



N° 226 E – News from July/August 2014

Emergency response

Cedre pursued its assistance assignment following the rupture of a pipeline in Normandy in May, notably through field assignments. We were also called upon by the French maritime authority for the Mediterranean to provide elements on the behaviour of the pollutant and the most appropriate response techniques to be deployed in the event of a leak as the *Costa Concordia* convoy passed by Corsica. Requests for spill response advice mainly concerned small-scale spills: crude oil from a wharf in the West Indies, engine oil in a harbour in Brittany, diesel in ports in the Vendée and Bouches-du-Rhône areas, catalytic exhaust product in the Loire-Atlantique area. Cedre also responded to requests following an incident on a farm storing pesticides and as part of response to a previous spill having affected a well used to supply drinking water for cattle.

We also answered enquiries on the preventive measures to be implemented in different situations: recovery of vehicles from a channel of the Rhone, potential transshipment of oil off Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, a leaking wreck in Canada and work on a heavy fuel oil tank in a port area.

Finally, an industrial firm placed Cedre on alert as part of an exercise simulating a blow-out on a platform in central Africa.

In short

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- ▶ **European Researchers' Night**, Friday 26th September at Océanopolis, from 7 pm
- ▶ **9th Sea Tech Week**, 13th - 17th October 2014, Brest
- ▶ **INTERSPILL 2015**, 24th - 26th March 2015, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Practical training course for OSRL

Cedre ran a three-and-a-half day practical training course on its premises from 30th June to 3rd July for 14 OSRL staff. The team was able to practise a range of techniques through different workshops with release of real oil products: containment and recovery of diesel on a section of road, protection of water intakes and filtration systems, pebble clean-up, rock clean-up, clean-up of a sandy beach. This course gave rise to many technical discussions between trainers and trainees.

New recruit in the Studies and Training Department

Cedre has just recruited a chemical engineer. William Giraud, who joined the Studies and Training Department in August, will be one of your contacts for training and contingency planning. This department now has a 10-strong team of engineers with complementary skills to fully meet its clients' requirements. This recruitment illustrates Cedre's efforts to reinforce its capacities in terms of contingency planning and training in chemical risks.

Audit assignment at the TOTAL Additives and Special Fuels plant

Cedre was contracted to develop the oil spill contingency plan for the TOTAL Additives and Special Fuels plant on the banks of the Rhone in Givors. An engineer from Cedre was sent on site from 9th to 11th July to gather the information required for the plan.

Quality certification maintained

Cedre's "stage 2" quality/environment system monitoring audit was conducted on 24th and 25th June. In his report, the auditor only recorded two observations and no non-conformances. Our certification is therefore maintained for standards ISO 9001: 2008 Quality Management and ISO 14001: 2004 Environmental Management.

Response product validation

Upon request by the firm HALECO, the universal sorbents "USG-70GEN" and "UPG-73GEN", in the form of pads, were tested by Cedre's laboratory. Given their performance, they have been added to the list of universal sorbents published by Cedre, available on www.cedre.fr

A new Maritime Prefect for the Atlantic

On Friday 29th August, a hail and farewell ceremony to bid farewell to the Vice-Admiral of the Fleet Jean Pierre Labonne and to welcome the new Maritime Prefect for the Atlantic, Vice-Admiral Emmanuel de Oliveira, was held in the court of honour of the admiralty in Brest. During this moving ceremony, the Chief of Staff of the French Navy, Admiral Bernard Rogel, and the General Secretary for the Sea, Mr Michel Aymeric, paid tribute to the Vice-Admiral of the Fleet Jean Pierre Labonne's 38 years of service to the Navy and French State. The ceremony was attended by many leading civilian and military figures in the maritime world. The Maritime Prefect is the representative at sea of the Prime Minister and of each of the members of Government. He is invested with general police powers at sea and is responsible for overseeing the application of and abidance by laws, regulations and government decisions.

REMPEC reorganisation

Following the decision made at the 18th ordinary meeting of contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention (in Istanbul, Turkey, 3rd-6th December 2013), the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea, REMPEC, has been restructured as a consequence of the economic challenges for the Barcelona Convention and its Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). Consequently, Mr F. Hébert, Director, Ms F. Borg, Clerk/Secretary and Mr M. Bonello, Technical Assistant, terminated their contracts at the end of June 2014. As expressed by the international, and in particular Mediterranean, community, the whole of the team at Cedre acknowledges the exceptional work conducted by Mr Frédéric Hébert as Director of REMPEC since January 2006. We would like to underline here the excellent relations between our two centres which have been demonstrated on many occasions during spill response interventions or involvement in research projects, guide development projects and training courses, as for instance in the case of the POSOW project. We sincerely wish Mr Hébert "fair winds and following seas" and hope our paths will cross again soon.

A change of Director for CEPOL

Captain Jean-Bernard Cerruti, Director of the French Navy's **Centre of Practical Expertise in Pollution Response** has retired from active service. We wish him a happy retirement and extend a warm welcome to the new Director, Commander Marc Reina, who is due to assume command on 1st September 2014.

SPSE sentenced for oil pollution in the Plaine de la Crau

After a 5-year trial, the *Société du Pipeline Sud-Européen* (SPSE), found guilty of pollution charges, was sentenced on 28th July to a €77,000 fine and almost €400,000 in damages by Tarascon criminal court. This sum was far lower than that called for by the prosecutor and than claims from the 12 civil parties, including the *Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels* which decided to appeal on 4th August. As a reminder, the rupture of an SPSE pipeline ([Newsletter n° 171](#) and [Inland Waters Technical Newsletter n° 2](#) from 2009 and [n°18](#) from 2012) caused a spill of approximately 5,400 m³ of crude oil in the Coussouls de Crau nature reserve (Bouches-du-Rhône) on 7th August 2009, polluting 5 hectares of ground in a unique environment, as this is the only arid steppe in Western Europe. This incident caused operation of the pipeline to be suspended and major clean-up and pollution monitoring operations were rapidly implemented. The pipeline was reopened in January 2010.

Arrival of the *Costa Concordia* in Genoa

Since grounding and capsizing in Giglio, Italy, on 13th January 2012, the wreck of the *Costa Concordia* has been undergoing very advanced engineering work, widely covered by the media. Readers will recall the hull of the vessel being righted in September 2013, viewed in live streaming across the world (see [Newsletter n°216](#)). This summer, on 14th July, the ferry, surrounded by gigantic floating tanks or "sponsons", rose around two metres and was successfully refloated. The vessel was thus able to be towed away towards the port of Genoa. The 280-km journey took 5 days and was closely monitored. Over 500 people were involved and 14 vessels followed the wreck's slow progress at an average speed of 2 knots. The wreck arrived at its destination on 27th July in the port of Pra-Voltri, where it is to be dismantled through a 2-year project. The cost of salvage operations is currently estimated at €1.5 billion (righting, refloating, stabilisation, transfer to Genoa, dismantling).

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