

## Book reviews

**Proceedings of the Thirtieth Arctic and Marine Oilspill Program (AMOP) Technical Seminar, Environment Canada, Ottawa, Canada, two vols. (2007). 943 pp., available in both English and French**

My review of these proceedings of (to the best of my knowledge) the longest running oilspill conference has occurred at the same time as Canada's Prime Minister announced plans for increased government activity in the Arctic in response to actions taken by other foreign governments who indicate interest in the area – reportedly because of significant potential oil reserves. And oil spill in the Arctic has long been (as the title of these proceedings indicates) the interest of Environment Canada scientists.

These proceedings contain 55 papers grouped into the following 11 sections:

- Physical and chemical properties of oil and behaviour of spilled oil (5 papers).
- Oil spill treating agents (6 papers).
- Activity updates in contingency planning (2 papers).
- Biological effects of oil and hydrocarbons and oil biodegradation/BIOSOLR (6 papers).
- Containment and recovery (5 papers).
- Shoreline protection and cleanup/in-situ burning (2 papers).
- Detection, tracking and remote sensing (3 papers).
- Technical seminar on chemical spills (TSOCS) (11 papers).
- Spill modelling (6 papers).
- Special session – DRDC field trial (7 papers).
- Posters with paper (2 papers).

As may be expected, the authors of the papers are mainly from Environment Canada but there are contributions from Russia, the United States, and France. Among the non-governmental presenters were papers contributed by members of oil companies: Exxon-Mobil, Chevron, and BP. I was also pleased to see some university interest in the field with papers contributed from two Canadian and four U.S. universities.

While most of the papers deal with diverse aspects of oil spill behaviour in controlled experiments and its remediation, there were two papers on chemical spills – an HCl incident in Canada and an oil spill burn in Louisiana purposely performed for restoration purposes. These were the only two papers dealing with factual incidents. One other deviation from oil spills was a paper from NOAA discussing the physics of LNG spills. With the increased

shipping of LNG world-wide, this topic is of increasing importance.

Finally, I note that my good friend and an editor of this journal, Merv Fingas, was still an active participant in a number of papers. Even though he has retired from Environment Canada, his legacy continues.

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**Center for Chemical Process Safety (an AIChE Industry Technology Alliance), Guidelines for Risk Based Process Safety, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, NJ (2007). 751 pp., Price: US\$ 150.00, ISBN: 978-0-470-16569-0**

The American Institute of Chemical Engineers has been a leader in promoting “a safety culture” for the chemical industry since 1985 with the creation of the Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS). This book is one of several they have generated by the work of its committee members. Like all other CCPS publications, it has been peer reviewed. Reviewers for this publication were from Environment Canada, the US EPA, the UK Health and Safety Executive, and industry.

“The purpose of the RBPS Guidelines is to provide tools that will help process safety professionals build and operate more effective process safety management systems. These guidelines provide guidance on how to (1) design a process safety management system, (2) correct a deficient system, or (3) improve process safety management practices.”

“The RBPS system may encompass all process safety issues for all operations involving the manufacture, use, storage, or handling of hazardous substances or energy.”

In the Executive Summary, the authors outline the text's materials: Chapter 1 provides background information and lays the foundation for this new approach to managing process safety.