IMO GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS
AT THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Above: At the Arctic Council’s ministerial on May 7, in Rovaniemi, Finland, foreign ministers from the eight circumpolar nations agreed to grant observer status to the International Marine Organization. (Photo courtesy of the Arctic Council)

May 7 - The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has been granted observer status at the Arctic Council. This will allow IMO to build on previous cooperation with the Arctic Council and engage in close collaboration on a range of issues related to...
INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

shipping in the Arctic, in particular, search and rescue, pollution response and maritime safety and protection of the marine environment.

IMO has adopted the Polar Code, which provides mandatory requirements for ships operating in the harsh environment of the Polar regions, to provide additional protection on top of existing mandatory rules, for ship design, construction, equipment, operational, training, search and rescue and environmental protection matters. IMO is currently developing measures to reduce the risks of use and carriage of heavy fuel oil as fuel by ships in Arctic waters.

IMO's “Guide on Oil Spill Response in Ice and Snow Conditions”, approved in 2016, was developed in coordination with the Arctic Council's Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) Working Group.

The Arctic Council is an intergovernmental organization which promotes greater coordination and cooperation among the Arctic States, among other things. The members of the Arctic Council are Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States. IMO joins four other United Nations system bodies with observer status at the Arctic Council (UNDP, UN-ECE, UNEP and WMO). The 11th Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland, welcomed IMO as an observer organization.

See also related report at https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/arctic-council-approves-a-new-observer-the-imo/

THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL STATES USED A HARMONISED SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL TO EVALUATE THEIR NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLANS TO RESPOND TO MARINE POLLUTION

April 26 - The Sub-regional Workshop on the use of RETOSTM was organised by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) (Valletta, Malta, 24-26 April 2019), in the framework of the Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil and HNS Pollution Cooperation (West MOPoCo) project, co-financed by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO).

Eighteen (18) participants, Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia, representing national competent authorities in charge of the preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships. In addition other members of the Project Consortium, amongst which including the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre), the Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA), and the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF) participated to the workshop.

The Workshop allowed to achieve the first objectives of the Project:

(a) acquire hands-on working knowledge of the use of the “Oil Spill Response Planning and Readiness Assessment Manual” and its accompanying Excel™ tool (RETOSTM), to identify and analyse gaps in national oil preparedness and response programs; and

(b) apply a harmonised and clear approach, leading to high-quality assessment of national oil spill contingency plans, across the Western Mediterranean region.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

The event also included technical support provided by Sea Alarm Foundation, which introduced its Self-assessment Tool for oiled wildlife preparedness. The agenda of this Workshop is available on the following link.

The participants acknowledged the practicality of the tool, which enables the identification of needs at national and sub-regional level, and recommended that such a workshop is organised in other areas of the Mediterranean region so as to extend a harmonised approach to the entire region.

With the technical assistance of the West MOPoCo Project, each beneficiary country will produce national self-assessment reports including gap analysis, performance analysis and an improvement programme of their respective national oil spill contingency planning.

The next step will be to organise a national event in each beneficiary country involving all national competent authorities so as to discuss the outcome of the assessment and to agree on the way forward to implement the improvement programme.


WESTMOPOCO, 2019-2020

WestMOPoCo (Western Mediterranean region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation) is a European project involving 12 partners as well as the Principality of Monaco on its own funding. In addition to project management and communication, 4 other work packages have been defined:

- development and update of pollution response support tools: HNS response guidelines, tools such as REMPEC’s Maritime Integrated Decision Support Information System (MIDSIS-TROCS) and the Mediterranean Emergency Reporting System (MedERSys).
- assessment of the National Contingency Plans of the countries involved and, if necessary, the establishment of recommendations to improve them.
- study of international cooperation mechanisms for emergency procedures in this area and the reinforcement of synergies between countries in the event of a Spill.
- organisation of regional workshops and training courses on the use of the developed or updated tools and procedures.

The partners are —

National Environmental Protection Agency - ANPE (Tunisia)
Cedre (France)
Commissariat National du Littoral (Algeria)
HELCOM
ISPRRA (Italy)
IMO
ITOPF
Ministerio de Fomento (Spain)
OSPAR
Secretariat of State for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development (Morocco)
Transport Malta (Malta)
Principality of Monaco (on own funds)

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (COUNTRIES LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

AUSTRALIA: CHEMICAL BURNS AND TOXIC SLUDGE: WORKERS EXPOSE SHOCKING CONDITIONS INSIDE THE MELBOURNE FACTORY THAT BLEW UP

April 29 - Long before Melbourne’s northern suburbs were choked with acrid smoke from a mammoth factory fire earlier this month, workers inside were finishing their shifts covered in toxic sludge and struggling to breathe.

It’s now known the factory was home to a vast illegal chemical waste dump — one internal EPA documents allege was linked to a criminal network responsible for more than a dozen similar illicit waste dumps around Melbourne.

But multiple employees at the Campbellfield company describe a warehouse in the lead-up to the fire where chemical drums were not correctly stored and where workers wearing inadequate safety equipment were frequently covered in chemicals that caused physical and respiratory problems.

"I had burns all over my body due to handling some chemicals. They did not tell me what chemicals they were," said one worker, Muththukirishnan Karththikeyan. "Sometimes, it burns. If I tell them that I got burns from the chemicals, they would say 'that's how it is. It’ll just be like that for a short period of time,' and then they would just apply a cream."
Employees told the ABC that the company — Bradbury Industrial Services — were able to get away with it, as managers were forewarned days ahead of EPA inspections and would order workers to hide chemicals to deceive inspectors.

