



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2013 – 996 Newsy Stuff

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

August 27 2013



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INDIA, HARYANA, PALWAL, AUGUST 13 2013. FOUR DIE OF TOXIC GAS LEAK IN HARYANA



Four persons were killed after they inhaled toxic gas leaking out of the underground water purification plant at a leather factory here. Superintendent of Police Jagat Singh said the leakage was reported from an underground tank which was part of the water purifying set-up of the factory, situated in Agra Chowk area of the district. While two employees were trying to fix it, the gas leak intensified, leading to their death. Two other workers, who rushed to help their colleagues in trouble, also inhaled the poisonous gas and died, the SP said. The four workers were taken to the district hospital, where they were declared brought dead, he said. Two of the deceased are from West Bengal while one each hails from Rajasthan and Bihar. Singh said a case has been registered against the factory owner and a thorough probe into the mishap will be

conducted.

<http://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india/four-die-of-toxic-gas-leak-in-haryana-26261.html>

MALASIA, KUALA LUMPUR, AUGUST 13 2013. FIREWORKS WORTH RM5.67MIL [\$A1.07MIL] SEIZED IN FIRST HALF OF 2013

The Customs Department foiled 101 attempts to smuggle fireworks and firecrackers worth an estimated RM5.67mil, in the first half of this year. Customs Surveillance Division director R. Mariappa said Monday that the 322,000kg of pyrotechnics seized were worth RM3.61mil in taxes. "These cases keep increasing every year, especially towards festivals such as Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Chinese New Year and Deepavali as there's a big demand from the public," he said. In 2011, RM7.8mil worth of items were seized involving 309 cases and in 2012, it was RM5.65mil comprising 365 cases, he said. "But this year, it has touched RM5.67mil in the first six months only," he said, adding that the fireworks were believed to be smuggled in from China, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam and Cambodia via land and air routes. He reminded the public that only two types of firecrackers were legal, namely Pop Pop and Happy Boom.

<http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Nation/2013/08/12/Fireworks-smuggle-contraband.aspx>

INDIA, NEW DELHI, AUGUST 13 2013. HIGH BENZENE LEVELS RAISE ALARM

jayashree nandi

Benzene levels in air are alarmingly high in some parts of Delhi. A potent carcinogen, benzene levels were 2 to 12 times more than the prescribed limit at Civil Lines and IGI airport on Sunday evening and through the day on Monday. Staff at [Delhi Pollution Control Committee](#) (DPCC) and environmentalists have noticed the trend but are not sure about the exact cause for benzene pollution at these locations. At Mandir Marg, too, benzene levels peaked with a concentration that is eight times the permissible limit. The DPCC has commissioned Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur to study the phenomenon and suggest reasons for such a peak in benzene emissions. "Benzene and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have a natural tendency to drift towards the greener areas. Civil Lines is close to Yamuna and that may be one of the reasons for the high concentration. But we don't know the actual reason. So we had to commission IIT to do a study on Benzene emission trends in Delhi," said a DPCC official. Strangely, benzene levels seemed to be normal in other parts of the city as per the data from three other monitoring stations at Anand Vihar, R K Puram and Punjabi Bagh. The DPCC officials said that obvious reasons could be turbine fuel at the IGI airport and traffic on the national highway. Benzene is a component of crude oil and petrol that can be harmful even at trace levels. Apart from vehicle exhausts, evaporation from petrol filling stations can cause benzene levels to rise. Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, Centre for Science and Environment said the issue needs immediate attention. "Benzene levels are very high in particularly these two places. One of the main source is the evaporative emissions from petrol. It is very volatile and dissipates like spirit. So even if we manage to reduce emissions from vehicle exhausts, evaporative emissions continue to be high," said Anumita. She added that there are plans to introduce 'vapour recovery' systems to deal with such evaporative emissions. "There are technologies that can capture the vapor and we should have them soon. Evaporation of these compounds not just causes pollution but also causes economic loss as we are losing the fuel that could have been used," she said. Oncologists, like Dr Shyam Aggarwal, chairman of Oncology department at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, link rising levels of pollutants like benzene with certain kinds of lymphomas (type of [cancer](#) that begins in



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immune system cells called lymphocytes). "There is a rapid rise in the incidence of lymphomas and it is linked to rising pollution levels. High benzene pollution can also cause leukemia and bone disorders like osteoporosis. Air conditioners when run for long hours also release benzene and that too has health impacts," said Aggarwal. A recent study by researchers at Emory University, Atlanta, also shows that the incidence of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is higher in places that are close to industries that release benzene.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/High-benzene-levels-raise-alarm/articleshow/21789756.cms>

USA, ILL, ERIE, AUGUST 13 2013. PIPELINE EXPLOSION IN ERIE, IL >> GAS IS A PROPANE AND ETHANOL MIX
meredith dennis

 **Watch the Video**

- [Pipeline Fire Lights Up Sky in Ill.; No Injuries](#)
- [Natural Gas Pipeline Blows Up a Cornfield in Illinois](#)
- [Pipeline Explodes in Illinois](#)



Crews remain on scene monitoring a fire after a gas line exploded near Erie, Illinois, around 11:30 last night. We spoke with a spokesperson from Enterprise Productions, the company that owns the line, who tells us there are thousands of miles of gas line in the area. He adds the gas is a propane and ethanol mix. There is no word on what caused the rupture of the line, crews are waiting for daylight to investigate the cause and repair the line. 37 people were evacuated when the explosion happened, all but two homes were allowed to return. Firefighters tell us that due to the number of gas lines in the area, they train yearly for this type of disaster and were ready to respond. The roads surrounding the explosion remain closed.

<http://www.whbf.com/story/23119645/pipeline-explosion-in-erie-il>

**USA, N.M, LAS CRUCES, AUGUST 13 2013. \$1 MILLION PLAN TO UPGRADE LAS CRUCES AIRPORT FUEL FARM
DRAWS CRITICISM**
steve ramirez



An estimated \$1 million upgrade to bring fuel storage tanks at Las Cruces International Airport into compliance with state environmental regulations is being questioned by some pilots and a longtime airport business. "It's really appalling the city would spend that much in taxpayer dollars for something that's not really needed," said Hal Kading, owner of Southwest Aviation, the only fixed-base operator at airport. "I believe they could modify the existing storage area, and bring it into compliance, at a far less cost than the city wants to spend now." Cheryl Rodriguez, airport administrator, said the New Mexico Environment Department's Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau has amended state statutes on how those types of tanks are supposed to be built and maintained. State law now mandates that any public or private entity that owns and operates an above-ground storage tank -- such as three the city owns, and two others owned by Southwest Aviation -- must bring the facility that houses those tanks into regulatory compliance. "It is important to note that numerous airports statewide similar to Las Cruces are all presently engaged in bringing their aviation fuel facilities into NMED compliance," Rodriguez said. The existing fuel farm facility is at the southeast corner of the airport on a street called Gasoline Alley. All of the five tanks and the existing facility currently do not meet state regulatory rules. "Therefore, to ensure the continued economic viability and success of the Las Cruces International Airport, the city of Las Cruces is making the financial commitment, along with the state of New Mexico Department of Transportation Aviation Division, for capital improvements to the fuel farm," Rodriguez said. "Capital improvements will entail two new above-ground storage tanks an ancillary fuel pump system as well as the proper secondary containment area for all fuel trucks that must load or unload aviation fuel. "Estimated construction costs to bring the fuel facility into regulatory compliance are estimated to cost approximately \$1 million." Rodriguez added the two new above-ground



