

## **1100.60        WELLS AND WATER POLLUTION**

### **1100.61        SURFACE WATER**

**"ANY"** construction projects involving activities and/or equipment on or near water need to have contingency plans for containment of discharges into or onto the water. 40 CFR 116 defines a discharge as: "Including, but not limited to, any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, or dumping a controlled material or substance into or onto the water."

Further, 40 CFR 117 states any person in charge of a vessel or an onshore or an offshore facility shall, as soon as they have knowledge of any discharge of a controlled substance from such vessel or facility in quantities equal to or exceeding the reportable quantity, immediately notify the appropriate agency of the U.S. Government.

#### **What Does This Mean?**

Basically if you are working on, above, or around water (river, creek, lake, or pond) and discharge (spill) a listed or regulated waste, you **MUST** report this discharge and **IMMEDIATELY** take action to contain and clean it up.

#### **Who Do We Report To?**

Initial reporting shall be to the Project Manager. The Project Manager must relay this information "as soon as possible" to the Construction Division. Be prepared to give the Construction Division specifics like: who, what, where, when, how much, of what and what is being done to contain and clean it up.

#### **Reportable Quantities**

A reportable quantity depends on what has been spilled. 40 CFR 117 lists Federal requirements for Reportable Quantities (RQ's) and 567 IAC Chapter 41 contains others regulated by DEQ. Since it is almost impossible to "after-the-fact" quantify anything spilled into the water, the following will be field guidelines:

- ANY fuel or petroleum products which produce a noticeable sheen have to be reported to the Construction Division. Obviously, some discretion will have to be used since a single drop of oil will produce a sheen. One drop is probably not significant but one 3 L "drop" is.
- ANY paint or paint waste will be reportable. Again some discretion is needed, but there is very little latitude. That is why some type of emergency containment system is recommended for bridge painting projects over water.
- ALL occurrences of herbicides and/or pesticides discharged into water have to be reported.
- ANY foreign liquids such as curing compound discharged into water have to be reported.

### What is Meant by Contain and Clean-up?

*SSHC Subsection 107.01* notifies the contractor that we expect them to conduct their operations in a manner which minimizes potential water (and air) pollution. Further, for operations which have potential for water pollution, it is recommended to ask contractors how they plan to contain, mitigate, and remediate spills which may occur during the project.

It is strongly suggested that contractors develop a spill kit where individual "supplies" are stored in a closed, open headed 55 gallon drum. This "kit" method will assure spill containment supplies are dry, clean, and available when needed. The drum can be used to contain collected wastes for disposal. "Supplies" could include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Containment boom. Boom (skimmer type or sorbent type) should be of sufficient length to encircle a large surface slick. Typically 82 to 115 m should be adequate.
- Floating petroleum absorbent pads. Typically two unused cases of 450 x 450 mm (10 x 10 inch) pads are adequate.
- Water skimmer (dippers) to remove floating solids.
- Emulsifying agent. Several different commercially available emulsifying agents are on the market. This chemical is typically a derivative of detergent and, when sprayed onto the surface, breaks down the surface tension and disperses an oil/petroleum slick. **(NOTE: Emulsifying agents shall be used as a "LAST" resort And then only when a slick cannot be contained or absorbed by some other means.)**
- Absorbent material such as floor dry. Typically a couple of bags are sufficient for most spills on land.
- Waste containers to accumulate and temporarily store wastes.

### 1100.62 WELLS

The Department of Health (DH) has developed rules for plugging and abandoning wells. The rules require that all sealed wells are to be reported by the owner to the DH within 30 days after sealing. They also require a registered well contractor to do the work. This form shall be completed by the contractor and submitted to the Construction Division for forwarding to DH. A copy of the form should be placed in the project file after being completed and signed by the contractor, and registered well contractor. A list of registered well contractors is maintained by DH.