

Peer Review Plan

Date: 6/3/2016

BSEE Funding Source: Oil Spill Response Research Branch
Oil Spill Preparedness Division
45600 Woodland Road
VAE-OSPD
Sterling, VA 20166

Title: Comparative Testing of Corexit EC9500A, Finasol OSR 52, Accell Clean DWD, and ZI 400 at Ohmsett in a Simulated Arctic Environment

Subject and Purpose: Over 30 years of dispersant effectiveness research has been conducted in laboratory, wave basin, and field studies, including under arctic-like conditions. The majority of this research evaluated one or more of the Corexit™ family of dispersant formulations. However, other dispersant formulations have recently seen increased interest domestically. These emerging dispersant formulations are included in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Contingency Plan (NCP) Product Schedule of approved technologies for oil spill response and mitigation. Accordingly, a need was identified to compare the effectiveness of available dispersant formulations under simulated Arctic conditions.

In February 2014, the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) conducted independent dispersant effectiveness testing to compare available formulations. Several products were tested under mesoscale simulated arctic conditions at the Ohmsett facility. The study was conducted to better understand and compare the effectiveness of various dispersants under simulated arctic test conditions. Four dispersants were selected from the EPA's NCP Product Schedule and tested on an Alaskan crude oil: Corexit® EC9500A, Finasol® OSR 52, Accell® Clean DWD, and ZI 400.

Impact of Dissemination: BSEE considers this information product to be Influential Scientific Information.

Timing of Review: March 16, 2015 – August 17, 2016

Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process: Review will be facilitated by an independent third party, Endyna, Inc. (Endyna). Endyna will select peer reviewers pursuant to the requirements in BSEE's Peer Review Process Manual. Once selected, Endyna will communicate with the reviewers by individual e-mails / letters / memoranda / documents, and compile the individual responses into a consolidated peer review report.

Expected Number of Reviewers: Endyna shall use a structured process to select five (5) peer reviewers who are independent (i.e., not involved with the report reviewed), objective, unbiased, and have significant expertise in the subject matter.

Requisite Expertise: The panel of reviewers shall have expertise in oil spill response in Arctic waters, and a demonstrated understanding of the methods utilized to understand the efficacy/effectiveness of chemical dispersant use. The panel of peer reviewers shall achieve an optimum level of expertise across the spectrum of issues, balance and independence, while minimizing any potential conflicts of interest.

Opportunity for Public Comment: No, the opportunity for public comment is not formally incorporated into the BSEE peer review plan for the peer review of this document.

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