

USA: DEEPWATER HORIZON SAGA



April 21 - The Coast Guard says at least 11 people are missing and seven hurt after an explosion and fire at an oil drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana. <http://www.ksm.com/news/oil-rig-explosion>

April 22 - The U.S Coast Guard has said that an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico that caught fire after an explosion on Tuesday night has now sunk. A search is continuing for 11 missing workers after the blast at the Deepwater Horizon rig. The other workers on the rig, off Louisiana, were evacuated to the U.S. The rig was carrying out exploratory drilling 84 kilometres south-east of the Louisiana port of Venice. The rig had been

burning for 36 hours when it sank despite efforts to control the flames. On Wednesday it had been reportedly tilting about 70 degrees and threatening to topple over. There has been no sign of the 11 missing workers, despite rescue efforts by patrol boats through the night and an aerial search that resumed yesterday. <http://www.samachartoday.com/rig-in-the-gulf-of-mexico-caughts-fire-and-now-sinks/2202>

April 23 - The US Coast Guard has called off a search for 11 workers who went missing and are now presumed dead after a blast tore through an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico earlier in the week. <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j9p6EBtXer0JLU8dwcckytNYfbcA> The collapse of the oil rig could disgorge up to 336,000 gallons of crude a day into waters about 40 miles off the Louisiana coast. <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/6971824.html> BP has sent 32 vessels and other resources to help contain an oil spill left after a fire and explosion led to the sinking of a Transocean Ltd. (RIG) drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico. The British oil giant is managing the development of hydrocarbons in that part of the Gulf and hired Transocean to drill a well there. BP said it sent vessels that can store oil, more than 100,000 gallons of dispersants and four aircraft ready to spray them on the spill, and up to 1 million feet of boom to contain the spill. The amount of oil that has been spilled has yet to be estimated. It also is helping Transocean assess the well and other equipment with remotely operated vehicles, and is ready to drill a relief well if needed. http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100422-717847.html?mod=WSJ_latestheadlines Rear Admiral Mary Landry, the US Coast Guard commander for the region, said that there was no sign of oil continuing to escape from the well-head on the sea bed, based on pictures from remotely operated submarines working 5,000ft below sea level. <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3a561720-4f08-11df-b8f4-00144feab49a.html>

April 24 - Storms forecast to rumble through the Gulf of Mexico may dissipate oil spilled after a Transocean Ltd. drilling rig caught fire and sank this week, the U.S. Coast Guard said. <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-04-24/oil-spill-from-sunken-gulf-platform-may-be-dispersed-by-storms.html> Choppy seas, strong winds and rain halted Saturday's cleanup of an oil spill around the massive oil drilling rig that exploded and toppled into the ocean off Louisiana <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g5gnWbqZ9SqBHvSYqJeE2AT5KebwD9F9G7D83>

April 25 - The unified command for the Deepwater Horizon Explosion Response announced Saturday that the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit was located capsized on the sea floor approximately 1500 feet northwest of the well site. Remotely Operated Vehicles located two places where oil is leaking from the well pipe and estimates indicate that up to 1,000 barrels of oil a day could be leaking into the water approximately 5,000 feet below the surface. During an overflight this morning, a 20-mile by 20-mile rainbow sheen with areas of emulsified crude was located approximately 40 miles offshore. Although there is currently no shoreline impact, Gulf Coast states have been notified and invited to participate in the Area Command Center located in Robert, La. On-water recovery

efforts were hampered by thunderstorms, rain and rough seas in the area today. However, onshore planning and staging efforts continue unabated and recovery efforts will continue when weather conditions improve. One-thousand-nine-hundred gallons of dispersant were applied Friday and 33,726 gallons of oily-water mix have been recovered by surface skimmers. "Our response plan is focused on quickly securing the source of the subsurface oil emanating from the well, clean the oil on the surface of the water, and keeping the response well offshore," said Rear Adm. Mary Landry, Incident Commander and Federal On Scene Coordinator.

<http://www.d8externalaffairs.com/go/doc/2931/529883/>

IMO: PREVIEW: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE REVISION OF THE HNS CONVENTION, 26 – 30 APRIL 2010

Further to the lifting of airspace restrictions over the United Kingdom, the HNS Protocol Conference will go ahead as planned

A Diplomatic Conference to consider, for adoption, a draft Protocol to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996 (HNS Convention), will be held in London from 26 to 30 April 2010, at the Headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The draft Protocol is aimed at bringing the HNS Convention into effect and intends to address practical problems that have prevented many States from ratifying the original Convention, which, despite being adopted in 1996, has, to date, only 14 ratifications and is some way from meeting the conditions for its entry into force.

