



The U.S. EPA's Oil Program Report

January 2005

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EPA Publishes Notices of Data Availability on SPCC Rule	1	On August 11, 2004, at 69 FR 48794, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized an eighteen-month extension for certain upcoming compliance dates for the July 2002 Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) amendments (40 CFR 112). This final rule temporarily reduces the regulatory burden on facilities by extending the compliance dates in Sections 112.3(a) and 112.3(b) to amend and to implement SPCC Plans, and by amending the compliance deadlines in Section 112.3(c) for mobile facilities.	After the publication of the July 17, 2002, final rule (67 FR 47042) amending the SPCC regulation, legal challenges were filed against certain issues of the rule. Discussions between EPA and the plaintiffs led to a settlement agreement on all but one of the issues. On May 25, 2004, EPA published a clarification regarding the SPCC regulation based on the settlement discussions (69 FR 29728). The eighteen-month extension will provide the regulated community with sufficient time to review and incorporate these clarifications when preparing and updating their SPCC Plans in accordance with the 2002 amendments.
EPA Region I Conducts PREP Unannounced Exercises	2	The deadlines for complying with the SPCC regulations are February 17, 2006, to amend an existing Plan and August 18, 2006, to implement the Plan. Therefore, an onshore or offshore facility that: 1) was in operation on or before August 16, 2002, must maintain its Plan, but must amend it, if necessary to ensure compliance, on or before February 17, 2006, and must implement the amended Plan as soon as possible, but not later than August 18, 2006; 2) becomes operational after August 16, 2002, through August 18, 2006, and could reasonably be expected to have a discharge as described in 40 CFR 112.1(b), must prepare a Plan on or before August 18, 2006, and fully implement it as soon as possible, but not later than August 18, 2006; or 3) becomes operational after August 18, 2006, and could reasonably be expected to have a discharge as described	For more information, visit the Oil Program website at www.epa.gov/oilspill or contact Mark W. Howard, EPA Office of Environmental Management, Oil Program, howard.markw@epa.gov .
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EPA Publishes Notices of Data Availability on SPCC Rule

On September 20, 2004, EPA published two Notices of Data Availability (NODAs) regarding facilities subject to the SPCC rule. EPA is considering initiatives that would provide more focused regulation

for facilities that handle less than a certain threshold amount of oil (“certain facilities”) as well as facilities with oil-filled and process equipment. As part of this effort, EPA made information available to the public for review and comment as part of its process of considering possible streamlined approaches that would ensure protection of human health and the environment from oil spills.

In Dockets OPA-2004-0007 and OPA-2004-0008, EPA presents information that may be relevant in assessing whether alternate regulatory requirements would be appropriate for two types of facilities. The information includes relevant portions of documents from a number of sources, including correspondence (letters, memorandums, white papers, email messages, etc.) submitted to EPA staff following the promulgation of the revised SPCC rule. Also included are relevant portions of comments entered into official SPCC rulemaking dockets.

EPA requested comments, data, and analyses to assist the Agency in assessing the merit of the alternatives presented in the docket materials. The comment period ended on November 19, 2004, and EPA is now considering the public’s input.

For more information, visit the Oil Program website at www.epa.gov/oilspill or contact Hugo Fleischman, fleischman.hugo@epa.gov, or Mark W. Howard, howard.markw@epa.gov.

EPA Region I Conducts PREP Unannounced Exercises

In September 2004, Region I conducted EPA-initiated unannounced oil spill response exercises at facilities across New England. The exercises are required under 40 CFR 112.21 and are outlined in the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) guidelines. The unannounced exercises are designed to test the ability of a facility to respond to a spill and to implement the emergency response procedures as outlined in its Facility Response Plan (FRP).

