

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Silvertip Pipeline Spill



**USEPA Region 8**



**Subject:**        **SITREP # 15 - August 18, 2011**  
                     **Silvertip Pipeline Oil Spill Response**  
                     **Billings, Montana Latitude: 45° 39' 25.57" Longitude: 108° 44'54.35"**  
                     **Reporting Period: 0700 hours 08/15/11 to 0700 hours 08/18/11**

## Introduction

An EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has been directing and overseeing cleanup activities since arriving at the site on July 2, 2011. EPA issued the Responsible Party, ExxonMobil, a Clean Water Act 311(c) Administrative Order that outlines the requirements for the oil removal efforts and requires the development of a work plan that provides a framework for achieving the required endpoints. During this operational period, SCAT has completed some combined treatment recommendations (CTRs) for the Division C area. The responsible party is focusing resources on addressing Division C high-priority segments based on claims, public land, or private land with public hunting rights. Re-SCAT (post cleanup verification) has begun in Divisions A and B this operational period, resulting in the first “no further treatment” determination. EPA has posted all of its sampling data to the website and this information has been communicated to the public.

### 1.1 Background Information

<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	OPA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	7/2/11	<b>Start Date:</b>	7/2/11
<b>RCRIS ID:</b>			
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#: E11809</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account</b>	

### 1.2 Site Inspection and Response Activities

As part of a larger strategic effort to transition the incident to more of a remediation or project phase, EPA and MT DEQ respectively are working to issue final approval of Exxon's Clean Water Act 311(c) work plan and to put the necessary regulatory framework in place to allow EPA to begin transition of the response and subsequent remediation effort to MT DEQ. As part of this, EPA will be gradually transitioning the resources currently assigned to SCAT activities into more of an operational oversight role, where they will help guide the cleanup activities towards a successful SCAT "no further treatment" determination. As part of this effort, federal resources will very likely not be involved in the further SCAT activities in Division C unless treatable oil is found.

### Incident Objectives

The following incident objectives and command emphasis are taken from the IAP for Operational Period #20 from August 18, 2011, at 0730 to August 25, 2011, at 0730.

#### General Response Objectives

1. Ensure the safety of the responders.
2. Execute the safe disposal, treatment and remediation of agricultural products.
3. Monitor the source of the spill.

4. Characterize and assess the impact to maximize the protection of public health and welfare.
5. Define impacted areas and calibrate the operation's effectiveness in accordance with CTRs (Cleanup Treatment Recommendations)
6. Contain and recover spilled material and prioritize cleanup of impacted debris piles.
7. Develop and execute a remediation work plan for impacted areas.
8. Execute sampling, disposal, cleanup and decontamination plan.
9. Prepare for transition to long term remediation plan implementation.
10. Manage a coordinated response effort and maintain unified command organization support scaled to the response.
11. Execute Wildlife Plan to recover and rehabilitate injured wildlife, and define endpoint to address impacted wildlife.
12. Keep stakeholders and public informed of response activities (Residential, Commercial, Agricultural and Tribal). Maintain general media availability and access to field and command operations.

## **2.0 Background**

On July 6, 2011, EPA issued an administrative order to ExxonMobil instructing the oil company to provide information on the circumstance of the spill, conduct appropriate recovery and remediation actions, and perform ongoing environmental sampling. The order required ExxonMobil to provide a work plan under Paragraph VI. ExxonMobil. Those documents have now been reviewed by EPA, the state of Montana and other agency partners.

## **3.0 Current Operations**

In the operations section, EPA continued to assign 1 OSC as an Operations Advisor. An OSC has been assigned to Division A. Three USCG Strike Team personnel were deployed as field observers in Divisions A and B to monitor the cleanup effort.

Operations coordinated closely with the SCAT/Ops Liaison and the Environmental Unit/TAG rep to address issues not covered within the Consolidated Treatment Recommendations.

EPA continues to provide transport to the impacted islands within Divisions A and B for U.S. Fish and Wildlife representatives, as requested, with the USCG Strike Team boat during daily PRP oversight trips.

EPA, DEQ and DNRC have made a decision to cut and remove a large dead tree on A3 in order to assess and clean, as necessary, any oil or oil contaminated sediment that may exist under the tree. The tree will be replaced in its original location once the work is completed.

ExxonMobil reps met with the private property owner in segment A22 to develop an acceptable removal strategy for addressing a large oil-contaminated debris pile located on the property. EPA is continuing oversight of ExxonMobil activities on the property.

The wildlife rehab was maintained for the rescue of oiled wildlife.

Airboats are being deployed in areas where the river has dropped below levels inaccessible to jet boats.

Six segments were cleared by the re-SCAT Team as completed in B14RB, B24LB, B25LB, B26LB, B27LB and B27RB. Including A21, there are now a total of seven segments cleared by re-SCAT. Several segments are anticipated to be ready for re-SCAT over the next few days.

SCAT for Division C continues. Operations will commence in Division C when CTRs have been developed, which is anticipated within the next couple of weeks. EPA and USCG personnel from Division C will be phased into the operations in Divisions A and B during the current operational period. This will provide additional oversight in the field and is expected to expedite the re-SCAT.

- \*\*Note: The projected work schedule is an estimate on where operations will happen within the next timeframe. It doesn't mean that work will be completed within this projected timeframe.