The 1996 HNS Convention is based on the highly successful model of the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (CLC), 1969 (and its 1992 Protocol) and the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage (Fund Convention), 1971 (and its 1992 and 2003 Protocols).

Like the regime introduced by the CLC and Fund Conventions, the HNS Convention seeks to establish a two-tier system for compensation to be paid in the event of accidents at sea, in this case involving hazardous and noxious substances, such as chemicals. Tier one will be covered by compulsory insurance taken out by shipowners, who would be able to limit their liability; in those cases where the insurance does not cover an incident, or is insufficient to satisfy the claim, compensation shall be paid from a second tier, which would be a fund made up of contributions from the receivers of HNS. Contributions will be calculated according to the amount of HNS received in each State in the preceding calendar year.

However, among the obstacles that have discouraged ratification of the Convention, one of the most difficult to overcome has been the requirement for States to report to IMO the quantities of HNS they have received. This difficulty is due, in part, to the sheer range and diversity of hazardous and noxious substances that will be governed by the HNS Convention. As the reports act, among other things, as a trigger mechanism for the entry into force of the Convention, the lack of reporting by States has effectively prevented the Convention from becoming operative. The draft Protocol, which was developed initially by a focus group established by the 1992 International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund Assembly and was subsequently approved by the IMO Legal Committee at its 95th session in April 2009, is set to address this problem, as well as others thought to be acting as barriers to ratification of the HNS Convention. <http://www.imo.org/>

USA: LAUTENBERG WANTS TO REVIVE “POLLUTER PAYS” TAX ON INDUSTRY

With Congress focused on climate change, another environmental issue with broad national impact, cleaning up industrial sites, is receiving scant attention. But a handful of House and Senate Democrats hope to change that by shining a spotlight on Superfund, a 30-year-old federal program aimed at cleaning up abandoned sites such as former factories, municipal landfills and military storage facilities that are soaked in toxic chemicals and are harming, or could harm, people and the environment.

These lawmakers have introduced legislation to revive a controversial "polluter pays" tax on the chemical and petroleum industries to accelerate cleanups nationwide. They contend that many of the 1,279 sites that were put on Superfund's National Priorities List nearly three decades ago remain polluted because of a shortage of money. Read the complete article at:

<http://www.thedailyjournal.com/article/20100423/NEWS01/4230331>

GREECE: LMT TEAMS UP WITH WWF HELLAS

In the picture: Prof. Psaraftis and the Managing Director of WWF Hellas Mr. D. Karavellas, signing the memorandum.

On February 18 2010, LMT signed a memorandum of co-operation with WWF Hellas in the context of enhancing safety and environmental friendliness of shipping in Greek waters. LMT and WWFH will cooperate on issues of prevention of marine accidents and mitigation of their consequences, including pollution related incidents (e.g. oil spills) from ships. In particular, the cooperation initially will focus on the development of a comprehensive document / leaflet capable to provide an overall picture of maritime transport and of its dangers in Greece and equally promote some dedicated solutions for the recorded problems. The future oil pipeline from Burgas to Alexandroupolis and the effort of setting an operational framework for the protection of the marine and littoral environment in the Aegean Sea is another field of cooperation between the two parties. [Thanks to Prof. Psaraftis, ISCO Member of Council for Greece for forwarding the LMT Newsletter, from which this news item has been extracted] <http://www.martrans.org>



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AUSTRALIA: MONTARA SLICK 'COVERED VAST AREA OF TIMOR SEA'



Timor slick: oil and condensate leaches from the Montara wellhead platform days after the blowout

The oil slick from the Montara blowout covered a far greater area - possibly as much as 90,000 square kilometres of the Timor Sea - than made public during the incident, it has emerged. In the weeks following the 21 August blowout from the PTTEP-operated field, the extent of the slick of light oil, gas and condensate was variously estimated as stretching across an area of between 5000 square kilometres and 25,000 square kilometres. In its last day of public hearings in Caberra, the inquiry into the blowout also heard that the federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage & the Arts (DEWHA) turned down an early request for operational advice in managing the environmental impact of the spill because of "resourcing issues". Jamie Storrie, the manager with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's (AMSA) environment protection response unit co-ordinating the spill clean-up, told the inquiry on Friday that he asked DEWHA to appoint an environmental liaison officer five days after the blowout. He said: "I made a request on 26 August in a meeting with DEWHA, but I was advised that there was a resourcing issue; they didn't have anyone available. Read the complete text of this report at: <http://www.upstreamonline.com/live/article212426.ece> [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group, for passing on this report]

USA, ALASKA: OIL SPILL RESPONSE FLEET PAY TO RISE

The operator of the trans-Alaska pipeline and Valdez tanker port announced Tuesday it is offering a substantial boost in pay to Southcentral fishermen who participate in its oil-spill response program. It's not clear yet whether the pay increases will be satisfactory to the fishermen, however.