"They would tell us that EPA is coming a day or two prior to EPA coming. They took away all the things from there to another store. They transferred using a truck," said another worker, who did not want to be named.

Employees also told the ABC they would only be given appropriate safety clothing during inspections by the EPA, but would otherwise have to supply their own basic cotton or polyester uniforms.  

[Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

**CANADA: INVERTEK HELPS CONTAMINATION RESPONSE TEAM KEEP FLEET EFFICIENT**

May 8 - An organisation dedicated to protecting wildlife, economic and environmental sensitivities along the coast of British Columbia, Canada has made three of its new vessels more efficient thanks to Invertek Drives variable frequency drive (VFD) technology.

Western Canada Marine Response Corp. (WCMRC) responds to marine contamination along 27,000kms of coastline using a fleet of dedicated vessels equipped with specialized equipment and teams to minimise the impact and to contain any contamination.

WCMRC’s newest pollution control vessels the Gulf Sentinel, Strait Sentinel and the Coastal Sentinel, have recently been commissioned at ASL Shipyard, Singapore. The three vessels have been fitted with Invertek Drives Optidrive P2 55kW and 75kW VFD, a type-approved by DNV Classification Society for their bow thruster and winches control.  

The Maritime Executive / Read more

**NEW ZEALAND: COUNCIL RESPONSE TO SUNKEN VESSEL TESTED IN OIL SPILL EXERCISE AT RAGLAN**

May 2 - There will be more than the usual action at Raglan Wharf next week, with Waikato Regional Council staff to be engaged in a five-hour marine oil spill exercise. Running from 9am to 2pm on Tuesday (7 May), the exercise will put council staff, gear and systems to the test.

In the ‘Exercise Raglan’ scenario, staff will be required to protect the harbour and shoreline from oil leaking from a sunken fishing vessel at the Raglan Wharf. The exercise – funded by the Oil Pollution Fund administered by Maritime New Zealand – will involve staff from across the regional council, as well as vessels and personnel from other agencies associated with emergency response.  

Waikato Regional Council / Read more

**NIGERIA: HOW Buhari ADMINISTRATION AWARDED OGONI CLEANUP CONTRACTS TO UNQUALIFIED FIRMS**

May 5 - In what seems like a parody of the clean-up of the heavily polluted Ogoni land, a PREMIUM TIMES investigation has revealed that almost all of the 16 companies awarded contracts for the first phase of the exercise by the Buhari administration have no experience whatsoever in the remediation of oil spills.

An analysis of the companies’ registration details filed at the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) revealed that only one of the companies has anything remotely to do with the remediation of oil spills.

An analysis of the companies' registration details filed at the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) revealed that only one of the companies has anything remotely to do with the remediation of oil spills.  

Premium Times / Read more

May 8 - Ogoni Cleanup: Despite Violations, Nigerian govt insists contracts followed due process - The Nigerian government has said it followed due process in the award of contracts for the remediation of polluted sites in Ogoniland.

In two separate responses to PREMIUM TIMES report on how the Buhari administration awarded Ogoni cleanup contracts to unqualified firms, both the Federal Ministry of Environment and the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) said that due process was followed in awarding the said contracts. The government has claimed the companies with varying objects have ‘partnered’ other international firms with required experiences in the remediation fields.  

Premium Times / Read more

May 9 - Reps Halt Ogoni Clean Up, Order Freezing Of Account. Lawmakers at the House of Representatives have ordered Stanbic Bank to immediately freeze the account of Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), the company in charge of the Ogoni clean-up.

The lawmakers also demanded that a full investigation be conducted into the activities of HYPREP and all payments made by the agency.  

Sahara Reporters / Read more
NIGERIA: NETHERLANDS TO SUPPORT NIGERIA ON OGOINI CLEAN-UP, SAYS ENVOY

May 9 - The Netherlands Ambassador to Nigeria, Ms. Marion Kappeyne, yesterday pledged her country’s readiness to support the Federal Government to clean-up decades-long oil spills in Ogoniland, Rivers State. Ms. Kappeyne spoke in Ebube while inspecting ongoing remediation of one of the polluted sites in Ebube community, Erima Local Government Area of the state.

Also speaking, the UNEP representative to Nigeria, Mike Cowing, said the global body was satisfied with biological processes being carried out in the Ebube remediation site. He said the Federal Government had re-engaged UNEP to strengthen the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) for full implementation of the 2011 UNEP recommendations. The Nation / Read more

RUSSIA: LUKOIL’S ARCTIC OIL SPILL RESPONSE TECHNOLOGY GETS STATE EXPERT APPROVAL

May 7 - State Expert Review Agency approved of LUKOIL’s oil spill response technology. Based on the use of absorbents and biotechnologies, the company’s new development is designed specifically for marine and freshwater ecosystems of the Arctic region. As the pilot testing proves, the technology, that has already acquired nine patents, is effective and can be applied in real life conditions, LUKOIL says in a press release.

The distinctive property of the technology is in specific strains of microorganisms that can be used in the Arctic regions, where application of conventional oil containment and skimming techniques is hindered by the harsh environment.

LUKOIL’s new development implies the use of special biologics for marine, fresh and mesohalobiotic environments. These biologics do not form any toxic compounds in air or water, and no harmful substances are used to produce them. With the ability to treat contaminated areas out of easy reach in extremely low temperatures, they are best suited for the environment of the Arctic and the Atlantic Oceans. Port News / Read more [Thanks to Dan Sheehan, Member of ISCO Executive Committee]

USA: CRIST, BARRAGAN, BUCHANAN, PRICE, AND ROONEY ANNOUNCE OFFSHORE DRILLING SAFETY BILL

May 6 - U.S. Representatives Charlie Crist (D-FL), Nanette Diaz Barragan (D-CA), Vern Buchanan (R-FL), David E. Price (D-NC), and Francis Rooney (R-FL) introduced the bipartisan Safe Coasts, Oceans, and Seaside Towns (COAST) Act to codify two of the common-sense safety regulations implemented after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon explosion. These two rules, dealing with production safety systems and well control, have been rolled back by the Administration to minimize the oil and gas industry’s safety obligations.

