



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

SITUATION REPORT #13

1800 CDT, September 22, 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, 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.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PIO Pinkney continued to operate within the Joint Information Center.

One on-camera interview was conducted by OSC Berry and ADEM Rogers with local media.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

OSC Chuck Berry remains integrated in Unified Command (UC).

OSC Franco remains integrated in the EPA position within Operations. OSCs Matt Huyser and Courtney Swanson mobilized to the site today, and will assume EPA's position within Operations tomorrow.

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) remains embedded in the Environmental Unit.

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: 815

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	1,428 gallons	85,493 gallons ¹
Loss to the Environment due to Evaporation	0 gallons	276,265 gallons
Bound in the Soil	TBD	TBD
Petroleum Contact Water		313,572 gallons
Petroleum Contaminated Soil		40 tons

Notes:

¹ 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

- UC has decided to end night operations. However, CTEH will continue 24-hour air monitoring operations, and the security patrol will continue indefinitely.
- Crews continued product recovery activities from three collection points. 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, and used air movers to better corral product entering Pond 2 toward the 2a skimmer (see photo below).
- The Planning Section, in conjunction with Operations, is working to develop a plan to address the culvert between Pond 2 and Pond 3. EPA and ADEM recommend sealing the culvert and installing an air sparge gate near the discharge point of Pond 3 to Peel Creek. EPS collected a sample from the culvert yesterday. 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.
- The ravine leading from the leak site to Pond 2 contains saturated soil, ponded product, and multiple seeps from rock fissures. Removal tactics are difficult to evaluate as repeated entries to assess the area have been forced to turn back due to elevated vapor levels. As a result, CPC requested permission to use a listed Schedule J Microbiological Culture formulation as a vapor suppressant. OSC Berry made notification to the RRT of its use, clarifying that the

material is only being sprayed to soil and product ponded in rocky outcrops in order to reduce the hazards to human life.

- Crews enhanced the access road to recovery point 2a.
- Crews improved underflow dam 1.
- EPA participated in a tactics meeting with ADEM, Planning, and Operations to discuss the timing of 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 ravine, and recovery on the pond. Also discussed was how each of these would impact the long-term remediation plan for the site.
- CPC vacuumed the remaining product from the bypassed portion of the pipeline. Approximately 8,400 gallons of gasoline were removed from the line. CPC will flush the pipeline with water tomorrow and charge it with nitrogen in anticipation of excavation and removal.
- Operations identified a location for a secondary soil staging area.
- 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 205.9 parts per million (ppm) at the release site; benzene peaked at 0.8 ppm at Stopple 2; and LEL peaked at 15% at the release site.

b. Surface Water

- START participated in an additional round of split sampling for surface water samples from Pond 3, Peel Creek, Cahaba River, and the confluence of Cahaba River and Peel Creek.
- Laboratory analytical data trends received by CPC suggests the dissolved gasoline constituents in Pond 3 are decreasing. EPA split samples confirm decreasing concentrations.

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

- Security identified three individuals in the restricted area overnight who claimed to be tracking a bear. The individuals were detained by security and interviewed; it was determined that no photographs or violations were involved, and the individuals were

released. Operations identified locations for additional security checkpoints and physical barriers to be placed to further restrict access.

- 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.
- 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 Berry coordinated with FAA to obtain an extension, which is currently set to expire 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

- Restoration of service was successfully restarted through Line 1 on September 21.

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.
- 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.
- On September 21, CPC resumed service through the bypassed line, which will relieve shortages in most areas within a few days.

PLANNED RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

The following activities are planned during the next operation period:

- Continue to participate in UC.
- Monitor removal activities.
- Participate in the Joint Information Center.
- Prepare for and coordinate a transition to a removal phase.
- START will conduct data validation and provide data summary tables for surface water samples collected on September 22 from Pond 3, Peel Creek, Cahaba River, and the confluence of Cahaba River and Peel Creek on a daily basis.
- CPC will continue recovery of fuel from Pond 2.
- CPC will generate an impacted-water boat operations plan to assist with efficient boom movement, access shoreline areas of Pond 2, and collect water samples at depth.
- Operations will rinse the bypassed line and charge with nitrogen.
- Develop and execute a ravine-removal plan.
- CPC is planning on setting 2 diffusers in Pond 3 in order to bring the contaminant levels under ADEM discharge limits.
- CPC will construct a pipeline from Pond 1 to Peel Creek in order to drain Pond 1 for retention capacity during a rain event. The intention is to eliminate the amount of water reaching Pond 2.
- Continue removal of fuel from the plugged pipeline (between the by-pass tie-in points).
- Health & Safety Unit is currently gathering data to assist with developing a plan for boat operations in Pond 2.

SITUATIONAL REFERENCE MATERIAL



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