

The Ohmsett Gazette

The National Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility

We hope that you and your family have remained safe during these unprecedented times. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and facility access restrictions, this edition of the Ohmsett Gazette will be in digital format only to update you on our new announcements, as well as the facility upgrades that have taken place during the shutdown.

A Message from Tom Coolbaugh

I am thrilled to be part of Ohmsett as the Program/Facility Manager and to lead such a passionate, dedicated team of professionals.

Many of you may know me from my past 32 years with ExxonMobil, especially the past 13 of those years when I was involved with oil spill response science and technology. During that period, I had the opportunity to come to Ohmsett a number of times either as part of a team working on a research project or as a presenter during workshops and training sessions. It's always been a highlight having the chance to spend time at the facility.

The past month has flown by as I spent time getting acquainted with the specifics of the facility and its systems as the Program Manager; as opposed

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Ohmsett Welcomes New Facility Manager

Applied Research Associates, Inc. (ARA) is pleased to announce that Dr. Tom Coolbaugh has joined the team as the Program/Facility Manager for Ohmsett – The National Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility. He will have oversight of the day-to-day operations, maintenance, and testing at the facility, while ensuring facility users' needs are met.

Tom Coolbaugh recently retired after 32 years with ExxonMobil Corporation, most recently as the Technology and Advocacy Advisor in the Emergency Preparedness and Response organization. His focus areas have included oil spill response tools such as dispersants, in-situ burning, and remote sensing, in addition to training. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and a PhD in Chemistry, as well as a Master

of Science in the Management of Technology.

"We are excited to have Tom join our team" said ARA Vice President Doug Meegan. "He brings 30-plus years of experience in chemical technology and oil spill research, and is a welcome addition to our company. Tom's extensive background will help expand the testing and measurement capabilities of Ohmsett through innovation and pursuing upgrades to the facility that benefit the research and training community."



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Message from Tom Coolbaugh



to my experiences as a visitor or customer. When making my decision to join the Ohmsett team, three areas stood out most: 1) the “whatever it takes” attitude the team uses to assist customers like you; 2) the opportunity to stay connected with the spill response community, albeit, in a different role; and 3) a chance to

contribute to the ongoing success of the facility and its talented team members in the years to come.

With all of that in mind, I’m excited about the many projects we’ll be working on in the near future such as the tank refurbishment taking place in the summer of 2021, a wave control system upgrade, and a new beach attenuation system, just to name a few. These upgrades will enhance our operational performance and provide improved (and stable) waves our customers expect in a testing environment.

The challenge ahead is a big one for all of us since the COVID-19 pandemic and uncertainties around the

economy have affected so many aspects of our industry. As we look forward, let us know if you have some ideas on how the Ohmsett facility can enhance testing and training experiences in a COVID-19/post-COVID-19 world. We have a number of ideas, but are always ready to listen to people like you who have such a wealth of experience and knowledge.

We have a great team here at Ohmsett, and I’m eager to learn from and work with them as we continue the efforts toward establishing Ohmsett as an International Center of Excellence. Feel free to reach out to any of us at any time www.ohmsett.com/contact.html.

Ohmsett Prepares for Tank Renovation in 2021

The ARA-Ohmsett staff has started the extensive preparations needed to initiate the four-month renovation of the Ohmsett test tank planned for May through September 2021.

During this project planning phase, a structural engineer will conduct an inspection of the facility to identify infrastructure needs, upgrades, and maintenance items.

When the renovations start in May 2021, the tank will be drained, seals replaced, surfaces pressure washed and painted, as well as other maintenance tasks.

If you have suggestions for facility improvements that can be incorporated into the refurbishment, please forward them to our facility manager, Tom Coolbaugh for consideration, tcoolbaugh@ohmsett.com or 732-866-7285.



The Ohmsett tank will undergo planned renovations next year and will be offline from May through September 2021. Book your project today to lock in your preferred dates.

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Facility Upgrades During the COVID Shutdown

With restricted access to Ohmsett due to the pandemic, the staff has taken this opportunity to implement a number of facility improvements prior to the return of our customers.

Safety Upgrades and New Chlorinator

To safely operate and maintain the Ohmsett facility, the staff replaced the northeast deck eyewash station, purchased personal flotation devices, replaced four tank-side safety rescue ladders, and replaced the west staircases

going from the tank deck to the paved parking lot.

Additionally, the chlorinator was replaced with a new system that oxidizes chloride to hypochlorite to prevent marine growth in the test basin.



State-of-the-art Weather Station

One of the recent improvements is a state-of-the-art weather station with sonic sensors that record wind speed and direction, air temperature, relative humidity and barometric pressure; a tipping rain bucket gauge to measure precipitation; and a pyrometer to measure solar energy. The new system will help correlate environmental events to Ohmsett system operations during testing.



Legacy Oil Management

Ohmsett staff disposed of facility waste oil which will be recycled for various other uses. After oil was removed from the tank farm, the oil storage tanks were cleaned and inspected, and the inline heater and duplex strainer were replaced.



The Ohmsett Gazette is published biannually to update our readers on testing, training, and research activities at the facility.

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