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- ◆ As mentioned in last weeks' edition of the "Spill Briefs", the Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee ("CTAC") Subcommittee on Hazardous Substances Response Planning Standards met last week. SCAA members in attendance included Marine Pollution Control, Cliff Berry Inc., Oil Mop, IT Corp. and Southern Waste Services. At the meeting, the latest draft of the Chemical Response Standard developed by the Subcommittee was distributed and discussed, as was a handout from the NFPA entitled "Chapter X Competencies for the Technician with a Marine Transport Specialty". The Subcommittee hopes to receive all comments on the latest draft before the end of July, and to finalize the draft by August 15th. The draft will then be passed through the appropriate channels in CTAC and the Coast Guard, and a notice of proposed rulemaking is expected by the end of this year. ***We encourage all our members to review the draft document, and submit comments to the Subcommittee accordingly!***
- ◆ The National Pollution Fund Center's ("NPFC's") Fund Use Seminar **WILL** take place in Portland, Oregon on June 26-27, 2001 at the Doubletree Hotel – Jantzen Beach. The seminar provides a great opportunity for States, OSRO's, and RP's to interact with contracting and Fund experts, including the Chief of the NPFC Claims Division. Registration and general information is available on the NPFC web site at www.uscg.mil/hq/npfc/seminar.htm. The Natural Resource Damage Trustee Session originally scheduled for the June seminar will be held September 11-12, 2001, at the Residence Inn at Pentagon City in Arlington, Virginia. Information on this seminar will be posted on the NPFC web site in the near future. Any questions on either seminar should be directed to Jan Vorhees, Outreach Coordinator, National Pollution Fund Center, 4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1000, Arlington, Virginia, 22203, telephone 1-202-493-6719, and e-mail jvorhees@ballston.uscg.mil.
- ◆ Last month, London-based salvage expert John Noble released a report on the feasibility of removing the remains of the "New Carissa" from the beach near Coos Bay, Oregon. Funded by Britannia Steam Ship Insurance – the vessel's insurer – the report concludes that any priorities at the site must keep safety at the top of the list. The environment and other wildlife are not threatened by the presence of the wreck, and human life is only threatened if people disobey locally posted notices. Mr. Noble states that the most prudent course of action is to do nothing more at the wreck site. He believes that the chance of a worker being injured or killed during the wreck removal activity far outweighs any benefit gained by removing it. (Source: *Workboat*)

- ◆ At the recent Bimco biennial general meeting, International Maritime Organization (“IMO”) Secretary-General William O’Neil confirmed that he had formally submitted his name to the IMO council to be considered for re-election for an additional two-year term. Mr. O’Neil is in the last year of his third, four-year term. At this point, no other candidates for the Secretary-General position have surfaced. (Source: *Lloyd’s List*)
- ◆ At a recent Lloyd’s List Events oil conference, the Coast Guard suggested that the costs of implementing the eleven principal regulations of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 would amount to approximately \$11 billion. This estimate, which is intended to cover compliance and enforcement of the eleven regulations, covers the period from 1996 through 2025. At the same

time, the Coast Guard estimates that same eleven regulations would prevent the spilling of 1.2 million barrels of oil. (Source: *Lloyd's List*) ***Just in case you're wondering, the estimated cost of compliance and enforcement amounts to about \$367 million per year over the thirty-year period.***

- ◆ Last week, the Russian Navy signed an agreement with the Dutch salvage company Mammoet to raise the ill-fated nuclear submarine "Kursk", which sank last summer killing all crewmembers that were aboard. The first stage of the salvage operation is expected to run from mid-June through early September, with the actual lift to take place before September 10, 2001. One interesting note to this saga is that a consortium consisting of Smit Internationale NV, Heerema, and the U.S. firm Halliburton had been negotiating a contract for this work with the Russian Navy for more than six months, but their bid was ultimately rejected. Smit believes there is not enough time to prepare safely for the salvage of the "Kursk" this summer, but the Russian government wants the submarine raised this year. (Source: *Reuters*)
- ◆ The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") has set up a web site that is designed to provide interested parties with the latest news and information on the ozone layer. The site, found at www.ozonelayer.noaa.gov, provides a concise look into the science of ozone, current and historical ozone monitoring equipment, NOAA's efforts in ozone monitoring and research, and answers to frequently asked questions about ozone. During the "Antarctic ozone hole season", which occurs in September and October, the site will provide up-to-date information on the ozone hole and how it compares to those of previous years. (Source: *U.S. Dept. of Commerce Press Release*)
- ◆ The World Trade Organization's Statistics Division compiles statistics required by the Secretariat for the regular analysis of worldwide trade in merchandise and commercial services. The statistics are also used for special studies on various aspects of international trade. To access this information, visit the World Trade Organization's web site at www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/statis_e.htm. (Source: *ASTM Business Link*)
- ◆ In late March, legislation to reform the Army Corps of Engineers project review process was introduced to the House and Senate by Rep. Ronald Kind (D-Wisconsin) and Sen. Russell Feingold (D-Wisconsin), respectively. The proposed legislation comes on the heels of harsh criticism of the Corps and the validity of some of the Corps' proposed projects. Three Corps officials were accused of manipulating numbers contained in a draft feasibility study, and a report prepared by the U.S. Army Inspector General's Office confirmed that the Corps was biased toward construction contracts. The proposed legislation calls for Corps projects to be reviewed by an independent panel of experts that would ensure that the projects' economic and environmental goals are achieved. (Source: *Workboat*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** To help prevent neck pain, try to keep your neck nicely in line with your spine and remember these helpful tips: (1.) Keep your reading materials at eye level as much as possible. (2.) Keep your upper back, neck, and head in a straight line when you're partially reclined – such as watching television or reading a book in bed. (3.) Don't cradle the phone between your ear and shoulder. (4.) Make sure you're looking at your computer monitor straight on. (5.) Keep your neck and spine in one long, straight extension when you sleep. (6.) Don't carry a heavy bag or purse over your shoulder – you'll end up raising your shoulder to compensate for the extra weight, which will throw off the alignment of your spine and neck. (Source: *Health Connection*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "Those who know how to win are much more numerous than those who know how to make proper use of their victories." – Polybius (c.200-c.118 B.C.), *History*, bk. X, 36