



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 791 Newsy Stuff

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/DangerousGoods>

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TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, PORT OF SPAIN, DECEMBER 18 2011. POWERGEN TAKES BLAME FOR OIL SPILL

renuka singh



heavy flow: CCN TV6 cameraman Adrian Joseph checks the consistency of the oil that has been running along a drain off Wrightson Road in Port of Spain yesterday.

A two-day oil leak from PowerGen's bunkered fuel tanker has spilled out into Invaders Bay and left an almost two-mile long oil slick, affecting boats at the harbour in Port of Spain. The spill was observed in a drain running parallel to the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) opposite PowerGen on Wrightson Road. Environmental Management Authority managing director Dr Joth Singh said approximately 200 barrels, which is equivalent to 4,000 gallons of "heavy oil" spilled into the sea. "It was a fair amount of oil," he said. "PowerGen has taken responsibility for the spill and has already, with the help of the EMA and the Ministry of Energy, begun clean-up efforts," he said in a telephone interview yesterday. He

said the EMA learned that a gas shortage at PowerGen triggered the use of oil-run generators and the spill began when the company attempted to transfer the oil. "It is a heavy fuel but because of where it happened, there was minimal impact on the ecosystems, but some boats would have been affected by the oil," he said. He said the leak has already been plugged and the company began clean-up operations yesterday. "They have blocked off the area and called in several clean-up companies to assist. They are using absorption mats to soak up the oil and some other methods," he said. Energy Minister Kevin Ramnarine yesterday said he was aware of the leak and visited the site. "The Ministry of Energy and the EMA were notified and clean-up of the spill is in progress," he said via text message yesterday. Attempts to reach PowerGen officials were unsuccessful yesterday.

http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/PowerGen_takes_blame_for_oil_spill-135808258.html

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, DECEMBER 19 2011. FPIC EXPECTS OIL LEAK CLEANUP TO TAKE THREE YEARS

LOPEZ-LED First Philippine Industrial Corp. (FPIC) expects the cleanup in Makati City from its leaky oil pipeline to take up to three years, an official said. In the meantime, the company has been operating at a loss while operations of its Batangas-Manila petroleum pipeline remains halted, the official said. "There will be equipment arriving this month that will systematically clean underground starting January to February. It could take two to three years," FPIC President Anthony M. Mabasa said in a telephone interview with BusinessWorld late last week. He added the equipment will treat air and water in Bangkal, Makati where leakage from the petroleum pipeline is mostly located. Mr. Mabasa declined to say how much the clean up will cost FPIC. The firm and its third party environmental remediation contractor C2M Hill Philippines began the clean up of the area in December last year. This involved digging recovery wells where the company then pumps out recovered petroleum. Mr. Mabasa said the company has since drilled 45 wells in the area. The 42-year-old gas pipeline operated by FPIC, which provides 60% of Metro Manila's fuel supply, was ordered shut by the Makati City government in October 2010 after a protracted search for the source of gasoline pooling in the basement of the West Tower condominium. FPIC eventually found five minute holes in the pipe's elbow two to three meters from the start ramp of the Magallanes flyover. The pipeline delivers the fuel stocks of Chevron Philippines, Inc. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. from their facilities in Batangas to the Pandacan oil depot. The oil companies have since begun alternative fuel supply arrangements to provide fuel to Metro Manila. The Energy department, however, had said it was still safer to revive pipeline operations rather than use trucking services. Mr. Mabasa said that since the pipeline has not been operating since last year, FPIC has been operating at a loss. "We don't have operations which mean we don't have any revenues. We also continue to spend for environmental remediation and the improvement of the pipeline," said Mr. Mabasa. He added the company is still in the process of determining how much it has lost since the temporary cease in operations of the pipeline. Last week, the Supreme Court allowed the temporary reopening of the pipeline to allow for pressure testing. Results from the pressure tests are expected to be gathered this week. The Energy department and independent experts Societe Generale de Surveillance, University of the Philippines-National Institute of Geological Sciences and the UP Institute of Civil Engineering could present their recommendations to the Supreme Court this week as well. Hearings on whether the pipeline can be reopened will resume once these inputs are in.

<http://www.bworldonline.com/content.php?section=Corporate&title=FPIC-expects-oil-leak-cleanup-to-take-three-years-&id=43502>



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USA, S.D, SIOUX FALLS, DECEMBER 19 2-011. ETHANOL PLANTS ADD TO POLLUTION >> INDUSTRY TOPS IN STATE FOR TOXIC EMISSIONS

cody winchester & megan luther



The Poet ethanol plant is seen last week near Chancellor. Toxic pollution in South Dakota has declined in recent years, the growing ethanol industry now represents a larger share of the total.

Chronic pollution is less of a concern in a rural state such as South Dakota than in other states, but toxins emitted from the state's expanding ethanol industry are becoming more significant, a federal environmental data shows. For the past five years in South Dakota, ethanol plants have been the leading emitters of carcinogens — toxins thought or known to cause cancer — having surpassed plastics manufacturers. Last year, the state's ethanol industry accounted for 40 percent of all reported carcinogens, down slightly from 44 percent in 2009, according to an Argus Leader analysis of 11 years of the Environmental Protection

Agency's [Toxic Release Inventory data](#). The analysis found that, overall, the number of pounds of toxins released in South Dakota has fallen by one-third since 2000, but the amount of carcinogens emitted has grown by one-third in the same period. The database was created 25 years ago to inform people about the toxins being released into the air, water and land in their neighborhood. Firms self report the data, which officials say generally reflect toxin levels that fall with the limits specified by other permits. Toxic Release Inventory data is not intended as a diagnostic tool to gauge health risks, because each chemical has a different level of toxicity, and exposure rates are highly dependent upon the circumstances under which the chemicals are introduced into the environment. Still, it's the only centralized, publicly available repository of local toxin data and the agency characterizes it as a good starting point for broad trend-spotting. "It is a powerful tool," said Barbara Conklin, who oversees the TRI program for the regional EPA office. "We do want people to look at the data so the public can make better decisions in planning their communities." The growth of ethanol plants as a more significant source of pollution is a corollary to the rapid growth of the industry during the past decade, said Ron Lamberty, senior vice president of the American Coalition for Ethanol. "They wouldn't allow them to put out stuff if it's going to be any kind of health risk," Lamberty said of the companies that own ethanol plants. Much of the growth in the industry's carcinogen releases came from emissions of acetaldehyde, a byproduct of alcohol distillation and "probable human carcinogen" that was reported by no other industry in the past decade. Each gallon of ethanol produced at Glacial Lakes Energy yields 0.0008 pounds of acetaldehyde, which is an indicator of yield loss, CEP Jim Seurer said. Acetaldehyde, an irritant that's present in ambient air, is much less potent than other carcinogens such as benzene and toluene, releases of which dropped sharply at ethanol plants from 2009 to 2010. "Not all emissions are created equal," Seurer said. "Acetaldehyde is far less dangerous than emissions from other industries." Tom Slattery, environmental health and safety manager at Sioux Falls-based Poet, attributed the drop in benzene and toluene levels to over-reporting in the past, and said the existence of these chemicals in the first place is partly because of federal laws requiring the industry to add a denaturant, such as gasoline, to the ethanol to make it unfit for human consumption before shipping. Policies favoring the development of cleaner fuels, from federal production targets to tax credits for fuel blenders, have spurred a decade-long expansion of the ethanol industry, which has come to represent a larger share not only of South Dakota's economy but its pollution load. South Dakota distilled slightly more than 1 billion gallons of ethanol last year — fifth-most in the country. That was up from 170 million gallons in 2002, according to the Renewable Fuels Association. Last year, South Dakota had 95 Toxic Release Inventory facilities, mostly in urban centers, that generated threshold quantities of the 49 toxic chemicals on the Toxic Release Inventory list. Fourteen ethanol plants reported toxic releases, up from one in 2000. For all chemicals, ethanol distillation was fifth by volume in the state behind animal slaughter, gold mining, coal-fired power generation and soybean processing. The analysis excludes releases through 2009 from the Advanced Bioenergy ethanol plants in Huron and Aberdeen, which had been misreporting Toxic Release Inventory data for years, vice president of operations Grant Johanson said. Johanson said there was confusion about the reporting thresholds "and, come to find out, (the reports) had been done incorrectly all these years." The mistake was caught in June after the company hired an outside consultant, he said, and it's now revising its old reports. "What happened is, we had someone in-house submitting those forms annually," he said, "and that person's no longer with the company." The EPA said it was looking into the matter after the Argus Leader questioned the figures.

