



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2013 – 923 Newsy Stuff

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USA, TX, BAYTOWN, JANUARY 14 2013. 2 WORKERS INJURED SATURDAY MORNING AT THE EXXON PLANT IN BAYTOWN.

According to officials, both of the injured workers are employed by Savage Services, a contractor that provides workers for Exxon. ExxonMobil authorities tell us the contractors were taken by ambulance to Hermann Memorial Hospital where they are receiving treatment and undergoing evaluation. A spokesperson for Savage Services said the company is supporting the injured workers and their families at this time. They are also cooperating with the investigation currently underway at the facility. The cause of the incident remains under investigation and additional details about their injuries were not released. Darryl Roberts said one of the victims was his son, Kevin. Roberts said over 40 percent of Kevin's body was burned.

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=8951699>

USA, WA, SEATTLE, JANUARY 14 2013. TWO SUNKEN VESSELS RELEASE OIL, DIESEL ON WEST COAST

christine harvey

Two sinking vessels deposited oil and [diesel fuel](#) in separate incidents this weekend on the West Coast, according to filings with the U.S. National Response Center. One vessel released 50 barrels of diesel fuel while sinking on Lake Union in Seattle yesterday. Another leaked oil after sinking in San Francisco Bay near Brisbane, California, on Jan. 11. Booms were put in place in both cases to secure the surrounding area. Further details on both incidents weren't immediately available.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-01-13/two-sunken-vessels-release-oil-diesel-on-west-coast-1-.html>

USA, NEBRASKA, JANUARY 14 2013. REPORT FAILS TO SETTLE CONCERNS OVER OIL SPILL RISK TO OGALLALA AQUIFER

lisa song

A thorough and adequate study of the impacts has not been done, a scientist says; it's a rigorous and comprehensive review, says TransCanada's CEO. The question of how an oil spill from the proposed Keystone XL pipeline might affect the Ogallala aquifer was raised again this month, in a report the U.S. State Department will use to help it decide whether to approve or reject the controversial project. [The report](#) concluded that a spill would have little effect on Nebraska's primary source of drinking water, because the oil would spread less than a thousand feet within the High Plains/Ogallala aquifer. The impact on the aquifer would be "local," not "regional," said the report, which was prepared by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and HDR Engineering, an Omaha-based consulting firm. Scientists interviewed by InsideClimate News agreed with the report's conclusions that an underground spill probably wouldn't travel far and that a single accident wouldn't damage the entire aquifer. But they also said the report didn't take into account other important factors:

Some of the chemicals found in the primary type of oil the pipeline would carry are trade secrets, so it's impossible to know how they would behave in the aquifer.

The report analyzed the effects of only a 42,000-gallon spill, even though far larger spills have plagued U.S. oil pipelines in recent years. [A 2010 accident](#) in Michigan dumped more than a million gallons of a type of oil known as dilbit into the Kalamazoo River. In 2011, a pipeline [leaked 63,000 gallons](#) of oil into Montana's Yellowstone River.

The DEQ's study was generic, rather than specific to Nebraska's geology and hydrology. The actual risks would vary, the scientists said, depending on where the spill occurs in the aquifer, the location of nearby wells and other site-specific factors.

"The DEQ report provides a general and generic assessment of the potential impacts from a hypothetical spill," said John Stansbury, a civil engineering professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln who has pushed for detailed studies about the pipeline's environmental impacts. "The bottom line is that a thorough and adequate study of the impacts has not been done [to date], and that includes the DEQ report." The DEQ's conclusion that the impact of a spill would be localized didn't reassure local ranchers and farmers. More than 85 percent of Nebraskans rely on the aquifer for their drinking water, and virtually everyone along the route depends on it for their families, crops and livestock. "We have the cleanest, purest water in America," said Bruce Boettcher, who raises organic cattle in Holt and Rock counties. The land has been in his family for five generations and he intends to pass it down to his three children. "People have a connection to the land and the water...because the water is so close to the top of the ground. We live in it. It's right here; we see it every day. We don't want it disturbed." TransCanada, the company that hopes to build the pipeline, [told the DEQ](#) in a letter last October that it will "provide an alternate water supply for any well where water quality was found to be compromised by a spill." But landowners say that's simply not feasible. Susan Luebke has 1,200 head of cattle on her ranch, and each one drinks 15 to 30 gallons of water a day. Where would the "alternate" water source come from, she asks. How could TransCanada transport tens of thousands of gallons per day on rural



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roads that are often unpaved, through blizzards and harsh weather conditions? "It's a total joke," Luebbe said. "They can throw that [offer] out there, but they don't know what ranching is like in Nebraska." Richard Kilmurry said some of his cattle drink from streams that are connected to the Ogallala aquifer, but TransCanada hasn't offered to replace contaminated surface water. "If your water is never going to be useable again, it pretty much renders your land useless," he said. TransCanada did not respond to requests for comment for this story. [In a news report](#) earlier this month, the company said it welcomed the DEQ's conclusions, and president and CEO Russell Girling called the report "a rigorous and comprehensive review." The groundwater study is just a small part of the 2,000-page report, which was designed to examine how the pipeline would affect Nebraska communities and natural resources. [It concluded](#) that "Construction and operation of the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline, with the mitigation and commitments [TransCanada] has identified...could have minimal environmental impacts in Nebraska." The authors said TransCanada would be responsible for any spill cleanup and [the company's commitments](#) "such as funding for a public liaison, liability insurance, and private well testing, provide for additional protection of Nebraska's interests." Pipeline opponents say the study is incomplete and tainted by conflicts of interest: HDR, the consulting firm hired by the DEQ, [has worked on](#) previous TransCanada projects. DEQ spokesman Brian McManus said the agency reviewed HDR's record and doesn't believe it creates a problem. The agency's report is one of the last hurdles TransCanada faces in its years-long effort to get the pipeline approved in Nebraska. The project originally was routed through the Nebraska Sandhills, a particularly sensitive region over the aquifer. Under pressure from landowners and environmentalists, TransCanada moved it out of that area in November 2011. But the project still faces opposition from landowners and environmental groups, who will hold their fourth large protest outside the White House on Feb. 17. The company is now waiting for Gov. Dave Heineman—who supports the pipeline—to sign off on the route. Heineman has until February to submit the report, along with his comments, to the U.S. State Department. The federal agency has ultimate authority over the [Alberta-to-Nebraska section](#) of the Keystone project because it crosses an international border.

Groundwater Concerns

The Nebraska portion of the Keystone XL is now slated to pass through 12 counties and 163 rivers and streams. Ten of the counties have no oil pipelines at all. The southernmost counties—Saline and Jefferson—contain a Kinder Morgan pipeline and a TransCanada pipeline that began operating in 2010. Although the new route avoids the Sandhills, it still crosses areas with permeable soils and shallow groundwater, the same features that make the Sandhills vulnerable to contamination. The groundwater along much of the 274-mile route through Nebraska lies 20-50 feet beneath the surface. [And 13 miles](#) of the line crosses land where the aquifer is less than 10 feet underground. Boettcher said the fear of groundwater contamination is why he continues to oppose the pipeline, even though the new route is now 15 miles from his land. "This water is just as valuable for me as for my neighbor 15 miles apart...I'm staying in this fight because [Keystone XL] is still going through fragile soils, wet ground and wet lands, and is still crossing high water tables." Groundwater experts say it's virtually impossible to restore a contaminated aquifer to pristine conditions, although it can be cleaned up to meet federal drinking water standards. The time and cost required for such a cleanup depends on the location of the spill, the composition of the spilled oil, the amount of oil released, the movement of the groundwater and the location of nearby water wells—details that the DEQ report didn't analyze. TransCanada [has told the DEQ](#) that it will test drinking water and livestock wells within 300 feet of the route before operating the pipeline. In the event of a spill, that baseline data could help determine whether oil had seeped into nearby wells. Landowners like Luebbe are wary of staking their futures on TransCanada's promise. "How do we know they're testing for what's actually in [the oil]?" she said, since some of the dilbit chemicals are trade secrets. "I just don't trust them." One of the landowners' biggest concerns is that a slow leak would go undetected because so much of the Keystone XL runs through remote areas. TransCanada has run newspaper ads assuring Nebraskans that its leak detection technology will quickly alert the company's control center in Canada of any accidents. But InsideClimate News [recently reported](#) that the leak detection systems used on most of the nation's pipelines rarely detect spills smaller than 1 percent of the pipeline's flow, which for the Keystone XL would be hundreds of thousands of gallons per day. An analysis of federal data showed that smaller spills are more often detected by the general public or pipeline workers than leak detection systems.