**Silvertip Oil Spill Response  
Work Progress and Projections**

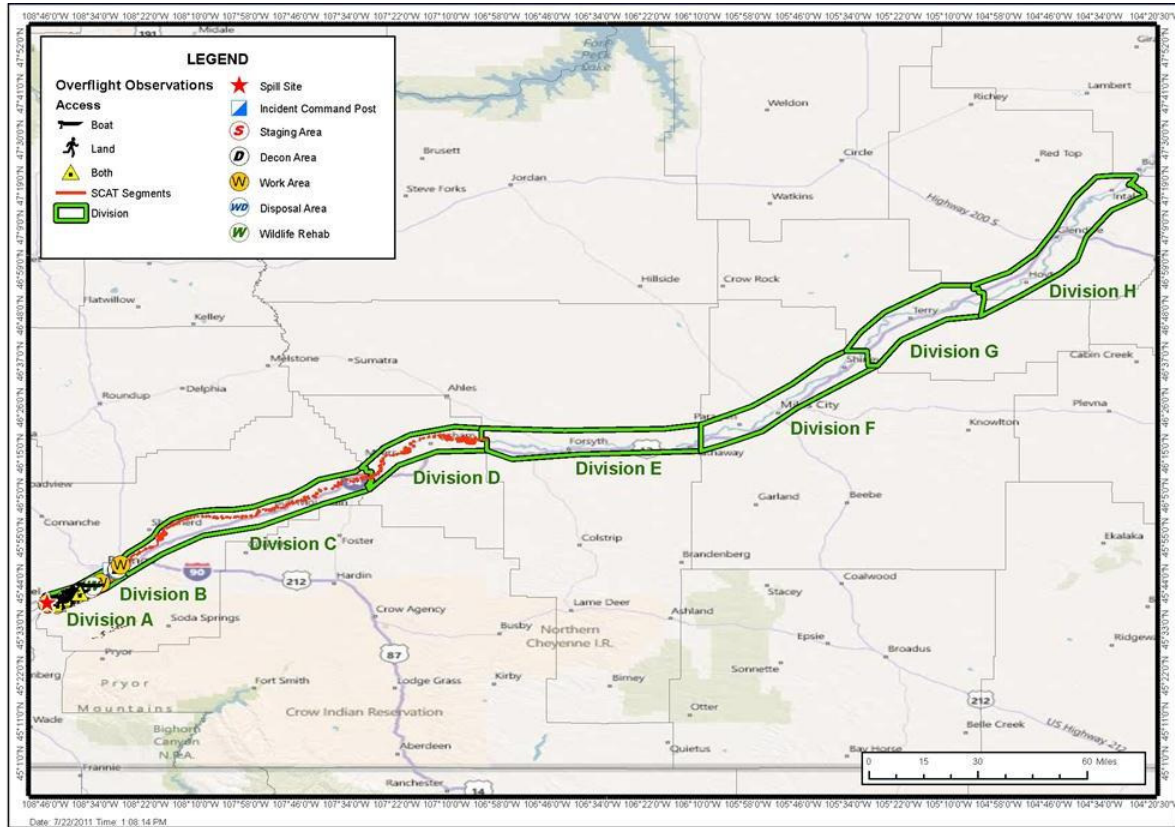
**Today's Date**

**8/17/2011**

Segment	Beg. of Period							
	% Complete	Thursday 8/18/2011	Friday 8/19/2011	Saturday 8/20/2011	Monday 8/22/2011	Tuesday 8/23/2011	Wednesday 8/24/2011	Thursday 8/25/2011
Division A - Land Based Operations								
A08-RB	80%	X	X					
A11-RB	80%	X	X					
A12-RB	80%	X	X					
A22-RB	40%	X	X	X	X	X	X	
A27-LB	0%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
A28-LB	0%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
A29-LB	0%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
A29-IS	10%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Division B - Land Based Operations								
B12-RB	60%	X	X	X	X			
B15-RB	20%	X	X	X	X	X	X	
B16-RB	0%					X	X	X
B28-LB	75%	X	X	X				
B29-LB	0%				X	X	X	X
B46-RB	90%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B47-RB	90%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Water Based Operations								
A03-IS	50%	X	X	X	X	X	x	
A13-LB	75%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
A14-LB	75%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
A15-RB	75%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
A16-RB	75%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B01-LB	10%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

