



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2013 – 948 Newsy Stuff

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

**April 15 2013**



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#### USA, CA, VISALIA, APRIL 2 2013. VISALIA FAMILIES TRY TO AVOID AMMONIA LEAK

Authorities in Visalia told 1,700 families to stay in their homes Sunday morning as they worked to stop an ammonia leak. Firefighters say the leak started just before 8 a.m. at the Milk Specialties Global Plant on Divisadero Avenue near Goshen Avenue. Authorities sent a reverse 911 call to residents within a half mile radius to the north and west, asking them to stay inside, close their windows, and avoid using air conditioning. That order was lifted about five hours later after crews stopped the leak. Fire officials say the cause was a corroded valve.

<http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/local&id=9046332>

#### USA, TX, HOUSTON, APRIL 2 2013. 'NO EVIDENCE' OF CRUDE LEAK FROM HOUSTON-AREA PIPELINE -SHELL

Shell Pipeline, a unit of Royal Dutch Shell Plc, said inspectors have found "no evidence" of a crude oil leak from a pipeline west of Houston that was shut on Friday after alarms indicated a possible breach, a spokeswoman said on Monday. Spokeswoman Kimberly Windon said the West Columbia, Texas, pipeline remains shut for integrity testing and the company was unable to speculate on when it would restart. The 15-mile, 16-inch West Columbia pipeline between Highway 225 and the Houston Ship Channel transports crude from Genoa to the East Houston Tank Farm operated by Magellan Midstream Partners. The pipeline does not feed directly into any refineries. Shell declined to specify the line's capacity. A filing with the U.S. National Response Center said that the pipeline electronic calculations showed a potential loss of 700 barrels of crude oil, but it was unknown if any oil has been released. "Right now, we haven't seen anything," Windon said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/01/shell-pipeline-idUSL2N0CO0D20130401>

#### USA, AR, MAYFLOWER, APRIL 2 2013. WEB EXTRA: AERIAL FOOTAGE OF MAYFLOWER OIL SPILL

KARK 4 News, Updated: April 1, 2013

 [Watch the Video Aerial Footage of Mayflower Oil Spill](#)

Crews continue cleanup efforts in Mayflower after a pipeline ruptured Friday afternoon. Oil spilled near Lake Conway on Friday, forcing some families in the area to evacuate their homes. Videojournalist Adam Randall took to the skies to survey the damage. To see the footage, watch the embedded video.

[http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd\\_id=650192](http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=650192)

#### USA, N.Y, ALBANY, APRIL 3 2013. DEC SELECTS REMEDY FOR CLEANUP OF CONTAMINATION AT NORTHROP GRUMMAN SITE IN BETHPAGE REMEDY CLEANS UP HOT SPOTS AND RESTORES BETHPAGE PARK

The following information was released by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC):

After carefully considering nearly 200 public comments, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has selected a remedy to clean up contamination at Operable Unit 3 of the Northrop Grumman - Bethpage Facility site (Former Grumman Settling Ponds) in Bethpage, DEC Commissioner Joe Martens announced today. The remedy requires the cleanup of hot spots of contaminated groundwater that will significantly lessen the threat of migration to public drinking water supply wells. In addition, Bethpage Park will be cleaned up and restored for future use. "DEC listened to and carefully considered the concerns of the public before selecting a remedy to address the long-standing contamination at Northrop Grumman site," Commissioner Martens said. "The remedy protects Long Island's drinking water by addressing hot spots of contaminated groundwater. The remedy also will restore the park so it can be used in the future. These actions help protect public health and the environment of Nassau County." "Ensuring that the people of Long Island have access to safe and clean drinking water is vitally important to EPA," said Judith A. Enck, EPA Regional Administrator. "We appreciate the decision by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to move forward on this groundwater cleanup plan and will continue to work with the state, the local water districts and the public on finding a long-term solution to this water contamination problem." DEC held a public meeting and availability sessions last June to present the Proposed Remedial Action Plan for the site and accepted comments from the public for 60 days. The public can now review the Record of Decision (ROD) outlining the selected remedy for Bethpage Park and related groundwater contamination, which are referred to as Operable Unit 3 (OU3). A Responsiveness Summary addressing public comments received is included in the ROD.

Summary of the selected remedy:

- Install groundwater extraction wells in the groundwater plume emanating from OU3 in a location upgradient of Bethpage Water District Plant 4. This system will capture and treat the contamination moving through the hot spot area of the plume. Additional wells will be installed to complete the delineation of the leading edge of the OU3 plume.



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This will allow DEC to assess the remedy for contaminated groundwater and determine if it needs to be further evaluated.

- Continue and upgrade as needed the existing groundwater extraction and treatment interim remedial measure at Bethpage Community Park as well as the soil vapor extraction and treatment system along the Grumman Access Road.
- Treat an approximately 1-acre volatile organic compound source area in a low permeability zone present approximately 40 feet deep in the Bethpage Community Park using an in ground thermal treatment technology.
- Excavate PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) and chromium-contaminated fill from the Bethpage Community Park and the Grumman Access Road right-of-way.
- Cover the site with buildings, pavement and sidewalks or soil in areas where the upper two feet of exposed surface soil will exceed the restricted residential soil cleanup objectives.
- Excavate and restore residential yards between Sycamore Avenue and the Grumman Access Road where PCBs exceed 1 ppm (part per million) or chromium exceeds the residential soil cleanup objectives.
- Continue the Wellhead Treatment Contingency Plan put in place as a requirement of the OU2 ROD.
- Implement a Site Management Plan.

The Northrop Grumman - Bethpage Facility site is listed as a Class 2 site in the State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites (list of state superfund sites). A Class 2 site represents a significant threat to public health or the environment; action is required. The former Grumman Settling Ponds and associated disposal areas are in the 18-acre Bethpage Community Park. This property was used historically for disposal of various wastes generated by industrial operations in the Grumman industrial complex. These wastes included chromium, PCBs and volatile organic compounds (chlorinated solvents used for cleaning or degreasing machinery or fabricated parts). DEC will also require further investigation of a potential hot spot in the western portion of the OU2 groundwater plume, referred to as the VPB 126/128 area. This area is south of Hempstead Turnpike and west of Hicksville Road. The objective is to determine whether there is a groundwater hot spot in this area which requires remediation. This effort is consistent with provisions in the OU2 Record of Decision which was issued by DEC in March 2001. After discussions between DEC, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation, the United States Navy and the local water districts, the Navy and Grumman issued a work plan to begin looking at an area in the western area of the OU2 plume. Under this plan, during the next two years, this area of the OU2 plume will be further delineated and, if warranted, a design will be prepared for one to three recovery wells and the associated treatment system. Implementation of the pumping and treatment would follow. In addition, sentinel wells for the two water district well fields where they are needed will be completed, and a round of sampling of all monitoring wells in the plume undertaken. The ROD for OU3 with a Responsive Summary can be reviewed at the site document repository located at the: Bethpage Public Library, Attn: Ms. Lois Lovisolo, Powell Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714, Phone: 516.931.3907

<http://www.waterworld.com/news/2013/04/02/dec-selects-remedy-for-cleanup-of-contamination-at-northrop-grumman-site-in-bethpage-remedy-cleans-u.html>

### USA, TX, SAN ANTONIO, APRIL 3 2013. VALERO: EPA GASOLINE PLAN WOULD COST HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

