



NRC 1158584, Pelham Pipeline Spill Pelham, Shelby County, Alabama

SITUATION REPORT #4

1800 CDT, September 13, 2016

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

On September 9, 2016, at 1449 hours, Colonial Pipeline reported a gasoline spill from a 36” subsurface transmission line to the National Response Center. The gasoline traveled overland for approximately 500 feet to a pond that feeds into Peel Creek (which is a tributary of the Cahaba River). The initial report to Colonial was made by the property owner, but there was no volume estimate. The exact amount of the release was unknown; however, Colonial Pipeline initially reported to the responding OSC that between 1,000 and 2,000 gallons of gasoline entered the pond (the spill volume has been updated to 235,000 gallons)– See “Current Operations” for more information).

The local fire department responded and established a secured zone around the spill site. Dangerous explosive gas levels have been detected around the spill location. Shelby County Emergency Management responded and confirmed that there are no public or private drinking water sources threatened by the spill. Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) has integrated into Unified Command and is coordinating with State and County Agencies. An Incident Command Post was established in Hoover, Alabama. The spill location is in a remote area, and no evacuations are necessary. The nearest residential neighborhood is located two miles from the spill location.

Colonial Pipeline has confirmed that the impacted transmission line is shut down. Environmental contractors for Colonial Pipeline are on site to conduct air monitoring and remediation activities. Work to remediate the spill is delayed due to the high concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOC) emitted for the large areas of pooled gasoline.

Threatened and endangered (T&E) species in the area of the spill have been identified and communicated to Unified Command. No T&E species have been reported impacted from the spill, although several common species have been impacted.

At this time, a Regional Response Team 4 (RRT4) activation is not planned. The appropriate members were engaged during the initial response notification process. A RRT4 call will be held if conditions change.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Chuck Berry remains integrated into Unified Command, which includes EPA, Colonial, ADEM, and Shelby County. OSC Williamson, and four US Coast Guard Gulf Strike Team members remain deployed to assist within field observations. A Public Information Officer (PIO) was requested and will assist in the Joint Information Center.

OSC Garrard was mobilized to the site to overlap with OSC Williamson tomorrow, he will assume responsibilities for Operations. OSC Tripp mobilized to the site to serve as the EPA Situation Unit Leader.

Current number of EPA Personnel Assigned: 4

Current number of United States Coast Guard Gulf Strike Team (USCG GST) Members: 4

REPORTING SCHEDULE

Situation Reports (SITREPS) will be delivered 1800 CDT daily.

CURRENT OPERATIONS

The pipeline continues to drain into Pond 2 at a rate of approximately 3 gallons per minute. Colonial has installed both stopples, one currently set and the other is tapping through the pipeline emplacing the plug. The fuel will be vacuumed from the line and into trucks for shipment to the Colonial Pelham terminal.

The high level of explosive vapors continue to be the greatest limiting factor to recovery operations. Colonial contractor CTEH remains on site providing air monitoring services. They continue monitoring the AreaRAE network and providing roving air monitoring and escort services for personnel working inside the hot zone. Action levels for benzene, VOCs and explosive vapors remain as previously established. Work interruptions continue due to excess benzene and LEL readings. Today's highest VOC level peaked at 489 parts per million (ppm). The highest benzene level recorded was 4.8 ppm. LEL levels remain in the 100% range.

Colonial continues to increase its footprint at the site, building new roads to ease traffic congestion and allow for larger vehicles to access closer locations. A vapor recovery scrubber has been mobilized to the site to aid with vapor emissions. A decontamination pad for trucks has been constructed to decontaminate fuel-contaminated equipment.

Colonial has managed to remove approximately 107,304 gallons of liquid from Pond 2. Of that volume 18,928 gallons of fuel has been recovered and 88,376 gallons of mixed oil/water remain.

Colonial has performed an initial mass balance calculation and determined an estimated volume of 235,919 gallons of fuel was discharged. They are estimating 115,700 gallons of fuel evaporated. 101,291 gallons of fuel is estimated to remain in the pond. These numbers are approximate and will likely change significantly over time.

The diversions designed for Pond 3 are in place. They include a substantial underflow dam at the pond outfall. Colonial continues to monitor the Pond 3. No oil sheening has been seen along the shoreline. The UC will be notified if any petroleum is noted. Significant rainfall may be received on site depending on the actions of a new tropical storm system forming in the Gulf of Mexico.

EPA/GST remains incorporated into Operations and air monitoring. OSC Williamson and two GST members continue on site safety and progress monitoring. Two GST members continue to observe night operations. OSC Williamson briefly met with the Vice President of Colonial during a VIP visit to the work site.

PLANNED RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

- Continue to participate in UC
- Monitor removal activities
- Monitor safety air monitoring
- Prepare for and coordinate a transition to a removal phase.