



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

SITUATION REPORT #15

1800 CDT, September 24, 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

CIC Coleman arrived at the ICP to replace PIO Pinkney and operate within the Joint Information Center.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

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

OSCs Huyser and Swanson remain integrated in the EPA position within Operations.

PIO Kerisa Coleman coordinated information requests in the Joint Information Center (JIC)

Two OSCs, and 4 United States Coast Guard (USCG) Gulf Strike Team (GST) members 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: 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: 538

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	3,303 gallons	87,579 gallons
Drain-Up Operations ¹	1,121 gallons	72,063 gallons
Loss to the Environment due to Evaporation	0 gallons	276,265 gallons
Bound in the Soil	TBD	TBD
Petroleum Contact Water		356,118 gallons
Petroleum Contaminated Soil		40 tons

Notes:

¹ Drain-Up Operations do not result in a release to water or the environment.

CURRENT OPERATIONS

1) Product Recovery and Removal

- UC has ended night operations. However, CTEH continues 24-hour air monitoring operations, and the security patrol will continue indefinitely.
- Crews continued product recovery at Pond 2. Nearly all of the oil has been removed from the open water. Focus shifted today to removing debris (logs, branches, etc.) that is trapping fuel along the pond's edge.
- Crews cleared vegetation and debris from the ravine between the release site and Pond 2 in preparation for washing/rinsing activities. After clearing out the vegetative debris, crews flushed water down the ravine, pushing pooled product into Pond 2 where it is being collected.
- Crews worked to improve air sparging equipment installed in Pond 3 near the discharge point (2 strands of air sparging equipment have been installed). The pond will be sampled after a 48-hour run to gauge efficacy.
- CPC completed a 'rinse' of the damaged section of pipeline during drain-up operations. Once completed, CPC began preparing to put a low-pressure nitrogen blanket inside the pipe.
- The Stopples® have been removed and blind flanges have been installed. CPC expects to reinforce the soil under the Stopples® using an injectable gel.
- CPC began the process of installing additional drain pipes under the temporary bypass where Pond 1 crosses the Colonial right of way. This is to prevent undercutting of the new pipe by runoff from Pond 1. Also, in an effort to simultaneously reduce the potential for this undercutting to occur and reduce the volume of water that will enter and be managed in Ponds 2 and 3, CPC is building a pumping system to drain Pond 1 out of the Pond 2 drainage basin. This will provide freeboard for future rain events, which will be pumped out of the Pond through the new pumping system.

- The Planning Section, in conjunction with Operations, is working to develop a plan to address the culvert between Pond 2 and Pond 3. CPC stated that they have ordered a product that may be used to plug the culvert; additional evaluation of analytical results for water column samples from Ponds 2 and 3 will be performed to determine future actions.
- 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 400 parts per million (ppm) at the release site; benzene peaked at 6.25 ppm at the release site; and LEL peaked at 15% at the west side of Pond 2.

b. Surface Water

- CPC collected water column samples from Pond 2.

c. Wildlife Impacts

- The CPC environmental consultant is responsible for identifying and documenting impacted wildlife. During this operation period, teams began recovery and verification of wildlife previously identified in the vicinity of Pond 2; no new reports of impacted wildlife were received.
- 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

- USCG GST continued to provide health and safety oversight of daily operations.
- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) continues to maintain an aviation floor restriction of 3,000 feet, but the radius around the work site has been reduced to 1 mile. The restriction is in effect until September 28 at 1700. 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 Bypass on September 21.

5) Remediation Planning

- Plans continue to be developed and will be reviewed by UC when ready.

- CPC continues to coordinate with PHMSA regarding operations, including the necessary pipeline excavation plan and the installation of additional culverts beneath the pipeline bypass.
- CPC is working in conjunction with ADEM to develop the hydrogeological assessment plan (remediation phase).
- CPC will continue to coordinate with ADEM regarding air, groundwater, and surface water permitting options, including another meeting scheduled with ADEM for Monday September 26, 2016.
- 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.

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 Peel Creek, Cahaba River, and the confluence of Cahaba River and Peel Creek.
- CPC will continue recovery of fuel from Pond 2.
- CPC will continue diffuser operations in Pond 3 to bring contaminant levels under ADEM discharge limits.
- CPC will continue ravine removal activities.
- CPC will continue impacted-water boat operations, as necessary to assist with efficient boom movement, access shoreline areas of Pond 2, and collecting water samples at depth.
- CPC is preparing to begin Pond 2 shoreline rinsing and washing operations (possibly as early as tomorrow afternoon).

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 **INCIDENT SUMMARY**

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SITUATIONAL REFERENCE MATERIAL



Containment boom deployed in Pond 2 at the mouth of the ravine.



Mouth of the ravine at Pond 2 (viewed from 2b)



Operations in progress in the vicinity of the leak site looking to the east.