Unfunded Mandate, Administrators Says



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In South Dakota, the Toxic Release Inventory is administered almost entirely by EPA, unlike other federal environmental programs that are delegated to the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources. DENR groundwater quality administrator Bill Markley called the Toxic Release Inventory an "unfunded mandate" and said the state already tracks health and environmental hazards through its facility permitting programs. A company that generates enough chemicals to trigger a Toxic Release Inventory report probably also is permitted under a separate air or water quality program. Pollution limits for those permits are set by a broader determination of what kind of pollution loads the local ecosystem can handle. The state's Toxic Release Inventory pointwoman is environmental scientist Trish Kindt, who holds an annual workshop for companies that have to report chemicals. Kindt, who has other duties, said coordinating Toxic Release Inventory reporting consists largely of making sure that affected industries understand the reporting requirements and that local emergency managers know which chemicals are present where. Reported release numbers probably represent the low end of actual releases, since facilities are allowed to simply estimate their releases rather than actually measure them. Mistakes in self-reported values can be overlooked since the EPA doesn't require monitoring for many Toxic Release Inventory facilities, and federal inspectors are spread thin. Cheryl Turcotte, chief of the regional EPA toxics enforcement unit, which has three inspectors responsible for inspecting 695 Toxic Release Inventory facilities in six states, said they audit each site randomly for compliance across multiple programs. Besides giving people information about neighborhood toxins, Turcotte said, the public nature of the Toxic Release Inventory data has provided an incentive for companies to reduce their overall toxin load.

Rare Top Five Rating for Ethanol Plant

The Glacial Lakes Energy ethanol plant in Watertown released a total of 71,778 pounds of toxins last year, the fifth-highest release by volume in the state. This is a small fraction of the more than 3 million pounds released by the John Morrell meatpacking plant in Sioux Falls, which was the No. 1 polluter. Formic acid, a byproduct of the fermentation process, was the primary toxin released from the Glacial Lakes plant. Seurer, the Glacial Lakes CEO, said his company — and the industry as a whole — takes seriously its responsibility to reduce emissions. "We want to be considered good stewards of the environments in which we operate," he said. Last year was the first time an ethanol plant cracked the top five on the Toxic Release Inventory since 2007, when the Poet-owned Northern Lights Ethanol plant in Big Stone did. The Big Stone plant later found itself on an internal watchlist of EPA offenders, and last year Poet was fined \$150,000 for exceeding limits of volatile organic compound emissions at its Big Stone and Groton plants. The stack failure that led to the fines has since been addressed, and the plant is now operating well below its permit ceiling, Slattery said in comments provided by company spokesman Nathan Schock. "We're proud of the environmental performance of our facilities, and that we have been able to consistently improve efficiency so that on a per-gallon basis, emissions from our ethanol plants are decreasing," Slattery said. Poet's pilot cellulosic ethanol plant in Scotland, S.D., saw widely varying releases of acetaldehyde and benzene through the years, swinging from zero pounds in some years to 1,000 in others, and 4,926 pounds in 2010. Slattery said these variations were a result of the company's need to innovate. "As a research center, we are constantly testing new processes and chemicals in an effort to improve the efficiency of all our ethanol plants," he said. "Because the process is changing regularly, you can have noticeable shifts in emissions." Carcinogen releases by South Dakota ethanol plants are increasing at about the same rate as plants in Iowa. Although ethanol plays a proportionally bigger role in South Dakota's economy, Iowa has more facilities and different types of industries reporting Toxic Release Inventory releases. During the past decade, South Dakota has edged up in the ranks for pounds of carcinogens released nationwide. From 2005 to 2010, South Dakota had the sixth largest percentage increase, making the state 43rd in the amount of carcinogens emitted.

About the Data

[The Toxic Release Inventory](#) was created in 1986 with passage of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act, a law intended to give people more information about the type and amounts of toxic chemicals in their communities. The TRI database has since expanded to include more chemicals and more industries; 16 chemicals were added this year, the first expansion in more than 10 years. TRI toxins sometimes are called "section 313" chemicals.

Top 5 Companies by TRI Releases, All Chemicals, 2010

- No. 1: John Morrell, Sioux Falls meatpacking plant: 3,056,109 lbs // largest contributor: nitrate compounds
- No. 2: Wharf Resources, Lead gold mine: 1,028,262 lbs // largest contributor: lead compounds
- No. 3: Big Stone Power Plant, Milbank coal-fired plant: 804,509 lbs // largest contributor: barium compounds
- No. 4: South Dakota Soybean Processors, Volga soybean processor: 431,177 lbs // largest contributor: n-hexane
- No. 5: Glacial Lakes Energy, Watertown ethanol plant: 71,778 lbs // largest contributor: formic acid

Other Findings from the Argus Leader Analysis:



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- Releases of carcinogens in Iowa by all industries are trending downward, while carcinogen releases in South Dakota are rising.
- Releases of Persistent, Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs) such as mercury and lead, which persist in the food chain and pose a bigger risk to human health, have fallen sharply in the past few years but are up substantially from 2000 levels. This is partly due to a lower reporting threshold instituted earlier in the decade.
- Levels of dioxin and dioxin-like compounds, a group of extremely toxic chemicals that are measured in grams rather than pounds, has fallen off 78 percent since 2000.

<http://www.argusleader.com/article/20111218/NEWS/312180036/Ethanol-plants-add-to-pollution?odyssey=tab%7Cmostpopular%7Ctext%7CNEWS>

USA, VA, GRETN, DECEMBER 19 2011. MAN WHO DIED IN GRETN ACCIDENT WAS TESTING TANK VESSEL

john crane

The man who died after an industrial accident Friday at Amthor International in Gretna was performing a test inside a tank vessel when the incident occurred, said an investigator with the Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office. Kevin Lee Jacobs, 26, of Gretna, died after the accident that happened at around 1:30 p.m. Jacobs was unresponsive when found by fellow employees, police said Saturday, adding that she is not sure what type of test was being conducted on the tank vessel. The cause of death is unknown, she said. Jennifer Wester, director of cooperative programs with the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry's Occupational Safety and Health Program, said Friday officials there are investigating. "We do not discuss characteristics of cases we investigate," Wester said. A representative with Amthor declined to comment when reached by telephone Friday. The Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office is waiting to find out the cause of Jacobs' death from the Medical Examiner's Office in Roanoke, police said. Gretna Fire and Rescue responded to the accident. Centra One, a helicopter transport, and Regional One EMS were called to the scene, but later asked to disregard. Amthor International manufactures truck-mounted tanks. The company announced Tuesday it will be adding 50 jobs to its current staff of about 60 full-time employees. Wester told the Danville Register & Bee the OSH is trying to find out whether safety and health standards violations caused the accident. The agency's probes include site investigation, witness interviews and equipment checks, Wester said. The OSH is required to complete investigations within six months.

