



ISCO NEWSLETTER

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IMO: DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPERS FOR OPRC-HNS TG10 MEETING

Delegates are reminded that the deadline is close of business on 29th January 2010.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF WAR

Why militaries almost never clean up the messes they leave behind – An interesting article in the current edition of *Washington Monthly*. A short excerpt is reproduced below.



If countries don't want to pay for cleanup, international law can hardly make them. While a number of treaties since the 1970s—the First Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, the Environmental Modification Convention, and others—have tried to limit the environmental consequences of war, they have all made broad exceptions for militarily necessary activity. They have also had weak, even nonexistent, enforcement mechanisms, and the definition of "militarily necessary" has been highly flexible. "Where the international community has sought to hold states and individuals responsible for environmental harm

caused during armed conflict, results have largely been poor," concludes a recent report by the United Nations Environmental Program. Read the complete article at: <http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/features/2010/1001.risen.html>

EUROPE: CLEANSEANET DATA CENTRE ONLINE BY END 2010

Willem de Ruyter and Advance Computer Systems prepare to put pen to paper

18 November 2009 saw EMSA host a kick-off meeting for the CleanSeaNet Data Centre (CSN DC). Willem de Ruyter, EMSA Executive Director and Roberto Medri, Managing Director of Advanced Computer Systems, signed a contract to develop the CleanSeaNet DC, due to be rolled out in the last quarter of 2010. The CSN DC will be hosted at EMSA, enabling the Agency to manage Earth observation data and to serve up information to CleanSeaNet



users in near real-time. Forming a platform for future services in the area of satellite

pollution detection, the systems's features will include alert, visualisation, dissemination, input and archiving of data. News item from the latest edition of the EMSA Newsletter - <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/>

USA: FIRST RESPONDERS AND MILITARY MUST LEARN TO WORK WITH EACH OTHER

In the event of a large-scale natural disaster or terrorist attack, US military forces could be called on for domestic deployment -- working alongside first responders -- and both sides must learn to work effectively together, says Barry Rosenberg, Editorial Director of the upcoming Domestic Defense 2010 conference.

At the 2nd Annual *Domestic Defense Symposium: U.S. Military Forces, First Responders & Defense of the Nation* conference scheduled for March 24 in Washington DC's Walter Washington Convention Center, Rosenberg hopes to bring together the nation's first responder community and the military community in an effort to prepare them for interacting with each other during a crisis. "Many first responders like fire, police and EMTs have not had experience working with military groups like the Rapid Deployment Forces which were established in 1977 for foreign deployment. If we have a CBRNE or natural disaster, first responders will have to work with military, and it's not something many of them are familiar with doing," he says. "This conference will address how the military and first responders can work together prior to and during an event to ensure an effective, timely and coordinated response at the most challenging times." Read more: <http://www.hsoutlook.com/careersadvancement/157-first-responders-and-military-must-learn-to-work-with-each-other-during-crisis-domestic-defense-symposium-director-.html>

FRANCE: CEDRE APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT



The meeting of *Cedre's* board of governors and its general assembly were held in Paris on 15 December. During these meetings, the re-election of the board officers was on the agenda. *Cedre* thus now has a new chairman, Mr François Cuillandre, Mayor of Brest and President of Brest Métropole Océane, who takes over from Mr Pierre Maille, President of the Conseil Général du Finistère, who was chairmain of *Cedre* for 12 years.

<http://www.cedre.fr>

USA: EPA LAUNCHES NEW YEAR CRACKDOWN ON CHEMICALS AND POLLUTANTS

The US [Environment Protection Agency](#) (EPA) delivered an unwelcome Christmas gift to the chemical industry over the holiday period, making two decisions that were welcomed by environmentalists but which have angered industry groups. The watchdog announced tough new measures to regulate the use of four chemical groups, and also listed the chemicals industry as one of three sectors that will face more demanding environmental clean-up regulations.

In a move that mirrors a [similar initiative in the EU](#), the EPA is creating a Chemicals of Concern list that will be used to identify hazardous chemicals, which will then face tough risk reduction measures. The move is the first action taken by the EPA as part of a broad push to revise and strengthen environmental measures pertaining to chemical use that could ultimately lead to a reform of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). On September 29, the EPA announced that it would identify a number of chemicals of concern, and take action over them.

The four chemicals for which the EPA released action plans on December 30, are phthalates, short chain chlorinated paraffins, polybrominated diphenyl ethers, and perfluorinated chemicals. It said that it is also developing action plans for Benzidine dyes and pigments, and Bisphenol A.

The move will place pressure on manufacturers that use the substances to limit their use and find alternatives where possible. Read more: <http://www.businessgreen.com/business-green/news/2255583/epa-kick-starts-chemicals>

TAIWAN, CHINA: SOIL AND GROUNDWATER POLLUTION REMEDIATION FUND

The Taiwan, China EPA has established a fund similar to the US Superfund, to deal with legal costs, administrative costs, and remediation costs where responsible parties cannot be identified. This fund is sourced through a specific tax from industries such as the petroleum, petrochemical and others involved in manufacturing. More info: <http://www.remediationaustralasia.org/?q=node/547>

USA: EPA PROPOSES TO STRENGTHEN DIOXIN CLEANUP GUIDELINES

In a move that could portend more extensive and expensive cleanups, EPA is proposing to tighten its guidelines for remediating polychlorinated dioxins in soils.

