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E. De la Garza

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news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE---6 August 1990

CORPUS OIL SPILL SCHOOL IN FEDERAL PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 just passed by Congress names Texas A & M University's National Spill Control School in Corpus Christi as the provider of training and research activities Congressman Kika de la Garza announced today. Initial funding for the Oil Pollution Research and Development Program in which the National Spill School will participate is \$27 million.

"The current oil spill in Galveston is only the latest example of a long series of similar disasters that have soiled beaches, killed wildlife, damaged fishing areas and endangered the public," Congressman de la Garza said.

The Oil Pollution Act authorizes a total of \$1 billion for oil spill problems and prevention research and was worked out in conference sessions between thirteen House and Senate committees that have environmental concerns. Representative de la Garza said that the cost of the Pollution Act will be "industry financed" and come from a 5-cent per barrel levy placed on all foreign and domestic oil delivered to refineries in the United States. This small fee is not expected to impact on the price of domestic gasoline.

Corpus Christi's National Spill Control School will be asked to assist in developing new technologies to protect public and animal health and safety from oil discharges. It will also be expected to help develop methods and standards for protecting personnel involved in cleaning up spills.

The School was started in 1974 as a joint project of the Corpus Christi Area Oil Spill Control Association and Corpus Christi State University under a \$350,000 contract with a Federal agency that is now the Department of Energy. There also were grants from the City of Corpus Christi and the Port of Corpus Christi. In addition to studying at the School, students get hands-on training at spills and oil installations in the U.S. and overseas.

"The National Spill Control School is the leader in this field," the South Texas Congressman said, "so it is good to see such an outstanding local institution get recognized by Congress for its expertise and be named in such important legislation."

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