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storage tanks will be large enough to support planes and other aircraft that use the airport. The fuel farm will be owned by the city. "Southwest Aviation is currently our fixed-based operator for the airport that provides fuel services to the aviation community," Rodriguez said. "Presently, it is our intent that Southwest Aviation will continue to provide this service to the aviation community. It is anticipated that Southwest Aviation will lease the fuel farm facility, as it currently does from the city." Kading said the city's intent to own the fuel farm was apparently because of concerns that Southwest Aviation might someday go out of business and could leave the airport without fuel service. "We have no intentions of going out of business," Kading said. "If anything, we're trying to renegotiate a new lease with the city to stay at the airport." City officials have sought bids for building a new fuel farm, and Rodriguez said it is anticipated a new facility could be operational by the end of the year. The estimated \$1 million to build a new fuel farm would be evenly split by the city and NMDOT's Aviation Division. Doug Newton, a Las Cruces pilot who owns several planes and hangars at Las Cruces International Airport, said he is concerned a city-owned fuel farm could raise the price of fuel sold at the airport. "Business at the airport is way down because of the high fuel prices already being charged," Newton said. "Except for El Paso, the fuel prices here are the highest of any other airports in the region." Newton added the two fuel storage tanks owned by Southwest Aviation would be large enough to store enough fuel to meet the demands of aircraft using Las Cruces International Airport. Rodriguez said fuel prices are influenced by market conditions, and are set by fuel providers and operators.

http://www.lcsun-news.com/las_cruces-news/ci_23846619/1-million-plan-upgrade-las-cruces-airport-fuel

USA, FLA, PORT OF TAMPA, AUGUST 14 2013. SULFUR DIOXIDE TANK AT THE PORT OF TAMPA CAUGHT FIRE TWICE IN LESS THAN A WEEK

 **Watch the Video** [Port of Tampa Sulfur Dioxide Tank Afire >>Twice in Less than a Week](#)

 **Photo's [3]** [Sulfur Dioxide Tank at Port of Tampa Catches Fire](#)



For the second time in less than a week, Tampa Fire Rescue put out flames at the same Port of Tampa fertilizer tank. The tank is owned by Gulf Sulphur. Now, firefighters and the fire marshal are closely watching as company workers offload the sulfur so the tank can be thoroughly inspected. The process is expected to take a minimum of three days. Once empty, the tank must pass a complete inspection and must submit a certificate to the fire marshal's office. Last week Thursday, the fire at the tank prompted the department to issues warnings about potentially harmful fumes. Residents in south Tampa and Harbour Island were even told to stay indoors if possible because the fumes could cause eye, skin and throat irritations. Tonight, only one business south of the fire was evacuated. However, a precaution was issued to people in south Tampa. Officials said there was no imminent threat tonight because Mother Nature is lending a hand. With the wind heading in a southeast direction, the fumes are

moving away from highly populated areas. Ladder trucks are out sprayed water into the tank. Bennfield described the sulfur as being molten. Bennfield explained that the the sulfur is kept warm by a system of heated coils that are installed around the tank. As of 7 p.m., the cause of the fire had not been determined. Tampa Fire Rescue did contain the fire in less than an hour. The Port remained open through the ordeal.

Related Stories

- [Crews fight fire at Port of Tampa](#)
- [Tank fire under control at Port of Tampa](#)
- [Sulfur dioxide tank at the Port of Tampa caught fire twice in less than a week](#)
- [Fire at Port of Tampa contained; no threat to local residents](#)
- [Port of Tampa fertilizer tank catches fire twice in less than a week](#)

 **Previous Coverage:** [Fumes from Port Fire Prompt Warning to Neighbors](#)

 **Previous Photo's [11]:** [Fumes from Port Fire Prompt Warning to Neighbors](#)

 **Previous Video:** [Fumes from Port Fire Prompt Warning to Neighbors](#)

http://www.abcactionnews.com/dpp/news/region_tampa/officials-responding-to-fire-at-port-of-tampa-fumes-could-cause-eye-and-skin-irritation



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USA, ARK, EL DORADO, AUGUST 14 2013. MURPHY APPROVES GAS STATION SPINOFF; ROGER JENKINS BECOMES CEO AUG. 30

lance turner



Roger Jenkins, Murphy Oil's executive vice president and COO, will succeed Steven Cossé as president and CEO on Aug. 30.

Murphy Oil Corp. of El Dorado [said](#) Wednesday that its board of directors has approved the planned spinoff of its gas station unit into a separate publicly traded company, Murphy USA Inc., which will take place on Aug. 30 after market close. The spinoff, [which has been in the works since late 2011](#), will take place by way of a stock distribution to Murphy Oil shareholders. The company said those shareholders will receive one share of Murphy USA Inc. common stock for every four shares of Murphy Oil common stock held at the close of business on Aug. 21. Shares of Murphy Oil closed down 1 percent at \$69.67 on Wednesday. "Following the distribution of MUSA common stock on Aug. 30, MUSA will be an independent, publicly traded company," Murphy Oil said in a news release. "MUSA has received approval for the listing of its common stock on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol 'MUSA.'" Murphy said investors will be able to trade MUSA stock beginning on Sept. 3, although some trading will begin on the "when-issued" market beginning Aug. 19. Once the spinoff is complete, the new company will be "a retail

marketer of fuel products and convenience merchandise operating a network of 1,179 retail fuel stations" in 23 states. Most of the stations are in close proximity to stores operated by Wal-Mart Stores Inc. of Bentonville. As previously announced, R. Andrew Clyde [will be the new company's president and CEO](#). In addition to the gas stations, the company will have seven product distribution terminals and two ethanol production facilities in North Dakota and Texas. Meanwhile, Murphy Oil Corp. of El Dorado will be "an independent exploration and production company with a strong portfolio of global offshore and onshore assets delivering oil-weighted growth with upside to our exploration program," the company said. Murphy Oil Corp. operates in the U.S., Canada and Malaysia. "Today's announcement signals an exciting new beginning for both Murphy Oil Corp. and Murphy USA Inc., as separating these two businesses will allow each to unlock its own potential for growth," Steve Cossé, Murphy Oil Corp.'s president and CEO, said in a news release.

<http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/93998/murphy-oil-approves-gas-station-spin-off-roger-jenkins-becomes-ceo-on-aug-30>

PHILIPPINES, COTABATO, KIDAPAWAN, AUGUST 14 2013. 24 TAKEN ILL AFTER LEAK OF CHLORINE

At least two dozen people landed in hospitals in President Roxas town following a chlorine gas leak believed to be from a nearby water reservoir late last week, a town official said. Mario Calayco, chair of President Roxas' Barangay Poblacion, said among those who experienced nausea, shortness of breath and vomiting were children and the elderly. The residents lived a few meters from the water reservoir operated by the local water utility being run by the town government, Calayco said. Dr. Dominic Laus, President Roxas health chief, said most of the victims had gone home already. Laus said the chlorine leak damaged trees, rubber seedlings and grasses that are within the area of the water reservoir. In this city, at least nine workers of a geothermal facility were also taken to hospital after inhaling gas from a pipe during tests. The workers experienced nausea and vomiting. All the workers are now out of danger, according to officials in the city. The Energy Development Corp., which owns the pipe, said the workers were part of a crew "doing regular activity of discharging a well" when the accident happened.

