



## **WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

**December 2010**

The AIDGC Board  
extends to all our  
Members, the  
compliments of the  
Season

Congratulations to  
new full Member

Keith Sharp  
Queensland



### **BP Challenges Oil Flow Estimates in Gulf of Mexico**

**BP has mounted a new challenge to the US government's estimates of how much oil flowed from the runaway well deep below the Gulf of Mexico, an argument that could reduce by billions of dollars the federal pollution fines it faces for the largest offshore oil spill in history.**

**BP's lawyers are arguing that the government overstated the spill by 20 to 50 per cent, staffers working for the presidential oil spill commission said on Friday.**

**In comments the company submitted to the commission in October and obtained by AP on Friday, BP says the government's spill estimate of 4.9 million barrels is 'overstated by a significant amount' and the company said any consensus around that number is premature and inaccurate.**

**'They rely on incomplete or inaccurate information, rest in large part on assumptions that have not been validated, and are subject to far greater uncertainties than have been acknowledged,' BP wrote.**

**'BP fully intends to present its own estimate as soon as the information is available to get the science right.' BP's request could save it as much as \$US10.5 billion (\$A10.78 billion) or as little as \$US1.1 billion (\$A1.13 billion), depending on factors such as whether the government concludes BP acted negligently.**

**For context, the US Environmental Protection Agency's entire federal budget for 2010 was \$US10.3 billion (\$A10.58 billion). President Barack Obama has said he wants Congress to set aside money BP pays for fines for the Gulf's coastal restoration. William K Reilly, co-chairman of the presidential commission, expressed amazement at BP's case on Friday. Reilly headed the Environmental Protection Agency under president George HW Bush. 'They are going to argue that is 50 per cent less' than the government's total?' Reilly asked. 'Wow.'**

**Under the Clean Water Act, the oil giant - which owned and**

## **AIDGC 2011 Conference**

**Crowne Plaza  
September  
with possible Workshops  
on the preceding day.**

**Any ideas for Speakers or  
Topics you would like to  
hear from or about?**

**Contact: Philip Turner  
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**HazMat 2011  
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Southee Complex  
Sydney Showground**

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operated the well - faces fines of up to \$US1100 (\$A1129.48) for each barrel of oil spilled.

If BP were found to have committed gross negligence or willful misconduct, the fine could be up to \$US4300 (\$A4415.24) per barrel. That means that based on the government's estimate of 4.9 million barrels, BP could face civil fines alone of between \$US5.4 billion and \$US21.1 billion (\$A5.54 billion and \$A21.67 billion).

'They are going to argue it was less,' said Priya Aiyar, the commission's deputy chief counsel. 'BP has not offered its own numbers yet, but BP has told us that it thinks the government's numbers are too high and thinks the actual flow rate can be actually 20 to 50 per cent lower.'

Representative Edward J Markey, a member of the House energy panel investigating the spill, said in a statement on Friday to AP that BP has done whatever it could to avoid revealing the true flow rate of the spill. 'With billions of dollars at stake, it is no surprise that they are now litigating the very numbers which they sought to impede,' Markey said.

'The government engaged independent scientists and multiple techniques to arrive at their estimate. Additional independent peer-reviewed studies have corroborated their estimate.

'BP has a high bar to meet to overturn this estimate.' BP's argument could be bolstered by the federal government's missteps in coming up with a final estimate for the spill's volume. The Obama administration has offered nearly 10 estimates of how much oil flowed from the BP well, coming up with a refined conclusion late last month of 206 million gallons (4.9 million barrels), which is likely its last.

Initially, federal officials adopted BP's estimate that 42,000 gallons each day were gushing out. They raised it to 210,000 gallons per day and stuck with that number for weeks. Then the government set up a special team of experts to estimate the spill size; that group came up with a range of estimates that was criticized by independent scientists as still too low.

In mid-June, about two months after the oil rig accident that caused the deepwater gusher, the federal government said the well could be leaking as much as 2.4 million gallons a day. The latest version estimates that soon after the April 20 explosion, oil was spewing out of the well at a rate of 2.6 million gallons a day.

That rate slowly dropped as the oil and gas reservoir more than three miles below the water's surface was depleted.

At the time the well was plugged in mid-July, the government assumes oil was flowing at 2.2 million gallons daily.

Source:

<http://www.skynews.com.au/businessnews/article.aspx?id=547546&vId=New BP challenge to spill size estimate>

## Orica's Toxic Waste in Political Limbo



A supplied image of Greenpeace activists protesting at the Orica plant in Botany Bay, Sydney, Australia, 03 December 2010. Eleven activists broke into the plant to stop the shipment of 44 containers carrying toxic chemicals.

Source: Novinite.com

ORICA will wait for the outcome of talks between the Danish and Australian governments before deciding what to do with more than 6000 tonnes of toxic waste marooned at Botany Bay. An initial consignment of 3000 tonnes was to be shipped to Denmark for burning this month, but the shipment was halted by the Danish Environment Minister, Karen Elleman.

With Orica declaring a record profit of \$1.3 billion for the year, including \$791 million from the sale of Dulux, the toxic waste dilemma did nothing to dampen the mood of more than 300 shareholders at a general meeting in Melbourne yesterday. Speaking after the meeting, the chief executive, Graeme Liebelt, said he did not know when a proposed meeting between Ms Elleman and Australia's Environment Minister, Tony Burke, would occur.

