

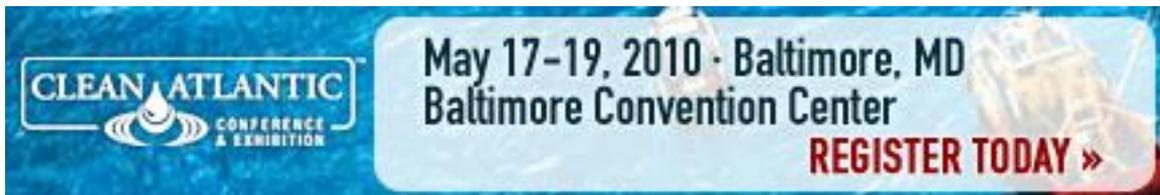


ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

Issue 224 22nd March, 2010

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IMO: MEPC MEETING STARTS TODAY

Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) – 60th session: 22-26 March, 2010. A preview of this meeting can be viewed at:

http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1859&doc_id=12630

IMO: OPRC-HNS TECHNICAL GROUP MEETING

The tenth meeting of the IMO MEPC OPRC-HNS Technical Group (TG10) concluded on Friday 19th March, 2010. Work on the *Publication checklist for new IMO manuals, guidance documents and training materials* was completed ready for submission to MEPC 60. After final editing the *Manual on Incident Command Systems (ICS)* is planned for submission at MEPC 61. The Group progressed work on a broad range of other oil and HNS projects.

Technical discussions were leavened by a number of special presentations. One by the delegation of the United States on the Exxon Valdez incident, included the video produced by NOAA, and reviewed the response efforts by those who were directly involved. The observer from IMarEST gave an illustrated talk on the MV Newcastle incident, involving ferrous sulphate, a dry bulk cargo, which had fluidised and shifted whilst in transit, resulting in the production and leaching of sulphuric acid liquor within the vessel compartment. The representative from Norway described the Full City incident, an oil spill that occurred off the coast of Norway in July 2009, involving the loss of 1113 m³ of oil. The delegation of Sweden shared its experience in responding to the Linda incident, which involved the loss of four freight containers, three containing HNS, and the delegation of Australia gave an overview of the Montara incident which resulted in the loss of some 6.6 million litres of oil over a period of 108 days, until the well was finally capped.

ISCO presented a paper on the independent training and accreditation of private oil and HNS response contractors to the requirements of shoreline cleaning and it was noted that, in association with ISCO, a working group has been established by ISAA. It was agreed that ISCO will submit a further technical paper to TG 11. Going forwards, ISCO agreed to continue, alongside other delegations, with efforts to collate experience and lessons learned in response to marine HNS incidents and in dealing with sub-sea oil recovery.

USA: MAJOR DISASTER DRILL BEGINS TODAY

An oil tanker collides with a car carrier 15 miles southwest of Portland, Maine, during a winter storm with rough northeast winds, subfreezing temperatures and limited visibility.

The tanker's 1.3 million gallons of oil is disbursed into the ocean, currents sending it down the Maine coast, along New Hampshire and into Boston Harbor before it dissipates.

On March 24, after almost a year of preparation involving more than 100 entities and nearly 800 people from the federal government, private corporations, three states and various municipalities, this Spill of National Significance, or SONS, exercise will take place in waters stretching the length of the "spill."

"It's basically an oil spill that blackens the Northeast. It is significant and it involves a lot of people," said Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Jeff Hall of the District 1 Coast Guard in Boston, which is leading the drill's coordination. The exercise begins March 22 in Portland with two days of tabletop preparation. Ships will head out March 23 to approximate the accident and containment measures. The storm model used is actually the Patriots Day storm of April 2007, Hall said. Read the complete text of this report at: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20100317-NEWS-3170379>

CHINA: OSRO CHINA LTD OFFERS SHIP OWNERS 'ONE-STOP SOLUTION'

In response to regulations enacted on March 1, 2010 on the Prevention and Control of Vessel-Induced Marine Environment Pollution, a Hong Kong, China based firm – OSRO China Ltd - has laid the foundation for a consortium of oil spill response contractors throughout China's ports that fulfills China's latest pollution control legislation. Head of the Hong Kong, China operation, David Schaus said: "From our past experience and relationships with oil sludge collection contractors, we have been able to build a network of Level 1 responder applicants, that, on approval from China's Maritime Safety Authority (MSA), will form a turn-key pollution control product that will allow ship owners to sign a single Agency Agreement while meeting all statutory requirements." OSRO China was founded as a result of the Chinese Government's recent approval of the Regulations of The People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Vessel Induced Marine Environment Pollution. Of particular concern to ship owners was the requirement for pollution control agreements to be executed with local Oil Spill Response Organizations for ships carrying hazardous substances or of greater than 10,000 Gross Tonnes (GRT).