What Happens to Dilbit in an Aquifer?

The lack of information about a major type of fuel the Keystone XL would carry—[diluted bitumen](#), or dilbit—has been a sticking point for years. Although the Keystone XL would transport a small amount of conventional crude oil from North Dakota, the bulk of its contents would be bitumen, a particularly thick oil from Canada's oil sands region. Much of that oil will be shipped as dilbit, a combination of bitumen and light liquid chemicals used to dilute the bitumen so it can be transported in pipelines. There have been no independent studies on how dilbit behaves when it spills into an aquifer. Landowners fear that a



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dilbit spill would be more devastating than a spill from conventional crude oil, [as was the case](#) during the 2010 Kalamazoo River spill. There, the dilbit initially floated on top of the water, but as the light chemicals evaporated, the bitumen sank to the river bottom. Emergency responders had to improvise new cleanup methods, and that work still isn't done. In October, the Environmental Protection Agency [asked Enbridge to dredge](#) an additional 100 acres of the riverbed. Barbara Bekins, a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey and an expert on aquifer contamination, expects dilbit to behave much more like regular crude if it is spilled into an underground aquifer. Bekins has spent years studying an aquifer near Bemidji, Minn., where 450,000 gallons of light crude oil spilled in 1979. Initial cleanup efforts removed about three-quarters of the oil. In 1983, the U.S.G.S. [began using the Bemidji aquifer](#), which isn't used for drinking water, to study how oil is remediated through natural processes. Almost 80,000 gallons remain in the surrounding soil and aquifer more than 30 years later.

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20130114/nebraska-keystone-xl-pipeline-ogallala-aquifer-transcanada-dilbit-oil-spill-bemidji-landowners-tar-sands-dilbit>

NEW ZEALAND, TIMARU, JANUARY 14 2013. INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY INTO TIMARU OIL SPILL

Court action will be taken against the person responsible for an oil spill in the Timaru Port. It took most of yesterday afternoon for an oil response team from Environment Canterbury to contain and clean up around 50 litres of light fuel oil which leaked from a boat. Regional Harbour-Master Jim Dilley said an investigation has already been launched. "We're confident that we will be able to identify the person that spilled the oil and we will be taking enforcement action. We take enforcement action for any oil that is spilled into the marine environment in the Canterbury region." Mr Dilley said the clean-up team will continue to monitor the area this morning to mop up any remaining oil.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10859190

PHILIPPINES, MAKATI, JANUARY 14 2013. MAKATI OIL SPILL CLEANUP 70 PERCENT COMPLETE

jaymee t. gamil

The Lopez-owned First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPIC) has said the cleanup of an oil spill at West Tower condominium in Makati City was 70 percent complete in response to a statement from the city government that remediation, not reopening its oil pipeline, should be its first concern. Catherine Colmenares, FPIC community relations officer, said that to date, the company has cleaned up 70 percent of the oil that leaked from its pipeline at Barangay Bangkal in July 2010. "Out of an estimated 1.8 million liters [that leaked], 1.2 million liters have been extracted since remediation started last year," she said in a phone interview the other day. On Friday, Makati Mayor Jejomar Erwin Binay Jr. announced that around 500,000 to 700,000 liters of petroleum were still believed to be contaminating the groundwater and soil of Barangay Bangkal after oil leaked from FPIC's 117-km-long pipeline into the basement of the condominium building. "FPIC in particular needs to be reminded that it has a responsibility to restore the conditions in Barangay (village) Bangkal before the city government discovered the leaks in their pipelines, the existence of which [it] initially denied," Binay had said in a statement. His reaction was in response to a statement by FPIC that the Court of Appeals, in a resolution, had recommended the reopening of the pipeline should the company be able to secure a certification of safety from the energy department secretary. According to Colmenares, "It really is our priority to clean the impacted area in Bangkal. Our multiphase extraction system is in operation there 24/7. The cleanup system is endorsed by the Interagency Committee on Environmental Health which includes the city government." She added that they also have an air-quality monitoring system in place in the area, the results of which are submitted and validated by the city government. She said that extraction of the spilled oil would take only two to three more years while the rehabilitation or replacement of damaged equipment at West Tower was also 90 percent complete.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/339993/fpic-makati-oil-spill-cleanup-70-percent-complete>

ENGLAND, LONDON, JANUARY 15 2013. ESSAR EXTINGUISHES FURNACE FIRE AT UK REFINERY

jenny gross

A fire broke out in a furnace of Essar Energy's Stanlow refinery in the UK on Saturday, but it has since been extinguished and isn't affecting deliveries to customers, Andrew Turpin, a company spokesman, said Monday. "Supplies to customers are being largely maintained to schedule, and we have plans in place to ensure this remains the case while repairs are made to the unit," Mr. Turpin said. The fire didn't impact the two main crude distillation units or the residue catalytic cracking unit, the company said. No one was injured.

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3141004/Latest-News/Essar-extinguishes-furnace-fire-at-UK-refinery.html>



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USA, CA, EL SEGUNDO, JANUARY 15 2013. EQUIPMENT AT CHEVRON EL SEGUNDO PLANT SAID DAMAGED IN FIRE

lynn doan

A fire yesterday at Chevron Corp's El Segundo refinery, California's largest, damaged equipment associated with the plant's fluid catalytic cracker, a person with knowledge of the refinery's operations said. The blaze, which ignited at around 6 p.m. local time, damaged the selective catalytic reduction plant, a unit that removes particulates from gas produced by the catalytic cracker, said the person, who asked not to be identified because the information isn't public. The El Segundo refinery, south of Los Angeles, can process 279,000 barrels of feedstock a day, data compiled by Bloomberg show. It supplies 40 percent of the jet fuel to Los Angeles International Airport and 20 percent of the region's gasoline, San Ramon, California-based Chevron said on its website. An "incident" in one of the refinery's process units caused a power failure at the plant yesterday, resulting in the slowdown of several units, Rod Spackman, a Chevron spokesman at the refinery, said by e-mail. The upset occurred while the plant was preparing the unit for planned maintenance, he said. Aside from maintenance and the unit involved, the refinery is running normally, Spackman said. "There was no significant fire at the refinery, and there was nothing that would impact the process unit," Spackman said in a later telephone interview. He declined to comment on whether yesterday's incident damaged equipment at the plant.

