



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2011 – 751 Newsy Stuff

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September 9 2011



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INDIA, BANGALORE, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. SPECIAL SQUAD TO CHECK PETROL PILERAGE

In a bid to check heavy pilferage from petrol and diesel tankers, the district police have formed a special squad. The tankers are sent out after loading from terminals of petroleum companies in Hoskote taluk of Bangalore rural district, Superintendent of police D Prakash said 15 drums with 200 litres of petrol in each were seized during the last three days. "We have also seized a tanker and a van and some more petrol on Tuesday," he said. The squad will check the pilferage by the tanker drivers. Their modus operandi: they remove petrol from the loaded tankers to barrels after taking them into the casuarina plantation found in the limits of Hoskote and Nandagudi police stations. They use these plantations as a cover for their illegal activities. "Though the amount of pilferage has come down, it has been going on unchecked with consumers getting adulterated petrol and sometimes diesel. The amount of petrol thus pilfered is replaced with white kerosene by these racketeers," he said.

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-09-01/bangalore/29953080_1_petrol-tankers-plantations

USA, N.J, BRIDGEWATER, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. HURRICANE IRENE FLOODWATERS BLAMED FOR CHEMICAL WASTE SPILL IN BRIDGEWATER

eugene paik

Floodwaters caused by Hurricane Irene may have freed chemical waste from the former American Cyanamid site in Bridgewater, but the breach is not considered an immediate threat, environmental authorities said today. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, water from a rising Raritan River spilled over a berm that protected an impoundment that stored the waste. A black tar-like substance similar to the stored waste was found on and around the berm when the water receded, EPA spokesman Elias Rodriguez said. Tests results on the substance are pending. Tests on the land's ground water and soil are ongoing. Chris Poulsen, the township's health and human services director, said the substance is likely the chemical sludge, but added that township officials are not overly concerned. The site's flood control system was built to trap floodwater that spills in, preventing chemicals from escaping the property, he said. "The flood control system was designed to deal with breaches," he said. Larry Ragonese, spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Protection, agreed that the situation is under control. The property was the site of chemical manufacturing from 1915 and 1999, and is now owned by Pfizer. The most concentrated contaminant on the property is benzene, according to Pfizer.

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/08/hurricane_irene_floodwaters_bl.html

USA, MI, EMMETT TWP, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. OIL SPILL EXPERT RIKI OTT OUTLINES DANGERS OF EXPOSURE TO OIL, COMPARES KALAMAZOO RIVER SPILL TO GULF OF MEXICO, EXXON VALDEZ DISASTERS

fritz klug



Dr. Riki Ott speaks at a meeting Aug. 31, 2011, about the adverse effects of oil to humans Wednesday night at Mike's Place, 340 Cliff Street, in Emmet Township. Behind Ott are images taken of sores on people's skin after the 2006 BP Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

A marine toxicologist who has studied oil spills across the country said Wednesday that last summer's Kalamazoo River spill can be as harmful to the health of people exposed to the oil as the larger, more notorious Gulf of Mexico an Exxon Valdez spills. "This is not unique, it's happening across America," [Riki Ott, who holds a Ph.D. in marine biology](#), said of the spill that sent more than 800,000 gallons of diluted bitumen oil into the Kalamazoo River in July 2010. "People's health problems (from the Enbridge spill) are identical to the Gulf." Ott spoke to about 50

concerned citizens in Emmet Township on Wednesday about the adverse, long-term health effects oil can have on humans. She has been an advocate for people effected by oil spills since the 1988 Exxon Valdez spill, where 11 to 32 million gallons of oil were dumped into the Prince William Sound near her home in Alaska, and has written two books on oil spills. What is similar between all the spills she has studied and the one on the Kalamazoo River last summer are their health effects on humans, Ott said. Some of the effects include sores on the skin and respiratory problems, as well as long-term impacts on people's cells and blood hormones, Ott said. When she asked for a show of hand as to which audience members believed they have experienced health issues from the Kalamazoo River spill, nearly everyone in attendance raised a hand. Ott spoke on the same day that Enbridge Energy [was supposed to completed cleanup of 200 acres of submerged oil](#). On Monday, Enbridge notified the EPA in a letter that "it would not be able to comply with the August 31, 2011 deadline ... to complete

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recovery of all submerged oil, oil sheen, oil-containing soils and oil-containing sediments," according to a statement from the EPA. The federal agency said it will continue to evaluate Enbridge's progress and investigate why it did not meet Wednesday's cleanup deadline. Enbridge spokesman Jason Manshum said that the Alberta, Canada-based company was unable to meet the deadline for numerous reasons, including environmental factors, and that the scope of the cleanup grew over the summer. But as the crews continue to collect oil submerged under the riverbed, the concern to most of those who attended Wednesday's meeting was what effects the oil will have on their health. Health effects of submerged oil have been studied by the Michigan Department of Community Health. [The toxicology study, which was released at an Aug. 17 public meeting](#), shows that contact with submerged oil will neither cause long-term health effects or an increased chance of cancer. [The National Wildlife Federation has criticized the study, however, because eight chemicals found in the submerged oil were not included in the conclusion](#). Ott said there are long-term health effects, and that conditions people reported Wednesday night need to be treated appropriately. Also, she added that the long-term effects of oil need to be studied. "Oil is not going to cause long-term effects until you look for long-term effects," she said. The Calhoun County Health Department has petitioned the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to conduct a long-term health assessment of human exposure to the Kalamazoo River spill. Ott cited a recent study by the Department of Community Medicine and Community Health at Tufts University that found chronic effects of an oil spill include psychological, respiratory disorders and adverse effects to people's cells and blood hormones. When studies of oils began, scientists looked at the volatile organic chemicals released from the oil, which caused short-term health effects, Ott said. When researchers started looking at the heavier parts of oil in the 1970s, which include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, they found cause for the long-term health effects, including jamming DNA coating and the synthesis of DNA hormones. "Medical science understands our bodies better now," Ott said. "They couldn't measure low levels (of oil) before." Also, instead of looking at the effect of chemicals on lab rats and cells in the laboratory, researchers looked at how the chemicals reacted to actual humans. "The study shifted from being in lab to field and lab studies," Ott said. Ott was brought to the area by John Bolenbaugh and Michelle Barlund Smith, who have advocated for the health of residents affected by the spill. Bolenbaugh has also helped distribute information on class-action and individual lawsuits against Enbridge. Ott said those effected by the oil spill are similar to military personnel exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War and workers at Ground Zero exposed to chemicals clearing the debris in New York after the 9/11 attacks. Both groups were told at the time there would be no long-term health effects from the exposure. Once the effects were seen, Ott said, change happened. What is being called a "community organizing event," meanwhile, is scheduled for today at 5:30 p.m. at the same location as Wednesday's night's meeting, Mike's Place, 340 Cliff St., in Emmett Township. On Wednesday night, she encouraged people to stay in contact with each other and share what they are going through. "The answers are in the community," she said. Ott's message on Wednesday, while disconcerting, was welcome to the audience. "It's good to know we're not the only ones to go through this," said Julie Holton, who lives 500 feet from the Kalamazoo River in Battle Creek. Holton, and her husband, Dee Holton Sr., said they are angered by the information they received from Enbridge and the EPA on the health effects of the spill. But the question that weighed on much of the audience was summed up by Dee Holton, who said he's suffered a loss of 30 percent in his lung capacity after the spill. He asked: "How are you going to prove our health conditions are connected to the oil?"

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/09/oil_spill_expert_riki_ott_outl.html

CHINA, BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. OIL SPILL AFTERMATH TESTS THE LEGAL WATERS

Li jing



Oil coats pooled water, sand and rocks on the shore at Changdao, a major fish farming island in Shandong province. A leak on an offshore oil platform was discovered in northern Bohai Bay on June 4; this photo was taken on July 8. Official statistics show that 5,500 sq km of the bay's surface have been contaminated.

