

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Friday, May 14, 2004

From: Gary Moore

Subject: E04661-Clayton Williams Energy Oil Spill: Initiation of Action
Clayton Williams Energy Oil Spill
Little Brazos River, Hearne, TX
Latitude: 30.7757700
Longitude: -96.5638000

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	NRC# 721792
Reporting Period:	05/14/2004	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	5/14/2004	Response Authority:	OPA
Mob Date:	5/14/2004	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:		Reimbursable Account #	
FPN#	E04661		

Site Description

The site is a tank battery owned by Clayton Williams Energy, Inc and located on the Nigliazzo-Scarmardo #1 lease in Hearne, Robertson County, Texas at the junction of FM 50 and Watts Lane.

On May 13, the Hearne area received in upwards of 17 inches of rainfall which flooded the area including the tank battery. The spill was identified at 1:55 pm on May 14 and EPA received notification of the spill at approximately 2:30 pm. The original report estimated the volume of the release between 20 and 180 barrels.

At approximately 1800 hrs an overflight was conducted by the RP at which time they identified a sheen located WSW of the tank battery covering an area of 1 mile by 200 feet wide. The sheen appeared to be light with periodic heavy spots. The RP estimated the volume of the sheen as 1 barrel.

Current Activities

The RP hired O'Brien Oil Pollution Services, Inc (OOPS) to coordinate the spill response. OOPS hired Garner as the OSRO.

The source has been contained with boom but has not yet been secured as the RP and OSRO are unable to determine the exact origin of the leak due to approximately 4 feet of water covering the tank battery.

Planned Removal Actions

The planned actions are to secure the release, and to recover the oil to the extent possible.

Next Steps

The next steps are to secure the release and recover the oil, filling the tank with water to reduce continued release at the bottom of the tank, and surveying the river to locate pockets of oil that could be recovered.

Key Issues

The RP appears to be responding satisfactorily to the release.

The guaging of the tank indicated that a total of approximately 39 barrels of oil was released. This majority of this release was never recovered and nor located in aerial overflights.

response.epa.gov/ClaytonWilliamsOilSpill