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- ◆ Earlier this month, we proposed hosting a Contractor's Forum in conjunction with the Clean Gulf Conference taking place on October 23-25, 2001 in Mobile, Alabama. We would like to move ahead with plans for this promising forum, but need the input of our members. Would you prefer the forum be held in Mobile, or another nearby city like New Orleans or Pensacola? What days would you prefer the forum be held? What topics would you like to see addressed? What format do you think would be most conducive to ensuring a successful meeting? **Send your suggestions and comments to us at mikes@scaa-spill.org, marcs@scaa-spill.org, or send us a fax to 1-313-849-1623.**
- ◆ The U.S. Coast Guard's Incident Management Handbook is now available on line at www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mor/page1lang.htm. It is intended to assist personnel in the use of the Incident Command System during response operations. Chapters in the book include SONS, Unified Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, Oil Spills, Hazardous Substance Release, Terrorism, Marine Fires, and Multi-Casualty. It also has a listing of ICS forms, and a chapter dedicated to a glossary and acronyms. (Source: *Maritime Items* and Coast Guard Web Site)
- ◆ Speaking of the Coast Guard, their Salvage and Engineering Response Team (SERT) now publish a newsletter that can be found on-line at www.uscg.mil/hq/msc/salvage.htm. The newsletter will be published quarterly, and distributed to all COTP's. Its purpose is to provide field personnel with a summary of recent SERT activities, and to disseminate general information regarding the Coast Guard's salvage operations. This issue talks about the "Sergo Zakariadze", "OMR 2578", and "Linda E". (Source: *Maritime Items* and SERT Website)
- ◆ The final program for the 25th Annual Inland Spills Conference taking place September 24-26, 2001 at the Kings Island Resort & Conference Center (near Cincinnati, Ohio) is complete and will be mailed out shortly. In addition, a full copy of the program is available on SCAA's web site at www.scaa-spill.org. **Make your plans now to participate in this informative event!**
- ◆ The State of Washington and the U.S. Coast Guard's 13th District recently signed a "Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA") on Oil Pollution Prevention and Response Between The Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District and the State of Washington", a copy of which is available on line at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/hottopics/moassigned.pdf. The purpose of the MOA is to "recognize each party's respective authorities and roles regarding oil spill

prevention, preparedness, and response, and to provide means to achieve a coordinated and efficient working relationship so as to avoid conflict and minimize duplication of effort.” The MOA will apply to all oil spill incidents, including substantial threats of an oil spill. (Source: *Maritime Items*)

- ♦ ***More State of Washington News . . .*** Washington state announced this week that it will impose a \$7.86 million in fines on Olympic Pipe Line Co., Equilon Enterprises LLC, and IMCO General Construction for their part in a fuel explosion that occurred in 1999 and killed three boys. The state believes all three companies were negligent in the incident. The explosion was caused after a break in the pipe spilled more than 250,000 of gasoline in a creek.

IMCO was charged with damaging the pipeline during excavation work that was performed in 1994. The state alleges that Olympic and Equilon tolerated design and pressure problems at a nearby pumping station, failed to repair anomalies found in 1996 and 1997, and were poorly prepared to respond to the disaster. Olympic Pipeline has also struck a tentative deal with federal and state agencies to pay a separate \$10 million fine for their involvement. The fine would be paid to the U.S. Environmental Protection and Washington State's Department of Ecology. All these fines are in addition to a \$3.05 million penalty that was charged to Olympic last year by the Office of Pipeline Safety for violations stemming arising from the disaster. The company is also the subject of a criminal investigation and a pair of wrongful death lawsuits, which the company estimates could cost up to \$70 million. (Source: *Reuters*)

- ◆ Earlier this week, the International Maritime Organization ("IMO") Council approved a two-year extension to Secretary-General William O'Neil's contract. As such, Mr. O'Neil will continue to serve IMO as its Secretary-General through 2003. The extension to the contract is expected to be formally approved by the IMO Assembly when it convenes in November this year. (Sources: *Maritime Items* and IMO Newsroom)
- ◆ The Department of Transportation's Research and Special Programs Administration ("RESPA") recently issued its final rule regarding Harmonization with the United Nations Recommendations, International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, and International Civil Aviation Organization's Technical Instructions. The final rule amends the Hazardous Materials Regulations to maintain alignment with international standards by incorporating various changes to proper shipping names, hazard classes, packing groups, special provisions, packaging authorizations, air transport quantity limitations and vessel storage requirements. The final rule also revised the requirements for intermediate bulk containers and UN portable tanks for alignment with international requirements. The effective date of the amendments is October 1, 2001. (Source: *Maritime Items* and *Federal Register*)
- ◆ Earlier this month, Em Z Svitzer (a subsidiary of the AP Moller group) bought Wijsmuller Groep Holding of IJmuiden – a transaction estimated at just over \$240 million. While the deal is subject to regulatory approval in the Netherlands, it will make Svitzer one of the largest tug and salvage companies in the world. Through the transaction, Svitzer takes over Wijsmuller's 150 vessels and its entire organization (1,000 employees) in 21 countries. The combined company will have a fleet of 220 ships, some 1,600 employees, and operations in 23 countries. (Source: *Lloyd's List*)
- ◆ **Congratulations and Best Wishes!** to Thom Davis, who recently retired from Seattle-based Global Diving & Salvage. While we understand that Thom will be available to help out when needed, we trust he'll enjoy his retirement!
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** In a recent survey conducted by "Workforce.com", 75% of employees say that burnout is a significant or severe problem within their company. A full 64% say it's a problem for them personally. When employees are too burned out to pay close attention to their jobs, quality suffers and it makes the job of management much more difficult. One of the biggest causes of burnout is that employees get bored of doing the same thing over and over. They need variety to keep a high level of interest in their work. To help with this, managers should consider rotating workers from one task to another occasionally. (Source: *Quality Manager's Alert*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "Good and evil, reward and punishment, are the only motives to a rational creature; these are the spur and reins whereby all mankind are set on work, and guided." – John Locke (1632-1704), *Some Thoughts Concerning Education* [1693]