



ITEM OF INTEREST

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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CRREL partners to detect Alaska offshore oil spills

CRREL's Leonard Zabilansky, a research civil engineer with CRREL's Ice Engineering Research Group, will co-host an oil spill detection visitor's day on 3 March with partners from D.F. Dickins Associates and Boise State University.

The day's event will be held onsite and participants will view ongoing trials within CRREL's Geophysics Research Facility. This refrigerated facility provides an effective environment to accurately reproduce ice under controlled conditions in an outside environment, as it would normally occur in nature. The salt water ice produced for this mission is in excess of 1 meter thick. Oil has been injected in containment hoops under the ice to simulate a spill in order to evaluate state-of-the-art radar technology to detect such spills under arctic ice.

This new research initiative is designed as an extension to the ongoing Joint Industry Program *Detecting oil on and under sea ice using ground penetrating radar: development of a new airborne system*. Those invited include program sponsors, the U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's oil spill response. This is a seven-partner pooled funding project.

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