



August 12, 2010

Calhoun County Public Health Department Enbridge Oil Spill Daily Update

A list of frequently asked questions about the Enbridge Oil Spill can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/enbridgespill/qanda.html>. All other questions should be directed to the Enbridge Oil Spill hotline at (800) 306-6837.

In the near future, analytical data will be made available via the EPA website. Some of this data will be updated daily while other data will be updated as it becomes available.

AIR QUALITY SAMPLING AND EVACUATION NOTICE UPDATE

Overview

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is monitoring outdoor air around the clock for a wide range of chemicals that are found in crude oil. The air sampling results have shown one chemical – benzene - at a level of potential concern for long-term health. It is important to understand that these “volatile organic compounds” (VOC) can be smelled at levels below those that would cause health problems.



Public Health Action

Recommend Evacuation: On July 29th, the Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) issued a voluntary evacuation notice of residents directly affected in and around the site of the Kalamazoo River Oil Spill.

The evacuation area affects approximately 61 homes North and Northwest of the oil spill site. The CCPHD and Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) officials and volunteers personally visited those homes affected to deliver notices of voluntary recommended evacuation.

The Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department (KHCS), along with the CCPHD and MDCH, states that people should avoid spending time in the immediate area around the remaining portions of the river still impacted by the oil spill.

Daily Update

In general, benzene air levels are lower and have been below the level of concern for two days within the *Recommended Evacuation* area. Publicly accessible areas outside the *Recommended Evacuation* area remain below the level of concern. Public health officials

are now beginning the validation process that will hopefully allow CCPHD to lift the *Recommended Evacuation* in those areas shortly.

Due to the sensitivity of the equipment used to take the air measurements, weather conditions need to be calm and dry. As long as the weather continues to cooperate, starting August 10, 2010, the EPA began taking 24-hour air samples in some neighborhoods in the *Recommended Evacuation* area. It may be three or four days before we have the results from these samples because of the intensive validation process. When the results are ready, health officials will review them to determine when to lift the *Recommended Evacuation*. A plan is being developed to help returning residents cope with any problems or concerns related to the spill and the evacuation. CCPHD will notify residents when the plan is complete.

The EPA will continue to monitor levels of chemicals in the air even after the *Recommended Evacuation* is lifted. It is possible that air levels could increase temporarily in areas where cleanup crews are working to remove the oil. Air quality is monitored on an ongoing basis; so if that happens, the CCPHD will notify you as soon as possible.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING, PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY AND BAN UPDATE

Private Well Monitoring

Overview

The Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) and the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department (KHCS), together with state and federal government partners, are reviewing and have been conducting a systematic evaluation of private drinking wells located within 200 feet of either side of the Kalamazoo River and Talmadge Creek. The investigation and response, which began on July 27, includes a review of well construction records, movement of groundwater, and determination of areas of greatest risk. Public health officials have found no well contamination and will continue periodic monitoring well into the future.

Public Health Action

Advisory: While no contamination has been found, as a precaution, the CCPHD and KHCS have been providing bottled water for drinking and cooking to those who live in homes with wells within 200 feet of either side of the Kalamazoo River and Talmadge Creek.

The CCPHD issued a water advisory for specified residents directly affected by the Kalamazoo River Oil Spill. Residents affected include those with private wells living within 200 feet from the edge of the river bank between Talmadge Creek (site of oil spill) and west along the Kalamazoo River to the Kalamazoo County line.

It is recommended that, as a precaution, specified residents stop using their well water for drinking and cooking. At this time, all other household uses – including dishwashing and showering – are acceptable.

Bottled water is available at the following locations and times:

- Ceresco Baptist Church, 230 C Drive North, Ceresco Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday starting on Tuesday, Aug. 17. The schedule will remain as is through Sunday, Aug. 15, and no pick up will be available on Monday, Aug. 16. Water will be available from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- American Red Cross, 14600 Beadle Lake, Battle Creek, Monday through Thursday 9 am - 5 pm and Friday 9 am - 4 pm
- Family Fare, 15900 W Michigan, Marshall, Open 24 hours/day

Daily Update

Approximately 60% of wells in areas of impact have been sampled. All ground water sample results have been clear of any indication of contamination in water due to the spill.

