



ISCO NEWSLETTER

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Email info@spillcontrol.org Web <http://www.spillcontrol.org>

North America's Largest
Oil Spill Training Event & Exhibition
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Register
Today

CLEAN GULF
ANNIVERSARY

USA: DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL UPDATES

Extracts from the briefings given by National Incident Commander, Admiral Thad Allen.



U.S. Coast Guard conducts SCAT team training operations in St. Petersburg, Fla.

June 18: in the 24-hour period ended at midnight last night we actually were able to recover 25,000 barrels of oil. This is our new combination recovery system of both the Discoverer Enterprise, which is linked by the riser pipe to the wellhead, and our exploitation of the choke and kill lines bringing additional oil up and the process on the Q4000 and that is gas and oil that has flared off.

June 18: We've had an extraordinary response to our Vessel of Opportunity program, in excess of 2,000 vessels operating around the gulf. Our goal is to create a command and control system and a tracking system where we can most effectively utilize these vessels of opportunity.

June 18: A critical decision to be made around the 1st of July—will be whether or not we want

to unbolt that final section of pipe, that little piece of riser pipe that was cut with the shear cut, and replace it with a multi-fitting device over the top that's actually bolted, in which case you've sealed it. A couple things have to happen first. They have to install, and they're doing this as we're speaking, they have to install what's called a floating riser package ... they're going to take a section of riser pipe that's about 4000 feet long and they're going to suspend it under water. They're going to anchor it to the bottom. It's got flotation collars around the riser pipe. And there'll be a buoy on top just below the surface so it's suspended. There'll be a flexible hose that runs from the well over the riser pipe, then a flexible hose from the top of the riser pipe for the production platform.

June 18: We have hurricane season upon us. We may have to shut operations down, evacuate and redeploy. What the floating risers would also give us is better sea-keeping capabilities. The vessels are bigger, production vessels, their ability to disconnect and reconnect after a hurricane.

June 21: The total amount of oil that we recovered in the last 24-hour period ending midnight last night was 23,291 barrels. That is slightly below what we've been getting over the last couple of days due to lightning in the area that forced them to shut down the Discovery Enterprise for a while, then they had to do some maintenance.

June 22: Regarding the relief well operations, the Development Driller III is—remains at the 10,677 feet below the sea floor in preparation of closing in on the pipe and doing a ranging technique, which will allow them to hone in for the actual point where they'll penetrate the wellbore. Development Driller II is at 4,662 feet and moving forward.

June 22: We are going to bring in an addition production vessel to come off the kill line. That's the second line that comes out of this manifold over here, and that'll add 20 to 25,000 barrels a day. That gives us up to 43,000 of barrels a day production by next week. That's going to pretty much optimize what we can do at the wellhead site. There are three ways you can get oil out of this. You can come up to the riser pipe, and you can go through the kill or the choke lines to reverse those and actually bring oil to surface. So we're producing through the kill and choke lines in the Q4000, and we'll intend to do that with the Helix Producer once it gets on scene. And with the Discovery Enterprise, we have three vessels, and at that point, the total capacity will be 53,000 barrels.

June 23: We had an incident earlier today where they noticed that there was some kind of a gas rising through the vent that carries the warm water down that prohibits hydrates from forming. Out of abundance of caution the Discover Enterprise removed the containment cap with the riser pipe and moved away until they could assess the condition.

June 23: We are in the process of installing free standing riser pipes. The first freestanding riser pipe has been installed. They are testing it for pressure leaks today. And they will look at putting an anchoring system down. We are looking towards potentially next Tuesday bringing an additional production vessel online.

June 25: In regards to Development Driller III, there are two points to be made there. They are starting what they call "ranging activity." This is where they withdraw the drill pipe and put down an electrical cable into the end of the wellbore, and they put out an electrical signal, and they actually could pick up the magnetic field around the wellbore. This tells them how close they are getting. What they will do is continue to drill down in short intervals, withdraw the pipe, put that sensing device down, and slowly close on the wellbore to the point where they're ready to do the intercept drilling. This last part takes some time, because they only do several hundred feet at a time, withdraw the drill pipe, and then put the sensor down to figure out how close they're coming.

EGYPT: OIL SPILL THREATENS RED SEA MARINE LIFE

An oil spill off the Egyptian Red Sea coast of Hurghada threatening to damage marine life in the area has prompted [environmental agencies](#) to demand tighter regulation of offshore oil platforms.

Large quantities of oil have appeared in recent days around the resorts of Hurghada which draw millions of tourists who come to dive or snorkel, according to the Hurghada [Environmental Protection and Conservation Agency](#).