Victims of marine pollution look to the courts for justice, reports Li Jing from Beijing. When some of his sea cucumbers showed signs of distress in late June, Xun Shaobin did not expect that the majority of them would soon perish. The 58-year-old sea farmer from Laoting county, Hebei province, cultivates 4.2 hectares of the marine animals. "Some sea cucumbers began to turn a yellowish green from their normal black. So I went to other villagers to seek help, only to find out that they were facing the same problems," Xun said. "We didn't know the cause at that time, nor

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did we know anything about the oil spills. In less than a month, about 60 percent of my sea cucumbers had died." He estimates that he has lost about 1.2 million yuan (\$188,000). In a series of spills starting on June 4, oil from the Penglai 19-3 oilfield operated by ConocoPhillips China seeped into Bohai Bay, off the coast of Shandong province. The sheen reached coastal areas of Hebei and Liaoning provinces by late June. Wednesday was the deadline to clean up the spill. By last Thursday, official statistics showed that 5,500 square kilometers of Bohai Bay's surface had been contaminated, with 870 square km seriously polluted, meaning it is unfit for swimming or aquaculture. Xun and more than 200 other Hebei sea farmers, who lost large amounts of scallops and sea cucumbers, have retained a law firm to sue ConocoPhillips China. Meanwhile, the State Oceanic Administration is preparing a separate lawsuit for ecological compensation on behalf of the country. Though not optimistic about the results, legal experts hope the cases can become a landmark in pursuing environmental justice through the Chinese courts. They said the absence of an effective cleanup has indicated failure in the country's regulatory instruments in dealing with marine pollution cases. "Obviously in the case of the Bohai oil spills, polluting companies are not deterred by the government's administrative power, which has always been a major force in tackling pollution problems in China," said Zhou Ke, a law professor at Beijing-based Renmin University of China.

Contained or Not?

Ninety days since the leak started at an offshore oilfield in northern Bohai Bay, the country's maritime watchdog and the polluting companies still cannot agree on whether the spill has been fully contained. The State Oceanic Administration said last Thursday that it had detected 16 leaks under Platform C of Penglai 19-3, still bubbling out oil and gas, while seepage at Platform B has continued. The American operator, ConocoPhillips China, said on Wednesday evening that it had sealed all leaks. On Monday, it said it had cleaned up 99 percent of the oil-based drilling mud near Platform C. The administration had no immediate response Wednesday. They also disagree on the spills' ecological impact, with ConocoPhillips insisting no coastal areas have been polluted. State-owned China National Offshore Oil Corp, which holds 51 percent of the joint venture with ConocoPhillips, has largely remained silent and has dodged public criticism. Such discrepancies epitomize the prolonged wrangling between the maritime authority and powerful oil companies as the worst marine ecological accident in China unfolded over the past months. Law professor Zhou said the ultimate reason behind the disputes lies in the fact that marine environmental protection is never listed as a priority in maritime development, at least in the legislative process, despite increased exploitation of marine resources over the past decade. "When the Law on Islands Protection was drafted several years ago, some scholars proposed that environmental protection should be given a top priority in development of the uninhabited sea islands. Unfortunately, such a concept was never adopted," Zhou said. One implication is that the marine environmental watchdog finds itself at a disadvantage when dealing with expensive industrial projects such as offshore oil drilling, he said.

No Teeth, No Muscle

The maritime authority itself cites the lack of stringent punishment as a reason that ConocoPhillips did not effectively mobilize a cleanup. The administration announced at its first briefing after the spills that the maximum penalty for marine pollution is 200,000 yuan (\$31,350), according to the country's law. An unnamed official from the administration said in an interview with Xinhua News Agency on Aug 11: "The company is too well aware of Chinese laws and regulations under which it won't be severely punished for its inaction and cover up." In some offshore projects, such as oil and gas exploration, the maritime authority also finds itself without the technical support it needs for proper oversight, according to Gao Deli, a professor at China University of Petroleum. "The oil drilling companies are actually the controllers of the cutting-edge technologies, so they usually have a stronger say than the supervising authority." In China, marine environmental protection is overseen by a department under the State Oceanic Administration, which is not a ministerial-level government agency. As a result, the administration usually feels impotent in the face of other ministries or State-owned companies. Meanwhile, several other government departments, such as the ministries of agriculture, transportation and environmental protection, as well as the navy, are also involved in managing the marine aquaculture maritime administration, coastal pollution prevention and marine surveillance. The scattering of responsibilities among government agencies weakens overall management capability, experts said.

A Month's Delay

Although China has laws and regulations on marine environmental protection, they are still quite vague on the roles and obligations of different government bodies, according to Li Tao, an official from Fujian's provincial oceanic and fishing department. "This usually results in slow responses when an emergency happens and in the failure to release information to the public," Li said. Most public anger was directed at what people saw as ConocoPhillips' arrogance, but some

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environmentalists also faulted the State Oceanic Administration for hiding critical information from the public. It did not release any news about the spills until July 5, a month after the leak started. "Even after that, the administration still failed to publish critical information that could help to prevent further economic losses for sea farmers - for instance, the type of crude oil produced at Penglai 19-3 and the route of ocean currents," said Wang Yamin, an associate professor in the Marine College at Shandong University. The coastal areas along Bohai Bay are home to the country's most important fisheries. "If the sea farmers were informed of the oil spills, they could have made better preparation and even avoided some of the losses. Regretfully, they received no such warning at all," Wang said. Wang said the available information on crude oil in Bohai Bay suggests it is high in acidity, which can severely damage scallops. And sea cucumbers are prone to diseases if the seawater has an abnormal concentration of an oily substance.

The Evidence

Even with such scientific backing, Xun Shaobin and his fellow villagers still face considerable difficulties in gathering evidence and proving the cause of the damage when taking the polluters to court. "The sea cucumbers dissolved into liquids very quickly after death, making it almost impossible to collect the proof of the damage caused by oil spills," Xun said. "I took some pictures, and hope they will be useful in court." ConocoPhillips insists the leaked oil never reached the coast. The company has argued that among 86 samples taken along the northwest Bohai Bay shoreline, only two tested positive for traces of Penglai crude. Calculating the damage poses another major challenge in the litigation process, legal experts said. The Ministry of Agriculture has a regulation on how to compute losses in the fishing industry, which is feasible to calculate despite the complexity, Wang said. He estimated the total damage at about 1 billion yuan. "Yet this is only a small part of the whole damage to the marine ecosystems and resources," he said. For other elements in the ecosystem - for instance, sea birds and the water - there is still no mature methodology for calculation in China.

Taking the Chance

A similar case seeking ecological compensation in Bohai Bay in 2002 failed after a prolonged lawsuit. The court did not support the State Oceanic Administration when it claimed more than 100 million yuan in economic and environmental damage from a foreign oil tanker, which dumped a few hundred tons of crude oil into the Bohai Sea. Nevertheless, resorting to legal solutions offers a last chance for victims of the oil spills, lawyers said. And the cases, if successful, could provide a landmark in tackling the country's rampant pollution with legal means. "Extensive public pressure will offer a solid foundation for arriving at an impartial judgment in the court," said Zhou, from Renmin University. But he's not expecting a triumph. "To call it a major victory, the oil spill cases will have to be able to break up the entrenched interests among government bodies and State-owned enterprises," Zhou said. "With protection from the government, some large companies can often be immune to punishment when causing severe pollution." The lawsuits will also ask the court to rule without being influenced by any level of government, and for judicial officers to work diligently and creatively to make up for the imperfections in the environmental legal systems, he said. "It remains a huge challenge to make the cases a real milestone, but such attempts will help to improve the country's judicial system in the pursuit of environmental justice," Zhou said.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2011-09/01/content_13561613.htm

USA, AZ, SAN LUIS, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. GAS PUMP AT SAN LUIS GAS STATION CATCHES FIRE, BURNS JEEP

james gilbert

 <http://www.yumasun.com/news/fire-72610-cebreros-pump.html>



San Luis firefighters responded to the corner of Main Street and C Street at about 6 p.m. Tuesday evening for a report of a vehicle on fire.