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/465015/24-taken-ill-after-leak-of-chlorine>

CANADA, B.C, HUDSON, AUGUST 14 2013. CREWS CLEANING UP FUEL SPILLED FROM TANKER CRASH NEAR HUDSON'S HOPE

The Hudson's Hope Fire Department is currently on the scene of a motor vehicle accident involving a tanker truck on Highway 29. The vehicle went into a ditch and knocked over a fence on the outskirts of the city. As the crash caused fuel to leak from the truck, a company from Fort St. John has been called in to clean up. The Fort St. John Fire Department has been told the leak is contained, and the fuel is now being pumped. The District of Hudson's Hope says there is no detour to traffic at this time.

<http://energeticcity.ca/article/news/2013/08/13/crews-cleaning-up-fuel-spilled-from-tanker-crash-near-hudsons-hope>



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INDIA, MUMBAI, AUGUST 14 2013. FIRE, BLASTS ON INS SINDHURAKSHAK SUBMARINE IN MUMBAI.



Fire at Lion Gate.

Explosions and a major fire broke out aboard two naval submarines in Mumbai late on Tuesday night. According to initial reports, the fire and blasts took place on INS Sindhurakshak and INS Sindhuratna, another submarine, too was damaged. Media reports said a few naval hands were trapped in INS Sindhurakshak and that there could be casualties. "There is likelihood of some personnel being trapped inside. The details are being ascertained," an official defence ministry statement issued at 3.15am said. The fire broke out shortly after midnight on INS Sindhurakshak submarine. Many sailors on board reportedly jumped off to safety, a defence ministry source said. "We received a call shortly after midnight that fire broke out aboard two naval ships at the Naval dockyard in South Mumbai," the sources told PTI. Sixteen fire engines and nine fire tankers were rushed to the spot, the sources said, adding efforts were underway to extinguish the blaze. The cause of the explosion and fire - one day ahead of India's Independence day - has not been ascertained yet. The two submarine docked in the high security naval dockyard. Sources said INS Sindhuratna was towed away after some time in order to avoid more fire and damage. The injured sailors have been rushed to naval hospital INHS Ashvini in Colaba. A fire brigade official said that around 3am, the blaze had been brought under control and prevented from spreading to other vessels

docked in the vicinity.

 **On The Web** [Lion Gate Naval Dockyard, Mumbai](#)

Related Stories

- [INS Sindhurakshak catches fire, 18 feared trapped](#)
- [Explosion, fire rock Indian submarine ahead of I-Day](#)
- [Mumbai: Explosion Rocks Indian Navy Submarine](#)

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/130814/news-current-affairs/article/fire-blasts-submarine-mumbai>

USA, TX, AUSTIN, AUGUST 14 2013. SOME GAS PUMPS COULD GET STUCK IN CAPLESS FUEL TANKS

 **Watch the Video** [Some Gas Pumps Could Get Stuck in Capless Fuel Tanks](#)



Several gas stations around town have pumps that could get stuck in your vehicle. A Round Rock man is talking only to KEYE TV after this gas pump nightmare happened to him. Bruce Hayes and his partner ran into the problem at an Exxon station in Cedar Park. The gas pump got stuck in his 2012 Ford Flex easy fuel tank, a capless system. "I would try and turn it. Push it in, pull it out. It was stuck. It was going to be there," said Hayes. He sent us pictures that show the fire and police departments working to remove the gas line. In the end they had to leave the nozzle. Hayes had to take the vehicle to a Georgetown Ford dealership where they are working to fix it. "It's at least a \$300 bill," he said. Ford headquarters issued this statement:

"Ford has investigated this issue and determined that there is no performance issue with our capless fuel filler systems."

After researching, Hayes says he quickly found out this is not the first time. Online reports reveal this is occurring in most Ford vehicles with the capless system. The pump nozzle, found at most gas stations, is manufactured by a company called OPW, which recently changed the design. "The gentleman at the company who makes the nozzle says he has had 20 to 30 reports. Well I can add a few more by just getting online and googling," Hayes said. With no real answers, Hayes wants to warn others. "There have been people who have experienced this. Fortunately none of them have been potentially life threatening. But you never know, you never know," he said. He vows to keep fighting so this doesn't become a dangerous situation. "What if this were a family that were traveling coast to coast and stopped in a remote town," Hayes said. KEYE TV contacted OPW for two days by phone and email for a statement. The company claimed they would send us one, but we have yet to hear from them. Hayes tells us he is left footing the bill for the pump getting stuck in his vehicle.

<http://www.keyetv.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/some-gas-pumps-could-get-stuck-capless-fuel-tanks-11146.shtml>



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NEW ZEALAND, WHAKATANE, SULLIVAN LAKE, AUGUST 14 2013. CLEANUP UNDERWAY AFTER OIL SPILLS INTO LAKE



A cleanup has been underway at Whakatane's Sullivan Lake after about 20 litres of oil flowed into the lake through stormwater pipes last weekend. Following a complaint from a concerned lakeside resident on Saturday morning, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Pollution Prevention staff found the oil had entered the lake through the urban stormwater system, possibly originating from a light industrial area to the south of Whakatane, Regional Council Pollution Prevention Team Leader Steve Pickles said. "Staff have spent in excess of 20 hours containing and cleaning up the oil using absorbent booms, peat and pads. Add the cost of the gear used with the staff time involved, and it has ended up being a

very costly incident for our ratepayers." Staff contracted Transpacific to use their sucker truck to remove the contained oil from the lake yesterday. However, there could still be some oil sheen around the lake visible for the next few days, as small amounts are released from vegetation surrounding the lake, Mr Pickles said. "It is vitally important that industrial sites and residents properly manage and dispose of their hydrocarbon waste to ensure it does not pollute our waterways," he said. "This incident is really disappointing, considering the amount of time and resources being spent on improving the water quality of Sullivan's Lake by the local community". He said Regional Council and Whakatane District Council staff have been planning a joint project to inspect high-risk sites in the Whakatane area where discharges could affect water quality. Site inspections are planned in the next couple of months, he said.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10912369

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, AUGUST 14 2013. UNIDENTIFIED CHEMICAL SPILL CAUSES CLOSURE OF PART OF PETER MAC CANCER CENTRE

matthew johnston & brendan casey



The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

A person has been hospitalised and eight others affected by a chemical spill at the Peter Mac Cancer Centre. The spill caused part of the hospital to be locked down with 10 fire trucks on the scene. 29 workers were evacuated from the Research Laboratory at the Institute following a strong chemical odour. One person attended hospital with an eye irritation and 8 others have reported headaches, the MFB have confirmed. Firefighters have entered the centre to investigate the spill after a staff member alerted security after 12.30pm. It is believed the spill was contained to one room but the staff member who found it was taken to the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. St Andrews Place was

closed as police, paramedics and firefighters attended the scene. MFB Firefighters monitoring the area have reported that atmospheric results are back to normal. The incident took 4 hours to bring under control. The rest of the Peter Mac Cancer Centre is continuing to operate as normal, an MFB spokesperson said.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/part-of-peter-mac-in-lockdown-as-10-fire-trucks-arrive-to-battle-chemical-spill/story-fni0fit3-1226697042714>