The newly introduced requirement would require ship owners to have contracts in place with local oil spill response organizations – which currently do not exist. Previously, the China MSA has called on existing oil sludge collectors and/or tank cleaning contractors to assist the MSA as and when required during pollution incidents. In the past, these companies have had oil pollution clean-up equipment on hand for their normal operations, in addition to access to the MSA's inventory. Read more at: <http://www.transportweekly.com/pages/en/news/articles/70206/>

USA, ALASKA: ALYESKA REPORTS SHORTAGE OF SPILL RESPONSE VESSELS

The operator of the trans-Alaska pipeline and Valdez tanker port is reporting a shortfall in the number of fishing boats ready to provide aid in the event of a Prince William Sound oil spill.

State regulators require the operator, Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., to contract with hundreds of fishing boats in Southcentral Alaska to be on call to help clean up oil spills.

In January, Alyeska said it had 20 fewer fishing vessels than required ready to respond to a tanker spill in Prince William Sound. But the shortfall may have been as high as 33 vessels, according to an oil-spill watchdog group. In Prince William Sound, roughly 200 fishing boats must be ready to respond to a tanker spill, according to the state's mandatory spill response plan for North Slope crude oil tankers. Read more at: <http://www.adn.com/2010/03/12/1181250/pipeline-operator-reports-shortage.html>

USA, ALASKA: SPILL COUNCIL REPORT ON LINGERING OIL STUDIES

In February 2010, the *Exxon Valdez* Spill Trustee Council released a report on "Recent Lingering Oil Studies" to summarize recent studies which address lingering oil from the 1989 spill. The conclusion of these studies and recent field work indicate that there are several significant sites where lingering oil impacts the environment. Some wildlife and

aquatic species continue to be affected, but the report concludes that oil exposure appears to be diminishing in most species and that populations of some species are beginning to increase. Furthermore, the report found that the lingering oil can significantly further bio-degrade under the right conditions. A copy of this report is available at: <http://www.evostc.state.ak.us/universal/documents/LingeringOilReport.pdf>

SAFETY: VERIFYING OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES OF PORTABLE GAS MONITORS

Ever confused by difference between a 'bump' test and 'calibration test' (qualitative & quantitative respectively) for your portable gas detection equipment? Or when these should be conducted. This short guidance note will assist in your understanding.

Questions about the frequency and methods by which a portable gas monitor should be calibrated are now answered in an [updated industry statement](#) from the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA). This revised industry statement, first published in 2002, reflects current instrumentation technologies and monitoring practices and seeks to reinforce the frequency and scenarios whereby a monitor's operability should be validated. "Worker safety is the primary concern anytime personnel are entering or working in an area that may contain a potentially hazardous atmosphere," said Scott Larson, CIH, chairman of the ISEA Instruments Group and Technical Service Specialist at 3M Company, St. Paul, Minn. "A key in helping to protect these workers is to ensure that the work area is accurately monitored for all potential hazards. One of the first steps in doing so is to know that the detection equipment being used is in correct working order." The document provides guidance on validation methods that can be used to confirm that a portable gas monitor is working properly before each day's use. This can be done by conducting either a qualitative function check (bump test) or a quantitative test (calibration check). Equipment failing either of these two methods must be adjusted by performing a full calibration procedure outlined by the manufacturer's instructions. In addition, the statement provides guidance on those situations where operability should be checked beyond a defined interval. "Many users are often unaware that there are certain conditions or events that can occur during storage or use of a monitor that may compromise its ability to function properly," Larson said. "Given the reliance users place on the monitor's ability to detect potential hazards, they need to be aware of influences that may affect an instrument's operational capabilities." http://www.safetysiteequipment.org/userfiles/File/calibration_statement-2010-Mar4.pdf [Thanks to Kevin D. Westwood for forwarding this item]

PEOPLE: RO-CLEAN DESMI WELCOMES ANDY NASH AS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



ISCO Corporate Member Ro-Clean Desmi has made the following announcement: "As part of our long term strategy to strengthen our organisation and service levels, RO-CLEAN DESMI have the pleasure to announce that Andy Nash has been appointed as Business Development Manager, says Frands Jensen, Vice President of RO-CLEAN DESMI.

