

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Gatlinburg WWTP Tank Failure - Removal Polrep
Initial and Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: POLREP #1
Initial and Final POLREP
Gatlinburg WWTP Tank Failure
Gatlinburg, TN
Latitude: 35.7345721 Longitude: -83.5217365

To: Christopher Masterson, USEPA R4 ERRB
David Apanian, EPA

From: David Andrews, On Scene Coordinator

Date: 4/8/2011

Reporting Period: 4/5/2011

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead: PRP	Incident Category: Removal Assessment
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 4/5/2011	Start Date: 4/5/2011
Demob Date: 4/5/2011	Completion Date: 4/5/2011
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification: 4/5/2011
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

The Gatlinburg Wastewater Plant is located near the Little Pigeon River, close to the Smokey Mountain National Park border, north of the City of Gatlinburg, TN

1.1.2.1 Location

1025 Banner Road, Gatlinburg, TN, 37738

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

At approximately 0849hrs on 4/5/2011, a 3.2 MG equalization tank at the Gatlinburg Wastewater Plant ruptured and released approximately 1.5MG of untreated wastewater into the Little Pigeon River. The immense volume of the release of pollutant/contaminant wastewater into the river presents a risk of ecological and/or human health impacts.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

TEMA, TDEC, and the National Park Service responded to the incident, in addition to local response departments, Sevier County EMA, and the contractor responsible for operating the facility (Veolia Water North America).

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

EPA Phone Duty remained in contact with the TEMA Area Coordinator On-Scene and the TDEC Responder On-Scene. Response information was forwarded to the EPA R4 Water Division. Smokey Mountain National Park rangers were also on-scene to coordinate with TDEC. EPA OSC Andrews, who was in the surrounding area, was mobilized to the scene to provide information to the Water Division.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

TDEC determined that no water intakes will be impacted, contingencies were being activated at the facility to partially bypass until operations resumed, and signs have been posted along the river to warn residents

of possible bacterial contaminants. No EPA assistance was requested from the state. OSC Andrews demobilized on 4/5/2011.

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

EPA R4 Water Division was notified of the response.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

n/a

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

TEMA and TDEC will continue to oversee response activities.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

The facility has activated contingency plans in accordance with TDEC oversight and approval. Recovery work continues to perform the onsite and offsite cleanup, and to bring the facility back into operation.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

See section 2.2.1.1

2.2.2 Issues

n/a

2.3 Logistics Section

n/a

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

n/a

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

n/a

2.6 Liaison Officer

n/a

2.7 Information Officer

Media interest remains high. Several media outlets have contacted the EPA regional office and requested response status information. Information requests have been referred to the Water Division.

2.7.1 Public Information Officer

n/a

2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator

n/a

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

EPA was not incorporated into the on-site Unified Command.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

TEMA

TDEC

Veolia Water North America

Sevier County EMA

City of Gatlinburg

(others n/a)

4. Personnel On Site

n/a

5. Definition of Terms

n/a

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

n/a

6.2 Reporting Schedule

n/a

7. Situational Reference Materials

n/a

POLREP #1 Last Updated 7/11/2016