[Valero Energy](#) Corp said the cost of complying with proposed pollution standards for gasoline would cost hundreds of millions of dollars in equipment construction and upgrades alone. Valero spokesman Bill Day said Tuesday that the company expects to spend \$300 million to \$400 million building new equipment to remove sulfur from gasoline and to expand existing facilities. He said Valero expects to incur additional operating costs each year, and those costs have yet to be determined. The Environmental Protection Agency said most refineries would be able to comply with its plan to reduce the amount of sulfur in gasoline with little to no effort. The agency is proposing to cut the sulfur content to an average of 10 parts per million, down from the current standard of 30 parts per million. Valero is the largest U.S. independent refiner. The American Petroleum Institute has estimated that the new standards would cost refiners \$10 billion in up-front capital expenditures, and an additional \$2.4 billion in annual compliance costs. "The EPA hasn't shown anything that suggests (the proposed standard) is going to have the benefits that would be worth the costs," Mr. Day said. He said Valero isn't involved in discussions with the EPA on the proposal, though he said the industry has had some input at times. The EPA is accepting public comment and is expected to hold public hearings on the proposal.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324020504578398630159613560.html>



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### USA, CO, DENVER, APRIL 3 2013. LEAK NEAR COLO. PLANT HIGHLIGHTS PIPELINE PROBLEMS



*This photo taken March 30, 2013 shows the Williams natural gas plant north of Parachute, Colo. According to a Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission report, Benzene is polluting groundwater near hydrocarbons leaking from a Williams Midstream natural gas plant north of Parachute, in some places 3,600 times greater than the level considered safe for drinking.*

Authorities are investigating after construction crews discovered a problem with a liquid gas pipeline that allowed a carcinogen to seep into the ground near a large creek that feeds into the Colorado River. The leak near an energy plant in Western Colorado was discovered largely by accident, even though several state and federal agencies are charged with monitoring gas pipelines in the state. "It's possible that we've narrowly dodged a bullet this time," said [Michael Saul](#), with the [National Wildlife Federation](#). The breach, however, should be a

"wake-up call" for involved agencies, he said, underscoring concerns over the risk of a larger danger. The problem in Parachute, Colo., has allowed thousands of gallons of benzene and other liquid hydrocarbons to seep into the ground. "It's actually a good thing they found it," said [Tom Droege](#), a spokesman for Williams, the energy company that runs the pipelines and nearby gas processing plant. If benzene or other hydrocarbons were to get into Parachute Creek, it could taint drinking water and irrigation channels, affecting even the Colorado River. Authorities say the creek isn't at risk, noting that affected groundwater is flowing away from the creek and that barriers have been set up to minimize any potential contamination. Officials from the Environmental Protection Agency, the [Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission](#), Williams and WPX Energy, which owns the property, are investigating. The problem with the line — which investigators characterize officially as a "seep" — so far has generated more than 5,900 gallons of loose liquid hydrocarbons and nearly 180,000 gallons of contaminated groundwater. And many see it as a close call that officials should take as a serious threat. At least five state and federal agencies play a role in regulating and monitoring pipelines in Colorado, an overlap that causes obvious confusion, illustrated by the accidental discovery of a problem that otherwise could have gone unchecked. Williams workers, looking to expand a pipeline near the Parachute Creek Gas Plant, were doing routine soil evaluations when they found the presence of unknown hydrocarbons, a find that eventually led to the discovery of the problem with the line. Before that there had been no warning signs. Unless leaked liquid natural gas or oil "would have come up to the surface, or a pipeline lost pressure, there's no other way to my knowledge to know if there's a leak," said Droege, the company spokesman. Gas companies can't easily check the integrity of buried pipelines, which can corrode and eventually leak. For its part, Williams constantly monitors pressure levels, since a drop can signal problems, company officials say. The uncertainty over government oversight provides little reassurance. The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, a division of the state's [Department of Natural Resources](#), oversees the pipelines that run from a nearby well to the processing facility. The [Public Utilities Commission](#) is responsible for pipelines that distribute gas to customers and for on-shore gas gathering lines. The [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#) monitors interstate natural gas lines and sets standards for the construction of new lines. The state's [Water Quality Control Division](#), part of the [Department of Public Health and Environment](#), also monitors the environmental impacts of pipeline construction. Once pipelines are in the ground, they generally fall under the jurisdiction of the [Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration](#), a division of the U.S. Department of Transportation. And the ruptured pipe in Parachute falls to yet another agency — the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#), part of the U.S. Department of Labor, according to Droege. OSHA has not returned phone calls or an email from [The Associated Press](#) seeking comment. "The regulations can be overwhelming until you get familiar with them," said [Jeff Farrells](#), executive director of the [Pipeline Association for Public Awareness](#), an industry group, on Tuesday. A report last year by the [Government Accountability Office](#), the nonpartisan congressional watchdog, found that of 40,000 miles of hazardous liquid gathering pipelines, only 4,000 are subject to federal oversight. And of more than 200,000 miles of natural gas gathering pipelines, only 2,000 are federally regulated, the GAO found. The monitoring system has not kept up with the growth of pipelines, said [Carl Weimer](#), executive director of the [Pipeline Safety Trust](#), a nonprofit industry watchdog. Many lines that were once too small or too remote to pose much of a threat are now high-pressure lines running through high-population areas, he said. Whether the Parachute seep was the result of failed oversight, lack of regulation or something else entirely, Weimer said it's an important reminder that pipeline problems are a real threat. "It happens more often than people would believe," he said.

<http://www.chron.com/business/energy/article/Leak-near-Colo-plant-highlights-pipeline-problems-4404424.php>



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### USA, ARK, MAYFLOWER, APRIL 3 2013. THE ARKANSAS OIL SPILL PHOTOS THE KEYSTONE CABAL DOESN'T WANT YOU TO SEE

*philip radford*, Executive Director, Greenpeace

 **Photo's [6]** [Arkansas Oil Spill](#)



Nearly 12,000 barrels of crude oil [spilled out](#) of Exxon Mobil's Pegasus pipeline into a Mayflower, Arkansas neighborhood causing the evacuation of 22 homes last Friday. The pipeline originates in Patoka, Illinois, and carries diluted tar sands bitumen to the Texas Gulf Coast from Western Canada. This same destructive tar sands oil from Alberta is exactly what the proposed [Keystone XL pipeline](#) will carry through new areas of the U.S. if Obama allows that pipeline to be finished. Despite what oil companies like Exxon want you to believe, oil pipelines leak. It's what they do. What's happening in Arkansas right now could be the future for communities from North Dakota to Texas if President Obama approves the Keystone XL pipeline. There's a reason it's called 'dirty energy,' and it's time we put it behind us. Let's stop the spills and move forward with clean energy now.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/philip-radford/the-arkansas-oil-spill-photo-2998988.html>

### INDIA, NEW DELHI, APRIL 3 2013. PORT OF VIZAG BANS BULK AMMONIUM NITRATE IMPORTS

*shine jacob & ruchika chitravanshi*



On an average, the Vizag port handles between 100,000 and 200,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate annually. The Port of Visakhapatnam has banned the bulk import of ammonium nitrate from today, as the chemical is very commonly used by terror outfits in making bombs. "Usually, there is no monitoring mechanism in place to check the movement of such sensitive material, that too, in bulk quantities. We have now made it mandatory that all imports of ammonium nitrate will have to be made in properly sealed bags, which can be easily tracked and safely handled. That will make it safer to handle and also easier to monitor these imports," said Ajeya Kallam, chairman, Vishakhapatnam Port Trust. On an average, the Vizag port handles between 100,000 and 200,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate annually. The total cargo it handles is around 68 million tonnes per annum. While India imported 342,265 tonnes of raw ammonium nitrate in 2011-12, it is expected to touch 350,000 tonnes this financial year. The total

production of the chemical in India is around 700,000 tonnes. Most of the ammonium nitrate exported to India is from Russia and South Africa, to companies based in Nagpur. The main uses of the chemical include construction for blasting. "Mining-related explosive manufacturers are the major consumers of ammonium nitrate in India. The total size of the industry is around Rs 1,200 crore, while imports contribute half of it," an industry official told Business Standard. However, it is the use of the substance by terrorists that has caused security and intelligence agencies to view its imports with concern. The chemical has been used by terror outfits in almost all the recent blasts in India. "The Zaveri Bazaar blast in Mumbai in 2011 used just one kilogram of ammonium nitrate," said Jayant Umranikar, former director general of police, Pune. Much of the concern is due to the fact that one per cent of the total ammonium nitrate imported in India is lost in transit due to leakages and goes unaccounted. "There is around one percent of the total imports - 3,000 tonnes lying around unaccounted for. Unless there is a complete control over the imports, this threat will always remain," Umranikar said. The Ammonium Nitrate (AN) Rules, formulated last year, will come into effect from July 2013. While enough checks and balances have been kept for domestic



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producers of the chemical, the importers have not been asked to meet any norm compulsorily. "According to the AN Rules, imports of the chemical can be done 'preferably' in package format, while for us, it is compulsory," said an official from one of the largest producers of ammonium nitrate in India. And in spite of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust's tightening the controls on the import of ammonium nitrate, one can still import ammonium nitrate in bulk form at other ports such as Kandla in Gujarat and Haldia in West Bengal. Kallam, however, said that a port is just a facilitator in the logistics chain and is not responsible for where the cargo ends up ultimately.