<http://www2.godanriver.com/news/2011/dec/17/man-who-died-gretn-accident-was-testing-tank-vess-ar-1552020/>

NEW ZEALAND, NELSON, DECEMBER 19 2011. UNLUCKY MOTORISTS FILL UP WITH WATERY PETROL

laura basham

Unsuspecting motorists have been filling up their vehicles with petrol which is 90 per cent water. The problem is at the Caltex Hope Fuel Stop on Main Road Hope. Mapua resident June and Ted Jones filled up their Mazda 626 with 96 octane petrol on Thursday night. When they drove off the car stopped. They called an auto electrician and a friend who is a mechanic, who spent two hours trying to figure out what was wrong. Unsuccessful, they towed the car to the business of a friend, who lent them another car to use in the meantime. The next day when they went to return the car they wanted to ensure the friend was not out of pocket, so went to top up the tank. Because they have a Caltex fuel card they went to same Fuel Stop. When they drove off they got five minutes down the road and again the car stopped. This time they were suspicious about the fuel so their friend went to get a sample at the Fuel Stop and found it was 90 per cent water. Their son, Clint Jones, contacted Caltex who said they would pay to have the car fixed – a job which included taking out the fuel tank, blowing out the fuel lines and replacing the fuel filter. He said they found the full tank was 90 per cent water. "You expect your fuel supply is going to be reliable. Even the auto electrician and mechanic who spent two hours looking at it didn't expect that." He reckons other motorists' vehicles have suffered the same fate after seeing one being being hauled on to a trailer and hearing of others parked up along the Richmond deviation. Caltex was unavailable for comment.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/6161411/Unlucky-motorists-fill-up-with-watery-petrol>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, DECEMBER 19 2011. GAS CONTAINER CATCHES FIRE, SEVERELY BURNS TWO MEN

Two men repairing the fuel tank of their car were severely burned Saturday afternoon after sparks from welding ignited a nearby gas container. The incident happened at a shop in the 2400 block of Interstate 45, according to Montgomery County deputies. The men were trying to repair a leaking fuel tank on their car so they emptied the tank and stored the fuel inside a



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container. But as the men were finishing up their welding work, sparks ignited gasoline vapors, burning both men as they tried to remove the container and control the blaze. One man suffered burns to his upper body and the other suffered life-threatening burns to about 75 percent of his body. Both were transported to a Houston burn center for treatment. Their current conditions were not immediately known. Firefighters from Montgomery County Emergency Services District #8 (South Montgomery County) and Montgomery County EMS then responded and quickly contained the blaze. Both victims, ages 40 and 42, are Jasper-area residents.

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=8471293>

BRAZIL, RIO DE JANEIRO, DECEMBER 19 2011. BRAZIL OIL SPILL REACHES RIO BEACH, OFFICIAL SAYS



As Brazil continues its cleanup from the effects of the Chevron Corp. oil leak last month, officials say some of the 2,600 gallons (10,000 liters) of oil that leaked from a Japanese-operated rig last week has reached a beach near [Rio de Janeiro](#). Rio state's environmental secretary says part of the spill hit Bonfim beach on Sunday, two days after the oil leaked from the ship-shaped rig operated by the Modoc, a Tokyo-based provider of floating production systems working for Brazil's Petroleo Brasileiro SA. Carlos Minc was quoted by the O Globo website saying the company was fined in \$5.4 million on Saturday. Rio state's environmental institute said in a statement the spill is under control. Chevron Corp. was fined about \$28 million for

the much bigger oil leak off Rio last month.

Brazil Lawsuit Against Chevron May Scare Investors

A business analyst says the nearly \$11 billion lawsuit filed by Brazilian prosecutors against San Ramon, Calif.-based Chevron Corp. because of an offshore oil leak could scare away foreign capital needed to develop Brazil's huge offshore oil deposits. Robert Kessler is head of Pickering, Holt & Co.'s global integrated oil research department. He says the \$10.6 billion fine federal prosecutors are seeking is more than 700 percent of Chevron's \$1.5 billion net capital investment in Brazil. He says Friday that such a fine "would be a poor risk-reward ratio for all companies looking to invest in the business." The leak that occurred in November spilled nearly 3,000 barrels of oil into the Atlantic Ocean.

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2011/12/18/official-says-oil-spill-reaches-rio-beach/>

NEW ZEALAND, WAIKATO, DECEMBER 20 2011. COUNCIL CHASES SOURCE OF THIRD DIESEL SPILL IN RIVER

amelia wade



Diesel has spilled into the Waikato River for the third time in as many months and authorities are appealing for help from the public to find where it came from. Yesterday afternoon several hundred litres entered the river through the stormwater system, which discharges into the river near the St Andrews Golf Course. The Waikato Regional Council's response team tried to contain the spill, but could not deploy absorbent booms because of the high water levels and so the diesel was swept downstream. The council has warned people who take water from the river for stock to take precautions to ensure the water is not tainted. Compliance and education manager Rob Dragten said yesterday's river levels would help to dilute the spill and would therefore minimise any potential environmental damage that it might

have caused. "While diesel has a distinctive, unpleasant odour and leaves visible rainbow sheening on the surface of the water, it generally evaporates reasonably easily and is expected to be gone quite quickly," Mr Dragten said. "But it's important we locate where this diesel is coming from so we can take any necessary action to prevent further spills." In September, about 500 litres of diesel flowed into the Waikato River through two spills in the space of a week. The council did not know whether the September spills were an accident or deliberate, but Mr Dragten said at the time it was unlikely to be deliberate given the high cost of diesel. Inquiries into the two previous spills failed to identify the source and so the council has asked for the public's help to find the culprit so it does not happen again. "There's likely to be members of the community who will know where this diesel has come from and we'd be keen to hear from them," Mr Dragten said.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/environment/news/article.cfm?c_id=39&objectid=10774276



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USA, CA, SAN PABLO, DECEMBER 20 2011. SAN PABLO WATER MAIN BREAK EXPOSES CONOCO-PHILLIPS PIPELINE

matthias gafni & jennifer modenessi

A Kinder Morgan oil pipeline near a San Pablo Shell station was slowly drained Saturday after it was exposed by asphalt weakened by an earlier water main break, a utility spokesman said. A 60-inch East Bay Municipal Utility District distribution line ruptured, causing an 8-inch water main to break around 9:15 a.m., sending water throughout the neighborhood at El Portal Drive and Fordham Street, said Charles Hardy, EBMUD spokesman. The flooding caused property damage to an unknown amount of residents and closed the Interstate 80 freeway exit for a few hours, he said. The flooding also eroded the asphalt and revealed a Kinder Morgan gas pipeline that connected directly to the Conoco-Phillips refinery in Rodeo, Hardy said. Pipeline and refinery employees worked into the night to drain the pipe of oil. Officials debated whether to evacuate a nearby street, but firefighters decided it was not necessary, Hardy said. Officials wanted to drain the pipeline before attempting to find the cause or repair the ruptured water lines, Hardy said. Hardy said five EBMUD customers lost water for a short period of time.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_19571774

USA, KY, LOUISVILLE, DECEMBER 20 2011. 2,500 GALLONS OF ALCOHOL SPILLS AT BROWN-FORMAN PLANT

joey brown



Human error is being blamed for an alcohol spill at the Brown-Forman plant in west Louisville. Louisville firefighters were called to the plant at 850 Dixie Highway at 3:45 p.m. on the report of the spill. About 2,500 gallons of 70 proof alcohol while being transferred from one tank to another in the plant. Phil Lynch, a Brown-Forman spokesperson, said the worker forgot to turn off the shutoff valve and the alcohol spilled into the sewers. Brown-Forman employees used water to dilute the alcohol. MSD was notified about the spill. No injuries were reported.