Andy will assume the responsibility on a number of special projects and promote our representation in various regions.

Andy Nash, who has many years experience in the hydrocarbon and spill response industry, is based at RO-CLEAN DESMI Ltd. UK office, 24 Shamrock Quay in Southampton".

TECHNOLOGY: USE OF AUTONOMOUS UNDERWATER VEHICLE (AUV) FOR SUBMERGED WRECK LOCATION

Hydroid, Inc. announced recently announced that in August 2009, the Royal New Zealand Navy's Operational Diving Team and a specialist Remote Search Team were flown to Tonga, in an RNZAF Hercules, at short notice to assist with the search for the sunken ferry, PRINCESS ASHIKA.

Their REMUS 100 systems were the primary assets used in the search. The search operations using the REMUS AUVs were successful and the RNZN located the ferry, intact and sitting in an upright position at a depth of 110 meters. The operations validate the belief that the REMUS systems could be mobilized quickly and conduct AUV operations in very remote locations with little logistical support.

For further information contact Kevin McCarthy, Vice President Marketing at Hydroid at Tel 508-563-6565, e-mail kmccarthy@hydroid.com. To learn more about Hydroid, Inc. visit www.hydroid.com. [With acknowledgement to Oceanbuzz <http://www.oceanbusiness.com/oceanbuzz/>]

TECHNOLOGY: AHURA SCIENTIFIC INTRODUCES NEXT GENERATION RAMAN PLATFORM

Ahura Scientific, Inc., the leader in field-deployed analytical instruments for human health and public safety, today announced the release of its next generation Raman platform for safety and security applications. Designed for the rapid identification of unknown solids and liquids, FirstDefender® RM and FirstDefender RMX build on the success of the flagship FirstDefender to deliver advanced new features and capabilities. Ahura Scientific revolutionized the chemical identification market with the launch of FirstDefender in 2005 and now reinforces that leadership with instruments that are up to five times faster and significantly smaller and lighter than their market-leading predecessor. Read the complete press release on this new development in *Hazmat News*, the Newsletter published by HazmatLINK at <http://hosted.verticalresponse.com:80/352976/4a8f1dbfb5/1426002558/1cb13ae2f0/>

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION NEWS SURVEY

The January 1-31, 2010 *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/>

USA: MOP ENVIRONMENTAL FILES NEW SOIL REMEDIATION PATENT

March 19, 2010 - MOP Environmental Solutions, Inc. (MOPN-pk) CEO, Charles Diamond today announced the filing of a Provisional Patent for a new technology providing fast, low-cost, on-site, remediation of even the most recalcitrant oil spills on land.

Deigned "MOP® RESCUE™ an acronym for Maximum Oil Pickup – Rapid Environmental Spill, Clean Up & Elimination", Diamond expressed the belief that "the application represents what is an important step in a process that looks to move the oil spill remediation industry toward sustainability."

"We now accomplish in minutes what otherwise took months or years. I believe this will completely shift the existing paradigm for clean up of land-based oil spills to our new, on-site, ultra-fast, low-cost process," said Diamond. "Until now, fast, on-site remediation of large land-based spills were exceedingly costly and impractical, leaving the choice of heavy fines for abandonment or costly removal of the contaminated soil for transport to a hazardous waste facility and replacement with clean soil." Read more at: <http://www.i-newswire.com/mop-environmental-files-new-soil/27442>

USA: BIODEFENSE 2010 CONFERENCE

May 23-24, 2010, Washington DC – Speaker and agenda updates are available at <http://biodefenseconference.com/index.html>

IRELAND: ISAA MEETING REMINDER

If you are planning to attend the meeting of the ISAA All-Ireland Accreditation Scheme Meeting in Dublin on 25th March, please advise the Administrator by email to john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

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.