It is believed the Australian government would like a meeting soon so the issue can be quickly resolved. But Ms Elleman is under intense domestic political pressure over the proposed shipment, which is opposed by the Danish opposition, environmental groups and unions representing dock workers. "For the time being we'll just postpone the shipment and let the Danish government work through the issues that they see," Mr. Liebelt said.

"The minister talked about possibly coming to Australia to meet with the Australian minister, so we'll just let that process take place. The toxic waste - hexachlorobenzene that was generated as a byproduct of solvent manufacturing that occurred at Botany until 1991 - was being stored safely, "so there's no issue there", Mr. Liebelt said.

Source: Sydney Morning Herald

## Deadline for Fire Occupational Licences: Queensland January 1, 2011

If you are undertaking or supervising fire protection work, you need a license by January 1. To find out more goto: <http://www.bsa.qld.gov.au/Pages/BuildingServicesAuthority.aspx> or visit a Queensland Building Services Authority office.



## **Screws Tighten on NSW Gas Drilling Impact**

**THE NSW government will try to ease fears over coal seam gas drilling before the election, with new rules giving communities a greater say before projects are approved. Under a list of tougher restrictions to be revealed today, gas drilling companies will have to submit proposed work plans detailing environmental impacts and what chemicals would be used during extraction.**

**The plans would be scrutinized by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, the Department of Planning, and Industry & Investment NSW and made public before any drilling begins.**

**Formerly, the Department of Primary Industries was the sole agency responsible for issuing exploration licenses. Community fears about the impact of coal seam gas mining and the controversial extraction technique known as hydraulic-fracturing, or "fracking", have heightened since The Sun-Herald revealed in November that not even the heart of Sydney would be spared from potential gas wells. Gas miner Macquarie Energy has been granted approval to begin drilling a test well in St Peters, in the densely populated inner west. The company wants to supply gas for lord mayor Clover Moore's "trigeneration" project to take Sydney off the coal-powered electricity grid.**

**The government said it would look at banning the use of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene (BTEX), chemicals commonly used in fracking.**

**Premier Kristina Keneally said gas would be an important source of fuel for NSW into the future. "However, it's important to get the balance right: managing our natural resources in an environmentally responsible way, with extensive community consultation - while moving the industry forward to a cleaner source of power," she said. The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association declined to comment on the changes.**

**Source: Sun-Herald**

## **Service Station Australia**

**The summer issue of this magazine is now available online from: [http://www.ssa.org.au/magazine/2010\\_summer/index.php](http://www.ssa.org.au/magazine/2010_summer/index.php)**



**Cityscape ... the site of possible test drilling for coal seam gas by Macquarie Energy in St Peters. Photo: Dallas Kilponen**

## **Toxins Found at Third Site as Fracking Fears Build**

**You might remember the above article is the November Newsletter? Member Raghu Raman has drawn my attention to an error in the article sourced from the Sydney Morning Herald:**

**Thank you Raghu!**

***"Just a pointer in the newsletter... BTEX stands for Benzene, Toluene, Ethyl benzene and Xylene. Not Ethylene."***



## **US EPA & European Chemicals Agency Sign Agreement to Enhance Chemical Safety**



**WASHINGTON** –The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) have announced a partnership that will promote enhanced technical cooperation on chemical management activities. The partnership is part of EPA's commitment to improve chemical safety. ECHA is the agency that implements the European Union's chemical management program known as REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization, and Restriction of Chemicals).

The partnership was formalized through a statement of intent and was highlighted today at the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) meeting in Washington, D.C. The TEC, established to advance transatlantic economic integration between the United States and the European Union, issued a statement stressing the importance for enhanced cooperation on chemicals. The statement of intent provides the first concrete result of this effort. The statement puts in place a process for working together on a range of issues of mutual interest including toxicity testing, the hazard and risk assessment of chemicals, risk management tools, scientific collaboration, and information exchange.

One of the major anticipated areas of collaboration will be on the exchange of data and information. For example, the statement of intent will promote the exchange of non-confidential information on hazards, uses, and substance identification between ECHA and EPA, including data collected under REACH. The two agencies will also share criteria for managing confidential business information with the goal to increase the availability of chemical information to the public. The statement also enables the agencies to share information on approaches to more efficiently address chemicals of concern that are prioritized for regulatory action.

More information: <http://www.epa.gov/oppt>

**What's Happening** If you would like to make a contribution, have an interesting story, case study or report, please send to: [robhogan@tpg.com.au](mailto:robhogan@tpg.com.au)



## **Model Work Health and Safety (WHS) Regulations**

On its website, WorkCover NSW advised that the model WHS regulations detail how various aspects of the WHS Act are implemented, and outline the obligations of everyone in the workplace. The Regulations, along with priority model Codes of Practice will be open for public comment from 7 December 2010 to 4 April 2011.

