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www.scaa-spill.org

March 8, 2002

- ◆ SCAA's web site (www.scaa-spill.org) has been updated, and we encourage everyone to visit the site. The new format is viewable by entering the site using the "Flash" version; the previous format is still there and viewable by entering the site through the "Non-Flash" version. ***As always, your comments and input on the web site are welcome!***
- ◆ We are saddened to report that Dan Sheehan's wife Judith passed away on Monday after her long bout with cancer. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Lombardi Cancer Center, Palliative Care Program, Georgetown University Medical Center, 3800 Reservoir Road, NW, Washington, DC 20007. ***Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with Dan and his family.***
- ◆ We were also saddened to learn of the passing of Mel Long on Monday. As many of you may know, Mel was one of the first to represent insurance companies and ship owners during spill incidents – essentially mirroring the role of today's Qualified Individual ("QI"). ***Our thoughts and condolences are with Mel and his family.***
- ◆ As mentioned in a recent edition of this newsletter, the Spills Advisory Group met on February 21, 2002 at the API headquarters in Washington, DC. Highlights from the meeting are as follows:
 - 1.) The U.S. Coast Guard prefaced its report saying that new security regulations might impact the time line and scheduling of current regulatory projects. Of interest in their report: **(A.)** The latest approved work-plan deviation for proposed Hazardous Substance Response Plans requirements was signed by G-M in the fall of 2001. Still at issue are the certification of response providers for hazardous materials, and the determination of endpoints (i.e., the lowest air and water concentrations of chemicals defining a hazardous condition to the most sensitive organism of significance that could be affected). **(B.)** The Salvage and Marine Firefighting Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is still scheduled to be published this year. **(C.)** The National Strike Force Coordination Center is in the process of reclassifying OSRO's based upon the revised OSRO Classification Guidelines. Detailed, individual reports are being prepared for each OSRO, and should be sent out this month. OSRO's will have 90 days to address any planning shortfalls, if they exist, before publication of the final OSRO classification matrix in June 2002. The Coast Guard stated that the original new OSRO guideline computer information was based upon wrong underlying assumptions. The new base assumption will have all but temporary storage resources available by contract. **(D.)** A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for raising response requirements (via mechanical recovery, dispersants, in-situ burning, oil tracking) is expected to be published in

the Spring of 2002, and a draft Environmental Impact Statement is also expected to be published. The NPRM will require industry establishment of dispersant response capability nationwide in 2003. **(E.)** With regard to the Incident Command System, an agency work group convened last month to develop a qualification system that included position task books, qualification tracking, and a series of ICS training courses for each position. **(F.)** It was mentioned that some Area Contingency Plans are again being posted on-line, after they had been removed in the previous months due to security concerns. Sensitive HAZMAT and water intake information was removed from many of the plans. **(G.)** Planning for SONS 2004 is expected to commence in the very near future. The location will be Southern California, between Los Angeles/Long Beach and San Diego. The SONS 2001 exercise planned for the Gulf area that was postponed in the aftermath of

the events of September 11 will now be conducted April 24-26, 2002. The field component of the original exercise concept has been scaled down, and the SONS 2001 exercise is now being conducted as a series of tabletop – rather than command post - exercises. **(H.)** The Coast Guard anticipates a *Federal Register* notice in March/April 2002 announcing the availability of the final draft of the revised Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (“PREP”) guidelines and response to comments.

- 2.) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported that the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (“SPCC”) Rules are being held up due to a requirement for an additional groundwater study. As such, the release date remains uncertain. They also reported that their Freshwater Spills Symposium would be held March 19-21, 2002 in Cleveland (go to www.epa.gov for more details). The EPA also stated that they would be conducting multiple, unannounced exercises in all EPA regions.
- 3.) The Minerals Management Services (“MMS”) reported that ExxonMobil is sponsoring two weeks of dispersant capability testing on Hibernia and Alaskan North Slope crude at OHMSETT. MMS also presented the results of the “Mechanical Oil Recovery in Ice Infested Waters” that was conducted at OHMSETT. The skimmer device tested was a lifting grating belt (for ice removal) in conjunction with a brush drum skimmer. Results of the project will be posted on the Internet and presented at the IOSC (Vancouver, B.C., April 6-10, 2003) and AMOP conference (Calgary, June 11-13, 2002).
- 4.) SUPSALV reported that the Defense Energy Support Center (“DESC”) would be sponsoring a DOD Worldwide Spills Conference in Crystal City, Virginia. The 3-day conference begins on April 20, 2002. More information can be obtained by calling Rich Kennedy at 1-703-767-8312.
- 5.) MSRC reported that it relocated the “California Responder” from Port Hueneme to the Long Beach/Los Angeles area, and that they have converted the “OSRB” (which will remain in Port Hueneme) to a skimming platform. They have installed a portable dispersant storage tank and applicator on its OSRV’s on the East, West, and Gulf Coasts, as well as Hawaii. Finally, it was noted that MSRC and OSRL conducted a prototype “Managers Guide to Oil Spills” training course in Galveston for entry level and first level managers, with similar courses scheduled to be conducted in Edison, New Jersey and Everett, Washington. Contact Doug O’Donovan at 703-326-5611 or e-mail odonovan@msrc.org for more details.
- 6.) The next Spills Advisory Group meeting will be on May 16, 2002 in Washington D.C., with the following meeting taking place on October 24, 2002 in Washington, D.C.

Our thanks to John Parker and Doug O’Donovan for their notes of the meeting!

- ♦ **Work/Life/Health:** When dealing with employees, you must be ready to react to the actions of different personalities. Some examples: (1.) For an aggressive employee, listen to everything they have to say, avoid arguments, and remain formal by calling the person by name. Be concise and clear with your reactions. (2.) Don’t overreact to the undermining employee, who loves to criticize, is sarcastic, and devious. Be sure to focus on the issues, and don’t acknowledge the sarcasm. (3.) Ask open-ended questions to the unresponsive employee that is difficult to talk to and doesn’t reveal his or her ideas. Learn to be silent with these employees, and wait for the person to say something. Be friendly and patient. (4.) Make sure you know the facts when dealing with the egotist, who believes they know it all and feels/acts superior. Agree when possible, ask questions, and listen. Disagree only when you know you’re right. (Source: *Communication Briefings*)
- ♦ **Quote of the Week:** “You have to take chances for peace, just as you must take chances in war . . . The ability to get to the verge without getting into the war is the necessary art. If you try to run away from it, if you are scared to go to the brink, you are lost.” – John Foster Dulles (1888-1959), *From James Shepley, How Dulles Averted War, in Life [January 16, 1956]*