



# Oil Spill India Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Global Spill community

Issue 05, 07<sup>th</sup> March 2017 || [secretariat@oilspillindia.org](mailto:secretariat@oilspillindia.org) || [www.oilspillindia.org](http://www.oilspillindia.org)

## THE OSI NEWSLETTER

The OSI Newsletter is published quarterly by Oil Spill India, an industry led forum supported by its advisory board. One of the central goals of OSI is bringing together the global spill response industry & its stakeholders in the region for enhanced cooperation in planning, prevention and response of any spill or disaster in marine ecosystem, concurrently building an informative schedule of the raising Global Standards. It is intended to function as a thought - starter, change - agent and signpost through the intellectual capital that accrues through the rich assortment of diverse, pertinent and eminently interesting subjects of concern to the spill, salvage, wreck removal & marine disaster industries besides showcasing the technological depth and knowledge repertoire of the industry.

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## Commissioning of Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) - ICGS Shaunak



**VISAKHAPATNAM:** Indian Coast Guard Ship Shaunak, the fourth ship in the series of six Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV), was commissioned in Goa by union railway minister Suresh Prabhu on Tuesday. Shaunak will be inducted in the fleet of the coast guard ships at Visakhapatnam soon. The commissioning of ICGS Shaunak would enhance the Indian Coast Guard's operational capability to discharge multifarious maritime tasks. The induction of a sophisticated OPV would give fillip to the maritime protection of country's vast coastline of eastern seaboard in general and Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in particular. Presently, the Indian Coast Guard has a fleet of 127 vessels and another 85 at various stages of construction at different shipyards.

The 105 meters OPV was designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Ltd and was fitted with navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machineries. The features include 30 mm CRN 91 naval gun, integrated bridge system (IBS), integrated machinery control system (IMCS), power management system (PMS) and high power external fire fighting system.

The ship is designed to carry a twin engine light helicopter and five high speed boats including two quick reaction inflatable boats for swift boarding operations, search and rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol. The ship is also capable of carrying pollution response equipment to contain oil spill at sea.

## Oil Spills every day in Washington

Washington's Department of Ecology has a robust response plan for oil spills. They have to, because there's an oil spill of some kind every day in Washington.

Ecology spokesperson Larry Altose said sometimes it's the result of a traffic accident and sometimes they find an area of sheen but can't identify the source, especially in high traffic areas. A spill Tuesday morning in the Duwamish West Waterway was larger than normal.

Diesel oil spilled directly into the Duwamish, close to where the river flows under the West Seattle bridge. Officials say a tug boat ran into a barge, piercing the fuel tank in the barge and letting fuel leak out. Up to 1,200 gallons of diesel may have spilled into the west waterway, according to the Department of Ecology. Altose said they took it seriously because of how harmful fuel is to Puget Sound's birds and marine life. Altose said staff at Island Tug and Barge sprang into action to contain the spill within minutes.

"Booming it immediately was exactly the right thing to do, but there is some amount of oil, even after cleanup is very successful, that does work its way into the water and adds to the toxic impact of Elliot Bay and Puget Sound," Altose said.

**National News****Chennai Oil spill- Environment loses to bureaucracy**

Environmentalists' fear the massive oil spill after two ships collided near Chennai on January 28 2017; will have a long-term impact on the marine life than previously believed.

The collision took place around 4am on Saturday when MT BW Maple - a ship from the Isle of Man that was on its way out of the Ennore port - hit MT Dawn Kanchipuram, an Indian ship carrying nearly 45,000 tonnes of petroleum. MT Dawn Kanchipuram was on its way to berth at the Ennore port, 24 km north of Tamil Nadu capital. The Coast Guard said on Tuesday nearly 40 tonnes of oil sludge and 27 tonnes of oil and water mixture has been collected. The thick oil sludge washed ashore along 800m of shoreline north of Chennai harbour.