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/port-of-vizag-bans-bulk-ammonium-nitrate-imports-113040300019\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/port-of-vizag-bans-bulk-ammonium-nitrate-imports-113040300019_1.html)

#### USA, TX, HOUSTON, APRIL 3 2013. EXCLUDED FROM BILLION-YUAN FUND, SHANDONG FISHERS SUE OIL GIANT IN US

The American energy giant ConocoPhillips said it is not responsible for compensating fishers in Shandong Province for two oil spills in the Bohai Sea in 2011 because it already paid about 1 billion yuan (\$160 million) to the Ministry of Agriculture, which was supposed to cover losses of fishers affected by the oil slick, according to a press release from the fishermen's lawyer. In 2011, two oil spills occurred in Bohai, polluting about 6,200 square kilometers of the sea surface. After the accident, ConocoPhillips China agreed to pay the Chinese government which was supposed to compensate all fishers affected by the spills. However, according to the government plan the compensation fund only covered some fishers in Hebei and Liaoning provinces, and excluded about 500 Shandong fishers who claim they also suffered losses. The money is also being used to help the sea environment recover from the spills. "It's not acceptable that the 1 billion yuan only covers fishers in Hebei and Liaoning but provides no compensation for Shandong fishers," said Jia Fangyi, a Beijing-based lawyer representing the Shandong fishers. Jia helped the fishers file a lawsuit against the American company in a district court in Houston, Texas in July 2012, and the court has asked both sides to present evidence. Jia said his request to the ministry for a share of the 1 billion yuan it received from ConocoPhillips has been ignored, as were requests to the local government for help. ConocoPhillips has told the Shandong fishers it won't cover their losses as it had already paid the government to compensate all fishers affected by the two spills, said Jia. Nearly two years after the oil spills, fishermen in Shandong say their scallop farms still have not fully recovered. Wang Zhongguo, from Tuoji Island about 72 kilometers from where the spills occurred, told the Global Times that 90 percent of his scallops died after the spills in 2011 and he has lost some 1 million yuan over the last two years. Jia said he expects the US court to reach a verdict in the case by June.

[http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/772585.shtml#\\_UVvz-5P-GM4](http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/772585.shtml#_UVvz-5P-GM4)

#### USA, WA, YAKIMA, APRIL 4 2013. NUCLEAR BOARD WARNS OF HANFORD TANK EXPLOSION RISK

shannon dininny



*In this March 23, 2004 file photo, workers at the tank farms on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, Wash., measure for radiation and the presence of toxic vapors. A nuclear safety board has warned a key U.S. senator that underground tanks holding radioactive waste at the nation's most contaminated nuclear site pose a possible risk of explosion. Concerns that hydrogen gas could build up inside the tanks and lead to an explosion at south-central Washington state's Hanford Nuclear Reservation have been known for some time.*

Underground tanks that hold a stew of toxic, radioactive waste at the nation's most contaminated nuclear site pose a possible risk of explosion, a nuclear safety board said in advance of confirmation hearings for the next leader of the [Energy Department](#). State and federal officials have long known that hydrogen gas could build up inside the tanks at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, leading to an explosion that would release radioactive material. The [Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board](#) recommended additional monitoring and ventilation of the tanks last fall, and federal officials were working to develop a plan to implement the recommendation. The board expressed those concerns again Monday to U.S. Sen. [Ron Wyden](#), D-Ore., who is chairman of the [Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee](#) and had sought the board's perspective about cleanup at Hanford. The federal government created Hanford in the 1940s as part of the secret Manhattan Project to build the atomic bomb. It spends billions of dollars to clean up the 586-square-mile site neighboring the Columbia River, the southern border between



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Washington and Oregon and the Pacific Northwest's largest waterway. Federal officials have said six underground tanks at the site are leaking into the soil, threatening the groundwater, and technical problems have delayed construction of a plant to treat the waste for long-term safe disposal. Those issues are likely to come up during confirmation hearings next week for Energy Secretary-nominee [Ernest J. Moniz](#). The fears of explosion and contamination could give Washington and Oregon officials more clout as they push for cleanup of the World War II-era site. Central to the cleanup is the removal of 56 million gallons of highly radioactive, toxic waste left from plutonium production from underground tanks. Many of the site's single-shell tanks, which have just one wall, have leaked in the past, and state and federal officials announced in February that six such tanks are leaking anew. "The next Secretary of Energy - Dr. Moniz - needs to understand that a major part of his job is going to be to get the Hanford cleanup back on track, and I plan to stress that at his confirmation hearing next week," Wyden said in a statement Tuesday. The nuclear safety board warned about the risk of explosion to Wyden, who wanted comment on the safety and operation of Hanford's tanks, technical issues that have been raised about the design of a plant to treat the waste in those tanks, and Hanford's overall safety culture. In addition to the leaks, the board noted concerns about the potential for hydrogen gas buildup within a tank, in particular those with a double wall, which contain deadly waste that was previously pumped out of the leaking single-shell tanks. "All the double-shell tanks contain waste that continuously generates some flammable gas," the board said. "This gas will eventually reach flammable conditions if adequate ventilation is not provided." All of the tanks are actively ventilated, which means they have blowers and fans to prevent a buildup of hydrogen gas, and those systems are monitored to ensure they are operating as intended, Energy Department spokeswoman [Carrie Meyer](#) said. For even greater safety, she said, the agency implemented an improved monitoring system in February. "DOE is absolutely committed to ensuring the safety of Hanford's underground tanks," Meyer said. The board also noted technical challenges with the waste treatment plant, which is being built to encase the waste in glasslike logs for long-term disposal. Those challenges must be resolved before parts of the plant can be completed, the board said. The federal government spends about \$2 billion annually on Hanford cleanup — roughly one-third of its entire budget for nuclear cleanup nationally. About \$690 million of that goes toward design and construction of the plant. Design of the plant, last estimated at more than \$12.3 billion, is 85 percent complete, while construction is more than 50 percent complete. The problems identified by the board show that the plant schedule will be delayed further and the cost will keep rising, Wyden said, adding: "There is a real question as to whether the plant, as currently designed, will work at all."

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/science/article/Nuclear-board-warns-of-Hanford-tank-explosion-risk-4403809.php>

### USA, ILL, KICKAPOO, APRIL 4 2013. IEPA EYES KICKAPOO GAS STATION 18 YEARS AFTER SOIL CLEANUP >> REID LARSON CAN'T BELIEVE THE STATE SUDDENLY HAS A PROBLEM WITH HIS FILLING STATION.

