

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
West Fork of the Obey River Oil Spill - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IV

Subject: **POLREP #1**
Initial Response Efforts
West Fork of the Obey River Oil Spill

Alpine, TN

To:
From: Perry Gaughan, On Scene Coordinator
Date: 6/3/2016
Reporting Period: 6/02/2016 thru 6/05/2016

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	V4CA	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:	6/2/2016	Start Date:	6/2/2016
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:	E16430	Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Oil Pollution Act response. Crude oil is impacting the Obey River near Alpine, Tennessee.

1.1.2 Site Description

The Site consists of an abandoned oil well field on farm land along Wilder Highway east of Alpine, Tenn. At least four abandoned oil wells have been identified on the farm which apparently were never plugged properly. Crude oil is currently impacting the West Fork of the Obey River east of the farm along its left descending bank.

1.1.2.1 Location

400 Wilder Highway, Alpine, Overton County, Tenn

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Crude oil from improperly plugged oil wells in the vicinity of the West Fork.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

On Wednesday afternoon, June 1, 2016, the OSC met with TDEC's Oakley Hall and hiked the suspected area from a nearby farm along Wilder Highway near Alpine, Tenn. A large pool of crude oil was found along the left descending bank approximately 0.9 miles upstream of Whites Bridge along Hwy 52. The crude is emanating from a rock outcrop along the rivers edge.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

On Thursday, June 2, the OSC initiated a 50K Oil Pollution Act Response under his warrant authority to begin clean up efforts. Access to the river is very limited and requires restoring an old logging road from the farm along Hwy 85. Currently Region 4 ERRS contractors are restoring an 800 yard section of the logging road in order to gain access to the spill area using ATV's.

On Friday and Saturday June 3 and 4th, ERRS contractors successfully restored the logging trail to the river and began clean up measures. The crude oil is emanating from a rock outcropping approximately 1/4 mile downstream from the trail end at the river. River levels were low which allowed ERRS to construct a collection pool at the source with 18-24' berms using river rock, clay and sand around the spill area to isolate the crude oil from the main channel of the river.

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

Access to the farm was granted by the property owner. The OSC explained that the old logging trail from the farm to the river would need to be restored in order to complete clean up activities and maintain spill measures until the suspected oil well or wells were successfully plugged. The farm owner does not own the mineral rights to the oil lease which is suspected to be the source of the crude oil.

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

No information available at this time.

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

No information available at this time.

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.