**The popular Marina Beach and a 2-3 km stretch of shoreline near Thiruvalluvar have also been affected.**

- On January 28 2017, two cargo ships collided off the Ennore coast in Kamarajar Port causing oil to spill into the sea.
- Though the contents of the ship's cargo- LPG, spirit oil and diesel remained intact, the engine oil leaked out of the damaged ship.
- This Spill has caused pollution along the beach as well as threat to marine life.
- Due to wave action and the southern current, the spill spread some 34 km in the ocean.
- It has been already three weeks post the disaster which has exposed the lacuna in the State's disaster recovery mechanism, lack of transparency and coordination. However, many volunteers helped to clean the beach of oil spill.

**Major petroleum theft detected on Mathura-Jalandhar pipeline**

A tanker was being filled from the pipeline when police and refinery officials reached the spot but not before the oil mafia gang managed to escape.

A major theft of petroleum has been detected on the Mathura-Jalandhar Pipeline where oil mafia had virtually installed a parallel filling station by constructing a big tunnel for operation. The breach on the pipeline was detected after about three months in R K Puram colony under Highway police station.

“Though the theft was suspected in the

**IIT roped in to prepare oil spill contingency plan**

**CHENNAI:** In order to have its own contingency plan to tackle oil spill, the Tamil Nadu government has entrusted the task to the Indian Institute of Technology- Madras.

Sources in the Environment and Forest Department told Express that IIT-M has been asked to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment report on the January 28 oil spill following the collision of Isle of Man flagship B W Maple with MT Dawn Kancheepuram

IIT-M civil engineering professor S Mohan, who will be conducting the EIA, told Express that the study would look into four parameters, including helping the State prepare a contingency plan to counter any future oil spills along the coastline. As per the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan, while the port is responsible for responding to an oil spill within the port area, the Coast Guard is the Central Coordinating Agency for combating oil pollution in the maritime zone and the State Governments for shoreline response.

However, the shoreline response had not been adequate and the Coast Guard had to pool in their resources to contain the spill.

Mohan told Express that during the oil spill, an immediate response was lacking as there was no protocol fixing the responsibility.

month of November, 2016, as drop in pressure of fuel in the pipeline was observed by 'leak detection system' however it could not be found in spite of repeated surface monitoring as theft was not massive,” said Virendra Kumar, pipeline manager, Telecom and Instrumentation.

“It came to surface when more drop in pressure was detected recently,” he said adding that theft this time has been committed in a planned way where all the three systems -survey, activation and operation appear to have been adopted,” he said.

**International News****The BP oil spill led scientists to discover 60 new animal species living in the Gulf of Mexico**

On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig, owned by BP, exploded in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to killing 11 crew members, it unleashed about 3.19 million barrels of oil a mile below the ocean surface over the course of 87 days before the leak could be contained.

Five years later, BP agreed to pay the US federal government and state governments of Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas a total of \$18.7 billion for damages. They paid billions more in criminal charge penalties (including for 12 felonies for negligence and failure to disclose information to Congress) and payouts to private individuals. It was the largest settlement ever for a corporation, and perhaps rightly so for a disaster that has left the Gulf marine and coastline ecosystems in disarray.

But there is one silver lining: After the spill, BP executives recognized that they didn't have enough information about the environment in which they were extracting oil.

Never before had there been a spill of that magnitude in the Gulf of Mexico (the 1979 Ixtoc 1 spill only released about half as much oil), which made it difficult to truly assess how bad the damage was. So, in 2010 BP voluntarily committed to giving \$500 million to a board of 20 independent researchers over the course of 10 years to provide BP with unbiased answers to all of their questions about the Gulf's marine environment. The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) was formed. (In similar fashion, ExxonMobil contracted scientists after their oil tanker crashed and spewed millions of gallons of oil off the coast of Alaska in 1989, although the effort wasn't as organized.)

