



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 733 Newsy Stuff

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CHINA, BEIJING, JULY 14 2011. CONOCOPHILLIPS CHINA ORDERED TO SUSPEND OPERATION OF OILFIELD PLATFORMS AFTER SPILLS



Photo taken on July 13, 2011 shows Suizhong 36-1 oilfield on Bohai Sea, offshored the northeast China's Liaoning Province. A new leak occurred in Suizhong 36-1 oilfield of China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) at about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday when the centralized control system of the oilfield's central platform broke down. Spilt oil was mostly cleaned up, according to CNOOC.

China's maritime authorities on Wednesday ordered ConocoPhillips China to immediately suspend the operation of two of its platforms in northeast China's Bohai Bay following two oil spills, saying that the risk of more spills still exists. The measures that COPC took to eliminate the risk of new spills since the first two spills were detected last month have been inadequate, the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) said in a statement. "Another spill could occur at any time.

This poses a huge threat to the ecology of Bohai Bay," the statement said. A subsidiary of U.S.-based energy giant ConocoPhillips, COPC operates platforms in the Penglai 19-3 oilfield, located in Bohai Bay, under an arrangement with the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), China's largest offshore oil producer. Last month's oil spills seriously polluted 840 km of sea area in Bohai Bay, sending water quality ratings in the area to their lowest level. "COPC failed to bring the situation under full control. Its recent efforts to find the causes of the spills and stifle them have been slow," the SOA said. The SOA has been monitoring the oilfield using remote sensing satellites and inspections. The authority found that oil continued to spill out of two of COPC's platforms for days after the spills were detected.



Photo taken on July 13, 2011 shows Suizhong 36-1 oilfield on Bohai Sea, offshored the northeast China's Liaoning Province. A new leak occurred in Suizhong 36-1 oilfield of China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) at about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday when the centralized control system of the oilfield's central platform broke down. Spilt oil was mostly cleaned up, according to CNOOC.

An initial investigation found that there were still oil belts around the two platforms, as well as signs indicating that more oil spills may occur, the SOA said. The SOA urged COPC on Wednesday to thoroughly check its platforms in order to eradicate the risk of new spills, as well as report information regarding possible spills to the SOA in a timely manner. Liu Cigui, head of the SOA, called for extensive checks to be conducted in all offshore oilfields during a Tuesday meeting. Liu ordered intensified inspections for all offshore surveying and developing activities. The CNOOC has recently come under scrutiny for several accidents involving its facilities, including the Penglai 19-3 spills. An oil spill occurred on Tuesday in the CNOOC's Suizhong 36-1 oilfield, which is also located in Bohai Bay. The spill was apparently caused by a malfunction in the centralized control system of the oilfield's central platform. About 0.1-0.15 cubic meters of oil was estimated to have been leaked, polluting an area of one square km, according to an earlier SOA statement. CNOOC

said Wednesday afternoon that all of the spilled oil has been cleaned up and that operations in the oilfield have resumed. A fire broke out early Monday morning at a CNOOC oil refinery in the city of Huizhou in south China's Guangdong Province. The fire was put out a few hours later, with no casualties reported, according to a CNOOC spokesman.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/business/2011-07/13/c_13982533.htm

USA, ORE, PORTLAND, JULY 14 2011. PORT SEEKS SOLUTION TO CONTAMINATION WOES >> STATE AGENCY CALLS FOR ACTION ABOUT POLLUTION IN ASTORIA

katie wilson

The Department of Environmental Quality proposed a clean-up plan for a contaminated site at the Port of Astoria at a commission meeting Tuesday night. But Port officials aren't convinced it's the best solution to what they say has been a problem for far too long. The contamination comes from a breach in a subgrade fuel line along the Port's main offices on Gateway Avenue in Astoria, and there are on-going seeps of fuel into the Columbia River at the Port's Slip 2, alongside Pier 2. This "plume" – called Area of Concern No. 4 by DEQ – is the worst of five plumes located on Port property and a plan to clean it up is going out for public comment. But there's still the question of who has the most responsibility for the contamination in the first place. According to DEQ, the Port and three oil companies – McCall Oil, ExxonMobil and Niemi Oil – will be

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responsible for implementing a clean-up plan at the slip 2 area. Now those groups just have to agree on what plan to use and who will pay for what. The oil companies represented by Rick Schwarz, managing environmental engineer with the environmental and engineering firm Anchor QEA – have proposed the construction of a treatment barrier and a sediment cap to put a stop to the seepage into the Columbia River. This has the possibility to be a “forever” solution, according to Schwarz and Anna Coates, the DEQ project manager on the proposed Astoria clean-up. It would cost an estimated \$3.6 million. Other alternatives carried \$6 million to \$8 million price tags, according to Coates. But Port officials said they would rather go with a more expensive option if it means taking care of the contamination once and for all. “It’s like, look, clean it up,” said Port Director Jack Crider after the meeting. “Either clean it up, tear these buildings down, dig it out, get rid of it, compensate us for that so we can build new buildings and do what we need to do. Get it over with. Or, you know, do a good job of containing this material. ... They’re taking the cheapest alternative.” Port Commissioner Larry Pfund said that the proposed solution keeps the contamination at the site. The clay absorbs the seepage to some extent, but, he asked, does it fully eliminate the problem? “I just want this problem to go away,” he said. He suggested something that would capture the seepage and be replaced routinely until all the contaminants were gone. Coates and DEQ Cleanup and Emergency Response Manager Bruce Gilles pointed out that the oil and gas can’t seep forever. The seepage is already only running at a trickle. It could continue for a while, but eventually it’s going to run out, Gilles said. Crider said Pfund’s sort of solution (if a full-scale tearing down of the buildings and digging up the contaminated soil isn’t possible) has been the Port’s preference for a long time. The five plumes are collectively referred to by DEQ as the proposed “Astoria Wide Cleanup Site,” and include Port property where the former Mobil/Niemi Oil bulk plant was, several petroleum distribution lines, a maintenance shop, vehicle service facility and former steelworks and furniture manufacturing facilities, according to Nina DeConcini, NW region division administrator with DEQ. When DEQ first identified the five plumes and designated them as areas of concern, the Port and the oil companies agreed to work together to investigate the sites and determine who was responsible for what. Because the plumes were on Port property, the Port has been involved in all five areas while the oil companies have had varying levels of involvement depending on the site. “During that whole time, trying to figure out who was responsible for what contamination, we all agreed to basically not litigate, not sue,” Crider said. The goal was to get through the initial look at the sites and send off a study to DEQ. “Well that study took almost eight years to identify who was responsible and it cost over \$2 million,” Crider said. Of that, the Port contributed \$600,000. Now that the initial study and investigation period is over, the Port plans to pursue litigation, Crider said.

http://www.dailyastorian.com/free/port-seeks-solution-to-contamination-woes/article_6049a222-ad75-11e0-83de-001cc4c002e0.html

USA, WASHINGTON D.C, JULY 14 2011. GAS FUME CATCHERS AT PUMP COULD GO AWAY

elizabeth weise



A fume protector on a gasoline nozzle at a Menlo Park, Calif., Shell station.

