



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

SITUATION REPORT #6

1800 CDT, September 15, 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 a state mining inspector, 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 since been updated in NRC Reports to 252,000 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) and EPA have integrated into Unified Command and are coordinating with State and County Agencies. An Incident Command Post is being operated out of Pelham, 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 explosive vapors and volatile organic compounds (VOC) emitted for the large areas of pooled gasoline.

Consult with the Department of Interior and the State of Alabama identified threatened and endangered (T&E) species in the area of the spill. However, no T&E species have been reported impacted from the spill, although several common species have been impacted.

The appropriate members were engaged during the initial response notification process. The following members were part of the initial notification: ADEM; Department of the Interior (DOI); and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). 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 Garrard, OSC Tripp and four US Coast Guard Gulf Strike Team members remain deployed to assist within field observations. OSC Stilman has been deployed to assist with Incident Command. A Public Information Officer (PIO) was requested and will assist in the Joint Information Center (JIC).

Current number of EPA Personnel Assigned: 4

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

Current number START Personnel: 3

REPORTING SCHEDULE

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

CURRENT OPERATIONS

Both stopples are in place. Colonial has ceased recovering product from the line as the nitrogen displacement has reached its maximum efficacy. Colonial has developed a displacement plan to use water to displace the remainder of the fuel. Activities for this operations are estimated to be ready by Saturday. Fuel continues to leak from the break, but at a much reduced rate.

The high level of explosive vapors continue to be the greatest limiting factor to recovery operations. Colonial contractor CTEH remain on site providing air monitoring services. CTEH continues 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 excessive benzene and LEL readings. Today's VOC exceedance levels range from 30 - 2,699 parts per million (ppm). The exceedances from benzene range 0.6 - 18 ppm. LEL exceedance levels range from 10% - 196%.

Colonial has managed to remove approximately 233,614 gallons of liquid from Pond 2. Of that volume 58,461 gallons of fuel has been recovered and 175,531 gallons of mixed oil/water remain in frac tanks.

Colonial performed an initial mass balance calculation and determined an estimated volume of 252,000 gallons of fuel was discharged. They are estimating 180,634 gallons of fuel evaporated as of 9/13/16. These numbers are approximate and Colonial will perform a final mass balance after all product is recovered.

The diversions designed for Pond 3 are in place. They include a substantial underflow dam at the pond outfall. Colonial continues to monitor Pond 3. No oil sheening has been seen along the shoreline. The UC will be notified if any petroleum is noted. OSC Garrard, OPS, was on site in the morning exploring areas along Peel Creek with GST and Colonial personnel for potential placement of an additional underflow dam. Additional locations were identified, and Colonial has agreed to reserve material to construct these features. Additionally, Colonial has estimated a 10-hour construction time for this final structure. To facilitate access, Colonial is building an access road along the entire length of Peel Creek.

No adverse weather impacts are expected for the next operational period.

EPA/GST remains incorporated into Operations and air monitoring. OSC Garrard, OSC Tripp, and two GST members continue to provide oversight of site safety and monitor the operations progress. Two GST members continue to observe night operations.

James Pickney remains integrated with the JIC. One CIC is mobilizing to the site tomorrow. OSC Berry provided one telephone interview to the local NBC affiliate this afternoon.

The fire chief deemed the transfer of product from the pipeline to frac tanks was too high-risk, therefore operations were changed to direct tanker transfer. Scrubbers were used on the vacuum trucks while the vacuum trucks pumped product from the pipeline to the transport tanker trucks to reduce the gasoline vapors. The tanker trucks are making a round trip to Colonial's Pelham Junction facility to off-load.

The Federal Aviation Administration continues to maintain an aviation floor restriction of 2,500 feet in a 3-mile radius around the work site.

OSC Tripp was on-site performing an observation of all operation areas with GST most of the day. The county sheriff's office was patrolling the site air space by helicopter to enforce the air restriction put in place by the FAA. During the night there was a drone being flown over the site by an unknown operator.

Two START members arrived on-scene to assist with surface water and sediment sampling operations. OSC Stilman mobilized in this morning as the Deputy IC for EPA and provided comments to the Surface water and sediment sampling plan. An additional START member is mobilizing in tonight to provide ICS support.

Work-site operations were ceased overnight due to increased VOCs, LEL, and benzene levels from 0230-0500. A temporary site-wide evacuation was ordered at 0300 due to elevated levels at the main staging area. Operations at the Stopples and the pond did not commence until 0830. Vapor scrubber units were switched out for a liquid vapor scrubber unit. Due to high LEL, the Unified Command has developed a Vapor Suppression Plan and a Site Evacuation Plan. Vapor suppression foam, F-500, will be used to allow for the soil excavation around the pipeline to continue.

Recovery operations are occurring at two points 2a and 2b. Vacuum trucks from 2b are transferring recovered product to 4 frac tanks at staging 2b. There are 2 frac tanks at staging 2a where they are recovering product from recovery point 2a.

There are currently 14 frac tanks at the main staging area. Visual observations indicate gasoline thickness on pond 2 to be 1-1.5 inches at recovery point 2b, less than 0.10 inch at recovery point 2a.

Colonial is implementing a backup plan for restoration of service by constructing a bypass around the leak. The use of this will be determined by the difficulties found during the success and timing of the water displacement plan and excavation of the break. Colonial has given a tentative restoration time of late next week.

PLANNED RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Due to the ongoing response efforts and unknown timelines, the EPA OSC made a request to the National Pollution Fund Center (NPFC) to increase the site ceiling from \$45,000 to \$100,000.

The EPA OSC has requested an additional START contractors to assist with Incident Command Post Operations. START and OSC Stilman will continue to monitor Colonial Pipeline's sampling and monitoring efforts.

- Continue to participate in UC
- Monitor removal activities
- Monitor safety air monitoring
- Participate in the Joint Information Center
- Prepare for and coordinate a transition to a removal phase
- Perform water sampling
- Finalize Surface Water and Sediment Sampling Plan
- Finalize Vapor Suppression Plan
- Finalize Site Evacuation Plan