*phil luciano*



*Owner Reid Larson stands in front of his Kickapoo service station Tuesday where, in 1995, he filed paperwork for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency verifying completion of repair work on leaky gas storage tanks. Several weeks ago, 18 years later, Larson received a response from the IEPA.*

*After finding leaky gasoline tanks, he cleaned up the mess, replaced the equipment and filed regulatory paperwork. But the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency says he hasn't submitted all necessary documentation. Yet here's the thing: though Larson did all his work and submitted all his forms in 1995, the IEPA's reply — its first and only response — came just weeks ago. That's a gap of 18 years. That seems outlandish even for Illinois, where legendary bureaucratic backlogs are enough to change the motto from "Land of Lincoln" to "Land of Laggin'." "Where were they for 18 years?" Larson moans.*

Larson, 63, has been at the same spot since 1977, at the Kickapoo exit from Interstate 74. After renting the station from Mobil for eight years, he bought the site in 1985 for \$82,000. He still sells Mobil products and does steady repair business. In 1988, new federal regulations called for old gasoline tanks be replaced with fiberglass tanks. The deadline was 1999, but Larson decided to get it done early. So, in 1995, he spent \$165,000 to replace his tanks, hiring a specialized engineering firm to handle the job. During the process, testing showed the old pumps had been trickling gasoline into the soil. So, in accordance with guidelines then, workers dug out the contaminated earth, then thinly spread it across the edge of the 2-acre property. At first, the excavated soil stank like gasoline. A month later, the contaminants had evaporated in the sun, leaving the dirt



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

**April 15 2013**



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odorless, Larson says. Over time, the displaced earth simply settled into land. Meantime, new pumps and tanks were installed. The engineering firm filed required documents with the IEPA about the project, including the clean-up. Larson never heard another word about the matter. Everything at the station hummed along fine until a few weeks ago, he got a letter from the IEPA, dated March 13, 2013. The letter, from the agency's Leaking Underground Storage Tank Section, said Larson's paperwork was incomplete regarding the gasoline leak. The brief letter did not address the time lag since 1995, but simply demanded, "A corrective action plan must be submitted within 90 days." Larson was flummoxed. He called the IEPA, which said he had not submitted follow-up documents about the clean-up. Larson thought everything had been handled appropriately by his engineering firm. Its manager has been out of town, so he hasn't been able to sort everything. So, he isn't sure about the 1995 soil samples or testing results. And he no longer has much paperwork to show the IEPA. "Basically, they want me to test the soil and spend money out of my own pocket," he says. Regardless, why the sudden state interest? If this were a big deal in terms of contamination, you'd hope the state would have reacted faster. It's as if the IEPA is run by Droopy Dog. Plus, it's doubtful anyone is in any jeopardy. Beside the fact that Larson did the required clean-up way back when, the property doesn't sit near anything. It's pretty much isolated. All this makes Larson wonder about the legitimacy of the newfound state scrutiny. "It's a make-work project: find some work to do," Larson says. "That they don't dare go after a big corporation, which would get a fancy lawyer. I'm just a little guy." But the IEPA says the delay is a matter of slowly slogging through cases. Hernando Albarracin, manager of the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Section, says that since 1986 the agency has had to handle 26,700 tank filings. The worst contamination cases were handled right off, he says. In 2007, the agency created a database of remaining cases, still numbering about 2,000. Larson's case had been flagged for a failure to submit testing results regarding the displaced soil. That makes Larson leery. A few years ago, he built a big storage garage atop the displaced soil. He worries about testing and other procedures putting the garage in jeopardy. But Albarracin says there's no reason to panic. "A seismograph isn't going off with this case," he says. For one, he says, the threshold for acceptable gasoline contaminants has risen since 1995. Thus, the soil tests are much easier to pass. For another, Albarracin says, the garage isn't necessarily at risk. In fact, the structure might help act as a barrier to keep any contaminants contained. Larson hopes that's true. He says he'll work with the state to get this ironed out — but on his timetable. "I'm not going to bust my buns on it," he says. "It took them 18 years to get a hold of me."

<http://www.pjstar.com/news/x1037531565/Luciano-IEPA-eyes-Kickapoo-gas-station-18-years-after-soil-cleanup>

### USA, N.H, HANOVER, APRIL 4 2013. HANOVER GOES TO SCHOOL ON TCE; WAITING ON FURTHER TESTS >> TCE, BENZENE & CARBON TETRACHLORIDE

sarah brubeck



Larry Cain, with the Army Corps of Engineers, explains to Adina Desaulniers of Etna, Christine Desaulniers of Etna, and Lisa Blackburn of Hanover about the extent of TCE testing at Richmond Middle School in Hanover yesterday.

After learning on Friday that trichloroethylene was present in a Dartmouth College owned house, officials were relieved to find out this week that two other vacant homes showed no sign of the chemical compound that can cause cancer. But the good news was tempered by mixed feelings among neighbors of the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, where TCE was discovered at the property boundary earlier this year. Teachers and parents at an open house at Richmond Middle School last night still expressed concern, while noting they don't want to jump to conclusions until more tests have been conducted. Five residents at Dartmouth-owned housing south of CRREL have

asked to be relocated after initial test results revealed an air-borne TCE presence in one home, as well as benzene and carbon tetrachloride. The discovery of levels have caused officials to expand their testing to adjacent properties, including Richmond Middle School and five homes owned by Dartmouth College in the Fletcher-Cedar neighborhood. TCE was used at CRREL from 1960 to 1987 as a refrigerant but leaked from storage tanks over the years. It has also been used as a degreaser and solvent in dry cleaning and is known to cause cancer and can effect the central nervous system and immune system. Dartmouth College and Richmond Middle School decided to hire their own environmental consultants to conduct testing prior to what will be done by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Dartmouth is now conducting air testing in all 32 Fletcher-Cedar homes, and that testing started on Monday. Of the five tenants who have asked to be relocated, three plan to move, one wants



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to be relocated pending more testing results and one person wants to be relocated permanently, Dartmouth College spokesman Justin Anderson said. Of the three homes that were tested, one is next to the fence on the CRREL property line, another is across the street from the property line, and a third is south and farther away from the property line than many other houses in the neighborhood, Anderson said. Benzene was found in two of the homes and carbon tetrachloride was found in one of the homes, Anderson said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers benzene to be a cause of cancer. It can be found in tobacco smoke, as well as emissions from burning coal and oil as well as in car exhaust. Many Fletcher-Cedar residents declined to comment following an informational meeting held Monday night at the Dartmouth College Real Estate Office, and numerous residents attended an open house last night about TCE contamination at Richmond Middle School. About 40 people came prepared with questions as they walked from booth to booth through the middle school gym, which was set up like a science fair with such topics as mitigation measures and risk assessment and health effects. Officials at CRREL have known about TCE contamination since 1990, but most people at yesterday's open house only heard about TCE for the first time last week. Suzanne Sylvester, a sixth grade English teacher, stood in front of a poster that said, "Conceptual vapor mitigation for a school," and asked Dan Groher with the Army Corps of Engineers how long it would take to implement a mitigation system. "If we took samples, analyze the samples and it's bad, we'd do it as fast as we can," Groher said. That was the answer that Sylvester wanted to hear. "What's important for me to know as a teacher, if there is a concern I want them to jump on it right away," Sylvester said. "I wanted to hear that right away that they can do things to mitigate the situation." The teachers at Richmond Middle School learned about TCE last week when they were told that a faint amount of the chemical compound was discovered in the principal's office. However, the trace was so small that it didn't cause school administrators alarm. Dresden School Board member Anne Day has a son in eighth grade and said she feels comfortable sending him to the middle school. "I think the biggest issue is there are still a lot of unknowns," Day said. "There is more testing that needs to be done. We don't have the full picture at this point." Bert Davis has worked at CRREL for 22 years and has a sixth grade daughter at the middle school and a third grader at the Ray School. Both children attended the day care on CRREL's campus before he was aware of the of vapor intrusion. Bert said he's not overly worried about TCE contamination. "My apparent lack of concern is that I know enough about it as a parent," Davis said. While many parents are just now learning about TCE and beginning to realize that the school is undergoing tests for the contaminant, Davis has had time to research and process the information. "Keep asking questions until you feel comfortable, if you ever will," Davis said. "Take some time to see how you feel about it and if you feel uncomfortable, learn more. I came to terms with it by coming familiar with the situation."

