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From: Sustainable Futures Institute

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Subject: SFI Speaker Series: Tina Behr-Andres, “Oil Spill Response Experience: *Exxon Valdez* to BP *Deepwater Horizon*”

As a featured guest for the 2013 Sustainable Futures Institute’s Speaker Series, Christina Behr-Andres, Ph.D., P.E. (pictured, right), visited Michigan Tech’s campus on April 23rd to share her experience in oil spill response and environmental recovery.



Behr-Andres was involved in the remediation efforts that were necessary in the years following the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill in 1989. When the *Deepwater Horizon* oil drilling rig exploded in 2004, Behr-Andres was called upon to advise the Federal Government’s Science Team for the *Deepwater Horizon* BP Oil Spill Response. The team worked around the clock for several weeks, developing and testing a multitude of innovative capping options. Behr-Andres said that they were always conscious of the continuous oil flow and the effect it had on local livelihood, the national economy, and the global environment. She shared,

“There were fewer variables during the *Exxon Valdez* spill response process; we knew exactly how much oil was on board and we could use best practices from previous tanker spills to contain the oil. With *Deepwater*, there were no best practices. The explosion was located much closer to human development than any other. The spill was much larger than any other, oil continued to escape, and hurricanes made access difficult.”

Eighty-six days after the initial explosion, the team’s final solution, a cap weighing 75 tons was installed and the spill was contained.

Behr-Andres holds over twenty years of professional experience in engineering academe, private-sector technical consulting, and national laboratory research management. She specializes in management of legacy wastes from nuclear weapons production; marine and terrestrial oil spill response; industrial and hazardous waste management and wastewater treatment; and contaminated site remediation. Currently, Behr-Andres is an Executive Advisor to the Principal Associate Director of Science, Technology and Engineering at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

The presentation was sponsored by Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Sustainable Futures Institute, Michigan Tech’s Department of Geological and Mining Engineering and Sciences, and Michigan Tech’s Center for Diversity and Inclusion.