Scheduled Maintenance

The refinery's fluid catalytic cracker was scheduled to shut for a 54-day maintenance turnaround that included work on the alkylation unit, a person with direct knowledge of the plans said Dec. 7. Alkylation units produce a high-octane blending component for gasoline. Fluid catalytic crackers process vacuum gasoil into gasoline or lighter crude products. The El Segundo Fire Department responded to an incident at the refinery at about 5:56 p.m. local time yesterday, Richard Guyer, a battalion chief for the department, said by telephone today. The plant extinguished "a small ground fire" and was flaring gases after pressure built up in a unit and a cap dislodged, he said. The incident ended at about 8:06 p.m. local time, he said. Guyer said it wasn't clear whether the fire was extinguished at that time or whether the plant stopped flaring gases. "The flare and the fire were all the same, really," he said. "The fire was contributing to the flare activity." The El Segundo refinery reported a "failure" at the fluid catalytic cracker yesterday at 6 p.m. local time and planned to flare gases until Jan. 23, notices to state and air regulators show.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-01-14/fire-at-chevron-el-segundo-oil-refinery-said-to-damage-equipment>

AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, OODNADATTA, JANUARY 15 2013. AUSTRALIA'S NOW HOT ENOUGH TO VAPORIZE PETROL

andrew tarantola



Forget frying eggs on the sidewalk, never mind [the new heat index colors](#), Australia's record-setting heat wave is so insanely intense that in some areas drivers can no longer refuel their vehicles because the petrol evaporates as it's pumped. According to reports, the tiny town of Oodnadatta, located 1000 kilometers north of Adelaide, has faced near continuous 113 degree F temperatures over the past week with a 118 F peak last Tuesday. "It's like a wall of fire when you walk outside at the moment," Mrs Plate, an Oodnadatta resident told The Age. Coincidentally, 113 F is also the temperature at which petrol vaporizes. As such, drivers looking to refuel have to do so in the early morning hours when temperatures are slightly less sweltering. Over the last 30

years, Australia has gotten 1 degree C hotter on average. And in Oodnatta the mercury has jumped by 33 F during the day and remains 34 degrees hotter at night than it did three decades ago. No wonder the town's 180 residents have to replace their refrigerators twice a year.

<http://gizmodo.com/5975853/australias-hot-enough-to-vaporize-petrol>

USA, WI, CUBA CITY, JANUARY 15 2013. CHEMICAL FIRE CAUSES EXPLOSIONS, LEADS TO EVACUATIONS IN SMELSER TOWNSHIP

A chemical fire lead emergency teams to evacuate a neighborhood in Smelser Township, Wis., on Sunday night. The fire occurred at 9:30 p.m. at a woodworking shop at 1323 Church Rd. in Georgetown, Wis., according to the Cuba City Fire



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Department. The shop contained large quantities of woodworking chemicals in 55-gallon drums. These containers exploded, prompting the responding fire departments and Lancaster Hazmat to evacuate six households due to potentially dangerous chemical fumes. Freezing roads hampered efforts to bring water from Cuba City to the scene. The Grant County Highway Department was dispatched to treat the roadways used by the emergency teams. CTH-D was closed for approximately two hours while the fire was extinguished. The Cuba City Fire Department responded to the blaze, assisted by fire departments from Hazel Green, Dickeyville, Jamestown, Platteville and Lancaster.

<http://www.kwwl.com/story/20582111/2013/01/14/chemical-fire-causes-explosions-leads-to-evacuations-in-smelser-township>

USA, TX, HENDERSON, JANUARY 14 2013. LIGHTNING STRIKE SPARKS OIL TANK FIRE NEAR HENDERSON

brett collar

 **Watch the Video** [Oil Tank Fire](#)

A lightning strike sparked an oil tank fire early Sunday morning just south of Henderson. Officials confirm that the Henderson Fire Department responded to an oil tank that had caught fire located off of Highway 79 early Sunday as the result of a lightning strike. Fire crews responded to the scene and we are able to safely contain the fire. No injuries were reported in this fire.

<http://www.kltv.com/story/20574843/lightning-strike-sparks-oil-tank-fire-near-henderson>

CHINA, HANGHAI, JANUARY 15 2013. PETROCHEMICAL LEAK POLLUTES SHANGHAI PORT

Improper loading resulted in a petrochemical leak that has polluted a port in Shanghai, local authorities said Sunday. Workers at the Jueshi Port failed to fully shut down a valve while loading C9, a dangerous petrochemical, onto a cargo ship around 10 a.m. Thursday, resulting in the chemical spilling into the port's waters, the municipal work safety administration said. Local residents reported a pungent odor near the port around 6:30 p.m., leading authorities to discover the leak. Police have taken four people into custody for their alleged involvement in the incident. Three companies involved in the spill were found to have broken regulations pertaining to the sale, transport and loading of the chemical. Local authorities have sent 20 vessels to clean up the leaked chemicals. Two local drinking water processing plants have stopped siphoning water from the contaminated area. A further investigation and environmental evaluation are both under way.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90882/8091058.html>

CANADA, LABRADOR JANUARY 15 2013. SHIPPING COMPANY FACES HEFTY FINE FOR DIESEL SPILL

A shipping company in Labrador is facing a large fine for a diesel spill that happened more than three years ago. Coastal Shipping, owned by the Woodward Group of Companies, pleaded guilty to not properly cleaning up the spill and failing to notify the proper authorities. The judge imposed a \$100,000 fine for the spill — half of which will be paid to the court, and the other half will go to the Gilbert Bay Marine Protected Area, where the spill took place. On Sept. 20, 2009, the tanker Mokami was unloading diesel fuel in William's Harbour when a gasket failed, causing 70 litres of fuel to leak into the water. The crew did attempt a cleanup, but didn't follow all of the procedures and didn't report the spill, the company's lawyer, Frederick Constantine, told the court. Federal Crown Lee-Ann Conrod said the location of the spill made the situation worse. "There's the golden cod in that area, and other unique populations of fish, that raises concern when a spill happens in that area," she said. She told the court it was important to make sure the fine wasn't just a slap on the wrist. Captain Bradley Doyle is also facing charges related to the spill. He's expected to plead guilty on Tuesday to one charge of allowing the fuel to make it into the water.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2013/01/14/nl-coastal-shipping-spill-fine-114.html>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, JANUARY 16 2013. EPA ISSUES NEW EMISSION RULES FOR DIESEL GENERATORS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued new emission rules Tuesday for diesel generators used for oil and natural-gas production, emergency situations and other uses that the agency said would cut costs while reducing air pollution. The rules are in line with a settlement agreement the EPA reached with EnerNOC Inc and other companies to resolve an appeals court challenge the companies had filed against the EPA over an earlier version of the regulations. Shares of EnerNoc closed Tuesday more than 25% higher at \$15.76, following release of the new rules. The new rules will cut costs for diesel-generator users by \$139 million a year, while reducing hazardous air pollutants, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and other pollution, the EPA said. Diesel generators emit pollution that can cause cancer and can aggravate respiratory and heart diseases as



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well as cause neurological or other health problems, the EPA said. EnerNOC and other providers of what are called "demand-response" services, arrange with large electricity users to agree in advance to cut their power use during times of peak power demand. Quickly removing large chunks of energy demand can ease a strained power grid on a hot summer day. In the U.S. Mid-Atlantic and other power markets, such removal of power demand is considered akin to providing additional backup power to the grid. Many demand-response customers use diesel generators during times when they reduce the amount of power they take off the grid. Under the EPA's new rules, diesel generators used during emergencies, including during times of peak power demand, can operate for up to 100 hours a year and the operators must file a yearly report detailing the dates and times of their operation. The new rules are good for EnerNOC; however, power-plant operators that compete to supply power to the grid in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic are likely to request additional changes to the rules, said UBS analyst Julien Dumoulin-Smith. "Expect vigorous appeal by the generators, and potential for state-specific air regulations," Mr. Dumoulin-Smith said. He noted that power-plant operators FirstEnergy Corp and Exelon Corp, among others were likely to be negatively affected by expanded opportunities for demand-response providers afforded by the new EPA rules.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/01/15/epa-issues-new-emission-rules-for-diesel-generators/>

