



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

## **SITUATION REPORT #16**

1800 CDT, September 25, 2016

**THIS IS THE FINAL SITUATION REPORT FOR THIS EVENT. FURTHER ACTIVITIES WILL BE CAPTURED IN PERIODIC POLLUTION REPORTS PUBLISHED ON EPAOSC.ORG**

### **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 continues to operate within the Joint Information Center.

### **INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING**

OSC Chuck Berry remains integrated in Unified Command (UC) as an Incident Commander.

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: 414

## **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	87,579 gallons
Drain-Up Operations <sup>1</sup>	0 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:

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

## **CURRENT OPERATIONS**

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

- Effective Monday morning, September 26, a 72-hour operational period will begin.
- Crews continued to flush water down the ravine to push pooled product into Pond 2 where it is being collected.
- Crews continued product recovery at Pond 2. Nearly all of the oil has been removed from the open water. Focus shifted today to shoreline cleanup activities, including rinsing/flushing activities and the use of manual methods to address the “bathtub ring”, as well as the use of absorbents.
- Crews continued to operate air sparging equipment in Pond 3 near the discharge point (2 strands of air sparging equipment have been installed). Re-sampling of the pond (vertical water column) is currently scheduled for Monday September 26.
- CPC completed installation of two 40-inch culverts under the temporary bypass where Pond 1’ outfall crosses the Colonial right of way. Backfill activities are ongoing.
- CPC installed rain gauges and pond level gauges for future rain events.
- 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 (Aqua Barrier) that may be used to plug the culvert and will be delivered to the site on Tuesday September 27; additional evaluation of analytical results for water column samples from Ponds 2 and 3, along with coordination with ADEM, 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 810 parts per million (ppm) at the release site; benzene peaked at 39.1 ppm at the decon station located at main staging; and LEL peaked at 17% at the ravine between the release site and Pond 2.

### b. Surface Water

- CPC received analytical results for water column samples collected from Pond 2; results are being reviewed and compared to previous results for similar samples collected from Pond 3 to determine future actions.
- CPC will collect another round of vertical water column samples from Pond 3 on Monday September 26.

### c. Wildlife Impacts

- The CPC environmental consultant is responsible for identifying and documenting impacted wildlife. During this operation period, teams continued recovery and verification of wildlife previously identified in the vicinity of Pond 2. To date, several species of deceased wildlife have been found and are being recovered. Recovered wildlife will be turned over to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for further investigation.

## 3) Health and Safety Oversight

- Based on CTEH air monitoring activities, recovery area 2b has been cleared for the use of gas-powered equipment.
- Additionally, the area requiring FRC and air monitoring escort has been contracted. It should be noted, however, that areas near the pond and around the source area are still under the restrictions.
- USCG GST continued to provide health and safety oversight of daily operations. USCG GST staffing will be reduced to 2 personnel during the next operational period.

## 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 activities.
- CPC is working in conjunction with ADEM to develop the hydrogeological assessment plan (remediation phase). CPC will mobilize a drill rig to begin installing borings/wells.
- CPC will continue to coordinate with ADEM regarding air, groundwater, and surface water permitting options, including another meeting scheduled with ADEM's Surface Water and Air Divisions for Monday September 26, 2016.

## **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 or remedial phase.
- CPC will begin excavation at the leak site on Monday September 26.
- 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, including installation of recovery structures in the ravine.
- 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 will conduct improvements to the railroad grade between Ponds 2 and 3 to connect the existing access roads between pond 2a and 2b.
- In an effort to reduce the potential for undercutting of the pipeline in the vicinity of the newly installed culverts, and to 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 that will provide freeboard for future rain events.

**SITUATIONAL REFERENCE MATERIAL**



Installation of the two 40-inch culverts near Pond 1.



Latest aerial showing reduction in fuel coverage and installation of protective shore boom.