<http://www.vnews.com/news/schools/5433732-95/hanover-goes-to-school-on-tce-waiting-on-fruther-tests>

### ISRAEL, HAIFA, APRIL 5 2013. RELOCATING HAIFA AMMONIA TANK TOP PRIORITY

sharon udasin



#### Haifa Chemicals.

Ammonia production tank vital for "new era of Israeli gas" to be moved to South for security, utility. Environmental Protection Minister Amir Peretz deemed the relocation of the enormous Haifa Chemicals ammonia tanker to the desert in the South a top priority in his administration, during a tour of the Haifa Bay region on Thursday. "When I was defense minister during the Second Lebanon War, major discussions were held about the question of handling the container," Peretz said. "I think that the fact that this week we entered a new era of Israeli gas requires the state to take on a number of major operations, one of which is to start building a facility for the production of ammonia, so that the new site will be closer to more factories that utilize ammonia." In addition, he noted, the relocation of the

ammonia tank to the South, away from any population centers, will reduce air pollution significantly due to the decrease in trucks carrying the substance. "There is no doubt that from our perspective, this will be one of the main tasks of the Environmental Protection Ministry," Peretz said. The government made a decision on March 1, 2012 to evacuate the ammonia facility – which would pose a great danger to the region should a rocket attack occur – to a southern location. Work at the Haifa site must cease by the beginning of 2017. Peretz stressed that he was satisfied with Haifa Chemicals' willingness to participate in the container transport, and said he saw a great partner in the firm.

<http://www.jpost.com/Sci-Tech/Article.aspx?id=308770>



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### USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, CHALMETTE, APRIL 5 2013. TOXIC SMELL IN NEW ORLEANS MAY HAVE REFINERY TO BLAME

john platt



An investigation into complaints of bad smells and resultant side effects has revealed a wastewater leak at Chalmette Refinery. The phones at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality have been ringing non-stop this week with complaints of foul, unexplained odors ranging from burning tires to chemicals. Many of these complains have been logged into the online [iWitness Pollution Map](#), which shows that these strange smells have been accompanied by headaches, scratchy throats, diarrhea and other symptoms. The Louisiana DEQ and the U.S. Coast Guard announced on April 3 that they were [investigating the complaints](#). On April 4 they announced a possible culprit: the Chalmette Refinery jointly operated by Exxon Mobil Corp and Petroleos de Venezuela SA, which

reported it experienced a leak the morning of April 3. According to the Coast Guard, the leak contained waste water that could have also included hydrogen sulfide and ammonia. In a [statement](#), the Coast Guard said "The facility reported and quickly stopped a leak early Wednesday morning and, while the investigation is still ongoing, officials currently believe it could be the source of the odor. The leak was contained to a unit at the refinery. Air monitoring was initiated immediately upon discovery." No pressing air quality issues were detected. [Reuters](#) reached out to Exxon Mobile for a comment but says they did not receive an immediate reply. A refinery manager did include a statement in the Coast Guard's press release: "We apologize to neighbors for any inconvenience this leak incident may have caused. The health and safety of neighbors, community, and employees are our top priority." But the Louisiana Bucket Brigade, which runs the iWitness Pollution Map, suggests that the problem may be much worse than the refinery or the Coast Guard admit. In their own [press release](#), they call the refinery "notorious." The organization says the refinery has a history of emissions during rainy weather and the area around it experienced heavy rains and a flood warning the night before the odor complaints started coming in. "The refinery has a bad habit of underreporting and an ongoing accident problem, especially during bad weather," said founding director Anne Rolfes. "Rain is a fact of life in south Louisiana. There is no excuse for Exxon's ongoing failure to prepare." Last year the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency filed a suit against Chalmette Refining for violations of the Clean Air Act and the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act, as well as other regulations ([pdf](#)). The Coast Guard press release says "Neighbors who have concerns are welcome to call Chalmette Refining, LLC, at 504-281-1212." In addition, a claims hotline has also been set up, and people can call 866-752-6339 to report personal damages from the leak.

<http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/energy/stories/toxic-smell-in-new-orleans-may-have-refinery-to-blame>

### AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, GEELONG, APRIL 5 2013. SIX HUNDRED JOBS AT RISK AS SHELL REVEALS GEELONG PLANT WILL BE SOLD

john dagge& stephen drill



*Six-hundred jobs are at risk in Geelong as the Shell refinery goes up for sale.*

Shell will struggle to find a buyer for its Geelong refinery, putting 600 jobs at risk, business analysts and unions say. The oil giant announced tonight it would try to sell the plant by the end of next year. But Australian Workers Union acting state secretary Ben Davis said he was pessimistic about a sale. "This is a refinery, not a milk bar," he said. "All the oil companies are consolidating internationally in Asia and the Middle East into mega refineries." The jobs of the plant's 450 workers and 150 contractors now hang in the balance. Any closure is expected to be another blow to Geelong's economy, which has been hit with job cuts at Ford, Alcoa and the Qantas maintenance plant at Avalon in the past 12 months. And in another blow, the jobs of 420 contract workers at the Bandiana army

base, near Albury, are also in doubt after the nation's biggest defence company lost a crucial contract to service the army's tanks. Global defence powerhouse BAE Systems is set to sack the workers in July after losing the contract to Australian services company Transfield. Shell will consider converting the refinery, which opened in 1954, to an import terminal if a sale cannot be wrapped up before the end of next year. Mr Davis said workers would get redundancy payouts if the plant closed,



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but that he was worried about their futures. "They are going to struggle to find these type of jobs again," he said. Shell's downstream vice-president, Andrew Smith, declined to provide details on whether any buyers had expressed interest in the refinery or how many jobs would be lost if it was converted to a terminal to store imported fuel. "Our focus is on negotiating a successful sale of the plant - that's what keeps local jobs," Mr Smith said. He said Shell had not sought additional government support for the refinery and the move was part of a wider strategy to concentrate refining capacity in larger plants. Morningstar energy analyst Peter Warnes said it would be "almost impossible" to find a buyer for the facility, which supplies about half of Victoria's and 30 per cent of South Australia's fuel. He said the plant was built to process light crude oil from Bass Strait oil fields, which were in long-term decline and converting it to process cheaper heavy crude would be uneconomical. He also said the size of the plant, which processes up to 120,000 barrels of oil per day, meant it could not compete against massive Asian refineries, which could process up to 900,000 barrels of oil per day. "I don't think a buyer will come forward," Mr Warnes said. Another analyst at a major investment bank said the Geelong refinery was running at a loss. Shell wrote down its value by \$638 million last year. A BAE Systems spokeswoman said it would be forced to cut jobs after its contract for the Bandiana base work ended in July. "Staff changes are part of the normal project life-cycle," she said.