<http://www.wave3.com/story/16355639/2500-gallons-of-alcohol-spills-at-brown-forman-plant>

USA, CO, LONGMONT, DECEMBER 20 2011. LONGMONT WELL SITE HAD BENZENE LEVELS ALMOST 100 TIMES STATE LIMIT >> CONTAMINATION CAME YEARS AGO, BUT NEIGHBORS SAY NO NEW WELLS UNTIL THIS ONE'S CLEAN

scott rochat



The Rider well site sits north of Trail Ridge Middle School in Longmont on Monday, Dec. 19, 2011. For at least two years, the site recorded benzene levels that were above the maximum allowed. The site is of concern to fracking opponents, especially since a proposed consolidated well site is within a quarter to a half-mile of both Trail Ridge and Fall River Elementary.

A TOP Operating gas well near Trail Ridge Middle School had higher-than-allowed benzene levels for at least three years, at one point measuring almost 100 times the state limit, according to documents from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Groundwater testing near the Rider No. 1 well in 2006 found 491 parts per million of benzene in one site, far above the Colorado limit of five parts per million. The same testing site still showed 43 parts per million in 2009, the last tests completed. Updated test results are expected in about two to three weeks, according to TOP. The well has become a rallying point for some neighbors of Union Reservoir, who say TOP shouldn't drill any fresh wells in the area until it cleans up its old sites. The Lakewood-based company has plans for five consolidated drilling sites near Union Reservoir and at Sandstone Ranch -- including one within half a mile of Trail Ridge -- though it has not yet applied for a local permit. "How can they manage a new well if they can't manage the ones they have in place?" asked Chris Porzuczek, a neighbor who supplied the COGCC information to the City Council. Murray Herring of TOP Operating said each test showed the benzene was going down "materially" and that the contamination had not spread far. About 150 feet from the contaminated site, he said, the water had tested clean. "We had proved, drilling holes, that it wasn't



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going anywhere," Herring said. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, benzene -- "a colorless, flammable liquid with a sweet odor" -- is a commonly used chemical that is toxic to humans. Its effects depend on the length and amount of exposure.

Into the Pit

The Rider well predates the school. A company called Calvin Petroleum drilled it around 1982. That's important since, 30 years ago, drilling sites commonly used open pits to hold their wastewater. Even if the water is later removed, the temporary storage can still leave chemicals behind, and many pits were simply buried. That is what was discovered in July 2006, when residential developer Engle Homes found signs of contamination and filed a complaint with the COGCC. By then, through a series of sales, the well had become TOP's problem. "They just dumped everything into the pit," Herring said, referring to Calvin. "We were faced with the prospect of going back and digging up a big part of the pit they'd covered up." The actual cleanup took a bit longer. TOP submitted a plan to the oil and gas commission in December 2006 -- the same month that Longmont saw 31 inches of snow. In January 2007, TOP asked for more time due to the weather. By January 2008, Engle Homes told the commission it still hadn't seen any remediation. "TOP has had more than ample time to perform that work," John Beauparlant of Engle Homes wrote to TOP and the commission. The commission eventually agreed. Although trenching work to drain out the contaminated water began in April 2008 after more back-and-forth between Engle, TOP and the state, by September, the COGCC ruled that TOP had "failed to perform timely remediation" and fined the company \$10,000, the highest it could levy.

'Cuts Two Ways'

Meanwhile, the benzene levels were falling. In February 2008, the monitoring well that had shown 491 parts per million of benzene was down to 170; by July, it had reached 53. The last available test results, from March 2009, show 43 parts per million. No problems have been reported at the school, which sits inside the usual 400-foot setback for a well. But the benzene issues have made neighbors insist that any drilling on city-owned land meet tight standards, including regular water and soil testing, the avoidance of toxic chemicals in "fracking" -- hydraulic fracturing -- and the use of a "closed loop" system to process wastewater at the site. Several have pushed for a moratorium on drilling, so that the city can have time to get regulations into place. The issue, they emphasize, is quality of life -- one reason why Porzuczek has objected to having one of the drill sites within 350 feet of his back door. "You have an industrial process in a residential area, a recreational area, near a school," he said. But Herring noted that the oil and gas leases for the Union area go back to 1980. "Much longer," he said, "then the people who are complaining about drilling out there. We had the lease before they ever built their homes. They could have checked." "They're talking about the loss of their property value," Herring added. "Well, that knife cuts two ways. If we're not allowed to drill, we have quite a bit of loss."

http://www.timescall.com/news/longmont-local-news/ci_19582173

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, DECEMBER 20 2011. TRAINS COLLIDE; FUEL SPILLS IN SALT LAKE CITY

erin alberty

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=960&sid=18567107&autostart=y>

More than 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel was spilled in a Salt Lake City train yard Monday after two engines collided and derailed. The two train engines were traveling the same direction in the train yard at 400 North and 500 West about 9 p.m. when the tracks merged and the trains sideswiped each other, said Salt Lake City Fire Department spokesman Scott Freitag. Both trains derailed but did not overturn, Freitag said. No cars were attached to the engines. The fuel tank of one of the engines ruptured, leaking more than 1,000 gallons of fuel, Freitag said. Union Pacific crews contained the fuel in the train yard and were cleaning it up late Monday; the Salt Lake Valley Health Department was monitoring the cleanup.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/53150532-78/fuel-lake-salt-engines.html.csp>

USA, CO, DENVER, DECEMBER 20 2011. BENZENE LEVELS IN DENVER WATERWAY ARE 400 TIMES DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

The U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) is trying to prevent benzene-contaminated water in Sand Creek from flowing into South Platte River, a major source of drinking and agricultural water for northeastern Colorado. Benzene is so toxic that even tiny amounts are considered dangerous; therefore, the EPA has set a national standard for the compound's concentration in drinking water of 5 parts per billion (ppb). The concentrations in Sand Creek ranged from 2,000 ppb where "black goo" flowed



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from the shoreline to 480 ppb where the creek enters the South Platte River, reports the Denver Post Long-term exposure (one year or more) to benzene can cause cancer and a decrease in blood platelets, which can lead to anemia. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ingesting high levels of benzene can sometimes cause the following symptoms within minutes to several hours: vomiting, irritation of the stomach, dizziness, sleepiness, convulsions, rapid or irregular heartbeat, and death. The Denver Post notes that the source of the "black goo" in Sand Creek is thought to be Suncor Energy, which processes 93,000 barrels per day of gasoline, diesel fuel, and paying-grade asphalt. "EMSL Analytical, Inc. uses NIOSH method 1501 to test for benzene in air and water samples," states Joseph Frasca, Senior VP at EMSL. "We only use approved methods in the industry, so clients can rely on quality results from our laboratory."

<http://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?aid=150665>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, WANGARATTA, DECEMBER 20 2011. TOXIC SPILL COMPANY IN SHUTDOWN

Nuplex Statement

Nuplex Industries advises that at 8pm on Monday, 19 December 2011, an odour was detected following an unexpected reaction in a production vessel at the Wangaratta plant in northern Victoria. The chemicals involved are typical of those used in textile treatment and paint.

We can now report:

- Air concentration levels have returned to normal in the area surrounding the plant;
- There were no serious injuries to employees or local residents;
- Five local residents sent to hospital as a precaution have all since been released;
- All evacuated residents have now returned to their homes;
- The onsite situation is now being assessed to determine the safest way to resolve any issues.