"As our nation’s worst offshore environmental catastrophe, our coastal communities can't afford another devastating disaster like the Deepwater Horizon oil spill," said Congresswoman Barragan. "By dismantling key safety regulations, the administration is putting fishing, tourism and recreation economies along the Pacific coast at risk. This decision is a major win for the oil and gas industry and a major loss for not just our wildlife but our environment. The Safe COAST Act will make safety regulations permanent and protect our coasts against the dangerous consequences of offshore drilling. I'm proud to reintroduce this critical legislation with Reps. Crist, Price, Rooney and Buchanan that puts the livelihoods of our communities ahead of corporate profits." Insurance News / Read more

USA: OPA 90: THE RECIPE FOR SUCCESS, LESSONS LEARNED AND FURTHER ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

May 8 - There is an ongoing consensus in the shipping industry that Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) is by far the most effective implemented legislation worldwide. But what differentiates the success of this regulation from several other regimes concerning maritime like SOLAS, MARPOL, STCW, ISM or TMSA? Furthermore, should we expect any regulatory updates? And, is there further need to improve the level of understanding and the level of implementation of the OPA 90?

Shortly after Exxon Valdez, spilled over 11 million gallons of Alaskan crude into the water of Prince William Sound, in March 1989, the Congress voted to pass the Oil Pollution Act (OPA). In force since August 1990, OPA amended the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and outlined how companies are required to prevent, respond to, and pay for oil spills.

In essence, OPA 90 streamlined and strengthened EPA’s ability to prevent and respond to catastrophic oil spills. A trust fund financed by a tax on oil is available to clean up spills when the responsible party is incapable or unwilling to do so. The OPA requires oil storage facilities and vessels to submit to the Federal government plans detailing how they will respond to large discharges. EPA has published regulations for aboveground storage facilities; the Coast Guard has done so for oil tankers. The OPA also requires the development of Area Contingency Plans to prepare and plan for oil spill response on a regional scale.

Mrs. Cynthia Hudson, CEO, Hudson Analytix, during a thought provoking discussion in one of our “Ask SAFETY4SEA” episode series implied that “Communication and understanding” are the secret ingredients for OPA 90 success. Safety4Sea / Read more and watch video of the discussion between Cynthia Hudson and Apostolos Belokas, Founder of Safety4Sea
USA: INTERIOR SECRETARY SAYS OFFSHORE DRILLING DEREGULATION WILL CONTINUE

May 10 - U.S. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt says the Trump administration will continue with its plan to ease offshore drilling regulations.

At a hearing of the House interior subcommittee this week, Rep. Chellie Pingree, D-Maine, asked Bernhardt whether there were plans to pause the program. The former oil and gas lobbyist, in his first congressional hearing since being confirmed last month, emphatically dispelled that idea.

Nine permit requests for geophysical and geological mineral exploration in the Atlantic Ocean by eight companies are under review by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Some of the applications were reopened for evaluation after initial denial, the result of a 2017 order by former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to “expedite consideration of appealed, new or resubmitted seismic permitting applications for the Atlantic.”  Gephardt Daily / Read more

USA: LATEST ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

May 10 – Please click on the links below to read the latest news reports from NOAA OR&R

Coast Guard Announces Oil to be Removed from Sunken WWII Tanker near Long Island
ERMA Mentioned at Congressional Hearing
Oil Spill Legislation on the Hill
Connecting with Seasonal Employees on Marine Debris on the Gulf Coast
Salt Marsh and Oyster Bed Restoration Projects Proposed for Hazardous Waste Site in Charleston, South Carolina
Partners Gather in Gloucester to Update the Gulf of Maine Marine Debris Action Plan
OR&R Scientists Convene to Share Research and Advances and Connect with Anacostia Partners

ISCO NEWS

SPILLCON, AUSTRALIA

We regret to advise that this year ISCO will not be exhibiting at the Spillcon Conference and Exhibition in Perth. However, ISCO Member of Council for Australia, John Wardrop, will be attending. He hopes to meet up with ISCO members at the event and will be able to pass on news of recent ISCO developments. We have been giving our support to Spillcon and hope the event is a success for all of our members who are exhibiting or participating in the conference.  https://www.spillcon.com/

IMO MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE

MEPC 74 takes place at the IMO HQ building in London on May 13-17. ISCO Secretary, Matthew Sommerville will be attending. Any ISCO members who would be interested in joining the ISCO delegation should contact Matthew at matthewsommerville@hotmail.co.uk  The meeting is expected to approve the draft Guide on practical methods for the implementation of the OPRC Convention and OPRC-HNS Protocol, for subsequent publication.

ISCO WELCOMES RECENTLY JOINED NEW MEMBERS

ISCO is pleased to welcome new members who have joined us since we last announced new members in February 2019.

Ed Levine of NOAA has been elected as a Fellow of the International Spill Control Organization (FISCO)

Ed Levine (“Ed”) Levine presently is the Regional Operations Supervisor – East managing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Response and Restoration (O R & R), Scientific Support Coordinators (SSCs) from Maine to Louisiana.