USA, CT, MLITCHFIELD, JANUARY 16 2013. BANTAM FUEL HAS 500 GALLON DIESEL SPILL

daniela forte

About 500 gallons of ultra-load sulfur diesel fuel spilled at Bantam Fuel on Lake Road in Bantam early Thursday evening. "There was an error in the automatic metering system. It showed the tank was empty but there was actually 3,000 gallons in it," said Peter Aziz, president of Bantam Fuel. Mr. Aziz said they had ordered a truck load of diesel which is 7,500 gallons into the 10,000 gallon tank. About 500 gallons didn't fit and came out the top. "It spilled on the side of the tank into the containment area under the tank," said Mr. Aziz. Mr. Aziz said the good news is the containment area worked, it didn't get anywhere and stayed in the containment area. They now just have to clean it up and dig up the soil and the protective membrane underneath the tank and replace it. The Department of Environmental and Energy Protection (DEEP) was called upon the spill. A representative was sent out to Bantam Fuel. Mr. Aziz said the representative wanted an environmental clean up contractor to send out a vacuum truck. Which Bantam Fuel did. "We got one out and [Moran Environmental Recovery] came out last night," said Mr. Aziz. "They were able to vacuum up all the loose oil they could get to." Moran Environmental Recovery came again Friday morning and are planning to come back Saturday to do more cleanup of the area. The Bantam Fire Company and Bantam fire marshal were called to the scene as well on Thursday. "It's all contained in this secondary containment area. We can't use the tanks until it's clean. Which is how the system is designed," said Mr. Aziz. Mr. Aziz said it was fortunate they have a very state of the art containment facility. Not only was there containment beneath the tank but also beneath the truck that was loading. "The system worked exactly the way it was designed so we were pleased with that," said Mr. Aziz.

<http://www.foothillsmediagroup.com/articles/2013/01/15/litchfield/news/doc50f57791ca7d4112845963.txt>

USA, N.Y, WESTCHESTER CO, JANUARY 16 2013. GE OFFERS \$2.7M FOR AIRPORT CLEANUP >> CONTAMINATED SOIL REMOVED; MONITORING TO CONTINUE TO '16

michael risinit

General Electric is offering to pay Westchester County almost \$2.7 million in connection with the cleanup of contaminated soil found beneath a hangar it used to lease at the county airport. The money, administration officials told several Westchester legislators this week, would cover rent abatements extended by the county to the hangar's current leasee, JPMorgan Chase & Co., which paid to remove the pollution. The sum would also pay for several years of soil and groundwater monitoring at the Harrison property. The soil was polluted with two chemical compounds that were part of once-common solvents used to clean metal airplane parts. JPMorgan Chase discovered the problem when it began remodeling the hangar in 2010, County Attorney Robert Meehan told the board's Budget and Appropriation Committee on Monday. Contractors for JPMorgan Chase removed 1,200 tons of contaminated soil. Airport environmental manager Michael Parletta said the compounds, known as tetrachloroethylene and trichloroethylene, were contained in degreasers. GE occupied the hangar from when it was built in 1958 until 2006, the county said. "In those days, they would basically let those products drip into drains," Parletta said. "It would really be irresponsible to use those types of chemicals today." Both substances pose health dangers at high levels of exposure, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Those risks include respiratory problems, liver damage and an increased cancer risk. GE spokesman Seth Martin declined to comment on his company's offer. Meehan said the agreement, if approved, would halt plans for legal action by Westchester. "You may recall also back in September I sent you a



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request to commence (a lawsuit) against GE. In the meantime, we've come to a tentative settlement. So if we settle it, we won't need to commence the action against GE," Meehan told legislators Monday. The county will use most of the money — \$1.7 million — to cover the rent discount it gave JPMorgan Chase. The financial company has a 10-year lease until 2020 with an annual rent of \$1.1 million for the 53,000-square-foot hanger. Accepting the payment would also release GE from any future claims, Meehan said. That seemed to cause worry among some legislators, including Board Chairman Ken Jenkins and Legislator Catherine Borgia. Monitoring of the site will continue until 2016. "Is there a concern about future remediation that may be done based on the monitoring?" Jenkins asked during Monday's meeting. Parletta, the airport manager, said he expected the vapor and groundwater monitoring would show acceptable levels of the two substances in three years. "The numbers are coming down. It looks good. I think we will be fine," he said.

<http://www.lohud.com/article/20130115/NEWS/301150118/GE-offers-2-7M-airport-cleanup?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CNews>

USA, OH, ST. MARYS, JANUARY 16 2013. OIL SPILL DISCOVERED EAST OF ST. MARYS

An oil leak east of St. Marys was discovered Friday night, according to Auglaize County Homeland and Emergency Management director Troy Anderson. He said his office got a phone call around 11 p.m. Friday from someone who smelled a "pungent odor" just east of the city, in the area of state Route 29 and Elshoff Drive. Anderson said his crews went there and, after an investigation, found the oil was crude oil leaking from a nearby oil well field. He said crews immediately began cleaning up the oil and got much of it contained. But around 3:30 a.m., he said crews said they still had product going into a creek just east of the field and began cleaning it up. Anderson said Allied Environmental Services crews are still cleaning, mostly the creek water, to make sure none of the oil gets into the St. Marys River. He said the cause of the leak and how much oil was leaked is still unknown.

http://www.limaohio.com/news/local_news/article_faf890d2-5f4c-11e2-bcc7-001a4bcf6878.html

ENGLAND, LONDON, JANUARY 16 2013. EEF SURVEY SHOWS REACH CHEMICALS REGULATIONS ARE 'ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM' FOR UK INDUSTRY

Britain's manufacturers are being urged to get to grips with the requirements of the European Directive on the restriction of hazardous substances, REACH, or face the prospect of unlimited fines or even prison through a failure to comply. The call was made by UK manufacturers' organisation EEF following publication of a survey showing awareness of the implications for manufacturers, especially amongst smaller companies, remains worryingly low. It backs longstanding fears that companies have failed to recognise the full scope and significance of the REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals) regulations on their use of certain substances. The regulations are gradually restricting the use of hazardous chemicals, including substances which have been commonly used in manufacturing processes for many years under controlled conditions. This has major implications for all companies from requirements for worker safety, to controls on how substances are used, through to the need to potentially modify processes and substitute other materials. There are also major implications for companies in the supply chain who must be in a position to advise their customers if such substances are present in the products they sell. Where there is a strong enough argument for continued use of a banned substance, companies can apply to the European Commission to continue to use it. The first such deadline is just a month away. Furthermore, companies have just six months to make themselves aware of the implications of the next major deadline for registration of chemicals in June 2013. This could see certain substances being withdrawn from the market. Initial estimates suggest the cost of REACH is around €2billion, whilst the cost for large companies to apply for continued use of a substance is at least 50,000 euros. Anecdotal evidence suggests in some cases it can be as much as 200,000 euros. Failure to comply with the regulations is a criminal offence with the possibility of unlimited fines and, up to two years in prison. In response, EEF is calling on government to do more to raise awareness of the implications of REACH on businesses. It is also calling for more user friendly guidance and a clearer understanding of when the Commission is likely to give permission for continued use of banned substances. EEF Head of Climate & Environment Policy Gareth Stace said: "REACH continues to be the 'Elephant in the Room' for many companies who are either unaware of the implications or, still believe it is a chemicals only issue. In contrast the regulations have serious requirements for all manufacturers who are facing either the restricted use or banning altogether of some substances. "For many companies there is the very real risk of lost business if they are unable to advise their suppliers whether their products contain certain materials and, where they are, how their use is being monitored. Furthermore, if companies don't plan for substance bans, it could prevent production entirely." When armed with the right



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information manufacturers are doing the right things – substituting substances that are of concern with safer alternatives. But we need to see government and European regulators and legislators to do all they can to raise awareness and make it easier for companies to understand the implications of it on their business. " The survey shows 20% of companies still believe REACH is not applicable to them while a further 30% say it isn't important to their business. The figures rise for the smallest companies with just under a third of companies with turnover below £2m per annum unaware of how they will be affected. More worryingly, even where smaller companies were aware of REACH, half were not monitoring developments. This compares to 72% of large companies and 83% medium sized who are monitoring developments. The survey showed that where there was awareness there was action, especially amongst downstream users who are working with suppliers and customers, monitoring developments and, substituting substances of very high concern. The survey also shows that REACH is perceived as costly and complex with the cost and time companies are spending on dealing with it creeping up. 60% of companies have seen moderate increases, whilst a fifth have described the increase as 'significant' in the last two years with around half of companies taking on dedicated staff to deal with the issue. Other findings:

- 80% of large companies that are aware are considering substituting substances or have already done so.
- Of those that were aware, half were changing work practices and redesigning processes, regardless of business size.
- One in five companies said managing chemicals is a key business priority.

