

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Midwest Generation Joliet Station, Des Plaines River Oil Spill - Removal Polrep  
Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region V

**Subject:** POLREP #3  
Final: Cleanup Complete  
Midwest Generation Joliet Station, Des Plaines River Oil Spill  
E13503  
Joliet, IL  
Latitude: 41.4796452 Longitude: -88.1457137

**To:** Richard Karl, U.S. EPA  
FEMA R5 Watch, FEMA  
PolRep Distribution, USGC, Coast Guard  
Patrick Ryan, Coast Guard  
PolRep Distribution, USGC, Coast Guard  
John Glover, U.S. EPA

**From:** Ramon Mendoza, OSC

**Date:** 1/24/2013

**Reporting Period:** 12/14/2012-1/11/2013

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	Z5M5	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	OPA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<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>	12/7/2012	<b>Start Date:</b>	12/7/2012
<b>Demob Date:</b>	12/20/2012	<b>Completion Date:</b>	1/23/2013
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>	E13503	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response -- Discharge of oil sheen to a navigable waterway (Des Plaines River)

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The Site is located in a mixed commercial/industrial area of Joliet, Illinois. The most likely source of the oil spill is the Midwest Generation, Joliet Station, located at 1800 Channahon Road in Joliet, Illinois. The Midwest Generation, Joliet Station is located on the Des Plaines River. The geographic coordinates of Midwest Generation, Joliet Station discharge outfall are approximately 41°29' 36.61" North latitude and 88° 7' 23.32" West longitude. The Midwest Generation, Joliet Station discharge outfall is approximately 6.65 miles upstream from Interstate 55 (I-55) and approximately 1.5 miles upstream from the Hollywood Casino. Adjacent to the Midwest Generation, Joliet Station to the east and downstream is the Caterpillar, Inc. Company.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

See Site description.

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

A maximum of 1,400 gallons of mineral oil was released from a Midwest Generation turbine oil cooler on Thursday, December 6, 2012. An unknown portion of this release entered the Des Plaines River and was reported downstream by Caterpillar, Inc. and Hollywood Casino. The other unknown portion of the oil spill was released into the station's settling pond system which also has an outfall to the Des Plaines River

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

On Dec 6, 2012 at 4:23 pm the Caterpillar Inc. Company (Caterpillar) reported an oil sheen on the Des

Plaines River adjacent to their property located at 2200 Channahon Road in Joliet IL (NRC 1032523).

U.S. EPA OSC responded the morning of Dec.7 and observed an oil sheen plume upstream and downstream of Caterpillar on the Des Plaines River. The U.S. EPA OSC suspected that the oil sheen was accumulating at the Hollywood Casino (Casino), located at 777 Hollywood Blvd., about a 3/4 mile downstream of Caterpillar. A Casino representative reported the oil sheen to the NRC (# 1032602). After meeting with the Casino representative and inspecting oil sheen trapped at the Casino, the OSC determined that oil sheen was recoverable. As a result, ERRS and START were activated and mobilized to the incident, arriving at about 5:30 pm. Also, an account for \$20,000 was opened under the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.

On Dec 7 at 6:30 pm the U.S. EPA OSC was diverted to the Midwest Generation, Joliet Station (Midwest Generation) located at 1800 Channahon Road, upstream of Caterpillar and the Casino. Midwest Generation had reported an oil spill of 1,400 gallons (NRC #s 1032620 and 1032656). U.S. EPA and START met with representatives from Midwest Generation at the Midwest Generation, Joliet Station. Midwest Generation representatives explained that a maximum of 1,400 gallons of mineral oil leaked from a 25-foot tall turbine oil cooler on the property. The oil leaked into both the plant's cascading pond settling system and the plant's discharge outfall to the Des Plaines River. Midwest Generation first observed sheen in Pond 3 of the plant's cascading pond settling system and in the plant's water intake channel off the Des Plaines River, where it was believed that sheen from the plant's discharge channel had recirculated upstream. The turbine system from which the oil had leaked was taken off-line. Midwest Generation informed U.S. EPA that SET was hired to perform cleanup activities on the Des Plaines River beginning the following morning, Dec. 8.

The U.S. EPA OSC determined that Midwest Generation was the most likely source of the oil discharge into the Des Plaines River. The U.S. EPA OSC issued Midwest Generation a Notice Violation under the Oil Pollution Act. Midwest Generation cooperated and ordered their cleanup contractor (SET) to mobilize additional resources. Midwest Generation provided EPA and START with a sample of the mineral oil from an on-site tank. In addition, the U.S. EPA OSC requested and received permission from Midwest Generation to collect surface water sample from Pond 3 of Midwest Generation's cascading pond settling system where sheen was observed at the water's edge. The sample was collected at about 8:15 pm and Midwest Generation collected a split sample

Since a potential responsible party was found, the U.S. EPA OSC ordered his cleanup contractor (ERRS) to stand down. EPA's role then became oversight of the cleanup by Midwest Generation and its contractor. Cleanup on the Des Plaines River.

Based on its initial search, the U.S. EPA found no drinking water intakes within 11 miles downstream of the Midwest Generation Joliet Station.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

See **Section 2.1.2** for more information.

#### **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date.**

Please see POLREP #1 for Response Actions Before 12/11/2012.

