

“Offshore Wind Oil Spill Response Planning”

Gabrielle G. McGrath, RPS/TetraTech

Matthew Frediani, RPS/TetraTech

Offshore wind is becoming a key source of energy all over the world. With this expanding industry, it is critical to develop plans and implement training and exercises to mitigate risks associated with the oils found on the Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) and Electrical Service Platforms (ESP). Although these volumes are much smaller than the volumes found within offshore oil and gas infrastructure, the oil can still be a threat to socioeconomic and environmentally sensitive sites. A comprehensive Oil Spill Response Plan, including trajectory modeling, must be developed in order to mitigate these threats. By including response modeling for all oil spill response countermeasures planned for an incident in this plan, regulators can be confident that developers created a strategy that will adequately control the situation. In addition to oil spill response planning, offshore wind developers must be prepared to train their staffs on their responsibilities in the event of an incident. Training in oil spill response and incident management must be conducted to meet these requirements. A complete drill and exercise program must also be implemented in order to test the plan and ensure staff understanding of their roles.