



**15-01**

**April 20, 2001**

- ◆ The Partnership Action Team's ("PAT's") work group focusing on issues relative to Basic Ordering Agreements conducted a conference call this week. The purpose of the conference call was to briefly review the history and accomplishments of the group, identify issues that remain outstanding, and set an agenda for the work group for the next several months. Issues that were identified include: (1.) Items being offered by contractor's for inclusion in the BOA are not being accepted – either because of price quote or because of the perception that certain items are not needed on the BOA. (2.) The post-project evaluation process associated with the BOA, along with its objectives and measurements. The dispute process for contractors as they pertain to the evaluations was also identified as an issue for discussion. (3.) The perceived requirement to list the "best" or "most advantageous" rates on the BOA instead of published commercial rates. Does the Coast Guard deserve more advantageous rates than commercial clients, particularly in light of the declining oil spill response market? (4.) The purchasing authority of the Federal On-Scene Coordinator during a response action (i.e., can the FOSC obligate funds?). (5.) The use of BOA rates during claims adjudication by the National Pollution Funds Center. There was some talk during the conference call about standardizing oil spill resource terminology and applying the standard terms to the Contract Line Items ("CLIN's") in the BOA. It was also mentioned that the Maintenance and Logistics Command Atlantic ("MLCLANT") Finance Division has already begun aligning BOA CLIN's with resource terminology used in the Field Operations Guide ("FOG"). The group will convene again sometime in May. **Attention BOA Contractors: If there are additional issues you would like to see addressed by this work group, please let us know!!** John Parker (IMS/Parker Systems), Mark Miller (Miller Environmental), and Marc Shaye are the SCAA representatives on the working group. Please call us at 1-313-849-2649 to relay your concerns, or send e-mail to [marcs@scaa-spill.org](mailto:marcs@scaa-spill.org) (Marc Shaye), [jparker@imsenv.com](mailto:jparker@imsenv.com) (John Parker), or [mmiller@millerenv.com](mailto:mmiller@millerenv.com) (Mark Miller).
- ◆ **Attention Contractors . . .** Would you be interested in attending a forum to discuss common problems faced by environmental contractors in today's market? Problems like high employee turnover, effective operations management, and paperwork transferal (e.g., from field operations to the billing department) are not uncommon in our industry. The purpose of the forum would be to discuss problems like these, and how contractors are addressing them. A list of specific issues would be identified in advance of the meeting, which would allow participants the time to prepare for the discussion. Assuming the membership is interested in this, we are tentatively planning to host a forum in May (most likely in Washington DC) that could immediately precede the next meeting of the BOA work group. **Please let us know ASAP if**

***you are interested in participating in such a forum! If you are interested, also tell us what topics you would like to discuss. Send us your comments via e-mail to [mikes@scaa-spill.org](mailto:mikes@scaa-spill.org), [marcs@scaa-spill.org](mailto:marcs@scaa-spill.org), or call us at 1-313-849-2649.***

- ♦ ***Be sure to visit the SCAA web site ([www.scaa-spill.org](http://www.scaa-spill.org)) for the latest news in the industry and to obtain updated information about the organization and its members.*** Some new things on the web site: (1.) Banner advertisements are in effect and running – if you would like to place a banner ad, contact us via e-mail ([mikes@scaa-spill.org](mailto:mikes@scaa-spill.org)) or call us at 1-

313-849-2649. (2.) Archived editions of the Spill Briefs have been posted. Click the link to "About SCAA", then the "Spill Briefs" link. The archives will be updated each month. (3.) Additional member information has been posted (**Hey Members - Be sure to get your company information and logo to us!**) (4.) Updated news and information on current spill and/or industry events are being added daily under the "Newsroom" link. How current is the news? Here's a testimonial from one member: *"I must commend you on your ability to post the news stories about current spill situations on the SCAA site, in such an efficient and timely manner. Someone in the office just asked me if I had heard about the Alaskan oil spill. I said no, but two 'clicks' later I had the information. GREAT WORK!"* **As always, your comments on the web site and how we can improve it are encouraged and appreciated!**

- ◆ The Alaskan oil spill mentioned above resulted from a pipeline leak in the Kuparuk oil field on Alaska's North Slope. The spill occurred on Sunday, April 15, and about 92,400 gallons of "produced water" (a mixture of salty water and oil) was released. No more than 3% of the produced water's volume is oil, and any oil in the water has been stripped of many of its properties. Phillips Petroleum, owner of the Kuparuk field, initiated a response to the spill and cleanup operations were reportedly underway within an hour of the spill. As of Tuesday, April 17, some 92,700 gallons had been recovered. The amount recovered is larger than the amount spilled because of the melted ice and snow that was also recovered. The Kuparuk field is the second largest in the U.S., producing 230,000 barrels of oil per day. (Source: *Reuters*)
- ◆ This week, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ("MIT") settled an enforcement case by agreeing to fund more than \$400,000 of innovative environmental projects, and to pay a civil penalty of \$150,000. The settlement stems from environmental violations discovered on MIT's Cambridge campus during an EPA inspection conducted in 1998. More specifically, MIT was cited for 18 violations of federal hazardous waste laws, the Clean Air Act, and Clean Water Act. Under the terms of the settlement, MIT will develop a computer-based "virtual campus" compliance assistance tool that will help universities and colleges across the country comply with environmental laws. Among other things, they also agreed to develop and implement three different environmental education programs within the Cambridge public school system. (Source: *U.S. Attorney's Office*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** Employee reviews can either be a powerful management tool, or a morale-sucking waste of everyone's time. The ultimate outcome is dependent upon the review process. Here are some things to remember about reviews: (1.) **Take financials out of the equation.** Performance reviews are not salary negotiations! The evaluation should be used to review performance and set goals; a separate meeting should be held to discuss raises/bonuses. (2.) **Don't run an assembly line.** Schedule no more than one or two reviews per day to ensure you have time to cover all the bases. (3.) **Preview rather than Review.** Reviews don't have to focus entirely on the past, so remember to spend time discussing the future – expectations, goals, etc. (4.) **Don't compare employees to "star" workers to motivate them.** Most employees don't like being compared unfavorably to their peers. (5.) **Don't use yourself as an example** (e.g., when I was in your position . . .). If you do, you run the risk of losing the employee's attention. (6.) **Keep personality out of it**, unless it relates to job performance. (Source: *Positive Leadership*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "Competitiveness is not just about offering inexpensive services. It is also about being on call 24 hours a day, and that has a price." - Kurt Steuer, president of the German pilots' association Bundesverband der See und Hafenlotsen, who was dismissing arguments by shipowners that pilotage costs are far too high in Germany. **Editor's Note: As an industry focused on responding to environmental incidents, we have argued that sentiment for years!**