You know those bulky black rubber doohickies in some states that keep gasoline fumes from wafting out when you fill up your car at a service station, but also make it harder to gas up? They might go away starting in 2013. They’re properly called gasoline vapor recovery systems. In 1994, the [Environmental Protection Agency](http://www.epa.gov) started requiring gas stations in areas with high pollution levels to install them, to keep gas fumes that can cause ozone and smog from leaking out when motorists fill up. But in 1998, automakers started installing gas tanks designed so fumes couldn’t escape during refueling. By 2013, the EPA estimates, 70% of vehicles on the road will have these tanks, making the gas-station-based systems unnecessary. EPA administrators are proposing that they go away. Getting rid of the requirement could save affected gas stations more than \$3,000 annually, the EPA estimates. “It’s good news; we’ve dealt with this, and now we can take these

things away,” says Bob Keefe with the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington, D.C. But, he says, “It’s still concerning that 30% of the vehicles on the road, 60 million or so, will still fall through the cracks on this.” The change will save money for gas stations in areas that had required the systems, says Rex Brown with the Petroleum Equipment Institute in Tulsa, a trade organization for the energy-handling equipment industry, which includes makers of the pumps used at gas stations. “It means you can decommission the system, and you don’t have to spend the money to maintain it,” he says. The systems were expensive to start with, and especially pricey to fix after the dreaded “drive-off.” That’s when a careless motorist forgets to put the hose back after filling up. “So when somebody drives off with the nozzle still in their gas tank, the parts that it

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rips out of their gas pump are much more expensive than normal gas hoses," says Brown. Only about half of the states required the nozzles in areas with heavy pollution. These were either areas with ozone levels exceeding federal standards, that got too much ozone drifting in from neighboring states or in states that had their own requirements. They included Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, the [District of Columbia](#), Georgia, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, [New Hampshire](#), [New Jersey](#), [New York](#), Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, [Rhode Island](#), Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

http://www.usatoday.com/money/autos/2011-07-12-gas-station-fumes_n.htm

USA, CA, MILPITAS, JULY 14 2011. 1,350 ILLEGAL FIREWORKS CONFISCATED

Milpitas Fire Department's Investigations Unit conducted the annual Fireworks Suppression Operation on July 4 and was able to locate and recover nearly 1,350 illegal fireworks. The seizure involved the work of Detective Eric Emmanuele, the city's arson investigator, as well as the city's public safety volunteer base, comprised of six Milpitas Fire Department aides; seven Amateur Radio Emergency Services/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services volunteers; five Strategic Actions For Emergencies, or SAFE, team members; and three Milpitas Police Department Citizen Volunteers. This year's illegal fireworks seizure was a marked increase from the nearly 900 illegal fireworks recovered on July 4, 2010 and about 600 recovered on July 4, 2009. The city's Fourth of July operation activated the city's Emergency Operation Center and placed seven teams of volunteers out in the community. Using unmarked vehicles, the teams located people using illegal fireworks and reported the illegal activity via handheld radios directly to the emergency operations center. Volunteers in the center organized a response, avoiding the use of police radio frequencies. Nearly 250 of the fireworks were designed to be shot in the air. Nine of the recovered fireworks were classified as "destructive devices" by California Health and Safety Code. At the discretion of Milpitas Fire Marshal Albert Zamora, there were no arrests. The fire department used the operation as an opportunity to educate the public about the dangers of fireworks. Possession of illegal fireworks is a misdemeanor in California. Possession of a "destructive device" is a felony. Milpitas Fire Department expects to expand this operation next year with the likelihood of taking criminal enforcement action when illegal fireworks are found. All fireworks are illegal in Milpitas. Milpitas Fire Department did not respond to any fires started by fireworks for the fourth year. There were no reports of injuries caused by fireworks.

http://www.mercurynews.com/milpitas/ci_18470631?nclink_check=1

UK, LINCOLNSHIRE, JULY 14 2011. FIVE DEAD IN LINCOLNSHIRE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE EXPLOSION

Five men have been killed and a sixth has been seriously injured in an explosion at an industrial estate in Lincolnshire. Police, fire and ambulance crews were called to the Broadfield Lane Industrial Estate in Boston at about 1900 BST on Wednesday. A Lincolnshire Police spokeswoman said she believed the men died instantly in the force of the explosion. Police are investigating claims the men may have been brewing illegal alcohol. A spokesman for the force appealed for anyone with information about the men and what activity was taking place at the unit to contact officers. The sixth man was taken to Boston's Pilgrim Hospital but later transferred to the Queen's Medical Centre (QMC) in Nottingham.

Arm 'Ablaze'

Nerys McGarry, from Lincolnshire Police, said it was not yet clear what had caused the blast. "We do not have any further information about the men, their ages and where they are from but we will be making inquiries throughout the night and can give a further update in the morning," she said. BBC Radio Lincolnshire reporter Scott Dalton, who was at the scene, said residents in the area had seen thick, black smoke coming from the industrial estate. "Locals have been telling me they didn't even hear an explosion or even a bang," he said. Paul Featherstone, who lives nearby, said: "I didn't hear an explosion, I just saw the smoke. "If the explosion didn't kill them, the smoke would have done because it was that bad. It was thick, black smoke coming through the roller doors." He added he was told by another eyewitness that one man ran out "with his arm all ablaze". It is understood this is the man who is now being treated at the QMC. Steve Moore, area manager with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service, said the building appeared to have been the scene "of a very hot fire with a very rapid spread". "When the first crews attended they were faced with a really serious fire and a casualty who was outside the building suffering from burns. "Their initial reaction was to treat the casualty. The incoming crew then started to fight the fire, it was a really hot, intense fire."

'Great Tragedy'

Crews were forced to use hydraulic equipment to get into the unit. "The intensity of the fire buckled the roller shutters and set alight a car outside," he said. He added: "For all the firefighters I've spoken to this is the most significant loss of life in a fire that they've ever attended." Speaking on BBC News, Dick Holmes, of Lincolnshire Police, said the five dead men had been killed

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"pretty much outright". He described the sixth man as having been "very seriously injured". The industrial estate was close to the town centre and made up of between 12 and 15 units that were "relatively small", he said. Boston Central Councillor Peter Bedford described the incident as a "real shock". "There is heavy industry in that industrial estate, there's a scrapyard, there's joinery works, it's a real mix." Boston East councillor Mike Gilbert said: "I'm very anxious to find out exactly what's happened. It's a lot of people dead and a great tragedy." Canon Robin Whitehead, Rector of Boston, said the incident was "extremely sad and tragic". Broadfield Lane Industrial Estate includes a furniture store, a scrap yard, a tyre firm and a car maintenance business. The site is surrounded by houses and is close to Boston town centre.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-14146993>

USA, CA, DUNSMUIR, JULY 14 2011. CANTARA SPILL: 20 YEARS LATER

richard dupertuis



Cars and tankers tumbled into the Sacramento river after a derailment at Cantara Loop on July 14, 1991, spilling powerful metham sodium which killed everything it touched. Here's a look back at the disaster 20 years later.

For Dunsmuir resident Mark Block, July 15, 1991 was an unusual day. The first detour from the norm he expected, a drive up to Yreka to answer the call for jury duty. He awoke early, drove a few hundred yards from his home to the freeway, and made it to court in time. But instead of instructing the jury pool as to its duties, the judge asked for those from Dunsmuir to identify themselves. As Block recalls, "Then he said something like, 'You are dismissed. There has been an emergency.' He didn't say anything else! No one could tell us what happened!" What happened was, at a little before 10 p.m. the night before, a train derailed off a sharp bend north of town, and some of its cars tumbled down the embankment. A tanker filled with poison landed in the river and leaked its contents into the swift current. The poison was a powerful herbicide called metham sodium. It rode the river as a toxic plume, killing everything it touched. Downstream many hours later, townsfolk awoke to what at first seemed to be a normal summer Monday. Dunsmuir Hardware Store owner Ron McCloud, who lived on the riverfront, remembers arriving at work that day unaware anything out of the ordinary had happened. "I found out about it when people started coming into the store," he said. "Everyone was talking about it." He said that he never smelled any fumes, never really felt a sense of alarm, because he could see nothing wrong in town except for the looks of growing concern on the faces of his customers. At home that

