

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
White River Seep at Natural Buttes - Removal Polrep  
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VIII

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
Initial  
White River Seep at Natural Buttes  
Z8FG  
Near Vernal, UT  
Latitude: 39.9835400 Longitude: -109.4097670

**To:** David Ostrander, EPA Region 8  
Laura Williams, EPA Region 8

**From:** Joyel Dhieux, On-Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 7/14/2014

**Reporting Period:** July 8-10, 2014

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	Z8FG	<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>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Assessment
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	7/8/2014	<b>Start Date:</b>	7/7/2014
<b>Demob Date:</b>	7/10/2014	<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>	E14811	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

The preliminary assessment was conducted as an emergency under OPA.

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

In May 2014, the EPA Region 8 Emergency Response Unit was asked to investigate a series of seeps, some actively bubbling, along the White River. Initial reports indicated a black, oil-like substance was discharging from the seeps and a possible sheen was observed. The seeps are located in the Natural Buttes field, an area of extensive oil and gas development. The White River is a tributary of the Green River and is home to several threatened and endangered species including the Colorado pike minnow and the razorback sucker.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The seeps are located approximately 33 miles south of Vernal, Utah, along the White River at latitude/longitude 39.9835400, -109.4097670. The seeps are within the external boundaries of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation on lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA).

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The seeps are potentially a discharge of oil under 40 CFR 110.3(b).

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

On July 9, 2014, EPA OSC Joyel Dhieux conducted a preliminary site assessment of the seeps. Representatives from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, SITLA, Tri-County Health, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, and EOG Resources participated in the site visit. Representatives from the Ute Indian Tribe, Bureau of Land Management and Utah Division of Oil and Gas, and Mining were also invited to participate in the site visit. At the time of the visit, approximately 7-10 seeps were visible along and bubbling up from within the riverbed. One seep was visible on the cliff approximately 10 feet above the water level. Pools of water with the appearance of motor oil were observed near the seeps. However, there was no

visible petroleum sheen or odor near the seeps or within the White River. The black substance found near the seeps behaved consistent with gilsonite; it was granular and did not produce a sheen when disturbed.

**2. Current Activities**

**2.1 Operations Section**

**2.1.1 Narrative**

**2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

EPA conducted a preliminary site assessment on July 9, 2014. At the time of the assessment, EPA collected water samples downstream from the seep, at the seep, and upstream from the seep. In addition, a sample of produced water was collected at Anadarko's NBU 456-2E well, located adjacent to the seep. The water samples will be fingerprinted for hydrocarbons and analyzed for a series of water quality characteristics, anions, cations and select metals. Anadarko Petroleum collected samples at adjacent locations.

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

No PRPs have been identified at this time.

**2.1.4 Progress Metrics**

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

**2.2 Planning Section**

**2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

**2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

Additional response activities, if necessary, will be identified following review and assessment of the sampling data.

**2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

EPA OSC Dhieux will continue to coordinate with cooperating agencies and to monitor the situation. The sampling data will be evaluated and shared with the cooperating agencies and companies.

**2.2.2 Issues**

No issues have been identified.

**2.3 Logistics Section**

No information available at this time.

**2.4 Finance Section**

**Estimated Costs \***

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Total To Date</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Remaining</b>
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
TAT/START	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	100.00%
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	100.00%

\* 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**

Not applicable

**2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

Not applicable

**2.5.3 Information Officer**

Not applicable

**3. Participating Entities**

**3.1 Unified Command**

Not applicable

**3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

Ute Indian Tribe, Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation  
State of Utah Department of Environmental Quality  
Utah State Institutional Trust and Lands Administration  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
Tri-County Health  
Bureau of Land Management  
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation  
EOG Resources

**4. Personnel On Site**

All personnel have demobilized from the site.

**5. Definition of Terms**

Not applicable

**6. Additional sources of information**

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

An EPA OSC website has been created to disseminate information at: [www.epaosc.org/whiteriverseep](http://www.epaosc.org/whiteriverseep)

**6.2 Reporting Schedule**

A new polrep will be prepared once the sampling data is reviewed and evaluated.

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

Not applicable

POLREP #1 Last Updated 7/15/2014