These exercises focus on testing equipment deployment and notification procedures upon discovery of a spill. The size of the spill is limited to 2,100 gallons into water and the facility is required to deploy sufficient boom to contain the spill within one hour of discovery. The facility must bring to the spill any other equipment required for response such as skimmers, spill kits, etc. EPA monitors notifications to ensure that all necessary parties are notified and that emergency response procedures are followed as designed in the FRP Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP). Current weather conditions are used during the exercise, which is limited to four hours from the time the federal On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) starts the exercise. The OSC determines the scenario and notifies the Qualified Individual (QI) of this scenario upon arrival at the facility.

The unannounced exercise program is a constructive tool for assisting facilities in analyzing their spill response capabilities and determining any needed improvements to their procedures. The objective of the EPA-initiated PREP unannounced exercises is to test a facility’s spill response preparedness. While a facility can pass or fail the exercise, EPA works with the facility to develop an ERAP that can be implemented effectively.

EPA is also responsible for FRP inspections and testing ERAP implementation through the unannounced exercise program for facilities under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) for spill response. Starting in 2005, EPA Region I will work closely with the USCG to develop a program of joint PREP unannounced exercises for oil spill response at facilities that reside in both jurisdictions. EPA and the USCG are looking forward to working together to ensure that facilities are prepared to respond to spills.

For more information about the EPA Region I unannounced exercise program, contact Catherine Young, EPA On-Scene Coordinator, Region 1, 617-918-1217.

Landfarming Pilot Study in Allegheny Region Oil Fields

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) requested assistance from EPA to clean-up numerous small-scale petroleum spills that occurred in the Allegheny Region of New York and Pennsylvania. An industry of independent petroleum operators has been in operation in the Allegheny Region since the late 1800s, and numerous small petroleum spills have occurred over the years. An estimated 20,000-45,000 spill sites exist in the Allegheny Region. Currently, EPA Region 2 and the Environmental Response Team are in the second year of a two-year pilot study to develop a low-cost, simple clean-up method for remediating small oil spills by independent operators with NYDEC oversight.

The bioremediation methods implemented in the project include spreading the soils and sludges from small oil spills over an area of land. To assist with the biodegradation process, the oil is mixed with a moist substrate prior to application. To test the remediation method, the pilot study will evaluate the efficiency of landfarming to meet certain risk and regulatory levels. EPA Region 2 is using continuous, active landfarming, as well as landfarming with the addition of petroleum-tolerant grasses on the surface. Another option being investigated is the direct revegetation of the soil with no prior treatment. The initial laboratory findings are still pending, but petroleum odors have decreased and successful revegetation has occurred.

Ideally, the pilot study will establish constructed treatment cells for long-term use, eliminating the need for construction of new cells at every spill site. Prepared cells would allow for a low-maintenance treatment process and continual reuse after the petroleum hydrocarbons disperse from the soils and sludge. The concern of possible shallow groundwater contamination and runoff from reused cells is being investigated. Other concerns being studied by EPA include the potential for runoff, acceptable soil and sludge

loading rates, and treatment cell siting recommendations.

For more information on the pilot study, contact Dwayne Harrington, EPA Region 2, 732-906-6899.

Recent Spills

Onshore Oil Production Facility Spill at Wolsey Well

On October 17, 2004, a caller notified the National Response Center (NRC) of an oil and salt water spill at the Wolsey Well Service, Inc. property in Bowie, Texas. The unknown quantity of discharged oil resulted from a faulty oil and water separator valve. Once notified, NRC contacted the EPA Region 6 Response and Prevention Branch who activated the EPA Region 6 Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START-2) contractors.