A man suffered second-degree burns when a Jeep and a fuel pump caught fire Tuesday in San Luis, Ariz. San Luis firefighters responded to the corner of Main Street and C Street at about 6 p.m. Tuesday evening for a report of a vehicle on fire. According to Luis Cebreros, public information officer for the San Luis Fire Department, a technician who was working on the fuel pump's electrical panel later told fire investigators that he suddenly became engulfed in flames. "He has been doing this for 20 years and this the first time it has ever happened to him," Cebreros said. "Gas fumes are extremely flammable so we think a spark may have caused some fumes to ignite." Cebreros said when firefighters arrived at the Mini Mart gas station, the technician's Jeep that had been parked next to the fuel pump was fully

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engulfed in flames, as was the gas station fuel pump. "It could have been much worse," Cebreros said. "The fire was starting to catch the eaves of the store on fire, but we got there on time." Cebreros said firefighters quickly extinguished the fire using foam, but the gas station's fuel pump and the vehicle were a total loss. Cebreros said the technician kept his composure and was able to run over to the emergency shut-off switch, then turned off the electrical breakers to the store. It is not known what caused the fire. Cebreros said the technician, who sustained second-degree burns to his hands and legs, was found at a Circle K about 200 feet away from the scene of the fire. The technician was treated for his burns at the scene by paramedics but refused to be taken to the hospital, according to Cebreros. No fire department personnel was injured during the incident.

<http://www.yumasun.com/news/fire-72610-cebreros-pump.html>

USA, OH, WAYNE CO, PLAIN TWP, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. TWO MEN INJURED IN CRASH INVOLVING TANKER HAULING 6,800 TONS OF CRUDE OIL

steve huszai



Two men were injured in a crash Wednesday on U.S. Route 250 when a tanker truck and car collided. According to the Wooster Post of the State Highway Patrol, Jay D. McClain, 43, of Bowerston, and Corey A. Layton, 21, of West Salem, were both transported to Wooster Community Hospital by a New Pittsburg squad. Layton was later transported to Akron City Hospital via LifeFlight. Patient Information listed him in serious condition, as of 7 p.m. The crash occurred at 11:57 a.m. just west of Silver Road in Plain Township. A press release on the accident notes that Layton was westbound on Route 250 in a 2002 Mazda Protégé, when he traveled left of center and struck McClain, who was operating a 2008 Freightliner semi truck eastbound on

Route 250. Layton's vehicle was forced off the north side of the road. McClain's semi went off the south side of the road and caught fire. McClain was hauling approximately 6,800 gallons of crude oil at the time of the incident. But no oil was burnt or spilled as a result of the crash. Sgt. Bradley Bishop noted the crash is still under investigation and the cause of the crash is unknown. Drugs or alcohol are not suspected as a factor in the crash, he said. Estimated speeds for the two vehicles involved was not yet available.

<http://www.the-daily-record.com/news/article/5089674>

USA, N.J, CRESSKILL, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. TANKER TRUCK CATCHES FIRE IN CRESSKILL [VIDEO]

 **Watch the Video** http://www.northjersey.com/news/transportation/Tanker_truck_catches_fire_in_Cresskill.html



A police officer – who is also a volunteer firefighter – happened to be passing by a tanker-truck filled with 10,000 gallons of gasoline when it caught fire Thursday morning, police said. A tanker truck carrying 10,000 gallons of gasoline, caught fire on Madison Avenue in Cresskill Thursday morning, Sept. 1, 2011. Authorities believe the truck was on its way to deliver the gas at a nearby Delta gas station just before 7 a.m. when it dropped its transmission on Madison Avenue, hindering its brakes. The truck eventually stopped and caught fire, said Police Chief Edward Wrixon. Patrolman Jason Ianzilotti was passing by on his way to work when he saw debris in the road and the truck with its emergency lights flashing. As he approached, Ianzilotti, who is also a [Bergenfield](#) firefighter, noticed smoke coming from the truck. He removed the driver, who was trying to get paperwork out of the truck's cabin, and called the fire department. Police closed down Madison Avenue near Brookside Avenue and firefighters extinguished the blaze, which destroyed the cabin, before it

could reach the tanker full of gasoline, Wrixon said. The driver of the truck was shaken up but not injured. He was taken to [Englewood](#) Hospital for observation. Madison Avenue was closed for three hours after the fire so crews could clean the street and tow the tanker to the gas station where the fuel was unloaded. "All the planets were aligned for this one," Wrixon said. "My cop was there before a call even came in, and the fire department was down the road." Wrixon, who lives around the corner and heard two explosions, said the truck caught fire in front of St. Therese of Lisieux Roman Catholic Church. "We may have had a divine intervention," he added.

http://www.northjersey.com/news/transportation/Tanker_truck_catches_fire_in_Cresskill.html

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SRI LANKA, MAGAMPURA PORT, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. MAGAMPURA READY FOR BUNKERING END OCTOBER

ravi ladduwahetty



A sketch of the bunkering facility.

The Ruhunu Magampura sea port at Hambantota will be ready for bunkering end October. The US \$ 76 million tank farm is nearing completion and the contractor-Han Quin Engineering Construction Engineering Company of China will hand over the project end October and will be open for bunkering, Sri Lanka Ports Authority Chairman Dr Priyath Wickrema told Daily News Business yesterday. It will have 80,000 cubic metres of storage capacity for marine oils for ships also aviation oil and Liquid Petroleum Gas. Sri Lanka Ports Authority's Chief Engineer Agil Hewageegamage said there was a total of fourteen tanks in the farm which accounted for the 80,000 cubic meters. Eight tanks will be used for storage of bunkering oils for ships which will have a total of 51,000 cubic metres. Three tanks

will account for 23,000 cubic metres of aviation oils and the remaining three tanks which account for 6000 cubic metres will be for Liquid Petroleum Gas. The storage tanks for aviation oils will be for the Mattala International Airport, where the imported fuels would be cleared at the sea port, pumped into the tanks and transported by road. The decision to have LPG tanks would also be for import of it and storing where the LPG suppliers could get the product stored there and bottled into the tanks for the local market, making it a cost saving exercise. The facility also has the infrastructure to provide deep sea bunkering facilities which means that the barges would be filled and the ships refuelled mid sea. "This service could also be offered for ships which do not want to navigate to the Hambantota port," he said. East bound ships, fuelling in full in Dubai and West bound vessels which were fuelling in full in Singapore, now have the option of fuelling in half and fuelling midway at Hambantota while having the rest of the space for carrying other cargoes. One of the major areas that were yet to be completed was fire fighting in the jetties. The systems for protection from fire has already been completed in tank farm areas but the systems in the jetty areas had not been included in the contract with the Chinese company and that too will be addressed soon prior to the completion of the project late October, the Chief Engineer said.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2011/09/02/bus03.asp>

USA, PA, ARMSTRONG CO, KISKIMERE, PARKS, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. FLOW OF INFORMATION: EPA CHECKS RIVER, WELLS FOR POTENTIAL CONTAMINANTS



Michelle Dallessandro and Bill Huggins Jr., consultants with TechLaw Inc., take water and sediment samples on Wednesday along the Kiski River. The federal Environmental Protection Agency tested well water and the river for alpha, gamma and beta radiation and volatile organic chemicals.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency tested well water and the Kiski River in the vicinity of the township this week for possible radiological and chemical contamination. The EPA team sampled at almost 40 sites in a two-mile radius of the Kiskimere neighborhood where the former Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corp. (NUMEC) had a plutonium-processing plant and nuclear waste dump. "This will give us some peace of mind that it is not contaminated," said Anita Navarro, 48, of Gilpin, whose well was tested. "But if it is contaminated, then there will be a concern."