Although scientists are uncovering some new forms of life, even massive populations of these 60 new species would barely put a dent in all the marine life the oil spill definitively killed. Estimates suggest that 80,000 birds, 35,000 hatchling sea turtles, and over 500 million pounds of oysters were lost.

**5,000 gallon sewage spill closes beaches near Kitsap-Bangor**

KITSAP COUNTY, Wash. - An estimated 5,000 gallons of sewage has spilled into the Kitsap shoreline of the Hood Canal area.

The discharge started on Thursday and wasn't corrected until 11 a.m. Monday, the Naval Base Kitsap Bangor says.

The waste is considered a public hazard. The Kitsap Public Health District has issued a seven-day no-contact advisory for the shoreline of the Hood Canal area near Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor.

The District recommends against swimming, wading, or types of water recreation or play

**Grounded tug recovered in Alaska after fuel oil spill**

US authorities, including the Coast Guard, have rushed to the Rosa Reef in Alaska after tugboat Samson Mariner ran aground, while towing barge Saint Elias, breaching its hull. The US Coast Guard said around 1,100 gallons of diesel spilled from the tug prior to it being patched by Alaska Commercial Divers.

Samson Mariner struck the reef in north Tongass Narrows on 15 February. On 16 February it was refloated and anchored in Ward Cove alongside the barge it was towing. The Southeast Alaska Petroleum Response Organization responded to the diesel spill using booms and absorbent pads to contain and recover the oil.

Samson Tug & Barge Inc's Samson Mariner was carrying 30,000 gallons of fuel and the barge was carrying 40,000 gallons of diesel. Local reports said three Southeast Alaska Petroleum Response Organization tugs took the Saint Elias to Ward Cove where it was anchored and assessed for damage.

An investigation will be conducted into why and how Samson Mariner ran aground while towing Saint Elias. There are parallels with an incident that happened in the fourth quarter of last year, when tug Nathan E Stewart struck a reef and sunk off Western Canada. That tug was salvaged in November 2016.

where water could be swallowed or get in the mouth, nose or eyes.

People should also avoid direct skin contact if possible, and immediately wash with soap and water if they have exposure to the water.

Advisory signs have been posted near Bangor and along public access beaches at Kitsap Memorial State Park, Lofall, Vinland, and Edgewater Park.

**International News****Navy Turns to Local Scientist to Reduce Oil Spill Risk**

War is generally pretty bad for the environment, and, understandably, the environment is not one of the military's top priorities when at war. But more Navy officials are now asking questions about how to tread a bit more lightly on the environment, and some are getting scientists outside the military involved.

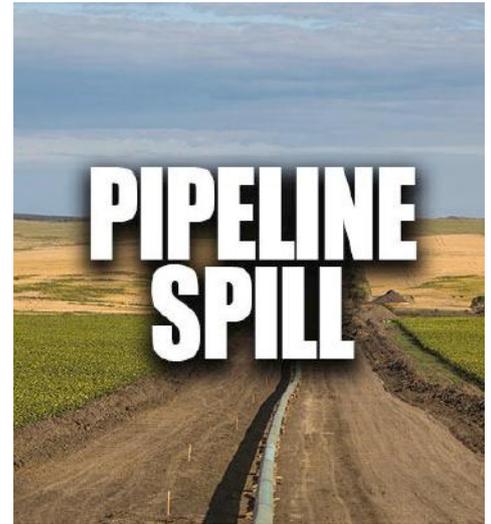
Chris Reddy is one example. He's a marine chemist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution who specializes in oil spills, and last year, he got an email from a Navy lieutenant commander asking for his help.

"He asked me if I could help him in a large NATO exercise called Cold Response 2016. And I immediately saw the opportunity for an academic to reach out to a Navy personnel who wanted my input," recalls Reddy "The idea to reach out to a Naval officer to talk about oil spills was exciting."