evening he checked the river. He noticed no smell nor discoloration, but did see dead fish floating along the shoreline. As other Dunsmuir residents reflected on that day for the press last week, most echoed McCloud's casual observations and attitude. Dorothy Tallerico said that she was stopped by security guards on her way to the railyard. "I worked for 30 years at the mods," she said, referring the dormitory set up in the yard for railroad workers' overnight stays. She said the guards told her about the spill, and that she learned all the details about the incident from "rails" staying at the mods. "The fellows were all taking about it," she recalled. But she saw nothing to be concerned about. The mods stood in the yard, a stone's throw from the river, and that night had been warm so many slept with their windows open. "We walked over and looked right over the bank," she said. "We didn't see anything there." She said that no one there that day reported any ill effects, nor filed any claims relating to health issues. She said that evening she stopped at Gary's Pizza, filled with people wondering aloud what was going to happen to the town. Twenty years later, the Dunsmuir High School Class of 1991 filled the pizza parlor Saturday for their class reunion, and several members shared their memories of the Cantara spill. Again, most were unimpressed. Heather Thomas Lawrence summed the sentiments of a half dozen classmates with, "It really messed up swimming for like five days." She remembered going down to the river, and was tempted to jump in, but heeded signs posted on the shore warning against entering the water. Still speaking for her youthful peers, Lawrence concluded, "I don't remember it being a big deal to us. But our parents freaked out." Then 18 year old Kile Koschnick crept into the house that Sunday night. He had been partying at river's edge miles downstream from the derailment at the moment the tank car hit the water, but had left for home before its toxic plume reached his position. Expecting to get in trouble for being out so late, he came upon his father, a Southern Pacific worker, preoccupied with emergency calls coming in on a scanner. "The authorities were talking about what to do," the younger Koschnick remembers clearly. "Nobody knew what metham sodium was, or what to do. They decided to let everything sit until they went through all the different agencies." Another adult who received early notice was caterer Tony Congi. Back

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then, he worked closely with Southern Pacific, supplying work crews with food. "My contact guy for SP called me about the derailment," Congi recalled. "For that job, we supplied them for weeks." He described how strange it was for people in town to look around and see what looked like a normal day in Dunsmuir, while the world outside reacted in frenzy. "We saw more news reporters than we'd ever seen before," he said. "People on the freeway were being stopped and told, 'Roll up the windows! Turn off the air conditioner!'" Throwing up his arms in an exasperated shrug, Congi exclaimed, "It was business as usual for us, but they were telling people, 'Don't stop in Dunsmuir!'"

<http://www.mtshastanews.com/news/x2028122341/20-years-ago-Dunsmuir-awoke-to-emergency>

USA, CT, GROTON, JULY 14 2011. GROTON GREASE SPILL IS 2ND IN FIVE WEEKS

Firefighters and the state Department of Environmental protection were called out Wednesday to the Leonard Road Industrial park for a spill of used vegetable oil. The oil overflowed from a tank at Constitution Bio Fuels, a startup company where the owner, Doug Dickey, processes the waste in an effort to manufacture fuel. He was not present at the time of the discharge. Todd Paige, chief at the Poquonnock Bridge Fire Department, said it was the second time in five weeks that grease has spilled from the building. Firefighters shoveled absorbents and sand on the perimeter of the grease, which spread about 25 feet from the garage type doorway of the building after saturating the floor inside the business. Jeff Chandler, an emergency management supervisor from the DEP, said the materiel had to be kept from a nearby wetlands where it could coagulate and cause harm to wildlife. He also noted that the grease was mildly combustible and posed a slight fire risk. Andy Tubbs, who owns Noank Controls, across the lot from Constitution, said he and his son had just returned from a late lunch at about 2:45 p.m. when they saw the liquid and heard unusual sounds coming from the unoccupied business. He said he was frustrated that he and his son had to quit work early because they had to evacuate the premises temporarily. Chandler said he responded to the previous incident as well. He said the issue would be referred to the DEP's enforcement division to determine whether there would be any penalties levied.

<http://www.theday.com/article/20110714/NWS04/307149466/-1/NWS>

CANADA, CALGARY, JULY 15 2011. A TANKER TRUCK EXPLODES INTO FLAMES ON THE DEERFOOT IN CALGARY ON JULY 14.



Tanker trailer burns along the southbound lanes of Deerfoot Tr. at Southland Dr. at approximately 11 a.m. Thursday. The Calgary Fire Department was called after the rig driver of the rig and a passerby had unsuccessfully attempted to extinguish the flames before taking cover. "When crews arrived, a two-trailer propane tanker truck's cab was fully engulfed in flames," said a fire department statement. "Crews were able to suppress the blaze before fuel from the saddle-tanks or trailers was ignited. Due to the danger of the blaze and operational demands Deerfoot Trail Southbound south of Southland drive was closed for approximately an hour. There were no injuries related to the incident."

<http://www.calgarysun.com/2011/07/14/close-call-for-double-tanker-lit-ablaze>

AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE, JULY 15 2011. CALTEX FIRMS UP \$80-M PLANT EXPANSION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Caltex Australia MD has firmed up fuel storage and expansion plans in South Australia in the next 25 years, the company has announced on Friday. Caltex Australia MD and CEO Julian Segal today announced that Caltex has agreed on the key terms of a plan to boost the supply and reliability of fuel to South Australia and support the state's resources sector in its rapid growth over the next decade. Mr Segal said the proposed 25-year deal with Terminals Pty Ltd would provide a near doubling of fuel storage capacity in the state and was the largest and latest in a series of commitments that Caltex has made to its supply chain as one of the nation's leading fuel suppliers and the only refiner-marketer listed on the Australian Securities Exchange. "This is a demonstration of our commitment to ensuring greater fuel supply reliability for Adelaide and supply continuity for Caltex's growing list of commercial customers across the state," Mr Segal said. "This project is part of Caltex's overall commitment to develop

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infrastructure and capability to meet Australia's growing transport, agricultural and mining fuel needs." As part of the arrangements, Caltex will become a foundation customer of the new fuel storage terminal being built at Adelaide's Outer Harbor. Terminals Pty Ltd is awaiting formal approval of a Development Application for stage one of the terminal, which will hold unleaded grades 91, 95 and 98 as well as diesel, biodiesel and ethanol. Caltex National Manager Distribution Mike Raleigh said that the construction of the new facility was due to begin later this year, subject to regulatory approvals. The \$80 million first stage of the new facility is scheduled to open in 2013 and will initially provide 85 million litres of new storage capacity for South Australian fuel supply and have capability to eventually expand to 135 million litres. "Caltex's current fuel capacity in Adelaide is limited by available tank capacity and by congestion at the existing Inner Harbour berth due to occupancy levels rapidly approaching their upper limits," Mr Raleigh said. "These capacity constraints have been a major factor in a number of fuel shortages affecting Adelaide and the state of South Australia over the past few years. "Moving to a new terminal, which will be serviced by a new Outer Harbor berth, will give South Australians much greater fuel supply certainty and also improve safety." Caltex National Manager Lubricants & Direct Sales Phil Amos said the expansion of fuel storage capacity would also benefit the state's mining industry, which needs increased volumes of diesel as it continues a rapid expansion over the next decade. "Caltex has seen a continued growth in its national marketing business, driven in part by increased sales of transport fuels which grew to 15.1 billion litres in 2010," Mr Amos said. "Our increased commitment to fuel supply infrastructure in Adelaide follows an expansion in our storage capacity in Western Australia and Queensland where we are servicing the rapid growth in the mining sector. "Caltex is committed to a truly national supply chain that meets the fuel needs of our customers wherever they are operating around Australia."

<http://au.ibtimes.com/articles/180505/20110715/caltex-australia-south-terminals-pty-ltd-fuels-australian-securities-exchange.htm>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, NEWCASTLE, JULY 15 2011. DRAYTON'S INQUEST PROMPTS SAFETY REVIEW

jacqui jones & stephen ryan

The state's workplace safety authority and Hunter Valley industry representatives say they will review practices following an inquest into the Drayton's Family Wines explosion. But Hunter vignerons said procedures had already been reviewed in the three years since the January 2008 blast at the Pokolbin winery, which killed winemaker Trevor Drayton and contractor Edgar Orgo. Deputy State Coroner Hugh Dillon found on Wednesday that inadequate safety procedures contributed to the deaths of Mr Drayton and Mr Orgo. Mr Dillon recommended that WorkCover conduct publicity campaigns within the wine and metal fabrication industries to raise awareness of the risks associated with ethanol. He also recommended requirements concerning notification of dangerous goods. A WorkCover spokeswoman said the authority welcomed Mr Dillon's recommendations and would give them full consideration. "In 2008, we completed a safety strategy for the wine industry that included a component on the storage of dangerous goods," the spokeswoman said. "We've been working with the wine industry to review the industry's code of practice and we'll continue to work on improving safety in this industry." Hunter Valley Wine Industry Association treasurer Bruce Tyrrell said the 2008 explosion had prompted vineyards to review policies and procedures. "Whilst it's admirable for the coroner to call for this work to be done, I think we've already done a lot of it," Mr Tyrrell said. "This is a very close community. And the event of that day in January 2008 will live with us all for a very long time. "It was a terrible day for everyone in the district." Mr Tyrrell said regulations aside, cultural change in the workplace was essential. "Because you've got to have people thinking safety, not just filling in a piece of paper saying I've been to the safety meeting," he said.