From 1987 to 2015, he served as the SSC for the coastal area from Connecticut to Delaware. He has responded to dozens of incidents at the request of Federal and State and international officials, including working in Louisiana on the Deep Water Horizon and in Alaska on the Exxon Valdez oil spills. These responses were for products ranging from crude through refined oil to chemicals and even floatable debris in the New York Bight. The more noteworthy incidents in this area were the Exxon Bayway pipeline failure and spill, T/V Presidenté Rivera and T/V World Prodigy tanker spills, T/B Cibro Savannah explosion and spill, the C/V Santa Clara I arsenic trioxide release, North Cape and Julie N oil spills and the B-125 barge explosion, fire and gasoline spill. Internationally, he has traveled to Uruguay, Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, China, Korea, England, Canada, Spain, and Portugal, for both planning and response activities. He has worked on-scene at the oil spill from the T/V Jessica in the Galapagos Islands, T/V Prestige in Spain, and the MT Hebei Spirit in Korea. During September 11th, 2001 Ed assisted the
USCG in New York City on environmental, response, and security issues. He has responded with the USCG to potential radiological and biological threats, as well as to hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike, and Sandy.

Awards received include the US Coast Guard Meritorious Achievement Award (July 2004), USCG Certificates of Merit (May 2005, March 2004 & April 2000), the USCG Meritorious Team Commendations (November 2004 & March 2003), and USCG Commander’s Award for Civilian Service (August 1990), NOAA Certificate of Recognition (1995 & 1993), the DOT 9-11 Ribbon (Sept. 2005) and the NOAA Administrators Award (2010).

As part of the contingency planning effort, Mr. Levine has helped review and comment on the Area Contingency Plans for the Coast Guard Captain of the Ports of Long Island Sound, New York City and Philadelphia. He is also an advising member to the Regional Response Teams for Federal Regions I, II, and III.

His previous position was Coordinator of Monitoring for the City of New York Department of Environmental Protection’s, Bureau of Wastewater Treatment. There he supervised, managed and administered EPA compliance monitoring of the NY Bight ocean sludge disposal site (12-mile site) and surrounding area, the annual NYC Harbor Water Quality Survey, and programmatic and non-programmatic sampling for the 14 City wastewater treatment plants.

In 1981, Mr. Levine received his Master of Science degree in Marine Sciences from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, PR.

**Orbital Earth Observation Solutions, based in Valencia, Spain is a new Corporate Member of ISCO**

Orbital Earth Observation Solutions provides Satellite Surveillance services for Oil Spill Monitoring. The company is a spin-off of the Spanish Maritime Safety Agency, having more than 10 years of expertise in airborne and satellite remote sensing of marine pollution. We use a network of radar and optical satellites to provide the most comprehensive picture of marine pollution events and artificial intelligence tools to develop value-added analysis. The company’s service portfolio includes unprecedented capabilities as the production of relative thickness distribution maps using high resolution optical satellites.

https://www.orbitaleos.com/

**ECOTANK - Worldwide, based in Mouans Sartoux, France is a new Corporate Member of ISCO**

ECOTANK-worldwide has been created by the synergy of yachting professionals and technology innovators, harnessing the energy and ideas from the hi-tech world and applying the same business vigour to the area of the waste water management in the boating world and any accidental spill causing small and medium pollution events. The company provides and operates specialised Ecotank barges giving a unique solution for all environmental operations performed in boating areas (marinas, ports, waterways, mooring areas) and is franchising Ecotank-worldwide operations throughout the world applying its specialised knowledge. These versatile barges allow easy and efficient recovery of liquid waste (bilge water, engine oil, cooling liquid) and solid waste from boats, also providing immediate effective action in case of accidental pollution or fire. The Ecotank concept helps fulfil requirements to have an environmental policy and plan and has already been adopted by marinas, harbours and ports in many countries.

https://www.ecotank-worldwide.com

**PEOPLE IN THE NEWS**

**TWO NEW APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED AT OCIMF**

Motonobu (Moto) Tsuchiya joined OCIMF as the new Technical Adviser (Regulatory Affairs) on 18 April.

This is a new role at OCIMF that has been established initially for one year and reports to OCIMF’s Deputy Director and Chief Representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Moto will closely monitor regulatory activities at the IMO and other regulatory bodies and coordinate engagement from OCIMF members.

Moto has over 25 years of experience in the regulatory development of maritime affairs, as well as having been a navigator, a ship surveyor and an auditor of the IMO’s International Safety Management (ISM) and International Ship and Port Facilities Security (ISPS) codes.

OCIMF also welcomes Louise Britchford, who joined as Training and Accreditation Officer on 15 April.

Louise has 14 years of experience in administration and secretarial roles, working alongside senior management teams in communication companies. She has worked for the Federation of Communication Services, a trade and membership organisation in the communications industry.

Please join OCIMF in welcoming Moto and Louise to their new roles.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS (CONTINUED)

GISEA HAS APPOINTED A NEW PROJECT MANAGER

GISEA welcomes the new Project Manager, Mr Lee Nai Ming, who replaces Miss Amanda Chee from 15 April 2019. Mr Lee will continue to deliver the program activities and provide in-kind support to the region.


NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

ISCO Corporate Members are invited to send in contributions to this section

NRC GROUP COMPLETES ACQUISITION OF ORGANIC INCINERATION TECHNOLOGY, INC.

May 7 - The Acquisition Expands NRC Group’s Broad Suite of Environmental, Waste Management and Emergency Response Services

NRC Group Holdings Corp. (NYSE American: NRCG) (“NRCG” or the “Company”), a global provider of a wide range of environmental, compliance and waste management services, today announced that on April 26, 2019, it completed the previously announced acquisition of Organic Incineration Technology, Inc. (“OIT”). Based in North Pole, Alaska, OIT provides thermal treatment options for the safe disposal of materials such as non-hazardous petroleum contaminated soils, absorbent pads and sludges, and the treatment of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances.