Long-term well monitoring will continue. If you are concerned and live within the 200-foot zone around the river, you may also request to have your well water tested at any time by calling (269) 969-6341. CCPHD officials have responded to calls about groundwater concerns within 24 hours and will continue to respond as quickly as possible.

The municipal water supplies of Marshall and Battle Creek have been and will continue to be safe as the sources of the water supplies are several miles away from the contaminated areas. These water supplies are regularly tested as required by state and federal regulations.

Surface Water Sampling

Overview

State and federal government partners are conducting an intensive investigation into surface water contamination from the Enbridge pipeline release. The investigation includes ongoing measurements of the surface water quality and review of the presence and movement of oil within the Kalamazoo River system.



Public Health Actions

Advisories: Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) and Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department (KHCS) issued advisories to avoid all contact with water from the Kalamazoo River until further notice. The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has advised people

to not eat fish from Talmadge Creek or the Kalamazoo River to the west end of Morrow Lake.

Bans: The CCPHD and KCHS issued a ban on the use of water for the purpose of all irrigation and watering of livestock. Both CCPHD and KCHS have also issued a ban on surface water activities on the Kalamazoo River, including swimming, wading, fishing, boating, canoeing and kayaking. Local health officials warn citizens to avoid all contact with water from the impacted areas of the Kalamazoo River until further notice.

The two reasons for this temporary ban include:

1. Human Health

The oil release into the Kalamazoo River contaminated the water with chemicals known to be harmful to human health. Using contaminated water for irrigating crops, lawns, and gardens, as well as watering and livestock/pets, presents a human health risk, until such time oil is removed and future monitoring shows no lingering contamination of concern.

2. Groundwater Contamination

Using contaminated river water for irrigating crops, lawns, and gardens can contaminate groundwater (a source of drinking water for most homes along the river).

Daily Update

To date, monitoring indicates that both the Talmadge Creek and the Kalamazoo River from the confluence of the creek to Morrow Lake are still contaminated. Surface water sampling continues and the development of a long-term surface water sampling and monitoring protocol is currently underway.

On a daily basis, health officials continue to review the cleanup efforts, reports of oily sheen on water, and surface water data. Using this information, health officials will decide when these advisories can be removed.

HEALTH REFERRAL UPDATE

If you do not have health insurance and would like to talk to a doctor about your health related to the oil spill, please contact (800) 306-6837 where information is available about local clinics that can provide medical professional screening and advice specific to your own medical health.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Calhoun County Fair: August 14 – 21, 2010. The fair begins on Saturday with no disruptions expected as a result of the efforts focused on the spill.

COMMUNITY SURVEYS

Overview

The CCPHD and MDCH have been identifying and tracking possible adverse health outcomes from exposure to the chemicals from the spilled oil. Symptoms from exposure can include headache, nausea, vomiting, respiratory symptoms, rashes, and others. A system to obtain and log reports from health care providers of patients with possible oil-spill related symptoms has been established. Additionally, tracking of citizen self-reports is being maintained. Also, the public health surveillance team is responding to a number of communities with significant concerns about the oil spill odor and its health effects by undertaking door-to-door community surveys of resident health concerns.

Daily Update

Starting August 12, 2010, CCPHD AND MDCH will be visiting affected neighborhoods and conducting surveys of those individuals. An approximately 5-minute-long survey will be administered to those who volunteer to share their experience with crude oil odors, their family's basic health history, and any health problems due to the pipeline release. CCPHD and MDCH will also ask about their living situation due to the pipeline release – including whether or not they have temporarily relocated from their home at any time since July 26.