

1. Site Name	2. Operational Period	Incident Briefing
Crow Agency Vandalism	October 10, 2017 – April 1, 2018	
<b>3. Site Description</b>		
<p>On October 4, 2017, the Crow Nation reported vandalism to their water treatment plant in Crow Agency, Montana (population ~1800). Three chemical storage tanks containing polymer, filter agent and aluminum sulfate were damaged during the incident. In addition, the facility’s clarifier tank, clear well, plumbing, control system, chlorine distribution system and backwash lagoon were all impacted.</p> <p>Less than 20 pounds of dry filter agent containing poly acrylamide was dumped directly into the clear well and an unknown amount of contaminated water may have entered the public water supply before operators were able to take the treatment plant off-line. Poly acrylamide is used at low concentrations early in the treatment process to separate particulates as raw water is filtered. At high concentrations, poly acrylamide can have adverse impacts on human health and local emergency management officials instructed the public to not drink nor come into contact with the water in their taps.</p> <p>The vandalized treatment plant shares infrastructure with a second treatment facility operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The BIA plant has the capacity to serve the entire community for a limited amount of time.</p>		
<b>4. Current Situation</b>		
<p>Sample results collected from the drinking water system were below acceptable levels. As a precaution, plant operators opened hydrants in the community on the main distribution lines to flush remnant contaminants. Emergency officials then coordinated with local officials to open the taps at the hospital, elder care facility and elementary school. The water restrictions were lifted and the community was encouraged to let their taps run before using the water. Residual chlorine levels in the system were monitored closely during this process to insure bacteria did not form while the system was restricted.</p> <p>EPA’s Response Team completed the following tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conducted an initial assessment of what will be required to bring the plant back on-line.</li> <li>2. Removed and disposed of the damaged chemical storage tanks and other debris.</li> <li>3. Drained and removed debris and contaminants from the clear well and clarifier tank.</li> <li>4. Drained and dredged the impacted backwash lagoon.</li> <li>5. Secured the facility by installing temporary locks on all the damaged doors.</li> <li>6. Procured the critical components and materials to bring the facility back on-line.</li> </ol> <p>EPA’s Drinking Water Program and the Tribe facilitated all remaining steps that were required to bring the plant back on-line including all required sampling and inspection activities. The treatment plant is operational.</p>		
<b>5. Response Operations</b>		
<p><u>Planned Activities</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. EPA’s Response Team will dispose of the sediment that was dredged from the backwash lagoon.</li> </ol>		