"It started four or five days ago and the companies responsible didn't notify anyone. It is catastrophic," HEPCA Managing Director Amr Ali told AFP.

The spill was caused by leakage from an [offshore oil platform](#) north of Hurghada and has polluted protected areas and showed up on tourist beach resorts.

"The companies have said they will pay damages, but it is the environmental damage that we are concerned about," Ali said, declining to name the companies for legal reasons.

"We will take all measures, including legal, to make sure this does not happen again," he said. More: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100620/wl_africa_afp/egyptenvironmentpollutionoil;_ylt=AmXuX0SqMaNowFtipCwmkb9pl88F;_ylu=X3oDMTM0Y3Y3c3I1BGFzc2V0A2FmcC8yMDEwMDYyMCM9I3IldGVudmlyb25tZW50cG9sbHV0aW9ub2lsBHBvcwMzMwRzZWMDDeW5fcGFnaW5hdGVfc3VtbWFyeV9saXN0BHNSawNIZ3IldG9pbHNwaWw-

CHINA: GREEN ALGAE CONTINUES TO SPREAD OFF EAST CHINA COAST

The spread of green algae floating towards east China's coastline is continuing and has reached the sea off Jiangsu Province, an oceanic official said Wednesday.

The green algae, floating southward from the sea of the neighboring Shandong Province since Monday, has covered tens of kilometers as far away as in the waters off Lianyungang City of Jiangsu Province, said Zhu Kongwen, deputy chief of the city's oceanic and fishery department. The city has begun an emergency response and cleaning vessels have been organized to control the spreading algae.

In Shandong, the expanse of the green mass reached 320 sq km Tuesday, 120 sq km more than the coverage reported Monday, according to data released by the North China Sea Branch of the State Oceanic Administration Wednesday. More at: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2010-06/24/c_13366201.htm

INDIA: GOVERNMENT ENHANCES RELIEF TO GAS VICTIMS

The government has decided to pay a higher compensation to victims of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy as well as undertake a clean up operation in a time-bound manner. The higher compensation package will cover 45,000 of the 560,000 victims of the world's worst industrial accident. The government's efforts, even as they came nearly 26 years after the tragedy, have invited criticism from the victims and the activists. They say that as long as the government does not reclassify the injury categories the exercise will be futile, as the compensation package would only cover about 10% of victims. More: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics/nation/Govt-enhances-relief-to-gas-victims/articleshow/6088848.cms>

AUSTRALIA: GOVERNMENT RECEIVES MONTARA OIL SPILL REPORT

The Australian government has received the final report from an investigation into last year's offshore oil leak in the Timor Sea, but has not said when it will make the findings public. The spill from the West Atlas rig and Montara wellhead platform off northwest Australia began in August last year, and lasted for 11 weeks leaking an estimated 30,000 barrels of oil into the sea between Western Australia and Indonesia. The environmental impact of that spill and the current leak in the Gulf of Mexico has cast a spotlight on offshore drilling off Australia's coast with opposition politicians calling for a suspension on new projects and tighter regulations on the industry. But Australian officials have said they will not release the findings of the report into the Timor Sea leak, one of Australia's worst spills, until "legal constraints" have been cleared.

Greg Bourne, a former BP senior executive and the current CEO of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in Australia, told Al Jazeera that the findings from the Timor Sea will show Australia was not immune to a spill like the one in the Gulf of Mexico. "We'll see failures in regulatory oversight, a sloppiness, a sort of tick-box mentality," he said. "And, that must change, particularly if there is a decision to push into deeper water where the risks are much greater and the possibilities of an event like the Gulf of Mexico become increasingly possible." Bourne also said the incident in the Motara oil field showed federal and state regulators "were asleep at the wheel," and that it was a case of "out of sight, out of mind". Read the complete article at: <http://english.aljazeera.net/news/asia-pacific/2010/06/201061831828487840.html> [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group for this report]

AUSTRALIA: TREATMENT FOR POLLUTION FROM FIRE-FIGHTING FOAM

An Australian team led by a scientist of Indian origin claims to have developed a groundbreaking solution for treating water and soil pollution from the toxic remnants of fire-fighting foam.

This breakthrough comes at a time of growing global concerns over cancer and environmental risks of long-lasting chemicals found in the foams that have been used for half a century.

The team from the CRC CARE (Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment) has developed a new substance called MatCARE™ to treat waste-water remnants at a fire site or practice area that has been hosed down.

