

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
May 2010 Tennessee Floods – Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
**Region IV**

**Subject:**  
**POLREP #9**  
**May 2010 Tennessee Floods**  
**Nashville, TN**

**From:** Steve Spurlin, On-Scene Coordinator  
**Date:** 5/12/2010  
**Reporting Period:** 0700 May 12, 2010 through 0700 May 13, 2010

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Background**

<b>Response Authority:</b> Stafford Act	<b>Response Type:</b> Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b> FEMA	<b>Incident Category:</b> Removal Assessment
<b>NPL Status:</b> Non NPL	<b>Start Date:</b> 5/3/2010
<b>Mobilization Date:</b> 5/3/2010	<b>Start Notification:</b> 5/2/2010

**1.1.1 Incident Category**

This is a response to severe flooding in portions of Western and Central Tennessee, which occurred due to heavy rains May 2 through May 3, 2010, and has been declared a National Disaster Area. To date, 42 counties have been declared.

**1.1.2 Site Description**

EPA has responded to extensive flooding in Central and Western Tennessee caused by heavy rain May 2 and May 3, 2010. Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) activated their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the National Guard Armory in Nashville, TN. EPA Emergency Response and Removal Branch (ERRB) mobilized under a request from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) under ESF-10 to conduct Oil and Hazardous Substance Assessment and Recovery in the designated counties of Tennessee.

#### **1.1.2.1 Location**

Currently EPA has set up an Incident Command Post (ICP) in Nashville at the TEMA EOC with Operations being conducted in Central (Nashville and surrounding counties) and Western (Memphis, Jackson and surrounding counties) Tennessee.

#### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

On May 2 through May 3, 2010, Central and Western Tennessee received approximately thirteen inches of rainfall, surpassing both six and twenty four hour record rainfall amounts. The excessive rainfall led to extensive flooding of river systems in Central and Western Tennessee.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

EPA is coordinating with TEMA, FEMA, and TDEC to assess impacted areas for oil and hazardous material releases. Currently, EPA Operations have completed the Assessment phase of the mission and have begun the Recovery phase of the mission. Hazardous materials discovered in these impacted areas will be disposed at a designated disposal facility. Recovery Teams will be divided into a River Recovery Team, a Land Recovery Team and a River Assessment Team all working under direction from the Nashville ICP.

#### **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

- The IC met with Mr. Nick Fielder of TDEC to discuss a facility for recovery operations. Mr. Fielder suggested a Staging Area in Joelton, TN. The goal is to have counties take their household hazardous waste to their local county convenience center to drop off waste and ERRS will perform pick up from the convenience centers.
- The IC ensured that a generator would be provided for the EPA Water Division's mobile lab arriving later tonight.
- The Planning Section made efforts to collect information for and contact county convenience facilities to coordinate Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) operations.

#### **OSC Dixon**

- OSC Dixon's Team visited January Environmental, a waste oil recycling company in Davidson County, to conduct oversight at the facility. The team met with Tony Malave, the facility Environmental Plant Manager to discuss ongoing activities at the facility and to reassess the location and surrounding areas to inspect visible oil staining.

- OSC Dixon further expressed expectations for cleanup activities to be performed quickly, including impacted areas surrounding the facility.
- OSC Dixon met with Mr. Mark Long, the company Response Manager, who will be collecting soil samples at the site. The Team identified possible locations for soil sampling and analysis. The facility was using their current crew to conduct clean up activities, who committed to cleaning the entire facility and surrounding property.
- OSC Dixon's Team also completed oversight at clean up activities along Nestor Road also in Davidson County.

### **OSC Garrard**

- The Team lead by OSC Garrard traveled to Commodore Marina to meet with ERRS to conduct oversight of the equipment set up at the boat ramp in preparation for the river recovery operation to begin along the Cumberland River.
- The Team traveled to Visco Road to conduct oversight of clean up activities and to assess the absorbent boom located along the creek.
- The Team contacted Environmental Managers and /or Plant Managers of facilities of concern for Shelby County. All managers reported no hazardous material releases and stated they would not require assistance from the EPA

### **OSC Gaughan**

- OSC Gaughan's Team completed assessment in Decatur County. The Team assessed Arms Creek and Beech River, both which experienced minor flooding. There were no facilities with observed or potential threat of hazardous material release.
- The Team completed assessment in Henderson County. The Team assessed Beech River, Browns Creek and Big Creek, all of which experienced minor flooding. There were no facilities with observed or potential threat of hazardous material release.
- These counties should not require further assistance from the EPA at this time.
- OSC Gaughan completed the assigned assessments in the Western Branch and demobilized from the site.

## **OSC Byrd**

- OSC Byrd's Team completed assigned assessments in the Western Branch and mobilized back to the ICP in Nashville to lead the River Recovery Team.

## **EPA Water Division Under ESF-3**

### **Drinking and Waste Water Team**

#### Background:

TDEC Division of Water Supply has identified 54 community water systems affected by the flood. Four of those systems remain on a boil water notice and five are operating at a diminished capacity. There are over 235 public water systems in the declared counties.

TDEC identified approximately 11-12 WWTPs to receive assessment visits by EPA to evaluate the damage incurred by the facilities and to document any long term and/or short term needs the facilities may have.

#### Current Activities:

Two Drinking Water Team Experts conducted assessments of five public waters systems affected by the floods: Metro-Omohundro, Harpeth Valley Utility District, Second South Cheatham, River Road, and Ashland City. Harpeth Valley Utility District is concerned about the potential impact of a recent landslide to their water supply pipeline. TEMA has sent a team to assess the situation. A FEMA team was on site at Ashland City to address damages. All other systems are managing their impacts with available resources.