USA, FLORIDA, TALLAHASSEE, AUGUST 15 2013. JUST IN TIME DISASTER TRAINING - LIBRARY



The Disaster Resistant Communities Group LLC (DRCG) has added an additional 38 videos to the Just In Time Disaster Training Video Library. The purpose of this on-line library is to provide a single, easy to search source in which individuals, agencies and organizations can access Just In Time Disaster Training Videos. The videos found in our library cover disaster related preparedness, response and recovery training for a wide variety areas. The library can be accessed at the web site found at

www.drc-group.com/project/jitt.html

<http://www.drc-group.com/project/jitt.html>



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CHILE, VALPARAISO, VINA DEL MAR, AUGUST 15 2013. TRUCK LOADED WITH GASOLINE EXPLODES AT THE HOLA SERVICE STATION

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Explosion At Fuel Pump In Vina Del Mar Leaves 2 Wounded & Evacuated Area](#)
- [Gas Leak Explosion in Viña del Mar](#)

 **Photo's [5]** [Explosion with Fuel Pump in Vina del Mar](#)

 **Photo's [14]** [Explosion in Vina del Mar](#)



Governor announced increased scrutiny after blast service center in Vina del Mar, It seeks "to reassure residents," said Governor Jose Pedro Nunez.

The governor of the province of Valparaiso, José Pedro Nunez, announced an increase in audit work at the gas stations sited in residential areas following the explosion and fire that occurred during the last weekend in Viña del Mar, at the intersection of North lanes 1 and Quillota. "There must be absolute clarity for residents of the sector and, in general, for all the neighbors of different stations, they know whether or not there is risk of living adjacent to a service station," Nunez said. The authority has not indicated that responsibilities are determined by the incident yesterday: "Expect the two investigations that are underway."

"The SEC (Superintendency of Electricity and Fuels) has to determine, for example, if this is due to an error in the installation of the equipment, the installation of the valve, or an error handling operator who was working there" said

<http://www.cooperativa.cl/noticias/pais/policial/gobernador-anuncio-mayor-fiscalizacion-tras-explosion-de-servicentro-en-vina-del-mar/2013-08-14/142747.html>

THAILAND, TAK'S MAE SOT, AUGUST 15 2013. ADMIN COURT ORDERS NEB TO RESTORE CONTAMINATED DISTRICTS



Residents flash "V for victory" signs after the Phitsanulok Administrative Court yesterday ordered the National Environment Board to declare three tambons affected by cadmium contamination in Tak's Mae Sot district as environment protection zones.

The Phitsanulok Administrative Court yesterday ordered the National Environment Board (NEB) to declare three tambons affected by cadmium contamination in Tak's Mae Sot district as environment protection zones. The court delivered its verdict in favour of 31 local villagers and the Stop Global Warming Association (SGWA). They filed a complaint with the court in 2009. SGWA president Srisuwan Janya said the court ruling required tambons Prathad Pha Daeng, Mae Tao and Mae Ku to be declared as environmental protection zones under the Environment Act within 30 days. Once the zones are

established, the authority must set up rehabilitation measures and ban any activities which harm the environment. "The verdict is positive for locals, as constructive plans will be introduced to rehabilitate the environment damaged by cadmium," Mr Srisuwan said. "Moreover, it will help strengthen the pending civil case." The residents filed a complaint with the civil court against a mining company located close to the communities which is believed to be responsible for the cadmium contamination. They are demanding a total of 3 billion baht in compensation, as they say the contamination has made it impossible to grow rice in the area. About 800 villagers have been affected by the contamination. Officials have asked the residents to switch to sugar cane farming instead of rice. Sugar cane is able to absorb cadmium in soil, but the crop can then only be used for biofuel production and not for human consumption. Mr Srisuwan added the court agreed the NEB was guilty of negligence and had been slow to implement measures to rehabilitate the environment. Pairath Yathern, a 46-year-old villager who is among the 32 plaintiffs, said he believed state agencies will now tackle the problems with more urgency. Since 2003, when the cadmium contamination was found, no effective plan has been put in place to help their lives return to normal. "We are suffering from a poor environment with many people falling ill. "We still eat rice contaminated with cadmium as we have no other choice," he said. The mining company is still operating despite the fact it might be poisoning the environment,



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he said. The Department of Pollution Control has said it has prepared options for cleaning the contaminated environment, including the planting of sugar cane to absorb cadmium.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/364671/admin-court-orders-neb-to-restore-contaminated-districts>

USA, PA, WASHINGTON, AUGUST 15 2013. PA. FAMILY IN DRILLING LAWSUIT STILL GETS ROYALTY

A family that settled a lawsuit over the impacts of natural gas drilling still collects royalties from the gas production, according to documents made public this week. The Washington Observer-Reporter reports Tuesday that under the agreement Stephanie and Christopher Hallowich continue to receive royalty payments despite having moved from the suburban Pittsburgh house in 2011. Range Resources paid them \$595,000 plus legal fees in return for the property. The paper reports the family was critical of drilling activity, but the settlement also included a statement saying they appreciated that Range purchased the property. The agreement also prohibits the family from criticizing gas drilling operations in the future. The settlement details were released this week after the Observer-Reporter and Pittsburgh Post-Gazette sued to gain access to the documents.

http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/08/14/pa-family-in-drilling-lawsuit-still-gets-royalty/?utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=FuelFix&utm_campaign=FuelFixNewsLetter

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, AUGUST 15 2013. REFINER CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR HUGE SPILL

The Philippines' largest oil refiner, Petron Corp, has claimed responsibility for a huge diesel spill that shut down parts of Manila Bay's vital fishing industry, threatening the livelihoods of tens of thousands. Authorities said an estimated 500,000 litres of oil cast a slick across 20 kilometres of the coastline on Thursday close to a Petron fuel depot in Rosario town, south of the capital Manila. "At this stage, we take responsibility for this unfortunate incident", Petron President Lubin Nepomuceno said in a statement posted on the company's Facebook page late on Monday. "We will pursue proper remediation and clean-up of the areas affected, aiming to restore the means of livelihood of the local communities. In the meantime, we will continue to give the assistance needed by residents affected by the spill." He added: "We sincerely apologise and assure all the communities affected that we will strive to resolve the situation at the soonest possible time." Jose Ricafrente, the mayor of Rosario — one of the hard-hit coastal towns — said the spill had temporarily left about 40,000 residents dependent on the region's fishing industry out of work. The coastguard has said the entity found responsible for the spill is required by law to pay for the clean-up, and individuals could face criminal charges if found liable for negligence or deliberate discharge into the water.

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/asia/248829-refiner-claims-responsibility-for-huge-spill.html>

THAILAND, RAYONG, AUGUST 15 2013. PANEL CLEARS PTTGC OF WRONGDOING



An internal investigation by PTT has found that some changes may be made to emergency responses, as when this pipe cracked and caused last month's oil spill off Rayong. PTT Global Chemical Plc (PTTGC) correctly handled the oil leak off Rayong last month but bad weather and the customs procedure were the reasons for the spill's severe impact, an investigation committee said Wednesday.

