

Site: Martin Co.
Break: 2:10
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85497

**POLREP NUMBER 14
KENTUCKY/WEST VIRGINIA COAL SLURRY SPILL
MARTIN COUNTY COAL CORPORATION
INEZ, KENTUCKY**

DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2000
TO: DOUG LAIR, EPA REGION IV
CHARLIE KLEEMAN, EPA REGION III
FROM: GREG POWELL, EPA ERT

*NEED TIM
Review
Then email
to list on
wall.*

I. BACKGROUND

See prior POLREPs.

II. CURRENT ACTIVITIES

**(FROM 1700 HOURS, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2000 THRU 1700 HOURS,
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2000)**

Weather: This weekends weather conditions have become more seasonable for the region, with low temperatures in the upper 20s and highs in the mid 40s with occasional scattered light snow flurries. The forecast for next week calls for mostly to partly cloudy skies and seasonal temperatures with a slight possibility of precipitation. Concerns over possible flooding and migration of the slurry are first and foremost. An updated (11/14/00) Precipitation Action Plan has been developed for a major storm event and has been approved by the Unified Command.

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 approximately 540 personnel and contractors are responding. Federal and State agencies continue to support and provide guidance to the companies response team (ICS). Federal, state and local agencies represented on-scene include:

Federal: EPA ERT (Greg Powell), USCG Strike Team, U.S. DOL-MSHA, U.S. DOI-OSM, EPA START Contractor, EPA REAC Contractor

State: KYDNREPC (Tom Gabbard), Roger Martin, KY Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky Dept. for Surface Mining and Reclamation (KY DSMRE)

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 tables attached to this POLREP. Ongoing operations in the Coldwater and Wolf Creek watersheds are as follows;

Coldwater Creek

Clearing creek blockages at the Chapman property is a major priority. EPA and MCCC are working on obtaining access on properties to avoid delays in clean up operations. Blockages are being accessed from the stream bed channel where possible. Equipment is accessing the channel from alternate entrance points. The Mullet Bridge and A-frame house blockages are currently being worked on, completion should occur by Monday.

The Creek channel continues to be dipped (for the second time in some places above gate 4 to prevent the need for future dipping downstream) completed one dipping to Parsons Bridge, some properties are near the stage where final grading for restoration can be done. MCCC is working on getting a "clear cutting contractor" to help with handling trees and other vegetation destroyed during spill and subsequent operations. Gas lines along and crossing the creek are being monitored daily for damage by Columbia Gas.

Tandem and articulated trucks continue hauling operations (see Table 1) grader working on maintaining the roads daily, road condition have improved. Road construction has been complete to the Lynn Bark confluence, solidification activities continue.

MCCC has surveyed the upper reaches of Coldwater Creek, and would like to bring the sludge down the creek to above the gate 4 area for easy removal and transport to holding cells. EPA ERT OSC Powell surveyed the creek by foot on 11/18/00. A Front end loader at the No.2 South Main portal inactive for the past four days, no work has been performed at the portal.

Reclaiming (burying original cells) and constructing new cells at the Old MTR continues, issues being raised about the potential for runoff from stockpiled sludge. This is being addressed by the installation of silt fencing or berm around the piles.

MCCC will address issues raised by KYDSM about installing overflow channels at cornfield cells, specifically cells 4 and 5, no schedule set for solidification due to creek channel clearing precedence.

An additional submersible pump is being installed below Creekwood Estates and will be plumbed to the Cain property sediment settling ponds. An additional 2000 gpm flight trash pump is being installed at the Cain sump to back up the current submersible (1800 gpm) pump.

Wolf Creek

The major priority at Wolf Creek continues to be clearing the blockage at the Maynard Fork Culverts, crews are working on reducing levels mechanically with excavators and by dredging just below the fork. debris during dredging and removal activities is hampering progress, EPA suggesting a grapppler attachment for the excavator(s), MCCC's goal is to have this completed by Wednesday of next week.

MCCC has identified 8 locations downstream of Fred's weir where material can be loaded out from the creek channel. Posi-Track loaders are currently pushing material to excavators. Load out and hauling is being ramped up daily. MCCC's goal in the Wolf Creek drainage is to have three routes for hauling, currently there are two. Road conditions near the Pegasus Mine are in poor condition and are being addressed.

