

Peer Review Plan

Date: 3/14/2016

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

Title: Dispersant Effectiveness, In-Situ Droplet Size Distribution and Numerical Modeling to Assess Subsurface Dispersant Injection as a Deepwater Blowout Oil Spill Response Option and Evaluation of Oil Fluorescence Characteristics to Improve Forensic Response Tools

Subject and Purpose: Part of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)'s research is committed to ensuring that functional, safe, and environmentally responsible oil spill response methods are identified and used under appropriate conditions. The application of dispersants at the source of a subsea oil blowout is a new technique that has not been fully researched. As offshore operations move into deeper waters, subsea dispersant injection may be an appropriate tactic during a spill response and must be investigated and better understood. Also, the tools and methods for assessing the effectiveness of this tactic need to be constantly improved. BSEE entered into an interagency agreement with the U.S Environmental Protection Agency Office of Research and Development to perform lab-scale and meso-scale testing to investigate dispersant effectiveness during a subsea blowout and evaluate fluorescence characteristics to improve response monitoring tools.

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

Timing of Review: April 2016 – October 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 emails/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 three (3) 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 dispersants, oil plume and droplet fate and transport, and monitoring of oil in water through the use of fluorescence. 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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