<http://www.theherald.com.au/news/local/news/general/draytons-inquest-prompts-safety-review/2227206.aspx>

CHINA, BEIJING, JULY 15 2011. CHINA OIL SPILL SIX TIMES SIZE OF SINGAPORE: GOVT

A huge oil spill off the Chinese coast has now contaminated an area around six times the size of Singapore, state media reported Friday, as the government said it may seek compensation for the leak. The spill from the oil field, which the United States' ConocoPhillips operates with China's state-run oil giant CNOOC, has polluted a total area of almost 4,250 square kilometres (1,650 square miles), government figures showed. The figures, which were announced on the State Oceanic Administration website earlier this week but only reported on Friday, were almost five times the size of the 840-square-kilometre area previously reported. The administration says that area remains worst affected by the spill, but that another 3,400 square kilometres have also been contaminated to a lesser degree by the oil. The spill was kept secret by the authorities for several weeks before being made public this month, sparking suspicions of an official cover-up, and the disaster has triggered a furious public response in China. State media said the government was considering seeking compensation from ConocoPhillips over the spill. "We have made an initial plan to claim compensation from ConocoPhillips China," the business daily 21st Century Business Herald quoted an unnamed official from the State Oceanic Administration as saying. "But whether

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and how it will be implemented still depends on the status of plugging the leak." CNOOC said last week the spill was "basically under control" while ConocoPhillips told reporters the leaks had been plugged. But on Wednesday the oceanic administration said oil was still leaking into the ocean and ordered ConocoPhillips to stop operations at several rigs in the polluted area until the source of the spill was fully plugged. "There has been oil seeping continuously into the sea for days from platforms B and C in the Penglai 19-3 oilfield and there is still a slick in the surrounding marine areas," it said in a statement. "Another spill could happen at any time, which has posed a huge threat to the oceanic ecological environment." CNOOC has been slammed by state media and green groups over the spill, and it emerged on Tuesday that the firm was cleaning up another slick after a breakdown at a rig off the northeast coast. ConocoPhillips said Thursday the spill was the equivalent of 1,500 barrels of oil.

Related Links

- [China Tried to Play Down Size of Bohai Bay Oil Spill](#)
- [Oil Keeps Leaking into Bohai Bay](#)
- [China says oil spills not fully controlled](#)

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5q1DtRQXcJM2RpEW_KOJlffKOFcMg?docId=CNG.3b125dfe28679f2d64709b29ae9b278f.991

USA, N.J, TRENTON, JULY 15 2011. OIL SPILL HITS THE MISSOURI RIVER SOUTH OF WILLISTON

lauren donovan



This oil well in the Hardscrabble Oil Field south of Williston was shut in because of floodwaters, but oil stored in a tank at the well leaked into the flooded Missouri River on Wednesday. The incident remains under investigation, but it appears the spill might involve 20 barrels. By Thursday, the well was surrounded by rings of rigid plastic and absorbent booms.

An obviously shaken owner of the oil well that caused the first oil spill directly into the Missouri River in North Dakota said he wants to do the right thing and clean up any effects of the spill. The spill was reported late Wednesday afternoon, when owners of a nearby well noticed an oil slick on the muddy floodwaters in the floodplain southwest of Williston. Kris Roberts, environmental geologist with the state Division of Water Quality, said at least 20 barrels of oil — around 900 gallons — leaked at a well site owned by Ryan Exploration Inc., when a storage tank shifted in the floodwaters. Well owner Tim Ryan of Denver

said an aerial view of the well site Thursday afternoon relieved his worst fears. "We saw a couple of questionable spots, but my nightmare was that we would see one big slick," he said. He said he is committed to the cleanup, which could cost \$500,000. The spill is much smaller than one two weeks ago into the Yellowstone River near Billings, Mont. There, a ruptured crude oil pipeline spilled 42,000 gallons into the Yellowstone, which runs into the Missouri River a few miles south of Williston. The Ryan well was among 40 or so on the low-lying floodplain between Williston and Trenton that were shut in by order of state officials when the Missouri River started rising in May. Some companies emptied storage tanks of oil and refilled them with water to hold them down and prevent them from bobbing in the high water. Ryan said the two oil storage tanks at the well site were not emptied of oil, possibly because rising water came too fast. The one that bobbed and apparently broke a connecting pipe contained 68 barrels before the spill and the other has 200 barrels and is apparently intact, he said. Two other tanks contain production water that comes up with oil. Roberts said SM Energy, the company that discovered spill, immediately went to work to start cleanup and containment of the oil. "They really stepped up and it's not their well," he said. By Thursday afternoon, Ryan's crews and contractors had added a rigid ring and two more absorbent booms around the storage tanks. Oily absorbent pads were stored onshore in green barrel drums that will be sealed and hauled for disposal. "We dodged a bullet," Roberts said. "I didn't see anything big enough to give me heartburn." He said the floodwaters will have to recede before the situation can be fully investigated. Roberts said he didn't know how many storage tanks at other flooded wells are still holding oil. Ryan said he bought the 30-year-old well a decade ago, along with one other nearby. He said the well, a stripper well because of its age and low production, only produces 6 barrels a day, but hopes to use it to get into deeper, more lucrative formations. He said it remains to be seen whether the tank leaked only 20 barrels or if more will leak before the pipe can be fixed. Right now, the whole site is underwater for miles. "Clearly, I should have been more prepared, but it didn't occur to me that the water would go over our 10-foot (containment) dike," Ryan said. "When I heard this, I felt terrible. I don't think I slept an hour last night." Williams County Emergency Manager Mike Hallesy said the incident stresses

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the potential of what could occur in the oil patch. Roberts said the spill into the river has been reported to both federal and state regulatory officials, and that Gov. Jack Dalrymple was briefed.

http://bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/oil-spill-hits-the-missouri-river-south-of-williston/article_8d2b781e-aea2-11e0-9ffd-001cc4c03286.html

USA, AZ, PHOENIX, JULY 15 2011. CHASE CREEK TOXIC SPILL IN '08 TO COST FMI \$150,000

walter mares

A 2008 spill of sulfuric acid and heavy metals into Chase Creek that came close to entering the San Francisco River will cost Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc., a \$150,000 penalty. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Attorney General's Office said on July 14 that FMI-Morenci has agreed to the \$150,000 settlement for releasing 168,00 gallons of the toxic materials into Lower Chase Creek, a tributary of the San Francisco River. The spill was stopped about 50 yards short from reaching the San Francisco, which is a tributary of the Gila River. ADEQ and the AG's office said in a joint news release that Freeport-McMoRan will pay a \$75,000 penalty and complete a supplemental environmental project valued at \$75,000 as part of a consent judgment in Maricopa County Superior Court for water quality violations caused by the spill from its Morenci copper mine. The consent judgment is subject to court approval. The spill occurred on Oct. 30 when a contractor working for FMI erred in hooking up a toxic-material-carrying pipeline into a pipeline that carries stormwater through the mine and into Chase Creek. The material reached the creek, which flows through a residential area in Clifton. FMI workers battled furiously to keep the spill from reaching the San Francisco River and eventually the Gila, which crosses the breadth of Arizona. The Gila is vital to agriculture in Graham County's Gila Valley. It also feeds San Carlos Lake, a regional popular fishing and recreation site on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. The acid spill was stopped about 50 yards from the San Francisco. The supplemental environmental project agreed to by Freeport McMoRan includes conducting one or more household hazardous waste collection events for residents within Greenle or Graham counties. After becoming aware of the spill, FMI had crews working around the clock to build four earthen dams to contain the toxic flow and keep it from reaching the San Francisco. Work crews recovered 93,000 gallons of discharged liquids and removed 85,000 tons of contaminated sediment from the creek bed. The ADEQ-AG news release said the pollutants in the discharge exceeded Arizona surface water quality standards for copper, zinc and pH in Lower Chase Creek. FMI's Aquifer Protection Permit and Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit do not authorize the release of the substances into the environment.