START-2 met with representatives of the Wolsey Well Service, Inc, the Responsible Party (RP), and the owners of the property. The RP reported that on October 17, 2004, a float valve in the oil and water separator became stuck which caused the overflow of crude oil and salt water. The spill flowed to the northeast

approximately 500 feet where it entered a dry, unnamed creek. The crude oil and salt water continued down the creek approximately 1,000 feet. An estimated 60 barrels of crude oil was recovered from the creek. Recovery was performed using vacuum trucks along the dry creek. The crude oil was then transferred into crude oil storage tanks onsite. Two dams were constructed downstream to prevent the further infiltration of crude oil and salt water into the environment. START-2 did not observe additional oil downstream from the constructed dams. The RP's clean up crews remained onsite, washing the remaining crude oil and salt water in the pathway of the spill and the creek bed. The crews flushed the oil to a collection point where it was contained and removed with vacuum trucks. Clean-up efforts will continue to be monitored by EPA in coordination with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Texas Railroad Commission.

For more information, contact Charles Fisher, EPA On-Scene Coordinator, Region 6, fisher.charles@epa.gov.

Drill Rig Malfunction

On September 20, 2004, during construction of a new product well located north of Kilbourne Road in Kingston

Township, Ohio, a cutting tube on the drill rig malfunctioned resulting in an oil spill. The mud and cutting pit filled with oil and additional oil was discharged into surrounding surface soils and a nearby cornfield. The drill operators notified the Ohio Department of Natural Resources of the incident. It was believed that the oil was contained to the drilling area inside a soil ditch, which was established as an emergency action. Later that evening the Delaware County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) responded to neighbors' concerns regarding petroleum odors in the area. The EMA discovered that the crude oil had reached the nearby West Branch Creek and traveled approximately 1.5 miles downstream, past a ten-home residential area. Once discovered, local response contractors contained the spill and EPA Region 5 performed an evaluation. An initial evaluation estimated 200 barrels (approximately 8,500 gallons) of crude oil had been released throughout the area. EPA Region 5 requested the assistance of a federal on-scene coordinator because of the uncertainty in the responsible party's ability to fund the cleanup and because of the scale of the spill.

Later estimates indicated that 1,500-2,000 barrels, approximately 63,000-84,000 gallons of crude oil, had been released into the environment. The majority of the oil saturated the soil west and north of the drilling operation or was contained in operational pits. Some of the oil traveled through a 12-inch field tile into the West Branch Creek. Contamination was detected 1.5 miles downstream, impacting stream wildlife.

Operational response actions began on September 20, 2004, and included the following: removal of oil-contaminated soil, establishment of four siphon dams, recovery of product from West Branch Creek, and stabilization of the newly established oil well. From September 23-26, 2004, crews vacuumed large amounts of oil off of the West Branch creek. Approximately one mile of the creek was excavated to remove heavily impacted vegetation. The cleanup crew used sorbent pad recovery and hand removal in sensitive wooded areas. Most of the water



Clean-up crew washing spill pathway with water.



Recovering pads in West Branch Creek.

recovery was finished on September 26, 2004.

Throughout October 2004, EPA mobilized START to oversee the ongoing recovery efforts. EPA Region 5 reported that 1,200 barrels (approximately 50,400 gallons) of crude oil had been recovered from the area and shipped off-site for disposal. Over 7,000 tons of oil-contaminated soil was also shipped off-site for treatment. On October 27, it was determined that federal oversight was no longer needed. The responsible party will continue with the remaining clean-up activity and local and/or state responders will monitor the activity.

For more information, contact Mark Durno, EPA On-Scene Coordinator, Region 5, durno.mark@epa.gov.

Region 6 Response to Weeks Island Oil Spill

On September 2, 2004, the National Response Center (NRC) was notified of an estimated 10-barrel oil spill, which resulted from a ruptured pipeline owned and operated by Stone Energy Corporation (SEC) of Lafayette, Louisiana. The oil spill, located in a forested wetland area immediately southwest of Louisiana Highway 83 in Weeks Island, Iberia Parish, Louisiana, was discovered by SEC personnel. There were no injuries or

evacuations due to the spill. The EPA Region 6 Response and Prevention Branch dispatched the START-2 contractors to the scene when the volume of spilled oil was revised from 10 barrels to 435 barrels on September 8, 2004.

