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# Oil Spill: Changes Seen As Cleanup Response Evolves

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**Enbridge Oil Spill**  
Marshall, Michigan

September 2010

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## For more information

If you have questions, comments or need more information about the Enbridge oil spill you can contact:

### Don de Blasio

EPA Community Involvement  
Coordinator  
Cell Phone: 312-343-6666  
Office Phone: 312-886-4360  
deblasio.don@epa.gov

### On the Web

EPA has established a website at [www.epa.gov/enbridgespill](http://www.epa.gov/enbridgespill) to provide daily information about the response.

### More contacts

#### Public

A toll-free number for the public has been established for this emergency: 800-306-6837

#### News media members

877-440-7157  
[spillpress@epa.gov](mailto:spillpress@epa.gov)

#### Community centers

For claims, compensation and job information, every day,  
8 a.m. – 8 p.m.:  
In Marshall – 333 S. Kalamazoo Ave.  
In Battle Creek – 77 E. Michigan Ave.

#### Official Document Repository

Marshall District Library  
124 W. Green St.

At about six weeks into the response to one of the Midwest's worst oil spills, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and its assisting agencies have made significant progress in cleanup operations. These measures have included removing the oil and sheen and addressing vegetation and wildlife issues.

Residents of Marshall and Battle Creek, particularly those who live closest to the spill site and Kalamazoo River, have already seen some major changes in cleanup activity. More changes are being carried out because school has resumed.

## Changes highlighted

Some of the significant changes to the response activities in recent days include:

- **Sunday start times:** Cleanup crews are starting work later on Sundays in response to residents' concerns. Air boat operations are not starting before 8 a.m. Residents should expect to see fewer daily helicopter flights through the fall.
- **Heavy equipment:** Heavy equipment usage, such as backhoes and dump trucks, will continue to be reduced over the next few weeks. Most roads that had been closed or had traffic restrictions have fully reopened. Where necessary, roads will be watered for dust suppression.
- **Reduced work hours:** Cleanup crews are trying to take advantage of daylight hours to get as much work done as possible before the weather is too cold. Night crew work is being reduced when possible. Around Talmadge Creek, the goal is to pull back from night operations as soon as possible. However, as daylight hours shorten over the next few weeks, work days will be decreasing also.
- **Baker Estates:** The emphasis around this area will be on the river and shoreline. There will be more workers on the banks and on the river itself. This increase in activity is to try to remove as much oil and sheen as possible before freezing weather sets in.
- **Nuisance reductions:** Residents – especially those closest to the river – have complained of odors, dust and noise. These intrusions should continue to decline over the next few weeks. As more of the contaminated soil is hauled away and workers use absorbent materials to recover oil, odor problems should drop dramatically. These cleanup activities will probably continue until freezing conditions prevent work.

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- **Traffic adjustments:** Because school has resumed, traffic patterns – especially for heavy equipment – have been modified to minimize traffic in areas where children are likely to be. Traffic has been rerouted away from schools and the downtown Marshall area. Less traffic in more densely populated areas will improve safety risks.

## **Background**

On Monday, July 26, 2010, Enbridge Energy

Partners LLP reported that a 30-inch pipeline ruptured near Marshall, Mich. The company estimates more than 800,000 gallons of crude oil leaked into Talmadge Creek, a waterway that feeds the Kalamazoo River. EPA has not been able to independently verify this number. The spill affected up to 30 miles of the Kalamazoo River. The spill site, between Marshall and Battle Creek, includes wetlands, residential areas, farmland and businesses.