Founded in 1990, owner Mark Sanford has built OIT into a trusted service provider in the Fairbanks area. The OIT facility in Moose Creek, Alaska, has full containment capabilities with the ability to fully process all waste product on-site. In addition to waste treatment and disposal services, OIT offers transportation and other specialized environmental services.

NRCG’s Alaskan operations (“NRCG Alaska”) focus on recycling and environmental services. The acquisition of OIT adds to NRCG Alaska’s waste treatment and disposal capabilities across the state. They offer a broad range of waste management services ranging from recycling glycol products by fractional distillation, used oil and petroleum by-products recycling/energy recovery, emergency spill response and clean-ups, and the transportation and disposal of both non-hazardous and hazardous waste for industrial, marine, automotive and government clients.

The acquisition reflects OIT’s continued dedication to provide the highest quality thermal treatment services and demonstrates NRCG’s expanding capability and ability to offer global resources and expertise to the Alaskan market. The addition of OIT significantly increases NRCG Alaska’s statewide footprint and expands its full line of compliance-based waste treatment and environmental related services.

Blake Hillis, senior vice president of NRCG Alaska stated, “This acquisition enhances our capabilities to provide our core suite of services to both our public and private sector clients, providing them with greater service coverage across their entire business. As a result, NRCG Alaska now provides a broader suite of treatment, recycling, and disposal services than any other company in our market segments.”

Mark Sanford, OIT’s manager of thermal remediation services commented, “We are excited to join NRCG, which will allow us to grow our service offerings in the treatment and remediation of contaminated soil. We will continue to provide our long-term established clients with cost-effective solutions for their soil treatment needs while contributing to, and benefiting from, NRCG’s strong national presence.”

The asset purchase consisted of an initial cash payment of $6.0 million and includes an additional $2.0 million deferred consideration payable in cash and stock, and up to an additional $5.0 million in earn-out payments over the next three years based on certain financial milestones.

About NRCG

NRCG is a global provider of a wide range of environmental, compliance and waste management services. NRCG’s broad range of capabilities and global reach enable it to meet the critical, and often non-discretionary, needs of more than 5,000 customers across diverse end markets to ensure compliance with environmental, health and safety laws and regulations around the world.

NRC Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of NRCG, was established in June 2018 through the combination of two businesses, National Response Corporation and Sprint Energy Services, both previously operating separately under the ownership of investment affiliates of J.F. Lehman & Company.

For more information, please visit www.nrcg.com
USA: SCIENCE OF OIL SPILLS (SOS) OIL SPILL RESPONSE COURSES

NOAA will be teaching a Science of Oil Spills (SOS) course in Independence, OH, 22-26 JULY 2019.

SOS classes help spill responders increase their understanding of oil spill science when analyzing spills and making risk-based decisions. They are designed for new and mid-level spill responders. These multi-day trainings cover topics including:

- Fate and behavior of oil spilled in the environment.
- An introduction to oil chemistry and toxicity.
- A review of basic spill response options for open water and shorelines.
- Spill case studies.
- Principles of ecological risk assessment.
- A field trip.
- An introduction to damage assessment techniques.
- Determining cleanup endpoints.

Most examples provided in the class relate to oil spills that have occurred in coastal and marine environments; however, much of this information applies regardless of the spill location (e.g., inland vs. coastal).

Registration for the course is now open, apply by May 24, 2019.

Course information: https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/training-and-education/training/workshops/science-oil-spills-classes.html

Apply online: https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/sos_application

PUBLICATIONS

NEW ZEALAND: KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW ABOUT HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE

April 16 - There are some important regulatory changes coming into effect. Worksafe – New Zealand Government / Continue reading to learn about the new regulatory changes

OIL COMPANIES INTERNATIONAL MARINE FORUM 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

OCIMF has just published its 2019 Annual Report - Download the OCIMF Annual Report

ITOPF: TYPES OF OIL SPILLS AND PRIMARY CAUSES

May 4 – Safety4Sea writes about the new ITOPF Handbook ...

ITOPF has published a Handbook, containing valuable information and guidance for those likely to be involved in oil spills, chemicals or other substances from ships. The 2019/20 edition has been fully revised, introducing new graphics, further information on ITOPF’s technical services and a brand new section on different types of marine spills.

The Handbook also includes updated oil spill statistics and revised information on pollution liability and compensation, as well as regular features on clean-up techniques and the fate and effects of oil.

Spills of different sizes have been evaluated in respect to the operation at the time of the incident and the factors leading up to it. From 1970 to 2018, half of the large oil spills took place while ships were underway in open water ... Continue reading

Download the new ITOPF Handbook
CONTRACTS & TENDERS

OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION SERVICE
This is a subscription service. Have a look to see examples of open tenders.

MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

INTERNATIONAL SPILL ACCREDITATION SCHEME (ISAS) - The annual training days will be held at Castle Archdale, Nr. Enniskillen, Northern Ireland on 25th/26th September 2019. The proposed programme is excellent – you can request a copy and get more info from John Dawes at johnadawes@btinternet.com

USA: CLEAN GULF – Although it’s over 5 months away 70% of the Exhibit Hall is already sold. Click here to view the live floor plan or check out the image below to see availability. Only the spaces in blue are available to rent. To reserve your space, contact Anastasia Bisson at 530-363-3505 or submit your contract to abisson@accessintel.com.