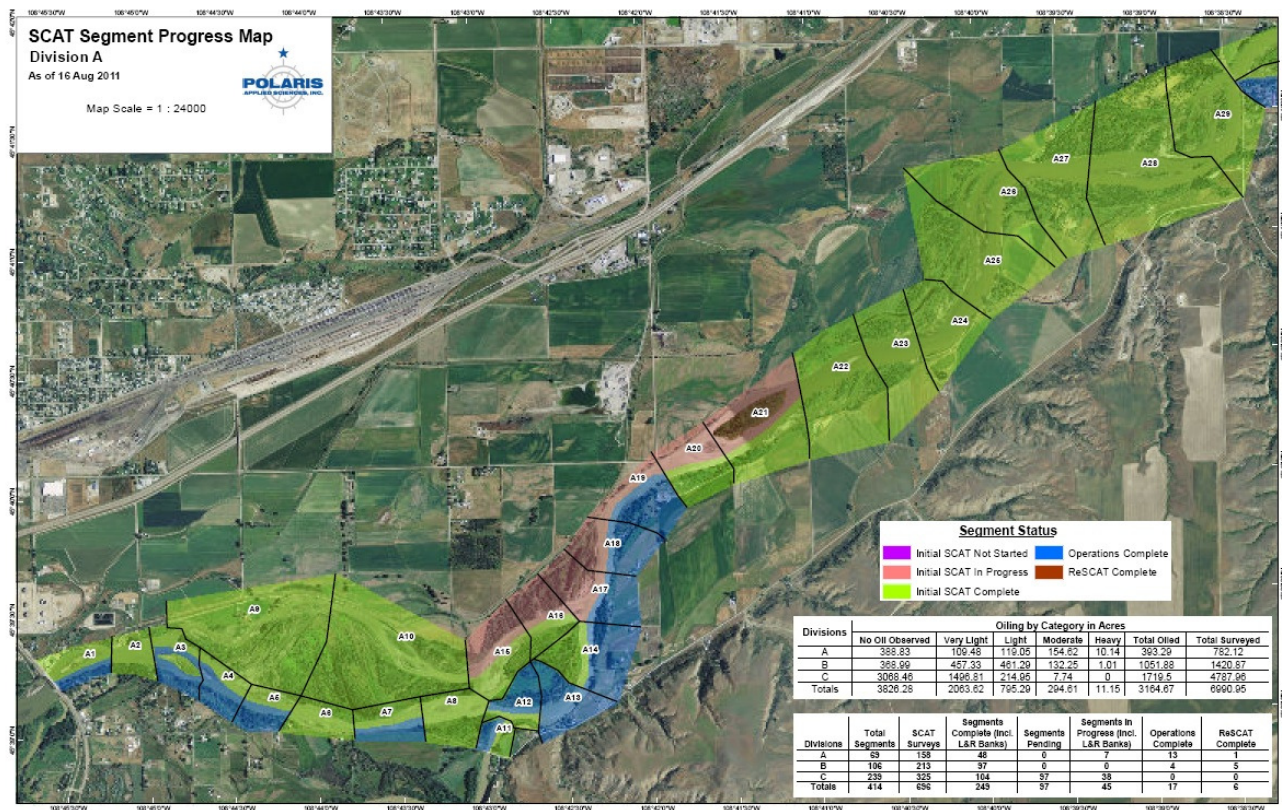
Segment	% Complete	Thursday 8/18/2011	Friday 8/19/2011	Saturday 8/20/2011	Monday 8/22/2011	Tuesday 8/23/2011	Wednesday 8/24/2011	Thursday 8/25/2011
B02-LB	0%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B04-RB	10%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B05-RB	0%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B19-IS	75%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Quick Response Teams								
A18/19-RB					50%	X		
A06-LB	0%	X	X	X	X			
B31-RB	0%					X	X	X
B25-LB	0%					X	X	X
B25-RB	5%	X	X	X	X	X	X	
B46/47-RB	0%			X	X	X	X	X
B13-LB	95%	X						

## 7-28 Silvertip Pipeline Incident Work Areas Overview



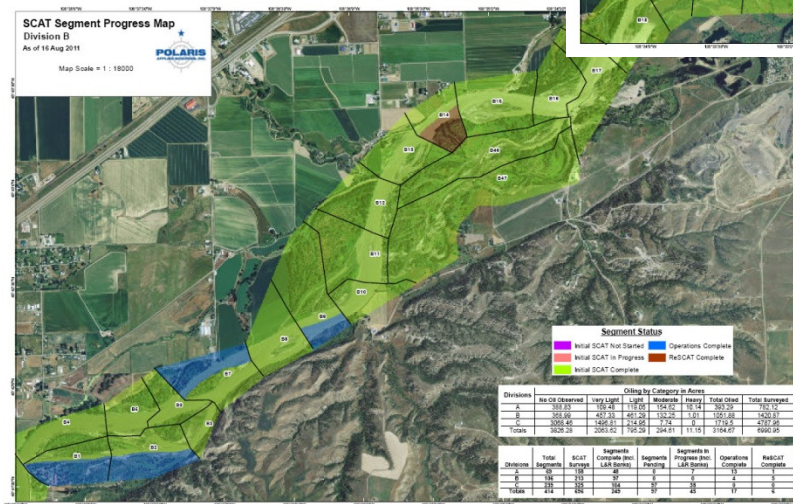
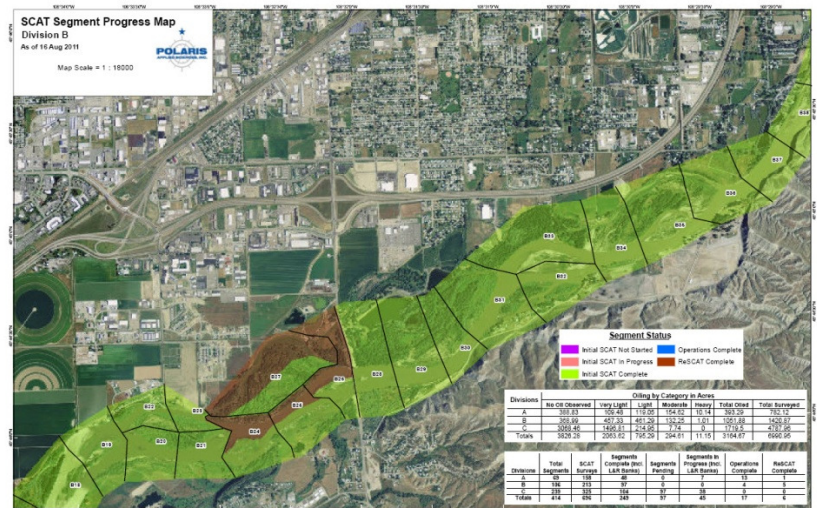
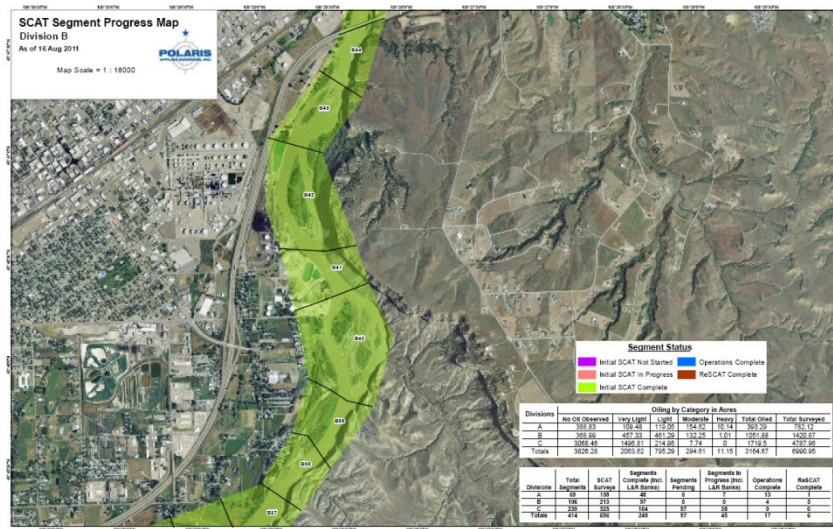


