

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Monday, October 15, 2007

From: Rick Jardine

To: Jim Wentworth, USDA Forest Service Walt Sternke, USDA Forest Service
Matt Taylor, US EPA R4 ERRB Ken Perry, GA EPD
Bob Smith, USCG Oil Pollution Fund Center

Subject: Final POLREP
Explorer Transport Oil Spill
Highway 75 North, Hiawassee, GA
Latitude: 34.8150030
Longitude: -83.7426420

POLREP No.:	4	Site #:	Z4HK
Reporting Period:	Feb-Oct 07	D.O. #:	N/A
Start Date:	4/28/2005	Response Authority:	OPA
Mob Date:	4/28/2005	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:	10/11/2007	NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:	10/11/2007	Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	None - RP clean-up
RCRIS ID #:		Reimbursable Account #	05HR04R0XHK 302D91C Z4HK
FPN#	E05409		

Site Description

On 28 April 2005 at approximately 09:30 EDT, a highway tanker ran off of GA Highway 75 and overturned down an embankment onto the National Forest impacting headwaters to the Hiawassee River. The tanker contained 9200 gallons of gasoline, on- and off-road diesel fuel. Approximately 800 gallons of gasoline was transferred from the wrecked tanker into a sound tanker. The rest of the product was discharged to the environment. Some oil ran overland to streams, some seeped into the soil and was observed weeping out into several springs within 100 yards of the impact site.

Responders included the local Fire and EMA Team, USFS, GA EPD, EPA, GA F&W, and several contractors and consultants for the Responsible Party (RP). Efforts, initially led by the Forest Service and local emergency response, effectively contained the majority of the oil. Contractors for the RP reinforced the containment effort and began recovery of the oil.

The RP continued to maintain the oil recovery and monitoring effort for the next 12 months. By June 2006 observations of significant oil weeping into the surface waters of the National Forest had ceased. The RP continued to monitor the wells and surface water including laboratory analysis of the ground water. Water levels were approximately 11 feet below land surface(BLS) and BTEX concentrations ranging from non-detect to the single digits PPM. One isolated observance of free-product was encountered in September 2006. This event has not been replicated.

Current Activities

During this reporting period the RP continued to sample the monitor wells on Site as well as the surface water for hydrocarbons. There have been no more observations of free product.

In March 2007, the RP began decommissioning the Site according to an approved plan. Phase I of the plan included removing the underflow dams and unaffected wells. The soil from the underflow dams had been contaminated with oil and were disposed off-site. The RP then restored the stream beds to US Forest Service specifications.

In April 2007 Phase II of the plan was implemented. This phase was to install a grid of passive soil gas vapor sampling tubes in an approved pattern surrounding monitor well #3 (the well with observed free product). No significant hydrocarbons were detected.

After approximately six months of continued ground water monitoring and surface water observations both indicating no significant oil present, the Unified Command and Trustees agreed to complete

decommissioning of the Site. In October 2007 the RP completed proper closure of all monitor wells and is working with USFS to restore the haul roads to a more natural grade and landscape.

There is no more pollution-related activity being conducted at the Site.

Next Steps

Complete restoration activity in accordance with USFS specification.

Key Issues

At the final Site visit, the RP, Andy Williams of Explorer Transport stated, "the US Forest Service really saved the day on this one." Mr Williams was appreciative of the quick response work performed by the USFS that minimized the extent of contamination. Further, the USFS has continued with a friendly cooperative attitude throughout the entire clean-up. Those factors are believed to have contributed enormously to the successful clean-up of this oil spill.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERT	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	33.33%
Intramural Costs				
USEPA - Direct (Region, HQ)	\$5,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$1,500.00	30.00%
USEPA - InDirect	\$0.00	\$600.00	(\$600.00)	0.00%
Total Site Costs	\$8,000.00	\$6,100.00	\$1,900.00	23.75%

* 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.

response.epa.gov/explorertransport

POLREP #4 Last Updated 10/15/2007