The exercise being planned was a simulation - war game - in which Norway was split in half and the northern half was a NATO ally. As part of the exercise, the NATO forces wanted to sink one of the aggressor's oil tankers to prevent it from refueling other enemy vessels.

"When they were in the planning stages, they started to recognize the economic blowback, and potentially also just the perceptions and relationships that they had with their allies could be huge," said Reddy. "If they spilled the oil in the wrong place it would demolish or completely ruin the aquaculture and the fisheries."

"One of the biggest things that people learned from the Deepwater Horizon, in particular, is you don't exchange business cards at a crisis," quipped Reddy. "Now, I've built a relationship with this one Navy lieutenant commander. Hopefully, it got through the chain that we can be there for them to ask these questions."

**Pipeline spill affects waterway in McKenzie County**

State regulators are investigating a pipeline spill in McKenzie County in northwest North Dakota that contaminated an unnamed waterway and is similar to an incident that occurred in the same location in 2014.

Oasis Petroleum reported a spill Tuesday, Feb. 28, that released an estimated 500 barrels, or 21,000 gallons, of produced water from a gathering pipeline about 11 miles northwest of Arnegard, the state Department of Health said.

About 30 barrels or 1,260 gallons of brine, which is a waste byproduct of oil and gas development, reached an unnamed tributary of Timber Creek, said Bill Suess, spill investigation program manager.

Field personnel discovered the spill about 4:15 p.m. Tuesday and immediately stopped the leak and notified regulators, Oasis said in a statement.

Crews have been monitoring the waterway, excavating contaminated soil and developing a remediation plan, the company said.

The health department attributed the leak to a faulty gasket. Oasis also is investigating the cause of the incident.

Officials responded to a spill at the same location in October 2014 that involved the release of 1,000 barrels, or 42,000 gallons, of brine, according to a spill report.

"It's a very similar incident," Suess said.

The North Dakota Oil and Gas Division and health officials have been on site and are monitoring the investigation and cleanup.

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**International News**

**6,600 spills from fracking in just four states**



Each year, 2 to 16 percent of hydraulically fractured oil and gas wells spill hydrocarbons, chemical-laden water, hydraulic fracturing fluids and other substances, according to a new study. The analysis, which appears Feb. 21 in *Environmental Science & Technology*, identified 6,648 spills reported across Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota and Pennsylvania during a 10-year period. "This study provides important insights into the frequency, volume, and cause of spills," said

Lauren Patterson, policy associate at Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions and the study's lead author.

Researchers examined state-level spill data to characterize spills associated with unconventional oil and gas development at 31,481 wells hydraulically fractured or "fracked" in the four states between 2005 and 2014.

"State spill data holds great promise for risk identification and mitigation," Patterson said. "However, reporting requirements differ across states, requiring considerable effort to make the data usable for analysis."

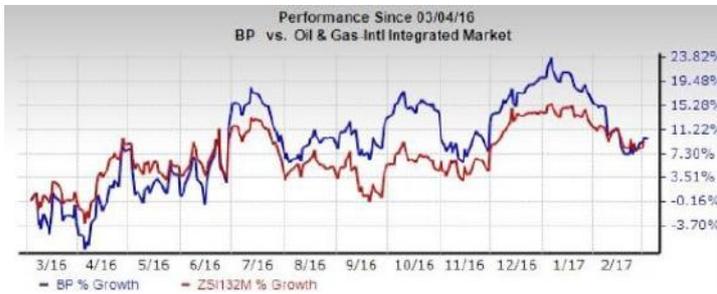
North Dakota reported the highest spill rate, with 4,453 incidents, followed by Pennsylvania at 1,293, Colorado at 476 and New Mexico at 426. The number of spills

reported is partly a reflection of the reporting requirements set by each state. For example, North Dakota required reporting smaller spills (42 gallons or more) than Colorado and New Mexico (210 gallons or more).