EPA proposes what it calls "preliminary remediation goals" of 72 parts per trillion of dioxin in residential soil and 950 ppt for commercial or industrial land. EPA defines these goals as "national levels protective for cancer and non-cancer effects from human exposure by ingestion and dermal contact with surface soils."

The proposed levels would be significantly lower than EPA's current preliminary remediation goals, set in 1998. Those are 1,000 ppt for dioxin in residential soil and a range of 5,000-20,000 ppt in commercial or industrial soil.

Once finalized, EPA will ask its regional offices, states, and tribes to use the new goals, which are not legally binding, as starting points as they craft cleanup plans for dioxin-contaminated sites.

The proposed goals, which the agency released without fanfare on Dec. 31, 2009, take into consideration the potential for absorption of dioxin through skin in contact with contaminated soil, EPA says. Read more: <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/88/i02/8802news1.html>

CHINA: DIESEL SPILL REACHES YELLOW RIVER



Workers try to control diesel oil leaking from a pipeline in Huaxian county, Shaanxi Province January 3, 2010. More than 700 people are battling to prevent a leak of around 150,000 litres of diesel oil spilled into a Chinese river from reaching the Yellow River 70 km (43 miles) away, state media said on Sunday. Picture taken January 3, 2010. REUTERS/China Daily

A spill of around 150,000 litres of diesel oil from a broken pipeline in northwestern China into a river has started reaching the Yellow River, but drinking water is safe for now, state media said on Monday.

Despite the efforts of hundreds of people using barrages and other methods to clean up the diesel, the pollution had reached the Yellow River, the official Xinhua news agency said on its website (www.xinhuanet.com). Read more: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=china-diesel-spill-reache>

Update: January 5 - Hundreds of thousands of Chinese were ordered yesterday to stop drinking water from the Yellow River after an upstream pipeline leaked 100 tons of diesel fuel into a tributary Three counties and an industrial zone in western Shanxi province have been ordered to halt their use of river water, according to a notice issued by the local government. The areas have a combined population of about 850,000. Read more: http://www.philly.com/inquirer/world_us/20100105_A_drinking-water_disaster_in_China.html

FRANCE: CEDRE HAS RELEASED NEW ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHEMICAL RESPONSE GUIDE FOR SPILLS OF UNLEADED GASOLINE

This guide is intended for operational personnel liable to be confronted with a spill of unleaded gasoline in the marine environment or on a water body or course. This document does not deal with land pollution. It is designed to provide operational personnel with useful information on spill response and on the establishment of response plans in case of such a spill. This guide is designed to allow rapid access to the necessary initial information (see chapter entitled "First line emergency data"), in addition to providing relevant bibliographical sources to obtain further information. It contains the results of accident scenarios involving spills at sea, in a port and on a river. These scenarios are only intended to provide response authorities with indications of what to do in an emergency. Each real incident should be analysed individually and the response authorities should not underestimate the importance of taking *in situ* measurements (air, water, sediment and marine fauna) in order to determine exclusion areas. Download at: <http://www.cedre.fr/en/publication/chemical/gasoline.pdf>

USA: TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION NEWS SURVEY

The October 1-31, 2009 *Technology Innovation News Survey* has been posted to the CLU-IN web site. The *Survey* contains market/commercialization information; reports on demonstrations, feasibility studies and research; and other news relevant to the hazardous waste community interested in technology development.

The latest survey is available at: <http://www.clu-in.org/products/tins/>

UK: VIKOMA WINS £2 MILLION MINISTRY OF DEFENCE CONTRACT

Vikoma International Ltd, part of Aberdeen based Energy Environmental Ltd, has begun work on a contract worth more than £2 million to supply hydraulic powerpacks to KBR, as part of a Ministry of Defence contract.

The powerpacks have been designed and developed specifically for the end user, to provide power for pumping operations in challenging environments across the world. Three different designs are being manufactured to suit varying environments and operational requirements. More: <http://www.vikoma.com/>



CANADA: AQUA-GUARD SUPPLYING OIL SPILL RESPONSE SYSTEMS TO ITALY

Members of an Italian Consortium have purchased seven RBS TRITONTM 150 and three RBS TRITONTM 300 systems. Each of these systems included Aqua-Guard's patented (U.S. 7,303,688) and witnessed (Det Norske Veritas) RBS TRITONTM oil recovery technology and were supplied with a diesel/hydraulic power pack or a hydraulic control console designed for use with ship's hydraulic power. More info: <http://www.aquaguard.com>

INDIA: NEW MARINE POLLUTION RESPONSE COMPANY BEING FORMED.

Alpha MERS is a company being floated to provide services in the field of Marine oil pollution response and HNS spill response (HNS is Hazardous and Noxious substances). MERS is an acronym for Marine Emergency Response Service.

The company plans to provide equipment, rapid response teams, knowledge resources and decision support systems to prevent and respond to spill incidents in this sector and is expected to be in operational mode in Q2/2010. More info: http://www.lavendercruises.in/about_us

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.