

POLREP 03 and FINAL
Malone #1 Abandoned Oil Well
Near Griffen Road
Near Schultz, Pleasants County, WV 26170

Lat. 39.34802
Long. -81.24593

FPN: E12314
Site ID: Z3LW
RESPONSE AUTHORITY: Oil Pollution Act (OPA)

Attn: EPA RRC3
WVDEP D. Gilbert
EPA G. Heston
USCG J. Hahn
USCG NPFC

- I. SITUATION (as of 2/15/13)
EVENT: Completion of Removal Activity, Summary of Activity, Final POLREP
 - A. The subject Site consisted of one (1) abandoned and leaking oil well located in Pleasants County, West Virginia. The subject well was reported to have discharged an unknown amount of oil and threatened to discharge an additional and unknown amount of oil into an unnamed tributary of Cow Creek which is a tributary of the Ohio River, a navigable waterway.
 - B. WVDEP inspected the well and found that the well was not identified on any mapping or on any record available to WVDEP. WVDEP initiated a search for information about the well and any potentially responsible parties. A Responsible Party was not identified.
 - C. On July 17, 2012, WVDEP identified this abandoned and leaking oil well to the EPA On- Scene Coordinator (OSC). The OSC requested continued monitoring of the well location and defensive actions as needed until an onsite inspection could be completed

and a search for a Responsible Party concluded. WVDEP requested the OSC to consider the subject well for federal response actions.

- D. On August 2, 2012, the OSC obtained initial funds from the OSLTF (via CANAPS). An initial project ceiling of \$6,000 was established and FPN E12314 was assigned to the case.
- E. On August 6, 2012, the OSC met with WVDEP and the EPA START contractor at the subject Site. The OSC conducted a preliminary assessment at the Malone #1 Well location. The well was audibly bubbling gas through a column of oil and leaking over the surface of the ground-level casing. The ground sloped steeply from the well toward an unnamed tributary of Cow Creek, which is a tributary of the Ohio River. Oil had not reached flowing water at the time of the assessment. The Ohio River is a navigable waterway. The OSC determined that Malone Well #1 continues to pose a substantial threat of discharge of oil into the navigable waters of the United States. The amount of such discharge could not be definitively estimated. Similar situations evaluated by the WVDEP and OSC indicated that a discharge of 10 BBLs is plausible.
- F. Under the direction of the OSC, the EPA START contractor complemented WVDEP's initial search for an RP at the Pleasants County Courthouse. Neither START nor WVDEP could find any documentation to verify the last known operator of the well. Following review of the deed and title documentation, the OSC could not determine a viable Responsible Party. On August 8, 2012, the OSC completed a memorandum entitled Identification of Responsible Party for the Malone #1 Abandoned Oil Well and sent the memorandum along with available deeds and lease agreements to USCG-NPFC Case Officer.
- G. The OSC requested an increase to the FPN Ceiling on August 8, 2012, the OSC requested and received a FPN ceiling increase in the amount of \$104,000, raising the total FPN to \$110,000, for WVDEP and its contractors to complete a Removal Action at the Site. A PRFA in the amount of \$80,205 was issued to WVDEP to complete this action. A SOW, including mobilization of equipment to the Site, the safety of the workers and rig placement, along with plugging operations, disposal of oil-contaminated soils, booms, and debris, and restoration of the Site, was discussed and agreed to by both WVDEP and the OSC.
- H. On August 14, 2012, WVDEP and its contractor initiated mobilization of equipment to the Site. An access road crossing the steep terrain was constructed. By August 17th, the contractor was rigged on the borehole and activity to prepare the well for plugging was initiated. A bridge was found at 243 feet subsequently found to be a portion of a wooden plug previously installed by unknown persons in the well. This plug was insufficient to prevent leaking from the well.
- I. By August 23rd, a depth of 310 feet was achieved and 1.5 barrels of oil/oily liquid were recovered. The wellbore was full of debris inclusive of pieces of broken wellhead. By August 30th a depth of 321 feet was achieved.
- J. Heavy rain over the labor day holiday caused settling of the rig. Once the rig was re-leveled, the hole had lost 3 feet of depth. The contractor was unable to make further progress by September 6, 2012.
- K. By September 10, 2012, the hole was measured at 306 feet. After further operations to 315 feet, the WVDEP and the OSC consulted and determined that operations would cease and a cement plug would be set.
- L. On September 13th a cement plug was set at 315 feet; this plug was lost over the weekend and had to be re-set on September 17, 2012.
- M. On September 18, 2012, WVDEP's contractor went into the hole at 190 feet and cut the 8-inch pipe that was present in the wellbore. However, it could not be pulled. The hole was then gelled to 130 feet and a cement plug was set from 130

feet to the surface. The bore was topped with cement on the 19th and a monument (API 47-073-2547-P) was constructed.

- N. By September 25, 2012, WVDEP's contractor had completed restoration of the Site, including removal of equipment, disposal of oily pit fluids, grading, seeding, fertilizing, and placement of gravel to restore the access road. The Removal Action was complete.
- O. The Removal Action resulted in the disposal of 6 BBLs of oily liquids (Virco Inc., Ohio) and 0.26 tons of oily solids (Waste Management, Parkersburg, WV).
- P. The OSC and START conducted periodic visits to the Site to conduct documentation of Site activities. Both the OSC and START maintained contact with WVDEP throughout the Removal Action.
- Q. The WVDEP submitted a Voucher Form 1080 itemizing the costs associated with the action. The total cost was \$79,629.66. The OSC reviewed the voucher and recommended payment of such costs to USCG-NPFC Case Officer by letter dated November 1, 2012.
- R. The OSC requested an EPA financial summary of costs incurred at the Malone Site (FPN E12314). According to EPA, as of January 31, 2013, the total EPA Site costs are \$12,711.49 and are separated as indicated below.
- S. Considering EPA, START, and WVDEP costs, the OSC estimates the total costs incurred for this incident will be as follows:

ITEM	COST
EPA DIRECT	\$1,656.03
EPA INDIRECT	\$1,630.08
START Contractor	\$9,425.38
WVDEP	\$79,629.66
TOTAL	\$92,341.15

- T. Site information, contacts, documents, and photographs are posted on the OSC's website, www.epaosc.org/malone

II. ACTIONS

- A. On November 1, 2012, the OSC submitted the approved WVDEP Voucher package to the USCG-NPFC and recommended reimbursement.
- B. An Incident Report and Transmittal of Financial Summary Report was completed February 15, 2013, and submitted to the USCG-NPFC.

III. FUTURE ACTIONS

- A. No Further action is expected by EPA. This is the final POLREP. The OSC will be available to USCG-NPFC for additional information as needed.

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