The committee set up by Energy Minister Pongsak Raktapongpaisal found PTTGC followed operational procedures appropriately to cope with the accident by using dispersants and attempting to use an aeroplane in spraying, Vichien Keeratinjakal, a senior member of the National Environment Board, said. However, booms that were used to try to contain the spill did not work well due to strong winds and currents, the committee found, which caused the oil to spread to Ao Phrao on Koh Samet. Mr Vichien said that after the oil leak was detected

about 6.30am, PTTGC contacted a Singaporean agency 15 minutes later to seek a plane to spray dispersants. The plane entered the customs process about noon but it was held by customs until 2pm before arriving in Rayong at 3pm, he said. "If the plane had been operational much sooner, less than half the oil would have hit Ao Phrao," Mr Vichien said. He said the committee proposed the oil and gas industry share expenses to purchase planes of their own to spray dispersant immediately to prevent a repeat of such an incident. The committee also revealed that a ruptured hose was the cause of the oil leak. If the hose was found to be made from defective materials, PTTGC could demand compensation from the supplier, chief executive



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Anon Sirisangtaksin said. He declined to mention the name of the company that supplied the hose. PTTGC has also set up another committee to look into technical aspects and pursue additional investigations about the cause of the hose breakage. Mr Vichien said PTTGC staff handled the hose properly. "Before loading the crude oil to the refinery, PTTGC staff checked the hose carefully so I wonder why the hose broke," Mr Vichien said. Khunying Thongthip Ratanarat, the chairman of the committee, confirmed that all the valves were completely turned off immediately after the breakage, causing crude oil in the 300-metre-long hose to spill between a barge and a mooring. He said the hose had a volume of about 54,341 litres. "A 16-inch [40-centimetre] diameter hose at a single-point mooring which is 20 kilometres southeast of Map Ta Phut sea port broke during the loading of crude oil at the [PTTGC] oil refinery unit about 6.30am, and that caused the oil leakage," Khunying Thongthip said. PTTGC used 30,612 litres of Slickgone NS and 6,930 litres of Super-dispersant 25, chemicals which were allowed by the Department of Pollution Control. Deputy Prime Minister Plodprasop Suraswadi said he would seek cabinet approval to revise the Prime Minister's Office's regulations for handling urgent situations. He also said the Department of Pollution Control should not have released test results concerning lead contamination in the sea water at Ao Phrao. He said the department could mislead the public and cause panic.

Related Stories

- [Panel clears PTTGC of wrongdoing](#)
- [Blame it on a hose pipe](#)
- [Following marine oil leakage, Thailand tightens regulations](#)

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/364661/committee-clears-pttgc-in-oil-spill>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, AUGUST 15 2013. FOUR PEOPLE TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AFTER CHEMICAL LEAK AT CONOCO BUILDING

Houston was evacuated Wednesday morning because of a chemical leak. Four people were taken by ambulance to nearby hospitals to be checked out. It happened at the Wellness Center on the huge Conoco campus in the 600 block of N. Dairy Ashford. The leak involved a mixture of chlorine and sodium bromide stored in a closet near the pool. The Houston Fire Department also sent a HAZMAT unit to the scene. Drivers are advised to avoid N. Dairy Ashford near N. Eldridge until the scene is clear.

<http://www.khou.com/news/local/Conoco-building-in-west-Houston-evacuated-due-to-chemical-leak-219600231.html>

SOUTH AFRICA, CAPE TOWN, AUGUST 15 2013. SA TABLES GLOBAL OIL SPILL PACTS

vivien horler



File photo: Oil leaking from the stranded Kiani Satu washes on to the beach at the Goukamma Nature Reserve between Buffels Bay and Sedgfield.

Eight years after South Africa signed two international conventions that would cover the clean-up costs of a major oil spill off our coast, two bills aimed at incorporating the conventions into South African law are due to be tabled in Parliament on Wednesday. The conventions provide for compensation of up to R3.04-billion to be paid after an incident involving an oil tanker. But without the enabling legislation South Africa cannot access the funds. Currently a shipowner can limit the compensation payable to just R210-million. This means in the event of a major oil spill, such as the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska, in which 87 000 tons of crude oil were spilt, generating a clean-up bill of more than \$5-billion, South African taxpayers would have to pick up the tab. The first bill being tabled today is the Merchant Shipping (Civil Liability Convention) Bill, which limits

a shipowner's liability. If this bill is passed the maximum limit of a shipowner's liability would rise from R210m to R3.04bn. The second is the Merchant Shipping (International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund) Bill, which provides for access to the International Oil Pollution Convention Fund, that can be drawn on as a second tier of cover. The conventions apply only to spills from oil tankers; bunker fuel spills from a ship such as the Kiani Satu, which ran aground near Knysna last week, are covered by different laws and conventions. Lawyer Patrick Holloway, a member of Webber Wentzel's insurance, shipping and transport group, who has been working on the project for years, is pleased that the two bills are "eventually" being tabled on Wednesday. At present South Africa has no mechanism to raise the levies it must pay into the international fund in order to



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claim from the fund in the event of a disaster. Levies are collected from oil importers, but each country needs legislation to govern the collection. Another two bills, known as the "money bills", were tabled during July and the transport portfolio committee convened public hearings in respect of them on Tuesday. "Three of these bills, the 'money bills' and the Fund Bill, must be promulgated before South Africa will have access to the fund convention," said Holloway. "The four proposed statutes would protect the taxpayer by enabling South African claimants to claim higher amounts from a shipowner in the first instance, and then, if need be, to claim against the international fund for any shortfall." Holloway said South African legislation also needed to be urgently updated to increase a shipowner's liability in the case of a bunker fuel spill from a cargo ship such as the Kiani Satu. In terms of present legislation the maximum we can claim from the owners of the Kiani Satu would be R33m, based on the size of the ship – and the ship's cargo of rice is worth more than that.

Related Stories

- [SA coasts insured against disaster](#)
- [New nano material to soak up oil spills?](#)
- [SA's Greenpeace crusader fights on](#)

<http://www.iol.co.za/scitech/science/environment/sa-tables-global-oil-spill-pacts-1.1561972#.UgwoMJlwdZ4>

USA, CA, BAKERSFIELD, AUGUST 15 2013. ALON REFINERY AUDIT SHOWS 50 SAFETY ISSUES, REMEDIES UNDERWAY

 **Watch the Video** [Audit: Concerns for refinery in Rosedale](#)

Should there be concerns about the Alon Refinery just south of Rosedale Highway? That's a question many in the community are asking after a third party audit shows the facility has dozens of environmental health and safety issues, nine of which are classified as high-risk. In 2012 the Board of Supervisors made the audit a requirement, after chemical leaks were recorded at the facility. The refinery isn't operational now. According to facility documents, the refinery right now is acting as a storage facility and distribution center, but does not make fuel. There is a possibility the facility could ramp up to full operations, but this audit shows it's nowhere near ready. "This refinery is located in a very populated area. When it was built, it wasn't that way," said Matt Constantine, Director of Kern County Public Health. Now the location just south of Rosedale Highway between Coffee Road and Highway 99, is near some 14,600 homes in a two-mile radius. Under multiple owners, the refinery has had issues including a hydrogen sulfide leak in May 2011 and multiple other chemical releases, according to Constantine. So in 2012, the county required the company undergo a one-time third party audit. That happened in May, but was discussed Tuesday at the Board of Supervisors meeting. "So we went to it and looked at processes and programs and interviewed staff to get a snapshot at what was happening at the facility," said Lindsay Polic, principle consultant for EORM, the company that performed the third party audit. The consultant company said it found during its three-day tour, 49 environmental health and safety issues, nine of which were high-risk. "Those are based on insuring the safety of the environment and the safety of the community," said Constantine about the high-risk issues. The audit states the facility is aging and maintenance continues to be lacking and would require up to two years of work for the backlog to be completed. The county says the owner of the refinery, Paramount Petroleum's Alon, is not required to remedy the problems although it verbally agreed to do so. "We're continuing to work with Kern County Health, Matt Constantine and his team to resolve all of the issues associated with the audit," said Glenn Clausen, Vice President of West Coast Refinery of Alon's Paramount Petroleum Corporation. These improvements include installing onsite weather stations and toxic gas monitors along the perimeter. The weather sites would allow first responders to detect which way the wind blew a possible chemical leak. "What we're trying to do is prevent, detect, and provide information about any other releases that could occur," said Constantine. In addition to the audit, the company was required to send out a safety brochure and sign up and pay for the county's Reverse 911 system, Ready Kern, to alert residents if a leak occurs. You can sign up to get that alert at www.kerncountyfire.org under the 'education' tab or at www.co.kern.ca.us under the 'emergency' tab. In the four years Alon has owned the refinery, Constantine said they have had no recorded OSHA violations.