There are currently 21 substances set for bans under the Regulation. The first suite of bans takes place from February 2015. Applications to continue to use these substances must be submitted from February or August this year if companies want to avoid business continuity issues. In December the Commission announced a further suite of substances that will be banned, subject to clearance in the European Parliament. This includes several compounds of chromium and trichloroethylene. More bans are expected. The European Chemicals Agency makes recommendations to the European Commission on which substances to prioritise for bans, drawing from the "Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern". There are currently 153 substances on the list. Additional substances are added to the list twice a year. The full list is available from the ECHA website. Once substances are added to the Candidate List, immediate disclosure obligations come into force. Any company using any of the substances in quantities greater than 0.1% w/w in the products they sell are required to notify their business customers to ensure its safe handling. If companies place that substance on the market in quantities greater than a tonne they are also obliged to notify the European Chemicals Agency. On the 1 June 2013, companies that place substances on the market in quantities between 1,000 and 100 tonnes a year are required to register them. The registration dossiers assess the potential impacts of those substances on human health and the environment and sets out risk management measures to enable its safe use. Preparing this dossier can be expensive and in some cases companies may decide not to register a substance and withdraw it from the market. In a recent survey for the European Commission (CSES Survey 2012), 37% of firms said they had experienced a withdrawal of a substance as a result of registration. Around 30% were expecting it to happen again in future. REACH is the European Community Regulation on chemicals and their safe use. It deals with the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of chemical substances. It entered into force on 1 June 2007 with implementation via staggered deadlines. To date REACH has mainly impacted on the chemicals industry. Further details can be obtained from www.eef.org.uk/REACH

<http://bit.ly/XgijvLZ>

AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, DARWIN, JANUARY 17 2013. FIRM CHARGED AFTER GAS BOTTLE BLAST DEATH

meagan dillon



The damage done to the vehicle.

A Darwin business has been charged over the explosion that killed Irish tradie Patrick "Paddy" Bird more than a year ago. Damday Pty Ltd, in Berrimah, could be fined up to \$650,000 if the NT Work Health Authority can successfully secure a conviction. [Mr Bird](#), 24, was killed when pressurised flammable gas cylinders left in his enclosed work van exploded outside his Parap home on December 16, 2011. The company appeared in Darwin Magistrates Court on Monday charged with failing to identify risks to health or safety arising from their own conduct. The charges were laid under the repealed Workplace Health and Safety Act. Another company, Arafura Plumbing, has been charged over an incident that happened in



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July last year. The company, also in Berrimah, has been charged with reckless conduct that risked death or injury and failing to comply with a prohibition notice. It could be fined up to \$3 million. The authority laid the charges under the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011. In a statement, the authority said it would allege the practice of allowing pressurised flammable gas to be left in enclosed vehicles was considered a "hazard" to the health and safety of workers and members of the public due to the risk of an explosion. The authority has to prove that Arafura Plumbing engaged in conduct "without reasonable excuse" to secure a conviction. Both companies will re-appear in court next month. The fridge mechanic had only left his hometown of Bailieborough, County Cavan, in Ireland's northern mainlands, at the end of the football season a few months before the explosion.

Your Say

"One of the most amazing things that resulted from his tragic accident was that after NY WorkSafe posted a Safety Alert requiring NT business to take steps to remove the risk - many didn't. For those who have forgotten the circumstances - the explosion was triggered by him using the electronic unlock device on his vehicle keyring - the spark from it was enough to ignite the leaking gasses."

Related Stories

- [Gas Explosion Kills Tradie](#)
- [Company Charged Over Tradesman's Gas Blast Death](#)
- [Business Charged over Tradesman's Death from Gas Explosion](#)

http://www.ntnews.com.au/article/2013/01/15/316723_ntnews.html

ENGLAND, LONDON, JANUARY 16 2013. SUPERMARKET FORECOURT EXPANSION 'PUTS 1,000 INDEPENDENT PETROL STATIONS AT RISK OF CLOSURE'

emily gosden

Up to 1,000 independent forecourts could be "wiped out" by 2017 as they lose custom to new supermarket petrol stations, the Petrol Retailers' Association (PRA) has warned. An average of 40 [super-market forecourts were granted planning permission each year since 2009](#), a study by Christie & Co on behalf of the trade body found. Steve Rodell, head of retail at Christie & Co, said: "If applications continue at the same rate, and there is no reason to believe that will not be the case, there will be another 160 supermarket sites by the end of 2016." Supermarkets seeking to establish more "standalone" forecourt sites could result in the opening of a further 25 to 40 new filling stations operated by the retail giants each year, the PRA said. It claimed that "every new supermarket site is sucking the equivalent volume of five independents out of the market". Brian Madderson, PRA chairman, said: "If left unchecked the expected growth in supermarket forecourts would kill off 1,000 independents over the next four years." He called on the Government to "curb the expansion" of supermarket forecourts by ensuring forecourt planning decisions took account of the impact on existing businesses.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/oilprices/9801784/Supermarket-forecourt-expansion-puts-1000-independent-petrol-stations-at-risk-of-closure.html>

ENGLAND, BRISTOL, JANUARY 16 2013. MANSLAUGHTER CHARGES DROPPED IN M5 FIREWORKS DISPLAY CRASH CASE



Seven people died and 51 were injured in the pile-up involving 34 vehicles.

Manslaughter charges have been dropped against the organiser of a fireworks display held on the night of a crash on the M5 in which seven people died. Geoffrey Counsell, 50 and from Somerset, was arrested after the crash, which involved 34 vehicles and left 51 people injured, in November 2011. Mr Counsell will now face one charge, under health and safety laws, of failing to ensure the safety of others. That case will be heard at a later date, Bristol Crown Court heard. The Crown Prosecution Service authorised Avon and Somerset Police to charge Geoffrey Counsell with manslaughter in October 2012. Chief crown prosecutor, Barry Hughes said all CPS cases are kept under "constant review".

He said: "During this review process, in December we sought further advice from a leading expert on the law of negligence and additional information was also provided by expert witnesses and police investigators."



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'Insufficient Evidence'

"Based on this additional information and advice, it has been decided that there is insufficient evidence to continue with a prosecution for manslaughter." The fireworks display organised by Mr Counsell was taking place at Taunton Rugby Club, which is next to the motorway, when the crash happened. Lorry drivers Terry Brice, from Patchway, South Gloucestershire, and Kye Thomas, from Gunnislake, Cornwall, died in the crash. Father and daughter Michael and Maggie Barton, from Windsor, Berkshire; grandparents Anthony and Pamela Adams, from Newport, south Wales; and battle re-enactor Malcolm Beacham, from Woolavington, near Bridgwater, also died. Speaking after the hearing, the daughter of Anthony and Pamela Adams, Tonia White said the experience had been "very traumatic". "However we're confident in the justice system and although the CPS have discontinued the charges of manslaughter, we are led to believe there will be health and safety issues to address and are confident the outcome will remain the same," she said. Terry Brice's parents, Jean Brice and Terry Brice were also disappointed at the manslaughter charge being dropped. Mrs Brice said: "It's a very sensitive case, but what can we say. "It won't stop the cruelty and misery that we have to go through for the rest of our days." Det Sup Mike Courtiour of Avon and Somerset Police described the collision as "one of the worst in living memory" and said the force's investigation was "meticulous and complex". Mr Counsell was originally charged with the seven counts of manslaughter, on 19 October last year.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-21024902>

MALAYSIA, BANGI, JANUARY 16 2013. 50,000 PETROL STATION WORKERS FACE TERMINATION

About 50,000 foreign workers at petrol stations nationwide are expected to have their services terminated this year following the implementation of the minimum wage of RM900 a month in the peninsula and RM800 in Sabah and Sarawak since Jan 1. Deputy Human Resource Minister Datuk Maznah Mazlan said the termination process would however depend on the contract between the workers and their respective employers. "When wages increase, we find the employers involved will promote self-service in line with the rise in labour cost. "We hope it will also attract the interest of local workers to fill part of the vacancies," she told reporters after opening a retreat on 'Life Beyond Maids' at the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (Niosh) here today. The salary for petrol station workers before this was between RM600-RM700 a month. There are about 3,000 petrol stations operating throughout the country.

