



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

### **SITUATION REPORT #11**

1800 CDT, September 20, 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) are integrated into Unified Command and are coordinating with State and County Agencies. An Incident Command Post is being operated out of Hoover, Alabama.

#### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

PIO Pinkney and OSC Eichinger conducted multiple on- and off-camera interviews with various media outlets.

PIO Pinkney and OSC Eichinger prepared a factsheet to accompany data summary tables which will be released to the public.

EPA Press Release - <https://www.epa.gov/al/epa-water-sampling-results-released-colonial-pipeline-spill>

#### **INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING**

OSC Kevin Eichinger remains integrated into Unified Command.

OSC Garrard demobilize today. OSC Franco will assume the EPA position within Operations.

PIO James Pinkney coordinated information requests in the Joint Information Center (JIC)

OSCs, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Gulf Strike Team (GST) remain embedded in the Operations Sections.

Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) is embedded in the Environmental Unit.

EPA Public Affairs Specialist and a Public Information Officer are also assigned to the JIC.

Current number of EPA Personnel Assigned: 4

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

Current number START Personnel: 1

Total number of response Personnel: 819

## **CURRENT RELEASE AND RECOVERY ESTIMATES**

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

Recovery/Loss to the Environment Volumes:

<b>Fuel/Waste Recovery</b>	<b>Volume Since Last SITREP</b>	<b>Total Volume to Date</b>
Recovered from Pond #2	1,117 gallons	85,732 gallons <sup>1</sup>
Loss to the Environment due to Evaporation	0 gallons	276,265 gallons
Bound in the Soil	TBD	TBD
Petroleum Contact Water		292,268 gallons
Petroleum Contaminated Soil		40 tons

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Operations reduced product recovery estimates by 1,362 gallons on September 19, 2016. CPC implemented a more accurate way of tracking recovered product by measuring product thickness in the storage tank after allowing it to settle for 3-hours. Product measurements will be recorded once per day, in the morning.

## **CURRENT OPERATIONS**

### **1) Product Recovery and Removal**

- The Planning Section, in conjunction with Operations, is working to develop a plan to address the culvert between Pond 2 and Pond 3. Two options are being considered; (1) sealing the culvert or (2) installing an air sparge gate at the mouth of the culvert (on the Pond 3 side) as well as the discharge point to Peel Creek. EPA recommends collecting additional data points before committing to a method. EPA will continue to work closely with Operations to develop the most effective path forward. UC will provide comments on the plan after completion and the selected method will be implemented Friday, September 23, 2016.
- A fuel/water mixture continues to drain out of the leak site to Pond 2. This mixture is mostly water; however, a rock outcrop located approximately 15 feet northeast of the leak site is currently discharging product. Crews deployed containment booms where this drainage ditch enters Pond 2 (2a recovery site) to catch the product prior to entering Pond 2. Product recovery efforts continue in the area, as needed.
- The majority of the product in Pond 2 has been contained to the northeastern portion of the pond. Operations focused product recovery efforts in this area today. Winds made it difficult to recover product; however, crews utilized engineering controls to direct product toward skimmers.

- Operations completed installation of an additional underflow dam in Peel Creek, approximately 200 feet southeast of the Cahaba River.
- Planning continues to push updates to the mobile viewer application.

## **2) Environmental Sampling and Impacts**

- a. Air Monitoring
  - Work interruptions due to excessive benzene and LEL readings were minimal during this operational period. Today's VOC's peaked at 320.1 parts per million (ppm) at 2a recovery; benzene peaked at 1.6 ppm at 2a recovery; and LEL peaked at 17% at 2a recovery.
- b. Surface Water
  - START continued to receive laboratory analytical results for surface water samples collected from Pond 2, Pond 3, Peel Creek, Cahaba River, and the confluence of Cahaba River and Peel Creek. Laboratory analytical results continue to indicate that there are no impacts to Peel Creek and the Cahaba River from the pipeline release.
  - There is no sheen observed on Pond 3; however, sample results continue to indicate that there is dissolved benzene, toluene and xylene (components of gasoline) migrating from Pond 2.
  - Laboratory analytical data trends received by CPC suggests the gasoline constituents in Pond 3 are decreasing.
- c. Wildlife Impacts
  - The CPC environmental consultant is responsible for identifying and documenting impacted wildlife. During this operation period, teams did not identify any additional impacts to wildlife.
  - To date, seven mammals including a rabbit, two raccoons, one fox, one coyote, one otter, and one armadillo have been impacted; four reptiles (turtle) have been impacted; and two birds including a hen wood duck and a white bird have been impacted. The white bird remains in a restricted area and teams have not been able to collect it; however, it is assumed to be an egret.

