

Incident Bulletin

US Environmental Protection Agency EPA Region 8 Response Unit

Crow Agency Vandalism Site

Crow Agency, Big Horn County, MT

Report as of 10/05/2017 12:00 PM MST

Overview:

Early in the morning of October 4th, someone broke into the Crow Agency water treatment facility and damaged it with a shotgun. The plant was damaged and cannot produce water at this time. The chlorine tank was damaged and was leaking from the valve set. The clear well is an open well, so there is also concern over intentional contamination of the system. The water system has issued a do not use alert for the time being.

The BIA has a water treatment plant close by that can be connected to the city water system and is supplying water to keep the system pressure up. The Tribe reports that this arrangement can continue for at least a couple of days.

EPA has deployed an On Scene Coordinator and Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) technical support team to the Site on October 4th, 2017. The goal of this effort will be to safe entry of the plant buildings for criminal investigation and damage assessments for bringing the plant back to operational status. Further actions are still to be determined.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: EPA, the Tribe, and various levels of law enforcement are coordinating to assess damage to the plant.

EPA Actions: EPA's Response Team initiated response activities on October 4th, 2017, and will provide a more detailed Incident Briefing by 0800 on October 6th.

Media Interest: Medium

<http://www.kxlh.com/story/36528706/suspect-detained-in-vandalism-at-crow-water-plant-drinking-advisory-remains-in-place>

<https://nativenewsonline.net/currents/crow-agency-warned-not-drink-water-plant-vandalized/>

For further information, please contact EPA Region 8's Phone Duty Officer at 303-312-6510 or visit response.epa.gov/CrowAgencyVandalism. The OSC is Martin McComb and the PIO assigned to this incident is Katherine Jenkins, 303-312-6351.