According to lead scientist of CRC CARE Ravi Naidu, the advance is based on the use of modified natural materials that break down the foam's chemicals into harmless substances.

"There are over 49,000 airports around the world, including 450 civilian and military airports in Australia alone. Many of these have used foam in fire-fighting exercises for many years, as well as in actual aircraft fires, and the chemicals have been subsequently detected in nearby groundwater and streams.

"It is the first practical, cost-effective clean-up solution to the large-scale water and soil pollution caused by decades of foam use all over the world," said Professor Naidu.

"Both PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) and PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) increase effectiveness of the foam as a fire quencher. However, both are highly toxic chemicals and if they enter local water sources, they can accumulate in the food chain and in humans. Read more at: <http://www.hindu.com/2010/06/18/stories/2010061855692200.htm>

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION NEWS SURVEY

The May 1-15, 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/>

UK: CHELSEA TECHNOLOGIES GROUP HELPS US OIL SPILL CLEAR UP



Dr Brian Phillips, Managing Director, Chelsea Technologies group pictured with two of the submersible fluorimeters used for the detection of crude and refined oil.

INNOVATIVE equipment developed in West Molesey, UK is playing a part in helping to clear up the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Chelsea Technologies Group was asked by BP to provide sensors to monitor the amount of oil in the water, following the disaster in April which is continuing to blight the American coastline.

The UV AQUAtracka and the UviLux are just two of the submersible fluorimeters in Chelsea's portfolio. These sensors monitor the concentration of refined (360nm) or crude hydrocarbons(440nm) in a range of coastal, oceanographic and fresh water applications. They have been designed to be deployed independently as well as from submersible vehicles, diver held, moored, profiled or as part of a flow through system.

These robust, compact, lightweight instruments are ideal for both shallow and full ocean depth. They are easy to use and give accurate and repeatable measurements. The Chelsea fluorimeters are also ideally suited for long term deployment and will be used to monitor the extent of the pollution caused after the oil slick has dispersed. More info: contact : Ellen Keegan, Chelsea Technologies Group, Tel: +44(0)20 8481 9019 ekeegan@chelsea.co.uk www.chelsea.co.uk

USA: GIANT OIL SKIMMER MAKES STOP IN NORFOLK ON WAY TO GULF OIL CLEAN-UP

After making a brief stop in Norfolk for refueling, U.S. Coast Guard inspections and an all-out publicity blitz intended to drum up public support, a giant tanker billed as the world's largest oil skimming vessel set sail Friday for the Gulf of Mexico where it hopes to assist in the oil-cleanup effort. The Taiwanese-owned, Liberian-flagged ship dubbed the "A Whale" stands 10 stories high, stretches 1,115 feet in length and has a nearly 200-foot beam. It displaces more water than an aircraft carrier. Built in South Korea as a supertanker for transporting oil and iron ore, the six-month-old vessel was refitted in the wake of the BP oil spill with 12, 16-foot-long intake vents on the sides of its bow designed to skim oil off surface waters

The vessel's billionaire owner, Nobu Su, the CEO of Taiwanese shipping company TMT Group, said the ship would float across the Gulf "like a lawn mower cutting the grass," ingesting up to 500,000 barrels of oil-contaminated water a day.

The A Whale — pronounced along the lines of "A Team" because there is a "B Whale" coming — is designed to work 20 to 50 miles offshore where smaller skimmers have trouble navigating. The ship would take in oily water and transfer it into specialized storage tanks on the flanks of the vessel. From there, the oil-fouled seawater would be pumped into internal tanks where the oil would separate naturally from the water. After the separation process, the oil would be transferred to other tankers or shore-based facilities while the remaining water would be pumped back into the gulf. More: <http://www.dailypress.com/news/oil-spill/dp-nws-oil-skimmer-20100625,0,3072230.story>

5TH EDITION OF THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK IS NOW AVAILABLE!

After 18 months of revisions and updates the 5th Edition is now available. This directory has been in publication for 6 years and is the only directory dedicated to listing oil spill contractors worldwide.

The book spans over 140 pages, and lists the contact details of over 1,000 oil spill clean up contractors in 50 countries. For more details: <http://www.cleanupoil.com/blackbook.htm>

USA: 2010 VIRGINIA HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CONFERENCE AND EXPO

The Virginia Association of Hazardous Materials Response Specialists (VAHMRS), in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), will conduct the the 27th Annual Virginia Hazardous Materials Conference and Expo on October 18-22, 2010 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center and Embassy Suites Hotel. <http://www.virginiahazmat.org/displayconvention.cfm>

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.