## **3) Health and Safety Oversight**

- The site health and safety office re-evaluated current site conditions and determine flame retardant clothing (FRC) and air monitoring escorts are no longer required for activities in Peel Creek and the staging area. Air monitoring and FRC requirements remain unchanged for the remainder of the work area.
- Security temporarily detained two local residents last night for taking photographs in the vicinity of Pond 2. Security erased photographs and released the individuals.
- All site activities will stand down during by-pass tie-in activities.
- United States Coast Guard Gulf Strike Team Members continue to provide health and safety oversight of both day and 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. OSC Garrard coordinated with FAA to obtain a five-day extension which expires on September 24. Helicopters and drone activity were causing hazardous conditions for the workers. The helicopters were

pushing the gasoline vapors into the staging areas and into work zones. The drones were flying low over the gasoline on the pond and were a potential ignition source.

#### **4) Restoration of Services**

- CPC completed welding of the by-pass pipe. Crews visually inspected weld and used an X-ray to confirm the structural integrity of the weld.
- Results of the hydrostatic test indicate the by-pass segment meets required pressure standards.
- During the night shift, the impacted section will be cut away and the bypass segment tied in to Line 1. All site activities will stand down during by-pass tie-in activities. CPC is working closely with PHMSA on this operation.
- When the impact pipe is cut away, it will be sealed pending removal of residual product and cleaned.

#### **5) Remediation Planning**

- Plans continue to be developed and will be reviewed by UC when ready.
- The Cahaba River contingency plan was completed. The plan identifies two locations on the Cahaba River to stage all necessary equipment (with the exception of personnel) in the event a catastrophic release occurs.
- ADEM approved the hydrostatic water discharge plan.
- Planning has developed two hydrogeological assessment plans (ground water monitoring). One to address the emergency phase and one to address the remediation phase. UC finalized the emergency phase plan. The remediation phase plan will be addressed at a later date. The emergency phase of the plan continues and expands assessments and identification of geologic preferential pathways to the Cahaba River.
- Planning continues to gather information and develop a plan for identifying and assessing private drinking water wells that were not on the County and State inventory list.

#### **6) Emergency Fuel Waiver**

- On September 14, EPA issued a [waiver](#) for federal low volatility requirement of 7.8 psi under the Clean Air Act for certain markets in the southeast in an effort to further mitigate potential supply disruptions. The high ozone season ends at 11:59, September 15, 2016, and this waiver allowed the use of gasoline above 7.8 psi in TN and GA before that period.
- On September 16, EPA issued a [second waiver](#) to allow for reformulated and conventional gasoline (commingling) to be sold in markets that may be impacted by the disruption in supply caused by the disruption in service to Colonial Pipeline Line 1.

### **PLANNED RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

The following activities are planned during the next operation period:

- Continue to participate in UC.
- Monitor removal activities.

- START will mobilize to collect additional split surface water samples on September 22, 2016. CPC continues to collect surface water samples from Pond 3, Peel Creek, Cahaba River, and the confluence of Cahaba River and Peel Creek on a daily basis.
- Participate in the Joint Information Center.
- Prepare for and coordinate a transition to a removal phase.
- Operations will pre-stage oil containment booms at two locations on the Cahaba River.
- Operations will prepare for and conduct tie-in activities tonight. The Fire Department will be staged nearby during tie-in activities.
- Restoration of service is expected during the next operational period.
- Operations will prepare for draining and cleaning the remaining product in the damaged line after tie-in service has been restored.
- CPC will collect a discrete water sample, at the point where the culvert from Pond 2 enters Pond 3.
- Continue recovery of fuel from Pond 2.
- Continue removal of fuel from the plugged pipeline (between stopple 1 and stopple 2).
- Identify secondary location for soil staging.

## **SITUATIONAL REFERENCE MATERIAL**



By-pass tie-in line where it will be connected to main line.



Completed underflow dam in Peel Creek, approximately 200 feet southeast of the Cahaba River.