



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

### **SITUATION REPORT #12**

1800 CDT, September 21, 2016

**FUEL SERVICE THROUGH THE BYPASS WAS RESTORED AT APPROXIMATELY 1830 HOURS EDT TODAY.**

### **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, but they were unsure of a total release volume. The spill volume has since been estimated 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.

Service was restored late during the day on September 21, 2016.

### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

PIO Pinkney continued to operate within the Joint Information Center.

The Shelby County Sheriff and Pelham Mayor visited the command center for a situation briefing.

### **INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING**

OSC Kevin Eichinger demobilized today, and OSC Chuck Berry returned to the site to assume EPA's position in Unified Command (UC).

OSC Franco remains integrated in the Operations Section.

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 Section. GST is currently overlapping personnel rotations.

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

Current number of EPA Personnel Assigned: 4

Current number of United States Coast Guard Gulf Strike Team (USCG GST) Members: 8

Current number START Personnel: 1

Total number of response Personnel: 846

## **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	0 gallons	84,065 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		300,804 gallons
Petroleum Contaminated Soil		40 tons

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Operations reduced product recovery estimates by 1,362 gallons on September 19, 2016 and 1,667 on September 21, 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. CPC allowed the storage tank to settle for 12-hrs on September 21, 2016 which caused the additional reduction. 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 and ADEM continue to work closely with Operations and Planning to develop the most effective path forward that also supports the long-term remediation plan for the site. UC will provide comments on the plan after completion and the selected method will be implemented Friday, September 23, 2016.
- By-pass tie-in activities last night caused product recovery efforts to shut down. Product recovery activities resumed this morning from the three collection points.
- The majority of the product in Pond 2 has been contained to the northeastern portion of the pond. Variable winds make it difficult to recovery product; therefore, operations added an additional skimmer to the northern portion of the pond (2b recovery area). In addition, crews utilized booms and compressed air to direct product toward skimmers. Crews are currently

using boom to corral fuel into smaller areas, making the fuel thicker and thus easier to recover. Crews placed additional boom from the leak site drainage channel to recovery point 2a to better corral product entering Pond 2 toward the 2a skimmer.

- EPA participated in a tactics meeting with ADEM, Planning, and Operations to discuss the timing of several concurrent and subsequent operations: the pipeline displacement plan (which will result in additional fuel discharged to the pond), the excavation of impacted soil from the leak site, the removal of oil from the drainage ditch, and recovery on the pond. Also discussed was how each of these would impact the long-term remediation plan for the site.
- Planning continues to push updates to the mobile viewer application detailing product recovery progress and exclusion zones.

## **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 255.2 parts per million (ppm) on the path between recovery 2a and 2b; benzene peaked at 0.75 ppm at the release site; and LEL peaked at 12% 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.
- Laboratory analytical data trends received by CPC suggests the dissolved gasoline constituents in Pond 3 are decreasing. EPA split samples confirm decreasing concentrations.
- CPC collected a discrete water sample, at the point where the culvert from Pond 2 enters Pond 3. This data will be used to assist decision making with the culvert between Ponds 2 and 3.

### **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**

- On September 20, 2016, the site health and safety officer re-evaluated current site conditions and determined 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.

- All site activities shut down during by-pass tie-in activities last night. Normal operations resumed this morning.
- USCG GST continued to provide health and safety oversight of both day and night operations. The initial USCG GST team members are overlapping with their replacements during this operation period.
- 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**

- SERVICE ALONG THE BYPASS WAS RESTORED AT APPROXIMATELY 1830 HOURS EDT TODAY.
- CPC completed welding of the by-pass pipe to the main line this morning (see photo below). Crews visually inspected welds and used an X-ray to confirm the structural integrity of the weld.
- During by-pass tie-in activities, the Fire Department used F-500 foam (inside the pipe) to assist with vapor reduction. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) obtained a sample of the water/foam mixture to test its impact on the pipe metal.
- Overnight, CPC obtained water from Pond 1 to conduct the hydrostatic test of the new, uncontaminated, pipe. Water used for this test was discharged back to Pond 1 upon completion of the test.
- When the impacted pipe is cut away, it will be sealed pending removal of residual product and cleaned for transport to the laboratory for inspection.

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

- Plans continue to be developed and will be reviewed by UC when ready.
- Operations completed staging of all necessary equipment (with the exception of personnel) on the Cahaba River in the event a catastrophic release occurs.
- ADEM approved the hydrostatic water discharge plan on September 20, 2016. Operations discharged the water to Pond 2 this morning.
- Planning has developed two hydrogeological assessment plans - one to address the emergency phase and one to address the remediation phase. UC finalized the emergency phase plan on September 20, 2016. The emergency phase of the plan continues and expands assessments and identification of geologic preferential pathways to the Cahaba River.
- CPC is working in conjunction with ADEM to develop the remediation phase plan. EPA, CPC, and ADEM met today to discuss planning, identification of ADEM personnel, and necessary plans and permits which may be needed for remediation activities.
- 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 collect additional split surface water samples during the next reporting period. 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 prepare for draining and cleaning the remaining product in the damaged line after tie-in service has been restored.
- Continue recovery of fuel from Pond 2.
- Continue removal of fuel from the plugged pipeline (between the by-pass tie-in points).
- Demobilize pipeline repair crews.

**SITUATIONAL REFERENCE MATERIAL**



Crews corralled product on Pond 2 at recovery point 2b to better remove it via skimmers.



Operations completed the by-pass tie-in.



Current product coverage in Pond 2 as of 9/21/16.