

Abstract Title: Compliance Assurance: The Missing Component for Effective Oil Spill Prevention

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More than twenty-seven years after promulgation of federal Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) regulations, inspectors routinely identify facilities that are either significantly non-compliant or are ignorant of SPCC requirements altogether. This despite longstanding efforts to promote awareness among the regulated community. It is only upon having actually released oil into the environment that most facilities face any real expectation of monetary consequences, and even then are likely to spend money only on the cost of clean-up. If no punitive monetary accountability exists to assure compliance, facilities that fail to maintain and properly operate their systems enjoy an economic advantage over prudent, responsible facilities that comply voluntarily. This presentation will provide real world examples of the effectiveness of establishing a balanced, credible compliance assurance program that operates in conjunction with ongoing compliance assistance activities for oil spill prevention.

Nelson Smith

EPA Region 6 - OPA Compliance Assurance

1445 Ross Ave. - Suite 1200

Dallas, TX 75202

phone: 214.665.8489

fax: 214.665.7447

email: smith.nelson@epa.gov

topic: Oil Spill Prevention Measures

