



NRC 1158584, Pelham Pipeline Spill Pelham, Shelby County, Alabama

SITUATION REPORT #8

1800 CDT, September 17, 2016

INCIDENT SUMMARY

On September 9, 2016, at 1359 hours CDT, Colonial Pipeline Company (CPC) reported a gasoline spill from a 36" below ground pipeline to the National Response Center. The gasoline traveled overland for approximately 500 feet to a pond that feeds into Peel Creek (which is a tributary of the Cahaba River).

CPC initially reported to the responding OSC that between 1,000 and 2,000 gallons of gasoline entered the pond. The spill volume has since been updated to between 6,000 barrels [bbls] and 8,000 bbls (252,000 gallons – 336,000 gallons).

Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have integrated into Unified Command and are coordinating with State and County Agencies. An Incident Command Post is being operated out of Pelham, Alabama. The spill location is located in a remote area. The nearest residential neighborhood and commercial area is located two miles from the spill location.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

OSC Chuck Berry integrated into Unified Command initially and demobilize on September 17, 2016. OSC Kevin Eichinger assumed EPA's position in Unified Command.

OSCs, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Gulf Strike Team (GST) and the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) are embed in the Operations Sections.

An OSC and START are embed in the Environmental Unit.

EPA Public Affairs Specialist and a Public Information Officer are also assigned to the Joint Information Center (JIC).

Current number of EPA Personnel Assigned: 5

Current number of United States Coast Guard Gulf Strike Team (USCG GST) Members: 4

Current number START Personnel: 3

Total number of response Personnel: 739

CURRENT RELEASE AND RECOVERY ESTIMATES

Current Release Estimate – 6,000 bbl to 8,000 bbls

Recovery/Loss to the Environment Volumes:

Fuel/Waste Recovery	Volume Since Last SITREP	Total Volume to Date
Recovered from Pond #2	200 gallons	85,976 gallons
Loss to the Environment due to Evaporation	28,335 gallons	229,040 gallons
Bond in the Soil	TBD	TBD
Petroleum Contact Water		242,155 gallons

CURRENT OPERATIONS

1) Product Recovery and Removal

- A 6-inch pipe was observed to discharging water from Pond 3; however, flow was restricted likely due to a blockage. CPC has installed a plug in the 6-inch pipe to help reduce the potential of petroleum impacted water being released. The water level was measured before installation and 24-hours after installation of the plug. Installation of the plug caused the water level to rise approximately 1-inch.
- CPC continues to evaluate plugging the culvert between Pond 2 and Pond 3. They intend to send a camera in the area tomorrow to determine the best method to seal it.
- CPC completed the new soil staging area last night and moved the excavated pile (generated during the previous operational period) to the new location. EPA advised CPC to have a secondary storage area ready in the event additional soil is excavated.
- Elevated benzene and lower explosive limit (LEL) continue to hinder progress. Minimal excavation occurred overnight due to elevated LEL and benzene readings at the leak site. CPC has excavated an estimated 40 tons of soil. Local firefighters continued to use a vapor suppressant agent during excavation activities.
- Due to health and safety reasons, product recovery operations shut down while excavation occurs at the leak site. When excavation activities break or suspend due to elevated LEL and benzene levels, product recovery operations resume in Pond 2. Product recovery occurs at two points, the southwestern portion of the Pond (2a) and northeast portion of the Pond (2b). CPC primarily use drum skimmers to capture free product from Pond 2. Vacuum trucks from 2b are transferring recovered product to four storage tanks at staging 2b. There are two storage tanks at staging 2a, recovering product from recovery point 2a. Excavation activities and elevated LEL and benzene levels limited product recover efforts today.
- Inclement weather caused activities to shut down for a period of time.
- Visual observations indicate gasoline thickness on Pond 2 to be approximately 1-inch.

2) Environmental Sampling and Impacts

a. Air Monitoring

- Work interruptions continue due to excessive benzene and LEL readings. Today's VOC's peaked at 270 parts per million (ppm) at the 2a compressor; benzene peaked at 2.4 ppm at the release site; and LEL peaked at 26% at stopple 2.
- Two START members continue to conduct oversight of air monitoring activities.

b. Surface Water

- Two START members continue to collect split surface water samples with CPC. Split samples were collected from the Cahaba River in coordination with the Cahaba River Keeper and CPC's environmental consultant. START was unable to collect split samples from Pond 3 and Peel Creek due to excavation at the leak site; however, CPC's environmental consultant had a crew in the area and was able to collect samples from this area.
- Preliminary EPA water sample data should be received tonight.

c. Wildlife Impacts

- The CPC environmental consultant is responsible for identifying and documenting impacted wildlife. To date, five mammals including a rabbit, two raccoons, one fox, and one armadillo have been impacted; one reptile (turtle) has been impacted; and one white bird has been impacted. The bird is located in a restricted area and teams have not been able to collect it. No additional impacted wildlife was reported during this operation period.

3) Health and Safety Oversight

- EPA/GST remains incorporated into Operations and air monitoring. OSC Garrard, OSC Tripp, and two GST members continue to provide oversight of site safety and monitor the operations progress.
- Two GST members continue to observe night operations.
- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) continues to maintain an aviation floor restriction of 2,500 feet in a 3-mile radius around the work site.

4) Restoration of Services

- CPC continues to stage material and prepare for pushing the pig through the pipe to remove the remaining product. This process is anticipated to begin on Sunday afternoon and will be completed Monday morning.
- CPC continues to implement the plan to install an approximate 1,000 foot section of pipe to by-pass the leak site. This plan was developed with the input of Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Agency (PHMSA). Once installed, the pipeline can resume service.

5) Remediation Planning

- Plans continue to be developed and will be reviewed by IC when ready.
- The City of Helena operates the closest drinking water well. It is located approximately five miles from the release site. City Helena Utilities is conducting well water sampling for the constituents found in gasoline.

6) Emergency Fuel Waiver

- CPC requested a waiver of the prohibition for commingling provisions [found in 40 C.F.R. § 80.78(a)(7)] that prohibits any person from combining any reformulated gasoline blendstock for oxygenate blending with any other gasoline, blendstock, or oxygenate, unless certain conditions are met. The waiver request was issued on September 16, 2016 and will expire October 6, 2016, EPA issued an emergency fuel waiver of the reformulated gasoline (RFG) requirements in Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and the District of Columbia. If there is any change or addition to the waiver status it will be noted in the SITREP.

PLANNED RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Inclement weather is expected again during the next operation period which may affect planned activities. The following activities are planned during the next operation period:

- Continue to participate in UC
- Monitor removal activities
- START will continue to collect additional split surface water samples with the CPC environmental contractor and the Cahaba River Keeper
- START will continue to monitor CPC's air monitoring efforts
- Participate in the Joint Information Center
- Prepare for and coordinate a transition to a removal phase
- CPC will pre-stage oil containment booms on the Cahaba River
- Install an additional underflow dam near the confluence of Peel Creek and the Cahaba River
- Pre-stage aeration equipment along Peel Creek.
- Complete pipeline bypass and restore service.
- Continue recovery of fuel from Pond 2
- Continue removal of fuel from the plugged pipeline

SITUATIONAL REFERENCE MATERIAL

Excavation activities at leak site. The Pelham Fire Department can be seen in the background dispersing F 500 over the excavation area.

In the foreground, crews are excavating around the pipeline in order to install one end of the bypass.



Overview of EPA Surface Water Sampling Locations

