

ROPME SEA KAPS



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EXPERT MEETING ON OIL SPILL RESPONSE PRODUCTS



(Doha, Qatar, 9 -10 March 1998)

INTRODUCTION

Environmental problems from oil related activities may accidentally occur at all stages of the oil industry, from exploration, to production, transport and the final use. This being the case, the subject of oil spill response has been and still is of priority to the oil industry, port authorities and the environmental agencies of our Region.

Due to the importance of the subject-matter, ROPME organized four technical meetings during 1985 and 1986, and concluded a list of approved oil spill response products for the Region. Also, the "Codes of Practice for the Use of Oil Spill Dispersants in the ROPME Sea Area" was finalized in these meetings and was published by ROPME Secretariat in 1987.

The Expert Meeting on Oil Spill Response Products was held in Doha upon the kind invitation of NFP-Qatar during 9 -10 March 1989. The main objective of the Meeting which was convened in accordance with Decision CM 9/10 of the Ninth Meeting of ROPME Council (June 1996), was to review the revised list of ROPME oil spill chemicals, the revised codes of practice for the use of oil dispersants, and recent advances in the development of oil spill products and their application. The Meeting was attended by senior experts from oil industry and environment protection administration of Member States, representatives of GAOCMAO, ROPME Consultant and professional staff of ROPME Secretariat.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Meeting was opened by the welcome address of H.E. Mr. Ali Bin Saad Al-Kawari, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture. He emphasized the importance of protecting the sea not only to preserve the marine life but also to safeguard the quality of sea-water for desalination and other uses. He further added that oil dispersants and other chemicals should be used in support of the combating efforts, provided they are not harmful to the marine environment.

The statement of H.E. Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi, Executive Secretary of ROPME, was delivered on his behalf by Dr. Mahmood Y. Abdulraheem, Coordinator (Tech. & Admin.). He stated that the use of oil spill response products particularly for resources with high sensitivity to oil or to the dispersed oil in the ROPME Sea Area still remains a challenging option. Accordingly, ROPME has been supporting the use of oil dispersants only when considered as the most appropriate response for a given spill. He also emphasized the need to update the current ROPME List and the Codes of Practice to keep up with recent developments in this field.

DELIBERATIONS OF THE MEETING

The following reports were presented by ROPME Consultant for deliberation of the Meeting:

Draft Revised Codes of Practice for the Use of Oil Dispersants in the ROPME Sea Area

Draft ROPME List of Oil Spill Response Products

A Review of Recent Advances in Oil Spill Chemicals (draft)

A Review of Recent Advances in the Application of Oil Spill Chemicals (draft)

Having discussed the reports, the comments and suggestions of the Meeting were recorded on the texts of the four reports for final revision by the Consultant. The reports are to be published by ROPME Secretariat for circulation among government authorities, oil companies and port authorities in the Region.

ROPME LIST OF APPROVED OIL SPILL CHEMICALS

The following oil dispersants as approved by at least two internationally recognized authorities were placed on the Revised List of Oil Spill Response Chemicals for Use in the ROPME Sea Area:

COREXIT 9500
COREXIT 9527
DASIC SLICKGONE NS
DISPOLENE 36S
DISPOLENE 38S
FINASOL OSR-52
GAMLEN OD 4000 (PE 998)
INIPOL IP 80
INIPOL IP 90
INIPOL IPC

Nalco/Exxon Chemicals, USA
Nalco/Exxon Chemicals, USA
Dasic International UK
SEPPIC, Paris, France
SEPPIC, Paris, France
Fina Chemicals
Gamlen Industries, France
CECA SA, Paris, France
CECA SA, Paris, France
CECA SA, Paris, France

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Meeting emphasized the preventive aspects of oil spill contingency planning, underscoring the importance of applying environmental risk assessment. In addition, the Meeting made the following recommendations:

- Mechanical oil containment and collection equipment should represent the first line of defense applied in oil spill incidents.
- NFPs are to incorporate into their National Contingency Plans sensitivity maps of areas under their jurisdiction. ROPME is to incorporate nationally recognized sensitive areas into a Regional Sensitivity Map. In both cases, dispersant application zones should be clearly identified. National Contingency Plans should also include specific measures to protect desalination plants in cases of oil spill emergencies. Monitoring of hydrocarbon levels near sea water intakes during combating of oil spills is recommended.
- ROPME is to encourage Member States to support national research centres in establishing dispersant toxicity testing facilities.
- The toxicity and effectiveness certificates of products submitted for inclusion into the Regional List of Approved Chemicals should also include other product details, e.g. physical and chemical properties, as well as guidelines for storage and waste disposal.
- ROPME's policy to enlist oil dispersants will require the approval of at least two recognized authorities of CEDRE, EPA or MAFF. Also, shoreline cleaning agents which may come under different classifica-

tion or categories (e.g. surface washing agents, shoreline cleaners, surface cleaners or even as dispersants) are to be approved by two of these authorities. Meantime, the use of sorbents that are known to be effective and not having chemical effect on spilled oil and the marine environment are approved by the ROPME Secretariat.

- Due to the limited information available regarding the effectiveness and fate of biological additives as well as the potential risks of adversely affecting the natural biodiversity when living organisms are introduced, the Meeting recommended that such products at present not to be introduced in the Region. Furthermore, Member States are to encourage research on such products before considering their use as an oil spill combating product in the Region.
- ROPME is to update the Regional List of Oil Spill Chemicals and to revise the List once every three years, taking into consideration international developments and regional experience.
- ROPME (MEMAC) is to continue efforts in organizing Regional exercises on oil spill combating annually on a rotational basis. Emphasis is to be on a given aspect or area of application in each exercise. Advantage should be taken of national exercises to the greatest extent possible in order to reduce cost and encourage sharing of experience among Member States. Dates and venues of exercises are to be circulated well in advance.
- ROPME (MEMAC) is to incorporate into future training activities a workshop on aerial surveillance and the application of dispersants. Training should be aimed at air-pilots involved in national oil spill surveillance and combating plans.

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