At the scene, START-2 observed that most of the spilled oil pooled in low lying topographic areas and in several small ponds situated in the forested wetland area. They estimated the area impacted by the spilled oil was 200 yards wide by 350 yards long. Initial active response activities included clearing of dense vegetation from the forested wetland area

to access the spilled oil; constructing boardwalk pathways; deploying absorbent and hard booms; recovering spilled oil using skimmers, suction hoses, wash pumps, and vacuum trucks; and transferring the recovered oil and water from vacuum trucks into a fractational tank at the scene. These activities were conducted by Environmental Safety and Health (ES&H), the clean-up company contracted by SEC. In addition to START-2 and ES&H, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) responded.

Active response activities continued at the scene until November 8, 2004, when the passive recovery phase was initiated. The passive oil spill response activities consisted of changing out absorbent media, removing any free-floating oil, and collecting oil-saturated vegetation and debris for disposal. Passive oil spill cleanup operations are scheduled to continue every Tuesday and Friday until LDEQ and LOSCO officially notify the responsible party to cease activities. A Natural Resource Damage Assessment, tentatively scheduled for early December 2004, will assess the impact on wildlife and vegetation at the spill scene. Although no damage to wildlife has been observed, the oil spill is in the habitat of the American Black Bear.



Propane cannon used to scare-off bears.

To date, the exact amount of crude oil spilled has not been established; however, a total of 1,240 barrels of liquids were recovered from the spill scene, of which 547 barrels contained crude oil. The crude oil was transported to and processed at SEC's Section 19 production facility. Oil-contaminated vegetation and absorbent pads were bagged and transported for offsite disposal at the Browning-Ferris Inc. Colonial Landfill in Sorrento, Louisiana.

For more information, contact Valmichael Leos, EPA On-Scene Coordinator, Region 6, leos.valmichael@epa.gov.

Region 8 Oil Spills

Woods Cross Oil Spill (Woods Cross, Davis County, Utah)

On July 19, 2004, the Davis Health Department (DH) notified the EPA Region 8 Criminal Investigation Division (CID) of an oil release that appeared to discharge from a storm drain into a ditch leading into the Jordan River. The CID was told that the oil formed a sheen along the ditch for 0.5 miles. Concerned that heavy rain was predicted for that evening, local responders placed sorbents and deployed booms to contain the release below the discharge area. They were unable to determine the origin of the release. Upon notification by the CID, EPA's On-Scene Coordinator, its START-2 contractor, and Environmental Response and Remediation Services (ERRS) contractor immediately responded to the scene. EPA's July 19 response activities included sampling of the oil/sheen contamination; skimming/vacuuming oil near the booms and other accumulation areas; and initial assessment of the storm drain outlets and other potential origins of the release.

EPA partnered with the City of Woods Cross in the response, who provided equipment and personnel needed to investigate the source and extent of the oil release and to repair the storm drain. Samples were taken and analyzed by the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Lab in Groton, Connecticut, to confirm the origin of the spilled oil. Tests determined that

the source was an abandoned crude oil pipeline that runs parallel to the concrete drain for approximately one mile. The refinery property was abandoned in the 1980s. The current property owner is the Crown Asphalt Production Company. A vacuum truck drained 6,921 gallons of crude oil from the pipeline that was later sold to the Silver-Eagle refinery. The pipeline was then properly abandoned by pumping in grout. Booms, contaminated vegetation, and recovered groundwater were collected and disposed of offsite.

For more information, contact Johanna Miller, EPA On-Scene Coordinator, Region 8, miller.johanna@epa.gov.

Oakley Pipeline (Wasatch County, Utah)

On August 25, 2004, the Wolper Construction Company was developing a subdivision for homes in a steep hilly area of Wasatch County, Utah. While building fences for the development, a bulldozer hit and ruptured a Chevron Oil Company crude oil pipeline. The bulldozer operator moved quickly to build berms that kept the crude oil from reaching any surface water or the Jordanelle River. The Chevron Pipeline Company was notified and they closed valves on either side of the rupture. The spill was limited to approximately 650-700 barrels.

