

Site: Martin Co
Break: 2:10
Other: _____

85506

**POLREP NUMBER 19
KENTUCKY/WEST VIRGINIA COAL SLURRY SPILL
MARTIN COUNTY COAL CORPORATION
INEZ, KENTUCKY**

DATE: DECEMBER 07, 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, MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2000, TO 1700 HOURS,
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2000)**

Weather: Monday evening no precipitation, low temperatures near 30 F, Tuesday light snow flurries (no accumulations) temperatures fell during the day, Tuesday evening lows around 15 F, Wednesday cold and overcast.

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 and state agencies represented on-scene include:

- Federal:** EPA OSC (Fred Stroud), EPA Region 4 Section Chief (Shane Hitchcock)
EPA ERT (John Gilbert), USCG Strike Team, U.S. DOL-MSHA (12/4),
U.S. DOI-OSM, EPA START Contractor
- State:** KYDNREPC (Tom Gabbard), KY Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources
(KYDFWR), Kentucky Dept. for Surface Mining and Reclamation
(KY DSMRE)

Estimates of daily totals of 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

MCCC's restoration crews continue backfilling and grading the excavated areas from gate 4 to Mullet Branch in preparation of seeding and/or other restoration activities as outlined by the Streambank Assessment and Cleanup Survey Team (SAC) protocol.

Several residential septic systems have been serviced, the Inez Health Department is requiring evaluations of replacement systems.

KYDNREPC has requested a list of all residential properties impacted directly by the spill.

KYDNREPC Division of Water has asked that placement of rip rap be evaluated prior to installation. MCCC currently has a permit thru the Core of Engineers and is following guidelines outlined under the permit.

Estimates of removal completed on Coldwater Creek are 75-80%.

Removal efforts at the North Main Portal to Walnut Fork are ongoing, the creek channel and banks at sediment ponds 1 and 2 have been scraped and Hydroseeded.

Road maintenance and washing continues and conditions are variable depending on the weather.

Water is being pumped/decanted from the surface of the Cornfield cells back to the creek as needed. Cornfield cells 1 thru 6 are full, no dipping schedule has been submitted, however significant storage capacity is available in cells 7 and 8. Cells 1 thru 6 froze overnight Tuesday.

Wolf Creek

Wolf Creek continues to be diverted with a series of pumps resulting in lowering the water level in the creek, allowing for mechanical recovery.

A survey crew is surveying the creek banks and bottom above the railroad crossing to below the log yard.

MCCC initiated solidification efforts directly in the creek below the log yard area reducing leakage from trucks hauling to holding cells.

CMC Inc. continues to gather and solidify sludge at the meathouse area with two excavators.

Creek bank washing/flushing activities were temporarily suspended on Tuesday due to weather conditions (see Table 2).

The South Main Portal area has been restored. A V-notch weir and drainage has been constructed. Flow rates are being taken daily and range from 275-320 gallons per minute (gpm).

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 its intake in the Tug Fork a few feet from the bottom for to bring the WTP on-line. Additionally they will bring their old settling tanks online for pretreatment as needed. They continue to utilize the temporary 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 for Potesta.

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

General

START and USCG are providing photo and written documentation of progress made of ongoing operations. Additionally USCG is providing Health and Safety monitoring and air monitoring for particulate matter. START is maintaining RCMS and site files. A compilation of photographs is being keep by EPA ERT Member Gilbert.

An Administrative Order of Consent (under CERCLA) was sent to MCCC on November 29, 2000, EPA is awaiting MCCC final comments.

MSHA is performing their investigation of the release from the impoundment. The investigation includes collecting 20 cores from locations within the impoundment.

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.
- D. A winter weather plan for general activities relating to removal operations is being implemented.
- C. Evaluate creek bank and flood plain remediation options, a draft SAC report outlining restoration guidelines is out for comments due back on 12/11.
- D. Aerial photos of the site are scheduled to be taken by EPA's EPIC group, weather permitting.
- E. The next community meetings are scheduled to take place on January 4 and 7.

REMOVAL TOTALS

Table 1

WOLF CREEK		COLDWATER CREEK
DATE**	VOLUME REMOVED*	VOLUME REMOVED*
12-01-00	8360	10332
12-02-00	8802	7152
12-03-00	5870	7785
12-04-00	5951	7564
12-05-00	1528	7199

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

BANK WASHING TOTALS

Table 2

WOLF CREEK	
DATA	LINEAR FOOTAGE
12-01-00	1825
12-02-00	1600
12-03-00	0
12-04-00	1700
12-05-00	2645