



SPILL CONTROL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
A Worldwide Environmental Management Association



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- ◆ We wanted to extend our ***Congratulations!*** to National Response Corp. (“NRC”), who celebrated their 10th anniversary last week. ***We wish Steve Candito and his group at NRC all the best for their continued success.***
- ◆ The House Committee on Appropriations recently issued a press release stating that it had reported the FY 2003 Transportation Appropriations Bill. The total appropriation is for some \$60 billion, with \$6.1 billion going to the Coast Guard. \$207 million is appropriated to maritime and land security within the Transportation Security Administration, of which \$150 million is earmarked for port security grants. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ The British insurance company Terra Nova – the insurer for the tanker *Jessica* - was ordered to pay \$10 million in damages for the January 2001 oil spill in the Galapagos Islands that occurred after the tanker ran aground. Initially, Terra Nova had argued that the insurance policy was not valid at the time of the incident, and the Galapagos National Park filed lawsuits against the insurer, the tanker owner Acotramar, and the state oil subsidiary Petrocomercial. The lawsuits against the tanker owner and oil subsidiary were dismissed, although both still face criminal charges in the case. Scientists are now saying that more than 60% of one islands’ unique species – the marine iguana – were wiped out by the spill. (Source: *Independent News*)
- ◆ As you recall, we mentioned in a recent edition of this newsletter that the California OSPR had benefited from legislation that increased fees paid to their administrative fund from 4 cents per barrel to 6 cents per barrel. While the original proposal was indeed 6 cents per barrel, the final legislation increased the fee to only 5 cents per barrel. ***Our thanks to Ron Holten of ChevronTexaco for providing us with this update!***
- ◆ The Spills Advisory Group will meet on Thursday, October 24, 2002 at the American Petroleum Institute headquarters, 1220 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. The meeting will take place from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. EDT. For information on the meeting, contact Robin Rorick at 202-682-8082, e-mail rorickr@api.org.
- ◆ Late last month, Britain’s Department of Transport issued shipowners operating in their waters a warning that they would need insurance to cover liabilities from bunker pollution, as it has become a signatory to the 2001 Bunker Spill Convention. Other signatories include Brazil, Italy, Australia, Finland, and Norway. It’s interesting to note that this convention has been heavily criticized by salvors because there is no provision for responder immunity. (Source: *Lloyd’s List*)

- ◆ The White House recently issued Remarks of the President within which he urges Congress to enact bills providing for terrorism insurance and establishing the Department of Homeland Security before it adjourns. Congress originally planned to adjourn on October 4, but are now tentatively scheduled to depart on October 18. (Source: *Maritime Items*)

- ◆ In related news, hopes for the quick passage of the Department of Homeland Security bill in the Senate has faded over the last few weeks as both Republicans and Democrats are standing firm on the issue of federal worker protections. The White House and Republicans are in favor of managerial flexibility for the administration to hire and fire workers in the new department, while Democrats have insisted on a bill that provides protections for federal union workers. (Source: *Emergency Preparedness News*)
- ◆ A press release has been issued by the Coast Guard stating that the Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST) Houston-Galveston has been commissioned after four weeks of intense training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. This is the fourth of six Coast Guard anti-terrorism/force-protection teams to be established. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ Following a series of minor oil spills that led to some political controversy over the summer, the Spanish government intends to tighten anti-pollution measures in and around the port of Algeciras. The region has experienced 21 spills so far this year, many of which required closing local beaches while clean up operations were conducted. Among other things, they are expected to increase the number of vessel inspections carried out, and to prosecute offenders to the fullest extent of the law. (Source: *Lloyd's List*)
- ◆ New Financial Responsibility Dollar Amounts for oil spills have been issued by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The increased levels – which represent a 33% increase over the prior level - for which owners and operators of vessels operating in Alaskan waters must provide evidence of financial responsibility to obtain COFR's will go into effect on October 27, 2002. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ The House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 4793, the Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Act that is aimed at assisting counties and parishes in establishing grant and assessment programs to combat the spread of West Nile Virus ("WNV"). The legislation authorizes a \$100 million matching grant program through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC reported 2,768 cases of WNV this year, 146 of which have resulted in death. Louisiana has been the hardest hit among U.S. states, with 293 cases and 14 deaths. The Senate has companion legislation – S. 2935 – which would set up a mosquito control program, but it remains stalled in Congress. (Source: *Emergency Preparedness News*)
- ◆ A news release from the White House reports that President Bush will nominate Admiral James Loy to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Security. Admiral Loy has been serving as Acting Under Secretary for Security since July 2002. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** A study performed by William M. Mercer, Inc. revealed that 25% of workers surveyed said that they were capable of doing more work. On average, they estimated that they could do about 26% more. So why don't they? About a third of them mentioned one or more of the following explanations: (1.) Not involved in the decision making process; (2.) Lack of reward for good performance; and (3.) No opportunity for advancement. More than one third also mentioned a lack of adequate training and supervision as an additional explanation. (Source: *The Motivational Manager*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "What each man does is based not on direct and certain knowledge, but on pictures made by himself or given to him . . . The way in which the world is imagined determines at any particular moment what men will do." – Walter Lippmann (1889-1974), *Public Opinion* [1922], ch. 1, *The World Outside and the Pictures in Our Heads*