Regional Response Team/Northwest Area Committee

Inland Oil Spill Prevention

General

The Environmental Protection Agency's Oil Pollution Prevention Regulation was published in the Federal Register on Dec. 11, 1973, and was promulgated under Section 311(j)(1)(C) of the Clean Water Act. The regulation is identified as Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 112 (40 CFR 112). It was amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and requires facilities that are subject to the regulation to prepare and implement a written plan to prevent any discharge of oil into navigable waters or adjoining shorelines of the United States. The plan is referred to as a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan.

Purpose

The purpose is to prevent discharge of oil into navigable waters or adjoining shorelines of the United States. The main thrust of the SPCC regulation is prevention as opposed to after-the-fact reactive measures commonly described in Spill Contingency Plans.

Who is Regulated by the SPCC Regulation?

There are three criteria a facility must meet to be regulated by the SPCC regulation. These criteria are: 1) the facility must be non-transportation- related, 2) the facility must have an aboveground total storage capacity greater than 1,320 gallons or a total underground storage capacity greater than 42,000 gallons, and 3) there must be a reasonable expectation of a discharge to navigable waters or adjoining shorelines of the United States.

Who Prepares the SPCC Plan?

An SPCC Plan may be written by the owner or operator of the facility or his/her authorized environmental consultant, engineer or scientist, but it must be certified by a registered Professional Engineer. By certifying the SPCC Plan, the Professional Engineer, having examined the facility, attests that the SPCC Plan has been prepared in accordance with good engineering practices.

Where Can I Get Help on Preparing an SPCC Plan?

More information is available on the web at http://www.epa.gov/oilspill or by calling 206-553-1671.