

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



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject:
POLREP #11
May 2010 Tennessee Floods
Nashville, TN

From: Steve Spurlin, On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 5/14/2010
Reporting Period: 0700 May 14, 2010 through 0700 May 15, 2010

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Response Authority: Stafford Act	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead: FEMA	Incident Category: Removal Assessment
NPL Status: Non NPL	Start Date: 5/3/2010
Mobilization Date: 5/3/2010	Start Notification: 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. When the EOC moves to the Joint Field Office (JFO), EPA will remain in the National Guard Armory.

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 assessed previously unvisited areas along Cumberland River and determined that additional assessment is required. EPA Operations have also initiated recovery efforts. Hazardous materials discovered in impacted areas will be disposed of at a designated disposal facility. Operations include 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 Planning Section continued collecting information for and contacting county convenience facilities to coordinate Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) operations.
- The ICP obtained a temporary ID for a generator.
- The Planning Section spoke with Ms. Diane Williams, the Interim Director of Cheatham County Schools, who stated Kingston Springs Elementary School is a location of concern for assessment. Ms. Williams gave EPA contact information for Mr. Nile Baker, the Point of Contact at the school for clean up and restoration activities. Hazardous waste of concern at the location includes mercury thermometers from the health clinic, as well as other materials in the building.
- The IC and Operations Section Chief met with FEMA to present information about debris and hazardous material observed during the over flight near the Cheatham Dam.
 - Topics from the meeting included funding issues for debris and hazardous material found on private property and the lack of

FEMA funding for clean up activities on private property. There is uncertainty as to who the responsible agency is for debris removal from these locations.

Land Recovery Operations

Nestor Road (Browns Creek – Davidson County)

- The Team conducted oversight of ERRS clean up activities to address pockets of oil in Browns Creek.
- WRS ERRS procured Marion Environmental, Inc. (MEI), who mobilized a vacuum truck to collect oil from the creek. The recovered oil was transferred to a tanker truck for shipment to an approved disposal facility.
- A total of two truckloads (estimated 10,000 gallons) of oil/water were shipped off site to the Aqua Treat, Inc. facility located in Chattanooga, Tennessee for treatment and disposal.
- Due to bad weather, Land Recovery Operations were suspended for the day. However, EPA will continue operations in this area.

January Environmental (91 Van Buren St, Nashville, TN – Davidson County)

- The Team coordinated with clean up personnel to monitor and ensure adequacy of clean up efforts.
- January Environmental personnel continued clean up activities, including in the area behind (to the south) the facility.
- EPA will follow up on this facility.

Benton Express Oil (1116 Visco Drive, Nashville, TN – Davidson County)

- The team spoke with Dino Mayers from the Knoxville, TN branch of the company, who reported the Nashville facility had a sugar release; however, there were no hazardous materials released.
- The facility should not require further follow up by EPA.

River Recovery Operations

- The River Recovery Team traveled to Commodore Marina (Davidson County) to meet with CMC ERRS to begin recovery operations along the Cumberland River.
- The Team recovered three 55 gallon drums (one drum full of unknown product, one drum a third full of unknown product and one empty drum), one 20 gallon container containing a third of unknown product, five household propane tanks and one 100 gallon propane tank.

- The Team observed other containers for later recovery.
- The Team traveled approximately four miles of Cumberland River throughout Ashland City in Cheatham County until recovery operations had to cease due to bad weather.

River Assessment Operations

- Mr. Nick Fielder of TDEC offered an over flight assessment to the team downstream of Cheatham Dam with the Tennessee Highway Patrol. The Team completed the over flight to observed areas along the river unable to be assessed by watercraft.
- The team observed a two mile debris field near the dam, which included multiple large tanks, smaller propane tanks and numerous drums. The over flight ended due to weather conditions.

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. One of those systems remains on a boil water notice and four are operating at a diminished capacity. TDEC requested field assessments of 14 water systems.

Initially, 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. Four WWTP facilities were added bringing the total request for assessments to 16.

Current Activities:

Two Drinking Water Team Experts worked with the Centerville water system to develop a sampling plan for their distributions system. Centerville is the only water system that remains on a boil water notice. Approximately 40 water samples were collected from multiple pressure zones in the distribution system. The samples will be analyzed for bacteriological contamination by the TN Public Health Department State Lab.

- The majority of status assessment work has been completed. EPA reps in the EOC are working on the non-community list. They have currently established contact with about 40% of the systems on the list. They hope to contact 100% of the systems by the end of today.

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1. Anticipated Activities

ERRS will continue recovery operations in Cheatham County and along Nestor Road.

River Recovery Operations will continue along the Cumberland River.

An assessment will be conducted at the Kingston Springs Elementary School.

Drinking and Waste Water Team

Anticipated Activities:

TDEC has received 14 drinking water assessment reports and 16 wastewater assessment reports, and indicated that they have the capacity to meet assessment needs of the water sector. The Wastewater Team demobilized today and the Drinking Water Team will demobilize tomorrow.

2.2.1.1. Planned Response Activities

- The Planning Team will continue to contact county convenience centers to coordinate recovery operations.
- The River Operations Team will continue to conduct recovery activities along the Cumberland River in Davidson and Cheatham Counties.
- The Land Operations Team will continue to conduct recovery activities at Nestor Road in Davidson County.
- 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 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.

FEMA issued a mission assignment amendment to MA1909DR-TN-EPA-02 to extend the projected end date to 7/6/10. Also, the amendment adjusted the state cost share to 25% of this zero dollar amendment. Further clarification on state cost share will be obtained once the JFO opens on Monday, May 17, 2010.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
START - OTIE	\$65,000.00	\$36,901.00	\$28,099.00	43.23%
START - TTMI	\$64,000.00	\$23,675.00	\$40,325.00	63.00%
ERRS - WRS	\$200,000.00	\$46,000.00	\$154,000.00	77.00%
ERRS - CMC	\$100,000.00	\$15,000.000	\$85,000.00	85.00%
Intramural Costs				
USEPA – Direct	\$171,000.00	\$25,800.00	\$145,200.00	84.91%
Total Site Costs	\$600,000.00	\$147,376.00	\$452,624.00	75.44%

* 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 periodically providing a boat and personnel to assist with the River Assessment Team, as needed.

4. Personnel On Site

EPA - 8

START -5

ERRS - 20

River Recovery Operations

1 EPA, 1 START, 10 ERRS

Land Recovery Operations

1 EPA, 1 START, 10 ERRS

River Assessment Operations

1 EPA, 1 START

ICP

2 EPA, 2 START

Water Division Ops Under ESF-3

3 Drinking Water personnel

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.epaossc.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