

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Wolf Creek Pass Tanker - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VIII

**Subject:** POLREP #3  
Progress POLREP  
Wolf Creek Pass Tanker  
Z8D7  
South Fork, CO  
Latitude: 37.4748581 Longitude: -106.7816162

**To:**  
**From:** Pete Stevenson, OSC  
**Date:** 4/22/2010  
**Reporting Period:** Since 11/14/09

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	08Z8	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	OPA	<b>Response Type:</b>	PRP Oversight
<b>Response Lead:</b>	PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>		<b>Start Date:</b>	12/4/2009
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>	E10802	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The tanker accident occurred 11/14/09 at milepost 179, US Hwy 160, Rio Grande County, (approximately 4 ½ miles south of South Fork), Colorado. An estimated 3,800 gallons of gasoline drained from the overturned tanker across and under the highway into wetlands between the highway and the South Fork Rio Grande River.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Groundwater contamination and at a minimum dissolved BTEX in river. Due to higher stream flow, no sheen or product can be observed in the river. The river is thought to be habitat for the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. There are many water users downstream. The wetlands is on property administered by the US Forest Service, Rio Grande National Forest.

#### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

11/18: PRP-contracted clean-up contractor arrived on Site for initial recon, followed by crew mobilization.  
11/19: Clean-up contractor initiated detailed surface and sub-surface survey(s) in the wetlands between the highway and the river, and along riverbanks downstream of the accident site.  
12/01: Clean-up contractor initiated installation of monitoring / recovery / extraction wells and trenches.  
12/03: Clean-up contractor initiated recovery of free-product from various wells and tranches via bailing, pumping, and sorbents.  
12/21: Contractors temporarily ceased on-site activities due to inclement weather and holiday road restrictions.  
Clean-up contractor notified down-stream water users of activities via posted flyers.  
01/08/10: Interceptor trench completed, including liner installation and insulating blanket coverage.  
01/11: START collected co-located water samples with PRP clean-up contractor. Analytical results

are reasonably consistent with PRP sample data.

01/14: Additional monitoring trenches installed. One additional recovery hole dug.

02/01: 3-4' of additional snow on-site; many monitoring wells iced up.

02/02: PRP contractor recovered approximately 1500 gals of product/water mixture into a vac truck.

Another recovery hole was excavated, which by mid-day was producing gas/water with a very strong gas odor. Downstream boom frozen in.

March 2010

PRP clean-up contractor(s) continue to recover free product from the various wells and trenches, constructed in the wetlands, between the spill site and the river channel. The clean-up contractor reports measuring up to five inches (5") of free product in various monitoring wells as well as elevated PID readings at various monitoring stations. Dissolved phase product continues to be detected in the river. Due to ice cover it cannot be determined if a sheen or product is present.

April 2010

Contaminated water recovery continues. A meeting was held with interested parties on 4/13/10 to discuss issues related to spring runoff and high water potentially inundating the Site. The OSC suggested sandbagging the Site to protect it from the river as a first step. Clean up contractor collected soil gas data for bioremediation proposal.

### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

Administrative Order pursuant to Section 311(c) of the Clean Water Act issued to J C Hunt Trucking on April 19, 2010

### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<b>Waste Stream</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Manifest #</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Disposal</b>
gas/water		500 gal	001334768	Arvada TreatmentCtr LLC	
gas/water		1,500 gal	001334763	" "	
gas/water		1,500 gal	001334765	" "	

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

- PRP will continue coordinating plans and activities with representatives of CDOT, CSP, USFS, BLM, and EPA/8 OSC.
- Clean-up contractor will sand bag the oil spill Site in the wetlands to protect it from the river flow and to isolate the contaminated ground water as much as possible.
- Clean-up contractor will continue recovery of product from constructed recovery wells and trenches.
- Clean-up contractor(s) will perform maintenance on all booms.
- Survey crew(s) will continue monitoring downstream environs, addressing any downstream product release, if such release occurs.

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

EPA/8 OSC will continue oversight of PRP-lead clean-up activities, and will review responses to the 311(c) Order. USCG PST assistance may be requested..

#### 2.2.2 Issues

PRP contractor initiated inquiry regarding bioremediation. OSC provided information regarding the NCP and the NCP Product Schedule. PRP contractor submitted request to bioremediate the Site. Partial activation of RRT determined that the request was premature. PRP was provided copy of RCP Annex 9 on 4/13/10, as they expressed continuing interest in pursuing bioremediation.

Monitoring wells are icing up. The river has 2-4' of ice on it. We can expect continuing issues with lots of snow, with temperatures below zero overnight. The location in a canyon does not get sun except for about 1000 hrs to 1500 hours. Working conditions are difficult at best. The site is 4-5 hours from Denver over mountain passes, and the less than ideal responsiveness of the PRP contractor all lead toward an increase in oversight costs. The site is on land administered by the US Forest Service, and the river is thought to be habitat for the Rio Grande Cutthroat trout. There are many water users downstream. Groundwater within 40' of the river is significantly impacted, with dissolved BTEX in the river at a minimum. Peak flow in the river will occur during the months of May and June. Mean flow (80-82 years of data) for February 10 is 39

cfs, with a peak flow on June 8 of 980 cfs.

### **2.3 Logistics Section**

No information available at this time.

### **2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.

### **2.5 Other Command Staff**

No information available at this time.

## **3. Participating Entities**

No information available at this time.

## **4. Personnel On Site**

No information available at this time.

## **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

## **6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.