"As this form of energy production increases, state efforts to reduce spill risk could benefit from making data more uniform and accessible to better provide stakeholders with important information on where to target efforts for locating and preventing future spills," Patterson added.

The results of the study exceed the 457 spills calculated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for eight states between 2006 and 2012 because the EPA's analysis only considered the hydraulic fracturing stage, rather than the full life cycle of unconventional oil and gas production.

**BP Signs \$155M Asset Purchase Agreement with Clean Energy**



British energy giant BP P.L.C. BP recently entered into an agreement with U.S.-based Clean Energy Fuels Corp. CLNE. The deal will allow BP to acquire Clean Energy's upstream assets of renewable gas business. The deal is valued at \$155 million and its closure is subject to regulatory approvals and satisfactory terms.

Per the deal, BP will take over Clean Energy's existing and two new biomethane production sites and will also receive supply contracts from third parties. Clean Energy has also inked a long-term supply contract with BP which will ensure a consistent supply of natural gas fuel for the Clean Energy's Redeem brand. Clean Energy would receive royalties and environmental credits on the purchased gas and will sell it to consumers.

BP's acquisition is in sync its strategy to explore new investment opportunities and support the growing demand of low carbon, renewable fuel. The deal will enable BP to augur its gas supply portfolio in the U.S. making a positive shift toward less carbon-intensive projects. Since biomethane is produced from organic waste, it would lower the greenhouse gas emissions by 70%.







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## B.C.'s Pipeline Spill Map Has Been Offline for Over Eight Months

Since January 1, 2017 there have been more than 50 accidental releases from pipelines and oil and gas facilities in Alberta. These spills and leaks, ranging from large to small, from hazardous to non-hazardous, happen almost every single day.

“In a province where the public debate over increased oil pipeline capacity has consumed so much energy the lack of transparency about the province's management of its existing system is surprising,” wrote Justine Hunter as politicians returned for the spring sitting at the legislature.

George Heyman, environment critic for the B.C. NDP, said getting the map back online should be a priority for the province. “It's shocking that the portal and the online incident report would be offline for such a significant amount of time,” Heyman told DeSmog Canada.

“This is an important mechanism for British



Columbians to know if a spill has happened and to seek further information on how it might impact community health, whether the release be sour gas or crude oil.”

The commission regulates more than 43,000 kilometres of pipeline in the province, 6,100 kilometres of which carry crude oil or natural gas. In a summary report for the year 2015, the

commission documented 45 pipeline incidents, indicating a slight increase in crude oil pipeline spills in recent years.

While there were three crude oil pipeline spills in 2011, there were six in 2012, four in 2013, seven in 2014 and seven in 2015. Spill volumes are not released in the B.C. Oil and Gas Commission's annual summary reports.



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## Simpler, faster oil-spill cleanup using fish-inspired membranes

By mimicking the way some fishes eat, a new membrane easily separates and collects spilled oil on water without getting clogged (ACS Nano 2017, DOI: 10.1021/acs.nano.6b07918). It could be an efficient and cost-effective way to clean up large oil spills, its developers say.

Disaster responders typically clean up large oil spills by containing the slick with floating booms and using skimmers to remove it. Many researchers are developing separation membranes that could potentially be faster and cheaper. These are designed to repel water or attract oil, which helps them separate the two liquids. But the membranes' pores tend to get clogged with oil, which makes them ineffective after a while.

To mimic that process, the researchers made a 3-cm-long stainless steel membrane containing five mesh sections with gradually decreasing pore size—from 150 nm to 30 nm—from one end to the other. They coated the membrane with nanosheets of cobalt oxide which intertwine with each other, forming tiny pockets that lock in water, making the membrane water-attracting, or hydrophilic. Then they tilted the membrane so that the large pores were at the bottom and pushed it with a controller attached to the top, emulating how a ship might push the angled membrane, bottom edge first, through the water.

