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

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VIII

Subject: **POLREP #9**
Wolf Creek Pass Tanker
08Z8
South Fork, CO
Latitude: 37.4748581 Longitude: -106.7816162

To: Ben Bielenberg, EPA
Aaron Urdiales, EPA
Kerry Guy, USEPA
Dee Rothery, USEPA

From: Pete Stevenson, OSC
Date: 8/24/2012
Reporting Period:

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

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

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 are impacting the river. The product continues to bleed out of the bedrock below the highway into a wetlands immediately adjacent to 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 cleanup contractor arrived on Site for initial recon, followed by crew mobilization.
11/19: Cleanup contractor initiated detailed surface and sub-surface survey(s) in the wetlands beween the highway and the river, and along riverbanks downstream of the accident site.
12/01: Cleanup contractor initiated installation of monitoring/recovery/extraction wells and trenches.
12/03: Cleanup contractor initiated recovery of free-product from various wells and trenches via bailing, pumping and sorbents.
12/21: Contractors temporarily ceased on-site activities due to inclement weather and holiday road restrictions.

Cleanup 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 cleanup 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 1,500 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 cleanup 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 cleanup 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 upcontractor collected soil gas data for bioremediation proposal.

April 2011

After another winter, the gasoline continues to bleed out of the bedrock. The Site appeared abandoned, with trash all around. The interceptor trench needs to be maintained, the sand bag berm needs to be rebuilt, and contaminated water needs to be pumped out of the recovery holes weekly. Sampling has to be completed bi-weekly, and the PRP contractor needs to provide weekly reports - the last one received was dated 3/30/11. Photographs of Site conditions were taken. USFS personnel are considering revoking the special use permit. EPA is considering issuing a violation notice pursuant to the cleanup order. EPA is also considering federalization of the Site. At a minimum, START will put together a design for an automated pump and treat system to be installed this spring or summer. PRP contractors are scrambling to comply after receipt of an email from OSC.

December 2011

PRP consultant and cleanup contractor conducted pumping of contaminated water through the summer, approximately 1,000 gallons per week. Bi-weekly water samples were also collected, the results of which indicate that contaminant levels are decreasing. MW-1 which is on the Hwy 160 shoulder, was found to contain water and is now being sampled monthly during the winter sampling schedule. Contaminant levels remain relatively high. On December 16, 2011, one additional monitoring well was installed on the Hwy 160 shoulder. The other planned well has been installed.

May 2012
Bioremediation plan to include use of oxygen has been submitted by PRP consultant, and reviewed by all parties, with comments sent back to PRP. A meeting was conducted with PRP consultants, CDPHE, CDOT, START, and the OSC to discuss comments on May 16, 2012. Plan approved

July 2012. Bioremediation Pilot Project delayed by newly installed wells being slow to develop.

August 2012. PRP consultant submitted plan for Pilot Project for oxidation of contaminant with hydrogen peroxide. RRT consulted. Determined that H2O2 would break down before it reached the South Fork of the Rio Grande. Pilot Project approval based on modified quantity of oxidant and total metals sampling and analysis. Project may occur the first week of September.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

See above

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

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

gas/water		**many frac tanks**	**NA**	**Air stripping**	**Alamosa WWTP**

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.
• Cleanup contractor will continue to maintain the sand bag berm around the oil spill Site in the wetlands to protect it from the river flow and to isolate the contaminated groundwater as much as possible.
• Pilot test of oxidizer expected 9/12. Pilot test of bioremediation expected spring 2013.
• Cleanup contractor(s) will perform maintenance on all booms.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

2.2.1.2 Next Steps
EPA/8 OSC will continue oversight of PRP-lead cleanup activities pursuant to the 311(c) Order. Oversight of Bioremediation Pilot Project will occur. PRP contractor has indicated that they will submit a workplan for the use of a chemical oxidant in the source area following the pilot project.

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.

PRP consultant has submitted a plan for a Bioremediation Pilot Test to EPA for review. The approximately one month test will utilize oxygen from a dewar, two oxygen injection wells, and numerous additional monitoring wells. As proposed, oxygen may enhance natural biodegradation and/or oxidation of the contaminants on Site. The plan is to treat the wetlands at the base of the road slope. Partial activation of the RRT has been initiated with a conference call that occurred on 12/20/11. EPA and others have reviewed the pilot plan and submitted comments to the PRP consultants. Initiation of the pilot delayed until Spring 2013.

PRP consultant has submitted a plan for a pilot test of use of hydrogen peroxide to oxidize the contaminant. RRT was consulted, and it was determined that the H2O2 will break down before it reaches the South Fork. Final details will be worked out soon, and the oxidation pilot is expected to occur 9/12.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative
NPFC has provided a total of $250,000 for cleanup oversight. No PRP costs are available.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
TAT/START	$107,000.00	$87,000.00	$20,000.00	18.69%
Intramural Costs				
USEPA - Direct	$50,000.00	$47,000.00	$3,000.00	6.00%
USEPA/USCG - InDirect	$35,000.00	$18,945.00	$16,055.00	45.87%
Total Site Costs	$192,000.00	$152,945.00	$39,055.00	20.34%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

2.6 Liaison Officer

2.7 Information Officer

2.7.1 Public Information Officer

2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator

A fact sheet was produced and distributed to the local newspaper after a citizen of South Fork inquired as to the status of the cleanup. Questions were answered from a local reporter regarding the status of the clean up in April, 2012

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.