## Division A – SCAT Segment Progress Map



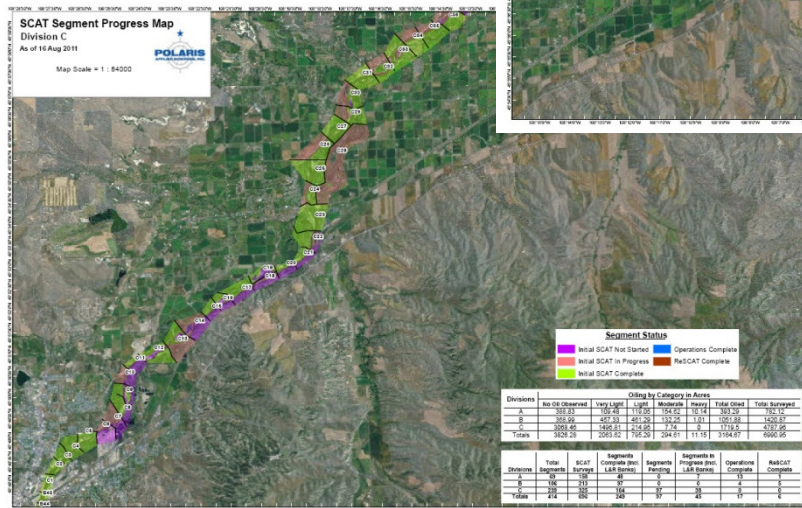
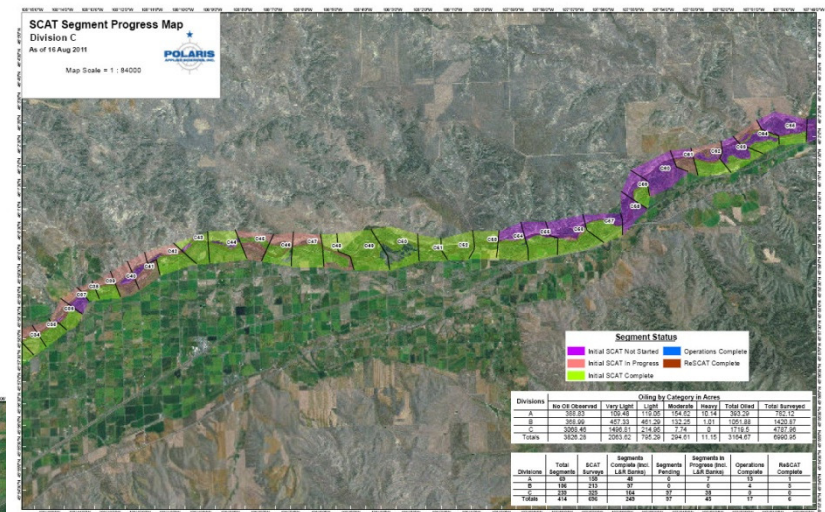
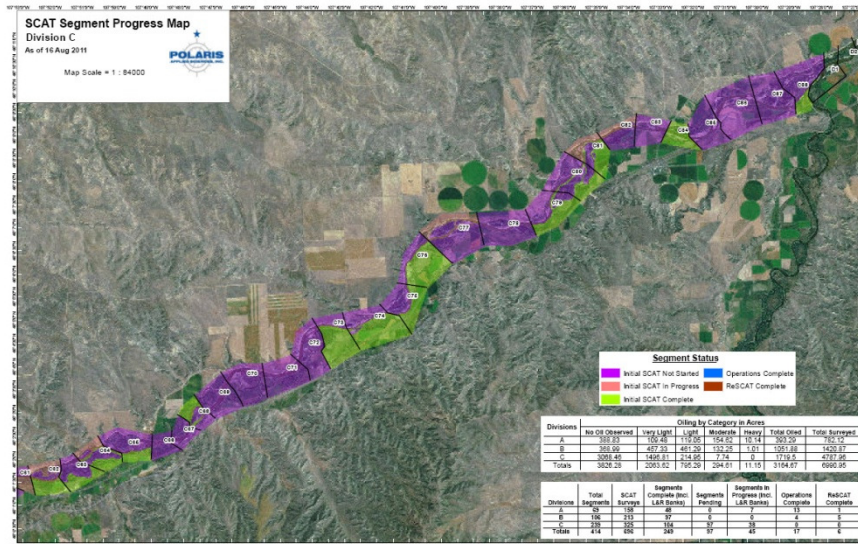