<http://www.kget.com/news/local/story/Refinery-audit-shows-50-safety-issues-remedies/nnjXefZEgk6al2sM2ES8Yw.csp>

SOUTH AFRICA, CAPE TOWN, AUGUST 15 2013. SOUTH AFRICA: OIL SPILL - JOEMAT-PETTERSSON MUST BREAK THE SILENCE

Fisheries Minister, Tina Joemat-Pettersson must break the silence over the looming ecological disaster as a result of the recent oil spill along the Knysna coastline. This week, a cargo ship, the Kiani Satu ran aground carrying 330 tons of heavy oil and 15 000 tons of rice. I have been reliably informed that 70 tons of that oil has already spilled into the water, and is drifting



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further into the ocean. Discussions are underway for the rice to be thrown overboard. Minister Joemat-Pettersson's department is responsible for managing South Africa's six environmental protection vessels, which are to be used when the safety of the country's coastline is compromised, such as with, oil spills. These are the only vessels in South Africa with a mechanism to prevent oil from drifting further into ocean during an oil spill. These six vessels are currently sitting in dry dock in Cape Town Harbour and Simon's Town Naval Base due to a failure by the Fisheries Department to properly manage them. They therefore cannot be used in containing and cleaning up of the oil spill. SAMSA officials have indicated to me that although they are doing their level best to contain and clean the oil spill while trying to salvage the vessel on the Knysna coastline, because they cannot use the Fisheries environmental protection vessels, their work is made that much more difficult. They are unable to prevent the oil from drifting further into the ocean. Minister Joemat-Pettersson must now break her silence and explain, how, in absence of the environmental protection vessels, she will prevent an ecological disaster.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201308141407.html>

BULGARIA, VARNA, EZEROVO, AUGUST 15 2013. 4 INJURED AS GAS CISTERN GOES OFF NEAR BULGARIA'S COASTAL CITY



That was the second blast of a gas-filled auto cistern in the Bulgarian village of Ezerovo, in the district of the coastal city of Varna, for that day and it went off around 6.30 pm.

Four firemen have been injured as a second explosion near Bulgaria's Black Sea city of Varna occurred in the train composition of propan butan-filled gas cisterns on Wednesday. That was the second blast of a gas-filled auto cistern in the Bulgarian village of Ezerovo, in the district of the coastal city of Varna, for that day and it went off around 6.30 p.m. On the scene there were dozens of firemen still putting out the fire caused by the same cistern which had exploded earlier the same day. Around 4 p.m. on Wednesday the police reported an explosion of a gas cistern injuring two men. One of the men was accommodated at the Navy Hospital in Varna being in critical condition while the other man suffered no life-threatening injuries. In a statement released by the police officers an hour and a half later, the fire triggered by the first explosion had been put under control. One hour later, the second explosion took place, injuring 3 more.

http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=152850

USA, TX, KILLEEN, AUGUST 15 2013. TANKER TRUCK CATCHES FIRE ON HWY. 195 THIS MORNING

Jacob Brooks

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Firefighters Battle Tanker Truck Fire on Area Highway](#)
- [Two Trucks Catch Fire in Central Texas within Six Hours Wednesday](#)



A truck hauling liquid asphalt is seen on fire along State Highway 195 this morning. Killeen firefighters extinguished the blaze.

A truck hauling liquid asphalt caught fire along State Highway 195 near the intersection of FM 2670 this morning, Killeen police said. No one was injured, and the fire was contained to the area of the truck, said Carroll Smith, spokeswoman for Killeen Police Department. The fire was reported around 6:30 a.m. "Nothing spilled on the road," she said, however, a haz-mat crew was sent to the scene as a precautionary measure. Smith said the fire is out. Traffic is still flowing on both roads, but the outside southbound lane on Highway 195 is closed until the truck can be removed.

http://kdhnews.com/news/traffic/truck-catches-fire-on-hwy-this-morning/article_6a4b7026-04e8-11e3-81e2-001a4bcf6878.html



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BULGARIA, VARNA, EZEROVO, AUGUST 15 2013. 11 REMAIN IN HOSPITAL AFTER GAS CISTERN EXPLOSION IN BULGARIA



A total of 11 people, including seven firefighters, remain in hospital after a fire and consequent explosions occurred in a train composition of propan butan-filled gas cisterns near Bulgaria's Black Sea city of Varna on Wednesday. The fire erupted at around 4 pm EET on Wednesday, followed by two explosions. One of those injured remains in a critical condition, as he suffered 90 percent burns in the incident. Firefighters extinguished the fire at approximately 11:30 pm, according to local media. Authorities are currently conducting an investigation into the incident, which occurred outside the village of Ezerovo near Varna. The incident has posed no danger for the environment, according to Bulgaria's Environment Ministry.

Related Stories

- [Bulgaria interior minister orders checks on oil cistern explosion](#)
- [Bulgarian Interior Min Orders Probes into Gas Cistern Incident](#)
- [Fire near village Ezerovo is extinguished, there are 12 injured](#)

http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=152855

USA, MI, BENZIE CO, AUGUST 15 2013. QUESTIONS LINGER AFTER COMPANY SPREADS TOXIC CHEMICALS ON NORTHERN MICHIGAN ROADS

bob allen



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Bryan Black on his small farm in Benzie County.

Earlier this summer, a Kalkaska company spread industrial waste on roads in Benzie County. The toxic contaminants were mixed with brine from oil wells - it's used to keep down dust on gravel roads. The pollutants tested way above what's allowed for human contact. The incident is leading some residents to think the Department of Environmental Quality is treating the oil and gas industry with kid gloves.

A Gardener Investigates

If Bryan Black hadn't been out tending his garden one morning in early June, it's likely nobody would even know about the toxic chemicals spread on nearby roads. Black saw a tanker truck go by and then pull off the highway and onto a dirt road just down from where he lives. When he later saw the truck go by again, he hopped in his pickup and followed it. Black had worked in refineries in Houston

and Galveston. So he knew the stuff soaking into Douglas Road wasn't just salty water or brine. He says the odor burned his nose. "It smells like a combination of insecticide, gasoline, diesel oil and sulfur," he says. Black says after he and his wife checked another nearby road they both had dull headaches for the rest of the evening. They reported the incident to the Benzie County Road Commission which just happened to have a sample from the contaminated load. It contained several chemicals, far exceeding levels for direct human contact, including benzene, a known carcinogen. Chris Grobbel is an independent environmental investigator who used to track hazardous spills for the state. "Anybody coming into contact with it with bare feet, with their hands, breathing, inhaling dust, riding bicycles, children playing in these areas, all would be of great concern," says Grobbel. Nobody is saying there was direct human contact in this instance.

