



09-01

March 2, 2001

- ◆ On February 22, 2001, the Spills Advisory Group ("SAG") met at API's headquarters in Washington, D.C. John Parker (Industrial Marine Services) attended on behalf of SCAA. Highlights from the meeting include:
 - 1.) The U.S. Coast Guard ("USCG") reported on several issues, many of which have been reported in past issues of this newsletter. Some interesting notes include: (A.) The USCG is in the process of evaluating comments they received to their Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Tank Vessel Response Plans for Hazardous Substances, and is drafting a response to be included in the final rule. The goal is to harmonize the domestic regulation with international requirements (MARPOL Reg. 16). Further to this, the USCG has formed a Response Standards Working Group in ChemTrec for long-term recommendations. (B.) The USCG, in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA"), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Centers for Disease Control developed national protocols for monitoring dispersant and in-situ burn operations. The Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies (SMART) protocols provide a national standard to help facilitate the use of dispersants and in-situ burn technology. The latest version of this protocol is available on line at <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oilands/SMART/SMART.html>. A 4-hour SMART course will be conducted at the International Oil Spill Conference on March 25 – check the conference program and/or web site (www.iosc.org) for further details. (C.) With regard to applying HAZWOPER training standards to oil spill response workers, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration ("OSHA") is planning on publishing the Training Guidelines Pamphlet in Spring 2001 as a non-mandatory Appendix to the HAZWOPER standard, Title 29 CFR 1910.120.
 - 2.) The Texas General Land Office ("TGLO") reported that they are reviewing their environmental regulations for the purpose of upgrading them. It was also noted that the state just opened its fourth oil reception facility and will continue to expand this program.
 - 3.) The EPA reported that the revision for the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures ("SPCC") guidelines has been signed and sent back to the Office of Management and Budget. It should be released in the future and will appear in the Federal Register. It was noted that the class on SPCC at the IOSC has been canceled. The EPA also noted that the rulemaking on MTBE has been put on hold, but that the guidance document for MTBE will appear in an upcoming edition of the Federal Register.

- 4.) The DOT's Office of Pipeline Safety reported that their office has started joint facility inspections with the EPA, which includes tank inspections, and are attempting similar coordination with other regulatory agencies.
- 5.) The Minerals Management Service ("MMS") has a new web site for its Technology Assessment and Research Program at <http://www.mms.gov/tarphome/>. The MMS is planning an oil recovery test this year in Norway. The test will be conducted in an icy area, and will be specifically designed for skimmers. They will be able to put oil in the water for the test. The

MMS also noted that they are collecting all papers on in-situ burning, and intends to put them on a CD as a reference source. Finally, the Fall/Winter edition of the "Ohmsett Gazette" has been released and can be found on line at www.ohmsett.com/NewsLetters/newletters.htm (*One final note about Ohmsett – there is no charge to test products and equipment at the facility. The only charges assessed are for the design of tests and for setting test objectives.*)

Our thanks to John Parker for attending the meeting and providing us with his notes!

- ◆ SCAA member Garner Environmental Services recently announced that they formed an alliance with Nalco/Exxon Energy Chemicals, L.P. making them the exclusive distributor of Nalco/Exxon's Corexit® line of oil spill dispersants in the Gulf Coast region and Latin America. "This alliance provides us immediate access to the highest performing oil-spill dispersants in the industry and positions us as even better prepared to handle shoreline protection, as well as offshore cleanup," said Reese Majoué, Vice President of Garner Environmental. For more information, contact Reese at 281-930-1200.
- ◆ House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Illinois) has created a new Working Group on Terrorism within the House Intelligence Committee to provide high-level oversight of the domestic terrorism threat. In the last Congress, the Terrorism Subcommittee of the House Transportation Committee held purview on this issue. Representative Saxby Chambliss (R-Georgia) has been appointed chair of the working group by Rep. Hastert. In related news, the federal government recently published the "U.S. Government Interagency Domestic Terrorism Concept of Operations Plan" ("CONPLAN"), which address the response to a terrorist threat or attack on the U.S., including one involving weapons of mass destruction. The plan defines the procedures for using federal resources to supplement those provided by local and state governments, and shows ways federal, state, and local agencies can effectively coordinate their response efforts. The plan was developed by the FBI (the lead federal agency for crisis management), FEMA (the lead federal agency for consequence management), the U.S. EPA, and the Departments of Health and Human Services, Defense, and Justice. Information on obtaining the plan can be obtained by calling 1-800-274-6737 or 1-301-589-5103. (Source: *Emergency Preparedness News*)
- ◆ ***Did you know . . .*** Some time ago, a New York court ruled that a company preventing a good samaritan from aiding another person might be held liable for the resulting harm. In the case, an employee of an animal sanctuary collapsed and a co-worker who was certified in CPR was prevented by her supervisor from rendering aid. The employee in distress ultimately died, and her estate sued the company under the pretense that the employee would have lived had CPR been administered. The New York Supreme Court ultimately ruled that employers couldn't prevent their employees from administering aid to one other. This ruling puts companies in a difficult situation in that a company could be held liable for preventing the rendering of aid, and could also be held liable if its employees render aid incorrectly. (Source: *HR Fact Finder*)
- ◆ ***Work/Life/Health:*** If you are looking to make a significant "change" to your organization and/or it's culture, the following two steps can help you succeed in your effort: (1.) **Put people in the right place.** It's vital that people in charge are behind your efforts to change the organization. Promote people who get on board, and turn the employees who commit to the change into organizational leaders. (2.) **Reward people who are behind the change efforts,** and not those who just say they are on board. Find those people (executives and laborers alike) who are leading by example and reward them accordingly. (Source: *Positive Leadership*)
- ◆ ***Quote of the Week:*** "Even in the common affairs of life, in love, friendship, and marriage, how little security have we when we trust our happiness in the hands of others!" – William Hazlitt (1778-1830), *Table Talk [1821-1822], On Living to One's Self*