Goto:

<http://safeworkaustralia.gov.au/Legislation/PublicComment/Pages/PublicComment.aspx>

## **One of the World's Leading Investment Banks has Poured Cold Water on Queensland's Emerging \$50 Billion Coal Seam Gas Industry**

A report by JP Morgan says the industry has significant water risks, an unknown impact from growth and is a potential risk to public safety. The report, by analyst Garry Sherriff, says costs involved in developing the projects, which involve piping gas from the Surat Basin to export terminals at Gladstone, are likely to blow out because of environmental concerns. It warns that towns and landowners risk reduced water supplies; there is a risk of reduced water quality; and of gas migrating to existing bores. Once on the surface, the saline water extracted in the CSG mining process will have to be treated, stored and disposed of, the report says. JP Morgan also expresses doubts about the cumulative impact from multiple CSG developments. These water risks could translate into project cost increases, government intervention, changes to regulations and potential disruption to long-term gas supply contracts, the report says. There is also a danger that a build-up of gas in water bores could result in large, uncontrolled gas releases which may pose a risk to public health and safety, the report says. JP Morgan's report backs up community concerns over the industry, says Friends of the Earth campaigner Drew Hutton. "It is time for the state government to start listening to community voices calling for a moratorium on the industry," Hutton



Photo source: [gasland.com.au](http://gasland.com.au)

## Cougar Energy Downplays Chemical Find in Water

Cougar Energy says the decision whether to reopen a coal gasification project in Queensland's South Burnett should not be based entirely on the latest round of water sampling.

The company says one bore showed minute traces of the chemical benzene but the reading is well within national drinking guidelines.

The State Government is considering environmental reports on the Kingaroy project, north of Toowoomba, and could decide in the next month whether to let it resume operating.

Cougar Energy spokesman Len Walker says the positive reading is the first in more than 400 samples taken at the site in five months.

"The overall review by the Government covers a whole range of things, not just the monitoring results," he said.

"Obviously the Government will look at the overall context of the issue rather than focusing on one particular number.

"In addition we're still within the drinking water guidelines in any event."

Mr. Walker says the reading from the Kingaroy plant could have been an anomaly.

"There are no detection of benzene in bores that are around it from samples taken at the same time, so we obviously have to see if it's an aberration or not," he said.

"We're talking about, as you can probably gather, extraordinarily low levels and they're at the boundaries of what you can actually detect in any event."

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au>

said. "The report states there are so many environmental risks associated with the operation of coal seam gas that the government will need to change the rules along the way and this could create great uncertainty for the companies and their markets," Hutton said. He said when the impacts of the industry are realized, the public would demand much more rigorous regulation. "This could drastically change the ground rules for the companies and cause cost blow-outs," he said. "The state government is pursuing a very risky strategy for economic development by putting so much faith in this one fallible industry and the (state opposition) LNP is supporting it every inch of the way," Hutton said. "Investment experts are urging caution and I am calling on Queensland's leaders to do the same." Resources Minister Stephen Robertson said the state government was committed to protecting groundwater resources. "The emerging CSG industry offers enormous potential but the government insists this cannot come at any cost," he said. "We passed legislation in parliament in November that strengthens the protection of Queensland's water bores and natural springs near coal seam gas projects." The government makes no apologies for insisting that all resource proposals are held to strict environmental and safety standards," Robertson said. "It's what the community expects." Chief executive of the Queensland Resources Council Michael Roche said any resource project contained risk. "You also need to look at the risk management strategies," he said. "Those risk management strategies for LNG and coal seam gas projects are covered in huge detail," he said. The strategies were in both the proponents' environmental impact statements and in government restrictions on the industry, Roche said. Source: YAHOO! 7News

## Australian waste industry needs to know its DGs better

Just when you get used to the current regulatory regime for Dangerous Goods (DGs) the laws change. DG laws are going to be impacted by the adoption of the UN's Global Harmonised System (GHS), probably next year. GHS will impose a new additional, in part replaceable labelling system on top of the current DG labels. It is likely that both will be permitted, but then industry will be expected to understand both systems. For the rest of the article: <http://www.insidewaste.com.au/StoryView.asp?StoryID=1587498>

## CFA Cleans up Waves Centre Chemical Spill

Fire crews took several hours to clean up a chemical spill at the Mildura Waves centre last night.

The Country Fire Authority says the spill, about 7:30pm (AEDT), involved about 1,500 liters of hydrochloric acid from a cylinder inside the swimming pool complex.

The complex had closed for the night and the CFA's duty officer, David McBain, says it was a demanding clean-up job.

"A big cylinder leaked into a bunded area. It didn't get outside of that area but there was a large clean-up, it took several hours to decant that solution into containers," he said.

Source: ABC News



## Australia Issues Guidance on New Chemical Requirements for Notification of Industrial Nanomaterials

Australia's National Industrial Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) has issued guidance on new chemical requirements for the notification of industrial nanomaterials. The notification and assessment process comes into effect on January 1, 2011.

Source: <http://chemicalwatch.com/6206>

**Goto:**

[http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Current\\_Issues/Nanotechnology/Guidance%20on%20New%20Chemical%20Requirements%20for%20Notification%20of%20Industrial%20Nanomaterials.pdf](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Current_Issues/Nanotechnology/Guidance%20on%20New%20Chemical%20Requirements%20for%20Notification%20of%20Industrial%20Nanomaterials.pdf)

## Cleanup of Oil Leak Site in the Philippines to Take Years

The remediation and rehabilitation of areas in Barangay (village) Bangkal, Makati City, which were affected by an oil leak caused by a pipeline owned and operated by First Philippine Industrial Corporation (FPIC) would take years to be completed. According to Anthony Mabasa, FPIC spokesperson, they have already identified the affected areas and the extent of contamination. "This will speed up our work because we already know the concentration of the contaminated area", he said. But when asked how long the cleanup would take, he replied, "We're not talking of months here. Based on our initial assessment, it may take years."