http://www.eacourier.com/articles/2011/07/14/news/breaking_news/doc4e1f59c46637f126418359.txt

USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, JULY 15 2011. EPA'S FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION IS A SHOCKING DERELICTION OF DUTY

arnold j. mann

On May 24, 2011, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson testified before Congress, saying, "I am not aware of any proven case where the 'fracking' process itself has affected water, although there are investigations ongoing." It was a classic case of non-denial denial by a federal agency enjoying observer status courtesy of a law assigning natural gas drilling oversight to the states. Jackson wasn't saying there have been no cases of ground water contamination from this controversial new mining technology; she was just saying she wasn't "aware" of a "proven" one. So why have New Jersey, North Carolina and New York, the cities of Buffalo and Pittsburgh, the Canadian province of Quebec and all of France banned or issued moratoriums on fracking? With fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, a well is drilled thousands of feet deep into rock. Then millions of gallons of water, mixed with sand and toxic chemicals - including asbenzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, xylene and formaldehyde - are blasted into the shale, fracturing it and releasing the natural gas. Suddenly, the inaccessible is accessible, and the gas rush is on with tens of thousands of new wells popping up in Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Texas, West Virginia, Utah and Wyoming, and residents in those states reaping lucrative leases. And why not? Natural gas burns cleaner than oil or coal, it's cheaper than foreign oil and it creates jobs. That's what industry is pitching, and it's what Lisa Jackson pitched to Congress. And it's probably safer than nuclear energy.

Or Is It?

When a well broke in Bradford County, Pa., tens of thousands of gallons of fracking fluids leaked into the Susquehanna River, just like the 8,000 gallons that seeped into a creek near Dimock, Pa. Thousands of Texas residents have had their water contaminated in the Barnett bonanza, along with water wells in Pavilion, Wyo. It's not just chemicals. Duke University researchers found elevated methane in 13 of 26 wells tested in northeastern Pennsylvania, to the point where the water could catch fire - just like the Wyoming sink water in the documentary film "Gasland." The New York Times obtained EPA documents revealing that wastewater from fracking is often much more radioactive than federal regulators deem safe for treatment plants

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to handle - water that is eventually fed into rivers. A 2009 ProPublica investigation found more than a thousand reports of water contamination. No wonder New Jersey and New York live in constant fear that Pennsylvania's fracking boom will contaminate the Delaware River, where all three states draw drinking water. Then there was the dramatic drop in the number and intensity of earthquakes in central Arkansas when fracking was halted, as well as the dramatic increase in air pollution in otherwise pristine northeastern Utah and southwestern Wyoming since fracking began. When I first sat down to write, the absurd idea of bringing back underground nuclear testing came to mind. That would crack the shale with no chemical mess. Imagine my surprise when I learned that this preposterous idea had already been executed! During the 1960s and 1970s, a series of test explosions, five times that of Hiroshima, were set off in New Mexico and Colorado to get at the natural gas. Unfortunately, the gas came up radioactive, and fear of contaminating water supplies put an end to what was to have been a nationwide bonanza.

So What Needs To Be Done About Fracking?

At the very least, what's needed is a moratorium on the helter-skelter drilling of new fracking wells, until the process is proved safe or made safe. Preliminary results of an EPA study are due in a couple of years. Until then, all Americans should be aware that fracking is another genie that - once unleashed - cannot be forced back into the bottle.

-  **Related Links**
- [Movement to stop natural gas drilling gains ground](#)
- ['Fracking' has EPA seal of approval](#)
- [Legal questions raised on NY's gas-drilling rules](#)
- [Bishops, nuns and rabbis debate gas fracking](#)

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/07/14/2101381/epas-failure-to-investigate-ground.html>

USA, N.M, GRANTS, JULY 15 2011. LAUNDROMAT SPILL CLEANUP ONGOING EXPECT LANE CLOSURES

donald jaramillo



A laundromat solvent spill cleanup is ongoing in Grants along First Street and will cause lane closures during a remedial project phase through October.

Nearly one-half century later a chemical spill from a laundromat is still causing headaches. Residents this week are seeing lane closures that should go through August. The Environmental Protection Agency is working on cleaning contaminated water containing chlorinated solvents at concentrations greater than drinking water standards. The presence of the solvents in the groundwater at the Superfund Site on First Street is a result of past releases from a nearby dry cleaning operation, according to the EPA. A public meeting was held in Grants on July 8 at the Cibola County Complex regarding the project as EPA officials updated residents and officials of the project. Only four people showed up to the meeting. The groundwater in the contaminated area is shallow - 6 to 8 feet. While shallow groundwater has been degraded by this contamination, it is not used as a source of municipal drinking water. Nonetheless, cleanup to the tune of millions of dollars and nearly 20 years of work is still required. The remedial process began in 2003. The contamination was discovered in the 1970s when an underground gas tank was being removed from the area. Officials are unsure when the original spill occurred but estimate not over 1,000 gallons of the solvent was released. They said it only takes a little to contaminate gallons of water. The EPA is currently installing a remedial subsurface heating, collection and treatment systems. The process typically includes heating, maintenance and cooling phases which take less than one year combined to complete. This week, residents are noticing this phase by lane closures. Injections wells, nearly 700, have been dug within the project site. And, 15 homes in the area received vapor intrusion mitigation systems two years ago. "Residents will now see some visuals of how

big this project really is," said Remedial Project Manager Sai Appaji. It will take three months for construction of the remedial project and six months of operation. This particular project is expected to be complete by September of 2012. The groundwater remedy infrastructure is being installed by CH2M HILL. Work hours for construction crews will be from 7 a.m. to 5

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p.m. daily. Traffic control will be implemented on First Street, Washington and Monroe Avenues. According to the EPA, access for businesses and residences in the project area will be maintained during construction. Work will be completed in shifts consisting of 10 working days followed by a four-day break period, requiring approximately seven working shifts. The building housing Johnny's Kitchen is being using as a field office for the project. The catering service has temporarily moved to Tres Marias Bakery, according to an EPA official at the meeting. For more information about the project, call Appaji at 1-800-533-3508.

<http://www.cibolabeacon.com/articles/2011/07/15/news/doc4e1f668db22c3209590643.txt>

UK, LINCOLNSHIRE, BOSTON. JULY 15 2011. FATAL BLAST REVEALS SECRET TRADE IN MOONSHINE

jonathan brown



Making vodka is less rocket science than a re-enactment of school chemistry lessons. All that is needed are a few groceries and some basic equipment.