This novel filtration technique could enable “one-step, fast, continuous, and high-throughput spilled oil collection,” says Lin Feng of Tsinghua University. The technique has promise for use in large-scale oil spills, especially on lakes and quiet seas, she says. Waves could be a challenge since the water could spill over the top of the membrane into the oil-collection vessel and reduce the membrane's efficiency.

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## Murphy Oil fined \$172,500 for pipeline spill that went undetected for 45 days

Murphy Oil has been fined \$172,500 after the Alberta Energy Regulator concluded the Arkansas-based company did not maintain a pipeline that leaked oil for 45 days before it was discovered.

From January to March of 2015, about 1.4 million litres of light oil was spilled about 65 kilometres east of Peace River in northwestern Alberta due to internal corrosion, the regulator said Tuesday.

The leak of condensate, a light oil used to dilute heavy oil to help it flow in a pipeline, came after Murphy Oil staff had failed to maintain its leak detection system as required, AER pipelines director Ron Wagener said.

"The AER found that maintenance was not being performed," Wagener said in a written decision. He said most diluent meters at well pads hadn't been calibrated since October 2012.

"If the end-point meters would have been calibrated on a minimum yearly interval and alarm set-points adjusted to appropriate tolerances, the system would have been able to provide early leak detection capabilities."

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Murphy Oil's delay in detecting the release was also flagged as a concern as the AER said the company did not make a timely report nor take immediate remedial action.

Craig Sinclair, director of health, safety and environment for Murphy Oil's Calgary-based Canadian operations, said the company has agreed to pay the fine and is working to ensure similar leaks don't occur in the future.

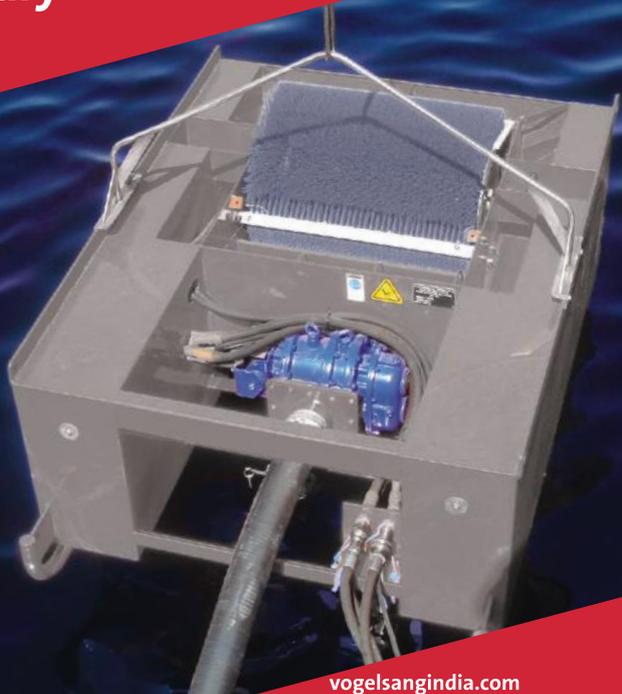
"We've made significant changes," Sinclair said, adding that Murphy Oil is performing pipeline integrity checks more frequently and is investing in more training of personnel assigned to conduct those checks.

Some repairs were made to the five-year-old pipeline but the company has since purged and abandoned it, using other pipelines to ship condensate from one part of its Seal heavy oilfield to another, he said. The fine is one of the largest the AER has issued for a pipeline spill since it was formed in 2013.

According to an AER database, the largest financial penalty for a pipeline spill was \$250,000 last year against Calgary-based producer Pengrowth Energy for a leak of about 540,000 litres of oil emulsion. That spill near Red Earth in northwestern Alberta went undetected for 48 days.

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## Oil Discharge Planning, Preparedness and Response (“PPP MOU”)

The second of the January 17, 2017 MOUs concerns oil spill response on the OCS, and in this regard supersedes a prior MOU entered in April 2012. That said, the January 17, 2017 more or less tracks the April 2012 MOU, with various updates based on the agencies' experiences since 2012 and with the most substantial updates appearing in a newly added section regarding “Oil Spill After Action Reviews.”

