Results of Laboratory Tests on the Potential for Using In Situ Burning on Seventeen Crude Oils

James McCourt, Ian Buist
SL Ross Environmental Research Ltd.
Ottawa, ON, Canada
james@slross.com

Sharon Buffington
US Minerals Management Service
Herndon, VA, United States

Abstract

Over the past five years, SL Ross Environmental Research has analyzed seventeen crude oils with a suite of laboratory tests and controlled burns to determine, for each oil, the likelihood of successfully using in situ burning as a response tool.

The studies have provided valuable spill-response information by indicating which of the oils would respond well to in situ burning and which would not. As well, when the results are compared, the trends in oil properties as they relate to applicability of in situ burning provide direction for future research in this area.

The testing was conducted for four organizations: the US Minerals Management Service funded the testing of twelve of the oils; the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Alaska Clean Seas jointly funded the testing of four; and, BP Exploration funded the testing of one. All of the oils tested are produced in the United States.