

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

Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2004

From: Robert Kelly

Subject: Initiation of OPA Funds
Nichols #1 Well Site
Off of Route 36, Looneyville, WV
Latitude: 38.7092000
Longitude: -81.2739000

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	987
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	
Start Date:		Response Authority:	OPA
Mob Date:		Response Type:	
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:		Reimbursable Account #	
FPN#	E04317		

Site Description

Site consists of one (1) well that has discharge oil into the Rush Run Creek which leads into the Little Kanawha River

Current Activities

- a. On July 20, 2004, David Belcher of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Oil and Gas reported this Site to the NRC (Incident Report #728900) and requested EPA assistance in plugging these wells.
- b. On July 21, 2004, OSC Bob Kelly met with Mr. Belcher and visited the Site.
- c. OSC Kelly did not have written access from the property owners but received verbal access.
- d. OSC Kelly observed 1 well approximately 20 feet from the Rush Run Creek which had evidence of a discharge into the tributary.
- e. OSC Kelly questioned Mr. Belcher on land ownership and was told that this land was recently purchased by a Mr. Richard Fisher and he had no knowledge of the well being on his land. Mr. Belcher went on to say that this well was turned in by a neighbor who noticed a sheen in the tributary and followed the sheen back this location. Furthermore, Mr. Belcher stated that initial investigation uncovered the last operator to be a Mr. Willie E. King (deceased) and the last drill permit was issued in the 1950's. OSC Kelly noticed that there was no well casing in the well, just an open hole. It appears that a timber cutter knocked off the well bore.
- f. OSC Kelly determined that there was a threat of release and the well needed to be plugged. OSC Kelly questioned Mr. Belcher on the availability of getting a contractor on Site to address the situation. Mr. Belcher stated that he could not have anyone on Site for a least five weeks. OSC Kelly determined that, at a minimum, temporary containment needs to be installed to prevent any more discharges.
- g. OSC Kelly, using CANAPS, obtained funding in the amount of \$10,000, \$5000 of which will be issued to the Office of Oil and Gas to provide temporary containment, obtain a survey and get all permits in advance of plugging these wells. Additionally, OSC issued a TDD to START contractor (EnE) to perform a Deed and Title Search to determine if there is a Responsible Party for these wells and giving them Notice of Federal Interest prior to the Federal government incurring costs in plugging these wells. (FPN E04317). OSC Kelly created a web site for this Site at www.epaosc.net/nichols

Planned Removal Actions

No planned removal actions are anticipated at this time

Next Steps

- a. OSC will await START contractor report on possible Responsible Parties and issue Notice of Federal Interest, if warranted.
- b. OSC will contact and receive written access from the current property owner.

c. No further field activity is anticipated at this time.

Key Issues

Oil being released into the waters of West Virginia.

response.epa.gov/nichols