Wolper Construction Company came forward as the responsible party (RP) and constructed a cell at the base of the steep hillside. The Chevron Pipeline Company worked with the RP to haul the contaminated dirt to the East Carbon Landfill near Sunnyside, Utah. The RP planned to dispose an estimated 12,000 - 15,000 cubic yards of contaminated waste in the Blue Bench Landfill. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality will monitor the final cleanup actions.

For more information, contact Al Lange, EPA On-Scene Coordinator, Region 8, lange.al@epa.gov.

Rozel Point Tanks (Box Elder County, Utah)

On September 29, 2004, EPA closed out a September 2001 field order for the Rozel

Point Tanks site. This site was an abandoned oil field on the north side of the Great Salt Lake where two aboveground tanks were leaking crude oil. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality notified EPA and EPA initiated removal activities on September 10, 2001. A cap had been removed from the valve of one tank and the other tank had rusted completely on the top. Thelmas USA, LLC had purchased the land earlier in 2001, prior to the release of oil from the tanks. The corporation assumed control of the cleanup. Response activities included removal of oil from the two tanks, excavation of the contaminated soils, demolition of the tanks, disposal of the wastes at approved facilities, and demobilization from the site.

EPA was notified that oil still remained on the ground surface. However, Thelmas was in dispute with their initial cleanup contractor, and EPA's Environmental Response and Remediation Services contractor completed the cleanup. Thelmas obtained all available field notes and records of transportation and disposal from the cleanup contractor for submission to EPA in their final report.

For more information, contact Joyce Ackerman, EPA On-Scene Coordinator, Region 8, ackerman.joyce@epa.gov.

Loveland Pass Diesel Tanker Spill

On Friday, November 4, 2004, a diesel tanker rolled over the embankment at Loveland Pass on Colorado Highway #6, releasing approximately 5,000 gallons of diesel onto the ground. Loveland Pass is located West of the Continental Divide in Colorado near the Arapahoe Ski Basin and is part of the Snake River Water District. The driver, who was ejected when the tanker crashed, was flown to Saint Anthony's Central Hospital in Denver in critical condition.

The spill occurred only 1,000 feet from the Middle Fork of the Snake River with the potential for diesel to be transported as far as the North Fork. The slope at the incident site is steep and most of the diesel drained along the subsurface and seeped from the surface about 370 feet from the

tanker the day after the accident.

The National Response Center contacted EPA Region 8 at 9:01 a.m. on November 4, 2004, less than one hour after the incident occurred. The EPA On-Scene Coordinator immediately traveled to the spill site to get a preliminary report of the contamination and to monitor cleanup. The Colorado State Patrol HAZMAT team responded to the spill and assumed Incident Command with support from the U.S. Forest Service.

The RP was given a Clean Water Act §311 Order requiring the development of a Work Plan and outlining cleanup activities. Custom Environmental Services, a contractor for the RP, began response actions immediately after the spill. They were ordered by EPA to build catchment ponds to intercept diesel flowing down the slope, clean up diesel contaminated soils, and install four groundwater monitoring wells to determine if diesel had seeped into the groundwater. The company recovered 2,000 gallons of diesel from the overturned tanker and used absorbent materials to soak up diesel from the spill.

The *Summit Daily News* reported on November 11, 2004, that precautions taken by EPA and the parties involved in cleanup should prevent any lasting environmental damage at the site. No further waterways or drinking water supplies are impacted at this time.

For more information, contact Pete Stevenson, EPA On-Scene Coordinator, Region 8, 303-312-6799.