Although such contamination has not been documented in local water wells, previous nuclear-fuel operations in the area caused Leechburg environmentalist Patty Ameno and concerned residents to petition the federal government for the tests. NUMEC and its successors, the Atlantic Richfield Co. and Babcock & Wilcox (B&W), operated a plutonium plant along Route 56 from 1960 to 1996. The plant was razed by 2002 in a federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission-approved cleanup. But still remaining is a nuclear waste dump where the companies disposed of radioactive and chemical waste from the Apollo nuclear fuels plant. The Army Corps of Engineers has just begun an eight-to-10-year, \$170 million cleanup of the waste dump. The EPA tested outside of the former plutonium plant and dump sites to investigate rumors of off-site dumping and contamination when the nuclear fuel companies operated. "We want to confirm if there is contamination or not as far as water goes," said Lisa Denmark-Johnson, a site assessment manager for EPA Region III in Philadelphia. Ameno stressed the importance of putting the contamination issue to rest: "We've made great strides with respect to the cleanup of the waste dump, but it

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addresses only the fenced perimeter of the waste dump. It does not address where people live and go to, and the use of our natural resources like the Kiski River." Although most residents use public water, some are on well water and use well water for their vegetable gardens and pools. EPA tests of the Kiski River this week included the sediment. In 1995, americium 241, a daughter product of plutonium, was found on the banks of the Kiski River across the street from the plutonium-processing plant in Parks. The state Department of Environmental Protection has confirmed that trichloroethylene (TCE) contaminated the groundwater and migrated from the former plutonium plant site to the Kiski River. Officials have said that the TCE contamination does not pose a threat to the public. The EPA team, including a geologist, hydro-geologist, a toxicologist and other professionals, sampled Tuesday and Wednesday. They tested for alpha, gamma and beta radiation and volatile organic chemicals. Results will be ready in December or January and publicly released, according to Johnson. Because of privacy laws, individual property owners and specific addresses will not be identified. Testing was voluntary: Private property owners requested and granted permission to the EPA for the tests. According to Larry Johnson, community involvement coordinator for EPA Region III, residents were friendly and cooperative. "People want to know the results and how to interpret them," he said.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleynewsdispatch/s_754674.html

USA, N.Y, ROCKLAND CO, SLOATSBURG, SEPTMBER 2 2011. SLOATSBURG FEARS FUEL CONTAMINATION; ROCKLAND RESIDENTS UPSET AS OUTAGES PERSIST

hema easley

Faced with calls from anxious residents complaining about foul-smelling, fuel-laced water in their basements and homes, Sloatsburg officials were pushing state and federal agencies to investigate a weekend spill and provide help to affected homeowners. The state Department of Environmental Conservation is investigating a diesel fuel spill that originated at SOS Extreme Comfort in Tuxedo. A DEC spokeswoman said stormwater breached the containment wall around the facility and that heavy wind and rain caused knocking and moved around some of the tankers and caused the spill. Sloatsburg officials said they were unsure of the extent of the damage and were seeking answers. "Has it seeped into the ground? Has it permeated our aquifer and our groundwater? That's what we want to know. That's what our residents want to know," said Mark Reimer, Sloatsburg's deputy mayor. "If it is found that homes are polluted, that it could be embedded in Sheetrock, etc., then we have to get help." Lori Severino, a spokeswoman for the state DEC, said in an email that if oil were found in people's basements, it would be cleaned up as part of the spill-response effort. Sloatsburg Mayor Carl Wright blamed the spill on SOS. Reimer said no charges had been filed against the company. SOS did not return a call for comment. Severino said the area around the SOS facility had been isolated by a boom that allowed water to flow through but extracted oil and other additives. A vacuum truck system was being used to remove the oil from the water, she said. Wright said the Sloatsburg Fire Department was going into flooded basements and pumping out the floodwater. Meanwhile, National Guard personnel deployed in Sloatsburg after the collapse of a two-lane bridge at Waldron Terrace built a makeshift footbridge. Residents are being allowed to walk across the bridge.

<http://www.lohud.com/article/20110901/NEWS03/109010387/Sloatsburg-fears-fuel-contamination-Rockland-residents-upset-outages-persist?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|News|s>

USA, S.C, MYRTLE BEACH, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. JUDGE GIVES AVX POLLUTION LAWSUIT CLASS-ACTION STATUS >> NEARLY 4-YEAR-OLD LAWSUIT INCLUDES PROPERTY OWNERS

david wren

An environmental contamination lawsuit against electronics manufacturer AVX Corp. moved a step closer to trial this week when Horry County Judge Benjamin Culbertson certified a class of plaintiffs that could include as many as 229 property owners near the company's site along 17th Avenue South in Myrtle Beach. Culbertson's ruling on Tuesday means the nearly 4-year-old lawsuit will proceed as a class-action case, with participating property owners sharing in any property damage reimbursements if they can prove AVX contaminated their groundwater with trichloroethylene – an industrial degreaser that has been linked to cancer and other health problems. Surfside Beach lawyer Gene Connell, who is representing the class of property owners suing AVX, said he expects the case will go to trial at some point next year. He said the trial probably will take between three and four weeks. The lawsuit has been working its way through state and federal courts for nearly four years. AVX officials could not be reached for comment Thursday. The property included in the class-action lawsuit stretches from 17th Avenue South to 5th Avenue South. Most of the property is residential, although about 44 commercial lots are included –

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sites where hotels, restaurants, shopping centers and an urgent care clinic are located. The contaminated area is based on a map drawn by Charles Fetter, a hydrogeologist for 35 years and the author of textbooks used by graduate programs and universities. Fetter did not conduct his own environmental testing but relied on data from AVX, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control and depositions from project managers working to clean up the pollution. The class of plaintiffs includes people who owned property within the contaminated area as of Nov. 27, 2007 – the date the lawsuit was filed. Connell said those people will be sent notices of the class-action lawsuit next week. They will have 30 days to opt out of the case if they don't want to participate or if they want to sue AVX on their own. If property owners do not opt out of the case, they will be automatically included in the class-action lawsuit. The lawsuit claims groundwater contamination from AVX has ruined property values in the roughly 12-block area. Connell is seeking unspecified damages from AVX to compensate owners for the loss of their property values. AVX about three months ago settled a separate lawsuit with adjacent property owner Horry Land Co., which also claimed its property values had been ruined by the contamination. The terms of that settlement are confidential, but property records show AVX bought the 21.5-acre Horry Land site in May for \$4.6 million. A third contamination lawsuit – filed by a family that wanted to develop a condominium project near the manufacturer – also is pending against AVX. That property, located at Beaver Road and 17th Avenue South, is not included in the class-action lawsuit. A federal judge ruled in May that AVX is solely responsible for the TCE contamination in the Myrtle Beach neighborhood. AVX, during a trial held in February, claimed that some of the pollution might have come from the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, which is adjacent to the manufacturer's site. Judge Terry Wooten said there is no evidence to show any of the pollution came from the military base. AVX is appealing Wooten's ruling and a mediation conference is scheduled for Sept. 20 in that case. Testimony and exhibits presented during the February trial showed AVX officials knew as early as June 1981 that TCE was potentially spreading through groundwater from the manufacturer's site to adjacent properties, threatening city and private wells and the Pee Dee aquifer. AVX used as much as 400 tons of TCE each year for decades until discontinuing its use in 1986, according to court documents. Trial exhibits showed an insurance company risk assessor told AVX in 1981 that as much as 6,200 gallons of TCE was being spilled into the ground each month at the 17th Avenue South facility. Another document showed that an underground tank and piping system used to store and pump TCE to the facility was faulty. Despite consultants' repeated warnings that testing was necessary, court testimony shows the company did nothing for decades to determine whether the pollution was a threat to its neighbors. When AVX finally told state regulators about the contamination in 1995, testimony showed the company downplayed the problem and said it was limited to the manufacturer's site. Although TCE is a health hazard, DHEC does not consider the pollution in the 12-block neighborhood to be dangerous because it is not used for drinking water. Even though it is not a drinking source, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires that the groundwater's TCE levels be reduced to no more than five parts per billion. A part per billion is a scientific measurement equivalent to 3 seconds out of a century. Groundwater tests in 2006 showed TCE contamination as high as 18,200 parts per billion on the Horry Land property. AVX – which moved its world headquarters from Myrtle Beach to Greenville in 2009 – has been paying for studies to determine the best way to clean up the pollution and expects to use a process called enhanced reductive chlorination, in which a substance similar to molasses is injected into the groundwater. The molasses-like mixture creates bacteria that eat the TCE, breaking it down into harmless matter.