AUSTRALIA: SPILLCON 2019 - The conference dinner is a highlight of each Spillcon. This year, the conference dinner is being held on Thursday 23rd May - a fortnight today! Attendance is included as part of the delegate package and you are all invited to participate. Tickets are still available for Spillcon 2019. Please register for the conference, or email Katie Lourandos to purchase additional conference dinner tickets or for any further information.

NEW ZEALAND: ECOFORUM CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION – This is your last chance to submit your abstract. Submission deadline: Wednesday 15th May 2019. If you have any issues submitting or need more information, please contact Shardai Eaton.

RESPONSE EVENTS DURING MAY 2019 (UPDATED)

UK: IMO MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE
London, May 13-17. More info

USA: OHMSETT HANDS-ON OSR STRATEGIES AND TACTICS TRAINING
Leonardo NJ, May 14-17. This course is designed to assist oil spill personnel in the development of the decision-making skills necessary to make quick and informed decisions during oil spill incidents; and provide hands-on spill response equipment handling and oil recovery training using full-scale equipment with real oil in the Ohmsett test tank. More info

UK: NCEC HAZMAT 2019 CONFERENCE
Stratford on Avon, May 15-16. Hazmat is an essential opportunity for Hazmat specialists to share experiences and knowledge with like-minded professionals working in the hazmat and chemical incident industry. The event draws upon the knowledge and experience of a range of hazmat professionals and industry leaders, as well as that of NCEC’s own emergency responders and experts. More info

SINGAPORE: INTERTANKO ANNUAL TANKER EVENT
Singapore, May 20-24. Running since 1996, the INTERTANKO Annual Tanker Event is into its 23rd edition and is recognised as THE event for tanker-related matters. This year, the event will be held at the W Sentosa in Singapore, an ideal location to facilitate discussions during the day and relaxation in the evenings. More info

AUSTRALIA: SPILLCON 2019 CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION
Perth, May 20-24. Spillcon 2019 will bring together local, regional and global environmental and shipping representatives across industry, government and non-government organisations to provide an avenue to discuss issues including cause and prevention, preparedness, response management and environmental issues. More info

UK: ARCTIC OIL & GAS CONFERENCE
London, May 21-22. Assessing the challenges and solutions for oil and gas exploration, production and transportation in Arctic and ice-infested regions. Bringing together key stakeholders from the oil and gas industry More info

CROATIA: ADRIASPILLCON 2019 CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION
Opatija, May 28-30. Participants, speakers and exhibitors will include those from the Adriatic coastal States, the Mediterranean region, the European countries and other parts of the world too, the organizers, ATRAC (Adriatic Training and Research Centre for Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response), embarked upon the organization of the 4th successive Adriatic Spill Conference and Exhibition ADRIASPILLCON 2019 which will be held once again in Opatija, a resort on the northern Adriatic coast of Croatia. Read more
**CANADA: SHIP-SOURCE OIL POLLUTION FUND CONFERENCE & 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Ottawa, May 28. The Fund’s in-house counsel will examine the application of the “polluter pays” principle in the context of important case law. A panel will discuss recent legislative changes, their impact on the Fund and other concerns shared by the Fund, TC and the CCG. A panel discussion will focus on advancing equality, diversity and inclusion and facilitating access to justice for victims of oil spills, including Indigenous and small communities.  
More info

**SINGAPORE: TRAIN THE TRAINERS REGIONAL WORKSHOP**

Singapore, May 28-30. The Train The Trainers Regional Workshop is taking place in Singapore on the 28 - 30 May 2019. The event is expected to assist the participating countries with the national deliveries that will focus on the implementation of the chosen conventions. MEPSEAS participating partners are Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.  
More info

**UPCOMING EVENTS – JUNE 2019 ONWARDS (UPDATED)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>TITLE OF EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CANADA</td>
<td>June 4-6</td>
<td>42nd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental</td>
<td>Halifax, Nova Scotia</td>
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<td>Contamination &amp; Response</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHINA</td>
<td>June 10-14</td>
<td>Int’l Conf. on Marine Pollution and Ecotoxicology</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>June 11-12</td>
<td>Ports and Terminals Insurance Seminar</td>
<td>London</td>
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<td>CÔTE D’IVOIRE</td>
<td>June 11-12</td>
<td>National exercise to test the NOSCP</td>
<td>San Pedro</td>
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<td>MALTA</td>
<td>June 11-13</td>
<td>REMPEC Focal Points Meeting</td>
<td>Valetta</td>
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<td>BELGIUM</td>
<td>June 12-13</td>
<td>European Environmental Ports Conference 2019</td>
<td>Antwerp</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>June 12-16</td>
<td>IAF Hazardous Materials Conference</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
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<td>CANADA</td>
<td>June 17</td>
<td>APICOM General Managers Meeting</td>
<td>Vancouver, BC</td>
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<td>UK</td>
<td>June 17-21</td>
<td>IOPC Funds’ Short Course</td>
<td>London</td>
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<td>CANADA</td>
<td>June 18-20</td>
<td>Clean Pacific Conference and Exhibition</td>
<td>Vancouver, BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEBANON</td>
<td>June 19-20</td>
<td>East Med Maritime Conference</td>
<td>Beirut</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOGO</td>
<td>June 24-27</td>
<td>Workshop on oil spill liability and compensation</td>
<td>Lomé</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>June 25-26</td>
<td>UK Spill Annual Conference</td>
<td>Moreton-in-Marsh</td>
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<td>NEW ZEALAND</td>
<td>Sept. 3-5</td>
<td>Ecoforum Conference 2019</td>
<td>Auckland</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>Sept. 3-6</td>
<td>SPE Offshore Europe Conference &amp; Exhibition</td>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
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<td>UK</td>
<td>Sept. 11-12</td>
<td>Maritime Salvage &amp; Casualty Response Conference</td>
<td>London</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>Sept. 11-12</td>
<td>The Spill Response Expo</td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK &amp; IRELAND</td>
<td>Sept. 25-26</td>
<td>ISAA Training Days at Castle Archdale</td>
<td>Enniskillen</td>
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<td>CROATIA</td>
<td>October 2-5</td>
<td>Pollution Response Challenges in the Mediterranean Conference</td>
<td>Split</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>October 7-10</td>
<td>Elastec’s Fall 2019 River Spill Workshop</td>
<td>Carmi, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORWAY</td>
<td>October 14-18</td>
<td>NOSCA Seminar 2019</td>
<td>Frøya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>October 28-31</td>
<td>Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUNISIA</td>
<td>Nov. 13-14</td>
<td>Incident Management System Training Workshop</td>
<td>Tunis</td>
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<tr>
<td>COUNTRY</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>TITLE OF EVENT</td>
<td>LOCATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>May 11-14</td>
<td>International Oil Spill Conference &amp; Exhibition</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor

