

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT #28**

I. HEADING

Date: December 12, 2006

Subject: Update on Activities
Boyd's Creek III, Glasgow, Kentucky

From: James W. Webster, OSC, 4WD-ERRB

To: Matt Taylor, 4WD-ERRB
Anita Davis, 4WD-ERRB
Robert Smith, USCG NPFC
U.S. Coast Guard District Eight
Project File

II. BACKGROUND

OSC Name: Dr. James Webster
U.S. EPA Region 4
Emergency Response and Removal Branch
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

FPN: 025002

SITE ID Number: Z426

Authority: Clean Water Act

Start Date: October 11, 1994

Mobilization: August 20, 1995

Construction Completion: July 10, 1996

Remobilization: July 10, 2006¹

Total Cost to Date: \$1,458,846

Available Ceiling: \$281,154²

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

The incident involves an ongoing discharge of crude oil into Boyd's Creek and the Barren River Lake, which is a navigable waterway. This is not a CERCLA incident.

¹. Remobilization of full ERRS crew to site. ERRS PM made prior recon visits to plan for work.

B. Site Description

The source of the discharge of crude oil is located in a pasture adjacent to Oil Well Road, 100 yards north of the intersection with Heygood-Cedar Grove Road, near Glasgow, Barren County, Kentucky. The geo-coordinates of the source of the discharge are 85.94261 W longitude and 36.94286 N. The area is primarily rural and agricultural, with fewer than 500 residents living within a one-half mile radius of the discharge.

The Boyd's Creek area has been the focus of long-term but intermittent EPA activities. EPA has been involved in plugging oil wells and cleaning up oil spills in and around the creek since 1983. Prior to July 2004, approximately fifteen leaking, abandoned oil wells in the general area were located and plugged by EPA, with the majority of the plugging taking place between 1991 and 1993. Plugging operations have not completely mitigated the ongoing oil discharge at the spring at the Site. Consequently, oil containment operations continue.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Summary of Previous Removal Activities

The Boyd's Creek area has been the focus of long-term but intermittent EPA activities. EPA has been involved in plugging oil wells and cleaning up oil spills in and around the stream since 1983. In 1986, the U.S. EPA identified an area where oil appeared to be seeping from a limestone outcropping at the base of a hillside approximately 150 feet north of Boyd's Creek. In 1994 and 1995, EPA oversaw design and installation of an oil recovery system at the subject spring. In 1996, EPA entered into an Interagency Agreement (IAG) with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to operate and maintain the system. More than 40,000 gallons of oil have been recovered since detailed records began to be maintained in 1997. This oil would otherwise have discharged to navigable waters. In May and June 2001, the U.S. EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT) conducted a geophysical investigation of a hillside immediately north of the springs in hopes of locating possible buried oil wells. Seven significant geophysical anomalies were identified. Excavation of these anomalies took place in July 2005. Two abandoned oil wells were identified and properly plugged and abandoned.

B. Activities During Reporting Period TVA IAG

Ongoing operation and maintenance (O&M) of the oil collection system is performed by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) under an Interagency Agreement with EPA. Normally TVA visits the site once per month or more frequently depending upon specific maintenance activities. These O&M activities are expected to continue into the foreseeable future. The costs associated with these activities average \$2,000 to \$5,000 per month.

Between July 10 and 17, 2006, ERRS contractors completed backfilling and grading of several gullies resulting from erosion of backfill placed during July 2005 well plugging operations.

VI. COST INFORMATION

The current FPN ceiling is \$1,740,000. Total dollars expended since the beginning of the project

through August 22, 2006 stands at \$1,458,154² leaving an available ceiling of \$281,154.

The accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. 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.

VII. PROJECTED ACTIVITIES DURING NEXT SIX MONTHS

During the next six months, and into the foreseeable future, TVA will continue O&M of the oil recovery system. EPA will continue to monitor oil recovery at the site to determine whether the last round of well plugging activities has had any positive impact on conditions at the effected spring.

VIII. ANTICIPATED DATE OF NEXT POLLUTION REPORT

Pending unplanned actions at the Site, the next POLREP will be submitted in June, 2007. Note that monthly charges for O&M will continue to incur during the ensuing period.

Attachments

1. Tennessee Valley Authority (November 30, 2006). Operations and Maintenance Report, Boyd's Creek Facility. September 1, 2005, through November 30, 2006.
2. Boyd's Creek III. Costs Through 12/12/2006.

² Current FPN ceiling and expenditures taken from December 12, 2006 Itemized Cost Summary and it is understood that the costs do not reflect approximately \$47,000 in expenditures by the USCG.