## Division B – SCAT Segment Progress Map





## Division C – SCAT Segment Progress Map



## SCAT Monitoring Data and Areas Surveyed

Work Site Summary (as of August 16, 2011)									
Division	Total Segments	Initial SCAT			CTR	Operations		Re-SCAT	
		Segments Pending	Segments in Progress	Segments Completed		Segments in Progress	Segments Completed	Segments Completed	Acres Completed
A	69	0	7	48	44	15	14	1	0
B	106	0	0	97	89	20	7	5	0
C	239	97	38	104	34	0	0	0	0
Totals	414	97	45	249	167	35	21	6	0

SCAT Monitoring Data (as of August 16, 2011)								
Work Area	SCAT Surveys Conducted	Oil Impact, acres <1>				Total Oil Impacts	Total Surveyed	
		No Oil Observed	Very Light	Light	Moderate	Heavy		
A	158	388.83	109.48	119.05	154.62	10.14	393.29	782.12
B	213	368.99	457.33	461.29	132.25	1.01	1,051.88	1,420.87
C	325	3,068.46	1,496.81	214.95	7.74	0.00	1,719.50	4,787.96
D	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	696	3,0826.28	2063.62	795.29	294.61	11.15	3,164.67	6,990.95
Comments: <1> Represents miles of impacted areas observed during completed SCATs <2> Segments evaluated include only partial shorelines in each segment pending boat access due to unsafe river conditions.								

## START and CTEH Samples

All START members are updating the database remotely from Denver. Database is being audited and corrected daily.

LATEST UPDATE: 08/18/11			07/03/11- 07/09/11		7/10/11- 7/16/11		7/17/11- 07/23/11		07/24/11- 07/29/11		07/30/11- 08/04/11		08/05/11- 08/12/11		08/13/11- 08/16/11		TOTAL COLL'TED TO DATE:	
			EPA	Exxon Mobil	EPA	Exxon Mobil	EPA	Exxon Mobil	EPA	Exxon Mobil	EPA	Exxon Mobil	EPA	Exxon Mobil	EPA	Exxon Mobil	EPA	Exxon Mobil
Water		Surface	6	9	2	8	1	27	3	27		9		12		3	12	95
	Well	Drinking	5	28	16	26	1	12		9		11		12		1	22	99
		Irrigation	1	11	3	14		1		3		5		2		3	4	39
Soil					69				18		4		18		70	69	110	
Sediment					27			4								31	0	
Air			6	62		77		69		44						6	252	
Product			4						3							4	3	
Total			22	110	117	125	2	109	7	104	0	29	0	44	0	77	148	598
EPA % Confirmation			20		94		2		7		0		0		0		25	

## **4.0 Environmental Unit Activities**

- Technical Advisory Group
  - Several meetings were held to define the process by which operational issues are taken to the TAG for review and resolution. A new TAG process flow chart was finalized by the TAG and sent to the UIC for approval.
  - TAG is reviewing a document that addresses wood debris redistribution as an addendum to the Approved Treatment Methods. This document outlines recommendations to operations for handling wood debris that has been moved or stacked as part of cleanup operations.
- EPA continues to coordinate with Montana agencies daily including, but not limited to, MT DEQ; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; Montana DNRC; the Crow Tribal Nation; and the Governor's appointee for Burial Grounds.
- The EUL continues to participate in all required Incident Command meetings as scheduled
- SCAT Technical Liaison Fred Stroud (ERT) has been in the field constantly, providing technical support to OPS and SCAT Teams as requested.
- EUL coordination meetings are held in the ICP at a minimum twice weekly.
- Coordination with the Crow Nation and Cultural/Historical Preservation: Cultural representatives are imbedded with the SCAT Teams and with operations whenever possible.
- State of Montana sample analytical data are on the Scribe database, available via subscription. Data include soils, surface water, drinking water and irrigation water from samples collected at the request of residents who contacted the State hotline.

## **5.0 Data Management**

- Continued to update the Scribe database with new analytical data from START, and worked with CTEH to ensure ExxonMobil data is updated in the combined Scribe database. Also worked with Montana Department of Environmental Quality to convert their data to a Scribe database and added the State data to the combined Scribe database.