12/11/2012 -12/13/2012 - Midwest Generation contractor (SET) continued cleanup activities to recover the oil sheen on the Des Plaines River at the Casino and in Area #3 (see attached areal photo map). U.S. EPA inspected both areas on 12/13/2012 and found no more oil sheen and recommended that the absorbent oil booms be removed. The Casino was notified.

U.S. EPA also inspected Midwest Generation cleanup of the Settling Pond #3 at the Power Station which is connected to an outfall (NPDES permitted) into the Des Plaines River. Solids in the pond contaminated with oil are being removed for disposal. Midwest Generation indicated that the cleanup should be completed by 12/14/2012. U.S. EPA OSC recommended that an additional absorbent boom be installed on the outfall of the pond to ensure control of any oil residuals when the pond is put back in service. A containment boom and absorbent boom have been installed at the Plant's outfall channel to ensure no discharge into the Des Plaines River and will be maintained by SET until further notice from Midwest Generation.

Overall, the U.S. EPA OSC did not observe any oil sheen on the Des Plaines River, in any of the areas impacted.

No smell of oil sheen was detected by the U.S. EPA OSC or response personnel in any areas.

12/17/2012 - USCG Oil Sample Analysis Report was received from the USCG. The report provided analyses of oil samples collected from the Des Plaines River, Pond 3, & the turbine oil cooling system. The report indicated that the oil in Pond 3 and turbine oil cooling system were a match. The oil sample collected on the Des Plaines River by the Casino was identified as lubricating oil but did not contain enough quantity for correlation analysis.

12/20/2012 - Midwest Generation reported that its cleanup at Pond 3 at the Midwest Generation Joliet Station was complete. U.S. EPA conducted a final inspection of the Pond 3 and observed no oil or soil sheen. Midwest Generation indicated that they will most likely maintain a permanent boom system at the end of the discharge channel as part of their routine operations. All other absorbent booms will or have been removed from the Des Plaines River and staged for disposal. Contaminated soil was also staged in several steel containers for future disposal.

Midwest Generation also reported that the repair of the turbine oil cooling system inside the power station is complete and the system is back in service.

1/22/2013 - Midwest Representative provided the U.S. EPA OSC with a summary table of waste streams generated and disposal summary (see section 2.1.4) . All solid wastes were disposed at a permitted solid waste disposal facility by 1/11/2013.

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

U.S. EPA issued a Notice of Federal Interest to Midwest Generation representatives on December 7, 2012. Midwest Generation signed the Notice on December 7, 2012.

### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

All five areas on the Des Plaines River downstream of the Midwest Generation Joliet Station, including the Station itself, contaminated with oil sheen have been cleaned.

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Disposal Facility</i>
Boom Decon Water	12/12/12	Liquid	350 gallons	008497399JJK	Liquid Env. Solutions, Chicago, IL
Oil Contaminated Soil	1/9/13	Solid	12.45 tons	237626	Countryside Landfill, Grayslake, IL
Oil Contaminated Soil	1/11/13	Solid	11.26 tons	257627	Countryside Landfill, Grayslake, IL
Oil Contaminated Soil	1/10/13	Solid	9.78 tons	237629	Countryside Landfill, Grayslake, IL
Oil Contaminated Soil	1/10/13	Solid	4.13 tons	237639	Countryside Landfill, Grayslake, IL
Oil Contaminated Soil	1/9/13	Solid	10.99 tons	237640	Countryside Landfill, Grayslake, IL
Oil Contaminated Debris: Booms, Pads	1/9/13	Solid	0.56 tons	237630	Countryside Landfill, Grayslake, IL
Oil Contaminated Debris/Booms, Pads	1/9/13	Solid	1.26 tons	237632	Countryside Landfill, Grayslake, IL

<b>R5 Priorities Summary</b>		
This is an Integrated River Assessment. The numbers should overlap.	Miles of river systems cleaned and/or restored (estimated)	5.4
	Cubic yards of contaminated sediments removed and/or capped (estimated)	48.6
	Gallons of oil/water recovered	350
	Acres of soil/sediment cleaned up in floodplain and riverbanks	none
Stand Alone Assessment	Acres Protected (estimated)	7
	Number of contaminated residential yards cleaned up	none
	Human Health Exposures Avoided (estimated)	100
	Number of workers on site (estimated)	15
Contaminant(s) of Concern	Oil (lubricating)	

## 2.2 Planning Section

### **2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

See Section 2.2.1.1

#### **2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

None

#### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

This case has been referred to the Illinois EPA Surface Water NPDES Program for potential enforcement under the Clean Water Act.

### **2.2.2 Issues**

None. There is no media interest for this site during the entire cleanup period.

## **2.3 Logistics Section**

N/A

## **2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

None. Cleanup is complete.

### **2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

None

### **2.5.3 Information Officer**

None

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Unified Command**

None

### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

U.S. Coast Guard  
Illinois EPA  
FEMA

## **4. Personnel On Site**

The following numbers of personnel were on-site during the reporting period:

U.S. EPA - 1

## **5. Definition of Terms**

ERRS - Emergency and Rapid Response Services  
FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency  
NRC - National Response Center  
OSC - On-Scene Coordinator  
PRP - Potentially Responsible Party  
START - Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team  
EPA - United States Environmental Protection Agency

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

### **6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

No information available at this time.

### **6.2 Reporting Schedule**

No information available at this time.

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.