

## **Companies discuss new ways to tackle oil spills**

(The Daily Express, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006)

A new policy on the use of dispersants in oil spills is expected to be formulated by ARPEL—the Regional Association of Oil and Natural Gas Companies.

Members of the organization met in private session earlier this week at Cara Suites, Claxton Bay, to discuss a formula that would be acceptable to the Caribbean and Latin America.

The two-day workshop was asked by Petrotrin's executive chairman Malcolm Jones to deal with the issues since oil spills could be costly and did "endless" damage to the environment.

Jones said apart from the policy on dispersants, Petrotrin had already started discussions with the relevant authorities to ensure speedy delivery of goods arriving in Trinidad for use in oil spills.

"We have asked that Customs pre-approval airport utilization and Immigration clearance of oil spill response equipment receive a rapid response from the relevant authorities."

Jones said the objective was to develop a contingency plan, which will form part of the national contingency plan.

Kelvin Ramnath, manager, Health, Safety and Environment at Petrotrin, told the Saturday Express that when the plan has been formulated the matter will be discussed with the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) before it is put into practice.