The DEQ Responds

The DEQ sent out people to take a look a few days later. But a rainstorm had washed away any visible sign of oil and the odor was gone. Rick Henderson, field supervisor for the DEQ's oil and gas section, says the brine came from a storage tank in northern Manistee County. Apparently, contaminants somehow got into one of the brine tanks. Henderson paints the incident as a slip-up. "For the most part, I think we do a good job at regulating this practice and especially since everything is tested ahead of time. This is a pretty isolated incident," he says. The tanks are owned by Team Services, which is supposed to test



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brine from each well before spreading it on roads. The DEQ cited the company and told it to explain what happened and how it would fix the problems. Team Services did not respond to requests to comment for this story.

'Asleep at the wheel'

No matter what happened, Chris Grobbel thinks the truck drivers ought to have been able to tell by the smell that something wasn't right. As a former regulator, he doesn't see it as a fluke. He says the DEQ relies too much on the industry to monitor itself. He thinks these incidents will continue to happen despite much-touted regulations. "Ironically, we've got regulations that allow for this kind of thing to occur and unfortunately, in my assessment, the state is often asleep at the wheel," he says.

For Residents, Questions Remain

Bryan Black trucks his produce to nearby farmers' markets several times a week. He recognizes that by speaking out about toxic chemicals spread on roads near his place he may be undercutting his own business. "Well, I think it's more important for us to get the word out and get resolution to this so this doesn't happen again," he says. He and his wife want to know if the toxic stuff will end up in their drinking water and they want the company that spread the brine to pay for testing their well.

<http://www.michiganradio.org/post/questions-linger-after-company-spreads-toxic-chemicals-northern-michigan-roads>

INDIA, NAGALAND, DIMAPUR, AUGUST 15 2013. CYLINDER BLAST CAUSED PETROL PUMP INFERNO

In a breakthrough, Diphupar police station personnel have established that a cylinder blast in the kitchen of the "godown" of Essar petrol pump, 7th mile caused the August 9 inferno. According to reliable police sources, Bipin Mondul (26) son of Baidhenth Mondul of Bihar, a cook of the petrol pump, during interrogation confessed that the fire started when the gas cylinder in the kitchen was engulfed in flames when he and another employee Manahor were cooking. Police said in his statement, Bipin confessed that while he and his accomplice was preparing dinner they heard an unusual sound from the cylinder and they ran out from the kitchen to inform the manager. They were also followed by another employee Vinod, who was sleeping in the corridor of the kitchen. However, before anything could be done, the cylinder caught fire and spread over to the nearby barrels which were filled with fuel. Police said all the employees fled the scene when the "godown" caught fire and added that they were still on the look-out for Manahor and Vinod reportedly absconding since August 9 night. Not ruling out case of fuel adulteration, police said they have sent "unspoiled petrol and diesel samples" to laboratory to ascertain whether the same were adulterated or not. Police said one Ashok Prasad was in-charge of the "godown" owned by Shrikant, who also owned the Essar Petrol Pump. In his statement, Ashok also confessed to have stored fuel in the "godown" and selling the same in a "subsidized" rate, police added. Police also informed that the drivers Joy Kishor Roy (29) and Ashok Prasad (32) were brought to court and were taken into custody for 15 days. Bipin, who was arrested Monday was also produced before the court and was taken into 48 hour police remand.

<http://www.nagalandpost.com/ChannelNews/State/StateNews.aspx?news=TkVXUzEwMDA0MzMwMw%3D%3D-H6kxbdx3W6U%3D>

USA, DE, DELAWARE CITY, AUGUST 15 2013. N. DAKOTA FRACKED OIL SAID TO CORRODE RAIL TANK CARS, PUT WORKERS AT RISK

jim efstathiou jr. & angela greiling keane



Railroad tank cars are unloaded on a loop track at a refinery in Delaware City, Delaware. July 28, 2013. The refinery receives 110,000 barrels of crude oil a day, which is about 150 cars, or two trainloads. The shipments originate in the Bakken region of North Dakota, the center of a new American oil boom. With a shortage of new pipeline capacity, oil producers have been using rail as an alternative, and in some cases it's the preferred mode.

Crude oil shipped by railroad from North Dakota is drawing fresh scrutiny from regulators concerned that the cargo is adding environmental and safety hazards, something that analysts say could raise costs. The Federal Railroad

Administration is investigating whether chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing are corroding rail tank cars and increasing risks. Separately, three pipeline companies including Enbridge Inc. warned regulators that North Dakota oil with too much hydrogen sulfide, which is toxic and flammable, was reaching terminals and putting workers at risk. Until last month, safety advocates' chief worry was spills in derailments. After tank cars blew up July 6 on a train in Quebec, investigators in Canada are considering whether the composition of the crude, which normally doesn't explode, may have played a role in the accident that