<http://www.thesunnews.com/2011/09/01/2364337/judge-gives-avx-pollution-lawsuit.html>

USA, WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. POURABLE GEL FUEL RECALL EXPANDED TO NINE FIRMS

After Napa Home & Garden recalled 460,000 bottles and jugs of the fuel in June, CPSC announced Sept. 1 that these nine companies are recalling 2 million more. Ten weeks after [Napa Home & Garden](#) of Duluth, Ga., and the Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a recall of 460,000 bottles and jugs of pourable NAPAfire and FIREGEL Gel Fuel, the recall expanded with the [Sept. 1 announcement by CPSC](#) that 2 million units are being recalled by nine other manufacturers and distributors. The agency's release said this voluntary recall involves pourable gel fuels packaged in one-quart plastic bottles and one-gallon plastic jugs and sold in scented and non-scented formulations since 2008 for between \$5 and \$20 by the companies. Consumers should contact the firms to obtain instructions for a refund of the product and for returning unused bottles and jugs, CPSC said.

The companies are:

- Bird Brain Inc., of Ypsilanti, Mich.
- Bond Manufacturing of Antioch, Calif.
- Sunjel Company (2 Burn Inc.) of Milwaukee

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- Fuel Barons Inc. of Lake Tahoe, Nev.
- Lamplight Farms Inc. of Menomonee Falls, Wis.
- Luminosities Inc. (Windflame) of St. Paul, Minn.
- Pacific Décor Ltd. of Woodinville, Wash.
- Real Flame of Racine, Wis.
- Smart Solar Inc. of Oldsmar, Fla.

The fuel "can ignite unexpectedly and splatter onto people and objects nearby when it is poured into a firepot that is still burning. CPSC is aware of 65 incidents resulting in two deaths and 34 victims who were hospitalized with second and third degree burns of the face, chest, hands, arms or legs," according to the commission, which added that the 65 incidents include 28 -- involving 37 burn injuries and two fatalities -- in which fuel gel products made by Napa Home & Garden were involved. Napa Home & Garden recalled them in June 2011 and then announced Aug. 5 that it had been acquired by Teters Floral Products Inc. "All pourable gel fuel, regardless of manufacturer, poses flash fire hazards," CPSC's release states. "Consumers should not attempt to use or fix pourable gel fuel bottles with homemade remedies, or replace the fuel with other flammable materials. Retailers should stop sale of existing inventory and immediately remove all stock of pourable gel fuel from shelves. Some firms are working on a design for caps that may prevent flash fire hazards."

Related Links

- CPSC: <http://tinyurl.com/3byfy5f>
- WDAM-TV: [CPSC, manufacturers recalling gel fuels](http://www.wdam.com/story/12345678.html)
- MarketWatch: [Nine Manufacturers, Distributors Announce Recall of Pourable Gel Fuel Due to](http://www.marketwatch.com/story/12345678.html)
- msnbc.com: [10 companies recall fuel gel for firepots](http://www.msnbc.com/story/12345678.html)

<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2011/09/01/pourable-gel-fuel-recall-expanded-to-nine-firms.aspx?admgarea=news>

IRELAND, CO MONAGHAN, CORRAGARRY, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. GARDAI QUIZ 'RINGLEADER' OF DIESEL LAUNDERING OPERATION

tom brady & elaine keogh

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.rte.ie/news/2011/0901/fuel.html>



Four men, including the alleged ringleader of a gang, were arrested by gardai yesterday in a cross-border operation into diesel laundering in eight counties. Gardai and Customs found one of the biggest laundering plants uncovered so far in the State, when they raided a premises half-a-kilometre from the Border in Co Monaghan. Officers also raided garages in Rathfarnham in south county Dublin; Athlone, Co Westmeath; Birr, Co Offaly; Loughrea, Co Galway and Roscommon. Among those held for questioning was a man living in Hackballscross, Co Louth, who is alleged to be the main player in the criminal gang behind the diesel laundering. The PSNI and northern Customs also raided five premises in counties

Armagh and Tyrone. The operation was led by the [Garda](#) Organised Crime Unit, backed up by the Emergency Response Unit and the [Criminal Assets Bureau](#). Armed officers were on stand-by as detectives and customs officers stormed into the plant at Corrygarry, Castleblayney and seized 95,000 litres of the processed fuel. The plant had the capacity to launder an estimated 18 million litres of fuel a year with a potential loss to the Exchequer of €9m annually. Laundering was under way when the raid took place.

Tankers

Customs officers detained three filled tankers, two transit vans, a box lorry, a 40-foot tanker and an articulated lorry with a combined value of €55,000. Officers also seized 4,700 litres of fuel in Roscommon; 6,150 in Loughrea; 17,000 in Birr; 11,500 in Athlone and 9,000 litres of laundered fuel in Rathfarnham. Documentation was taken from the garages by the Criminal Assets Bureau. A senior garda officer said motorists purchasing the laundered fuel should remember that the criminals running such operations were making up to 70c a litre profit, with the bulk of that money being channelled into organised crime. Sean Kelleher, who is in charge of customs enforcement along the Border, warned the criminals: "There will be further operations."

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The operation today is designed not only to cut off the supply of illegal diesel but is also targeted at filling stations where this product is sold." Officers also seized €20,000 cash in the Republic and £30,000 (€34,000) in Northern Ireland.

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/gardai-quiz-ringleader-of-diesel-laundering-operation-2864819.html>

USA, KY, COVINGTON, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. DOES N.KY. MAN OWN MILLION POUNDS OF FIREWORKS SEIZED BY ATF? >> COURT TO DETERMINE IF SAM DROGANES GETS COMPENSATED AFTER TAXPAYERS FOOT \$7.3M STORAGE BILL

jim hannah



Sam Droganes went to prison for selling illegal fireworks. Now, a federal court case must decide what to do with seized materials.

