

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Long Brothers Tank Battery Fire - Removal Polrep  
Initial and Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VI

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
Initial and Final POLREP  
Long Brothers Tank Battery Fire  
  
El Dorado, AR  
Latitude: 33.1262325 Longitude: -92.6426813

**To:**  
**From:** Mike McAteer, OSC  
**Date:** 5/22/2012  
**Reporting Period:** 5/21/2012 1800hrs 5/22/2012 1100hrs

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	A6EM	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	5/21/2012	<b>Start Date:</b>	5/21/2012
<b>Demob Date:</b>	5/22/2012	<b>Completion Date:</b>	5/22/2012
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	ARN000607420	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

At approximately 1700 hours on 21 May 2012, Mr. Jerry Thomas of the Union County Office of Emergency Management, El Dorado, Arkansas notified the National Response Center (NRC Report No. 1012214) of an incident involving an abandoned tank battery located approximately 4 miles northwest of El Dorado, Union County, Arkansas that had occurred at approximately 1530 hours on 21 May 2012. Mr. Jerry Thomas notified the NRC in lieu of notification by the potentially responsible party (PRP). The PRP is Long Brothers Oil Company, a private enterprise from Norphlet, AR. The explosion and fire killed three employees of Long Brothers Oil Company.

The site consists of a small oil well (Lisbon Oil Company – Dumas #1), one gun barrel tank and two 200 barrel above ground storage tanks. Crude oil was collected in the two on-site storage tanks and moved off-site via transmission pipeline. According to the PRP the tank battery, including transmission line had been unused and abandoned for some time. The PRP stated that a field crew working for Long Brothers Oil Company arrived at the site sometime before 1500 hours on 21 May 2012 to commence decommission and dismantling of site structures and prepare the site for anticipated future activities. According to Mike McGough from the Union County Sherriffs Office sometime between 1500 hours and 1530 hours on 21 May 2012, a report from the Lawrence Electric Company of an explosion and ensuing woodland fire were made. County and local officials responded to the incident and discovered that all three Long Brothers Oil Company field crew members had been killed in an explosion involving one of the 200 barrel on-site storage tanks. Purportedly the storage tanks were thought to have been empty and it is initially suspected that the field crew was using power tools to size the tank introducing heat and an ignition source, creating an explosive atmosphere inside the storage tank. The explosion ignited the surrounding light woodland/vegetation, fire departments from El Dorado, Cairo, Norplet, Fathers Chapel and personnel from the Arkansas Forestry Department implemented a fire line and used approximately 3,000 gallons of water to bring the fire under control. At 1700 hours on 21 May 2012 and the time of notification to the NRC and EPA, the fire had been extinguished at the ignition point but fire fighters continued to clear brush to keep the fire from spreading further.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The Long Brothers Tank Battery Fire site is located in a rural sparsely populated, wooded area off Moody Lane northwest of El Dorado, Union County, Arkansas (33.240058N; 92.746692W).

### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Threat to the surrounding environment via off-site migration of an unknown quantity of crude oil

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

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

At approximately 1820 hours on 21 May 2012 EPA phone duty officer William Rhotenberry notified EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Mike McAteer and the EPA Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START-3) contractor of an incident that had killed three people and had started a woodland fire outside of El Dorado, Union County, Arkansas. At approximately 1920 hours on 21 May 2012, EPA and START-3 mobilized to El Dorado, Arkansas to coordinate with state and local officials regarding incident details and to assess the potential threat to the surrounding environment and human health. EPA and START-3 arrived in El Dorado, Arkansas in the late evening on 21 May 2012, and coordinated with Jerry Thomas, Union County Office of Emergency Management, to schedule a site environmental assessment for 0830 hours on 22 May 2012.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

At 0850 hours on 22 May 2012, EPA and START-3 arrived at the Long Brothers Tank Battery Fire site and coordinated with Union County Office of Emergency Management (UCEM), Union County Sheriff's Office, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and representative from the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Long Brothers Oil Company.

The site is located at geographic coordinates 33.240058N; 92.746692W in a rural setting located in a woodland. At the time of arrival, small isolated fires within the wooded areas continued to burn inside the fire line. At 0910 hours EPA, START-3 and ADEQ entered the site to complete an initial environmental site assessment. The site consisted of one gun barrel tank, one 500 gallon polyethylene tank (salt water storage) and one 200 barrel storage tank inside an earthen secondary containment berm. A second 200 barrel storage tank, the source of the incident had been displaced from its original location due to an explosion at the site. There is also one fire damaged pickup truck and one fire damaged mini-excavator on-site and a small oil well located along the north side of the incident area.

Observations inside and around the secondary containment included an unknown quantity of oily sludge in the area of the former/displaced storage tank. However, tracking firewater runoff channels did not show a significant quantity of oil/oil waste to have entered a small pond located immediately west of the tank battery. Other observed fire water channels did not show sheen, oiled vegetation, or oil residue. Fire water had travelled down gradient from the site approximately 150 feet south and appears to have been stopped by the fire line. The nearest body of water is Holmes Creek located approximately 1.5 miles west of the site. During initial site assessment activities air monitors did not yield any readings above background, and according to the County Sheriff during the response no evacuations or shelter-in-place orders were issued.

At approximately 1100 hours on 22 May 2012 EPA and START-3 demobilized from the site.

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

The PRP is the Long Brothers Oil Company

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

### 2.2 Planning Section

#### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) will follow up with PRP cleanup activities

##### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

EPA OSC will follow up with ADEQ

##### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

EPA OSC will follow up with ADEQ

#### 2.2.2 Issues

### 2.3 Logistics Section

NONE

### 2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

No information available at this time.

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Unified Command**

### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

Union County Emergency Management

Arkansas DEQ

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Union County Sherriffs Office

Environmental Protection Agency

## **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.