

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Bridger Pipeline Release - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VIII

Subject: POLREP #2
Assessment and Flushing of the Water Treatment System
Bridger Pipeline Release

Glendive, MT
Latitude: 47.0316670 Longitude: -104.7708330

To: David Ostrander, EPA

From: Paul Peronard, On-Scene Coordinator

Date: 1/20/2015

Reporting Period: 1/19/2015 - 1/20/2015

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Z8FM	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	OPA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	1/18/2015	Start Date:	1/18/2015
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:	E15804	Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Transportation-Related: Pipeline Petroleum Spill

1.1.2 Site Description

At approximately 10:30 AM Saturday, January 17, 2015, the Bridger Pipeline controller at the control room in Casper, Wyoming noticed some abnormal pressure readings on the Bridger Pipeline's Poplar Pipeline, and began to investigate. The pipeline system pressure alarms sounded and the pipeline was shut down. Bridger Pipeline personnel then attempted to confirm a release and were unable to determine what the problem was, and an NRC report was filed at 15:58 MST. The original NRC report stated the release was discovered at 14:30 MST. The original report was regarding a potential spill on NRC incident report (#1105930). This section of the Poplar Pipeline is 12 inches in diameter, 0.500 inch wall thickness and is located in the area of the Yellowstone River crossing. Also, there are two block valves approximately 6800 feet apart and the pipeline fill is approximately 900 barrels within this section. The pressure drop was specifically in this 6800 foot section. The 300 barrels reported to NRC was determined by meter in-meter out and was an estimate. The crude oil in the line at the time of the release was primarily Bakken Crude.

Once the release was confirmed, Bridger Pipeline filed a second NRC incident report (#1105969) at 08:12 MST on Sunday, January, 18, 2015, confirming the presence of oil in the Yellowstone River. The operator's aerial patrol plane confirmed a sheen on the Yellowstone River in open water approximately 3/4-mile downstream, and also at the first intake 8.9 river miles downstream from their pipeline. The quantity of crude oil released has been estimated at between 300 BBLs and 1200 BBLs. Based upon this second report and communication with DOT PHMSA, EPA Immediately mobilized an OSC to the scene.

1.1.2.1 Location

The section of pipeline where the release is suspected to have occurred crosses the Yellowstone River between two block valves near 47.031667, -104.770833. This is approximately 7 river miles upstream of Glendive, MT, in Dawson County.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Crude oil released into the environment threatens downstream water users, including drinking water supplies and agricultural uses, and could impact wildlife along the river. Downriver cities with water intakes

are Glendive, MT, Sidney, MT, and Williston, ND, and all have been notified of the threat for intakes. At these locations, the intakes are below the surface of the river, but they are monitoring the situation and tracking the response actions.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Bridger Pipeline, LLC, contractors for Bridger Pipeline, the EPA OSC, and four START contractors have been working to collect field data regarding river conditions, ice thicknesses, and the presence/absence of sheen or recoverable oil.

On Sunday, an oil sheen was identified 3/4-mile downstream of the Yellowstone River pipeline crossing, and at the Glendive, Montana surface intake. No sheen has been identified at the town of Savage approximately 20 miles downstream, but was reported downstream in open water where there is not an ice sheet, near Crane, Montana, which is almost to Sidney and only a couple of miles west of the North Dakota border. Assessment activities are ongoing and being conducted by Bridger Pipeline and its contractors, Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MT DEQ), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8, and the North Dakota Department of Health (ND DOH).

Bridger Pipeline personnel have reviewed their 2010 and 2013 pipeline in-line inspection tool data and have not identified any specific issues or anomalies. Bridger has notified all drinking water system intakes to watch for sheen. It is not clear if oil is trapped under the river ice.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

The incident objectives are:

1. Provide for life safety for all responders and the public.
2. Sample/Monitor and ensure safety of downstream water intakes including Glendive.
3. Stop the release and determine source and presence of crude oil within vicinity of incident. Take measures to prevent further migration in to the Yellowstone River.
4. Find a downstream location at which to prevent further migration of product.
5. Investigate and identify locations for the reasonable recovery of free product.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Operational tasks for Unified Command during the January 20, 2015, operational period are as follows:

Drinking Water Decontamination and Supply Operations:

- First supplies of bottled water arrived last night shortly after Dawson County issued a "do not drink" order. More truckloads of water are en route and cycling from Billings, Montana, to distribution sites in Glendive, with plans for supplying 2 gallons/person/day through the weekend.
- Responders are working to protect the intake at the water treatment plant from any slow migrating oil/sheen now that the release site has been secured.
- Glendive Public Works is working with UC to bring the municipal water treatment plan online to enable flushing of the distribution and to maintain system pressure.
- EPA is sending a Mobile Analytical Laboratory from the EPA Region 8 Laboratory to Glendive, MT today to support drinking water assessment and clearance sampling.
- There are now 4 EPA START contractors on the site working directly with Bridger Pipeline, LLC's contractor CTEH on the sampling/analysis.
- Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (MT DES) are looking into bringing in National Guard resources for water distribution and emergency treatment, if needed.
- Unified Command is consulting with ATSDR/CDC on a health risk assessment for both ingestion and inhalation exposure pathways for the contaminants present in the water.

Pipeline Operations:

- Bridger Pipeline, LLC ran a diagnostic pig through the line, evacuating fluids and attempting to locate the breach in the line with pressurized nitrogen.
- Fluids in the pipeline were being recovered for quantification of the volume spilled.
- The breach was located approximately 50 feet from the southeast bank of the Yellowstone River between the two block valves.
- The tentative plan is to abandon this line and directionally drill a replacement pipeline crossing going forward, under the direction/oversight of DOT PHMSA.

