



Cedre NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication
by the Centre of Documentation, Research and
Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution

N° 188 E – News from February 2011

Emergency response

In addition to participation in an exercise organised by the MIC, the response centre focused on the biodegradability in winter conditions of a plasticizer, diisononyl phthalate, released into a lake. In order to test the "communication" part of the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) in the event of a spill at sea, the MIC ran an exercise on 15 and 16 February, inviting all member States to respond to a fictional request for resources. 22 coastal States accepted the challenge alongside EMSA. The Cedre response centre therefore grasped this opportunity to use this information system. Following this initial test, an engineer from the Emergency Response Department took part in a tabletop exercise on 28 and 29 March in Brussels.

In short

VISITS

On 14th, visit from two technical advisors from ITOFF

DATES FOR THE DIARY

It is still possible to register for the
► **Cedre Information Day** "The future of dispersant use", 17 March 2011, INHESJ, Paris.

Programme and registration form

► **Safer Seas** "Towards safer and cleaner seas"

10-13 May 2011, Quartz, Brest

► **International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC)**

23-26 May 2011, Portland, Oregon, USA

Conference in Quebec

Cedre was invited by the *Institut Maritime du Québec* and the Canadian Coast Guard to present "the French experience of chemical tanker accidents" at a conference held in Quebec on 2 and 3 February. This event, which brought together some thirty Canadian and international speakers, was also the opportunity to discuss the follow-up to the **Deepwater Horizon** spill with representatives of the US Coast Guard and NOAA. It appears that considerable analysis work remains to be carried out to understand the effects and consequences of surface and subsurface dispersant application. The oil budget – proportions dispersed, evaporated, recovered, burnt... – is apparently still a source of heated debate, not to say downright disagreement. An inter-agencies investigation is to be launched to reassess the national dispersant use policy in the US. The conference programme is available online at [Passeport Maritime](#).

Exploration drilling off French Guiana

According to the Ministry order of 29 May 2001, an exclusive oil and gas exploration permit, known as the Guyane Maritime Permit, was granted to Planet Oil Ltd by the Prefect of Guiana for a 5 year period. According to the order of 2 July 2007, this permit was transferred and prolonged for Hardmann Petroleum France SAS, which announced on 26 November 2010 its intention to conduct an exploration drilling operation named "Guyane Maritime Eastern Slope 1" and designated Tullow Oil Plc as the operator. Cedre answered many questions raised by Tullow Oil Plc in its preparation for the impact study and contingency plan it had to provide to DEAL Guyane and DRIRE Aquitaine to obtain the drilling authorisation. Following the advice issued by the different departments and organisations consulted and in the report by DEAL Guyane dated 28 February 2011, the Prefecture of Guiana published order n°370 SG/2D/2B of 3 March 2011, completing and amending order n°40-1/SG/2D/2B/ENV of 13 January 2011 advising Hardman Petroleum France SAS of its notice of commencement of exploration work and enacting the general and technical provisions relating to the work. The title V of this order determines the provisions for the protection of the marine environment. The Liberian-registered drilling rig *ENSCO 8503*, with 99 crew members, arrived in Guiana in late February. The 4300 m drilling programme will be conducted in waters 2000 m deep, 153 km from the coast. Drilling operations are scheduled to begin on 30 June 2011. Readers are reminded that Tullow Oil is a member of the oil cooperatives OSR and CCA.

Exercise in Gabon

As part of their support programme for the countries of West and Central Africa, GI-WACAF and IMO/IPIECA, in collaboration with the Gabonese authorities, planned a national spill response exercise in May 2011. Cedre, consulted and selected by GI-WACAF to prepare and lead this exercise, commissioned the head of the Contingency Planning team to spend a week working in Libreville and Port-Gentil, to facilitate the organisation. This exercise will be the opportunity for the Gabonese industry and State to test their respective tools and procedures with a view to continuous improvement.

Products approved by Cedre's laboratory

- The dispersant SUPERDISPERSANT-25, marketed by Oil Slick Dispersants Limited, UK, was added to the list of dispersants approved by Cedre's laboratory for use at sea to respond to oil spills. The complete list is available at www.cedre.fr
- Two new floating sorbents, CORKSORB G01006 and CORKSORB G02025, for Amorim Isolamentos S.A, Portugal, now feature on our list of sorbents for use at sea or on inland waters. The complete list is available at www.cedre.fr
Response products are added to Cedre's list for a duration of 3 years from the issue of the test results by Cedre, renewable upon request by the beneficiary subject to no changes being made to the product or procedure criteria.

Visit to Vigie Aviation

On 10 February, two engineers from Cedre visited the premises of the company Vigie Aviation, in Pluguffan, which offers aerial surveillance and observation services. This company has a DA42 Guardian aircraft equipped with a visible and infrared camera. Unfortunately, the prevailing weather conditions that day prevented us from flying.

Norway: oil in a marine reserve

On 17 February, the Icelandic container ship *Godafoss*, with 430 containers and 800 tonnes of fuel onboard, grounded south of Norway, within Norway's only marine reserve. From the following day, despite rapid intervention of the Norwegian Coast Guards and assistance from the Swedish Coast Guards, an unknown quantity of fuel escaped from the tanks, reaching Aker Island. Less than a week after the incident, refloating operations began, and fuel recovery, made difficult by the ice, fog and cold, is currently underway. Almost 200 birds were affected by this spill.

Rhine: sulphuric acid threat

A double-hull tanker barge, the *Waldhof*, transporting 2,000 tonnes of sulphuric acid, capsized for unknown reasons, on 19 January, between Koblenz and Mainz (Germany), near the Lorelei rock. This is a particularly dangerous place, due to strong currents and the narrowness of the river. Two crew members were reported missing and the Rhine was closed to shipping for around 3 weeks, blocking over 400 boats upstream. No leaks of sulphuric acid were detected. The *Waldhof* was refloated on 13 February, with difficulty, in particular due to the high water level in the river. Four cranes were needed to stabilise the barge and navigation on the Rhine was able to be reopened.

Iran: pipeline leak

On 5 February, the pollution of 500 hectares of farm land and around twenty kilometres of coastline in the Persian Gulf, in the south of Iran, was reported, due to an explosion followed by the rupture of an aging pipeline in the port of Deylam. Clean-up operations have begun and are expected to last around 2 months.

Ecuador: record-breaking fine

On 14 February, the US oil group Chevron was fined 8 billion dollars by an Ecuadorian judge for environmental damages, almost doubling the previous record held by ExxonMobil for the *Exxon Valdez* spill. This was not a case of accidental marine pollution, but rather chronic pollution on land and in watercourses, caused by operations conducted in Ecuador by Texaco, a company belonging to the Chevron group. Chevron appealed on 17 February, suspending the execution of the verdict.

Azerbaijan: thermal oil cures

The French newspaper Le Télégramme reported on 16 February thermal cures are offered in the city of Naftalan to those suffering from arthritis, with a 10 minute bath in a crude oil at 40°C containing naphthalene, which is said to work wonders. The article specifies that customers are blissfully unaware of the carcinogenic risk, despite warnings from foreign experts.

[Unsubscribe from the Cedre Newsletter](#)

Think green - don't print out your emails!

[Legal information](#)

[Contact us](#)