### Extent of Plume

During a press briefing yesterday, FPIC announced that its engineers and experts had determined the extent and size of the plume that came out of the leaks in its pipeline. The extent of the plume, the area contaminated with petrochemicals, that seeped underground covers at an area of at least 9,000-sq m, including a huge portion of the Service Road from Bonifacio to P. Garcia Streets where the West Tower condominium is located, aside from parts of Osmeña Highway. In July, oil products started seeping into the building's basement. In October, the leak was traced to the pipeline, prompting residents to file a case



## Permanent Relocation Site for Oil Leak Victims

MANILA, Philippines—The residents of West Tower Condominium are now asking the First Philippine Industrial Corporation (FPIC) to provide them permanent relocation site since it will take some time before they can return to their respective units. There are over 60 families who are affected by the oil leak and have to seek alternative home to ensure the safety of their families especially the children. According to Dr. Carlos Arcilla, a geologist from the University of the Philippines (UP) who was hired by the City of Makati to conduct an investigation about the gas leak, the residents should not return to their homes in West Tower Condominium until gas fumes are contaminating the air. He insisted that the surroundings should be properly cleaned before the residents will be advised to return home to ensure their health safety.

In the reports of West Tower Task Force, it appears that the gas leak still continues even after the defective pipeline is fixed.

Arcilla explained that it is because the soil where the tower is built has accumulated too much gas and it will take time before the gas is completely removed from the soil. Thus, it will also take longer time for the rehabilitation of the residents as well as decontamination of the area.

FPIC has already expressed their willingness to help the residents of West Tower Condominium especially the concern of having a permanent relocation site.

Source: PhilippineNewsDaily.com

against FPIC. Mabasa said they expected to recover about 8,000 drums of combined water and petroleum products from the contaminated area. “But I guess the good news is, much of the petroleum products is concentrated in this area”. He said that they initially expected that the densely-populated Barangay would suffer most of the contamination.

## Not as Bad

“What we were concerned about was the extent of contamination. But at least it was not as bad, not as problematic, as what we had initially expected, adding that they would continue to bore holes and conduct tests in other areas. He added that their findings would still be validated through additional tests and in collaboration with the University of the Philippines’ National Institute of Geological Sciences, the group of experts hired by the city government. “We’re happy to inform the residents that the risk, in effect, is not as high as initially estimated. But this is not to underestimate the situation. We just want to make sure that we reduce the risk to the point that they no longer cause any harm to the health of the residents”. Remediation will really take time. It will not be finished in a few months. After we remove the fuel, the soil will be treated ... we want to make sure that there will be no more risks for the residents and the environment in general”. The FPIC official said that the extent of the leak was determined by CH2M Hill, the US-based firm tasked to do the remediation, engineering works and rehabilitation of Barangay Bangkal, through its monitoring and catchment wells around the area.

## Cleanup Ongoing

Edmund Piquero, CH2M Hill project manager, said they started the cleanup process last week since they had determined the areas where most of the products were concentrated. CH2M Hill earlier said that it would start cleaning up the area by the early part of next month. “We have actually accelerated remediation because we have a chance to pump out fuel products. Everything is going at a much faster rate”, Piquero added. Meanwhile, upon the recommendation of FPIC and Department of Public Works and Highways, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has implemented a temporary weeklong lane closure on the southbound lane of Magallanes flyover coming from Osmeña Highway. Source: Inquirer.net



## A Cautionary Tale

From the moment the first gas fumes were detected more than four months ago in a condominium building until the day excavation crews finally pinpointed the source of the fuel seepage, the story of the Makati pipeline leak is a cautionary tale of how a neglected problem can ripple outwards and cause bigger headaches for an increasing number of people.

Since **July**, officials had been scrambling to find the source of the leak — **some 1,600 to 2,200 liters of gasoline, kerosene, and diesel were draining daily into the basement** of West Tower condominium and seeping into the surrounding area.

Water from nine pumps in Barangay Bangkal in Makati City has been declared non-potable because of possible contamination. But the most beleaguered are the residents of West Tower, who were blamed for the leak then ended up spending their own money – around P7 million – to drain their basement after they were forced to leave their homes.

**Initially, the First Philippine Industrial Corporation (FPIC) denied accusations that their 120-km pipeline, which transports over eight million liters of fuel from refineries in Batangas to depots in Manila every day, was the source of the Makati fuel leak.** The

Makati city government and national government agencies cleared FPIC, no doubt cognizant of the fact that the pipeline supplies up to 60 per cent of fuel needs in the country's capital. Four months later, it took experts from the University of the Philippines-National Institute of Geological Sciences (UP-NIGS) to identify the FPIC pipeline in Makati as the culprit.

"We will not know the actual extent of the contamination until we drill many monitoring wells... [Contamination] could [reach] several blocks downstream of the pipeline leak. Deep wells may be compromised," said UP-NIGS director Carlo Arcilla.

The FPIC pipeline was shut down for the third time, this time resulting in a fuel shortage due to the prolonged period of closure. The subsequent diggings also damaged the Magallanes flyover, snarling traffic in the central business district of Makati.

### July 9: Gas leak first detected

Residents of the West Tower Condominium in Barangay Bangkal, Makati City report the odor of fuel fumes in the building's basement.

### July 12: FPIC shuts down pipeline

The First Philippine Industrial Corp. (FPIC) **closes** its pipeline to dig up a section near West Tower and determine if the pipe has sprung a leak. The results are negative.

### July 15: FPIC reopens pipeline

The FPIC **reopens** the fuel pipeline after a **5-hour test run** confirming it has no leak.