Oil Spill Containment and Recovery Operations:

- Crews have begun ice slotting operations in the river between the spill site and Glendive, Montana.
- Reconnaissance crews are working to identify and access pockets of trapped oil beneath the ice on the river in this same segment.
- Crews have established and are maintaining a hardened containment structure approximately 30-40 miles downstream near Crane, Montana.
- The USCG NPFC case officer and 4 Pacific Strike Team Members are coming to the site to assist with contractor oversight and safety.

Environmental Clean-Up Operations:

- Sampling and Analysis Plans are being developed for characterizing the extent of environmental impacts, including surface water quality.
- USFWS is planning on conducting surveys of endangered species impacts, including pallid

sturgeon, along the river.

- Shoreline assessments and clean-up are planned to follow the work being done on containment/recovery locations.
- The USFWS Wildlife Branch has been established, though no wildlife impacts have been observed/reported at this point.
- USFWS is also working NRDA Pre-Assessment coordination with resource trustees.

Notifications and Coordination:

- EPA is working with ND DOH to maintain awareness of sporadic sheen sightings between Sidney, MT and the confluence with the Missouri River.
- The City of Williston, ND, has been notified of the spill and is monitoring their intakes, though dilution from mixing with the Missouri upstream of their intake is likely to reduce the threat.
- EPA has been working to notify all elected officials about the status of the response to the spill.
- EPA is in the process of notifying the Three Affiliated Tribes on the Fort Berthold Reservation about the spill and any impacts.
- EPA Region 8's Regional Administrator is coordinating with local elected officials, offering technical assistance, and drinking water expertise, as needed, to officials in Glendive, MT.

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

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

TBD as released oil quantities are determined and oil is recovered from the river.

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

The Unified Command is focused on restoring service at the Glendive Water Treatment Plant, flushing and cleaning the distribution system and storage reservoirs, and regaining certification. Beyond clean drinking water, the Unified Command is working on determining the extent of contamination at the site and preventing further migration of spilled crude. The source of the crude oil has been secured and downstream water users have been notified of the incident. Efforts are underway to protect drinking water resources and recover oil from the environment.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

USCG Pacific Strike Team is mobilizing four response and safety personnel to the site today. USFWS is expected to begin conducting wildlife impact assessments and threatened/endangered species surveys, as outlined in the EPA PRFA.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Conduct sampling to determine the extent of contamination in the Glendive, Montana, drinking water system.

Complete plan for flushing the distribution system and commence flushing.

Address impacts in the immediate vicinity of the rupture location.

Establish a location for installing barriers to continued oil migration.

Assess where collected oil can be recovered.

Address impacts, if any, to the shoreline and environment.

2.2.2 Issues

River conditions and weather are hampering access to the spilled oil. There is extensive ice cover on the Yellowstone River and the ice is not structurally sound enough in many locations to conduct response efforts. Further ice formation is creating flows of smaller chunks of ice and bergs that are hampering the ability to boom the river to prevent further migration.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

2.5.3 Information Officer

On January 19, 2015, the UC released the following statement to the public about the spill and impacts to downstream drinking water intakes:

Poplar Pipeline Response
Glendive, Montana
Update

January 19, 2015

First Water Test Results Received

Results from the first water sample taken from the Glendive Municipal Water Treatment Plant have come back and the sample showed an elevated level of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), predominantly benzene. The presence of benzene would account for reports of adverse odor in the local water supply. This test result confirms findings from field samples taken Monday at several locations in the city.

While the elevated levels are above the level for long-term consumption, the scientists who reviewed the data at the Centers for Disease Control have told the Unified Command that they "do not see that domestic use of this water poses a short term public health hazard."

Because of the public concern over the safety of the Glendive municipal water supply, the Unified Command has made arrangements to provide drinking water to Glendive residents on the city's municipal water supply.

The UC is taking two additional actions to confirm these test results and to remove the contamination from the Glendive Municipal Water System.

First, plans are being put in place to fully decontaminate the Glendive Municipal Water system.

Second, responders will continue to sample the water from multiple locations for testing in both field sites and laboratories. Those results will be released as they become available.

The Unified Command was established in response to a release from the Poplar Pipeline System owned by Bridger Pipeline, LLC. The UC is operating out of the Dawson County Disaster and Emergency Service Center in Glendive. Officials believe up to 1200 barrels of crude oil (approximately 50,000 gallons) leaked from the Poplar Pipeline near where the line crosses the Yellowstone River near Glendive.

HOTLINE NUMBER

888-959-8351



3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

EPA
MT DEQ
Bridger Pipeline LLC

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Dawson County DES
MT DES
USFWS
DOI
DOT - PHMSA

4. Personnel On Site

EPA – 3 OSCs
START Contractor – 4
USCG Strike Team – 4

5. Definition of Terms

START -Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
USCG - U.S. Coast Guard
PST - Pacific Strike Team
DOI - Department of Interior
DOT-PHMSA - Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

www.epaosc.org/BridgerPipeline

<http://www.deq.mt.gov/yellowstonespill2015.mcp>

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dawson-County-Disaster-and-Emergency-Services/121882044534578?sk=timeline&ref=page_internal

<http://truecompanies.truecos.com/bridger/>

6.2 Reporting Schedule

POLREPs will be completed daily by 5:00PM MST until further notice.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.