<http://www.nst.com.my/latest/50-000-petrol-station-workers-face-termination-1.201786>

ENGLAND, CAMBRIDGE, JANUARY 16 2013. CAMBRIDGE FIRM AND CONSULTANT FINED OVER CHEMICAL EXPOSURE

A Cambridge instrument company and a health and safety consultant have been fined for risking the health of employees from hazardous chemicals. Paint sprayer Adam Coventon, 36, suffered irritation to his eyes, breathing difficulties, headaches and lost the ability to concentrate after working with harmful substances at Prior Scientific Instruments Ltd in Fulbourn. He is now no longer able to work. Cambridge Magistrates' Court heard yesterday (10 January) that his job was to prepare and paint small components for scientific instruments, which involved working with chemicals including trichloroethylene, a powerful degreaser used to clean metal before it is painted, and paints containing isocyanates. An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Prior Scientific Instruments did not provide suitable equipment to adequately remove the hazardous fumes from the workplace, especially where items were left to dry. HSE also found that in addition to inadequate controls, the company failed to provide employees with the necessary health surveillance for workers using hazardous substances. Health surveillance is a key part of ensuring that peoples' health has not been affected by the chemicals they use at work. The Court was told that between September 2002 and December 2009 the company employed Keith Whiting, trading as KW Consultants, as a health and safety consultant. However, he did not provide suitable information and advice to enable the company to ensure the health and wellbeing of employees. Prior Scientific Instruments Ltd, of Wilbraham Road, Fulbourn, Cambridge, was fined £9,000 and ordered to pay full costs of £2,852 after pleading guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974. Keith Whiting, trading as KW Consultants, of West Street, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, was fined £1,500 with costs of £1,000 after pleading guilty to breaching Section 3(2) of the same legislation. After the hearing HSE Inspector Robert Meardon said: "Prior Scientific Instruments failed to ensure the health of its employees because it employed the wrong person to give it health and safety advice. "Mr. Whiting's background was in quality control and he did not have adequate knowledge of health and safety for the work going on in this company. He failed to make them aware of the 'do's and don'ts', regarding the use of hazardous chemicals. "In 2010, the Government commissioned Lord Young to review



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health and safety laws and among the findings, the inquiry recognised that there were a lot of people claiming to be health and safety experts, who were in fact, not. The national register of health and safety consultants has been set up as a result. All the consultants who are registered are members of a recognised professional body, and it is important that firms seeking to use a consultant choose one from the register." Adam Coventon's partner, who does not want to be named, said: "This whole thing has had a huge effect on our lives, as we have to constantly plan around Adam's symptoms. We all just wish that his remaining symptoms go so that he can once again be fit and strong. "This case highlights the important job the Health and Safety Executive do, and the need for companies to monitor and control chemicals they use so they do not wreck peoples lives in the way that ours has been." Further information and advice about working with chemicals can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/coshh Release No: HSE-E-003/13

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2013/rnn-e-00313.htm?eban=rss->

USA, KS, KANSAS CITY, JANUARY 16 2013. FUEL TANK FIRE CAUSES DAMAGE TO SALVAGE YARD

Kansas City, Kan., firefighters responded to a fuel tank fire at 1142 S. 12th Street early Tuesday morning. Firefighters hit the area at around 9:10 a.m. When arriving on the scene, they discovered a heavy fire around a fuel storage tank. No one was hurt in the fire, but the fire caused about \$20,000 worth of damage to the area. A haz mat and foam truck were dispatched to the area of the fire to help in extinguishing it. More from Kansas City, Kan., Fire Department Battalion Chief Craig Duke: Crews on the scene within 3 minutes reported heavy fire around a waste fuel storage tank. Crews called for additional units, Haz Mat and Foam Truck. Crews found three 500 gallon waste fuel tanks, 1 Diesel, 1 Gasoline, and 1oil. Crews used hose lines to cool off tanks and F500 foam to extinguish the fire. Fire was extinguished within 25 minutes. Fire Investigator responded to scene. Fire is under investigation. Estimated damage to tanks and holding areas \$20,000. No injuries reported.

<http://www.kckansan.com/2013/01/fuel-tank-fire-causes-damage-to-salvage.html>

ALGERIA, ILLIZI, AIN AMENAS, JANUARY 17 2013. 41 HOSTAGES SEIZED AT ALGERIAN GAS FIELD

rachael brown



Hear: [The ABC's Ginny Stein speaks to AM](#)

Map: [Algeria](#)

Map: [Where is Ain Amenas in Illizi, Algeria Located](#)



Photo: [BP Operation at Amenas Field](#)



Mokhtar Belmokhtar is claiming responsibility for the situation in the In Amenas gas field.

"We do know that it is still a hostage situation, that employees on their way to work at an oil installation on the Libyan border, that they were attacked. They were on a bus and a number of hostages were killed, a number were injured. At least 13 oil company employees are still hostage along with a number of other people". - Africa correspondent Ginny Stein

Islamist militants have attacked and occupied a BP gas field in Algeria, taking dozens of foreigners hostage in what the British government says is an "ongoing terrorist incident". Algeria's government said the raiders had killed two people - a Briton and a French national. An Islamist militant group linked to Al Qaeda said

the attackers were holding hostages, with some reports putting the number as high as 41, including Americans, British, French, Japanese and Norwegian nationals. A DFAT spokeswoman said there were no reports of any Australians being involved. Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb said the raid had been carried out because of Algeria's decision to allow France to use its air space for attacks against Islamists in Mali, [where French forces have been in action against Al Qaeda-linked militants since last week](#). The Khaled Abu al-Abbas Brigade, a shadowy group linked to Al Qaeda and led by Mokhtar Belmokhtar, is claiming responsibility. The one-eyed Belmokhtar is a former leader of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. The In Amenas gas field where the hostages have been taken is jointly owned by BP, Algerian state company Sonatrach and Norwegian oil company Statoil. The hostage takers are still in the facility and gas has been turned off. The UK Foreign Office said it was dealing with an "ongoing terrorist incident" and convened a meeting of its emergency group COBRA. Speaking in



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Sydney this morning, British foreign secretary William Hague said the crisis was "extremely dangerous", but would not confirm Algerian interior minister Dahou Ould Kablia's report that one Briton and an Algerian had been killed. "A number of people are held hostage. This does include a number of British nationals. This is therefore an extremely dangerous situation," he said. "Whatever excuse is being used by terrorists and murderers, there is no excuse. This is the cold-blooded murder of people going about their business." The United States has confirmed that American citizens are among the hostages. "I hope you will understand that in order to protect their safety, I'm not going to get into numbers, I'm not going to get into names, I'm not going to get into any further details as we continue to work on this issue with the Algerian authorities and also with their employers," US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said. US secretary of state Hillary Clinton has telephoned Algeria's prime minister to discuss the incident, while secretary of defence Leon Panetta, speaking to reporters in Rome where he was on an official trip, said that "by all indications, this is a terrorist act". "Obviously we're continuing to review the situation to determine exactly what happened," he said. Mr Panetta said he did not have any firm information on the number of hostages nor on whether there were links to the situation in Mali.

