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- ◆ This week, we received a copy of a bulletin (the "MTR Facility Bulletin") issued by a Coast Guard Marine Safety Office providing an update on the OSRO classification guidelines issue. It stated that when the OSRO guidelines were issued in June 2001, the Coast Guard was then projecting the reclassification of all OSRO's by the end of 2001, with full compliance set for the beginning of 2002. The events of September 11, 2001 ultimately resulted in an extension of the deadline until June 2002, with plan holder revisions being due to the Coast Guard by September 2002. As you know, OSRO's are no longer being classified for Average Most Probable Discharge ("AMPD") coverage. The intent is to verify the AMPD coverage through spot checks, transfer monitors, and unannounced government-initiated exercises. The bulletin also stated that the Coast Guard is now in the process of developing guidance (which is expected to be complete in the Spring 2002) to outline the type of information that is required in response plans to meet the AMPD requirements. SCAA has received many calls asking for the link to the Coast Guard's Preliminary Unofficial OSRO Classification Matrix that had been posted on the internet. While we will provide the link, **please be advised that it is not currently active**. It is as follows: [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/nsfcc/nsfweb/download/OSRO Guidelines/unofficialmatrix.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/nsfcc/nsfweb/download/OSRO%20Guidelines/unofficialmatrix.pdf). ***If you have concerns with the OSRO classification guidelines, now is the time to let your voice be heard! Contact us at 1-313-849-2649, or send us e-mail to mikes@scaa-spill.org.***
- ◆ ***In Coast Guard-related news . . .*** The agency has issued a summary of its efforts in beefing up homeland security since the events of September 11, which can be found on-line at www.uscg.mil/news/headquarters/HQ_012502.htm. Some interesting notes in the summary are (A.) the Coast Guard has responded to 95 pollution incidents since September 11; (B.) HAZMAT materials experts within the Strike Teams have responded to anthrax attacks and continue to provide support to the USEPA and local officials; and (C.) USCG Investigative Service Special Agents are flying as air marshals in support of the DOT and FAA. Another publication recently released by the Coast Guard is their mission summary, entitled "Coast Guard Publication 1", which can be found at www.uscg.mil/overview/. (Sources: *Maritime Items* and *U.S. Coast Guard News*)
- ◆ Earlier this month, a Thai court sentenced the master of the Panamanian-flagged vessel "Eastern Fortitude" to one year in prison for reckless endangerment and ecological damage after the ship collided with Shark Rock in the Gulf of Thailand and spilled some 60,000 gallons

of diesel oil. His sentence was reduced to six months after he plead guilty to violating the Thai Navigation Act. The Thai Harbor Department and local officials, meanwhile, plan to file a civil suit against the shipowner and its P&I club. The Thai Navy is expected to confiscate the vessel pending the civil lawsuit. (Source: *Lloyd's List*)

- ◆ The Department of Transportation's Research and Special Programs Administration ("RSPA") has issued an advisory notice (RSPA-2002-11270, Notice No. 02-4) advising shippers and carriers of voluntary measures to enhance the security of hazardous material shipments during transport. The notice, which appears in the February 14, 2002 edition of the *Federal Register* (Vol. 67, No. 21, pp. 6963-6966), addresses personnel, facility, and en route security

issues. It also includes contact points for obtaining additional, more detailed information. More information can be obtained by contacting Susan Gorsky at RSPA's Office of Hazardous Materials Standards. Her telephone number is 1-202-366-8553. You can also access the *Federal Register* on-line (and free of charge) at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/> (Sources: *Federal Register* and *Maritime Items*)

- ◆ The Pentagon's new military command responsible for homeland security is expected to be operational by October 1, 2002. Donald Rumsfeld (Defense Secretary) and Air Force General Richard Myers (Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) will brief President Bush in the near future on the final details of the "Northern Command". Taking the place of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (now located at the U.S. Space Command in Colorado), the Northern Command will be responsible for coordinating the military response to natural disasters and chemical/biological incidents. (Source: *USA Today*)
- ◆ **Speaking of Homeland Defense . . .** The U.S. Office of Homeland Security issued a report entitled "Securing the Homeland, Strengthening the Nation", which can be found on-line at www.whitehouse.gov/homeland/homeland_security_book.pdf. The report discusses the U.S. response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, future national strategies for homeland security, and related budget priorities. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ **A blast from the past . . .** This week, we heard from a past president of SCAA – Sergio Germinario of I.E.C., Inc. in Port Redding, New Jersey. He asked that we send his best regards to all our members who may remember him. While he noted his concern for the future of our industry, particularly in light of some well-known companies filing for bankruptcy or going out of business, he is optimistic that activity will soon pick up in the New York/New Jersey market.
- ◆ The U.S. EPA has updated its web page outline response techniques, which can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/oerrpage/oilspill/oiltech.htm>. The page highlights mechanical containment or recovery; chemical or biological methods; physical methods (e.g., wiping with sorbent materials, pressure washing, etc.); and scare tactics to keep birds and animals away from spill areas. The EPA has also issued a press release announcing the issuance of its FY 2001 Enforcement and Compliance Results, which can be found on-line at www.epa.gov/oeca/main/2001eoy/index.html. The total civil penalties issued by the EPA in 2001 totaled \$125 million. The criminal program initiated 482 cases in 2001, which resulted in \$95 million in criminal fines and restitutions – and a sum total of 256 years in prison for the defendants. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ **Congratulations!** to Robert L. Stover, who was named as Operations General Manager at Spill Recovery of Indiana, Inc. and its division, SROI Environmental. **We extend Robert our best wishes in his new position!**
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** If you are writing or reviewing ad copy, be on the lookout for these common mistakes: (1.) **Forgetting to include a reason for reading** – you don't want to give members of the audience a reason to stop reading before they get started. (2.) **Using headlines that don't excite readers** – the message will be ignored if the headline fails to address the reader's needs. (3.) **Trying to be clever** – you want the readers to remember your product - not how clever you are. (Source: *Communication Briefings*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with the perfect sweetness the independence of solitude." – Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), *Essays: First Series [1841]. Self-Reliance*