Golden Gate Express Tanker Truck Operation Oil Spill

On Tuesday, October 19, 2004, a tanker driver was transferring turbine oil (hydraulic lubricant oil) from one truck to another when a quick-release hose valve became detached, causing a spill at Golden Gate Petroleum (a.k.a. Diablo Petroleum) in Martinez, California. The oil spilled into the street, impacting two adjacent storm drains. The oil discharge



Boom deployment on Payton Creek.

was discovered during an inspection of the drains by the Contra Costa County Public Works Department. Shortly after the initial spill discovery, oil was also observed in Payton Creek on the adjacent Shell Oil refinery property, as well as on the nearby Mountain View Sanitary District property. Free product and oil sheens were noted along Peyton Creek and its wetland slough.

In response to the spill, the owner of Golden Gate Express, a transportation company, came forward as the responsible party (RP). EPA, the California Department of Fish and Game Oil Spill Pollution and Response, and the RP acted in a Unified Command to direct the response activities. Golden Gate hired a contractor to collect oil on the street and facility driveway and vacuum out the two surface impoundments. Shell employees brought in subcontractors to respond to the spilled oil on their property. Based on direction by first responders, the Shell team established three collection points, two on their property and one adjacent to the marsh. Shell's cleanup operations included the removal of vegetation from the Payton Creek channel center and the use of sorbent and hard booms, as well as sorbent pads and sweep to contain and recover the oil.

As a result of rain storms, water levels in the shallow creek rose to greater than six feet. Heavy debris and downed vegetation

were deposited at several collection points, following flooding of the channel. After clearing debris from the creek channel, a minimal sheen was observed in the creek in the areas where the water slowed. A controlled flush was conducted on Thursday, October 28, 2004, which yielded little accumulation on sorbent pads at collection points. Therefore, active cleanup activities ceased on October 29, 2004.

Two boom sites will remain and will be monitored daily. The entire creek length will be monitored periodically. If product accumulation is observed during monitoring, sorbent pads will be used to remove the accumulated material. As of November 4, 2004, the estimated product released was 2,619 gallons.

For more information, contact Harry L. Allen, EPA On-Scene Coordinator, Region 9, allen.harryl@epa.gov.

Train Derailment and Release of Diesel Fuel at Cow Creek

The City of Riddle, Oregon, shut down its water system on Thursday, October 28, 2004, following a train derailment the preceding Tuesday that spilled thousands of gallons of diesel into Cow Creek. Cow Creek is the city's main water source and residents began reporting an odor and

bitter taste in the water shortly after the derailment. By late Thursday afternoon, officials in the nearby towns of Tri City and Myrtle Creek began rationing water and monitoring the situation.

The train, part of the Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad (CO&P), contained 34 cars carrying lumber products and three locomotives at the time of the accident. A dozen cars derailed including two of the locomotives, resulting in a release of 4,300 gallons of diesel fuel. CO&P mobilized a clean-up contractor to the site the evening of the derailment to begin removal of the derailed cars and engines.

The diesel fuel spilled on to the railroad ballast and into Cow Creek, which flows adjacent to the incident site. Cow Creek becomes part of the South Fork of the Umpqua River near Canyonville, Oregon, and contains many sensitive fish species including: Oregon Coast Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, Coastal Cut Throat, and Pacific Lamprey. No injured or dead fish or wildlife was reported by Bureau of Land Management biologists after the spill. Residents were asked to contact local police or the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) if they noticed any distressed or injured animals. The ODFW was particularly concerned because of the proximity of the spill site to

the spawning beds of the Chinook Salmon.

On Sunday, October 31, 2004, cleanup crews began flushing the contaminated soil at the site with approximately 20,000 - 30,000 gallons of low pressure water. In addition, crews set up concentric booms along the 30- to 50-yard stretch to help collect any remaining diesel fuel. Additional booms were set downstream of the incident site as a precaution. The site had a very strong diesel odor, but little product was actually found on the bank of Cow Creek. Crews also excavated a 71-foot-long by 1.5 foot-deep strip of land from the site that contained contaminated soil. A spokesman for EPA stated that a long-term monitoring plan, which involves periodically taking water samples and observing any sheen in the water, will be the next step for this cleanup.