<http://www.news.com.au/national-news/victoria/bombshell-for-geelong-shell-refinery-as-jobs-to-go/story-fndo4cq1-1226612816843>

### USA, UT, TOOELE CO, APRIL 5 2013. TWO WORKERS BURNED AFTER EXPLOSION AT UTAH TITANIUM PLANT

*marissa lang*

Two workers caught in an explosion at a Tooele County titanium factory Tuesday afternoon were flown to the University of Utah to be treated for second-degree burns and exposure to toxic chemicals, county officials said. It was not immediately clear what sparked the explosion, which was first reported just before 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the ATI plant on Rowley Road in Grantsville. The factory, an Allegheny Technologies facility, produces titanium products. The workers, two men ages 38 and 53, suffered burns to their chests, hands and faces and may have been exposed to a cocktail of chemicals that includes tetrachloride-4, magnesium chloride and chlorine, said Tooele County spokesman Wade Mathews. They were in stable condition as they were airlifted to the hospital, Mathews said. Several units from the North Tooele County Fire Department responded to the scene and blocked the road to through traffic. The workers were decontaminated at the scene by fire fighters before being flown to the U.'s burn unit in Salt Lake City. Two Mountain West ambulances also responded to the factory. "The most important thing is to secure the area and make sure all employees are taken care of," said ATI spokesman Dan Greenfield, who added the company did not have enough information to comment further. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, a federal agency that enforces workplace safety standards, was also contacted following the incident and will likely conduct their own investigation.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/56095413-78/county-workers-tooele-explosion.html.csp>

### USA, WASHINGTON DC, APRIL 5 2013. OSHA ISSUES COMDUST FIREFIGHTING GUIDE

*rich Christianson*



[The new publication describes how combustible dust explosions occur and how they might be prevented.](#)

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) new publication, Firefighting Precautions at Facilities with Combustible Dust, includes four examples of instances where firefighters were killed or injured battling a combustible dust fire at a wood manufacturing plant. A 2005 sawdust hopper fire at a boat manufacturing plant that injured four firefighters is the cover image of a new OSHA firefighting safety guide. The following examples and others involving other types of combustible dust materials are used to illustrate the dangers that emergency responders encounter in ComDust-related fires and explosions. Maryland, 2005: four firefighters injured. A fire department responded to light smoke coming from a sawdust hopper at a boat manufacturing plant. Two firefighters opened an access door and directed a straight stream of water onto the burning sawdust. A dust cloud discharged from the door, ignited immediately, and injured both firefighters. A second team of firefighters, unable to confer with the injured firefighters, repeated the attack using the same tactics. The same sequence of events recurred and they were also injured. Oregon, 2010: one firefighter injured. News reports indicated that a fire occurred in sawdust waste on a conveyor at a forest products plant. A spark sensor and interlock operated properly and shut down the conveyor. When an access door was opened, the inrush of air triggered an explosion that injured a firefighter. Unknown



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location, 2004: two firefighters injured. A National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) report on firefighter injuries described a smoldering fire in duct work at a furniture manufacturing company. Plant personnel told the fire department that the associated dust collector had been shut down, but it had not. Two firefighters on an aerial lift were injured when they gained access to the duct and an inrush of air caused an explosion. Ohio, 2003: two firefighters killed, eight injured. According to a NIOSH report, several fire departments were fighting a fire at a lumber company in an oxygen-limiting silo that was filled with wood chips. Firefighters were directing water streams through openings at the base and the top of the silo when there was an explosion. A firefighter on top of the silo and another on an aerial platform were killed. The report cited improper tactics for oxygen-limiting silos as a factor in the outcome. Since 1980, OSHA said more than 130 workers have been killed and more than 780 injured in combustible dust explosions. The new publication describes how combustible dust explosions occur and how they might be prevented. It also explains the preparations and safeguards emergency responders can make before a response to a ComDust explosion and fire. "This booklet will keep both emergency response and facility workers safe by giving them a framework to prepare for potential emergencies involving combustible dust," said Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of Labor for OSHA. "Stakeholders that have reviewed the booklet, including fire chiefs and union health and safety representatives, describe it as 'an excellent resource for explaining the hazards associated with combustible dust and outlining the best practices for pre-incident operational preparation by emergency responders.'" Wood dust is among a list of materials considered a combustible dust. Others include plastic, rubber, coat, flour, sugar and paper.

**Related Links** [OSHA's Combustible Dust Web Page](http://www.osha-slc.com)

<http://www.woodworkingnetwork.com/news/woodworking-industry-news/OSHA-Issues-ComDust-Firefighters-Guide-201446791.html?ref=791>

### INDIA, UTTAR PRADESH, ALLAHABAD, APRIL 5 2013. CRUDE BOMBS: FIRECRACKER DEALERS UNDER LENS

*kapil dixit*

A spate of [crude bombs](#) explosions have led police to initiate fresh measures and put under scanner licensed firecrackers dealers with dubious records. The measures have been taken after receiving confirmed reports of explosive material being supplied to law breakers to aid manufacture of crude bombs. Alok Sharma inspector general Allahabad zone sent a missive to subordinates asking them to tighten the noose around crude bomb manufactures and put activities of licensed fire crackers with dubious record under scanner. He told TOI "Cops have been directed to carry out awareness camps at [thana](#) level warning rag-pickers not to collect suspicious objects. Cops have also been asked to conduct raids at suspected hideouts of crude bomb manufactures and ensure their arrest. About the Wednesday explosion, police said unidentified persons had thrown a box containing crude bombs in the garbage dump while vehicle checking drive was underway in Kareli area. This box was later picked up by children after which it exploded and caused injuries. As per police records, between 2005 and May 2012, at least 18 persons including five children were killed in crude bomb explosions. When these cases of explosions were investigated thoroughly, majority of them were found to crude bombs of high intensity. Cops and forensic experts are trying to trace how these crude bombs arrived at the garbage dumps. While Allahabad has been infamous for producing all sorts of crude bombs used by miscreants to settle scores or create panic. Past incidents include 2005 Neewa grenade explosion (in which six were killed and four injured), 2007 Kareli explosion (two children killed and three injured), 2009 Atala explosion (two killed and three injured in suspected grenade blast), 2010 Dhoomanganj explosion (two killed in suspected grenade blast), 2011 Bahadurganj crude bomb explosion (a child killed and four injured) and 2012 Kareli explosion (five children killed and six injured). While police teams are making efforts to trace miscreants, who have allegedly placed crude bombs near garbage dumps, senior cops said fresh exercise is being launched to unearth units producing crude bombs. Apart from maintaining a close watch, cops have also put under scanner 30 villages infamous for crude bombs manufacture. Police records show crude bombs have frequently been used by criminals for murders in the city, in trans- Ganga and [Yamuna areas](#). The basic fact is that low manufacturing cost and rising demand has led to the development of a cottage industry of crude bombs in the region. Laxity on the part of police worsened the situation further. Over the last 10 months, the city witnessed eight incidents of crude bomb explosions that left as many as 11 persons, including minors injured. "Crude bombs are used by gangs to prove their supremacy in any given area and these gangs," said an special operations group cop talking to TOI. The police have so far failed to ascertain the identity of a single person behind such acts. Police officials say troublemakers are expert in binding the crude bombs really fast. A low intensity crude bomb costs between Rs 20 and Rs 35 and can be prepared in a few minutes. While high intensity bomb known as 'dibba bombs' cost between Rs 55 and Rs 100 and cause fair amount of damage. Circles



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like Mauaima, Soraon, Kareli, Phulpur, Kydganj, Dhoomanganj and Bara are known as key points of manufacturing of crude bombs. In the past two years, over 400 crude bombs were also seized by police.