**Note:** Where a dedicated event URL is not available an email address for requesting more info is given

**LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

- **Alga Chronicle**: News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation  
  - March 2019
- **AMSA Aboard**: News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority  
  - December 2017
- **ATRAC Newsletter**: News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre  
  - April 2019
- **AUSMEPA Bulletin**: News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc’n  
  - Summer 2019
- **BIMCO Bulletin**: Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO  
  - February 2019
- **Newsletter from George Holliday**: News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday  
  - On request email
- **Bow Wave**: Sam Ignarski’s Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters  
  - Current issue
May 6 - Sabah firm detects another oil slick - A Sabah-registered firm that provides quality satellite and IoT (Internet of Things) telematics solutions has done it again by detecting another oil slick off Johor on Friday, the second to happen in Johor in two weeks. The Borneo Centralised Monitoring Centre (BCMC) detected the slick about three nautical miles from Tanjung Penawar and immediately informed the Johor Marine Department. The latest oil slick was estimated to be about 200-300 metres long and 50-70 metres wide. It is learned that efforts to contain it by the department are ongoing.  Daily Express / Read more

May 5 - Another oil spill measuring 1.9 kilometres long was spotted about 4.5 nautical miles off Tanjung Punggai here during the Balau Oil Spill Response Ops 2 (OSR Balau 2) in the waters off Tanjung Balai this afternoon. (Photo courtesy of Johor Marine Department)

May 6 - Another oil spill measuring 1.9 kilometres long was spotted about 4.5 nautical miles off Tanjung Punggai here during the Balau Oil Spill Response Ops 2 (OSR Balau 2) in the waters off Tanjung Balai this afternoon. Johor Marine Department director Dickson Dollah said the oil spill, which is about 70 metres wide. It is learned that efforts to contain it by the department are ongoing.  MSN News / Read more

USA: NOAA OR&R INCIDENT RESPONSES FOR APRIL 2019

May 8 - During April 2019 OR&R responded to 15 incidents, including oil discharges, sunken vessels, and two gray whale carcasses. Here is the complete list of last month’s incidents, click on the links to find out more:

- Mystery Sheen Main Pass 63
- LOBO Tank Battery 1 Leak
- Partially Submerged Recreational Vessel at JSBB Marina
- Unknown Oil and Source at Venice Marina
- TPIC Crude Oil Discharge Delta Duck
- ITV Buckles MO River
- T/V Dejeanne María
- Gray whale carcass
- M/V Never Say Never sunk
- TV Aqua Loyalty
- Unknown Sheen West Delta Block 79A
- Mystery Sheen @ South Pass 60
- ISTOP Anomaly Report
- Womens Bay Abandoned Barge
- Gray whale carcass

NOAA OR&R / Read more

MALAYSIA: OIL SPILL DETECTED OFF TANJUNG PUNGGAI; CLEANUP UNDERWAY

Photo: Another oil spill measuring 1.9 kilometres long was spotted about 4.5 nautical miles off Tanjung Punggai here during the Balau Oil Spill Response Ops 2 (OSR Balau 2) in the waters off Tanjung Balai this afternoon. (Photo courtesy of Johor Marine Department)
INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

UAE: VIDEO: 13 RESCUED FROM BURNING VESSEL IN SHARJAH
May 8 - On Wednesday, first responders rescued 13 crewmembers from a burning vessel in Sharjah, UAE. The vessel, a small cargo ship, was carrying about 6,000 gallons of diesel, plus 300 tires and 120 vehicles, according to Sharjah's civil defense agency. The fire broke out at about 0645 hours and firefighters arrived on scene at 0725. The Maritime Executive / Read more

USA: WASHINGTON - SAILBOAT LEAKING DIESEL INITIATES FUEL SPILL RESPONSE ON LAKE CHelan
May 8 - Emergency management personnel from the Chelan County Sheriff's Office were notified by State Department of Ecology just after 4 p.m. concerning a 29-foot sailboat, which was approximately 60-percent submerged along the south shore of the lake just down lake of the 25 Mile Creek USFS dock. By 9:30 p.m., the vessel had been surrounded by boom and absorbent material to mitigate the diesel flow out into the lake by a DOE Spill Response Team. NCW Life Channel / Read more and watch video [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

SOLOMON ISLANDS TO REFLOAT SHIP AFTER OIL SPILL
May 10 - Since early February, bulk carrier, Solomon Trader, has been wedged on a reef off Rennell Island, where it has spilled an estimated 100 tonnes of oil.