### July 20: West Tower vacated

The Makati city government orders West Tower residents to



Geologist Carlo Arcilla at the West Tower building in Bangkal, Makati  
Source: Inquirer.net



Source: Inquirer.net

## Makati Oil Leak Sparks 'RP's Biggest Environmental Lawsuit'

MANILA, Philippines - A leak on the oil pipeline owned by First Philippine Industrial Corp. could spark the country's biggest environmental lawsuit because of its potential effects on provinces from South Luzon to Manila. Atty. Lorna Kapunan is inviting residents of Cavite, Batangas and Laguna to join the "country's biggest environmental case" being prepared by West Tower residents against the Lopez-owned FPIC for the damage caused by its leaking pipeline.

"This involves not only the city of Makati [but also] Batangas, Cavite, Laguna. [This is not only] a class suit, but a citizens' suit," Kapunan, who represents West Tower unit owners, told ABS-CBN's morning show, "Umagang Kay Ganda." She said that West Tower residents will try to convince, not only other Barangay Bangkal residents, but also other communities.

The pipeline stretches from Osmeña Highway in Makati City, Laguna province and all the way to Batangas province. The pipeline is used to transport 50% to 60% of the petroleum needs of Metro Manila.

Kapunan said that instead of filing a class suit before the Makati City Regional Trial Court, they will file a "citizens' suit" against FPIC before the Supreme Court.

The lawyer had said that West Tower residents were preparing a petition for writ of kalikasan, a legal measure specifically meant to protect one's right to a healthy environment.

She said that they are looking at the possibility of filing a unified petition against FPIC with civic groups and non-governmental organizations.

Kapunan said that part of the suit is to demand from the FPIC to replace the whole pipeline and the gas-contaminated soil in the whole Bangkal area.

She said they are confident that the Lopez group, which owns FPIC, has the capability to replace the contaminated soil in the whole Bangkal area, just like what it did with the Power Plant Mall.

Source:ABS CBN.news.com

vacate the building due to the persistent smell of gas. The local government also ordered the building management to shut down its sump pumps, resulting in water buildup in the basement.

### July 21: FPIC shuts down pipeline again

The FPIC **shuts down** the pipeline for the second time in order to conduct tests for the presence of gas and petroleum products, as requested by the Makati city government. The test results come out negative for soil samples, but positive for water samples.

### July 24: FPIC reopens pipeline again

The FPIC reopens the fuel pipeline after informing Makati officials that the required tests have been concluded.

### July 27: Makati LGU clears FPIC as source of leak

The Makati City Engineer rules out the FPIC pipeline as the source of the gas leak. The local government unit also ordered the West Tower management to clear out the flooded basement within seven days, in order for agencies to investigate if **diesel tanks** buried beneath the basement are the source of the leak.

### July 29: DOE also clears FPIC

**The Department of Energy announces that the FPIC had nothing to do with the gas seeping into the basement of West Tower.**

### Sept. 7: Flooded basement cleared

West Tower management informs city officials and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) that the water in the flooded basement has been removed. However, **fuel continues to leak into the chamber** and contractors have been draining around 1,600-2,200 liters of petroleum products daily from the basement since July.

### Sept. 13: Government clears West Tower as source of leak

Representatives from the DOE, DENR, and Makati city government investigate West Tower's premises and eliminate the building as the source of the leak.

### Sept. 20: FPIC hires contractor to search for leak

FPIC hires two contractors to search for leaks in the pipeline using Ground Penetrating Radar systems.

### Sept. 30-Oct. 4: Contractors report soil disturbance

One contractor reported "soil disturbances" in four areas along the pipeline and five near West Tower. The other contractor also reported soil saturation near the condo, and said there was a 15 meter-long metal object buried 1.6 to two meters below a nearby street.

### Oct. 10: Makati LGU seeks help from UP-NIGS

The Makati City Government requests the National Institute of Geological Sciences at the University of the Philippines for assistance in tracing the leak in the fuel pipeline.

### Oct. 16: UP-NIGS starts drilling wells

NIGS director Carlo Arcilla and a team of hydrogeologists, engineers, and other scientists start drilling exploratory wells to search for the leak.

## Corporate Members

Our Corporate Members provide a range of products and services to the Dangerous Goods Industry. Their contact details are:

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Multi-agency officers train together in the Torridge estuary off the North Devon Coast, UK. Source: North Devon Gazette



### **Oct. 21: FPIC begins excavation to search for leak**

As the source of the seepage remains undetected, government authorities order FPIC to undertake a complete exploratory excavation, and FPIC begins digging an entire stretch of the pipeline near West Tower.

### **Oct. 28: Gas leak traced to FPIC pipeline**

which is **shut down for the 3rd time**. The NIGS team finds a **defective part in the FPIC pipeline** some 100 meters southeast of West Tower, along the southbound service road of Osmeña Highway, indicating a leak in the pipes directly under the ramp of the Magallanes flyover in Makati.

### **Nov. 2: MMDA lifts truck ban for fuel trucks**

To avert fuel shortage, the Metro Manila Development Authority eases the truck ban for fuel trucks delivering petroleum products from Batangas to Manila, following reports that the repair of the pipeline could take up to three weeks.

### **Nov. 4: Diggings cause crack in Magallanes flyover**

Authorities close down the **Magallanes interchange for trucks and other heavy vehicles due to concerns about its structural integrity**, after the excavation work of FPIC causes a crack in the support beam of the flyover.

### **Nov. 5: FPIC halts digging**

FPIC stops its excavation work and shores up the flyover at the base to maintain the integrity of the structure.

