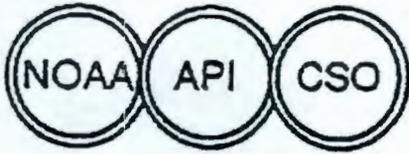


COOPERATIVE NRDA WORKSHOP

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NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE
COASTAL STATES ORGANIZATION

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To <i>Larry Gadbois</i>	From <i>Alex Teimouri</i>
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Dept.	Phone # <i>376-6222</i>
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Dear State Trustee,

The Natural Resource Trustees from your State are invited to participate in a workshop on utilizing cooperative natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) procedures in the event of an oil spill or other discharge. The workshop will be one of six to be held at different locations throughout the United States and your State is invited to participate in the Seattle workshop, the afternoon of February 10, 1994 and the morning of February 11, 1994. The workshop is intended as an initial step in developing a cooperative natural resource damage assessment and restoration program between trustees and industry.

NOAA plans to conduct six regional meetings after publication of their proposed NRDA regulations, which is expected to occur in December. Those one and one-half day meetings will augment the ninety day comment period, providing an opportunity for oral as well as written responses to the proposed regulations. The cooperative NRDA workshop will immediately follow the regulation review meetings which will be held on February 9 and the morning of February 10. The workshop will be jointly sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute (API), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Coastal States Organization (CSO).

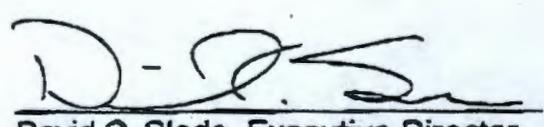
OPA requires the federal government and the oil industry to develop contingency plans for removing oil from the environment in the event of a spill or other discharge. However, there is no requirement in OPA for trustees and industry to produce contingency NRDA plans. Thus, the cooperative effort to organize these workshops has come from a realization that lack of pre-planning will deter cooperation in undertaking damage assessments, and that contingency planning for cooperative assessments is necessary to develop a thoughtful construct within which to operate.

The central premise of these workshops is that a cooperative approach to damage assessment, as opposed to an adversarial one, will lead to earlier restoration of the injured resources and will benefit both trustees and industry. An important function that will be served by the workshops is to establish a working relationship among trustees and industry. If, in the event of a spill, the representatives of the parties have met beforehand and, even tentatively, considered the ground rules for working cooperatively in a scientific investigation, there is a significantly better chance that litigation can be

avoided. This approach can be facilitated by development of a model for cooperation that can be used across the nation. The workshops will consider draft documents necessary to develop such a model.

The co-sponsors recognize that a one-day workshop cannot produce firm agreements and that much will remain to be done afterwards. However, it is hoped that both industry and trustee representative will put cooperative NRDA on their agenda and continue in follow-up efforts to make cooperation a reality. We need your help in identifying specific people in your State Trustee agency(s) who should and can attend this workshop. Please call or write to give us the names of two types of participants: first, someone within your State Trustee agency(s) who can represent the views of the agency; and second, someone who has practical, field experience with damage assessments. We plan to send invitations, accompanied by a workshop agenda and draft documents for pre-workshop review, to those persons you identify .

We need your response by December 6 so that we may contact identified participants with more specific information. If you can provide mailing labels for identified participants, we will appreciate it.



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**SCHEDULE FOR NOAA REGULATION MEETINGS AND COOPERATIVE
NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT
WORKSHOPS**

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NOAA REVIEW MEETING</u>	<u>WORKSHOP</u>
New Orleans, La.	January 10-11 (a.m.)	January 11 (p.m.) -12(a.m.)
Chicago, Il.	January 12-13 (a.m.)	January 13 (p.m.) -14(a.m.)
Atlanta, Ga.	January 24-25 (a.m.)	January 25(p.m.) -26(a.m.)
Boston, Ma.	January 26-27 (a.m.)	January 27 (p.m.) -28 (a.m.)
San Francisco, Ca.	February 7-8 (a.m.)	February 8 (p.m.) -9 (a.m.)
Seattle, Wa.	February 9-10 (a.m.)	February 10 (p.m.) -11 (a.m.)

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JAN 13 1994

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