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killed 47 people. The oil was from North Dakota's Bakken shale. "Crude historically has not been considered in the highest category of hazmat," said Anthony Hatch, an independent analyst in New York who has tracked railroad companies for almost three decades. "The risks have been considered to be environmental, not to humans. Perhaps Bakken crude should be considered in a higher category." The cost of added safety measures, such as tighter rail-car specifications that would make obsolete some current models, may become an issue if oil prices fall, according to Kevin Book, managing director at ClearView Energy Partners, a Washington-based policy-analysis firm. "The solution to rail safety issues looks like unanticipated costs, whether, it be rail car investments or new safety protocols," Book said in an email. Such costs are less likely to slow production when is oil trading for \$100 or more per barrel, Book said. "At \$75 per barrel, it could be a big deal," he said. Crude oil futures have traded higher than \$100 a barrel since July, and are more than \$90 a barrel since late April. North Dakota is the nation's second-biggest oil-producing state, with more than 790,000 barrels a day this year up from from about 150,000 barrels in 2008. Railroads move 75 percent of the state's crude, including the load of more than 70 cars that derailed and exploded last month in Lac-Megantic, Quebec. Canadian regulators are testing the composition of crude from the wrecked Montreal Maine and Atlantic Railway Ltd. freight train. A question they say they're asking is why the derailment led to such an intense inferno, which regulators have called "abnormal." They visited North Dakota as part of their review, said Chris Krepski, a spokesman for the Transportation Safety Board of Canada. "We did take samples from the tank cars to get a better understanding of what was actually carried in them and verifying that against the shipping documents," Krepski said. "It's safe to say we're looking at everything." Montreal, Maine and Atlantic said last week it was forced to file for bankruptcy because of potential liability in the crash. Much of North Dakota's production relies on hydraulic fracturing or fracking, a technique in which millions of gallons of chemically treated water and sand are forced underground to shatter rock and free trapped oil. Highly corrosive hydrochloric acid is widely used to extract oil in the state, according to a 2011 report from the Society of Petroleum Engineers. In a July 29 letter to the American Petroleum Institute, a Washington-based lobbying and standards-setting group for the oil and gas industry, the railway administration said it found increasing cases of damage to tanker cars' interior surfaces. A possible cause is contamination of crude by materials used in fracking, according to the letter. "If the hydrochloric acid is carried with the oil into rail cars, corrosion can be an issue," Andy Lipow, president of Houston-based Lipow Oil Associates, said in an email. Shippers need to know the properties of the oil to ensure that it's transported in tankers equipped to handle the cargo, according to the rail agency's letter. Because information provided to railroads on the properties of oil is not gathered from tests, the agency said it "can only speculate" as to the number of cars in violation of hazardous-materials regulations. Investigating whether the chemical composition of Bakken oil makes it more likely to corrode tank cars is reasonable, said Peter Goelz, a former National Transportation Safety Board managing director who's now a senior vice president with O'Neill and Associates in Washington. The Quebec accident also revived a debate over the type of cars used to haul oil. For years, regulators and watchdogs have sought improvements to a common car design shown to be susceptible to rupture when derailed. The NTSB estimates that 69 percent of today's rail tank-car fleet has "a high incidence of tank failure during accidents," Chairman Deborah Hersman wrote in letter last year. The agency recommended thicker shells and other modifications to strengthen the cars. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., this week called on U.S. regulators to phase out the older cars, known as DOT-111s, saying they've contributed to spills of hazardous materials. "The DOT-111 tank car has proven particularly prone to spills, tears and fires in the event of a derailment, and it's simply unacceptable for New York's communities along the rail lines to face that risk when we know thicker, tougher cars could keep us safer," Schumer said in an emailed statement. The rail industry is fighting a proposal to retrofit existing cars, saying it could cost as much as \$1 billion. Shippers also must account for hydrogen sulfide, a highly flammable toxic gas that at some wells is a byproduct of oil, to properly classify oil for transport. The Bakken oil field generally produces lighter oil with little or no hydrogen sulfide, though at times, crudes with different grades are mixed for shipping, said John Harju, associate director for research at the University of North Dakota Energy and Environmental Research Center, and co-author of the Society of Petroleum Engineers report on the Bakken reservoir. "You see little blender facilities popping up all over the place along pipelines and rails," Harju said in an interview. In June, Enbridge won an emergency order to reject oil with high hydrogen-sulfide levels from its system after telling the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that it found dangerous levels of the compound at a rail terminal in Berthold, N.D. In addition to being highly flammable, hydrogen sulfide in the air is an irritant and a chemical asphyxiant that can alter both oxygen utilization and the central nervous system, according to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. "We did discover that some of the crude coming into the system had much higher levels of hydrogen sulfide than we felt was safe for our employees," Katie Haarsager, an Enbridge spokeswoman, said in an interview. "Some blending may not have been up to levels in the past." Enbridge won FERC's permission to refuse delivery of any oil with hydrogen sulfide that exceeded 5



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August 27 2013



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parts per million, half the minimum exposure recommended by federal regulators. In a May 5 test, Calgary-based Enbridge, which owns and operates a 970-mile pipeline from Plentywood, Mont., to Clearbrook, Minn., found levels as high as 1,200 parts per million at its Berthold terminal "that could cause death, or serious injuries," according to the company's FERC filing. Two other pipeline operators, Tesoro Corp. and the closely held True companies, which operates the Belle Fourche and Bridger pipelines in North Dakota, also found high levels of hydrogen sulfide in crude shipments. The FERC approved Tesoro's request to reject oil with hydrogen sulfide at more than 5 parts per million effective Jan. 1. True companies was allowed to turn away crude with more than 10 parts per million of hydrogen sulfide effective April 1. True, based in Casper, Wyo., sent a notice to its Belle Fourche and Bridger customers in January warning that high levels of hydrogen sulfide "materially affected the common stream and created safety hazards at certain delivery locations." North Dakota regulators say hydrogen sulfide is prevalent in oil wells in some areas and field inspectors are required to carry hydrogen-sulfide monitors. "The fact that there were explosions, and crude oil is not supposed to explode, raises a lot of suspicions as to whether there were other chemicals and so on added to oil in the process before the shipment," Edward Burkhardt, chief executive officer of Rail World Inc., which owns the Montreal and Maine railway, said in an interview. While derailments of trains hauling crude can create environmental messes, oil doesn't usually ignite unless exposed to extreme heat, said Lloyd Burton, professor of environmental policy at the University of Colorado in Denver. Gasoline, refined from crude oil, is more more volatile. "Crude oil doesn't usually explode and burn with the ferocity that this train did," Burton said.

<http://bangordailynews.com/2013/08/14/business/n-dakota-fracked-oil-said-to-corrode-rail-tank-cars-put-workers-at-risk/>

USA, LA, TAFT, AUGUST 16 2013. DOW LEAK WAS REPORTED WITHIN MANDATED HOUR TIME FRAME

kyle barnett

Last Wednesday morning a hazardous chemical leak was reported at the Dow plant in Taft and workers were advised to shelter in place while the issue was handled by plant personnel. According to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the leak of Acrolein, a highly flammable and poisonous gas, began at 8:24 a.m., but St. Charles Parish Spokeswoman Renee Simpson said the situation was not reported to the Emergency Operations Center until 51 minutes later at 9:15 a.m. Dow officials said the leak was contained and never posed a threat to residents. The DEQ later reported the leak was secured at 10:30 a.m. and an "all clear" was called at 11:24 a.m. with no offsite impact expected. According to Louisiana State Police (LSP) spokeswoman Trooper Melissa Matey, Dow was within reporting requirements when they called in the leak. "The LSP has a hazardous materials section. It is required by state law if there is any kind of chemical release they have to notify us," she said. Matey said DEQ regulations require the reporting of leaks of hazardous materials within one hour, which means Dow still had nine minutes to spare when they notified the EOC of the situation. Emergency Coordinator Steve Sirmon said the Dow leak was a small incident such as others that occur on a regular basis in St. Charles Parish. "It required no protective action or any activation from us," he said. "On average we have an unusual event we deal with once every three days." As far as the reporting requirement is concerned, EOC Director Ron Perry said he thought Dow handled the situation well. "This is just another unusual event that did not require offsite protective measures," he said. "I think Dow exhibited an abundance of caution with this particular material. It was appreciated by us and I think everything went exactly as we expected it to go." Senior Emergency Coordinator Jason Tastet said since he has been working at the EOC he has never had an issue with a facility not reporting within the required timeline. "In my 14 years of working here I've never had a reporting issue where I've thought it came too late with any fixed facility issue," he said. Dow State Government Affairs Leader Tommy Fauchaux said the chemical plant cooperated with all appropriate agencies throughout the ordeal.

<http://www.heraldguide.com/details.php?id=12966>

CHINA, INNER MONGOLIA AUTONOMOUS REGION, HOHHOT, AUGUST 16 2013. CHLORINE GAS LEAKAGE POISONS OVER 40 IN CHINA

More than 40 people were poisoned due to a gas leakage in China's Inner Mongolia region, authorities said Thursday. The accident occurred Wednesday night at a village in the regional capital of Hohhot. Twenty-six people were hospitalised, one of them being in critical condition, Xinhua reported. Investigators said the toxic gas, identified as chlorine, came from two containers illegally stored by a local resident, who reportedly did not tell anyone about the leak even after discovering it.

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/gas-leakage-poisons-over-40-in-china-113081500784_1.html



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