The pay raise was triggered by declining participation by fishing boat owners in the program. This winter, Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., fell out of compliance with state rules that require it to keep a certain number of fishing boats under contract to provide aid in the event of a Prince William Sound oil spill. Fishing vessel owners and an oil-spill watchdog group say participation in the program has been falling for years due to low pay, lack of respect toward fishermen, and the exclusion of them from decision-making about the oil-spill response program. Read more: <http://www.adn.com/2010/04/20/1242555/oil-spill-response-fleet-pay-to.html#ixzz0lkUx2WMM>

USA: NRT QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE: FUEL GRADE ETHANOL SPILLS & E85 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

From the Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition: The US Department of Transportation's [National Response Team \(NRT\)](#) has released their [Quick Reference Guide: Fuel Grade Ethanol Spills \(including E85\)](#) information. This information is the first of its kind, providing critical information for

the emergency response community in the unlikely event of an ethanol spill. The reference guide covers response criteria topics from chemical properties including a comparison of fuel ethanol and gasoline properties, environmental response techniques as well as general health and safety information. It also includes valuable regulatory and waste disposal information.

As the use of ethanol continues to expand across the country, it is important that those responsible for the safety of these communities are well prepared and trained for responding to ethanol related emergencies. Becoming familiar with the NRT Quick Reference Guide is an essential part to first responder training. This guide outlines health and safety precautions to take such as protective clothing suggestions, evacuation considerations and other safety concepts that must be followed when facing an ethanol emergency. Also covered are varying water effects a first responder may experience due to different water types mixing with an ethanol spill, such as still or slow water, large deep water bodies, flowing or fast water, and small shallow water bodies. This guide is critical for all emergency responders to know and should be readily available to first responders at headquarters and out in the field on duty.

The Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition (EERC) wants to make sure that those involved with ethanol safety are well trained and prepared for any ethanol emergency response. For more information on ethanol safety, please visit www.ethanolresponse.com. [With thanks to Tim Butters of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group]

TECHNOLOGY NEWS AND TRENDS & TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION NEWS SURVEY

The April 2010 issue of *Technology News and Trends* has been posted to the CLU-IN web site. This issue highlights...

- [Cape Cod Wind Resources Provide Energy for Long-Term Groundwater Cleanup at MMR](#)
- [Gas-to-Energy System at Former Landfill Generates Power for Gas and Leachate Treatment Systems](#)
- [Solar-Powered Recirculation Accelerates Bioreactor Operations at Travis AFB](#)
- [Program Expands for Upcoming Green Remediation Conference](#)
- [Partnering for LFG Energy](#)

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

The February 16-28, 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/>

ISCO AGM REMINDER

The Annual General Meeting of ISCO will be held at 1400 hrs. on Tuesday 4th May, 2010 at the Naval Club, 38 Hill Street, Mayfair, London W1J 5NS

PORTUGAL: ARCOPOL WORKSHOP - HNS, INERT AND OIL SPILLS

ARCOPOL 30-04-2010, Lisbon (Portugal) - Workshop: "New tools for better planning, response management and damage assessment in HNS, Inert and Oil Spills: ARCOPOL project" This workshop aims at disseminating among stakeholders the developments that are being achieved in the frame of ARCOPOL project. Specifically, it will focus on latest progresses made regarding tools for the better managing of accidental marine pollution events (inert, oil and HNS - Hazardous and noxious substances - spills). More info: <http://atlanticarea.inescporto.pt/news/arcopol-workshop-hns-inert-and-oil-spills>

ESTONIA: TORBJORN HEDRENIUS, MEMBER OF ISCO COUNCIL FOR ESTONIA

Your editor has just received a note from Torbjorn. Following on a stroke he has had to slow down his work but very much appreciates the ISCO Newsletter. He writes "You know I have worked with oil spills since I was 16 years old. I am now 61 years so it's a fairly long time". He is very interested in what's going on and says "it's a great pleasure to feel the contact with the "spill world".

I am sure that I can speak for Torbjorn's many friends in the spill response community in passing on our very best wishes.

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.