

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2008

From: Perry Gaughan

To: Miguel Bella, USCG NPFC

Subject: OPA Removal Activities Continue
Oliver Springs Oil Well Fire
Cove Lane Road, Oliver Springs, TN
Latitude: 36.0708000
Longitude: -84.3569000

POLREP No.:	12	Site #:	Z4MT
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	
Start Date:	3/19/2008	Response Authority:	OPA
Mob Date:	3/19/2008	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:		Reimbursable Account #	
FPN#	E 08430		

Site Description

On March 19th, EPA ERRB responded to an oil well fire in Oliver Springs Tenn. The RP, Walden Resources hired Wild Well Services from Houston, Texas to put out the well fire and cap the well. After mobbing necessary personnel and equipment, the fire was extinguished and the well was successfully capped on Tuesday March 25th. EPA and START contractors conducted air monitoring throughout the response effort and conducted daily public meetings to keep the local residents apprised of the response effort. During the effort on March 25th however, the RP was found to be dumping oil contaminated water from the retention ponds onto a pasture approximately 3/4 mile from the well site. On Wednesday, March 26th, the OSC informed the RP that EPA would be taking over the clean up under a Federal Assumption Notice.

Current Activities

April 19th thru April 25th.

Personnel On Site: EPA -2 (OSC P Gaughan and C Eger), START-2, USCG Strike - 4, ERRs -11

ERRs continued contaminated soil removal from the the well hillside and staged soils for disposal. A significant amount of oil saturated soil was found in the blow off pit area of the well hillside resulting in the excavation of a pit approx 15 feet deep containing approx 1800 cubic yards of contaminated soil. Oil rig debris and tree removal operations continued along the hillside and the excavated areas were backfilled and graded. Soil disposal from the on site stock pile continued throughout the week resulting in the disposal of 3000 tons of oil contaminated soil. Frac tank cleaning of the 13 frac tanks staged on site also began this week resulting in the demobbing of four frac tanks.

USCG Strike Team and START contractors continue to oversee clean up efforts, monitor the air levels near the well head and provide sampling and technical support as needed. On April 23rd, EPA's consultant, Mick Reed began planning additional work at the well head to seal a leak from a lower flange.

Planned Removal Actions

Planned Disposal Operations

Disposal of approximately 3800 cubic yards of oil contaminated soil began on April 23rd. Over 200,000 gallons of stored contaminated water is currently being utilized by a local drilling company for fracing operations at no charge to EPA/NPFC.

Next Steps

EPA will continue coordinating clean up efforts with TDEC and TEMA.

Key Issues

EPA Reg 4 Legal Counsel Wilda Cobb continued coordinating order and reimbursement issues with Tenn Oil and Gas attorneys as well as NPFC Legal Counsel.

response.epa.gov/waldenresourcesoil