### **Nov. 8: FPIC finds holes in pipeline**

After months of denial, FPIC announces that it **has found five holes in its aging pipeline that caused the seepage of fuel into the West Tower basement**.

Last Monday, November 8, the FPIC assured the public that its 43-year old pipeline will be repaired this week, but the story of the fuel leak is far from over. It will continue to affect the lives of people not only in Makati, but also the rest of Metro Manila which is the country's commercial center, as long as FPIC and the government do not take long-term measures to find alternatives to the aging pipeline.

Source: - YA/HS, GMANews.TV

## **The Management of Oily Waste – Free PowerPoint Download**

Re posted with permission of the International Spill Control Organization. <http://www.spillcontrol.org>  
From Scottish Environmental Protection Agency. You can download this and other useful PowerPoint presentations at:

<http://www.2dix.com/ppt-2010/marine-oil-pollution-ppt.php>



Mooloolaba's Ian McKinnon is annoyed that the supply of unleaded fuel to the Wharf precinct has stopped on such short notice.

Source: Sunshine Coast Daily



Mooloolaba Boat Harbour



## **Qld Council to Stall Fuel Facilities**

Queensland's Sunshine Coast Council is seeking to stall the closure of the only unleaded on-water fuel facilities in Mooloolaba Boat Harbour. Council CEO John Knaggs said yesterday he would contact the director general of the Department of Environment and Resource Management to help resolve the issue. Failing that council would seek to implement an interim plan to fuel boats ahead of a longer term solution. Mooloolaba is now effectively without any on-water unleaded fuel supply after The Wharf's tank ran dry yesterday morning. Angry boat owners, commercial dive operators and other businesses dependent on the fuel supply met to try to determine a way to keep afloat. Spokesman Tim Lynch said there was real anger at the failure of the government to consult with them about the impact of the new legislation and at The Wharf management for failing to give any warning of the impending closure. The Wharf management contacted only some customers by letter Thursday advising the facility would be de-commissioned tomorrow leaving them with no access to fuel for everything from DERM's own shark control program boats, to dive boats, jet skis, boat charter vessels and an estimated 150 unleaded fuel powered private vessels moored in the harbour. The closest on-water fuelling points are at Bribie Island 50 nautical miles to the south or in the Noosa River across the notorious Noosa bar. "The director general has taken a prudent and reasonable approach on other matters", Mr. Knaggs said. "I will take this up directly with him. Council is hopeful it can find a reasonable outcome. We recognize the need for new state legislation but people need to take a reasonable approach". Mr. Knaggs was also contacting The Wharf senior management in Melbourne in a bid to secure its cooperation to stall the planned decommissioning of the fuel tank, due to start tomorrow morning. The Wharf management has claimed the impact of new legislation from January 1 made continuing the service unviable. A Department of Environment and Resource Management spokesman said Friday that the department made no apology for its legislation. But it said companies facing difficulty complying with required standards could seek council's assistance for transitional arrangements because it was the administering body under the Act.

Source: Sunshine Coast Daily

## **Keep ADG Code Consistent with international Codes Warns ALC**



The International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code was developed as a uniform international code for the transport of dangerous goods by sea covering such matters as packing, container traffic and stowage, with particular reference to the segregation of incompatible substances.



Logistics peak body the Australian Logistics Council (ALC) has called on the National Transport Commission (NTC) to ensure its Dangerous Goods Code is consistent with overseas regulations. The ALC was responding to a call for feedback from the NTC which is currently reviewing its 7th edition of the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG 7), which outlines requirements for transporting dangerous goods by road or rail. Since 2007 when it was introduced by the NTC, the legislation has been implemented by all Australia's states and territories. "The introduction of ADG7 indicates that the Australian Transport Council (ATC) has a long term strategy of alignment with international requirements", ALC CEO Michael Kilgariff says. ALC members report that in excess of 90 per cent of containers being transported by road are a continuation of a sea cargo journey. These containers must comply with the terms of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code.

The IMDG Code is updated every two years with a transition period of one year prior to becoming compulsory. The next IMDG release is January 2011. The ALC says it is concerned an increase in United Nations members contributing to the release of the updated IMDG could mean greater differences between its contents and the Australian Dangerous Goods Code. ALC urges NTC to ensure that any substantial differences between international and national documentation is reduced, preferably by picking up changes to international standards as soon as possible", Kilgariff says. According to Kilgariff, such differences might include the treatment of the movement of limited quantities of goods. "We need to incorporate the IMDG as amended from time to time, into Australian legislation", Kilgariff says. "In addition any domestic variations from international requirements must be clearly identified and justified".

The ALC has also expressed its concern that ADG7 is presented as 'Model' legislation, to be picked up by Australian jurisdictions according to individual drafting protocols. "ALC would prefer the ADG Code be prepared using the 'applied legislation model' in which one jurisdiction makes the Code, with the other jurisdictions

Source: <http://www.safetysource.co.nz>



This month my thanks goes to Don Johnston and Frank Mendham for their contributions and Raghu Raman for his interest.

applying the first jurisdiction's legislation," Kilgariff says. "In essence, we believe ADG 7 should be implemented in the same way as the proposed Heavy Vehicle Law so as to avoid inconsistencies in the jurisdictions. Under such an arrangement, one national law would apply for the application of the Australian Dangerous Goods Code, Kilgariff says. One organization would be responsible for the management of the Code and the supporting regulations, with the result that interstate variations would be eliminated. 'Model' legislation has a poor history of achieving national consistency in the transport and logistics industry', Kilgariff points out. "Therefore COAG has agreed to establish national rail and marine safety regulators, as well as a nation all heavy vehicle regulator, by January 2013 using 'national' or 'applied' legislation. Kilgariff also raises the following issues: Part 14 of the Western Australia Dangerous Goods Safety (Road and Rail Transport of nonexplosives) Regulation 2007, sets out the requirement for prime contractors to either be approved responders or have a contract in place with an approved emergency response. However although regulations for all other States and Territories require prime contractors and consignors to have emergency plans contracts do not reflect this.