### Related Links

- [TMC councillor's son, hurt while making crude bombs, dies](#)
- [ATS arrests five youths from Seoni, seize 126 crude bombs](#)
- [One held in crude petrol bombs case](#)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/allahabad/Crude-bombs-Firecracker-dealers-under-lens/articleshow/19388631.cms>

### CANADA, ONT, NORTH BAY, APRIL 5 2013. SPILL HAS COUPLE ON EDGE OF BANKRUPTCY



*Harold Faubert and Mary Degagne at the site of the spill in August, 2012 as they started losing faith that they could ever move home again.*

It's been a long winter for former Silver Lady Lane residents Harold Faubert and Mary Degagne, but while most people look forward to the arrival of spring, the change in seasons is not bringing this beleaguered couple respite. "At this point in time, we really see no other option but to declare bankruptcy," Faubert told the News recently. "We're done. They've ruined us." The couple's life was overturned on May 21, 2012 when a tanker truck carrying formaldehyde overturned on Highway 63 spilling its load directly down the hill and into the couple's yard. More than 60 people living on the street were evacuated as a result of the spill. All returned home after the massive cleanup except the Faubert and Degagne whose rented lakeside bungalow was ground zero for the contamination. "When it happened we were told by officials and insurance representatives that we would be back in the house by August," said Degagne, "but they left us in a hotel for over 90 days until we had to try and find a place on our own. "At the time of the spill, if they'd have just cut the bullshit we could have bought a small place with our savings and maybe flipped it." Instead, the couple paid out close to \$14,000 in accommodation costs alone before realizing they could never go home again. Including replacement of personal and business items the couple have claims that amount to more than \$150,000. "We lost everything and there's no magic solution that's going to come out of the wall and save us. We've been swallowed up by the system and brushed under the rug," Degagne said. While the couple has managed to settle a couple of smaller insurance claims for business losses, the insurance battle for major coverage, in particular with Intact which insured the carrier responsible for the spill, shows no signs of paying out any time soon. "It's going to be a mess," said North Bay lawyer John D'Agostino, who was retained by Faubert and Degagne in late summer 2012. He says there are many issues with the case that make it difficult, not the least being that as the couple were involved in a "mass evacuation" they are only entitled to \$5,000 in evacuation compensation which does not come close to covering their accommodation costs. Having lost everything in the house due to the formaldehyde contamination, the insurance complications increase because they did not own the house, and carried only renters insurance. When it comes to legitimate compensation for their losses, D'Agostino says the couple "are still at the starting line. They've had little tiny victories, but nothing substantive." Daron L. Earthy is a litigation lawyer with Loopstra Nixon in Toronto is now working for Faubert and Degagne. "I don't think we can settle (the bulk of the claim) without further legal action," she told the News. "I can understand they are upset at the way they have been treated. There has been very poor communication over addressing their expenses and this situation has certainly stretched them to the limit." Before the tanker deposited its liquid contamination on their home, Faubert and Degagne had a very successful plumbing contracting business, a healthy line of business credit, a very comfortable bank balance and were giving consideration to buying a home. "Now, every account we have has a minus sign in front of it," said Faubert. "We worked our asses off and now we can't even afford to rent a truck. We haven't been able to work since this happened and potential projects won't be awarded to us as long as we have this hanging over our heads." The couple are tired, angry and anxious. "I'm sick of having people say they feel sorry for me," said Degagne. "I want someone to take some responsibility and address our issues. Those Intact insurance ads, they say they're on your side. When you have insurance you think you're going to be protected, looked after, but nothing could be further from the truth." "Everyone is forced to buy insurance and then it takes your last dime to fight the insurance companies when you have a claim," said Faubert. "I'm just asking to get back to where we were on May 20. What we want is justice."

<http://www.northbaynipissing.com/2013/04/spill-has-couple-on-edge-of-bankruptcy/>



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#### USA, MI, LANSING, APRIL 5 2013. UTILITY: MOST OF OIL SPILLED IN LANSING CLEANED UP



*The Lansing Board of Water & Light has deployed boom that spans the Grand River near Cherry Hill and Adado Riverfront parks. The boom has special fabric to absorb any oil that reaches it. Officials say an oil spill Sunday March 31, 2013, that left a sheen on the Grand River in Lansing is blamed on an equipment malfunction at a power plant.*

A utility has cleaned up most of the about 300 to 500 gallons of hydraulic fluid that spilled from a Lansing power plant and left a sheen on the Grand River, officials said. Lansing Board of Water and Light's General Manager Peter Lark expects oil-absorbent booms — inflated buoys with pads to absorb the fluid — to be in place at least through the weekend, the Lansing State Journal reported.

"We are committed to cleaning up all the oil," Lark said. "If anybody can find any oil on that river, we are going to clean it up. If there are any pockets of oil that emanated from our plant, we are responsible for them." A vacuum truck was used Wednesday to suck up the light, lubricant oil from the water, MLive.com reported. The spill started Sunday night and was blamed on a gasket failure at the utility's Eckert Power Plant near downtown. Officials say crews began working immediately to clean up the leak but realized early Monday that oil was escaping a containment area. Booms have been in place since Monday. George Stojic, who heads the Lansing Board of Water and Light's environmental department, said the utility's environmental response team followed its emergency action plans after the spill. Still, Stojic said the accident was unacceptable. "You don't want to see these spills," he said. "This stuff doesn't belong in the river." The utility and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality are investigating spill, and the MDEQ will assess the potential environmental impact. "BWL appeared to have gotten in front of this thing very quickly," MDEQ spokesman Brad Wurfel. "They're doing everything they're supposed to be doing right now." Oil spills into Michigan waterways have received increased attention since July 2010, when more than 800,000 gallons spewed into the Kalamazoo River and a tributary creek after the rupture of an underground pipeline near Marshall in southwestern Michigan. Cleanup continues following that spill from Enbridge Inc.'s pipeline. In that case, oil flowed about 35 miles before it was contained.

<http://www.hollandsentinel.com/news/x898159816/Utility-Most-of-oil-spilled-in-Lansing-cleaned-up>

#### USA, ARK, MAYFLOWER, APRIL 5 2013. EXXON PLAYING 'DIVIDE AND CONQUER' IN 'WALKING DEAD'-LIKE OIL SPILL TOWN

 **Watch the Video** ['Walking Dead'-like oil spill town](#)



The Mayflower, Arkansas oil spill continues to be the source of questions about the long-term health, environmental and financial consequences for residents in a town the state's attorney general described as a scene out of 'The Walking Dead.' After thousands of barrels of crude oil spilled from ExxonMobil's Pegasus pipeline over Easter weekend in the small Arkansas town, residents who were forced to evacuate from the 22 affected households continue to wonder what will become of their neighborhood and their lives. While many are still unsure when they will one day be able to come home, questions about the energy giant's cleanup and compensation efforts have left both local residents and state officials less than satisfied. "ExxonMobil is paying for the cleanup and will honor

all valid claims. Reports to the contrary are inaccurate," said ExxonMobil in a statement. Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniell, who spoke of litigation as a "certainty," derided attempts by ExxonMobil representatives to manage his visit to the site. "I explained to them I'm not here for a tour and I'm not getting in a van. We're here on behalf of the State of Arkansas as the state's lawyer, a constitutional officer empowered by the General Assembly to enforce our laws, and we're here to conduct an investigation, not take a tour," the Log Cabin Democrat cites him as saying on Wednesday. "I didn't appreciate how we were treated, so I can only imagine how some of the homeowners must have felt." McDaniell said he had issued a subpoena for documents, data and other evidence from ExxonMobil pertaining to the ruptured pipeline, setting an April 10 deadline for the oil and gas conglomerate to produce the requested evidence. Speaking of potential reductions of property value in wake of the spill, McDaniell said that monetary losses resulting from those attempting to sell their houses "should not fall on the shoulders of homeowners." McDaniell characterized the affected area as something out of the post-apocalyptic TV series 'The



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Walking Dead,' where "people in Hazmat suits" scoured the otherwise abandoned streets. The attorney general estimated that some 600 responders were currently on the ground, not counting those who were offering assistance off site. He further assessed that for a relatively small spill, the cleanup is "just not going great." "I hope they realize for the homeowners in this area, it is not small. It is catastrophic. For those who fear for their drinking water, it is not great," the attorney general continued. In an interview with RT, McDaniel said he has "more questions than answers after having visited with [Exxon] executives and seeing the site. They haven't told me any kind of cause that they have ascertained at this point." Even Republican lawmaker Tim Griffin also spoke of the palpable environmental impact the spill had had. Griffin, who complained of suffering from headaches after "limited exposure" during his visit to the site on Wednesday, said both staffers and local schoolchildren had experienced nausea from the fumes. He however added that based on reports from officials, air quality checks in the neighborhood tested "negative for dangerous substances." "I have confidence if there's a problem we need to know about, the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and the Department of Transportation would tell us," the daily cites him as saying. ExxonMobil paints a different image on its Twitter feed, stating its cleanup teams are "working around the clock" in Mayflower.