Background:

Overnight, an emergency management team consisting of CFA, VICPOL, The Health Commander, local council representatives, EPA and Nuplex was established to manage the incident and assess any threat to the safety of local residents and employees. As a precaution, a number of local residents were temporarily evacuated. An investigation by a CFA specialist HAZMAT team, and officers from the EPA and Ambulance Service, found that whilst an odour was present the detection equipment did not find any measurable amounts of emission in the air. Following this assessment, residents were allowed to return to their homes. Nuplex has ceased all production at the plant until a full investigation has been completed. Work is underway to assess the situation and determine the safest way to resolve any issues at the site. An independent environmental consultant has been appointed to assist Nuplex in resolving this matter.

Earlier

Emergency services raced against the clock last night as a toxic chemical cloud fanned out across Wangaratta. Hundreds of people were evacuated amid fears for the young and elderly. The gas, a product of three chemicals, from a paint and resin manufacturer, spread up to six kilometres away as emergency crews continued to doorknock homes in the path of the cloud as it moved north across the city. One man told The Border Mail he was told the chemical was carcinogenic. Warnings were issued for emergency crews to seek urgent medical attention if they were feeling nauseous, others suffered respiratory distress. There were also unconfirmed reports that private hospital patients were wearing oxygen masks as the scale of the scare increased by the minute. Households were told to close their windows, seal doors and turn off air conditioners. Greg Brown, wife Caroline and children Lachlan, 2, and Hannah, 4, were evacuated from their Wareena Street home. At 10.30pm he was at the old Ovens Street College Hall, near the police station in Greta Road, one of about 70 people already there as the evacuations continued. He was complaining of a sore throat and itchy eyes. "It was a really bad smell, really strong and a bit like thinners," Mr Brown said. "My wife initially thought the lights on the Christmas tree had blown but we went outside and the smell was worse. "There were lights and fire trucks everywhere. "Then we saw the CFA guys coming up the road, apparently some people were refusing to leave. "I wasn't worried at the time but I'm worried now."

'Woken By Door Knock'

A CFA spokesman confirmed that by 11pm the spill had been contained but the doorknocking was continuing at homes across the city. "We have spread the evacuation zone to 500 metres and we are continuing to warn people across the city, those in the path of the gas cloud," he said. "We believe three chemicals are involved — two are odour agents, to give a smell to an otherwise odourless gas and we believe they are causing the nausea and respiratory issues. "We are not sure what the third



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chemical is at this stage. "We are telling people to stay inside — if they are feeling sick we have paramedics at the evacuation centre." Police started receiving reports of a strange smell about 8.20pm, the CFA responding to a chemical spill at a Gibson Street manufacturer and distributor of technical materials, resins and polymers. Up to 100 homes within 300 metres of the spill at a paint and resin factory were initially evacuated by CFA crews wearing gas masks. Police from Benalla and Wodonga were called to Wangaratta to deal with the emergency but none were allowed to enter the affected zone. Emergency crews said contact with the cloud could cause "aged and young people some respiratory distress". Roadblocks were set up across the city.

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/news/local/news/general/toxic-spill-company-in-shutdown/2398495.aspx?storypage=0>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, WANGARATTA, DECEMBER 20 2011. RESIDENTS RETURN HOME FOLLOWING TOXIC GAS SCARE

Map: [Wangaratta 3677](#)

The company responsible for a toxic gas cloud at Wangaratta, in north-eastern Victoria, says it has engaged a number of experts to investigate the cause of the incident. At least 100 people were evacuated from their homes overnight and a number of people became ill when a combination of paint-making chemicals produced the cloud. Nuplex Resins has reassured staff and local residents the area is now safe. The regional president of Nuplex, Sam Bastounas, says operations at the site have been suspended pending a full investigation. He says the company will co-operate with authorities. "We are working with the regulatory authority and we have engaged a series of experts who will work with our staff," he said. "We have a very structured approach to dealing with the matter and that will involve looking at every aspect of the process and at the environmental impact as well."

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-12-20/chemical-spill-prompts-evacuations/3739324?WT.mc_id=newsmail

RUSSIA, MOSCOW, DECEMBER 20 2011. 14 DEAD, SCORES MISSING IN RUSSIA OIL RIG ACCIDENT



The oil drilling platform "Kolskaya" is seen in the Sea of Okhotsk. The oil drilling platform has capsized in the Sea of Okhotsk off Russia's east coast, leaving four people reportedly dead and 49 missing. The Emergencies Ministry said in a statement Sunday that there were 67 people aboard the platform as it was being towed about 200 kilometers (120 miles) off the coast of Sakhalin Island in stormy conditions. It said 14 people had been rescued.

Rafts carrying people have been spotted off Russia's east coast where a floating oil rig sank in remote, freezing waters, the owner said Monday, but the government would not confirm the report and it was not clear whether there were survivors. Time appeared to be running out for the scores of oil workers still missing the day after their floating platform was downed in a severe storm. Workers have already pulled

out 10 bodies from the Sea of Okhotsk, and there are four more bodies that haven't been retrieved yet, the Emergencies Ministry said. Of the 67 men aboard, 14 were plucked alive from the icy waters immediately after the accident and taken to a hospital. Chances of survival are negligible as the water temperature in the area is 1 degree Celsius (33.8 Fahrenheit). An official at the rig's owner Arktikmorneftegazrazvedka, who asked not to be named because the offshore oil exploration firm is not authorized to comment on the rescue operation, told The Associated Press that rescue vessels have spotted four rafts with people aboard, but it was not clear if they were alive or not. The Emergencies Ministry and military officials would not confirm. The ministry said there are four vessels, one helicopter and one airplane in the area searching for the missing men. Helicopter shots from the area on NTV television showed nothing floating on the partly ice-bound sea. Russia produces most of its oil onshore and it hasn't seen any significant oil platform accidents in the past years. The floating oil rig capsized Sunday morning as it was being towed about 200 kilometers (120 miles) off the coast of Sakhalin Island amid a fierce storm. It started sinking after a strong wave broke some of its equipment and the portholes in the crew's dining room. One of the survivors, Sergei Grauman, said on Russian state television that the platform's portholes were smashed in a second and the crew had struggled to fix them. "Everyone rushed to the deck," he told the First Channel station. "It all felt like a movie." The Kolskaya platform — 70 meters (226 feet) long and 80 meters (262 feet) wide — was built in Finland in 1985. It has recently done some work for Russian energy giant Gazprom and was on its way to a port in the Far East when it capsized. There has been no report of environmental damage, but there is likely to be little because the rig only carried a small amount of fuel. Russian newspapers



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on Monday speculated about whether there could have been fewer deaths if the rig's owner had taken more people off the rig before it was moved. Russian law allows only a "minimal number of crew members" to be aboard the platform while it is being towed and bars any non-crew members or passengers. Reports said that at least 14 people aboard were not crew members.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2011/12/19/14-dead-scores-missing-in-russia-oil-rig-accident/>

PAKISTAN, FAISALABAD, DECEMBER 20 2011. 5 BURN TO DEATH IN FAISALABAD CNG EXPLOSION

fareeha Khalid



A view of a passenger van which is burnt completely due to exploding of CNG cylinder which killed 4 people on the spot.

At least five passengers including three children were burnt to death as a van caught fire after gas cylinder blast at Faisalabad city of Pakistan. Rescue sources said the incident took place in Kharyan wala when a 17-seat passenger van was moving toward Faisalabad. The sources said that injured and bodies have been shifted the nearby hospital. They added that some of the injured were said to be critical in hospital. "Seven injured have been shifted in Allied hospital while two were rushed to Civil Hospital," the sources said. The sources said that the Allied hospital did not have a separate Burn ward. Some of the sources claimed that the van caught fire due to the leakage of gas. The van owners' in Punjab use more than

three or five locally made gas cylinders in vehicle due gas load-shedding in the province.