More than three months on, the Solomon Islands Disaster Management Office said the vessel will be refloated and towed from the reef. Its director, Loti Yates, said the process, which is being led by a salvager contracted by the shipowner's insurer, will take around three days. "It is a huge and very, very difficult operation," he said. Radio NZ / Read more

May 11 - Stricken ship refloated after Solomon oil spill. The ship at the centre of an environmental disaster near World-Heritage listed waters in the Solomon Islands was refloated Saturday after being stranded on a coral reef for more than three months. Daily Mail / Read more

USA: TEXAS - BARGES AND OIL TANKER COLLIDE IN HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL
May 10 - A tug pushing two barges collided with an oil tanker in the Houston Ship Channel, causing one barge to capsize and the other is damaged, the U.S. Coast Guard said in a statement. The barges were transporting gasoline blend stock Reformate, which is leaking into the water, officials said. An estimated 25,000 tons of gasoline stock were on each barge and an unknown amount had been released, the Coast Guard said. CBS News / Read more [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye, Member of ISCO Executive Committee]

May 11 - LPG tanker Genesis River collided with barges pushed by tug VOYAGER on the Houston Ship Channel at Light 71-74, at around 1515 LT May 10, while proceeding down the Channel, en route from Houston to Port Said. One barge capsized, another one was badly damaged, leaking its' cargo of reformate, refined product that is blended with gasoline to boost octane. Each barge carried some 25,000 barrels of reformate. Some 25,000 barrels feared to already leak. Port Houston Fire Department fireboat plus oil spill response, air monitoring and salvage personnel are responding, the Coast Guard said. Tanker, which suffered bow damages, was taken to Shady Oaks harbor, just abreast of collision site, and berthed. Maritime Bulletin [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, vmd@odin.tc]

May 11 - Houston Ship Channel remains closed after tanker collision spills gasoline. Much of the Houston Ship Channel remained closed Saturday a day after two vessels collided, causing a large gasoline blend spill and setting off another round of environmentalists concerns for the Gulf Coast. Jim Guidry, executive vice president of Kirby Inland Marine, owner of the barges, said at a news conference Saturday morning the tanker's hull punctured two of the smaller vessel's four storage tanks. "The bow of the ship went through the port tank into the starboard tank, so there was no way to secure the source of the leak," Guidry said. "Those two tanks were open to the sea." Aerial footage showed a triangular gash in one of the barges and a sheen floating on the water. The white bow of the Genesis River bore scrape marks. The capsized barge is intact and not believed to be leaking product, Kirby Corporation spokesman Greg Beuerman said. The tug, which had four crew aboard, was undamaged. Chron / Read more and watch video [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye, Member of ISCO Executive Committee]
May 11 - Too Early to Say When Houston Ship Channel Can Open After Spill. About 3,600 feet of boom has been put in place and efforts are underway to deploy an additional 12,000 feet in the most pressing areas, said Jim Guidry, executive vice president of vessel operations for Kirby Inland Marine, operator of the tug involved. While one of the barges has lost about 9,000 barrels of reformate, the capsized vessel hasn’t leaked any cargo at this time, he said. “We are continuing to work with the Coast Guard and the other federal regulators to understand the cause of the incident and will be working to recover any of the spilled product and mitigate the impact on the environment,” Guidry said.  Bloomberg / Read more

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND OTHER READERS

GETTING A BETTER BALANCE OF NEWS REPORTING IN THE ISCO NEWSLETTER ….

Your editor does his best to find interesting news from all over the world but it's not easy. Members and other readers are invited to help rectify the balance of world news reporting. News stories from North America, UK, Australia, etc. are much more accessible on the internet than reports from other parts of the world and especially from non-English-speaking countries.

If you are finding that there are no news reports from your part of the world, you can help to correct this. Your editor asks you to share information that will be of interest to our worldwide community.

… AND PASSING ON KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

By contributing articles and case histories for publication you can help ISCO achieve its objective of advancing response preparedness, professional development and competency. As the years go by, hard won knowledge and experience is lost as people retire or move on. The benefits of past learning and new R&D work both need to be widely shared.

Articles that pass on valuable know-how are particularly useful – overcoming difficult challenges, innovating, relating what you did, why you did it that way, how you did it and what was achieved.

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP OF ISCO PAID UP-TO-DATE?

All members are reminded that the publication of the ISCO Newsletter and other activities and services provided by the organization depend on the regular receipt of annual membership dues from our members.

ISCO is grateful to its members who regularly remit their membership fees on time but there are a few of you who have been falling behind with your payments. This creates a great deal of extra work for our Membership Director, Mary Ann Dalgleish, in sending out reminders and chasing up overdue payments.

If you are behind with your payment, please go to http://www.spillcontrol.org/2013-02-05-10-50-47/subscriptions where it only takes a minute to renew your subscription online.

If you are finding it difficult to make your payment, please let us know. ISCO takes a sympathetic view and, rather than strike a member off the register would far rather allow you extra time than have to go through the very considerable amount of work involved in reinstatement of memberships that have been allowed to lapse.

YOUR COMPANY’S BANNER DISPLAYED FOR FREE IN ISCO’S INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY

Some of our Corporate Members are not yet taking advantage of the free option to display their company banners in ISCO’s Directory of Supplies and Services. All members are listed under one or more classifications – Consultants; Equipment & Materials; Response Organizations; and Training Providers – and every entry is hyperlinked to give one click access to your website.

As an example, to see how your banner might look click on http://www.spillcontrol.org/2013-02-05-12-36-12/equipment-materials

Send a copy of your banner to info@spillcontrol.org or, if you don’t have a banner, our designer can create one for you at a very modest cost. The option to display your banner is a free benefit only available to paid-up Corporate Members of ISCO.

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