Three Wastewater Team Experts conducted assessments of seven WWTP facilities affected by the floods: Nashville Dry Creek STP, Nashville Central Biosolids Facility, Erin STP, Cumberland City Lagoon, Gainesboro STP, Hartsville STP, and Clarksville STP. Nashville Central Biosolids and Carthage STP were assessed in addition to the original 11-12 WWTPs identified. This will bring the total assessments conducted to 14 as of 05/12/10.

- There are approximately 26 to 28 facilities that are completely offline or damaged. At this time there are eleven facilities on the priority list for damage assessment, all of which will be reassessed by the Wastewater Team. Pump stations are also being assessed. At the direction of TDEC, EPA is focusing on wastewater treatment plants exclusively in the Central (Nashville) part of the state. Damage assessment reports are currently being sent to the state.

## **2.2 Planning Section**

### **2.2.1. Anticipated Activities**

The mobile first lab is scheduled to arrive at 8:00 p.m. today and will be ready to analyze samples on Friday.

#### **Drinking and Waste Water Team**

##### Anticipated Activities:

The Drinking Water Team will continue to assist TDEC in assessing impact to public water systems in the declared counties.

The Wastewater Team will continue assessment efforts tomorrow (05/13) of 3 additional STP facilities (Centerville, Springfield, and Franklin) in conjunction with TDEC field office staff. These facilities were added today to the original 11-12 WWTP prioritized for inspection.

EPA's mobile laboratory is expected to arrive at the Nashville TDEC field office Wednesday night. The lab will be ready to run samples beginning Friday (5/14). EPA and TDEC are re-evaluating the need for a second mobile lab. Currently, it appears that the capacity of one lab will be sufficient. The state lab will be closed this weekend and all bacT sampling will be delivered to the mobile lab.

#### **2.2.1.1. Planned Response Activities**

The Planning Team will continue to contact county convenience centers to coordinate recovery operations.

ERRS will provide a boat with a crane to remove hazardous materials from locations near and on the water, which will be operated by two ERRS staff and one technician. The land operations will use a backhoe for material removal. The ERRS land team will include four staff, one foreman and three technicians.

- The River Operations Team will be lead by OSC Byrd, START, and ERRS staff, and will conduct activities along the Cumberland River in Davidson and Cheatham Counties.
- The Land Operations Team will be lead by OSC Dixon, START, and ERRS staff and will conduct activities at Nestor Road in Davidson County.
- The River Assessment Team will be lead by OSC Crowley along with START, ERRS staff and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. They will conduct activities near the Old Hickory Dam in Montgomery County.

- The River Operations and River Assessment Operations Teams discussed water safety measures with the Incident Commander. All staff in boats will wear life vests and all drivers of the boats have experience in operating the vessels.
- All information recorded during recovery operations will be reported to the Data Management Team.

### 2.2.2 Issues

## 2.3 Logistics

## 2.4 Finance Section

### 2.4.1 Narrative

FEMA issued Mission Assignment No. 1909DR-TN-EPA-01 (FOS) on May 6, 2010 in the amount of \$100,000 for assessment activities.

FEMA issued Mission Assignment No. MA1909DR-TN-EPA-02 (DFA) on May 6, 2010, in the amount of \$575,000 for continued assessments and removal in support of ESF-10.

FEMA issued a Mission Assignment No. 1909DR-TN-COE-LRD-04 to EPA under ESF-3 in the amount of \$360,000 for support and technical assistance. EPA accepted this mission assignment on May 8, 2010.

### Estimated Costs \*

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Total To Date</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Remaining</b>
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
START	\$79,000.00	\$52,109.00	\$26,891.00	34.04%
START/ERRS	\$425,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$410,000.00	96.47%
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
USEPA - Direct	\$171,000.00	\$19,800.00	\$151,200.00	88.42%
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	<b>\$675,000.00</b>	<b>\$86,909.00</b>	<b>\$588,091.00</b>	<b>87.12%</b>

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other

financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

**2.5 Safety Officer**

**2.6 Liaison Officer**

**2.7 Information Officer**

**3. Participating Entities**

**3.1 Unified Command**

TEMA is acting as the lead agency on this response and EPA is assisting TDEC in response actions. Currently the IC for EPA is OSC Spurlin.

**3.2 Cooperating and Assisting Agencies**

EPA continues to work closely with TDEC and supporting Agencies. TWRA is providing a boat and personnel to assist with the River Assessment Team.

**4. Personnel On Site**

River Recovery Operations

1 EPA, 1 START

Land Recovery Operations

1 EPA, 1 START

River Assessment Operations

1 EPA, 1 START

ICP

2 EPA, 2 START

ERRS

7 Staff

Water Team

Drinking water (3) – Brian Smith, Amy Newbold, Robert Olive

Wastewater (4) - Araceli Bonilla, Humberto Guzman, Karri-Jo Shell, Mary Millner

**5. Definition of Terms**

**6. Additional Sources of Information**

**6.1 Internet location of additional information/reports**

EPA will post other information published on this incident under the documents tab of the website [www.epaosc.org/2010TNFloods](http://www.epaosc.org/2010TNFloods).

## **6.2 Reporting Schedule**

EPA plans to publish a POLREP/SITREP for the incident on a daily basis. Starting with Polrep #9, Polreps can be found in the Documents section of the above listed website.

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**