WCSS
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2008 FIELD TESTING AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The following initiatives linked to field testing and spill preparedness/response improvements were identified in 2008; reports for each of the following initiatives are available on our website and/or will be posted prior to year end:

Bow Collector Skimmer

As a result of our findings from a 2007 project focused on the assessment of oil spill skimmers, WCSS purchased an advancing brush skimmer (Lamor Bow Collector). In 2008 field testing was required to retrofit the unit to an existing WCSS boat and test the unit in a lake and river environment. The unit was tested in June, 2008 which resulted in several minor modifications and the development of an operations manual for the unit. The unit was demonstrated at 3 Cooperative training exercises and was utilized during an oil spill response on a large reservoir in central Alberta.

Bow Skimmer / Twin Engine Aquadek Workboat

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Inflatable Lake Boom

Another 2007 project was to identify and procure additional lake boom to supplement our existing lake boom inventory. As a result of the assessment WCSS purchased 500 meters of inflatable boom that is stored on a boom reel that is mounted on a trailer. The lake boom was deployed at the June 2008 field trials and demonstrated at 3 Cooperative training exercises, utilized at an oil spill and as a precautionary containment device on Lake Wabamun for a large power company.

WCSS Lake Boom Unit

Self- Priming Trash Pump

Difficulties in pumping liquids from the skimming device to a collection tank is a common issue at oil spill containment and recovery operations and at equipment deployment training exercises. WCSS tested a new diesel dive self-priming trash pump in an effort to identify how we might improve our current pumping capabilities.

Self-Priming Pump

In-Stream Anchors

As a result of experiencing in-stream anchor failures at equipment deployment exercises and at the Lake Wabamun spill that occurred in 2005 some redesigning and testing work was done and tested in 2008. In addition, this issue was reviewed with oil spill response organizations in Europe and the United States. It is anticipated that anchor testing will continue in 2009 in conjunction with Cooperative training exercises.

WCSS Rake In-Stream Anchors

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Winter Spills – Oilspill Containment and Recovery on an Ice Sheet

For many years the upstream petroleum industry has been working to improve our spill response capability in winter conditions, particularly on rivers/lakes with an ice sheet. Several improvements in safety have been incorporated into our contingency plans and implemented in our training exercises and various ice cutting techniques have been identified. In addition, WCSS now have airboats that are very effective in winter conditions. In 2008 Cooperative Areas M and H held a winter exercise to evaluate new cutting methods and train area member company representatives. In addition WCSS are currently monitoring the development of the ice-router and expect to see a new proto-type in 2008/09.

Ice-Slotting on an Ice Sheet

Continuous Improvements

Part of WCSS's strategy to ensure that our spill preparedness program is continuously improving is to monitor what other similar organizations are doing, what new equipment is on the market and capitalizing on lessons learned from spill case studies. In 2008 WCSS sent several delegates to the International Oilspill Conference in the United States; those delegates will provide a report at the November annual Cooperative Chairman's meeting and a summary will be provided on the website later this year. In addition the WCSS Managing Director attended an in-land spill response training

course in Southampton UK and attended a large scale emergency response exercise in Delaware; a report of his findings is also available on our website for review.

HQS Delaware Bay River Cooperative