

Site: Martin Co.
Break: 2.10
Other: _____

85505

**POLREP NUMBER 18
KENTUCKY/WEST VIRGINIA COAL SLURRY SPILL
MARTIN COUNTY COAL CORPORATION
INEZ, KENTUCKY**

DATE: DECEMBER 04, 2000
TO: DOUG LAIR, EPA REGION IV
CHARLIE KLEEMAN, EPA REGION III
FROM: FRED STROUD

I. BACKGROUND

See prior POLREPs.

II. CURRENT ACTIVITIES

(FROM 1700 HOURS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2000, TO 1700 HOURS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2000)

Weather: Two inches of snow fell on the site Saturday night and Sunday morning slowing ongoing site operations. Evening temperatures have been in the 20s with daytime highs near 40.

Personnel: MCCC continues to respond to the spill 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with their company and subcontractor resources. The company reports more than 520 personnel and contractors responding as of 11/30. Federal and State agencies continue to support and provide guidance to the company's response team (ICS). Federal, state, and local agencies represented on-scene include:

Federal: EPA OSC (Fred Stroud 12/01), EPA ERT (John Gilbert 12/04), USCG Strike Team, U.S. DOL-MSHA (12/4), U.S. DOI-OSM, EPA START Contractor

State: KYDNREPC (Ferris Sexton), KY Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KYDFWR), Kentucky Dept. for Surface Mining and Reclamation (KY DSMRE)

Estimates of total recovered sludge/slurry material that has been pumped and or hauled into impoundments located on or around the site are located in the attached tables. Ongoing operations in the Coldwater and Wolf Creek watersheds, and the Tug Fork and Big Sandy Rivers are as follows:

Coldwater Creek

Removal crews have been focusing on removal efforts at the North Main Portal to Walnut Fork where sludge depths of six feet have been encountered during this reporting period.

The sludge is being solidified with calcium oxide (lime) and transported to the holding cells located on mine property.

Crews continue to use an excavator to dip slurry from below the Cornfield cells to the Cain Property to keep the channel open during ongoing pumping operations at the Cain Property weir.

AEP Power is working on a direct power line for the pump and generator at the Cain Property to reduce noise levels.

MCCC's restoration crews have been backfilling and grading the excavated areas from gate 4 to Mullet Branch in preparation of seeding.

Backfill top soil material has been obtained from the Lynn Bark Fork area as access/haul roads have been constructed to the area.

Crews continue to remove trees and other vegetation destroyed during the spill and subsequent operations. The material is being chipped and staged on mine property.

Hydroseeder crews have been washing the creek banks below several bridges and around gas lines along the creek.

Tandem and articulated trucks continue hauling operations (see Table 1). Road maintenance continues and conditions are variable depending on the weather.

MCCC's construction crews continue building cells on Lynn Bark Fork and Road Fork as well as constructing additional cells at the south MTR location. These cells will be used for solidified and excavated creek bed sludge.

Wolf Creek

The main objective in the Wolf Creek watershed at this time is to divert the creek from the channel with the series of pumps that are in place, resulting in lowering the water level in the creek.

Big Andy, Old Slurry Station, security gate 3, and slurry impoundment pumps are operational. Pumps and sediment traps are being serviced as needed. A 12 inch dredge is in operation around the Maynard Fork area.

Excavation of the sludge on the banks and flood plains continues as additional exposed sludge deposits on the banks become accessible.

MCCC continues to solidify the sludge from the log yard area excavation operations.

Sludge continues to be gathered and solidified at the Meathouse area. Blue Bird road is under construction in order to service load out activities anticipated at the Excel Mine, Fred's Dam, and the Meathouse areas along the creek.

Creek bank washing/flushing activities are ongoing in divisions WC, WD, and WE, between Pigeon Roost and Pilgrim Mine (see Table 2). Six Hydroseeders are currently being used to wash the banks. Starting this reporting period the Vac-Truck (Miller Environmental) and Hydroseeder bank washing activities are on a six day a week work schedule. The addition of more bank washing crews is being considered.

Tug Fork and Big Sandy River

Ft. Gay and Kermit WTP are currently operational and pumping water from the Tug Fork into their plants for water treatment. CI Thornberg completed the installation of the in-line turbidity meter for the Kermit WTP.

Ft. Gay has raised their intake in the Tug Fork a few feet from the bottom for precautionary purposes. Additionally they will bring their old settling tanks online for pretreatment as needed and run a line from Lousia for back up. Winterization, including the installation of saddle valves is ongoing.

Eric Wells of Midwest Dredging is working on a proposal for the Ft. Gay Lock slurry removal.

A revised Big Sandy Lock No.3 pool investigation was completed by the EU. Results indicate that approximately 19,200 cubic yard (CY) of slurry have been deposited (11/27) prior estimates indicated approximately 17,000 CY.

General

An Administrative Order of Consent (under CERCLA) was sent to MCCC on November 29, 2000.

MSHA is performing their investigation of the release from the impoundment. The investigation includes collecting 20 cores from locations within the impoundment. Their efforts on ongoing with a mid December completion date.

III. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- A. Continuing remediation efforts including pumping and solidifying slurry from both watersheds. Solidification efforts will continue using lime and mechanical methods to excavate the sludge.
- B. Crews will continue working downstream excavating sludge from private yards and seed for erosion control.
- C. EPA and MCCC will continue gaining access to properties along Wolf Creek and

Coldwater Creek in order to maintain clean up operations.

- D. A winter weather plan for general activities relating to sediment removal operations is being developed.
- E. Evaluate creek bank and flood plain remediation options.
- F. Aerial photos of the site will be taken by EPA's EPIC group.

REMOVAL TOTALS

Table 1

WOLF CREEK		COLDWATER CREEK
DATE**	VOLUME REMOVED*	VOLUME REMOVED*
11-29-00	8377	8024
11-30-00	8362	8037
12-01-00	8360	10332
12-02-00	8802	7152
12-03-00	5870	7785

* Cubic yards includes pumping
 ** 24 hour period ending 0600 hours

BANK WASHING TOTALS

Table 2

WOLF CREEK	
DATA	LINEAR FOOTAGE
11-29-00	2400
11-30-00	2580
12-01-00	1825
12-02-00	1600
12-03-00	0