

Site: Martin Co
Break: 2.10
Other: _____

85507

**POLREP NUMBER 20
KENTUCKY/WEST VIRGINIA COAL SLURRY SPILL
MARTIN COUNTY COAL CORPORATION
INEZ, KENTUCKY**

DATE: DECEMBER 08, 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, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2000, TO 1700 HOURS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2000)

Weather: Wednesday evening no precipitation, low temperatures in the 20s, Thursday overcast in the morning clearing to sunshine with temperatures moderating just above freezing, clear and cold Thursday evening lows in the 20s, Friday partly cloudy with mild temps in the 40s.

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 on site. 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 12/6 & 12/7) EPA ERT (John Gilbert and Greg Powell (12/6 & 12/7), 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 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 as outlined by the Streambank Assessment and Cleanup Survey Team (SAC) protocol.

Slurry in the Creekwood Estates holding cell has been reclaimed, the cell is being dismantled.

Issues between KYDNREPC Division of Water and MCCC about rip rap installation has been resolved.

The Jack Cassidy Branch culvert is being washed out with a hydroseeder, two additional hydroseeders continue to wash stream banks, roads, and other locations impacted by the release.

Hand labor crews are raking backfill in yards near Mullet bridge in preparation of seeding and final restoration.

A tree cutting and debris removal team continues restoration efforts along the creek and at adjacent properties impacted by the release.

Removal efforts above Walnut Fork are ongoing. MCCC estimates that the bulk of material could be removed by Monday 12/11.

Water is being pumped/decanted from the surface of Cornfield cells 6 and 1. Cornfield cells 1 thru 6 are full, dipping is scheduled to begin as equipment becomes available from removal efforts above Walnut Fork.

A small area at the North Main Portal has been cleared for equipment and vehicles to turn around.

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.

The USCG with the assistance of a MCCC excavator retrieved three deer from the slurry below the Log Yard on 12/8.

Solidification efforts directly in the creek below the log yard area is resulting in higher daily removal production.

Solidification by CMC Inc., and hauling at the meathouse area is ongoing.

The South Main Portal area has been restored. A V-notch weir and drainage has been constructed. Flow rates are dropping to below 300 gallons per minute (gpm).

Tug Fork and Big Sandy River

A preliminary (10/24) benthic survey report of the Tug Fork performed by the WVDEP was delivered to the Unified Command.

A memo from WV DNR on the status of fishery investigations on the Tug Fork and Big Sandy rivers was delivered to the unified command.

The State of West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources notified (after the fact) P & A Engineers and Consultants to "cease all construction" and modifications to the Town of Fort Gay water treatment plant structures and process until they approve of it. P7A has provided the engineering plans to the state of W VA as required.

Ft. Gay and Kermit WTP are currently operational and pumping water from the Tug Fork into their plants for water treatment.

A revised Big Sandy Lock No.3 pool investigation was completed by the Environmental Unit (EU) comments are outstanding. Preliminary 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 kept 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 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 being developed.
- 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, conducted by MCCC are scheduled to take place on January 4 and 7, 2001. EPA will have a meeting 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