## 6.0 Additional Operations

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

SITREP # 15 - August 18, 2011

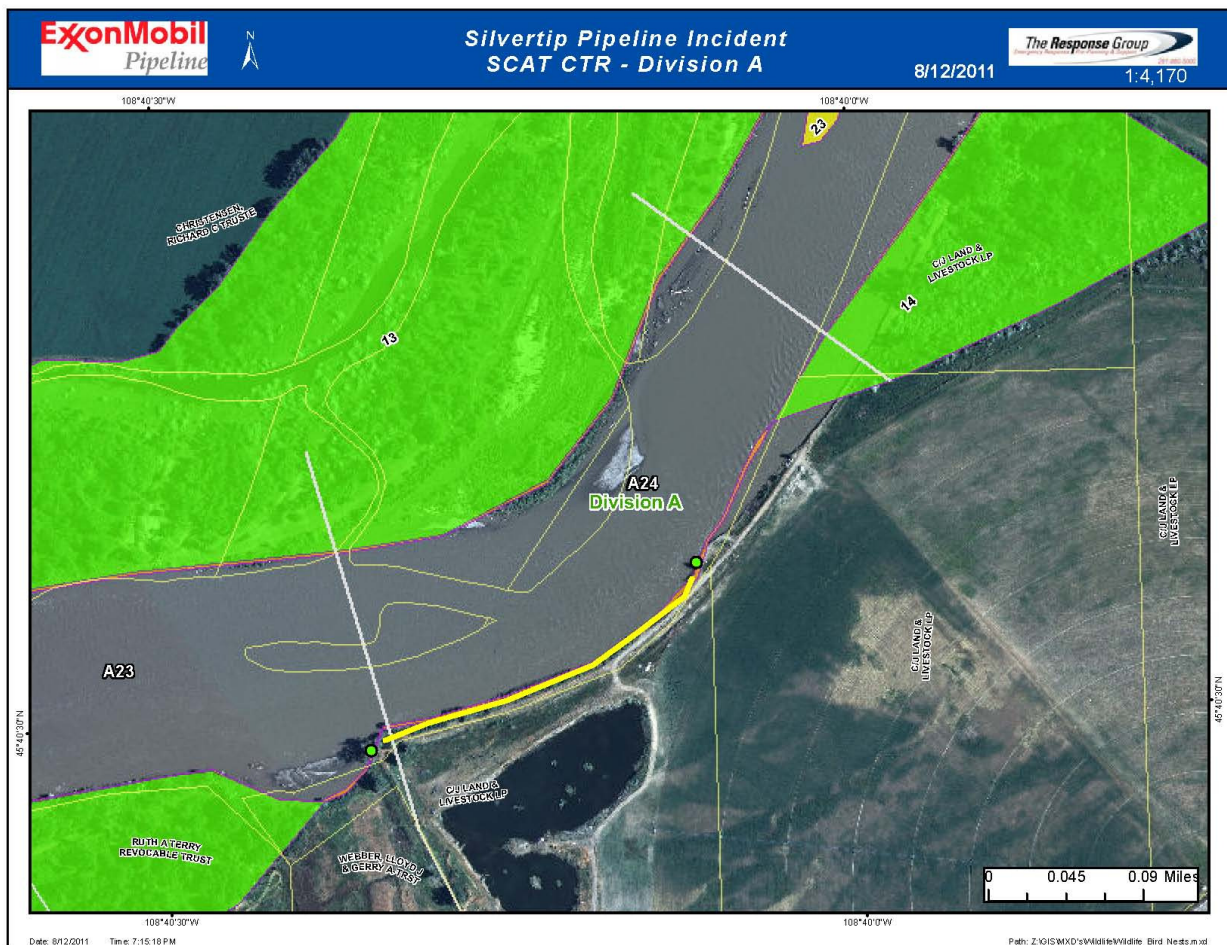
### Silvertip Pipeline Oil Spill Response

Billings, Montana Latitude: 45° 39' 25.57" Longitude: 108° 44' 54.35"

Reporting Period: 0700 hours 08/15/11 to 0700 hours 08/18/11

- **Personnel:** The US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) continued to provide operational support and advice regarding Service Trust Resources and other wildlife resource issues during Operational Period #15 (OpPer15) with three personnel: a Wildlife Branch Deputy (Chris Cline, acting for Karen Nelson of the Service's Montana Ecological Services Field Office) and two resource advisors (READs). READs are participating in daily land and boat-based surveys of the operational area to identify resources at risk and assist Operations crews in mitigating these risks.
- **Resources at Risk:** Currently, the Service's highest priority resources-at-risk area is an approximately 1,000 ft. stretch of oiled riparian vegetation in Operations Area A24-RB. This area currently has easily transferrable oil in a band about two feet thick which extends approximately 100 feet inland from the riverbank and is the only location, to our knowledge, where oiled birds are still being observed (Figure 1). At present the landowner is denying access to response crews. The Service is aware that both EPA and ExxonMobil are working to resolve this issue.
- **Resource Areas of Concern:** During OpPer15 the Wildlife Branch and Operations have resolved the issue of getting Operations Quick Response Crews out to priority areas identified by the Wildlife Branch (areas where wildlife are being exposed or are at risk of being exposed to oil). We have been assigned a dedicated Quick Response Crew that are working on these areas in coordination with the Wildlife Branch. Other resource areas of concern that have been identified include a heron rookery in area A25-LB and a parcel owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in areas B42 and B43 LB. ExxonMobil contractors IBR and FWS READs surveyed these areas during this operations period and found no oil that poses a risk to wildlife.
- **Technical Advisory Group (TAG):** The Service is participating in TAG discussions to develop new approved treatment methods (ATMs) as Response Operations identifies the need for them. Currently the TAG is developing an addendum to ATMs 3, 6 and 10 regarding the large woody debris piles found in many locations along the river. The Service has also participated in the TAG subgroup that is discussing short-term restoration (reclamation) of areas that have been disturbed by operations activities such as staging areas, vehicle tracks and footpaths.
- **Wildlife Branch Transition Plan:** The Service has provided review and comment on a transition plan for the duration and level of effort that will be provided by ExxonMobil throughout the remaining duration of the cleanup operation. We agree with this plan as it is drafted and expect it to be added to the Incident Action Plan (IAP) in the next operational period.





**Figure 1.** Location of oiled riparian vegetation in area A24-LB (left bank) where oiled wildlife (migratory birds) have been observed during Operational Period 19, August 15-18, 2011, Silvertip Pipeline Oil Spill Response, Yellowstone River, Montana.