<http://www.thenewstribes.com/2011/12/18/three-children-among-5-burn-to-death-in-faisalabad-cng-van-explosion/#.TvD-1TUzC8A>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, PORT KEMBLA, DECEMBER 20 2011. ORICA'S SHAME: 148 SAFETY BREACHES IN 11 YEARS

bevan shields

The pipe at the centre of Friday's leak.



An acid spill at Orica's Port Kembla chemical plant was the latest in a decade-long series of breaches, it has been revealed. Nearly 4000 litres of sulphuric acid were found leaking from the Foreshore Rd Plant on Friday, triggering an angry response from the NSW Government and fresh public scrutiny of the beleaguered chemical maker. The incident was the sixth at Orica since its Kooragang Island plant showered carcinogenic chemicals over the Newcastle suburb of Stockton in August. However, a wider analysis of pollution records shows Friday's incident was the

148th licence breach at the Port Kembla site since 2000. NSW Office of Environment and Heritage data reveals the plant has regularly exceeded acceptable sulphur dioxide limits due to faulty equipment, often failed to take pollution samples and was the scene of an earlier sulphuric acid leak, in 2003. The majority of breaches were relatively minor, some incidents forced the facility to temporarily close and the plant has breached its licence every year since 2000, except last year. On Friday, 3000 to 4000 litres of highly corrosive sulphuric acid poured from a faulty pipe - just metres from the ocean - which transfers material between the factory and ships docked at Port Kembla Harbour's No 4 Jetty. The acid drained into a culvert, then into a purpose-built bund where it was contained. Orica reported the leak to the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) Wollongong office at 6.40pm. EPA officers arrived 20 minutes later. They took water samples, but found no evidence of leakage into the harbour. An Orica spokeswoman said there was no damage to the environment, or risk to the community or employees. The incident is another headache for embattled NSW Environment Minister Robyn Parker, who has come under fire since the first Orica leak in August. "There are clearly systemic issues Orica needs to address across all parts of its operations, including at Port Kembla, to ensure the safety of their facilities, their workers, the community and the environment," Ms Parker said yesterday. The EPA has requested a full report from Orica within seven days and is conducting its own investigation. "This pipeline will not be used until we have clearly understood how the incident occurred, and until the pipe's integrity is assured," an EPA spokeswoman said. Opposition spokesman for the environment Luke Foley yesterday questioned how much attention the leak would have attracted if it occurred before the first Stockton chemical release. "I think there's no doubt they have to lift their game, but I also think they're ... under scrutiny [like] no other company in the state," Mr Foley said.



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NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell yesterday warned Orica would lose its licence if it fails to comply with environmental laws. Orica was unable to provide comments about the pollution breaches yesterday.

<http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/news/local/news/general/oricas-shame-148-safety-breaches-in-11-years/2396883.aspx?storypage=0>

CHINA, SHANGHAI, DECEMBER 20 2011. CHINA PROBING BLAST AT APPLE SUPPLIER FACTORY IN SHANGHAI, URGING IMPROVED SAFETY

Authorities are investigating the cause of an explosion over the weekend that injured dozens of people at the Shanghai factory of a supplier to Apple Inc. The government formed an investigation group and ordered safety checks at the Riteng Computer Accessory Co. factory, a wholly owned subsidiary of Apple supplier Pegatron Corp., said Gan Shanjun, an official in the information office in Shanghai's Songjiang district. Critics have taken Cupertino, California-based Apple to task for alleged violations of labor and environmental standards by its China-based suppliers, and the company has said it is working to resolve such problems. Local media reported that 61 people were hurt by the blast and more than 20 of them hospitalized, but none suffered life-threatening injuries. "Our hearts go out to the people who were hurt in Songjiang. We are working closely with Pegatron to understand the cause of this accident," said Carolyn Wu, a spokeswoman for Apple in China. She would not comment further. Apple provides little if any information about its suppliers in China. Pegatron, in a statement, said the blast occurred in dust collection equipment. Its staff also said they would not make further comment. The New York-based group China Labor watch said the explosion occurred when aluminum dust from polishing cases for iPads caught fire. A similar explosion occurred in May at a factory of electronics maker Foxconn Technology Group. Three people died and 15 were hurt due to what Foxconn said was "an explosion of combustible dust in a duct" at the plant in the southwestern city of Chengdu. Aluminum dust is highly combustible, according to the U.S. Occupational Health & Safety Administration, and some experts have stressed the need to take special precautions in making Apple's trademark shiny metallic cases.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/china-probing-blast-at-apple-supplier-factory-in-shanghai-urging-improved-safety/2011/12/20/gIQAARJM6O_story.html

USA, WYO, CHEYENNE, DECEMBER 21 2011. GAS TANKER ROLLS ON EASTBOUND I-80 RAMP

rylee degood

[Watch the Video http://www.kgwn.tv/story/16356702/gas-tanker-rolls-on-eastbound-i-80-ramp](http://www.kgwn.tv/story/16356702/gas-tanker-rolls-on-eastbound-i-80-ramp)



Crews are still on scene cleaning up after a tanker that rolled near South Greeley Highway and I-80. The tanker was carrying butane gas when it rolled getting onto the I-80 east bound ramp around 2:45 Monday afternoon. Crews are working to pump that butane into another tanker. The Wyoming Highway Patrol says the butane is leaking on the road, but couldn't specify how much. They say it could be 10 o'clock Monday night before they are able to finish pumping all of the butane out. As of 4:00 p.m. Monday, all ramps are closed in that area as well as both directions of South Greeley Highway. The Highway Patrol says there is always a concern over a gas leak causing an explosion, but they are working as quickly as possible to get things cleaned up. The driver was taken to CRMC.

<http://www.kgwn.tv/story/16356702/gas-tanker-rolls-on-eastbound-i-80-ramp>

USA, KY, IVEL, DECEMBER 21 2011. A TANKER TRUCK CARRYING LIQUID NITROGEN OVERTURNED MONDAY MORNING IN FLOYD COUNTY

A tanker truck carrying liquid nitrogen overturned Monday morning in Floyd County. It happened on US-23 in Ivel. Officials say the driver lost control and the vehicle turned over in the middle of the highway. The road was shut down for three hours while haz-mat crews cleaned up the scene. They transferred the liquid nitrogen to another truck. "Liquid nitrogen is not dangerous. It's a hazardous chemical but it's really cold and they use it in tracking wells, so as far as a danger to the community, not it's not been," said Floyd County Emergency Management Director Jim Caldwell. The highway re-opened around 11:30 a.m.



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Police say the truck driver went to the hospital with minor injuries. Officials say the truck was from Norton, Virginia and on the way to Auxier in Floyd County.

http://www.wkyt.com/wymtnews/headlines/Tanker_truck_wreck_in_Floyd_County_135889528.html

NIGERIA, LAGOS, DECEMBER 21 2011. EXPLOSION SCARE IN LAGOS

evelyn usman

An explosion from a tanker loaded with 33,000 litres of product, believed to be petrol, yesterday, rocked Mile Two area of Lagos. Although, there was no casualty, several persons reportedly sustained injuries in their bid to escape from what they thought was a bomb explosion. Report said the explosion which resulted in an inferno, was caused by a leakage from the tanker. Concerned motorists, who had fire extinguishers, battled to put out the fire to no avail. The arrival of policemen from Festac Division prevented the fire from spreading, as they reportedly joined some sympathisers using liquid detergent, to put out the fire. The truck which caused a hitch in traffic, was later removed from the road by the policemen.