ADG 7 removed information that appeared in Chapter 14 ADG 6. This set out the requirements for drivers if involved in emergencies and added further duties for the prime contractors and consignors into the Road Regulations. Goods in packaging not exceeding 500kg (L) imported as classified dangerous goods are not subject to ADG7 when moved throughout Australia. These items should be subject to the ADG Code for all movements.

Source: <http://www.supplychainreview.com.au/news/articleid/71331.aspx>

## Chemical Leak Forces Vic Winery Evacuation

About 50 people were evacuated from a winery near Mildura on December 13 when ammonia began leaking from a winery tank. Police and fire crews were called to the Lindeman's Winery at Karadoc when a pressure valve on the tank failed. Treasury Wine Estates says the valve was isolated and restored to pressure within about 30 minutes. An investigation is underway into the incident.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au>



safe work australia



"Public comment period on the model work health and safety regulations is now open"

## Hazardous Substances Information System Update

Safe Work Australia has recently made updates to the Hazardous Substances Information System (HSIS) online database to reflect changes in Europe's 31st Adaptation to Technical Progress to Directive 67/548/EEC. The HSIS online database is an internet resource that allows users to find information on substances that have been classified in accordance with the Approved Criteria for Classifying Hazardous Substances [NOHSC:1008(2004)] 3rd Edition and/or have National Exposure Standards declared under the Adopted National Exposure Standards for Atmospheric Contaminants in the Occupational Environment [NOHSC:1003(1995)]. The update comprised a total of 456 entries, consisting of 92 amendments to existing entries, 360 new entries and four deletions. View the full list of the schedule of changes for the HSIS online database update at

<http://hsis.ascc.gov.au/News.aspx>

To enquire further about the changes please email [feedback.hsis@safeworkaustralia.gov.au](mailto:feedback.hsis@safeworkaustralia.gov.au)

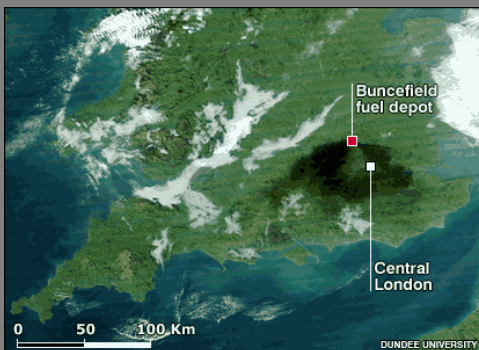
**Note:** the update will not include updated entries for nickel compounds as these classifications are currently under reconsideration and are the subject of legal action in the European Union. A decision on the inclusion of these entries in HSIS will be made once the outcome of those deliberations is clear.

Source:

<http://safeworkaustralia.gov.au/AboutSafeWorkAustralia/WhatWeDo/Publications/Documents/559/SafeWorkAustralianIssue5December2010.pdf>

## Prosecution Resulting from Buncefield Explosion

It is five years since Britain was rocked by a huge explosion at the Buncefield Oil Storage Depot in Hertfordshire. On 11 December 2005, vapour from thousands of gallons of petrol ignited causing an explosion measuring 2.4 on the Richter Scale. It was Britain's most costly industrial disaster, destroying nearby businesses and leaving 43 people injured. The cost of the disaster was estimated at more than £1 billion and an investigation by HSE concluded that a series of failings by a number of



Source: news.bbc.co.uk





companies led to the build up of the petrol vapour and caused the resulting explosion. A four month trial at St Alban's Crown Court concluded in July 2010, with five companies being found guilty of a number of health and safety and environmental offences and ordered to pay a total of £9.5 million in fines and costs. One of the companies involved is currently appealing against conviction and sentencing.

Goto: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/news/buncefield/index.htm>

To do the following:

**Watch the Video:**

**Eyewitness Simon Jearrad recalls the Buncefield disaster  
Latest video evidence used in the Buncefield prosecution**

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**Map of evidence used in the Buncefield prosecution**

**Photographs/video footage of different areas**

**Full details of verdicts and pleas in the Buncefield prosecution**

**More about the Buncefield prosecution The wider perspective**

Source: <http://www.hse.gov.uk>

## **Seven Injured, Thousands Flee after Plant Explodes in China**

**Black smoke billows from a tank at the Zhongshi Chemical Co Ltd in Liaocheng city of Shandong province, where an explosion occurred early on Wednesday, December 8, 2010. An explosion caused by careless handling of chemicals ripped through a pesticide factory in east China's Shandong Province Wednesday, raising pollution fears that resulted in authorities evacuating 8,000 residents from nearby villages. The explosion occurred in the factory of Shandong Yanggu Zhongshi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. at 5:40 am. One person broke his leg while six others suffered slight injuries in the blast, said Zhou Qing, head of the emergency response office of Yanggu County, Liaocheng City. About 30 workers on the assembly line fled after smelling something unusual, Zhou said. "I heard**

*Black smoke billows from a tank at the Zhongshi Chemical Co Ltd in Liaocheng city of Shandong province, where an explosion occurred*



Black smoke billows from the explosion scene.