Lawyers seeking compensation for legal fireworks seized from a Northern Kentucky entrepreneur say the federal government has spent millions of dollars in storing the pyrotechnics during four years of legal wrangling. An estimated \$7.3 million in taxpayer money has gone to warehouse 44-tractor-trailer loads of fireworks at the former Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant in Nebraska, according to testimony given at a three-day evidentiary hearing that concluded Wednesday in federal court. "These storage costs greatly exceed the value of the consumer fireworks," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Kinnicutt of Louisville. U.S. Magistrate Judge Candace Smith

was asked at the hearing to decide whether the 1 million pounds of fireworks were illegal and subject to forfeiture, whether the remaining legal fireworks are in good enough condition to be returned and whether the federal government's actions in the case justify sanctions in the form of compensation for the legal fireworks. Fireworks purveyor Sam Droganes' lawyers and federal prosecutors have until Oct. 3 to file written briefs with recommendations for Smith. Her decision will go to U.S. District Judge David Bunning for a final determination. He has said issues preventing a final resolution in the case "keep popping up like flowers." Either side could appeal his decision to the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Meanwhile, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives continue to pay \$101,790 per month to house the fireworks at the old ammunition plant 850 miles away from Covington. The monthly storage price was reduced by \$68,392 when a contract was renegotiated in October. The case originated in July 2007 when ATF agents raided Droganes' business, Premium Fireworks - once lauded by the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. It had locations on Pike Street in Covington and in Taylor Mill. Many of the fireworks seized were in large containers that were not returned to the shipper until the winter of 2008 and 2009, according to court records. The containers were seized from a warehouse near the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport in Boone County and Norfolk Southern's rail yard in Queensgate. The shipper has billed Droganes \$319,000 for the lost use of the containers. Droganes, 46, of Fort Mitchell pleaded guilty in August 2009 to one count of distributing explosives without a license. He was caught on a wire illegally selling commercial-grade fireworks to an undercover agent. Bunning sentenced Droganes in April 2010 to four months prison, four months of home incarceration and two years of probation. Federal prosecutors had asked for a sentence of one year and three months. They had already agreed to drop four other counts in exchange for the plea. Much of the testimony at this week's hearing came from dueling experts debating what percentage of the fireworks are considered legal under federal regulations. Some of the disputed fireworks sell under the names of Crazy Rat, Nutty Monkey, Eyeball Fuzz and Salute to Liuyang, a city in China known for its fireworks industry. Federal authorities paid Safety Consulting Engineers of Schaumburg, Ill., possibly as much as \$240,000 to determine which fireworks were illegal. The company reported that about 60 percent of the fireworks were consumer grade, meaning they were legal to sell to consumers. Federal authorities later disputed their own expert's findings. The consultant used American Pyrotechnic Association's standards to determine what was considered legal, according to court filings. Prosecutors said the expert should have used a more stringent definition of consumer fireworks found in federal regulations. Applying these standards, prosecutors claim about 30 percent of the fireworks are legal. Federal authorities also paid a fireworks vendor from Nova Scotia to fly to Nebraska to put a value on what they said were the legal fireworks. The owner of the Canadian firm, Fireworks FX, estimated the fireworks would cost \$225,925 if purchased at the factory gate in China. The valuation was based on the assumption that Droganes was an experienced importer of fireworks from China and had imported a number of containers over time. Despite the fact some of the fireworks were classified as unsellable due to condition and or age - with some items being more than 20 years old - they were valued as if they were new, undamaged inventory. Droganes' lawyers claim the fireworks are worth \$3.2 million. It probably will not matter what is determined legal because prosecutors have conceded the

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fireworks were not properly stored. ATF agent Scott Chard testified the temperatures at the former ammunition plant dropped to 30 degrees below zero and the fireworks froze together. Droganes, who once bought a Chinese fireworks factory for \$260,000, is out of prison and trying to rebuild his fireworks business, said one of his lawyers, Gary Sergent. Droganes' other lawyers, Kathleen Brinkman and Bruce McClure, argue that the government should be sanctioned for nearly destroying a thriving business. The defense lawyers say the governments waited 18 months before trying to figure out which ones were legal. By that time rodents had also eaten their way through an undetermined amount of fireworks.

<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20110831/NEWS010704/109010348/Does-N-Ky-man-own-1-million-pounds-fireworks-seized-by-ATF-?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

RUSSIA, CHELYABINSK, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. DOZENS SEEK HELP AFTER BROMINE LEAK IN RUSSIA

 **Watch the Video** <http://rt.com/news/bromine-clouds-kids-fest-605/>

 **Photo's:**

[Watch photo report from Karabash, Chelyabinsk region, one of the dirtiest and most hazardous places in the world.](#)



Over 40 hospitalized after bromine leak in Russia's Urals.

Up to 50 litres of the toxic element bromine leaked from a rail station in the Russian Urals on Thursday, releasing clouds of yellow smoke and forcing dozens to seek medical help. Authorities in the industrial city of Chelyabinsk, where the containers leaked, sought to downplay the scale of the problem and urged the media not to "sow panic." Moscow-based investigators said the fuming red-brown liquid was released into the air as a result of violation of safety procedures in Chelyabinsk, nearly 2,000 kilometres east of Moscow. "Liquid bromine spilled at the station as a result of car coupling," investigators said, citing preliminary information. Russia's state consumer watchdog Rospotrebnadzor estimated the amount of bromine

released as between 40 and 50 litres. Investigators earlier put the amount at some 24 litres. The freight train car carrying a total of 2,267 two-litre glass containers of bromine was later hauled outside the city, the emergencies ministry said. It said that the liquid with an "aggressive odour" was released into the air when several glass containers broke. Television footage showed clouds of yellow smoke, police in gas masks cordoning off the area and residents wearing blue gauze masks. Bromine is poisonous to humans and can damage internal organs and the nervous system. The city administration admitted that bromine could exacerbate existing health problems like bronchial allergy but insisted the city was not in danger. "To calm down the population, I wanted to say that bromine is used for medical purposes to sedate people," Alexander Galichin, the region's minister of radiation and ecological security, said in televised remarks. "Albeit not in such quantities, of course." Health officials did not say how many people sought medical help by the end of the day. The ITAR-Tass news agency quoted an unnamed official in the regional health ministry as saying that 38 people were hospitalised. A total of 143 people complained of health problem and sought medical help, the news agency said. Earlier investigators had said that only 31 people sought medical help, while local authorities had said that just eight people were hospitalised. Andrei, a resident of Chelyabinsk, told the Echo of Moscow radio that the bromine leak had interrupted the first day of school and several schools made a decision not to assemble pupils and teachers in school yards. He estimated around 200,000 people might have experienced breathing difficulties. "It's impossible to breathe," another local resident said on television. Later Thursday the authorities said they had the leak under control. "Many witnesses were simply frightened by the brown cloud -- that's how the fumes of bromine doused in water look," the regional government said.

Related Links

- [Dozens seek help after bromine leak in Russia](#)
- [Over 40 hospitalized after bromine leak in Russia's Urals](#)
- [Toxic cloud poisons pupils' fest](#)
- [Dozens in hospital after bromine chemical leak in Russia city](#)
- [Dozens seek help after bromine leak in Russia](#)
- [Chemical leak in Russia sickens more than 100 people](#)

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5heH7F7yLuQ_I1kZSckYht7dn9d5Q?docId=CNG.4059a4a82371e59484c58692e9c532a7.321

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USA, CO, PUEBLO, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. CHEMICAL LEAK FORCES EVACUATION >> CRISIS AT BF GOODRICH PLANT BEGAN AS GRASS FIRE.

jeff tucker

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kktv.com/home/headlines/128954373.html>

