Strategy to Reduce Environmental Footprints of Cleanup
- DNAPL Guidance

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

USA: HOMELAND DEFENCE – WEB BASED RESOURCE TOOLS

Power Point presentation on information and guidance sources for first responders –

- Responder Knowledge Base (RKB)
- System Assessment and Validation for First Responders (SAVER)
- Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS)

Web-Based Resource Tools - New York State Office of Homeland Security

SCIENCE: SIMPLE NANOTECHNOLOGY PAPER SENSOR FOR DETECTING TOXINS IN WATER

Safe drinking water has been and increasingly will be a pressing issue for communities around the world. In developed countries it is about keeping water supplies safe while in the rest of the world it is about making it safe (see: "Water, nanotechnology's promises, and economic reality"). The potential impact areas for nanotechnology in water applications are divided into three categories – treatment and remediation, sensing and detection, and pollution prevention (read more: "Nanotechnology and water treatment"). Within the category of sensing and detection, of particular interest is the development of new and enhanced sensors to detect biological and chemical contaminants at very low concentration levels. Read more: http://www.nanowerk.com/spotlight/spotid=13913.php

PUBLICATIONS:

QUANTITATIVE POLLUTION SPILL RISK ASSESSMENT: USING A GIS-BASED SYSTEM

Abstract : Federal and State agencies have recently advocated risk-based analysis as a mechanism for advancing regulatory reform and safety determination in marine systems. the present investigation promotes this objective through the development of risk-based environmental planning strategies for oil spill contingency plans. This alternative approach to contingency planning departs from conventional methodology by employing quantitative risk assessment methods to identify hazardous oil spill zones and sensitive environmental areas, Ro and Re respectively. the product of this conversion is referenced on a single “Risk” layer within a Geographic Information System (GIS) framework allowing coastal managers to evaluate natural resource data with associated elements of oil spill risk. As a new tool for coastal pollution management, risk-based environmental planning strategies have shown potential for evolving more efficient oil spill contingency plans.

Authors: Austin Ives; Bart Baca; Christos Douligeris; Lefteris Lakovou. Published in: Chemistry and Ecology, Volume 15, Issue 1 - 3 December 1998 , pages 223 – 233
http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content=a757056960

REMEDIATION OF PETROLEUM-CONTAMINATED SITES THROUGH SIMULATION OF A DPVE-AIDED CLEANUP PROCESS: PART 2. REMEDIATION DESIGN

Abstract : Remediation of petroleum-contaminated sites is usually a challenging task. It is hard to identify and customize a desired remediation technique or technique-combination into specific on-site conditions due mainly to the difficulties in gaining insight into the complex source and medium conditions in aquifer systems. Moreover, it is exigent to remediate sites where low-permeability soil layers exist. This study presents an integrated approach based on the simulation of a DPVE-aided (dual-phase vacuum extraction aided) remediation process for the identification and customization of desired remediation techniques, as well as its application to a site located in western Canada. Data of the specific site conditions, the forecasted results of contaminant transport, and the scenarios of remediation techniques with different treatment efficiencies are examined. Then the proposed approach was applied to design six remediation alternatives based on combinations of several technologies and the provision of analyses for system designs and costs. The study will help provide decision support for further remediation actions to be taken at the site.

Authors: Y. F. Huang; G. H. Huang; H. N. Xiao; A. Chakma; Q. G. Lin; H. Xu. Published in: Energy Sources, Part A: Recovery, Utilization, and Environmental Effects, Volume 29, Issue 4 March 2007 , pages 367 – 387 http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/927821599-73267101/content~db=all~content=a770752376