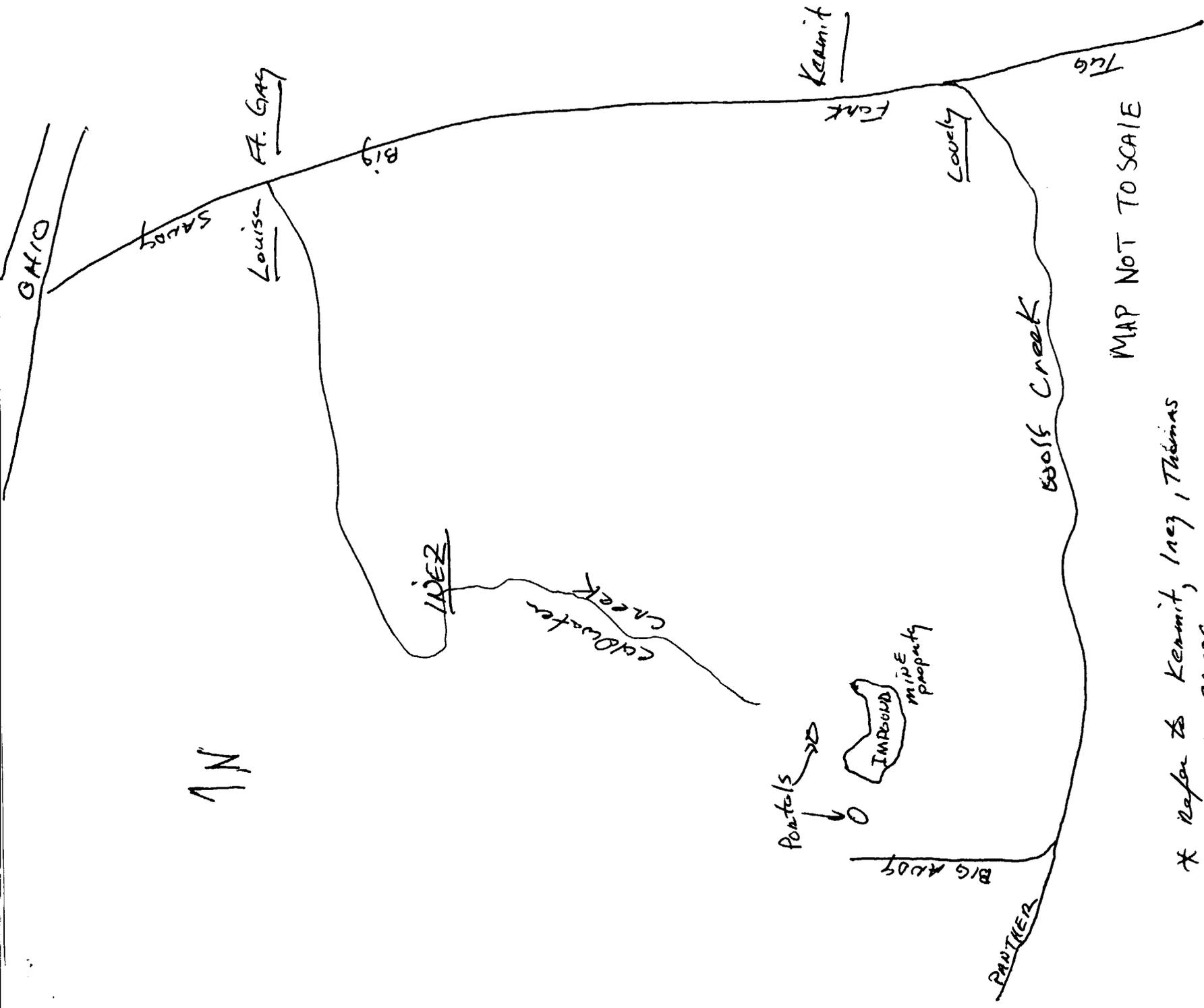
| WOLF CREEK | | COLDWATER FORK |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| DATE** | VOLUME REMOVED* | VOLUME REMOVED* |
| 12-03-00 | 5870 | 7785 |
| 12-04-00 | 5951 | 7564 |
| 12-05-00 | 1528 | 7199 |
| 12-06-00 | 1671 | 6981 |
| 12-07-00 | 2301 | 6933 |

Estimated Total Removed = 410,000 CY

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

BANK WASHING TOTALS
Table 2

| WOLF CREEK | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| DATA | LINEAR FOOTAGE |
| 12-03-00 | 0 |
| 12-04-00 | 1700 |
| 12-05-00 | 2645 |
| 12-06-00 | 0 |
| 12-07-00 | 2100 |



MAP NOT TO SCALE

* Refer to Kennit, Inez, Thomas
USGS QUADS.