Big Andy, Old Slurry Station, security gate 3, and slurry impoundment pumps operational, pumps and sediment traps are serviced on a as need bases. An extension pipe has been installed on the decant line.

A truck dump (sludge load off area) is being constructed below the main gate 2 area. MCCC still would like to build additional cell at the TC area for the Tandem truck to off load.

Creek bank washing/flushing activities are ongoing in divisions WC, WD, and WE, between Pigeon Roost and Pilgrim Mine (see Table 2). Two Hydroseeders demobilized on 11/18, two or three additional Hydroseeders will be mobilized on 11/20.

No visible suspended solids were noted at the Wolf Creek/Tug Fork confluence, Blackburn contracting Inc. is taking daily samples at the Wolf Creek (No.4 Discharge)

Tug Fork and Big Sandy River

Kermit WTP is currently operational and pumping water from the Tug Fork into their plant for water treatment. Shipment of an in-line turbidity meter should occur on 11/21/00. Installation of the meter will follow.

Ft. Gay WTP has discontinued bypass pumping due to blackwater entering their treatment system. The bypass system originally installed for testing was not working properly. MCCC engineers are working with Ft. Gay WTP to evaluate the possibility of repositioning their water intake. Winterization plans for temporary lines is proceeding at an expected pace.

Initiating planning to determine the feasibility of pilot project to demonstrate removal of heavy slurry deposits and establish plan to coordinate and /or enhance sampling for sedimentation and turbidity.

START Region III has been obtaining daily turbidity readings at several location on the Big Sandy and Tug Fork Rivers (see Table 3)

General/Issues

EPA requesting issues on channel reconstruction and leaching from cells be addressed.

MCCC is mobilizing a stream restoration contractor to be onsite on 11/20/00 to meet with the environmental unit.

Potesta Toxicity report to be out on Monday, KYDOW private well sampling data received, individual well owner notification by the state will occur, well analytical data needs clarification.

Sludge conditions vary from location to location, generally the sludge is settling from gravity where not disturbed and water is allowed to flow freely over it.

Three seeding test plots underway at the log Yard.

Wolf Creek restraints in hauling is distance, Coldwater Creek restraints in hauling is congestion.

III. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- A. Continue remediation efforts include pumping and solidifying slurry from both watersheds. Solidification to continue using lime and mechanical methods will be used 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. Construction on new sedimentation impoundment cells will continue.
- E. The USCG will accompany Potesta and Associates on a sludge survey from Kermit to Ft. Gay in the Tug Fork Monday, November 20, 2000

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**REMOVAL TOTALS
Table 1**

WOLF CREEK			COLDWATER CREEK	
DATE**	LOADS	VOLUME (cubic yards)*	LOADS	VOLUME (cubic yards)*
11-12-00	--	--	629	13230
11-13-00	--	--	--	7155
11-14-00	150	--	605	8089
11-15-00	398	8391	1257	10551
11-16-00	521	8448	1217	10783
11-17-00	453	8271	1255	8048
11-18-00	490	8369	1026	7630
11-19-00	355	8019	1223	8164

- a. no data available
- * includes pumping
- ** 24 hour period ending 0600 hours

**BANK WASHING TOTALS
Table 2**

WOLF CREEK	
DATE	LINEAR FOOTAGE
11-12-00	3400
11-13-00	5000
11-14-00	4950
11-15-00	--
11-16-00	6220
11-17-00	5450
11-18-00	3525
11-19-00	--

TURBIDITY READINGS

Table 3

DATE	LOCATION	READING (NTU)
11-15	Kenova WTP/Big Sandy mile marker 5.5	57
11-15	FT Gay WTP/Tug fork	310
11-15	Kermit WTP/Tug fork @Kermit, WV	10
11-15	American Electric Power/Big Sandy Mile Marker 20	15.3
11-15	Calgon/Big Sandy	45
11-17	Kenova WTP/Big Sandy mile marker 5.5	46
11-17	FT Gay WTP/Tug fork	No Data
11-17	Kermit WTP/Tug fork @Kermit, WV	11
11-17	American Electric Power/Big Sandy Mile Marker 20	No Data
11-17	Calgon/Big Sandy	No Data