



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

## **SITUATION REPORT #9**

1800 CDT, September 18, 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) have integrated into Unified Command and are coordinating with State and County Agencies. An Incident Command Post is being operated out of Pelham, Alabama.

### **INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING**

OSC Kevin Eichinger remains integrated into Unified Command.

OSCs, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Gulf Strike Team (GST) and the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) are embed in the Operations Sections.

START is embedded in the Environmental Unit.

EPA Public Affairs Specialist and a Public Information Officer are also assigned to the Joint Information Center (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: 3

Total number of response Personnel: 743

## **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	To be reported*	85,976 gallons*
Loss to the Environment due to Evaporation	28,335 gallons	257,375 gallons
Bond in the Soil	TBD	TBD
Petroleum Contact Water		242,155 gallons*
Petroleum Contaminated Soil		40 tons

Notes:

\* Product recovery activities did occur this operational period. Crews were unable to provide product recovery number before the 1600 meeting.

## **CURRENT OPERATIONS**

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

- OSC Eichinger participated in an overflight and assessed the Cahaba River and site operations. No sheen was observed on the Cahaba.
- Crews continues to evaluate plugging the culvert between Pond 2 and Pond 3. OSC Garrard oversaw and provided support as they sent a camera in the area to determine the best method to seal the culvert; however, the camera was unable to find the culvert. Unified Command will explore other methods to look for it.
- OSC Garrard is working with Operations to evaluate potential options for controlling source material at leak site prior to discharging to Pond 2.
- A fuel/water mixture continues to drain out of the leak site to Pond 2. As of this morning, the quantity has been reduced to approximately 1 quart per minute. The fuel to water ratio is estimated at 20%, respectively.
- Visual observations indicate gasoline on Pond 2 covers approximately one third of the pond and thickness to be approximately 1-inch, where it pooled (see photo below).
- Operations continued to recover product from Pond 2. Product recovery occurred at two points, the southwestern portion of the Pond (2a) and northeast portion of the Pond (2b). Skimmers capture free product from Pond 2. Vacuum trucks from 2b are transferring recovered product to four storage tanks at staging 2b. There are two storage tanks at staging 2a, to contain recovered product in that area. This evening, boom was placed across Pond 2 to keep the pooled product in the northeast portion of the pond.
- Pipeline draining activities continue at stopple 2.
- Excavation did not occur during this reporting period.
- Inclement weather caused activities to shut down for a period of time this morning.
- Installation of an additional underflow dam in Peel Creek, approximately 200 feet southeast of the Cahaba River is progressing. Operations anticipates completion tomorrow.

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

### **a. Air Monitoring**

- Work interruptions continue due to excessive benzene and LEL readings. Today's VOC's peaked at 768 parts per million (ppm) at the 2a recovery; benzene peaked at 5.7 ppm at the 2a recovery; and LEL peaked at 8% at stopple 2.
- One START member continues to conduct oversight of air monitoring activities.

### **b. Surface Water**

- One START member continues to collect split surface water samples with CPC. START obtained split samples from Pond 3, Peel Creek, and the Cahaba River in coordination with the Cahaba River Keeper and CPC's environmental consultant.
- An EPA OSC and START kayaked the Cahaba River from the confluence with Peel Creek to approximately 2 miles down streams. Water samples were collected. No sheen was observed on the Cahaba River.
- EPA received preliminary water sample data for September 16 and 17, 2016. Laboratory analytical results reveal the presence of site specific constituents in concentrations similar to CPC's data. The surface water sample collected at the confluence of Peel Creek and the Cahaba River on September 16, 2016 contained total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) gasoline range organics (GRO) at an estimated concentration of 0.064 milligrams per liter (mg/l). This detection is low and may not be related to the spill. Subsequent sampling at this location did not identify site specific constituents above the laboratory reporting limit. EPA will continue to collect surface water samples in the area and monitor for any changes.

### **c. Wildlife Impacts**

- The CPC environmental consultant is responsible for identifying and documenting impacted wildlife. During this operation period, teams identified one dead otter, one dead duck, and three dead turtles. Federal Fish and Wildlife visited the site to identify the duck species and determined it was a hen wood duck.
- 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 (a duck and one white bird) have been impacted. The white bird remains in a restricted area and teams have not been able collect it; however, it is assumed to be an egret.

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

- EPA/GST remains incorporated into Operations and air monitoring. OSC Garrard, OSC Tripp, and two GST members continue to provide oversight of site safety and monitor the operations progress.
- Two GST members continue to observe 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.

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

- CPC continues to stage material and prepare for pushing the pig through the pipe to remove the remaining product. This operation is currently planned for the next operational period (9/19/2016).
- CPC continues to implement the plan to install an approximate 1,000-foot section of pipe to by-pass the leak site. This plan was developed with the input of Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Agency (PHMSA). Once installed, the pipeline can resume service.

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

- Plans continue to be developed and will be reviewed by UC when ready.
- CPC is working to identify livestock access and potential use of the Cahaba River for crop irrigation.

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

- CPC requested a waiver of the prohibition for commingling provisions [found in 40 C.F.R. § 80.78(a)(7) ] that prohibits any person from combining any reformulated gasoline blendstock for oxygenate blending with any other gasoline, blendstock, or oxygenate, unless certain conditions are met. The waiver request was issued on September 16, 2016 and will expire October 6, 2016, EPA issued an emergency fuel waiver of the reformulated gasoline (RFG) requirements in Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and the District of Columbia. If there is any change or addition to the waiver status it will be noted in the SITREP.

### **PLANNED RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

Inclement weather may impact night ops but is not expected during the next operation period. The following activities are planned during the next operation period:

- Continue to participate in UC
- Monitor removal activities
- START will continue to collect additional split surface water samples with the CPC environmental contractor and the Cahaba River Keeper. Water samples will be collected from Pond #2.
- START will continue to oversee air monitoring efforts
- Participate in the Joint Information Center
- Prepare for and coordinate a transition to a removal phase
- Operations will pre-stage oil containment booms on the Cahaba River
- Continue to install the additional underflow dam near the confluence of Peel Creek and the Cahaba River
- Pre-stage aeration equipment along Peel Creek.
- Complete pipeline bypass and restore service.
- Continue recovery of fuel from Pond 2
- Continue removal of fuel from the plugged pipeline
- The FAA will be contacted to extend the no-fly over the site

**SITUATIONAL REFERENCE MATERIAL**



Aerial photographic taken today. Pond #3 is on the left; Pond #2 is on the right. Fuel has been confined to the upper 1/3 of the pond.



## Overview of EPA Surface Water Sampling Locations