An explosion has killed five people and left another battling for his life with extensive burns at an illegal factory that was manufacturing alcohol. Police in Boston, Lincolnshire, urged anyone who knew the men, who were believed to be Eastern European, to come forward as officers waited to question the survivor, who was last night having surgery. The still was behind a stud wall at an industrial unit which was being rented from a local landlord by a Lithuanian who is no longer in the country. The tragedy comes three months after police, trading-standards and customs officers raided eight premises across the market town recovering 88l of potentially fatal counterfeit vodka. The shops are having their licences revoked, although no arrests were made during the raids. Yesterday

local people said the sale of illicit liquor, repackaged as well-known brands and costing as little as £2 a bottle, was an open secret among the large community of migrant workers and the network of continental stores that has grown to serve them. Trading-standards officers said confiscated drinks contained large quantities of methanol, which could also cause blindness. Police and Mark Simmonds, the local MP, insisted that until the blast on Tuesday night there was no indication that illegal hooch was being brewed in Boston and there was no evidence to link the confiscated alcohol with that being made at the industrial unit. "We must get information into the public domain to make people realise how dangerous it is not just to make it, but to consume illicit alcohol," he said. Superintendent Keith Owen said searches of the industrial unit at Broadfield Lane appeared to substantiate rumours that had been circulating since the devastating explosion, which could be heard up to five miles away. Photographs of the site revealed dozens of bottles being kept at the unit. "What I can confirm is that we have found chemicals on the premises which tend to indicate either the manufacture or production of alcohol," he said. Firefighters said the fire spread rapidly through the premises with the intense heat buckling the steel shutters in unit No 8, where the men died. Officers described it as the largest loss of life in a single fire that the force had dealt with in 30 years. The survivor, who suffered burns to 75 per cent of his body, was doused by people who rushed to the scene. He was taken to a specialist unit in Birmingham for emergency treatment. Those working nearby said men would come and go from the unit at unusual times and the premises had no signs indicating what went on there. Police said relatives and friends had yet to alert them that any loved ones were missing, but several Portuguese and Latvian people visited the scene.

A Recipe for Vodka – and Potential Disaster

Making vodka is less rocket science than a re-enactment of school chemistry lessons. All that is needed are a few groceries and some basic equipment.

- The most important piece of kit is a still, in which a "mash" of ingredients is boiled up and cooled to condense before being dripped, as vodka, into bottles.
- Ingredients can include wheat, corn barley and potatoes. They are mixed with water, heated and then have yeast added. The mix is left for several days.
- The methanol produced in the process can cause health issues such as blindness.

Related Links

- [Foreigners flock to Boston, but find no safety net](#)
- [Leading article: Avoidable tragedy](#)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/fatal-blast-reveals-secret-trade-in-moonshine-2314082.html>

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USA, CA, EUREKA, JULY 15 2011. TRIAL FOR HUMBOLDT DEPUTY IN FIREWORKS INJURY

A judge has ordered a Humboldt County sheriff's deputy to stand trial for a fireworks accident at a July 4 gathering that left a 10-year-old girl with a major hand injury. Authorities say [Joseph Marsh](#) brought a collection of fireworks to the 2010 event and asked the girl if she wanted to hold a Roman Candle, which is illegal in [California](#). It exploded in their hands, and both lost several fingers. Marsh was off duty at the time of the accident. Sheriff's officials say he's now on medical leave. According to the Times-Standard of Eureka, a judge ruled Wednesday that [Marsh](#) should be tried on felony child endangerment and criminal negligence charges because he was supervising the activity. If convicted, [Marsh](#) faces a maximum of nine years in state prison.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/07/14/3770428/trial-for-humboldt-deputy-in-fireworks.html>

NORWAY, OSLO, JULY 15 2011. NORWAY WATCHDOG TO INSPECT BP PLATFORM AFTER FIRE

gwladys fouché & emma farge

Investigators for the Norwegian oil safety watchdog said they would fly to the BP-operated Valhall field on Thursday to probe the causes of a fire that forced a total evacuation of workers and halted output. A BP spokesman said it was still unclear when production would resume at the field, which was producing about 42,000 barrels per day at the time of the fire. "We are going offshore this afternoon to investigate," Oeyvind Tuntland, director for professional competence at the Petroleum Safety Authority Norway, told Reuters. "A fire at an offshore platform is always serious." New-York listed Hess is the majority owner in the field with a 64 percent share, while operator BP holds the remaining 36 percent. The fire occurred on Wednesday in a vent pipe, used to evacuate gasses that could ignite, on the production and compression platform of the Valhall installations, according to a preliminary report BP sent to the watchdog, Tuntland said. It broke out around 1500 GMT and was put out about an hour later, he added. "How it was ignited, we have no idea," he said. "If any place should burn, it was one of the best places for it to happen. It had no big potential to escalate. But a fire is a fire." BP said the damage on the platform was confined to a small area, which was sealed off while inspections are carried out. "It is too early to say when production can start again," said company spokesman Jan Erik Geirmo. He said there was no risk of a spill from the incident. BP evacuated personnel and all were reported safe. Some 638 people had been working at the site, which is located about 290 km (180 miles) off southern Norway.

Affect on Ekofisk Premiums

The production platform is one of five in a complex serving the oil field. Valhall's oil production is piped to the offshore Ekofisk Center and then on to Teesside, England, according to BP's website. Natural gas from the platform is transported by pipeline to Emden, Germany. The platform also processes oil and gas from a smaller field known as Hod, located some 7 miles south of Valhall and also owned by Hess (62.5 percent) and BP (37.5 percent). Valhall has pumped oil since the 1980s and is located in 70 meters of water. BP said on its website that Valhall's infrastructure was being revamped this year to ensure the field can continue to operate until 2050. The oil field produces Ekofisk grade oil -- one of four crude streams, also known as BFOE, on which the Brent contract is based. Oil traders said news of the outage would further reduce supplies in the North Sea, where reduced output at the UK's largest oil field Buzzard has already led to delayed cargoes and higher prices. "It is going to be supportive of Ekofisk premiums for sure," said a North Sea oil trader, adding that this could amount to around 1.2 million barrels if output stays down for a full month. Crude output from nine key North Sea grades is set to fall 8 percent next month to 1.52 million bpd due to summer maintenance and declining output. Brent crude for August was trading at \$118.78 a barrel at 1432 GMT. Valhall has a total production capacity of some 180,000 bpd, but its current output level is about 42,000 bpd because the platform is old, the BP spokesman said. He did not have figures for Valhall's gas production. According to the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate, Valhall was expected to produce some 300 million standard cubic meters of gas and 31,000 bpd of oil in 2011.

<http://planetark.org/wen/62629>

TURKMENISTAN, ABADAN, JULY 15 2011. TURKMENISTAN BLAST BLAMED ON FIREWORKS MAY HAVE KILLED SEVERAL HUNDRED

shaun walker

It was just the harmless detonation of some fireworks, the authorities in Turkmenistan insisted, and there were no casualties. But reports on opposition websites and eyewitness testimony suggest that a series of explosions last week at an arms depot in the isolated Central Asian country could have killed dozens of people and injured hundreds. Already the secretive Turkmen government has been forced to admit that the blasts last Thursday near Abadan were indeed caused by munitions. Officials now say that 15 people were killed, 13 of them civilians. But one opposition website claims that there were more than 1,300

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people injured. Unofficial reports of the number of deaths range from 30 to several hundred. One opposition website quotes an Abadan resident claiming that more than 50 soldiers guarding the depot were killed instantly. Other reports from residents who fled the town say that shells hit the local hospital and a school building, killing many children. It is impossible to verify the information trickling out from Abadan but it is clear the official account does not tell the full story. It is not known how the fire started at the military depot, but grainy videos from survivors show a huge plume of smoke coming from the building and artillery shells flying out in all directions. The day after the blast, President Gurbanguly Berdimukhammedov made no mention of the accident. Turkmen diplomats said the blasts had been caused by fireworks exploding in the summer heat. Turkmenistan was ruled for more than a decade by Saparmurat Niyazov, a dictator who called himself Turkmenbashi, or "Leader of the Turkmen". Mr Berdimukhammedov, a former dentist, came to power after Mr Niyazov's death in late 2006. Media freedom is non-existent and internet access severely limited in the country. The president appeared to betray just how serious the damage to Abadan is by a promise to build a "new town" in place of the ruined buildings.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/turkmenistan-blast-blamed-on-fireworks-may-have-killed-several-hundred-2314029.html>

USA, TX, EL PASO, JULY 15 2011. WESTERN REFINING AGREES TO PAY \$1.5 MILLION IN FEDERAL FINES

vic kolenc

Western Refining has ended several years of negotiations with federal regulators by agreeing to pay a federal fine of \$1.5 million for alleged air pollution violations over many years at its El Paso refinery, and also agreed to make pollution-control upgrades. Western already has spent \$39 million for projects to reduce pollution and is expected to spend an additional \$21 million on pollution control projects as outlined in a proposed agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The proposed agreement, filed in federal court late last month, is part of the EPA's years-old initiative to get refineries to upgrade pollution controls in four problem areas without the government having to prove the refineries violated federal requirements in those areas. The program, the Petroleum Refinery Initiative, has resulted in agreements with 106 refineries to upgrade pollution controls since 2000, the EPA reported. In another matter not tied to the agreement, Western has also applied for new state-issued air permits because it is among 136 Texas plants and refineries the EPA has said were operating with state-issued air permits that violated the federal Clean Air Act, the EPA reported this week. The EPA last year disapproved the state's flexible air-permit program after determining it allowed companies to avoid some federal clean air requirements by lumping pollution from multiple units under a single cap rather than setting specific pollution limits for individual

Pollution Sources.

