

SPILL BRIEFS

13-03

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- ◆ Companies interested in providing services that could contribute to potential operations to control and mitigate damage to Iraq's oil facilities should call 1-866-461-5171. By leaving the information requested by the recorded message, companies can be added to a bidders list. This Department of Defense Contractor Hotline was established to deal with the high level of interest expressed after a March 6, 2003 Department of Defense press release entitled "U.S. Plans to Preserve Iraq's Oil for Iraqi People", which can be found on line at http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2003/b03062003_bt100-03.html.
- ◆ In related news, Wild Well Control, Inc. – a subsidiary of Superior Energy Services, Inc. – has been subcontracted by Kellogg Brown & Root and Halliburton's Energy Services Group to provide fire fighting and well control services for oil wells damaged in Iraq. The company has mobilized well control specialists to the region to stand by for immediate deployment into Iraq to begin work once the oil fields have been secured. Specialized firefighting and well control equipment has already been transported to the region for use, and well control specialists will conduct an assessment of the damaged wells and work with others to safely and efficiently regain control of the damaged wells. (Source: *USA Today Newstracker*)
- ◆ The U.S. Senate recently voted down a measure to reinstate Superfund polluter pays fees, which essentially force polluters to pay the bill for toxic cleanups at Superfund sites. The measure was presented as an amendment to the Budget Resolution, and would have reinstated all of the original Superfund taxes and fees on polluters and increased funding for the program. Without additional funding, the Superfund will likely be completely depleted by 2004, forcing the government (and thus taxpayers) to pay for future Superfund cleanup work. (Source: *Environment News Service*)
- ◆ Sorbent Products Company ("SPC") recently announced its acquisition of Cincinnati-based National Sorbents, Inc., a full service provider of sorbents, material disposal services, hazardous waste consultation and management training. Regarding the acquisition, SPC President Michael Hobin said, "The acquisition of NSI was an opportunity to fold in the assets and talents of a strong service-oriented company and strengthen our already substantial national and international capabilities." For more information, contact SPC at 732-302-0080, send e-mail to info@sorbentproducts.com, or visit the company's web site at www.sorbentproducts.com.
- ◆ This week, Ellen Engleman assumed her new position as Chairwoman of the National Transportation Safety Board. Previously, Ms. Engleman led the Research and Special Programs Administration ("RSPA"), which is the agency in charge of pipeline safety and hazardous waste shipments. (Source: *Detroit News*)
- ◆ ***Speaking of the RSPA . . .*** The agency recently promulgated a final rule (effective immediately) that establishes new requirements to enhance the security of hazardous materials transported in commerce. Under the rule, shippers and carriers of certain hazardous material have to develop and implement security plans, and assure that their employee training includes a security component. Security plans required by the rule must be developed and implemented within six months, and the required training must be provided within nine months. More information can be obtained from the March 25, 2003 edition of the *Federal Register* (Volume 68, No. 57, pages 14509 through 14521). The

Federal Register is available on line at http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/the_federal_register/indexes.html (Source: *Maritime Items*)

- ◆ The U.S. Supreme Court has decided against taking up a lawsuit challenging the Department of Justice's ("DOJ's") implementation of the U.S.A. Patriot Act, which gives law enforcement and intelligence gathering agencies broad latitude to wiretap suspected terrorists. The case was filed last year by the American Civil Liberties Union ("ACLU"), the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and other groups challenging the DOJ's surveillance power under the Act. By amending laws such as the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act ("FISA"), the ACLU said that the USA Patriot Act vastly expands the government's authority to obtain personal information about those living in the United States, including United States citizens. The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court ruled in favor of the ACLU in their Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request on the government's use of its surveillance powers under the USA Patriot Act. On appeal, however, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review reversed the decision and ruled that the DOJ's interpretation of the Act was constitutional. (Source: *Emergency Preparedness News* and *ACLU Press Releases*)
- ◆ The U.S. Department of Homeland Security released Secretary Tom Ridge's testimony before the House Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the House Committee on Appropriations, which can be found on-line at <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=44>. The proposed FY2004 budget for the Department of Homeland Security is \$36.2 billion, of which \$18.2 billion would be allocated for border and transportation security and \$6.8 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ The 13th Annual Clean Gulf Conference & Exhibition will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana on November 19-20, 2003 at the Morial Convention Center. Exhibition space for the event is limited to 175 booths, which are sold on a first come, first served basis. Conference organizers have indicated that over 120 booths have already been sold. More information on exhibition and sponsorship opportunities can be obtained by calling Christy West at 713-463-9595 x 306, sending e-mail to info@cleangulf.org, or visiting the conference web site at www.cleangulf.org.
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** People who hate rejection tend to be the worst negotiators, primarily because they can't accept the fact that negative things coming at them aren't personal. Bad negotiators don't listen, and don't let the other person vent - a process through which the other person is likely to reveal problems and possible solutions. On the other hand, good negotiators have the following in common: (1.) **Thorough preparation**, recognizing that the side with the most information will receive a better outcome in the negotiation. (2.) **Patience**. Good negotiators remain level headed, recognizing that most concessions occur in the last 20% of the negotiation. (3.) **They realize that deadlines aren't set in stone**. As deadlines draw near, they merely suggest a change instead of panicking. (4.) **Knowledge or expertise**. People with both wield tremendous negotiating power. (5.) **Character**. They do what they say they are going to do, without exception. (Source: *The Selling Advantage*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "The major reason for setting a goal is for what it makes of you to accomplish it. What it makes of you will always be the far greater value than what you get." – Jim Rohn

Disclaimer: Although the Spill Control Association of America has made every effort to be accurate, errors may appear and are unintentional.