

SPILL BRIEFS

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February 7, 2003

- ◆ **A new member!** Please join us in welcoming Ceto Environmental Limited to the Association. Based in Aberdeen, Scotland, Ceto Environmental provides oil and chemical pollution prevention and control services. Their mailing address is Kettrock Lodge, Science & Technology Park, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, Scotland, AB22 8GU. The contact there is John McMurtrie, who can be reached at telephone +44.1224.701234, facsimile +44.1224.701233, or e-mail john.mcmurtrie@cetoenvironmental.com. ***Editor's Note: We are very happy to welcome John back to SCAA. As many of you know, John was the Managing Director of Alba International – a former SCAA member – for many years. He later worked for Briggs Marine, along with Neil McArthur, who was the company's Managing Director. Neil is now the Managing Director of Ceto Environmental, with John serving as the company's Director, Projects. Thanks for your support, and Welcome Aboard!***
- ◆ **Mark Your Calendars!** The dates have been set for SCAA's fall conference. Formerly known as the Inland Spills Conference, this year's event – "Homeland Security: Great Lakes Region – An Integrated Approach to All Hazards Management" – will take place August 24-27, 2003 at The Lodge at SawMill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio. We have received support for this event from the U.S. EPA, U.S. Coast Guard, University of Findlay, Ohio EMA, Ohio Hospital Association, Marathon Oil, U.S. Safety Gear, and SCAA contractor members including MPC and SpillTek. We are now looking for speakers to make presentations on the following tracks: Legal, Preparedness, Emergency Response, and Public Health/Medical. Please contact Marc Shaye at 313.962.8255, e-mail shayemk@aol.com or marcs@scaa-spill.org for more information.
- ◆ This week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the opening of its Environmental Response Team – West office in Las Vegas. The office houses a team of 15 emergency response personnel who will travel around the country in response to environmental accidents, providing immediate scientific and technical expertise in air, soil, and water monitoring and sampling; assessing and responding to chemical, biological and radiological threats; on-site identification and analysis of contaminated materials; environmental risk assessments; oil spill cleanups; bioremediation; health and safety protocols; and hazardous waste cleanups. (Source: *Maritime Items* and *EPA Press Advisory*)
- ◆ The National Center for Environmental Health ("NCEH") of the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") and Prevention will host a public meeting between the CDC and the cruise ship industry, private sanitation consultants, and other interested parties. The meeting will take place on March 11, 2003 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Port Everglades Administration Building in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. On the agenda for discussion are updates on disease surveillance and the 2002 outbreak. For more information, contact the CDC's Angela Storms at telephone 770.488.3141 or e-mail astorms@cdc.gov. (Sources: *Maritime Items*, *Federal Register*) ***For those interested, the CDC has posted on its web site an update on outbreak investigations aboard the cruise ships "Sundream", "Olympic Voyager", "Carnival Spirit", and "Sun Princess". It can be found through the following link: http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/vsp/outbreak/2003/update_feb4.htm***
- ◆ A company called Safety Solutions Inc has introduced a low-tech chemical detection warning badge. Called the HazMat Smart Strip, the badge is aimed at assisting first responders in detecting hazardous chemicals. The company identified eight categories of chemical products, and the strip instantly changes color when it comes into contact with the chemical. It is comprised of reagent strips for chlorine, pH, fluoride, nerve, oxidizer, arsenic, sulfides, and cyanide. It can also detect ammonia, which is incidentally one of the four compounds used on the "Columbia" that could pose a hazard to debris recovery teams. The HazMat Smart Strip - which can trace its roots to the National Technology

Transfer Center's Emergency Response Technology ("ERT") Program - will be commercially available in the near future. (Source: Environment News Service) ***The ERT program is a national initiative focused on commercializing products designed to keep emergency responders safe while on the job.***

- ◆ According to the American Industrial Hygiene Association ("AIHA"), mold is expected to be one of the hottest issues being discussed in state legislatures in 2003. With California moving ahead with its task force report on how to regulate specifics of mold hazard assessment and cleanup, and Texas pre-filing legislation that would requiring licensing for individuals involved in mold inspection and remediation, the AIHA expects other states to introduce some sort of legislation to address this issue. (Source: *1SafetySource*)
- ◆ ASARCO, one of the world's major producers of copper and other metals, has entered into an agreement with the federal government providing for a \$100 million environmental trust fund for remediation efforts at ASARCO managed sites. The Department of Justice will in turn withdraw a previously filed complaint seeking an order prohibiting ASARCO from selling its stock holding interest in the Southern Peru Copper Corporation ("SPCC") to its parent company, American Mining Corporation ("AMC"). The DOJ was alleging that the proposed stock transfer was for less than reasonable equivalent value, and would render ASARCO unable to meet all of its environmental obligations because of its financial condition. Under the settlement, AMC will pay some \$765 million – more than \$100 million more than originally proposed – for ASARCO's stock interest in SPCC, thereby creating and funding an independent environmental trust that will be used to pay for cleanup activities at contaminated sites for which ASARCO is responsible. (Source: *Environment News Service*)
- ◆ Ashland, Inc. will pay \$9.1 million in fines and restitution for its role in a refinery explosion and fire that injured six people in 1997. In addition, the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota in Minneapolis ordered Ashland to pay some \$4 million for sewer, junction box, and drain upgrades at its St. Paul Park Refinery. The company was convicted on negligent endangerment charges under the Clean Air Act and for submitting false certifications to environmental regulators. The explosion occurred after Ashland's failure to seal manhole sewer covers used to dispose of flammable hydrocarbons. Some hydrocarbons ultimately leaked, became airborne, and ignited. While that fire was put out, a second leak occurred from another manhole cover, which also ignited and injured members of an emergency response team. (Source: *Environment News Service*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** Leaders in work environments report that there are ten key values that successful managers tend to exhibit. They are as follows: (1.) **Clarity** – a strong sense of purpose and direction. (2.) **Supportiveness** – a commitment to stand with and behind team members. (3.) **Confidence-building** – a personal commitment to build and sustain the self- image of each team member. (4.) **Mutuality** – a true partnership orientation. (5.) **Perspective** – an unflappable focus on the entire business enterprise. (6.) **Risk** – the encouragement of effort that reduces punishment for mistakes (i.e., sometimes it's okay to fail) and encourages learning in all things, including failure. (7.) **Patience** – A view of time and performance that equitably balances learning and business demands. (8.) **Involvement** –a genuine commitment to allow team members to control their work. (9.) **Confidentiality** – an ability to protect the information of all team business. (10.) **Respect** – a commitment to value and see the treasure within all employees. (Source: *The Manager's Role as Coach, Ch. 1*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "Resolve says, 'I will.' The man says, 'I will climb this mountain. They told me it is too high, too far, too steep, too rocky and too difficult. But it's my mountain. I will climb it. You will soon see me waving from the top or dead on the side from trying.'" – Jim Rohn, American Business Philosopher