Gary Hanson, a Western spokesman, said in an e-mail that the company is disappointed it has to apply for amended air permits because "the existing program has worked so well and has successfully improved the air quality for all Texans." Western's agreement with federal officials still has to be finalized by a federal court in El Paso after a 30-day public comment period. The proposed agreement ends eight years of negotiations on pollution-control upgrades and the alleged violations, some of which occurred before Western took over full operation of the refinery in August 2003, Hanson said. Western will spend \$60 million to meet federal requirements in the agreement, the EPA reported. "We've completed the majority of (required) actions outlined" in the agreement," Hanson said. Western spent about \$15 million for a flare gas recovery system completed in 2007, and it spent almost \$24 million to upgrade heaters and boilers, he said. While Western was making upgrades tied to the EPA talks, it also spent about \$370 million over several years to install equipment to make cleaner fuels as required, Hanson noted.

http://www.elpasotimes.com/ci_18475927?source=most_emailled

USA, TX, HOUSTON, JULY 15 2011. TIMELINE OF CONOCOPHILLIPS



Steam rises from stacks at the ConocoPhillips refinery on Jan. 25, 2011 in Rodeo, Calif.

Houston-based ConocoPhillips, the nation's third largest oil company, announced today that it would split into two separate publicly traded companies by the first quarter of 2012. CEO and Chairman Jim Mulva also announced that he would retire once the split was complete. Here's a brief timeline of ConocoPhillips journey to the top:

1875 Isaac E. Blake founded the Continental Oil Co. in Ogden, Utah. Blake pioneered the idea of importing kerosene from eastern refineries by railroad tank cars.

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- 1885 Standard Oil took control of Continental, relinquishing it in 1913 upon order by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1903 Brothers Frank and L.E Phillips began search for oil in Oklahoma, and later found Phillips Petroleum Co. in Bartlesville.
- 1929 Continental Oil Co. and Marland Oil Co. merged to form Conoco.
- 1981 Conoco operated as a wholly-owned subsidiary of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. which bought it for \$7.4 billion.
- 1998 Conoco regained its independence after a \$4.4 billion initial public offering.
- 2000 Phillips purchased Arco Alaska for \$7 billion. Phillips and Chevron combine their chemicals and plastics operations to form Chevron Phillips Chemical Co.
- 2001 Conoco announced deal to buy Gulf Canada Resources for \$4.3 billion.
- 2002 Conoco and Phillips Petroleum complete a "merger of equals". Houston is chosen as the headquarters for the combined company, which ranked number 18 on the Fortune 500 with 50,000 employees worldwide. The deal created the nation's third-largest oil company, behind Exxon Mobil and ChevronTexaco. The company had reserves of 8.7 billion barrels of oil and natural gas and owned or had interests in 19 refineries with capacity to process 2.6 million barrels per day.
- 2006 Houston-based Burlington Resources acquired.
- 2011 ConocoPhillips announced plan to split its Refining & Marketing and Exploration & Production businesses into two stand-alone, publicly traded corporations.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2011/07/14/timeline-of-conocophillips/>

USA, MT, JULY 15 2011. GOVERNMENT PROBE OF EXXON PIPELINE LEAK TO TAKE MONTHS

tom doggett & anna driver

It will take several months to investigate the cause of the leak on ExxonMobil's Silvertip oil pipeline crossing the Yellowstone River, the U.S. pipeline safety regulator told Congress on Thursday. "We will also ensure that the Silvertip pipeline is free of safety and environmental risks before Exxon Mobil is granted permission to restart the line," Cynthia Quarterman, head of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, told lawmakers at a House hearing looking into the leak. Any violations of federal pipeline safety regulations by Exxon will be "swiftly addressed," she said. Quarterman said the Yellowstone River was still too high to examine the section of the pipe that leaked, and it "may take weeks if not months" before the pipeline can be brought up from the river bed. On Wednesday, Exxon said it had begun preliminary work to replace the pipeline that ruptured and spilled an estimated 1,000 barrels of oil into the Yellowstone River in Montana two weeks ago. PHMSA said oil from the spill have been found at least 240 miles downstream from the site where the pipeline burst. The company does not yet know what caused the leak, and is focused on cleaning up the oil, said Gary Pruessing, president of Exxon Mobil Pipeline Co. "We have not put any end date on a clean-up," Pruessing told lawmakers, noting the company has been challenged by high water levels. Exxon plans to replace the damaged pipeline by laying a new section of pipe 30 feet below the river bed, Pruessing said -- going beyond federal regulations that require pipelines to have at least 4 feet of ground cover in a river bed that is more than 100 feet wide. Exxon and the Environmental Protection Agency have said there is no danger to public health from the oil spill, but the National Wildlife Federation disagreed. "The spill has directly impacted the health and livelihoods of landowners along the river. People have become sick due to exposure of the oil fumes," said Douglas Inkle, a senior scientist with the environmental group.

<http://planetark.org/wen/62633>

USA, N.J. HACKENSACK, JULY 15 2011. HACKENSACK STRIP MALL IS EVACUATED AFTER TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNS

justo bautista

A strip mall off Route 17 south was evacuated Thursday after a tractor-trailer carrying an industrial chemical used to make herbicides overturned in the parking lot, authorities said. The intermodal tank, which was carrying phosphorus trichloride, remained intact and there was no leak, officials said. No injuries were reported. The incident, which occurred in the parking lot outside the Crow's Nest restaurant on Vincent Avenue, was reported around 3 p.m., said Lt. Stephen Lindner of the Hackensack Fire Department. Authorities set up a command post and tried to determine if the tank contained pure phosphorus trichloride or a derivative, Lindner said "If it is 100 percent, there could be an immediate danger to life and health," he said. "If it is a derivative, it's not as serious." The liquid turned out to be a derivative of the chemical, Lindner said. Authorities consulted with the product's manufacturer, sending pictures of the scene to the manufacturer by e-mail, Lindner said. Meanwhile,

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authorities evacuated the Crow's Nest and several other businesses in the strip mall, including a Carvel and a Dunkin' Donuts. As a precaution, a portion of Summit Avenue was temporarily closed and the ramp to Route 17 north from Route 80 also was closed. By 8:45 p.m., four giant tow trucks had up-righted the trailer and offloaded the tank onto another tractor-trailer. The intermodal tank carrying the chemical is deliberately "overbuilt" for safety, Lindner said. "It is meant to be banged around a little bit," he said. The trailer may have overturned when the driver, who was not identified, tried to make a U-turn in the small parking lot and the tank shifted, Lindner said. Lindner called the response by the Fire Department and county and state emergency personnel a textbook example of cooperation among the various agencies.

http://www.northjersey.com/news/Hackensack_strip_mall_is_evacuated_after_tanker_truck_overturns.html