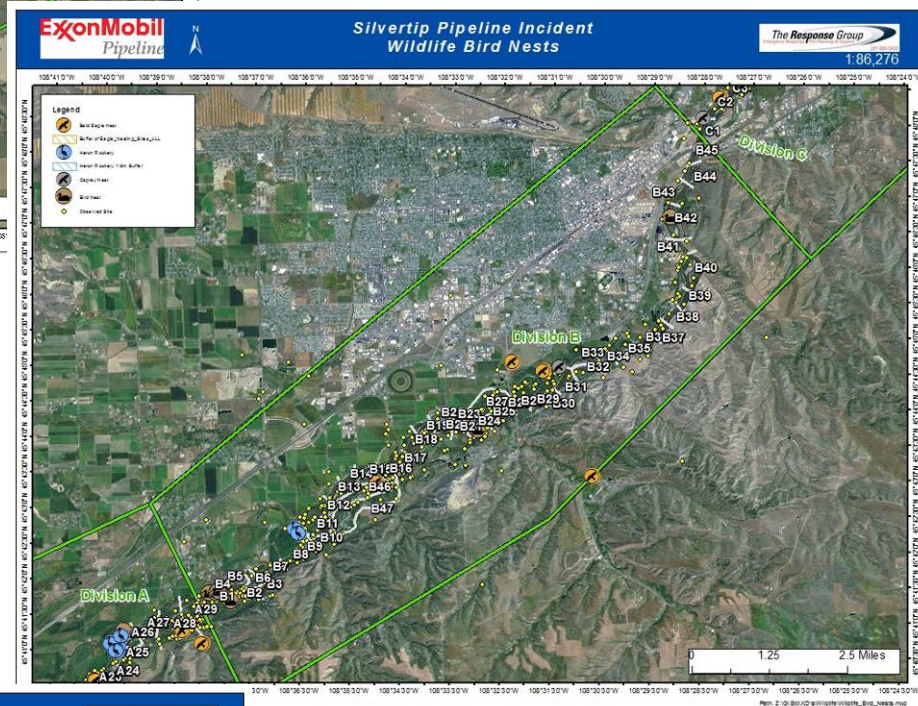
Type	Captured	Cleaned	Released	DOA
Bird	17	4	4	13
Mammal	6			6
Reptile	9	9	8	
Fish	82			83
Other	102	101	98	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>103</b>



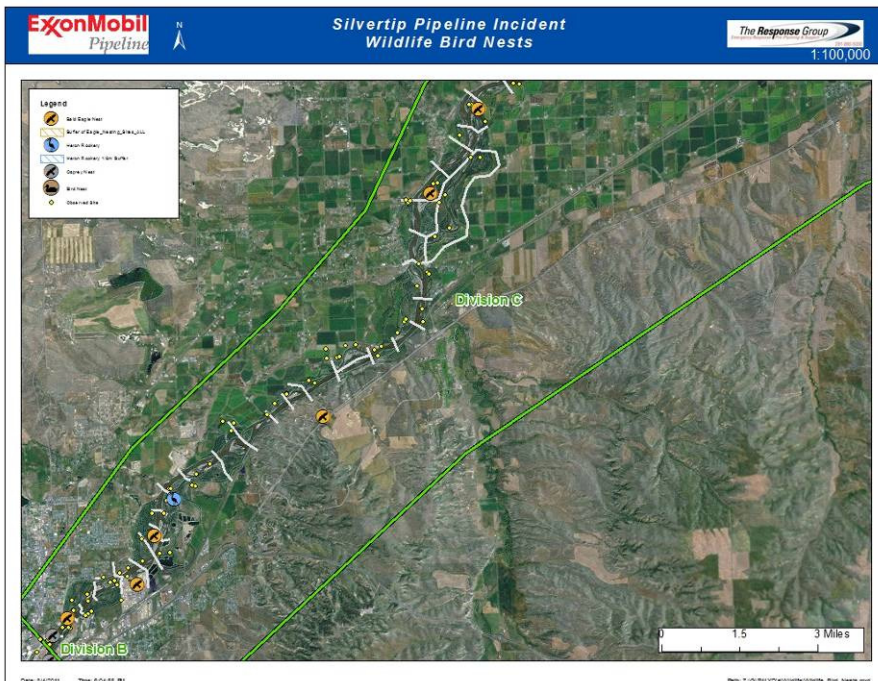
## Division A – Wildlife Bird Nests



## Division B – Wildlife Bird Nests



## Division C – Wildlife Bird Nests





## Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MT DEQ)

- The Cultural Heritage Plan was reviewed and signed by State representatives.
- A flow chart illustrating how the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is to be used came one step closer to UC approval. A simpler flow chart was developed and confined TAG to reviewing CTR issues / new approved method recommendations prior to UC approval. An additional topic concerned debris pile re-distribution. This will be part of the Rehabilitation Plan development.
- Tony Esperanto, consultant, is charged with developing the Rehabilitation Plan. Tony will host a field trip to see debris piles in A1, A2 and A3. A State representative and a county extension agent will be part of the team to develop this plan for UC approval. State representation will be there to assist in the development, but not necessarily in the implementation of the Rehab Plan across all 414 segments. Monty Smith will assist DEQ on that plan.
- EPA has indicated additional PRFA tasks are ok but will not be retroactive; no further increase above the \$50,000 is anticipated with this extension. No environmental costs above and beyond CWA/OPA expenses can come from this fund. It was also indicated that the funding center needs to be kept in the loop about proposed activities that affect the response (like issuing violations).

