United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2003
From: Nicolas Brescia

Subject: Chiltipin Creek Seep Site
N. Rachel Avenue, Sinton, TX
Latitude: 28.0425000
Longitude: -97.5103000

POLREP No.:	3	**Site #:**	NRC#549425
Reporting Period:		**D.O. #:**	
Start Date:	6/4/2001	**Response Authority:**	OPA
Mob Date:	6/4/2001	**Response Type:**	Time-Critical
Demob Date:		**NPL Status:**	Non NPL
Completion Date:		**Incident Category:**	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:		**Contract #**	
RCRIS ID #:		**Reimbursable Account #**	2008 HR 06L0XK3 302D91C Z6K3
FPN#	N01139		

Site Description

Since January 2001, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) has been responding to a crude oil seep flowing into Chiltipin Creek under a Pollution Removal Funding Authorization (PRFA). The RRC had previously been responding to the site and conducting assessment and removal actions before EPA became involved and the PRFA was issued. Installation of a passive recovery trench was required to intercept the oil and keep it from discharging into Chiltipin Creek, which flows into Copano bay in the Gulf of Mexico. See POLREPs 1 and 2 for further site history and specifics.

Current Activities

Contractor bids were solicited from prospective contractors for the installation, and the project was awarded to Geo Con on January 13, 2003. Site construction began on January 21 with site clearing. Trench installation began on January 30. After excavation of approximately 200 ft of the planned 350-foot trench, a carbonate-cemented sandstone was encountered at the bottom of the trench. In order to maintain the planned trench depth, a larger excavator was moved in and excavation continued. As excavation continued, the sandstone was encountered at progressively shallower depths. Continuous engineering review, supported by revisions to the trench fluid flow model and a series of geotechnical soil borings, resulted in decisions to allow the bottom of the trench to conform to the surface of the sandstone. Excavation was slowed nonetheless and each barrier panel had to be cut individually to conform to the bottom of the trench. Trench excavation was completed on February 20, 2003. Backfilling, recovery well development, spoils disposal, construction fence removal, permanent fence installation, access road construction, and site grading continued through late April 3.

In all, complications from the sandstone caused 11 days delay in the project schedule, required 8 change orders and increased the project cost by approximately $100,000. Total cost for the trench installation is approximately $536,000.The final punch list items for the trench installation were completed on May 28, 2003.

O&M - Oil collection

On February 27, 2003, one week after trench excavation and barrier panel installation was complete, the recovery wells at the east end of the trench had already collected approximately 0.2 ft of crude oil. The first evacuation of the trench on June 12, 2003 resulted in recovery of 150 bbl of oil/water mixture. The collection system will be inspected on a periodic basis and any oil will be retrieved and disposed as necessary.

Next Steps

Continue with short term Operations & Maintenance (5 yrs) of the trench and collection system and collection of oil. Decisions on the duration of the short O&M will be based on the amount of oil collected over time. Due to the increase in site installation costs and expected operations and maintenance (oil

removal) costs, the OSC will request an increase of the FPN to $845,000. This amount is expected to cover EPA, RRC, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers costs.

Key Issues

None.

response.epa.gov/ChiltipinCreekSeep