

Site: Martin Co
Break: 2.10
Other: _____

85509

**POLREP NUMBER 21
KENTUCKY/WEST VIRGINIA COAL SLURRY SPILL
MARTIN COUNTY COAL CORPORATION
INEZ, KENTUCKY**

DATE: DECEMBER 12, 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 8, 2000, TO 1700 HOURS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2000)

Weather: Friday evening no precipitation, low temperatures in the 20s, Saturday overcast with temperatures 40-50, Saturday evening rain and sleet evening lows near 30, Sunday cloudy with mild temps in the 40s, Monday overcast temperatures in the near 50s.

Personnel: MCCC continues to respond to the spill 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with their company and subcontractor resources. 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 ERT (Greg Powell (12/11), USCG Strike Team, U.S. DOL-MSHA, 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 removal totals are located in the attached tables. Ongoing operations in the Coldwater Fork and Wolf Creek watersheds, and the Tug Fork and Big Sandy Rivers are as follows:

Coldwater Fork

MCCC's restoration crews continue backfilling and grading the excavated areas from Gate 4 to the Cain property in preparation of seeding and/or other restoration activities.

The creek channel from Walnut Fork to the Cain property cells has been re-established.

The Gabion weir below the Gate 4 bridge has been removed. The weir was removed to lower water levels in the upper Coldwater drainage.

Mixing cells below and above the Gate 4 bridge are being reclaimed.

Preparation of seeding and final restoration continues.

Removal efforts are completed to approximately 400 feet upstream of the Lynn Bark Fork.

Lynn Bark Fork continues to be diverted but may be taken off the diversion pumps on 12/12.

Wolf Creek

Wolf Creek continues to be diverted with a series of pumps, resulting in lowering the water level, allowing for mechanical recovery as outlined by the Streambank Assessment and Cleanup Survey Team (SAC) protocol.

Concerns about solidification efforts are being addressed. In some instances wet sludge continues to be loaded, resulting in leakage onto the roads creating safety and effectiveness issues.

MCCC is constructing a road to access sludge deposit below the meathouse area. USCG will perform a sludge slurry just below the meathouse area.

Maynard Fork is scheduled to be rock dammed to prevent rain events from carrying sludge deposits downstream into Wolf Creek.

The Tractor pumps have been discontinued, MCCC has provided START with a map detailing pumping operations on the creek.

Tug Fork and Big Sandy River

MCCC is awaiting a dredging proposal/report being prepared by their contractor.

The preliminary benthic study provided by WV DEP is being reviewed by the Environmental Unit.

General

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 up to 40 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.
- B. A winter weather plan for general activities relating to removal operations is in draft form, awaiting comments.
- C. Continue to evaluate creek bank and flood plain remediation options.
- D. Aerial photos of the site are scheduled to be taken by EPA's EPIC group, weather permitting.
- E. The next community meetings, conducted by MCCC are scheduled to take place on January 4 and 7, 2001. A question and answer meeting by EPA will be held during the week of December 11th.
- F. ERTV is scheduled to be on site (12/18) to provide video documentation of site progress.

REMOVAL TOTALS
Table 1

WOLF CREEK		COLDWATER FORK
DATE**	VOLUME REMOVED*	VOLUME REMOVED*
12-08-00	1941	7729
12-09-00	2329	7710
12-10-00	TBD	TBD

Estimated Total Removed = 427,000 CY

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

BANK WASHING TOTALS
Table 2

WOLF CREEK	
DATA	LINEAR FOOTAGE
12-08-00	1550

WOLF CREEK	
12-09-00	1400
12-10-00	TBD