Businesses throughout the Pueblo Municipal Airport Industrial Park were evacuated Thursday evening after Pueblo firefighters were called to a leaking hydrogen tank at BF Goodrich. The fire department initially was called out at 5:48 p.m. on reports of a grass fire in the area, but when trucks arrived on scene it was discovered that a 10,000 gallon tank on the south side of the brake pad plant, located at 50 William White Blvd., was leaking. The tank held about 5,000 gallons of liquid hydrogen. Assistant Fire Chief Shawn Shelton said that one of the valves to the tank failed and was leaking. The hydrogen vaporized once it left the valve, but it is so combustible that it created an open flame beneath the tank as soon as it came into contact with organic material, Shelton said. He said the fire department was extremely concerned that the tank would be compromised further and by 6:30 p.m. utilized the reverse 911 system to begin evacuations. Nobody was hurt and the gas by itself is not poisonous. But because of the extreme combustibility of the gas, the fire department evacuated everything within a half-mile around BF Goodrich, then as the tank began to vent and the wind started to blow, the evacuation was extended for a mile east of the plant. In addition to the businesses around the airport, at least 77 residents were evacuated from their homes in the area, Shelton said. U.S. 50 East also was closed during the evacuation, though flights at the airport were allowed to land and take off as normal. Passengers were asked to detour to Baxter Road to gain access to the terminal and to leave the building. William White Boulevard and Pete Jimenez Parkway also were closed while crews worked to solve the problem. Firefighters and experts with BF Goodrich were able to shut the tank's valves off about 8:30 p.m. and the evacuation orders were lifted and roads reopened by 9:30 p.m. Shelton said there is no determination yet what caused the valve on the tank to fail. Officials did not explain the use of liquid hydrogen at BF Goodrich.

http://www.chieftain.com/news/local/chemical-leak-forces-evacuation/article_5f9e07be-d52a-11e0-9ae3-001cc4c03286.html

USA, ALA, MOBILE, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. ABOUT 275,000 GALLONS OF HEAVY FUEL OIL SPILLED GULF COAST ASPHALT COMPANY'S FACILITY ON BLAKELEY ISLAND

bill starling



Oil covered absorbent material floats in one of the slips at The Alabama State Docks as clean up crews work to pull it out of the Mobile River Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011. About 275,000 gallons of heavy fuel oil spilled in the middle of the night at the facility which sits on the Mobile River on the Mobile River. It is not known how much of the oil flowed into the Mobile River, according to Coast Guard officials, who closed the river to all traffic between the Cochrane Africatown USA Bridge and the south end of McDuffie Island.

Related Links

- [Mobile River closed after company overfills oil tank \(video, gallery\)](#) September 01, 2011, 6:12 PM
 - [Spill of tens of thousands of gallons of heavy fuel oil closes Mobile River \(video, gallery\)](#)
- http://photos.al.com/mobile-press-register/2011/09/about_275000_gallons_of_heavy_2.html

USA, ALA, MOBILE, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. OIL SPILL SHUTS MOBILE SHIPPING CHANNEL

 **Watch the Video** http://www.fox10tv.com/dpp/news/local_news/mobile_county/oil-spill-shuts-mobile-shipping-channel

An oil spill in the Mobile River has the Coast Guard and officials at the Alabama State Docks taking swift action. Crews have been on scene near the Gulf Coast Asphalt Company since the spill happened early Thursday morning. A sheen of oil looms outside the Gulf Coast Asphalt Company. It's floating between the business and the Alabama State Docks. Authorities said the spill happened when GCAC was transferring oil from one tank to another. Jimmy Lyons, Director of the Alabama State Docks said, "This was an overflow from a blending operation. The material that overflowed went into a draining ditch where some of the material came into the Mobile River. Some remains in the ditch." Backhoes are cleaning out the ditch while vacuum trucks suck up the oil. Ensign Torry James with Coast Guard Sector Mobile said, "We're putting forth our best effort to get everything cleaned up." Officials are working diligently. The Coast Guard said its main concerns are the public and the environment.

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"Were pretty confident right now it's sheen is not affecting the environment," James added. "But with the professionals on scene with the vacuums, it shouldn't be a big problem." Authorities are still trying to get an accurate take on how much oil is in the water. "The highest number I heard was 1,000 barrels," Lyons said. "Right now, there is significant doubt that is accurate. We think it's less than that." Boom has been deployed in an effort to contain the spill. To help keep the oil from reaching our marshes, the Coast Guard has stopped all ship traffic. "Right now, we've shut the river down from the south point of McDuffie Coal Terminal all the way to the Cochran Bridge, which is roughly 5 miles long," James added. Authorities said they are confident Mobile Bay will not be harmed. They believe the spill is going to be containable and the oil recoverable. The director of the Alabama State Docks said a few ships have come in contact with the oil and they will be decontaminated before being moved. Governor Robert Bentley released a statement about the spill Thursday, saying, "I have been in constant contact with the Coast Guard, state environmental officials and the Port Authority throughout the day regarding the oil spill on the Mobile River. I am confident this matter is under control and that the oil is being contained. I appreciate their efforts and will continue to work closely with them to ensure that the spill remains contained so that the Port may reopen as quickly as possible."

http://www.fox10tv.com/dpp/news/local_news/mobile_county/oil-spill-shuts-mobile-shipping-channel

USA, GUAM, SEPTEMBER 3 2011. PORT CONTAINS FUEL LEAK



The MV Gas Shuriken remains docked at the F1 Fuel Pier yesterday afternoon while officials investigate a fuel leak that occurred when LPG gas was being discharged from the vessel into the pier fuel lines.

A fuel leak at the Port Authority of Guam's F1 Fuel Pier has been contained and officials reported yesterday that the situation is under control and the area cleared. The F1 Pier is owned by the Port Authority of Guam but is managed and operated by Tristar Agility. No injuries were reported. According to Port Harbor Master Felix Pangelinan, the incident occurred at 11:20 yesterday morning when the MT Gas Shuriken was offloading LPG gas at the pier. "According to the Tristar pier operator, the gas tanker was discharging LPG gas through a hose into the F1 fuel line when the

6-inch hose ruptured," Pangelinan said. "Immediately after the rupture, the operator on the dock hit the emergency stop button which stopped the discharge and as a result minimal product was released into the air." The hose that ruptured belonged to the company receiving the LPG product and not Tristar, which is the pier operator and manager. The Port Harbor Master Office, Port Police, Guam Fire Department and U.S. Coast Guard responded to the scene.

<http://www.guampdn.com/article/20110903/NEWS01/109030306>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, SEPTEMBER 3 2011. TWO DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT OFFICIALS ARRESTED, ACCUSED OF DEMANDING BRIBES IN EXCHANGE FOR COVERING UP ASBESTOS CONTAMINATION >> ARRESTS FOLLOWED INVESTIGATION BY FBI, D.C. INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

shaun Courtney



Joe L. Parrish, 51, and Gregory A. Scott, 59, both inspectors at the District of Columbia Department of the Environment (DDOE), Air Quality Division, were arrested yesterday by agents from the FBI and the D.C. Inspector General's Office and charged in a criminal complaint with demanding and receiving \$5,000 in cash as a bribe for not reporting serious environmental infractions and assessing fines and penalties. The arrests were announced today by U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr.; James W. McJunkin, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office; and Charles J. Willoughby, Inspector General for the District of Columbia. Parrish, of Windsor Mill, Maryland, and Scott, of Temple Hills, Maryland, were charged with receipt of a bribe by a public official. If convicted of the charge, they face up to 15 years in prison. They appeared this afternoon in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The arrests followed an investigation by the FBI's Washington Field Office and the D.C. Inspector General's Office. In court today, prosecutors said the men

accepted an additional \$15,000 immediately preceding their arrests yesterday, for a total of \$20,000 in payments. "Yesterday's events demonstrate how closely law enforcement is working together to root out corruption in our city," said U.S. Attorney Machen. "We will remain vigilant in our efforts to detect and disrupt public corruption schemes in the District of Columbia."