The railroad crew was at the site to repair the tracks during the cleanup and stated it will cover the cleanup expenses, including long-term water quality testing, and costs incurred by surrounding towns that lost water use after the spill.

For more information, contact Dan Heister, EPA On-Scene Coordinator, Region 10, heister.dan@epa.gov.



Locomotive with breached diesel tank.

Investigators on the Trail of Oil Spill Suspects

Early October 2004, brought an unwelcome surprise to the shores of Puget Sound. At 1:15 a.m. on October 14, 2004, a tugboat captain noticed an expanding oil slick in the sound and alerted the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). Once the fog lifted and a more thorough investigation could begin, state investigators found that an oily sheen was expanding beyond what was originally reported to be one acre. More than 1,000 gallons of oil was spilled from an unknown source.

The Dalco Passage Spill took place in the channel between Tacoma and Vashon, Washington. The USCG, the Washington Department of Ecology, and cooperating local, tribal, state, and federal agencies formed a Unified Command to clean up the spill. As of the end of October, the cleanup effort included as many as 286 people, 10 skimmers, 24,000 feet of boom, three helicopters, and numerous other boats and pieces of equipment. Cleanup crews gathered 59 tons of oily debris from the shores and 6,842 gallons of oily water from skimming operations. The cleanup cost federal and state oil spill contingency funds nearly \$2 million. No responsible party has been identified.

Based on the number of ships in the area at the time, there are around 20 potential suspect boats that had passed through ports in both Oregon and Alaska. Investigators with the Washington Department of Ecology are taking "oil fingerprints" from ships to try to match the types of oil spilled to the oil found on the ships.

Anxious that the spill investigation was delayed by darkness and fog, residents in the affected areas are concerned about the inability to apprehend the responsible party. However, government officials remain confident that they will be found. Governor Gary Locke has vowed to saddle the responsible party with the clean-up bill, and Department of Ecology officials continue to pursue leads from the local media and their own investigations.

For more information, visit the Delco

Passage oil spill website at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/incidents/dalco/dalcobase.htm.

Recent Events

2004 OSC Readiness Training – National Approach to Response

The 8th annual On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Readiness Training Program, training by OSCs for OSCs, was held in Phoenix, Arizona, on November 15-19, 2004. This successful training titled “National Approach to Response” attracted numerous federal, state, and local responders as well as several consultants. The annual event has evolved into an elaborate training opportunity for OSCs, where inter-regional networking between participants increases awareness of potential new policies and highly useful resources.

This year’s training included courses from the following five categories: 1) Management; 2) Science and Technology; 3) Resources and Tools; 4) Response; and 5) Prevention and Preparedness. The courses were developed by the Readiness Training Board, and provided the necessary skills for specific OSC job requirements. EPA’s Oil Program was well represented among the course instructors. Lori Lee was part of a panel that led a discussion on the National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) policies and how OSCs can determine if the Oil Pollution Act is the proper authority for response to an incident prior to accessing the Oils Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF). Mark Howard of the EPA Headquarters Oil Program instructed an easy-to-understand session on the corrosion process and preventative solutions for above ground storage tanks and related piping systems. In a separate session, “SPCC: New Rule,” Mr. Howard assisted in providing an overview of the revisions to 40 CFR part 112. This session served as a refresher course to satisfy the annual 3500 training requirement for SPCC inspectors. “Bioremediation for Oil Spills,” a beginner level course developed and

facilitated by Nick Nichols, introduced OSCs to the background, purpose, and implementation of bioremediation in an oil-contaminated environment (e.g., soil, freshwater wetlands, and shorelines). Other oil-related courses included “Knowing and Using the National Contingency Plan,” “Case Studies” (oil spill response project), and “Oil Field Removal Actions.”