USA, TX, HOUSTON, JULY 15 2011. TOMBALL AND CLEAR LAKE COMPANIES SUED OVER GAS LINE RUPTURE

andrea dearden

ExxonMobil claims two Tomball and Clear Lake oil pipeline service providers are responsible for a gas line rupture. ExxonMobil Pipeline Co., ExxonMobil Refining & Supply Co. and ExxonMobil Fuels Marketing Co. filed a lawsuit July 11 in Harris County District Court. Challenger Drilling Inc., Millett Pipeline Services Inc., Sempipe LP, BKEP Pipeline LLC, BKEP Operating LLC and Blue Knight Energy Partners LP are named as defendants. According to the petition, ExxonMobil was asked by the Harris County Flood Control District to move its San Antonio Pipeline to a deeper location. It says Challenger Drilling in Tomball relocated the pipeline in May 2009. Sempipe/BKEP allegedly had an 8-inch line and a 10-inch line that also needed to be repositioned. ExxonMobil claims Sempipe/BKEP hired Clear Lake's Millett Pipeline to do the drilling. The company allegedly contracted with Challenger to complete the job. ExxonMobil says the companies agreed to keep the new pipelines at least 10 feet from ExxonMobil's gas line. In June 2009, Challenger successfully completed the relocation of the 8-inch line. However, when workers attempted to move the 10-inch pipeline in July 2009, a Challenger employee allegedly saw gasoline in the directional drill hole. ExxonMobil contends that gasoline came from its San Antonio line, which was allegedly hit by Challenger during drilling. ExxonMobil claims they had to shut down the pipeline and clean up the spill. ExxonMobil accuses Challenger of trespass, negligence and tortious interference and contends each of the defendants is liable for the damages. The company is asking for an undetermined amount of money damages along with court costs. Attorneys Benny Agosto Jr. and Sammy Ford IV, of Houston, are representing ExxonMobil. Harris County District Court Case No. 2011-40912.

<http://www.ultimategclearlake.com/stories/253323-courts-tomball-and-clear-lake-companies-sued-over-gas-line-rupture>

USA, S.C, HOLLY HILL, JULY 15 2011. LIGHTNING STARTS CHEMICAL FIRE AT CEMENT PLANT

gene crider

 **Watch the Video** http://thetandd.com/news/article_8cffdb0a-adda-11e0-a064-001cc4c03286.html



Several emergency agencies responded to Holcim's cement plant in Holly Hill Wednesday night after lightning ignited fumes from a rail tanker containing about 1,000 gallons of fuel. Holcim of Holly Hill Plant Manager Joe McFalls reports that the fire was quickly contained and caused no injuries.

Emergency workers scrambled to get to the Holcim cement plant Wednesday after lightning ignited fumes in a rail tanker that was being emptied of fuel. Plant employees were able to extinguish the fire within a half hour, Facility Manager Joe McFalls said. "We were able to put it out pretty quickly," McFalls said. No one was injured in the incident, nor were the contents of the tanker spilled, McFalls said. In addition, no equipment was damaged and the plant will continue operate normally. "Their safety team did everything they should have to contain

it," Orangeburg County Emergency Services Director John Smith said at the scene. The employees already had emptied fuel from some tankers and were in the process of unloading another when lightning ignited the vapors in the tanker. There were about 1,000 gallons of a mixture of waste fuels left in the tanker when it caught fire. Employees of Geocycle, a Holcim company that works at the plant, fought the fire. "We have a water cannon system with foam. They were able to put it out fairly quickly," McFalls said. He said one of the employees told him their training kicked in. "He said it was like automatic to them." Afterward, area emergency and fire teams stayed on the scene to ensure the fire did not reignite. The county's Hazmat Team closed off the tanker and filled it with nitrogen to prevent reignition, Smith said. McFalls said the incident has been reported to the Mine Safety and Health Administration and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The Holcim plant burns a number of fuels including coal and the waste fuel mixture in the cement-making process. Orangeburg County's

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Emergency Services, Hazmat Team and Fire District responded to the call, along with the Holly Hill, Eutawville, West Middle, Providence and Vance fire departments. Pendarvis Ambulance was on standby.

http://thetandd.com/news/article_8c9fdb0a-adda-11e0-a064-001cc4c03286.html

USA, WI, MADISON, JULY 15 2011. EXPLOSION THAT INJURED WORKERS CAUSED BY IGNITION OF FUMES >> 2 WORKERS TAKEN TO HOSPITAL

Fire investigators said they believe an explosion in the basement of a house on Madison's West Side on Tuesday was caused by the ignition of fumes from a floor-coating process. Firefighters and emergency crews were called to a house in the 100 block of North Prospect Avenue, which is near Camp Randall Stadium, at about 12:26 p.m. Tuesday. Firefighters arrived to find the two men, who were involved in remodeling the house's basement, and two other occupants of the house had evacuated. The two men suffered burns as a result of the explosion and were transported to University of Wisconsin Hospital, according to the Madison Fire Department. The other two people in the home weren't hurt. The two men were spraying a coating on the floor as part of a basement remodeling project. Investigators have not determined the exact source of the ignition, according to Madison Fire Department spokeswoman Lori Wirth. The force of the blast blew out two windows at the rear of the basement. Plastic sheeting that had been taped to the walls was essentially vaporized in the heat from the explosion, Wirth said. Wirth said crews found some remaining hot spots in the basement, which they extinguished. Damages are estimated at \$10,000, the Madison Fire Department said.

<http://www.channel3000.com/news/28536436/detail.html>

USA, ORE, PORTLAND, JULY 16 2011. KEEPING TABS ON WHAT'S UNDERGROUND



This map indicates Underground Storage Tank sites (USTs) and Leaking Underground Storage Tank sites (LUSTs) dating back to the early 1980s when Oregon DEQ began keeping records. Red dots indicate active USTs. Purple dots show LUSTs that have been decommissioned, cleaned up or are in the process of being cleaned up.

More than 25 percent of Klamath County's underground storage tank owners are not properly monitoring for leakage, raising the risk of groundwater and soil contamination, officials say. Underground storage tanks are designed to hold petroleum or other hazardous material. In Klamath County, there are about 150 active underground tanks at 49 sites. The Environmental Protection Agency recently conducted special checks of 11 Klamath County tank sites and, of those, eight were not in compliance, including three AMA Mini Marts in Klamath Falls. The AMA owners were fined \$30,000 for not properly checking petroleum-filled storage tanks from October 2008 to March 2011. They're not alone. Of the 49 facilities in the county, 74 percent are in compliance; the other 26 percent are not. "Klamath County has historically had low compliance rates," said Tracy England, an underground storage tank compliance specialist for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, which performs annual checks.

http://www.heraldandnews.com/news/article_7643e062-ade1-11e0-bacd-001cc4c002e0.html

USA, TX, HOUSTON, JULY 16 2011. THIRD WARD GAS STATION BLAMES CONTRACTOR FOR CONTAMINATED GAS

The owner of a Third Ward gas station is suing after, it says, the shoddy work of contractors resulted in contaminated gas and damaged vehicles. Junaid Investments filed a lawsuit on July 14 in the Harris County District Court against Kevin Leasure and Alpine Environmental Technologies Corp., citing breach of contract. Junaid says on May 12, 2009, it hired the defendants to remove three underground fuel tanks and replace them with a single 16,000-gallon, two-compartment tank at Third Ward's QT Valero Mart on Cullen Boulevard. In February of 2010, Junaid lost 1096 gallons of fuel when the concrete around the newly installed tank caved in and damaged the tank lines and connectors, causing water contamination of the fuel, which damaged customers' vehicles, according to the brief. The suit further alleges that in March of 2010, the City of Houston Fire Dept. cited Junaid for an odor at the station, caused by fuel leaking from the underground tank. Junaid claims it was forced to pay another contractor \$13,000 to repair the defendants' shoddy work product. Junaid is seeking damages, attorney's fees, and court costs. It is being represented in the case by Houston attorney George Dana. Harris County District Court Case No. 2011-41746.

<http://www.ultimateeastend.com/stories/253559-courts-third-ward-gas-station-blames-contractor-for-contaminated-gas>

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