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"Corruption erodes the public's confidence in our institutions and we take these matters seriously," said Assistant Director McJunkin. "Fighting public corruption remains one of the FBI's top priorities and the men and women of the Washington Field Office work every day to investigate and bring to justice those who choose illegal gain over public service." According to the affidavit filed in support of the complaint, as DDOE inspectors, Parrish's and Scott's primary duties and responsibilities included inspecting, monitoring and investigating air quality complaints, and preparing and submitting reports to DDOE attorneys to take action against the violators, including the assessment and collection of fines. They also were responsible for ensuring that contractors who were removing asbestos did so in a manner that protected the health and safety of the asbestos workers, building occupants and general public, and that all work was done in accordance with D.C. regulations and the federal Clean Air Act. On the afternoon of August 23, 2011, at approximately 2 p.m.—just minutes after the earthquake hit the Mid-Atlantic area—Inspectors Parrish and Scott met with a cooperating witness at an apartment building on P Street in Southwest Washington that was undergoing major renovations and demanded cash payments in return for not reporting to the DDOE various environmental infractions that had been uncovered. Specifically, during the meeting with the cooperating witness, Inspectors Parrish and Scott detailed the infractions that had been uncovered at the building, and the amount of potential fines associated with them. The inspectors then explained that based on their calculations, the fines owed by the management company of the building and the general contractor who were performing renovation work were at least \$20,000 per day, multiplied by 18 days. Inspectors Parrish and Scott further explained that they had already prepared a report and taken photographs and that they were obligated to submit the materials concerning the serious environmental infractions to the attorneys at the DDOE so they could institute proceedings against the management company and general contractor to collect hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines. Finally, Parrish and Scott stated that the violations, which purportedly included the illegal dumping and transportation of hazardous materials (asbestos), were also violations of the federal criminal environmental laws, and punishable by jail sentences. Inspectors Parrish and Scott advised the cooperating witness that they were willing to "help" the management company, but they needed to be "compensated" for their efforts. They also stated that they had already prepared their written report, but were willing to "burn" it and not inform the DDOE of the infractions. The cooperating witness then paid a bribe of \$2,500 cash each to Inspectors Parrish and Scott, who agreed that they would not file their written report, and other evidence of infractions with the DDOE. Charges contained in criminal complaints are merely allegations that a defendant has committed a violation of criminal laws and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty

<http://georgetown.patch.com/articles/two-district-department-of-the-environment-officials-arrested-accused-of-demanding-bribes-in-exchange-for-covering-up-asbestos-contamination>

CHINA, DALIAN, SEPTEMBER 3 2011. OIL PLANTS FEEL THE HEAT, RECENT ACCIDENTS CAUSE GROWING ALARM, REPORT ZHANG XIAOMIN IN DALIAN AND HE NA IN BEIJING.

zhang xiaomin in dalian & he na in beijing



Firefighters work to extinguish a blaze that engulfed a section of the China National Petroleum Corp Dalian plant on Monday in Northeast China's Liaoning province. The accident is the latest to hit China's rapidly expanding oil industry, which has come under fire over its safety standards.

It took 300 firefighters and 50 fire trucks three hours to conquer the blaze on Monday at the Dalian plant of the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC). But despite the fact that the fire no longer posed a threat, Zhang Mo, a plant retiree, remained deeply concerned. "The fire erupted in the storage area where more than 40 oil tanks of different sizes are located. The smallest one holds 5,000 cubic meters," he said. "Some liquid gas tanks are not far away. It could have

been disastrous." Jin Yong, the son of a plant retiree, said: "It's the fifth major incident at the plant in just over a year. How many accidents will occur before the company improves plant safety? "I am anxious because my parents live just across the street." He once planned to sell his parents' apartment and buy another but the selling price was too low. "Except for the people who work in the plant, who is crazy enough to move here?" he said. The thick black smoke from the fire eventually dissipated but concerns over safety at petrochemical complexes linger. Jiang Jiemin, CNPC's general manager, promised to thoroughly investigate the cause of Monday's fire. In a bid to show its determination, the company removed Jiang Fan as general manager of the Dalian plant on Tuesday. "Every time after an incident, the company swears it will investigate

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thoroughly to prevent similar incidents," said Ma Jun, director of the nongovernmental Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs. "But the fact is, they never do, they never announce the real reason to the public. I do hope this time the case won't end up with 'nothing conclusive'." Ma Zhong, director of the school of environment and natural resources at Renmin University of China, said, "It's time for the government to take harsh measures to brace for the environmental problems triggered by these State-owned monopoly enterprises, or else it will be too late." The fire came just two weeks after 12,000 citizens protested in front of the city government building to demand closure of a paraxylene (PX) chemical plant operated by a different company. "The frequent incidents at the Dalian plant indicate it has serious problems in management and did not absorb the lessons from the former incidents," Ma Jun said. "The public has the right to know the truth of any incident that threatens their health or lives. "There are no minor incidents in a high-risk industry," he said. "To raise the safety awareness of every member of the company is the most effective way to reduce safety hazards."

Real Plans, Penalties

Every high-risk plant is required to have an emergency response plan, "but not all the plants follow the rule," Ma Jun said. "Take last July's incident at the plant, for instance. When the oil tank exploded and needed water to cool the tank, staff members found that the emergency water tap did not have water at all." Environmental hazards inspections need to be carried out in detail and not be a performance for leaders, he said. The point can be made, experts said, by raising the penalties for violating the environment and the law. "Our current cost for unlawful activity is still too low to draw attention," Ma said, especially for an energy monopoly company like CNPC with its large profit margin.

Economic Power

Mark China's small and large petrochemical plants on a map, and they will cover almost all 18,000 km of coastline. In many places, such as Tianjin and Liaoning, Hebei and Jiangsu provinces, it's common to find chemical operations doing similar work. "Since petrochemical projects have an immediate effect in boosting local GDP and expanding revenue, many local officials choose development ahead of environmental protection whether they are suited to the locations or not," Ma said. "Many petrochemical projects do not have detailed environmental feasibility reports before operation, and these kinds of projects no doubt have major environmental risks," Lu Bin, a professor of urban and environmental sciences at Peking University, was quoted as saying by 21st Century Business Herald. CNPC's Dalian plant is the only operation in the city with annual sales revenue over 80 billion yuan, so its development plays a decisive role in the local economy. However, Lu said, "Officials need to be cautious in attracting investments, and learn to say no to high-pollution projects." The situation is similar in other areas around Bohai Bay. Liaoning, Tianjin and Shandong are all on a rapid pace to develop the petrochemical industry. Early in 2006, what is now the Ministry of Environmental Protection conducted a risk survey of the country's 7,555 petrochemical projects, with some startling results. It found that 81 percent of the operations were situated in populous areas along the banks of rivers, lakes and oceans, and 45 percent were identified as posing major high risk. At least 1,000 chemical plants were surrounded by residential areas or set upstream from urban drinking water sources. The malady of such patterns emerged as more incidents - oil spills, chemical leaks and refinery explosions - threatened the safety of the area, said Zheng Husheng, a researcher at Jilin Provincial Academy of Social Sciences. "The irrational layout greatly aggravated harm to cities, rivers and oceans when an incident happened," he said.

Right to the Truth

In many foreign countries, choosing a site for a petrochemical plant requires extensive research, surveys and permission from the public, such as surrounding residents. "However, in China, the process is totally different," Ma Jun said. "The enterprises sign the contract with local government and they began construction. In many cases, it is not until the enterprises have some incidents that the public knows what the companies are producing and whether the process can harm their health and living environment. "The public has the right to know the facts of public affairs," Ma said, "but in many cases, such as choosing locations for petrochemical companies, people's rights are disfranchised. If governments and enterprises really want to ease mounting tensions with the public, they must guarantee the people's right to learn the truth and let the common people be involved."

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/m/dalian/2011-09/02/content_13608277.htm

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