

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4  
NOTICE OF FEDERAL INTEREST IN AN OIL POLLUTION  
DISCHARGE**

Date 2/1/2014

Devin Sprinkle  
Regional Manager - Environment (U.S.)  
CN  
(Illinois Central Railroad)  
17641 South Ashland Avenue  
Homewood, Illinois, 60430  
Office: (708) 332-3850

Re: Follow up Written Notice of Federal Interest in an Oil Pollution Discharge, New Augusta Train Derailment New Augusta, MS Perry County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Pellerin:

This letter is a written follow up for a Notice of Federal Interest that was issued verbally on the evening of January 31st, 2014.

This letter is to inform you that a discharge of oil has occurred as a result of the train derailment in New Augusta, Perry County, Mississippi (31.2055720 -89.0592740). The discharge has entered into a drainage ditch that flows into the Leaf River. The discharge of a prohibited quantity of oil or a hazardous substance is a violation of the Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA). Under the OPA, the responsible party is liable for clean-up costs and damages resulting from the incident. A responsible party is the owner, operator, or person in charge of a facility or vessel from which the oil is discharged or poses a threat of discharge.

As the responsible party, you should clean up the discharged oil and/or take other actions to prevent or mitigate or minimize the threat of a discharge of oil. If you do not act, the United States may respond for you and take such actions that are necessary to remove the discharged oil or to minimize or mitigate the threat. **The U.S. costs to respond to this incident will be billed to, and recovered from, the responsible party.**

You are advised that a responsible party may lose the opportunity to limit their liability for cleanup under OPA if the responsible party fails or refuses to provide all reasonable cooperation and assistance requested by the responsible official in connection with response activities. A responsible party who fails to comply with an On-Scene Coordinator's (OSC) verbal or written directive to remove the discharge or to an administrative order to protect the public health and welfare may be subject to additional penalties. Under the CWA, a civil penalty can amount up to \$37,500 per day of violation or up to three times the costs incurred by the Oil Discharge Liability Trust Fund to conduct response actions.

A response is being done properly if it is done in accordance with federal and state statutes and regulations and in accordance with the criteria of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). If you undertake the response action, the adequacy of such action shall be evaluated by the OSC. Under the CWA, a responsible party could also be liable for penalties for discharges of oil which enter any navigable waters of the United States and adjoining shorelines. These penalties would be in addition to penalties and liability for failure to properly remove the discharge. A responsible party's actions may be taken into account in determining the amount of any penalty assessed as a result of the incident.

If you have any questions regarding this incident, please contact me at the EPA Region 4 Mobile Outpost. I can be reached via my cell at (404)606-2223 or via email at [francendese.leo@epa.gov](mailto:francendese.leo@epa.gov).

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Leo Francendese in black ink, with a date "2/1/14" written to the right of the signature.

Leo Francendese  
On Scene Coordinator (OSC)  
U.S. EPA Region 4

Acknowledgement of Receipt

Handwritten signature of Devin Sprinkle in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'D' followed by the name 'Devin Sprinkle'.

Devin Sprinkle  
Regional Manager - Environment (U.S.)  
CN