



**19-02**

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**May 17, 2002**

- ♦ The Spills Advisory Group Meeting took place on May 16, 2002 at the API Headquarters in Washington DC. Notes of interest from the meeting include the following:
  - 1.) The Coast Guard reported that (A.) The Hazardous Substance Response Plan regulatory package would likely be delayed as a result of the agency's current focus on new security regulations; (B.) planning for the SONS 2004 exercise will begin in the near future. The location for the exercise will be southern California, and industry participants are being sought. (C.) some of the key issues that arose during the recent SONS exercise include the use of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, Jones Act issues, and the streamlining of Coast Guard communications at the Commandant level. (D.) Recent changes to the OSRO Classification process include allowing the treatment of letters of intent as contracts; non-owned/dedicated mobile temporary storage equipment (e.g., vacuum trucks) to be handled on a 2:1 basis; new RRI software will be used to replace the existing FoxPro system. The new unofficial time line calls for OSRO Classification to be complete by October, and the new Response Plans to be updated in January 2003. (E.) The comment period for the PREP Guideline revisions ended May 15. Final guidelines should be published in August, with a PREP workshop to follow in Galveston at the Clean Gulf Conference on November 7, 2002.
  - 2.) The EPA reported that the Spill Prevention and Countermeasures (SPCC) Rules have cleared the Office of Management and Budget, and are back the EPA for final review and approval.
  - 3.) The Minerals Management Service (MMS) reported on the recent dispersant testing (COREXIT 9527/9500) sponsored by ExxonMobil on Hibernia and Alaskan North Slope Crude at OHMSETT. The results of the testing will be posted on the Internet and presented at select upcoming conferences. The MMS is also working on a joint industry project on in-situ burning in cold water and ice that will be conducted in Prudhoe Bay in October.
  - 4.) SUPSALV reported that the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC) will soon pay all environmental costs incurred by the Department of Defense worldwide.
  - 5.) MSRC reported that they have joined the API General Membership Segment, as well as the API Communications Group. They also noted that (A.) they are working with Coast Guard headquarters to begin working out a contracting agreement that would allow an FOSC to utilize MSRC resources under significant emergency conditions. (B.) Two MPA members and

MSRC participated in the recent SONS exercise. (C.) OSRO and MSRC conducted a prototype Managers Guide to Oil Spills training course in Galveston for entry level and first level managers. A similar course is scheduled to be conducted in Everett, Washington June 18-20, 2002. Those interested in attending the course should contact Doug O'Donovan at 1-703-326-5611, or via e-mail to [odonovan@msrc.org](mailto:odonovan@msrc.org).

- 6.) California's OSPR reported that (A.) The project to remove oil from the sunken Jacob Luckenbach off the state's coast has been awarded to Titan Maritime, and will be funded by the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. (B.) They will participate in the SONS 2004 exercise in

Southern California, and the Governor plans on participating as well. (C.) State Senate Bill 849 is in the works, and will define a fee structure for OSPR. It will impact non-tank vessels.

- 7.) The next meeting of the SAG will be October 24, 2002 at the API Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Also, the API SAG now has a web site at [www.api.org/ehs/spills](http://www.api.org/ehs/spills), the login name is *spillinfo*, and the password is *dispersants*.
- ◆ Dave Usher attended INTERTANKO's Annual General Meeting in Rotterdam last month. One not of interest from the meeting is that INTERTANKO adopted a statement on transparency in support of the recent push for more openness in the shipping industry, and will support initiatives aimed at ensuring transparency. Also, the council elected Lars Carlsson as chairman of INTERTANKO for a second term. (Source: *Lloyd's List*)
  - ◆ Capt. Joseph Hazelwood has finished paying his official debt to Alaska for his involvement in the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, giving the state a check for \$50,000. The restitution was part of Hazelwood's sentence that was handed down in 1990 after he was convicted for the negligent discharge of oil. As you may recall, the sentence also required Hazelwood to conduct 1,000 hours of community service, which he completed last summer. (Source: *AP*)
  - ◆ Representative Max Thornberry (R-Texas) and Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-Connecticut) have added five bipartisan co-sponsors to their legislation aimed at making the Office of Homeland Security a cabinet-level agency. That status would require the head of the office to testify before Congress. The Thornberry/Lieberman legislation would create by statute a National Office for Combating Terrorism in the White House, with a director to be confirmed by the Senate. (Source: *Emergency Preparedness News*)
  - ◆ The National Contract Management Association (NCMA) has issued its preliminary program and registration package for its upcoming NCMA World Congress 2002 taking place July 22-24, 2002 in Long Beach, California. The event promises attendees extensive educational and training sessions relative to various aspects of contract management. For more information, visit the conference web site at [www.ncmahq.org/calendar/WC02/](http://www.ncmahq.org/calendar/WC02/), or call them at 1-703-448-9231.
  - ◆ If you need to look up an environmental term that you are not familiar with, or need some support information for a presentation or paper, check out the EPA's on-line dictionary of environmental terms. It can be found at [www.epa.gov/OCEPaterms/aterms.html](http://www.epa.gov/OCEPaterms/aterms.html). (Source: *Environmental Protection E-News*)
  - ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** Disciplining a disruptive employee requires a firm, yet fair, managerial hand. Some tips to ensure that you rein in disruptive behavior from employees: (1.) **Discipline all employees involved**, not just the most troublesome employee. This helps quell any accusations of favoritism or bias. (2.) **Use progressive discipline**, which give employees a chance to change. (3.) **Realize the need to discipline is "colorblind"** – don't be afraid to discipline an employee just because he/she is in a protected class. (4.) **Look at the big picture** – creating low morale and friction are good enough reasons to discipline. (5.) **Recognize improvement**. This will encourage employees to continue good behavior. (Source: *Manager's Legal Bulletin*)
  - ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "We will not be driven by fear into an age of unreason if we . . . remember that we are not descended from fearful men, not from men who feared to write, to speak, to associate and to defend causes which were, for the moment unpopular." – Edward Roscoe Murrow (1908-1965), *See It Now (broadcast)*. *Report on Senator Joseph R. McCarthy [March 7, 1954]*