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2011/12/explosion-scare-in-lagos/>

USA, LA, GULF OF MEXICO, DECEMBER 21 2011. DRILLING FLUIDS SPILL FROM SHELL SITE IN GULF OF MEXICO

jennifer a. dlouhy



The Deepwater Nautilus was used to drill Shell's Appomattox discovery in the Gulf of Mexico.

More than 13,000 gallons of drilling fluids — including about 7,500 gallons of synthetic materials — leaked from equipment at Shell's Appomattox prospect into the Gulf of Mexico on Sunday. The leak was discovered Sunday morning at the site 72 miles off the coast of Louisiana, where Shell is drilling a side track well in more than 7,000 feet of water. The incident was reported to the National Response Center, which tracks oil sightings and discharges in water. Both Shell and federal officials said drilling was halted and the leak was quickly stopped. Shell said 319 barrels — or 13,398 gallons — of drilling fluid escaped from a booster line, which supplies drilling liquids and is separate from the wellbore itself. [According to the](#)

[National Response Center report](#), that fluid included 180.2 barrels — or 7,568 gallons — of base "oil," a likely reference to the synthetic material in the oil-based drilling mud. According to Shell, the synthetic drilling fluid used in the mud at Appomattox is supplied by M-I L.L.C., and [marketed as part of the company's Rheliant system](#). Transocean's Deepwater Nautilus semi-submersible vessel is drilling at the site. "The leak was isolated, stopped and remedial action has been approved by (federal regulators)," said Shell spokeswoman Kelly op de Weegh. That includes "temporarily abandoning the well, pulling the riser and making appropriate repairs." Op de Weegh said the synthetic drilling mud used at Appomattox is biodegradable. Offshore drilling regulators at the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement flew to the site to investigate after Sunday's report, according to agency spokeswoman Eileen Angelico. No report was immediately available. Shell's Appomattox prospect is at the heart of a high-stakes dispute between environmentalists and the federal government over offshore drilling. After [the Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management approved Shell's broad exploration plan for the site in May](#), environmentalists challenged the move in federal court. [In separate cases that have since been consolidated](#), conservationists are arguing that the government acted prematurely in green-lighting the plan without first finishing an environmental study of the Gulf of Mexico. Fundamentally, they are challenging federal regulators' conclusion that there was no potential for a significant environmental impact from Shell's proposed drilling, despite the massive 2010 spill from BP's Macondo well. The cases present a major test of the federal government's power to swiftly review and approve deep-water exploration plans that form the blueprint for well-by-well permitting decisions. Miyoko Sakashita, a senior attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity, said the spill at Appomattox reveals the inherent risks of offshore drilling. "It demonstrates once again that no matter what Shell says, oil spills will continue to happen so long as Interior continues to rubber stamp drilling plans," Sakashita said. The Appomattox field is located about 20 miles away from the Macondo well site. Shell is planning to drill five new exploratory wells at Appomattox, where the company estimates more than 250 million barrels of oil equivalent ultimately can be recovered from the site. Shell operates and holds an 80 percent working interest in the Appomattox project. Its partner on the project, Nexen, holds the remaining 20 percent interest.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2011/12/19/drilling-fluids-spill-from-shell-site-in-gulf-of-mexico/>



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ENGLAND, LONDON, DECEMBER 21 2011. MOD REVEALS 15 RADIOACTIVE UK SITES



A member of the public walks near Dalgety Bay beach, Scotland. Scientist have warned that unless action is taken to clean up the stretch of shoreline that the beach could become the first stretch of radioactive contaminated land in the United Kingdom.

Current and former air and naval bases have been contaminated by second world war hardware, but the risks are unclear. At least 15 sites across the UK have been contaminated by radioactivity from [second world war military](#) hardware, according to new disclosures by the [Ministry of Defence](#) (MoD). A dozen of the sites, which include current and former air and naval bases, have not been identified before by the MoD. Some are accessible to the public or are being developed for homes or

businesses, though the potential risks are unclear. The contamination comes from [radium](#) that was used to coat the dials of aircraft and other equipment so that they could be seen in the dark. It was in scrap burned and dumped in the 1940s and 1950s, and remains radioactive for thousands of years. The contaminated sites include the old [SAS headquarters at Stirling Lines in Hereford](#), a former naval air base near Portsmouth and a previous home to the Red Arrows in Gloucestershire. The MoD has revealed the list of sites in response to a series of freedom of information requests in the wake of the discovery of dangerous levels of radium [contamination at Dalgety Bay in Fife](#). It was home to a busy second world war air base. In the past three months, 475 radioactive hotspots have been discovered on the foreshore near a public footpath and a popular sailing club. Several of the finds have been radioactive enough to cause skin burns, or to significantly increase cancer risks if swallowed. The [Scottish Environment Protection Agency](#) is now trying to force the MoD to pay for Dalgety Bay to be cleaned up. It has threatened to formally designate the foreshore as Britain's first radioactively contaminated land. But the MoD has so far been reluctant to make any commitment, partly because of the precedent it might set, experts say. Now it has revealed that there are a minimum of 12 previously unknown sites suffering "localised radium contaminated soil" due to "historical activities". These are in addition to Dalgety Bay, and two other sites in Carlisle and Stirling that have been reported before. The [MoD's Defence Infrastructure Organisation](#) says that some of the sites have been, or are in the process of being, remediated. "For the remainder the potential risk is being managed through the use of appropriate site controls in accordance with MoD policy," said an MoD spokesman. [Fred Dawson](#), who worked for the MoD for 31 years before he left as head of the radiation protection policy team in 2009, said the MoD had a "far from complete understanding of the extent and significance of radium contamination on the defence estate." The issue had dropped down the MoD's agenda because of budget cuts, he argued. "This is in part due to the resources needed to go through old files, and the fear of what liabilities might be thrown up."

Contaminated Sites

1. Sites not previously known to have been contaminated with radium:

- HMS Daedalus, near Portsmouth: former naval air base
- Defence Aviation Repair Agency Gosport, Hampshire: former aircraft repair depot
- RAF Henlow, Bedfordshire: air base
- RAF Newton, Nottingham: former air base
- RAF Little Rissington, Gloucestershire: air base and former home to Red Arrows
- [Stirling Lines](#), Hereford: former SAS headquarters
- RAF Shawbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire: air training centre
- RNAS Anthorn, Cumbria: former naval air base
- RAF Machrihanish, Mull of Kintyre: former air base
- Defence Aviation Repair Agency Almondbank, Perth and Kinross: former aircraft repair depot
- RM Condor, Arbroath, Angus: Royal Marines base
- RAF Kinloss, Forres, Morayshire: air base
- 2. Sites previously known to have been contaminated with radium
- Dalgety Bay, Fife: a former world war two aircraft base
- Forthside, Stirling: a former army luminising depot
- RAF Carlisle, Cumbria: a former military equipment depot

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/dec/20/mod-radioactive-world-war-two>



