

**United States Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Region IV**  
**POLLUTION REPORT**

**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2004

**From:** Dean Ullock

**Subject:** Initial POLREP  
Big Bay Lake ER  
Lamar County, Rural Lamar County, MS

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	1	<b>Site #:</b>	A4DL
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	03/13-16/04	<b>D.O. #:</b>	TBD
<b>Start Date:</b>	3/13/2004	<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA/OPA
<b>Mob Date:</b>	3/13/2004	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL
<b>Completion Date:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>CERCLIS ID #:</b>	MSN000407756	<b>Contract #</b>	TBD
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>	TBD	<b>Reimbursable Account #</b>	Z4GA
<b>FPN#</b>	EO4413		

#### Site Description

At approx. 1230 hrs. on 03/12/04, an approx. 500' wide breach spanning the BIG BAY LAKE earthen dam, located in Lamar, Co., Mississippi released an estimated 13.5 billion gallons of water from an 1100 acre lake rushing into rural, southern, Lamar County Mississippi. The raging flood waters completely destroyed or severely damaged approximately 78 homes. The surge, which at times, measured 30' tall, lifted cars, trucks and mobile homes into treetops. The ensuing flood stretched almost 15 miles towards the Pearl River in Marion Co. The flood zone was approximately 1/4 mi. wide. The lake completely drained in an estimated 3 hours. The State of Mississippi has declared a State of Emergency.

Under the Operations Section of the Unified Command Structure, the MSDEQ and USEPA, Mobile, AL outpost OSC, at the request of the MSDEQ, are currently directing environmental clean-up crews in the recovery of scattered hazardous materials which include various oils and chemicals. During the course of initial damage assessments several drums leaking an unknown oil and creating a heavy sheen, have been recovered from the Lower Little Creek. No heavy industry or large agricultural operations were impacted by this incident. No lives were lost and all residents have thus far been accounted for. Numerous livestock and domestic pets have been reported missing.

The Governor of Mississippi and the Director of the MEMA are expected to visit the area on 03/15/04.

#### Current Activities

Working under a Unified Command Structure led by the Marion County, Mississippi EMA Director, the MSDEQ and USEPA Mobile, AL Outposted OSC are directing clean up crews with damage assessment and the aggressive recovery of various hazardous materials which include both oil and assorted chemicals.

#### Planned Removal Actions

An appropriate staging area for HAZMAT has been established with the cooperation of Lamar Co., MS., EMA officials. All collected HAZMAT is currently being recovered from fields, private property, roadsides, creeks, etc.. Recovery operations will continue until the all identified HAZMAT has been accounted for.

#### Next Steps

USEPA OSC will continue to coordinate all HAZMAT recovery, staging, sampling and disposal activities.

#### Key Issues

OPA/FPN Budgeted @ \$25,000.00

CERCLA Emergency Removal Authority/Action Memo. budgeted @ \$50,000.00.

Total Site Budget=\$75,000.00

There is a question if there will be an eventual Federal disaster declaration. No Federal Disaster Declaration.

[response.epa.gov/bigbaylake](https://response.epa.gov/bigbaylake)