## Public Information

- Public concerns were received about oil spill cleanup on private property in the B18 / B19 area. Contact information was provided and will be followed-up with an action item on the 233 form to the Liaison Officer and County Commissioner Bill Kennedy.
- The Billings Motorcycle Club expressed some concerns about oiled dirt on its property. Apparently there is a dispute regarding whether the oiled dirt needs to be removed. More information will be gathered from FOSC.
- The new public information outreach center is coming to fruition. The center is staffed for walk-up customers and for those who choose to call. A State representative will visit this new site later in the week. The site is located near Costco on the west side of town near the Kings Ave. exit.

## Emerging / Ongoing Topics

- SCAT Team staffing continues to be a logistical topic. Representatives from FWP met with DEQ to discuss staffing through the end of August. In the short term, the State is covered; over time, it may be a more challenging assignment.
- Field crews were evacuated from the job sites due to lightning both in the morning and in the afternoon. These types of disturbances really mess-up work time and make progress slow. Safety first.
- Access to segment A6 the Williams property is still not happening. RP continues to try to contact property legal representatives but to no avail. It may not be an issue of property owner denial, just not getting the lawyer for access. The Liaison Officer will work with County Commissioner Bill Kennedy on this topic too.

## Hot Topics

- Geoff Craft (RP) informed State OSC about on-going efforts to purge the oil broken pipeline and the status of the re-drilling effort. Geoff thought the process to purge the old line via a PIG would be an activity open for a State representative of the Pipeline Safety Commission to witness. The process will yield a better estimate of how much oil was spilled into the river. State OSC made this field trip opportunity know to Helena management.
- The concern for 'emerging land mass' not SCATed was made known and will be pursued through the FOOSC.
- The concern for a developing and following a 'transportation plan' on cleanup areas in order to minimize disturbed ground was made known and will be pursued through Ops.
- A SCAT photo guide has not been shared on the ground with field folks. Also, it was suggested that the guide include photos to show the difference between petrogenic and biogenic sheens. This will be pursued further.

## 7.0 Response Metrics

All progress metrics are reported by ExxonMobil unless otherwise indicated.

### Boom/Sorbent Report (8-15/ 8-16 /8-17 data)

	Staged	Assigned
Sorbent: Boom Available (in feet)	59,940/59,940/59,820	48,060/48,060/48,180
Sorbent: Rolls (in rolls)	63/63/63*	205/205/205*
Sorbent: Pads (in bales)	1,858/1,858/1,852	1,318/1,318/1,324
Boom (in feet)	100/100/100*	300/300/300
Viscous (in bags)	3,455/3,455/3,455*	293/293/293*

\*No Change

### Estimated Soil and Debris Waste Tracking (8-15/ 8-16/ 8-17 data)

Waste Stream	Recovered	Stored	Disposed
Oily Liquids (bbls)	942/942/942*	0/0/0	942/942/942*
Oily Solids (yd <sup>3</sup> )	6,286/6,286/6,521	1,612/1,612/1,270	4,674/4,674/4,674*
Decon Liquid	0/0/0*	378/378/378	0/0/0*

\*No Change

## 8.0 Situation Unit: Activities for Next Reporting Period

The next reporting period (SITREP #16) will cover August 18, 2011 0700 to August 25, 2011 0700.

## 9.0 Liaison/Public Information Officer (No new info.)

This position is no longer staffed on-site in Billings, MT. All PIO activities are being handled from the Regional office.

## 10.0 Finance Section

The current FPN ceiling is \$3.25 million. Approximately 79.41 % of the ceiling (\$3,250,000) has been expended or obligated through August 18, 2011. The latest estimated burn rate is \$15,600 per day, which includes indirect charges. These cost summaries reflect only EPA-funded expenditures for the incident.

### FPN E11809 - Silvertip Pipeline Oil Spill

As of: 08/18/2011

START Contractor (Ceiling)	Est.Exp.	Est Burn Rate (Latest Daily)
R8, R6, R10 START - \$645,000* Sampl'g, Comm. Resp. Support	\$757,875	NA Presently
<b>Response Contractor Sub-Totals</b>	<b>\$757,875</b>	<b>NA Presently</b>
<b>EPA Funded Costs:</b>		
<b>Total EPA Personnel Costs*</b> Totals/Burn Rate Loaded with 17.5% Indirect Rate	<b>\$804,908</b>	<b>\$15,600</b>
<b>Pollution Removal Funding Agreements:</b>		
<b>Total Other Agencies (\$1,018,000)**</b>	<b>\$1,018,000</b>	
<b>Sub-Totals</b>	<b>\$2,580,783</b>	<b>\$15,600</b>
<b>Total Est. Oil Spill Cost</b>	<b>\$2,580,783</b>	<b>\$15,600</b>
<b>Oil Spill Ceiling authorized by USCG</b>	<b>\$3,250,000</b>	
<b>Balance of Funds</b>	<b>\$669,217</b>	
<b>Percent Utilized</b>	<b>79.41 %</b>	

\*Totals/Burn Rates Loaded with 17.5% Indirect Rate – Adjusted for Actuals - Reduction

\*\* Pollution Removal Funding Agreements Cost W/O Indirect Rate

## 11.0 Personnel on Site

Agency/Entity	Numbers Reported 8/18/11
EPA	10
NOAA	0
USFWS	3
USCG	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

## 12.0 Additional Information

For additional information, please refer to: <http://www.epa.gov/yellowstoneriverspill/>

## 13.0 Reporting Schedule

SITREPs are issued on the first day of the Operational Period and will continue until the UC establishes a different reporting schedule. SITREPs are posted to:

[R08\\_Documentation\\_Unit\\_Leader@epa.gov](mailto:R08_Documentation_Unit_Leader@epa.gov)