#### Muddying the Compensation Waters

While McDaniel says ExxonMobil's legal office has thus far responded in good faith to his requests, residents feel that the oil conglomerate is being evasive about compensation details. Responding to a written request from RT, Exxon media relations manager Alan Jeffers told RT that teams are working directly with residents of Mayflower and are "paying all valid claims relating to the spill and providing interim housing for people from the homes which the city of Mayflower recommended be evacuated following Friday's spill." However, resident Chris Harrell posted to his Twitter after meeting with ExxonMobil that claims would only be dealt with individually and following the completion of the cleanup. "The above statement was what I was told by the person at the Exxon claims center," Harrell told RT via email. "Granted, they are covering some out of pocket expenses in regards to room and board but no time line is being given to address compensation for long term effects on residents. I suppose Exxon gets to determine what a 'valid claim' really is." He had previously said that ExxonMobil had given no assurances as to when the cleanup would be finished.

#### Divide & Conquer

For the company's part, Griffin, the local GOP legislator, said it would be a matter of days, not weeks before residents from the 22 households forced to evacuate would be allowed to return. He said the responders were currently removing soil saturated with crude oil and doing other landscape work so that people would be able to return home. During a closed, invite-only meeting held by Exxon on Tuesday night, Harrell told residents in attendance that those living on the side of the street which was least affected could potentially be back by this coming weekend. However, he continued that "there was no solid timeline" for others, who may "have to be determined on a case-by-case basis." Harrell said that during the meeting, which was closed to the press, "some tough questions were asked and all were sidestepped by Exxon officials and residents were continuously referred to a claims hotline." "One neighbor told me there was a sense of a 'divide and conquer' mentality on the Exxon side. Officials continually stated that questions and claims would be handled individually on a case by case basis," Harrell continued. After suffering several bouts of headaches and dizziness, Harrell expressed fears about the "longtime health impact on residents of the area, and particularly children." "My 4-year-old daughter complained of a stomach ache yesterday at her preschool. It may have had no relation to the oil but it definitely raises concern."

#### The Rupture

With ExxonMobil saying that some 10,000 barrels – that's 420,000 gallons – of oil had been recovered, the company estimates that between 3,500-5,000 barrels of the crude mixture known as "tar sands" were spilled following the rupture. The Pegasus pipeline, which can carry 90,000 barrels of crude from Illinois to Texas per day, crosses 13 miles of the Lake Maumelle watershed. The watershed incidentally provides much of the water for the Arkansas state capital, Little Rock. When the pipeline ruptured on Friday, it was carrying Canadian Wabasca Heavy crude, a bitumen oil originating in the Canadian province of Alberta. And while environmentalists have classified tar sand oil as more hazardous than conventional crude, oil companies transporting it are actually exempt from a tax that doubles as dues to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, which was established to force owners to pay for the containment, cleanup and damages resulting from a given spill. "The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund is funded by an 8-cent-per-barrel excise tax on domestically produced and imported crude oil and on imported refined products such as gasoline," David Turnbull, the Campaigns Director from Oil Change International told RT. "However, the IRS has classified tar sands as different from conventional oil, and thus the tax levied to fill the liability trust fund is not levied on tar sands crude." Turnbull argues that the loophole should be closed, as it doesn't line up with the actual intent



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of the tax or the fund. "Given how toxic and dangerous tar sands oil – or bitumen – is, it's entirely irrational that this oil would be exempt from being taxed in order to pay for the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. As these sorts of heavy oils that are exempt from this tax continue to make up a larger percentage of oil transported in the US, it will only serve to stretch the fund even further, while putting families, communities and ecosystems at greater risk," he continued. After the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced a [temporary no-fly zone](#) over the Arkansas oil spill on Monday, speculation abounded that the ban was an attempt to keep the media from fully assessing the impact of the spill. The FAA further prompted fears ExxonMobile had been given a free hand in managing the situation by saying that "only relief aircraft operations under direction of Tom Suhrhoff" – who identified himself as an aviation adviser for ExxonMobil on his LinkedIn profile – were permitted in the area. Speaking on the issue, McDaniel told RT that Exxon "did not do a very good job of explaining to the public or the press what was going in that circumstance." He however stressed that he is "comfortable" that the FAA's temporary flight restrictions are "fair and related to safety."

<http://rt.com/usa/arkansas-spill-walking-dead-347/>

#### USA, TX, HOUSTON, APRIL 5 2013. COAST GUARD: SHELL PIPELINE SPILLS OIL INTO HOUSTON AREA BAYOU

An estimated 50 barrels of oil spilled from a pipeline operated by a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell PLC into a waterway outside Houston, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. Shell clean-up crews were working to clear the crude out of Vince Bayou, a waterway that connects to the Houston Ship Channel, which leads into the Gulf of Mexico, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Steven Lehman. The spill was contained but the total amount of oil was still being verified, Officer Lehman said. "That's a very early estimate--things can change," Officer Lehman said. On April 3, about 700 barrels were found to have leaked from the West Colombia pipeline because of an unknown cause, with up to 60 of those barrels emerging in the bayou, Shell spokeswoman Kim Windon said. The pipeline had been shut down and isolated on March 29 after alarms alerted the company that oil may have leaked from the line.

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil\\_gas/a/125587/Coast\\_Guard\\_Shell\\_Pipeline\\_Spills\\_Oil\\_Into\\_Houston\\_Area\\_Bayou](http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/125587/Coast_Guard_Shell_Pipeline_Spills_Oil_Into_Houston_Area_Bayou)

#### ENGLAND, HAMSHIRE, WHERE IS BASINGSTOKE, , APRIL 5 2013. VITACRESS FINED £5,000 FOR OIL SPILL



*Vitacress fined £5,000 for oil spill*

Europe's largest organic watercress grower has been fined after oil spilled into the Bourne Rivulet. Vitacress Salads, based in St Mary Bourne, admitted that between 200 and 600 litres of diesel spilled into the rivulet, overflowing into the River Test last May. The company pleaded guilty to contravening the requirements of an environmental permit at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court on March 28. Peter Bilbrough, prosecuting on behalf of the Environment Agency (EA), told the court that the accident happened during a power cut at the farm. A backup generator was used to keep the power supply to the fridges but while an employee was re-filling the generator with diesel he wandered off and only remembered he had left the generator filling after an hour and a half. A film of oil covered 7km of the Bourne Rivulet and the River Test for several days, with the

EA spending £15,000 on the clean up, which was reimbursed by Vitacress. Mr Bilbrough told the court: "While there is no evidence of deaths among fish or invertebrate life the incident did impact significantly on fisheries downstream of the site, where several days of potential fishing were lost and jeopardised the good reputation of the river, where excellent water quality is of paramount importance." John Mitchell, defending, said that the company had compensated owners more than £7,000 for loss of fishing for the two days while oil was present on the water. He said: "It's unusual for Vitacress to find itself in this situation – it's much more used to receiving environmental plaudits." Mr Mitchell told the court that the company took over the clean up operation from the Environment Agency and that there has been a review of the process for refilling the generator. He said: "The senior management was absolutely aghast about what happened here." The court heard that Vitacress' last conviction was 16 years ago when it was fined £6,000 for allowing processed water to enter the Bourne Rivulet. Magistrates ordered Vitacress to pay a fine of £5,000, reduced from £7,500 for an early guilty plea and to pay costs of £3,785, along with a £15 victim surcharge. Mr Gill, chairman of the bench, said: "The maximum fine would be £50,000 and having taken into account everything we feel this falls towards the bottom end of that."

[http://www.thisishampshire.net/news/10336029.Vitacress\\_fined\\_5\\_000\\_for\\_oil\\_spill/](http://www.thisishampshire.net/news/10336029.Vitacress_fined_5_000_for_oil_spill/)



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