

Site: Martin Co.  
Break: 2.10  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

85511

**US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
KENTUCKY/WEST VIRGINIA COAL SLURRY SPILL  
MARTIN COUNTY COAL CORPORATION  
INEZ, KENTUCKY  
POLLUTION REPORT (POLREP) NUMBER 22**

**DATE:** DECEMBER 16, 2000  
**TO:** DOUG LAIR, EPA REGION IV  
CHARLIE KLEEMAN, EPA REGION III  
**FROM:** ART SMITH, OSC

**I. BACKGROUND**

See prior POLREPs.

**II. CURRENT ACTIVITIES  
(FROM 1700 HOURS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2000, TO 1700 HOURS, FRIDAY,  
DECEMBER 15, 2000)**

**Weather:** Temperatures onsite have been seasonable with mostly cloudy skies. Heavy rain totaling 1.65 inches was measured onsite during the evening of Dec. 13, resulting in significant water quality impacts at downstream locations. No flooding was observed as a result of this rainfall event.

**Personnel:** EPA OSC (Art Smith), USCG Strike Team (Wayne Chapman), START (Pat Zimmerman), KYDNREPC, Martin County Coal Corporation (and contracted personnel and equipment).

**Coldwater Fork:**

Overflow of "black water" at the Cain Property weir occurred as a result of the rain event on Dec. 13. By Dec. 15 at 0800 hrs., the water level was back below the weir crest elevation.

Work crews are backfilling and grading excavated areas in preparation of seeding and/or other restoration activities. Selected areas are being hydroseeded. Reclamation of the Cornfield cells is approximately 50% complete. Mechanical removal of slurry deposits continues in the upper reaches of Lynn Bark Fork and Old Road Fork (see attached tables for volumes removed). All major removal and restoration operations in the Coldwater Fork watershed are expected to be completed by Dec. 22.

**Wolf Creek:**

Overflow at all control points weirs occurred as a result of the rain event on Dec. 13. An uncontrolled discharge of black water to the Tug Fork continues as of the date of this report.

Liming and mechanical removal operations continue at the Meathouse area. Bank washing activities are ongoing at several locations (see attached table for total feet washed). Slurry removal from

the Prep Plant to the Pegasus railroad crossing continues and is projected to be completed by Dec. 22 (see attached tables for volumes removed).

**Tug Fork and Big Sandy River:**

Rainfall caused elevated turbidity readings which were reported at the following locations:

Kermit, WV WTP:	5300 NTU (Dec. 14)
American Electric Power Plant, Louisa, KY:	2900 NTU (Dec. 15)

The leading edge of the black water plume was observed to be near Catlettsburg, KY at MM4 of the Big Sandy River at 1300 hrs. on Dec. 15. There have been no reports thus far indicating any problems with potable or industrial water intakes. ORSANCO has been notified of the black water release for purposes of notifying intakes along the Ohio River.

**General:**

The Environmental Unit held a meeting on Dec. 12. Issues discussed included the slurry impact on the Tug River and final restoration efforts; comments are being compiled and revisions to the SAC's Plan will be made. MCCC's consultant Potesta & Associates, Inc., presented *An Update On The Potential Chronic Toxicity Associated with Coal Slurry Released From Martin County Coal Company's Impoundment* and is generating a report of their findings of chronic laboratory testing on freshwater organisms.

MCCC has submitted a request to EPA Region 4 for approval of underground injection of slurry into the Peter Cave mine, located near the existing Wolf Creek No. 4 weir.

MCCC is preparing a "Cold Weather Plan" to outline which activities are likely to be affected during the winter months.

**III. FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

Continue remediation efforts including pumping and solidifying slurry from both watersheds. Solidification efforts will continue using lime and mechanical methods to excavate the sludge.

**REMOVAL TOTALS**  
**Table 1**

<b>Date **</b>	<b>Volume Removed Wolf Creek</b>	<b>Volume Removed Coldwater Creek</b>
12-10-00 thru 12-15-00	8864 cubic yards*	30,897 cubic yards*

Estimated Total Removed = 467,000 CY

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

**BANK WASHING TOTALS**  
**Table 2**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Linear Feet of Banks Washed on Wolf Creek</b>
12-10-00 thru 12-15-00	13,820