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CANADA, ALBA, JUDY CREEK, CREEK, DECEMBER 21 2011. REMOTE PIPELINE RUPTURE UNDER CONTROL >> FLUID MOSTLY WATER FROM SINGLE WELL SITE, PENGROWTH ENERGY SAYS

dina o'meara

Pengrowth Energy Corp. said Monday it has contained a small pipeline rupture at a remote oil well site in north central Alberta that spilled at least 12,000 barrels of fluids, mostly water. It was the third pipeline break the Calgary-based company has reported this year. The leak, located about 40 kilometres south of Swan Hills, Alberta, was discovered Thursday, Dec. 15 during a routine aerial survey of the Judy Creek field by Pengrowth employees. The oil and gas company said the break happened on a four-inch pipeline moving produced water off a single well site, which was shut down immediately. Pengrowth has yet to determine the cause of the leak. "We've been working hard to make sure we understand where the water is coming from, and are confident we have contained the spill but need to make sure we have that absolutely nailed down," said Jim Causgrove, senior vice-president of operations. Water and oil from the break moved approximately two kilometres along a narrow path of low-lying ditches and into culverts, which were sealed to contain the spill, Causgrove said. The incident was elevated to a level one emergency from an alert on Friday when fluid was discovered outside of the culvert/road area. Approximately 7,500 barrels have been recovered since from the site, where provincial regulators and Pengrowth personnel are investigating the pipeline break. Fluid from the spill did not leak into any flowing water and has had no impact on wildlife or people, said Alberta Environment on Monday. "We are on-site and will continue to work with the (Energy Resources Conservation Board) to ensure the company is taking every measure to manage the impact," said spokeswoman Jessica Potter. The fluid was 98.5 per cent water, with some oil mixed in, said board spokesman Darin Barter. The board is investigating the cause of the leak, the third Pengrowth Energy-associated pipeline break this year, said Barter. "At this point our primary focus is ensuring the company has all the right people and equipment on site," he said. "Our investigation has begun and we'll certainly look at all aspects of this incident." Pengrowth Energy operates several hundred wells in the Judy Creek field, a mature oil and gas field that has been developed for almost 50 years. In 2011 the company has reported three pipeline breaks and spills associated with the field. The company started the year Jan. 1 reporting a natural gas pipeline rupture and fire in north central Alberta which shut down its Swan Hills natural gas gathering system until March. In June, the company reported an oil leak and fire on a Judy Creek pipeline 23 km southwest of Swan Hills which shut in 3,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day of production. The leak was due to a mechanical failure, Pengrowth said. The company launched a pipeline replacement program about five years ago, targeting aging infrastructure in Judy Creek but could be revising its criteria as the latest pipeline break occurred at a 15-year-old well site not considered old. "This is not a pipeline that we would have expected to have been at risk of leaking," Causgrove said. "We'll investigate the cause and review our system of actually determining a risk and adjust accordingly."

http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Remote+pipeline+rupture+under+control/5882942/story.html?cid=megadrop_story

CANADA, P.E.I, SUMMERSIDE, DECEMBER 20 2011. SUMMERSIDE PLEADS GUILTY, FINED FOLLOWING CHLORINE GAS INCIDENT

s. ryan quigley



A gas leak at Credit Union Place in May sent more than 20 people to the hospital. City of Summerside pleaded guilty in Provincial Court this morning for failing to ensure proper instruction and training for health and safety as the result of a chlorine leak at Credit Union Place last May. The city was fined \$500 and an additional penalty of \$15,000 as a result of one violation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act related to the chlorine gas incident. On May 4, 2011 a worker at Credit Union Place inadvertently mixed two chemicals, producing a toxic chlorine gas. The facility was evacuated and the worker underwent medical treatment for injuries sustained. The findings from the subsequent Workers Compensation Board (WCB) investigation determined the chemical containers were not sufficiently labelled; safe work procedures were not in place; and the employer failed to provide adequate

training and equipment to promote the safe use of these chemicals. "All serious workplace incidents are subject to investigation by the Workers Compensation Board so that appropriate measures can be taken to prevent further injury," said Bill Reid, WCB Director of Occupational Health and Safety. In this particular case, the incident was very serious and could have had fatal results. "We recommended charges against the City of Summerside because our investigation revealed that



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the employer did not take reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of its workers," - Bill Reid, WCB Director of Occupational Health and Safety. The \$15,000 penalty imposed from this violation will be used by the Workers Compensation Board in education and prevention initiatives to promote health and safety in the workplace. All employers are advised to be aware of their legislated responsibilities under the Occupational Health Safety Act. The WCB has a variety of programs and services designed to assist workplaces in developing safety training and programs.

<http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/News/Local/2011-12-20/article-2842924/Summerside-pleads-guilty,-fined-following-chlorine-gas-incident/1>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, BAXTER, DECEMBER 21 2011. PENINSULA COUNCIL REJECTS BIG LINK SERVICE CENTRE

samantha robin



Knocked back: An artist's impression of the proposed freeway service centre on Peninsula Link, which was rejected by the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.

Plans for a dual Peninsula Link freeway service centre to be built in the green wedge will go to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal after plans for the massive development were rejected by the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council last week. Councillors voted against the development six votes to four during a meeting lasting more than three hours. The developer, AA Holdings, which bought 63 hectares on the green wedge site at 129 Moorooduc Highway, Baxter, has designed a service centre for each side of the Peninsula Link freeway incorporating

a convenience shop, tourist information kiosk and 10 food outlets. AA Holdings, which owns a network of 50 service stations including one in Dromana and a car wash in McCrae, already has two similar service centres in Officer and Wallen. The proposed development would be the largest freeway service centre in Victoria if approved at its current size. It is estimated the 2340-square-metre service centre would generate 450 jobs. David Hansen of Hansen Planning Services, which has been contracted to design the site, said the centre would provide a place for drivers to take a break, rest and have access to free facilities that would make their trip a safer and more enjoyable experience. Ecology Partners' Aaron Organ said the site had been previously cleared and the development posed no danger to local flora and fauna. Cr Graham Pittock said the project involved a commercial precinct and not an essential service. "If you need to go to the toilet on the side of the freeway, go behind a bush," he said. The council had a responsibility to protect green wedge sites - "our green wedge is not for sale, it is precious to us". Cr Leigh Eustace said the plans were an over-development of the site and would jeopardise local businesses and Cr Reade Smith said it would have a detrimental affect on local tourism. "I think this is one of the biggest backward steps I have seen in my 11 years on council," Cr Smith said. "This way people will be full of food before they get to the peninsula. They won't want to taste the terrific Mornington Peninsula produce. We are meant to be doing things better than this." Cr Lynn Bowden said the promise of 450 jobs offered a substantial boost to the local economy. "Opportunities will be lost if we don't support this application." In a final note explaining the rejection, the council stated: "The proposed development will have an adverse impact on the amenity of the area with regard to noise, light and visual bulk." Christos Andrianopoulos of AA Holdings said he was extremely disappointed over the outcome. Asked if he would appeal the decision at the VCAT, he said it was a "full-blown conclusion". Crs Pittock, Eustace, Smith, Bill Goodrem, Frank Martin and David Gibb voted against the project, with Councillors Bowden, Antonella Celi, Anne Shaw and Tim Rodgers voting in favour.

<http://www.frankstonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/peninsula-council-rejects-big-link-service-centre/2394426.aspx?storypage=0>

ESTONIA, PÕLVA COUNTY, DECEMBER 21 2011. TANKER TRUCK SKIDS INTO DITCH, SPILLS FUEL

A fuel-loaded tanker truck slid into a ditch this morning in Põlva County and spilled some of its gasoline load, according to the South Estonian Rescue Center. The emergency center received a distress call at 10:14, spokesman Marek Kiik told [uudised.err.ee](http://news.err.ee), adding that no one was injured in the accident and that its cause is currently being investigated. According to Kiik, around 20 liters of fuel leaked out of the truck's tank section. The spill was covered with foam to eliminate ignition hazard and surrounded with an earth barrier to limit its spread. As of 11.10. the rescuers were waiting for the company's other truck to arrive and pump out the fuel from the leaking tank, said Kiik.

<http://news.err.ee/3e0bde00-16e2-47ef-88ef-c11f933145cb>



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