Keynote speakers for the opening session were Debbie Dietrich, Director of EPA’s Office of Emergency Management (OEM, formerly the Office of Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response); Tom Dunne, Acting Assistant Administrator of EPA’s Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response; and Mark Mjones, Director of OEM’s National Planning and Preparedness Division.

Morning plenary sessions included presentations by Jim Mullins, Region 6 Removal Manager, and Anthony Honnellio, Region 1 Health Physicist, on refocusing health and safety efforts in the Response Program; Dave Wright, ERT Acting Director, on the latest news from the ERT; and Oba Vincent, Special Assistant to the Director of EPA’s Office of Research and Development National Homeland Security Research Center, providing an overview of applied research conducted in the areas of rapid risk assessment, safe building, and water security.

For more information about the OSC Readiness Training Program, contact Gary Turner, EPA Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation, turner.gary@epa.gov; or visit the OSC Readiness Training website at www.oscreadiness.org.

Clean Gulf 2004 Conference

The Clean Gulf 2004 conference was held November 16 - 18, 2004, in Tampa, Florida. Clean Gulf 2004 was titled, “Your Single Source for Emergency Preparedness and Response, Oil and Haz-Mat Spill (Offshore and Inland), Marine Fire and Salvage, and Environmental

Solutions.” The focus of this year’s conference was to demonstrate the new realities of environmental and security concerns. Emphasis was placed on relationships between regulatory, operator, and response communities. Also presented were the key perspectives from the inland, coastal and offshore ports, facilities, pipelines, shipping, and drilling marketplaces.

Real challenges were addressed by professionals from regulatory agencies, such as the federal government and representatives from the private industry. Topics covered by these groups included pre-disaster planning through final clean up to disposal. Open discussions on case studies and solutions were addressed from both the regulatory and industry perspectives.

Many products, services, and new technologies used to address environmental and safety and security concerns were on display in the largest ever indoor exhibition of its kind. There were over 175 displays showcasing emergency response, clean-up, security, and more. The Clean Gulf exhibition showed many solutions for today’s busy environmental, safety, and security professional.

For more information and the conference program, visit the Clean Gulf 2004 website at www.cleangulf.org.

Upcoming Events

2005 International Oil Spill Conference

The 19th Biennial International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) will be held at the Miami Beach Convention Center in Miami Beach, Florida, May 15-19, 2005. It is expected that more than 2,000 people from 50 different countries will be in attendance. There will be technical sessions and more than 250 exhibits to view. The theme for IOSC 2005 will be “Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration - Raising Global Standards.” This theme will include a complete life

cycle of oil and also covers the entire environment from marine life to inland regions. New to IOSC 2005 is the addition of a session in Spanish. The abstract review phase has been completed and authors selected for presentations have been notified.

For information on registration and lodging, visit the IOSC 2005 website at www.ioosc.org.

EPA ERT'S 2005 OIL RESPONSE TRAINING SCHEDULE

March 16, 2005	Region 5 OSC Training; 4 hr Boom Deployment
March 27-April 1, 2005	Vicksburg, Mississippi; 40 hr Backwater Course
May 2005 (tbd)	Region 10 McKenzie River; 24 hr Fastwater Course
June 14-16, 2005	Region 8 Grand Forks, N. Dakota; 24 hr Fastwater Course
July 18-22, 2005	Region 10 Fairbanks, Alaska; 40 hr Backwater Course
August 17-19, 2005	Boise, Idaho; 24 hr Fastwater Course
September 12-16, 2005	Vicksburg, Mississippi; 40 hr Backwater Course
September 27-29, 2005	Sioux City, Iowa; 24 hr Fastwater Course

About the *Update* □

The goal of the EPA Oil Program Center *Update* is to provide straight-forward information to keep EPA Regional staff, other federal agencies and departments, industries and businesses, and the regulated community current with the latest developments. The *Update* is produced quarterly, using a compilation of several sources. The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the U.S. EPA.

