



A worker cleans up oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill along the Northern shores of Barataria Bay in Plaquemines Parish, La., using a Wilden AODD pump.

Photo: The Associated Press

Pumps Play a Role in the Coastal Cleanup

Michelle Segrest

Various pumping technologies aid the efforts to repair the damage caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Among isolated spots of more than 1,200 miles of the beaches of Prince William Sound, Alaska's environment still suffers the effects of the Exxon Valdez disaster that dumped 11 million gallons of fresh crude into the sea two decades ago.

Though there have been far bigger spills, the Exxon Valdez disaster ranks as the most devastating to marine life in North America, according to a recent report in *The Christian Science Monitor* (May 13, 2010).

Many experts believe the April 20, 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico Oil

Spill will prove to be an even more devastating tragedy.

For five months, the ruptured

well poured millions of gallons of crude oil into the Gulf until BP was finally able to seal the well with a cement plug on September 19. But, like the lasting effects of the Exxon Valdez, the damaging effects could linger for decades.

Within a few days after the incident, Thompson Pump Company mobilized its Emergency Response Team (ERT) to provide pumping equipment, supplies, manpower and a wealth of tactical knowledge to the cleanup efforts in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. Thompson's ERT is currently working in both deep and shallow waters throughout the Gulf—as well as in rivers and streams in the bayous and marshes—using more than 100 pumps, hoses and specialized skimming devices to facilitate oil containment, recovery and transfer.

“We are allocating enormous resources to attack this problem with the intention of enabling the citizens in the affected areas to resume their normal lives as quickly as possible,” says Bill Thompson, president of Thompson Pump, a company with 40 years of experience in disaster



St. Bernard Parrish, La., coastline cleanup.

Photo: Thompson Pump Co.



Photo: Thompson Pump Co.

Thompson Pump 6Vs preparing to be deployed on barges.

relief, including efforts with the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster.

Wilden Pump & Engineering, LLC, is another company involved in the efforts. Its air-operated, double-diaphragm pumps are being used for critical skimming and transfer applications.

“As a company, our hearts go out to the victims of this disaster,” says Denny Buskirk, Wilden’s vice president and general manager. “Wilden is proud to be part of the efforts, and we hope to see a speedy and thorough cleanup throughout the entire Gulf Coast region.”

Richard Bergeron, president of Houma Valve Service, Inc., a Wilden distributor says these pumps are being used for transfer of oil and wastewater, to skim the oil off the water into a barge and for transfer from a barge to a tank truck. “They would also be used for diesel fuel transfer to help refuel the boats,” he says.

Michelle Segrest is editor of Upstream Pumping Solutions. Please send any information you may have regarding pumps used in the oil spill cleanup efforts to her at msegrest@pump-zone.com.



Photo: Thompson Pump Co.

Workers installing Thompson pumps onto transfer barges.

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Advertiser Name	R.S. #	Page
The ABB Group	120	43
ATC Diversified Electronics	121	47
BLACOH Fluid Control, Inc.	122	10
Cudd Energy Services	110	BC
Dragon	111	5
Flowserve	112	3
FMC Technologies	100	28-29
Gardner Denver	114	19
General Pump	127	23
Kimray, Inc.	123	11
LUDECA, Inc.	128	13
Peterson Instruments	126	9
Racine Federated Inc.	124	49
seepex, Inc.	125	17
Weir Oil and Gas	101	IFC
White Star Pump Co.	115	IBC
 Product Showcase		
DiscFlo Corp.	132	52
Leistritz Corp.	131	53
LUDECA, Inc.	133	52
Peterson Instruments	138	53
Pinnacle, a Halliburton business line	134	53
Weir SPM	135	53
Weir SPM	136	53
Weir SPM	137	53

* Ad index is furnished as a courtesy and no responsibility is assumed for incorrect information.