

Internet Matters

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Look at Mother Nature on the Run...¹

No doubt all of us who work first-string for the environment are incensed by the current oil spill catastrophe going on in the Gulf of Mexico. As this column is being published, millions of gallons of crude oil and tar are being washed up on pristine beaches, killing thousands of birds and animals, befouling delicate habitats, and creating economic chaos for those who depend on the sea for their livelihood. Despondency has set in; what can we do but watch, awe-struck by the failure or lack of engineering controls at the well-head and the growing sense of despair from watching the events unfold.

Soon, the leak will be shuttered, and the clean-up will proceed. There are links at the end of this column to stay abreast of the news, lend a hand, or send a check, if you can.

Web Site Revised for Federal Regulations

The U. S. federal site for regulations, Regulations.Gov, has been updated. It features easy to search options and the ability to add comments on-line. The website provides the top five ongoing actions and the top five agencies for comments. Seems EPA is agency Number 1, and SPCC plan amendments are on the "What's Hot" list. Are you all working on updating your spill plan? The deadline is November 10, 2010.

Identify Pollutant Releases Via the Web

A United Nations treaty that becomes effective this fall requires members to register releases on-line. The Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers lists 86 substances including greenhouse gases, ozone depleting compounds and toxics. The registers will be available to the public for searches. Thus far, only European countries have signed up for this binding agreement.

Climate Change

SEC Action

The Securities and Exchange Commission is looking into the effects of Global Warming on US corporations. The recently released interpretative guideline for Global Warming is available for download. The US Congress has several Climate Change bills under consideration and several US states and the European Union have adopted regulations. The SEC states that the concerns could have a “significant effect on operating and financial decisions”. Perhaps you should email the linked document to your CFO and begin a dialog on the fiscal affects of Climate Change rules.

Massachusetts Set Baseline

Massachusetts adopted reporting rules and baseline figures under the *State Global Warming Solutions Act*, that became effective in 2008. Emission reductions of 25 percent in 10 years and 80 percent in 40 years are required. This regulation will affect 300 businesses, which will be required to report emissions of carbon dioxide, hydrofluorocarbons, methane, nitrous oxide, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

Michigan, Too

The state of Michigan has committed to cutting Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 20 percent by the year 2020. The Governor signed an executive order that seeks several programs to reduce auto emissions, and provides for cooperation with neighboring states.

California REACH?

We knew it would not be long for the Sacramento crowd to catch up with European trends; this time it's the Green Chemistry Initiative. The draft

regulations refer to consumer products. Based on AB 1879 and SB 509, the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) will develop a “Priority List” of Products that contain “Chemicals of Concern”. Quoting from AB 1879, DTSC is required to “establish a process by which chemicals of concern in products and their potential alternatives, are evaluated to determine how best to limit exposure or to reduce the level of hazard posed by a chemical of concern. Manufacturers of products containing chemicals of concern will be asked to prepare an alternative assessment, to determine environmental and economic impacts, which could lead to product reformation, labeling requirements, or restrictive use. Regulations must be in place by January 1, 2011. DTSC will have access to chemical and product information that is already provided by manufacturers to US EPA, REACH and Canada.

One element of particular concern allows public or private entities, or individuals to petition DTSC for an evaluation of chemical or chemical and product combination. Can we see a cottage industry developing here?

IIPP Coming To Your State

Injury and Illness Prevention Programs (IIPP or I2P2) are now being considered by Federal OSHA. California folks are familiar with IIPP; businesses here have been required to prepare a written plan since 1991. The federal gist will include deliberations surrounding the ANSI/AIHA Z10 standard, OHSAS 18001, and OSHA’s 1989 guidelines. There is still time to enter into these discussions with OSHA by attending a meeting in Washington, DC. Here’s how the federal topics compare with the California Regulation.

California IIPP	Proposed Federal I2P2
Management Commitment Assignment of Responsibilities	Management Duties
Safety Communications	Employee Participation
Hazard Assessment & Control	Hazard Identification & Assessment
Accident Investigation	Hazard Prevention & Control
Safety Planning, Rules & Work Procedures	Program Evaluation & Improvement
Safety & Health Training	Education & Training

Real Life Seinfeld Installment

In the "Bottle Deposit" episode, Kramer and Newman concoct an arbitrage scheme to haul cans and bottles to Michigan, collecting an additional nickel for each recycled container. The finances of the scam worked only with free transportation, provided by the US Postal Service. In California recently, the state's Attorney General announced the break-up of three separate beverage recycling fraud rings that were shipping cans and bottles from Arizona and Nevada and billing the state for redemption fees, \$3.5 million in fees! The Seinfeld TV brainstorm was facetious; the pending prison terms of 1 to 3 years, are actual.

Is Anybody Out There?²

This is the 15th edition of Internet Matters. How about some feedback? Can we find out if you're reading the column or using it in your work? Click on the following link and answer a quick 4 question survey. You will be rewarded.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9LWX2QN>

¹ *After the Gold Rush*, Neal Young, 1970

² *The Wall*, Pink Floyd, 1979

Photo Credits

Figure 1 - The Times-Picayune/ Susan Poag

Figures 2,3 - AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

Wildlife Deaths, USA Today

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-06-06-spill-containment_N.htm

Pelicans, back from the brink

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/05/us/05pelican.html>

New York Times Oil Spill Photos

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2010/05/27/us/201005_oil-spill-photo-gallery.html?ref=us

How to Help

Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

<http://www.crcl.org/>

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International Bird Rescue Research Center

<http://www.ibrrc.org/>

Audubon

<http://www.audubon.org/>

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

<http://www.mobilebaynep.com/>

Oil Spill Volunteers

<http://www.oilspillvolunteers.com/>

U. S. Federal Regulations

<http://www.regulations.gov/>

SEC Guidance Document on Climate Change (29 pages)

<http://www.sec.gov/rules/interp/2010/33-9106.pdf>

United Nations Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr.htm>

Michigan Greenhouse Gas Rule

<http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-36898-219081--,00.html>

http://www.sandiego6.com/news/local/story/31-Arrested-in-Recycling-Fraud-Ring/q0T_LUJEnEaYJVA83blj0w.csp

California Green Chemistry

News Release

http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PressRoom/upload/News_Release_T-05-10.pdf

Flowchart

http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/GreenChemistryInitiative/upload/gc_flowchart-final.pdf

Regulation Outline

http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/GreenChemistryInitiative/safer_products_regs_outline.cfm

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Injury and Illness Prevention Plan Outline

<http://www.dol.gov/federalregister/PdfDisplay.aspx?DocId=23834>

Federal IIPP Meeting Registration, Washington, DC

<https://www2.ergweb.com/projects/conferences/osha/register-osha-l2P2.asp>

Recycling Fraud

http://www.sandiego6.com/news/local/story/31-Arrested-in-Recycling-Fraud-Ring/q0T_LUJEnEaYJVA83blj0w.csp

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