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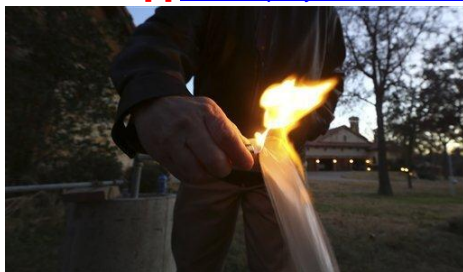
- [France launches ground campaign against Mali rebels](#)
- [French hostage 'to be executed' after botched raid](#)
- [At Least 3 Americans Held Hostage by Al Qaeda in Algeria](#)
- [Scots oil worker among the injured in Algerian gas field](#)
- [At least 3 dead and dozens captured on bus near the town of AinAmenas](#)

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-01-17/hostages-seized-at-algerian-gas-field/4468328?WT.mc_id=newsml

USA, TX, WEATHERFORD, JANUARY 17 2013. EPA CHANGED COURSE AFTER GAS COMPANY PROTESTED



Photo's [7] [Steve Lipsky Demonstrates How His Well Water Ignites](#)



In this Nov. 27, 2012 photo, water flowing from Steve Lipsky's well ignites when he puts a flame to the well spigot outside his family's home in rural Parker County near Weatherford, Texas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had evidence a gas company's drilling operation contaminated Lipsky's drinking water with explosive methane, and possibly cancer-causing chemicals, but withdrew its enforcement action, leaving the family with no useable water supply, according to a report obtained by The Associated Press. The EPA's decision to roll back its initial claim that hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," operations had contaminated the water is the latest case in which the federal agency initially linked drilling to water contamination and then softened its position, drawing criticism from

Republicans and industry officials who insisted they proved the agency was inefficient and too quick to draw conclusions.

When a man in a Fort Worth suburb reported his family's drinking water had begun bubbling like champagne, the federal government sounded an alarm: A company may have tainted their wells while drilling for natural gas. At first, the Environmental Protection Agency believed the situation was so serious that it issued a rare emergency order in late 2010 that said at least two homeowners were in immediate danger from a well saturated with flammable methane. More than a year later, the agency rescinded its mandate and refused to explain why. Now a confidential report obtained by The Associated Press and interviews with company representatives show that the EPA had scientific evidence against the driller, Range Resources, but changed course after the company threatened not to cooperate with a national study into a common form of drilling called hydraulic fracturing. Regulators set aside an analysis that concluded the drilling could have been to blame for the contamination. For Steve Lipsky, the EPA decision seemed to ignore the dangers to his family. His water supply contains so much methane that the gas in water flowing from a pipe connected to the well can be ignited. "I just can't believe that an agency that knows the truth about something like that, or has evidence like this, wouldn't use it," said Lipsky, who fears he will have to abandon his dream home in an upscale neighborhood of Weatherford. The case isn't the first in which the EPA initially linked a hydraulic fracturing operation to water contamination and then softened its position after the industry protested. A similar dispute unfolded in west-central Wyoming in late 2011, when the EPA released an initial report that showed hydraulic fracturing could have contaminated groundwater. After industry and GOP leaders went on the attack, the agency said it had decided to do more testing. It has yet to announce a final conclusion. Hydraulic fracturing - often called "fracking" - allows



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Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2013 – 923 Newsy Stuff

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

January 23 2013



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drillers to tap into oil and gas reserves that were once considered out of reach because they were locked in deep layers of rock. The method has contributed to a surge in natural gas drilling nationwide, but environmental activists and some scientists believe it can contaminate groundwater. The industry insists the practice is safe. Range Resources, a leading independent player in the natural gas boom, has hundreds of gas wells throughout Texas, Pennsylvania and other mineral-rich areas of the United States. Among them is a production site - now owned by Legend Natural Gas - in a wooded area about a mile from Lipsky's home in Weatherford, about a half-hour drive west of Fort Worth. State agencies usually regulate water and air pollution, so the EPA's involvement in the Texas matter was unusual from the start. The EPA began investigating complaints about the methane in December 2010, because it said the Texas Railroad Commission, which oversees oil and gas drilling, had not responded quickly enough to the reports of bubbling water. Government scientists believed two families, including the Lipskys, were in danger from methane and cancer-causing benzene and ordered Range Resources to take steps to clean their water wells and provide affected homeowners with safe water. The company stopped doing that after state regulators declared in March 2011 that Range Resources was not responsible. The dispute between the EPA and the company then moved into federal court. elieving the case was headed for a lengthy legal battle, the EPA asked an independent scientist named Geoffrey Thyne to analyze water samples taken from 32 water wells. In the report obtained by the AP, Thyne concluded from chemical testing that the gas in the drinking water could have originated from Range Resources' nearby drilling operation. Meanwhile, the EPA was seeking industry leaders to participate in a national study into hydraulic fracturing. Range Resources told EPA officials in Washington that so long as the agency continued to pursue a "scientifically baseless" action against the company in Weatherford, it would not take part in the study and would not allow government scientists onto its drilling sites, said company attorney David Poole. In March 2012, the EPA retracted its emergency order, halted the court battle and set aside Thyne's report showing that the gas in Lipsky's water was nearly identical to the gases the Plano, Texas-based company was producing. "They said that they would look into it, which I believe is exactly what they did," Poole said. "I'm proud of them. As an American, I think that's exactly what they should have done." The EPA offered no public explanation for its change in thinking, and Lipsky said he and his family learned about it from a reporter. The agency refused to answer questions about the decision, instead issuing a statement by email that said resolving the Range Resources matter allowed the EPA to shift its "focus in this case away from litigation and toward a joint effort on the science and safety of energy extraction." After the agency dropped its action, the company offered scientists access to a site in southwestern Pennsylvania. But the EPA has not yet accepted the offer. Rob Jackson, chairman of global environmental change at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment, reviewed Thyne's report and the raw data upon which it was based. He agreed the gas in Lipsky's well could have originated in a rock formation known as the Barnett shale, the same area where Range Resources was extracting gas. Jackson said it was "premature" to withdraw the order and said the EPA "dropped the ball in dropping their investigation." Two of the wells included in Thyne's report had water containing more than the 10 milligrams per liter of methane, or enough to be deemed hazardous by the EPA. One had 35 milligrams per liter, which Jackson called "particularly high" and an amount that federal regulators say is more than what requires immediate action. "Two of the homes had methane within the action level for hazard mitigation, one of them well above this hazard threshold," Jackson said. Lipsky, who is still tied up in a legal battle with Range Resources, now pays about \$1,000 a month to haul water to his home. He, his wife and three children become unnerved when their methane detectors go off. Sometime soon, he said, the family will have to decide whether to stay in the large stone house or move. "This has been total hell," Lipsky said. "It's been taking a huge toll on my family and on our life." The confidential report relied on a type of testing known as isotopic analysis, which produces a unique chemical fingerprint that sometimes allows researchers to trace the origin of gas or oil. Jackson, who studies hydraulic fracturing and specializes in isotopic analysis, acknowledged that more data is needed to determine for certain where the gas came from. But even if the gas came from elsewhere, Range Resources' drilling could have contributed to the problem in Lipsky's water because gas migrates, he added. The company insists the gas in Lipsky's water is from natural migration and not drilling. Range Resources' testing indicates the gas came from a different rock formation called Strawn shale and not the deeper Barnett shale, Poole said. In addition, he said, isotopic analysis cannot be used in this case because the chemical makeup of the gases in the two formations is indistinguishable. A Range Resources spokesman also dismissed Thyne and Jackson as anti-industry. Range Resources has not shared its data with the EPA or the Railroad Commission. Poole said the data is proprietary and could only be seen by Houston-based Weatherford Laboratories, where it originated. It was analyzed for Range Resources by a Weatherford scientist, Mark McCaffrey, who did not respond to requests for an interview. Gas has always been in the water in that area, Poole said. And years before Range Resources began drilling, at least one water well in the neighborhood contained so much methane, it went up in flames. At another home with dangerously high methane levels in the water, the



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company insisted the gas had been there since the well was first dug many years ago. The homeowner was not aware of anything wrong until Range Resources began drilling in 2009. Jackson said it was "unrealistic" to suggest that people could have tainted water and not notice. "It bubbles like champagne or mineral waters," he said. "The notion that people would have wells and have this in their water and not see this is wrong."