Photos: China Daily

a huge 'bang' around 5 am and the windows broke. Then I saw the blaze at the plant," said a villager who lived nearby. Fire from the blast ignited tanks of flammable chemicals in the factory and the flames have not yet been extinguished as of Wednesday night, according to officials. A fire-fighter told Xinhua that he heard several minor explosions from the factory in the afternoon. The facilities on fire include a tank containing 200 tons of alcohol. A couple of fire engines parked outside the factory compound as thick black smoke continued to rise. Though air quality tests show no pollution, 8,000 residents in nine villages close to the factory were evacuated. More than 1,500 of them who could not return home on Wednesday night were given cash compensations - ranging from 20 to 60 Yuan (\$3.3 to \$9.9) per person.

Source: <http://www.china.org.cn/china/2010-12>

## Phones + Gas = Explosion?

### American Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

The ATF says there's never been a single case in which a fire at the gas pump was caused by a cell phone. The red and black warning is clear for every driver who gets a tank of gas: "Turn Off Cell Phone & Other Electronic Devices." But a government report challenges the belief that a combination of cell phone use and gas vapours is a clear and present danger at the pump. Such a catastrophe is not out of the realm of possibility, but unlikely, says the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. In a position paper from its Fire Research Centre, the ATF says there's never been a single case in which a fire at the gas pump was caused by a cell phone. Fire researchers have determined that all fires at gas pumps have been due to other ignition sources, including static electricity and lit cigarettes. In order for a fire to occur at a pump, the ATF says a mixture of fuel and air would need to be present in specific proportions that render it flammable. Vapours too close to the gas tank opening are too intense to be flammable, while those too far away from the opening are quickly dissipated. It's theoretically possible a malfunctioning phone battery could cause a spark, the ATF says, adding that "during normal conditions it is not expected that cell phones generate sparks or arcs of sufficient energy to ignite flammable mixtures." "While cell phones cannot be completely ruled out as a possible ignition source during vehicle fuelling operations, they are probably not a very likely source," they say.

Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?sid=2194397&nid=25>



The ATF says there's never been a single case in which a fire at the gas pump was caused by a cell phone. (WTOP Photo/Neal Augenstein)

## **AIDGC Queensland Chapter Progress**

The Queensland Chapter of AIDGC continued to grow throughout 2010, with several new full Members and several new Associate members joining the ranks. An interim Queensland Sub-Committee of Members was formed during 2010 comprising Frank Mendham (Chairperson), Keith Sharp (Secretary) and Kevin Blackie (Treasurer).

In February 2011, a meeting of Queensland Members and Associates will be held just prior to a Seminar that will be provided by Queensland Government in relation to changes to the Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act and Regulation.

The AIDGC Queensland Chapter looks forward to providing support to its members, the regulatory authorities and the community.

## **The Role of Hazardous Area Installation Auditors in Queensland**

At least two sets of Queensland legislation are important to Queensland Dangerous Goods Consultants. These comprise - The Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act and Regulation and The Electrical Safety Act and Regulation.

A requirement of the Electrical Safety Regulation, which is often only considered at the last minute prior to a Dangerous Goods Package Store or other facility being commissioned, is that a Queensland Government Accredited Hazardous Area Auditor must inspect and approve the electrical installation in a hazardous area prior to connection of the electrical installation to a power source within the dangerous goods facility. Further information can be found at

<http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/fair-and-safe-work/electrical-safety/inspections/role-of-an-electrical-auditor#hazardous>

## **Fire Protection Contracting and the Queensland Building Services Authority**

From 1 January 2011 it will be compulsory for all practitioners undertaking or supervising fire protection work in Queensland to hold the appropriate fire protection

**license. Queensland introduced fire occupational licenses from 1 January 2009.**

**The Queensland Building Services Authority (BSA) fire occupational licensing means all practitioners carrying out or supervising fire protection work require a license. Everybody doing this work requires this license (or a nominee supervisor or contractor license), regardless of his or her employment status.**

**The 'Building Fire Safety in Queensland Budget Accommodation Report' was released after the Childers backpacker hostel fire. The report made recommendations to tighten up the fire protection industry. As a result of the findings, the QBSA act was amended to include an occupational licensing scheme for the installation, maintenance or certification of a fire protection system for a building. Extensive consultation was carried out with the fire protection industry and other stakeholders before the Queensland parliament passed the legislative changes. Fire protection work is defined under the QBSA Act as any of the following, for a building or part of a building:**

- The installation, restoration, repair or maintenance of a fire protection system**
- The preparation of any certificate, statement or record (i) relating to the installation, restoration, repair or maintenance of a fire protection system; or (ii) stating whether a fire protection system meets a standard, requirement or specification**
- The design of a fire protection system**
- The development, approval or certification of emergency evacuation procedures for a controlled evacuation during a fire emergency**
- The formulation or provision of alternative solutions relating to fire safety**
- The inspection or investigation of, and the provision of advice or a report about, compliance with the Building Act 1975 or the Building Code of Australia relating to fire safety.**

**The Queensland Chapter of the AIDGC has approached the QBSA in relation to implications to its members. A ruling has not been provided by QBSA at the time of this article being released. Further information will be provided in 2011.**

**Frank Mendham, MAIDGC**