This PPP MOU sets up (yet another) matrix defining which agency has spill response authority for certain types of OCS assets (i.e. fixed v. floating facilities, MODUs, FPSOs, etc.) and for what phase of the response (i.e. planning, preparedness, response, source control).

Essentially, BSEE has authority for all efforts at source control in a blowout scenario, as well as review/approval of Oil Spill Response Plans (as required by OPA 90); the USCG has authority

for all response efforts and removal of hydrocarbons, as well as mitigation of environmental damages.

Likewise, this MOU elaborates on BSEE and the USCG's preparedness enforcement responsibilities, including specifically BSEE's program of unannounced facility inspections (purportedly still averaging the same 40-per-year as indicated in the April 2012 MOU). Additionally, BSEE and the USCG share equipment inspection responsibilities, with BSEE shouldering the lion's share vis-à-vis “oil discharge response, source control, and subsea containment equipment;” and the USCG in the lead role for equipment inspections in connection with National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) area drills pursuant to OPA 90 requirements.

As to the primary change from the prior MOU, the newly added section regarding “Oil Spill

After Action Reviews” clarifies the roles and reporting interface between BSEE and the USCG in the wake of an oil discharge incident on the OCS.

The remainder of the PPP MOU (again essentially tracking the prior MOU) provides additional information regarding inter alia information gathering/database maintenance, information sharing, enforcement concerns, and interagency training/coordination efforts.

While this MOU is relatively innocuous and consistent with the prior MOU on the same topics, recent BSEE regulatory activity that falls within the broader ambit of this MOA is particularly (if indirectly) important.

Specifically, BSEE issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on August 22, 2013 to overhaul 30 C.F.R. Subpart H of the BSEE regulations, which govern “Oil and Gas Production Safety Systems” (i.e. systems for production activities, as opposed to exploration)

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## Enbridge cleaning up pipeline leak of 200,000 litres of oil condensate in Strathcona County

Enbridge was cleaning up a pipeline leak of 200,000 litres of oil condensate in Strathcona County.

The leak, released from line 2A near Anthony Henday Drive and 92 Avenue, happened at 3 p.m. Friday and the spill was put into a privately owned excavation pit where construction work was being done. The National Energy Board learned of the incident at 8:30 p.m.

“The line strike took place during construction activity by a third party contractor, unrelated to Enbridge but crossing Enbridge's right of way,” said a statement from Enbridge. “The construction activity was being done by TransCanada Pipelines and its contractor Ledcor.”

The Enbridge pipeline control centre shut down Line 2A, as well as nearby lines as a precaution.

Darin Barter, spokesman for the National Energy Board, said three inspectors were on site — one environmental expert and two operations inspectors.

“We require regulated companies to adhere to strict standards for clean up and remediation,” Barter said in a written statement to Postmedia.

“We have inspectors onsite to monitor these aspects of the incident.

“NEB will also assist the TSB as necessary with the investigation. Our own review of the incident will determine if enforcement action necessary. If it is, we will not hesitate to do so.

“The NEB can potentially fine Enbridge or any culpable third parties under the NEB act, which will be part of the review from inspectors.”



Barter said with the caveat that he is not an environmental scientist or health professional, there is sour gas associated with oil condensate.

Transportation Safety Board pipeline experts were investigating the cause. The TSB investigates incidents or mishaps involving pipelines that cross provincial or international borders and may make recommendations.

Genevieve Corbin, a media relations specialist from the Transportation Safety Board, said two investigators were en route to the scene and a pipeline expert was expected to be on scene Sunday.

A statement from TransCanada spokesperson Terry Cunha said the company was co-operating. No injuries were reported and Enbridge said there was no risk to public safety.



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