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/01/16/3184786/epa-changed-course-after-oil-company.html>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, NEWCASTLE, JANUARY 16 2013. FAIR WORK PROBE INTO HUNTER SERVICE STATIONS

The workplace umpire is investigating the Hunter's fuel retail sector after receiving a number of complaints regarding the underpayment of staff. Up to 25 service stations in the Hunter and Mid-North Coast regions are being audited by the Fair Work Ombudsman to ensure employers are complying with workplace laws. It is the first probe of the regions' service stations and road houses after allegations were raised in 2011 of one Hunter fuel company exploiting overseas workers with "slave-like" conditions. An Ombudsman director, Kevin Donnellan says he is worried about the treatment of migrant and young workers. "In the service station and the road house industry, we find it is an industry that employs vulnerable workers," he said. "That might be young people and perhaps foreign workers. "Now vulnerable workers are of particular concern to the Fair Work Ombudsman and so that's also a contributing factor to us conducting this particular campaign in the region." Mr Donnellan says employers need to make sure they are following the law. "Obviously any underpayment to an employee is not good enough, employers have an obligation to get things right. "One of the broader aims of these sorts of campaigns is to create awareness amongst employers in a particular industry and in a particular region in this case that we are taking a close look at these things."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-01-15/fair-work-probe-into-hunter-service-stations/4464894>

USA, MA, SOUTH YARMOUTH, JANUARY 17 2013. SOUTH YARMOUTH MAN HURT IN GASOLINE EXPLOSION

A South Yarmouth man was injured Wednesday morning when gasoline vapours exploded as he tried to burn cardboard in a charcoal grill. At approximately 11:15 a.m. neighbours of 9 Janice Road South Yarmouth called 911 to report a grill explosion in the garage. Yarmouth Firefighters arriving at the scene found that Yarmouth police Sgt. Chris McEachern, who was first to arrive, had used a fire extinguisher to put out the fire. Firefighters checked to make sure fire had not extended into the house. They also vented smoke from the building. An investigation showed that the man was trying to burn cardboard in a small open charcoal grill by using gasoline. When he tried to light the cardboard the gasoline vapours exploded spreading the fire to surrounding trash and a small gasoline can. The fire was ruled to be accidental. The man suffered burns and was taken by ambulance to Cape Cod Hospital for treatment.

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/yarmouth/newsnow/x1233668470/South-Yarmouth-man-hurt-in-gasoline-explosion#axzz2ICbTCFWg>

USA, ME, GORHAM, JANUARY 17 2013. FUEL TRUCK CRASHES IN GORHAM EN ROUTE TO DELIVERY

melissa kenison

 **Watch the Video** [Fuel Truck Crashes in Gorham](#)

Slippery roads caused a fuel truck to flip over and crash on Wednesday morning. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection says the situation could have gone a lot worse. The truck was transporting a 2,000 gallon fuel tank down Allison Lane in Gorham when snowy roads propelled the truck to its side. "Sometimes these things go over and make a gash in the tanker and you lose a lot," says John Luongo from the Maine DEP. "But fortunately it went over easy and there was no damage to the tank itself." Luongo says the truck only leaked about a gallon of fuel. It was heading to make a delivery to one of the houses on Allison Lane. It will take crews a few hours to empty the tank and flip it back over. The driver of the truck is ok. He is recovering from minor injuries.

<http://www.wlbz2.com/news/article/227909/3/Fuel-truck-crashes-in-Gorham-en-route-to-delivery>

USA, TX, NECHES, JANUARY 17 2013. TANKER-TRUCK CRASH CLOSES FM 2574 IN NECHES, NECHES SCHOOLS

justin rains

A portion of FM 2574 in Neches was shut down Wednesday after a tanker truck carrying petroleum products overturned while trying to turn around. Haz-Mat teams also closed Neches ISD for the day as a precaution. DPS officials said the truck missed



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the turn-off for a Haz-Mat dump site and, in the process of trying to turn around, overturned in the roadway. The accident occurred just before 5 a.m. Wednesday. The wreck was cleared just after 10:30 a.m., but crews remain on scene cleaning up the area. After initially shutting down the railroad line that runs through Neches, it was reopened around 9 a.m. The truck was traveling southbound on FM 19 initially, before missing the turnoff for the dump station. After the wreck, the truck began to leak condensate, which can cause damage to the nervous system when inhaled. The driver of the truck, who's name was not released, suffered back injuries in the wreck, but is expected to recover.

<http://palestineherald.com/localscene/x1633454410/BREAKING-NEWS-Tanker-truck-crash-closes-FM-2574-in-Neches-Neches-schools>

SCOTLAND, SHETLAND, JANUARY 17 2013. CORMORANT ALPHA LEAK SHUTS DOWN UP TO 27 UK OIL FIELDS



Taqa Bratani's Cormorant Alpha platform is nearly 100 miles off Shetland.

A pipeline system servicing up to 27 oil fields has been shut down after a leak on the Cormorant Alpha platform, north-east of Shetland. The fields affected, and another eight associated platforms, produce about 10% of the UK's oil output. Hydrocarbons were detected inside a leg of the Cormorant Alpha platform. Its operator, Taqa Bratani, has removed non-essential workers as a precaution and said the leak had been contained. Shutting down the platform affects the whole Brent pipeline system. The oil leak at Cormorant Alpha was discovered on Monday and non-essential crew were taken off the installation by helicopter. Taqa, also known as Abu Dhabi National Energy, said nothing had leaked into the sea and a technical team was investigating the source. Taqa said on Wednesday afternoon that it was "currently evaluating plans to restore the throughput of an estimated 80,000 barrels per day in the Brent pipeline, excluding any Cormorant Alpha production." A spokesperson said: "This action would occur

after thorough technical assurance has established that it can be undertaken safely and without any increased risk." The BBC understands the rest of the Brent pipeline system can no longer operate because Cormorant Alpha, which is situated some 94 miles from Lerwick in Shetland, is a crucial pumping station. Eight other platforms have shut down with up to 27 North Sea fields affected. The Dunlin, Thistle, Northern Producer, Murchison, North Alwyn, Tern, Eider and North Cormorant platforms are also affected. Oil and Gas UK - the offshore industry body - said oil transported through the Brent pipeline system represented 10% of the UK's North Sea oil production.

Marker Price

The amount of output affected is 90,000 barrels per day. It is not yet known what potential impact the shut down could have on petrol station prices. However Prof Alex Kemp, an oil economist at the University of Aberdeen, said the closure would have a limited impact on oil prices. He told BBC Radio Scotland's Good Morning Scotland programme: "What we have is an incident which impacts on the Brent pricing system which is used as a marker price for a lot of the world's production. "If it continues one would expect a limited effect on the Brent price. "But the Brent price doesn't just depend on Brent production, it depends on production from a lot of other fields. "The effect should be limited because although the Brent price is the marker for a huge volume of oil in the world market, Brent production constitutes not all that big a proportion of the total."

Safely Re-Opened

Enterprise Minister Fergus Ewing said: "The Scottish government, including Marine Scotland, are monitoring this situation closely. "No release of hydrocarbons has been reported and all non-essential staff on the platform have been safely removed. "The Health and Safety Executive are investigating and will determine when the pipeline system can be opened again subject to any relevant safety measures being put in place." He said the loss "does not impact security of supply at this time".

Related Stories

- [Workers being taken off platform](#)
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- [New insurance rules for North Sea](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-21038303>



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