

April 7, 1997

From: Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston

To: Distribution

Subj: COTP POLICY ON FACILITY RESPONSE PLANS FOR SHIP REPAIR YARDS AND
BARGE STRIPPING FACILITIES

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) requires the submission of response plans to the U.S. Coast Guard for all facilities which could reasonably be expected to cause substantial harm to the environment by discharging oil into or on the navigable waters, adjoining shorelines, or the exclusive economic zone of the United States.

Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart F, Response Plans for Oil Facilities, applies to all Marine Transportation Related (MTR) facilities that handle, store, or transport oil in bulk. Substantial harm facilities are classified as fixed MTR onshore facilities capable of transferring oil to or from a vessel with a capacity of 250 barrels or more. Ship Repair Yards and Barge Stripping Facilities fall under this category and are required to submit a Facility Response Plan (FRP) in accordance with 33 CFR 154.1017.

This policy is established to notify you of your legal responsibilities under OPA 90 and my requirement for applicable Ship Repair Yards and Barge Stripping Facilities to submit a Facility Response Plan to this office no later than December 31, 1997.

For further information regarding this policy, contact the Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston at (713) 671-5106 or the Marine Safety Unit Galveston at (409) 766-3715.

K. J. Eldridge
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston