



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 750 Newsy Stuff

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September 7 2011



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USA, N.Y, RYE, AUGUST 30 2011. RYE APARTMENTS MAY BE UNINHABITABLE FOR WEEKS AFTER 7,000-GALLON OIL SPILL

ned p. rauch

Watch the Video <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Rye-Flooding-Stench-Oil-Apartment-128716993.html>

A fuel tank that ruptured at the Highlands apartment complex in Rye during the flooding from Tropical Storm Irene spilled as much as 7,000 gallons of oil and will likely keep residents out of their homes for weeks. Officials told residents Monday that they could not return to the damaged building for now. "How do I start over?" tenant Jennifer Meehan said. "I have nowhere to go." The building, on Highland Road between Wappanocca Avenue and Purchase Street, has 99 residential units and three businesses. On Monday morning, the waters had receded, but the fuel, as a single sniff of the air made immediately clear, remained. Heather McGill, spokeswoman for the Department of Health, said that before tenants can return, the building must be decontaminated and its crippled electrical system repaired. Gill said it could take several weeks for residents on the upper floors to be able to move back in; for residents who live in 10 units directly affected by the oil spill, the cleanup could take much longer. McGill said the state will work with the building's owners to see that tenants receive lodging while their apartments are repaired. As for the fuel oil, McGill said the heavy rains dissipated it before it reached the Long Island Sound. Ralph Della Cava, one of the building's owners, said management would take its direction from the Department of Health. He referred questions to his partner, Robert Cohen, who did not return a message. Residents criticized the management for its response to the flood and oil spill and also for allowing people to live in apartments below ground level. They said prior floods showed those apartments were vulnerable and Irene proved it. The waterline in Meehan's apartment was higher than 6 feet up the wall. Her furniture and refrigerator were piled in a corner, and her belongings were scattered throughout. Meehan, a nurse practitioner, had to crawl out through a window at 6:45 a.m. Sunday because the electronic locks on her doors would not open. Asked what she left behind, she answered, "Everything."

<http://www.lohud.com/article/20110830/NEWS02/108300320/Rye-apartments-may-uninhabitable-weeks-after-7-000-gallon-oil-spill>

USA, OH, BUTLER, AUGUST 30 2011. RESIDENTS SEEK FAIR COMPENSATION FROM UTILITIES COMPANY

linda martz

Nearly 40 Butler- and Bellville-area property owners have filed a federal lawsuit against Columbia Gas Transmission Co. LLC. They contend the company used their land for at least the past four years to store natural gas underground, without offering fair compensation. Those filing the lawsuit in U.S. District Court include the Village of Butler, along with private families, corporations and trusts owning property on Wagner, Armstrong, Etzwiler, Teeter, Remy, Snyder, Cassel, Lemley and Gatton Rocks roads, Ohio 95, Ohio 97 and Liberty Street in Butler. The lawsuit involves the Weaver gas storage field in Ashland, Richland and Knox counties. Since 1937, Columbia has used porous rock in the Weaver field to store natural gas by injecting surplus gas into the underground reservoirs, especially during the summer when demand is lower. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission revised the certificate, setting specific boundaries for gas storage fields in 1986. But by 2007, the lawsuit contends, Columbia discovered that gas it had injected was migrating beyond those boundaries onto other [properties](#), where Columbia had no easements, including the plaintiffs' properties. The utility company believed that third-party gas companies were mining Columbia's storage gas on property owned by two of the plaintiffs -- Van Ross Wade and Shirley Wade -- as well as property owned by three parties not listed in the lawsuit. The complaint says Columbia continued to inject,

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and between February 2008 and July 15, 2009, won permission from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to expand the Weaver field's boundaries. "We believe Columbia was ordered by FERC to compensate the landowners for their property, and that Columbia has not followed through with what we believe is a fair and equitable amount," Mansfield attorney David N Haring said. Columbia contacted the plaintiffs and made a take-it-or-leave-it offer to purchase land rights. But "we think it was not even close to what we believe is fair," Haring said. Butler Mayor Jeffrey Sellers said the village owns about 22 acres in the affected region. "They offered \$50 an acre for storage rights. That was a one-time payment. It included a \$200 signing bonus, so the offer amounted to \$1,300 for 22 acres. That was their offer. Obviously we didn't feel that that was fair compensation," the mayor said. The lawsuit alleges trespass, taking of property without just compensation and unjust enrichment. "Columbia has intentionally kept the certificated boundaries secret, allowing it to avoid negotiation or condemnation, hoping property owners will simply not find out that Columbia is infringing on their subsurface rights," the lawsuit alleges. The lawsuit also claims the utility company is aware that the expanded FERC certificate prevents the property owners from selling or leasing mineral and storage rights to third parties, and from extracting native natural gas themselves. Haring said the plaintiffs are seeking a permanent injunction from federal court, banning Columbia from using the fields until it complies with FERC's order to negotiate fairly with landowners, he said. The lawsuit also seeks compensatory and punitive damages, including money for gas already taken from the properties. The Weaver storage field covered about 44,000 acres before the expansion -- which encompasses about 2,000 additional acres, primarily in the Bellville and Butler area, Haring said. Columbia Gas Transmission, headquartered in Charleston, W.Va., has not yet filed a reply to the lawsuit. A company spokesperson could not be reached for comment Friday. In the July 2009 ruling that allowed expansion of the storage field, FERC said virtually all protestors against expansion were landowners on whose property Interden operates natural gas wells. The FERC ruling noted that landowners protesting expansion contended Columbia would unfairly take mineral rights, that they would lose inexpensive natural gas needed to heat their homes or dry their grain, and that resale values for their property could suffer. The 2009 FERC order noted that a number of landowners alleged Columbia was late in notifying them of its application to expand. But the commission decided Columbia had made good faith efforts, and that a landowner who missed a deadline for intervening because of notification was still allowed to file. Property owners filing the lawsuit own anywhere from a few acres to 186 acres or more.

<http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/article/20110828/NEWS01/108280305/Residents-seek-fair-compensation-from-utilities-company>

USA, N.J, MAHWAH, AUGUST 31 2011. LEAKED FUEL IN RAMAPO RIVER SETS OFF CONCERNS

stephanie akin, shawn boburg & allison pries

[Watch the Video Dead Fish And Fuel Found In River, Mahwah Wells Shut Down](#)



A flooded diesel and home heating oil facility across the New York border leaked fuel into the Ramapo River Sunday and Monday, setting off health and environmental concerns and causing downstream residents to complain of overpowering fumes. "The stench is amazing," said [Oakland](#) Mayor John P. Szabo. "I'm worried about the health effects of prolonged exposure to this." Estimates varied, but some officials said well over 10,000 gallons of diesel fuel, home heating oil or both could have leaked into the river. Officials traced the spill to SOS Xtreme Comfort, a riverside fuel company in Tuxedo, NY. The facility was severely damaged after a dam in Arden, N.Y., was breached during the heaviest part of Irene. Geoff Welch, chairman of the non-profit Ramapo River Committee, said he smelled the fuel and saw the slick while he was taking pictures of the river Sunday

in Sloatsburg, just downstream of the spill. "I'm very worried," he said. "It's the worst spill I've seen in the river." Welch, who has testified in court cases as an expert on the river, said such contamination could harm the river's ecosystem, linger in sand and gravel deposits, and leach into municipal water supplies through wells that service [Oakland](#), [Mahwah](#) and [Pompton Lakes](#). Officials from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation were studying oil storage tanks and trucks on the property Monday to determine how much fuel had been lost, Tuxedo police Chief Patrick Welsh said. "They're trying to rule out everything, to rule out the worst possible scenario and hope for the best," he said. Welsh said the leak had stopped, but a New York DEC official at the scene, who declined to give his name because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said it was still leaking. [Mahwah](#) police Chief James Batelli said one of his officers was told 10,000 to 15,000 gallons of diesel fuel

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had spilled into the river. A spokesman for the DEC said the agency observed six, 3,000-gallon tankers that were empty and several smaller tankers parked in an area where flood waters had receded. "We are still gathering information," Michael Bopp said, adding that it's unclear whether any of the tankers had fuel in them prior to being submerged in floodwaters. More than a dozen tractor trailers were parked on the grounds Monday evening, one of them jackknifed against another. Another truck swept away by the flood waters was pressed against a large fuel storage tank. General manager Al Silberlicht said about 30,000 gallons of fuel oil and diesel fuel were stored on this site. Robert Spiegel, one of the company owners, said the leak was "relatively small," and that Hazmat teams on the property had told him it was smaller than they expected. "We know the limited amount [of fuel] we had in each tank," he said. "We weren't storing that much product." He said three trucks that were in the flood were empty because they had made deliveries on Saturday. Other trucks loaded with diesel fuel or heating oil were hit by water, but their seals remained intact, he said. Silberlicht said the company had operated the Tuxedo facility since 1976 and had never experienced such extensive flooding. Residents across the river from the facility were skeptical of accounts that downplayed the spill. Kristian Matthews and other area residents said they could smell strong gas fumes in their homes, some of which they said came from floodwaters that had entered their basements. One woman said it made her feel sick, and Matthews said he felt a burning sensation in his eyes. A quarter mile downriver, residents pointed to two large oil tanks that had lodged in a flooded area of the woods. One was a 3,000 gallon red tank, and the second, a white tank printed with "S.O.S." and "Diesel Max," was a 500-gallon tank. The smell of gasoline was so strong near the tanks that several residents said they could not stand in the area longer than a few minutes. Ramiro Cruz said he saw an additional three tanks floating down the river Sunday. "This morning, we had to close the windows to our house because it was so bad," he said. Michelle Micklos said when she woke up Monday morning, "All I smelled was diesel." New Jersey officials began receiving reports of the smell Monday morning. [Bergen County](#) Hazmat Team Supervisor Jim Taradash said they sent two first responders to the Tuxedo facility after receiving several complaints. "We are continuing to monitor the situation," he said. An official from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection was also traveling to the Tuxedo facility Monday afternoon to investigate, DEP spokesman Larry Hajna said. He added that New Jersey officials could do little to contain the spill on this side of the border until the flooding subsided. "It will have to just run its course down the river and dissipate with the flood waters," he said. He advised anyone experiencing odors or physical sensations associated with the smell to stay away from the river. The smell itself was warning enough for some [Oakland](#) and [Mahwah](#) residents. Howard Wisse, whose Glen Gray Road house in [Oakland](#) was still submerged Monday, admonished his young son for attempting to dip a toe in the flood waters. "Get back!" he said. "I don't want you in there! You can smell home heating oil everywhere!" Officials said they were assessing health risks from the spill and those in [Mahwah](#) said they would turn off municipal water wells along the river as a precaution. Local environmental experts said even small amounts of fuel could cause major damage. "When you have oil tanks leaking into the river, you can have quite a bit of health impacts," said Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey chapter of the Sierra Club. "It can get into water supplies, fisheries, into people's homes. You can have major problems."

http://www.northjersey.com/news/082911_Possible_oil_spill_in_Ramapo_River.html?page=all

USA, N.J., TRENTON, AUGUST 30 2011. AUGUST 30 2011. HURRICANE IRENE RUPTURES 9 FUEL TANKS ACROSS N.J.; COULD PRODUCE LOCAL POLLUTION

leslie kwoh

The state Department of Environmental Protection said today it is monitoring at least nine fuel tanks that ruptured as a result of Hurricane Irene. Most of the leaking storage tanks, located across Bergen, Middlesex and Union counties, are privately owned and thus smaller than commercial containers, said department spokesman Larry Hajna. "If they leaked, there would be pollution either in the ground or in the water, but the effects would be localized," he said. The tanks are a mix of underground and above-ground containers. Hajna said he could not be more specific about the locations of the containers, but stressed that the situation was far from severe. "It's actually a surprisingly low number, considering the amount of flooding that's going on," he said. However, leaking tanks — or sewage, for that matter — aren't the only safety concern after a big storm like Hurricane Irene, according to Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey chapter of the Sierra Club. Rising flood waters can also transport a "witch's brew of chemicals" from contaminated sites into the waterways, impacting wildlife and drinking water supplies, he said. "There could be a lot of environmental damage," he said. In the long term, Tittel said the state should look into options that would reduce the potential for flooding, such as buying up flood-prone properties, restoring flood plains by natural means, and limiting upstream development.

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/08/hurricane_irene_ruptions_9_fue.html

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USA, OH, PEPPER PIKE, AUGUST 30 2011. PEPPER PIKE: I-271 LANE REOPENED AFTER OIL SPILL

kim wendel



The right lane of I-271 northbound just before the Brainard/Cedar exit has reopened after an oil spill closed it earlier Monday, ODOT officials said. The berm in the area will remain closed, however, until EPA officials return Tuesday morning to continue the clean-up. Fire officials told a Channel 3 news crew earlier Monday that a tanker truck hauling 1,600 gallons of an oil/anti-freeze mix leaked about 1,100 gallons of the mixture along the side of the road, berm and into the roadside ditch. The Pepper Pike Fire Department responded and called HAZMAT and the EPA. The contaminated soil will have to be removed. The mixture could cause a slight irritation but there are no evacuations and no real danger to anyone in the area. No injuries were reported. Police, fire crews, Hazmat teams and Ohio Department of Transportation crews were all involved in the incident.

<http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/204169/45/Pepper-Pike-I-271-lane-reopened-after-oil-spill>

USA, WYO, CONVERSE CO, AUGUST 30 2011. 3 WORKERS KILLED IN EXPLOSION AT WYOMING PRODUCTION SITE

ben neary



Click-2-Listen <http://k2radio.com/explosion-kills-3-contract-workers-audio/>



Watch the Video [Workers killed at oil site operated by Tulsa-based company](#)



An explosion at a Wyoming oil storage site killed three workers Monday morning and sparked a small fire, an oil company spokesman said. The blast at about 10 a.m. Monday in Converse County in eastern Wyoming happened as the workers were laying a fuel line that was intended to supply a heater treatment facility that separates oil from water as they're pumped out of the ground, Samson Resources Company spokesman Dennis Neill said. A subsequent fire burned about 10 acres before it was brought under control. The workers were employed by a contractor that the Tulsa, Okla.-based Samson had been hired to bring an oil well back into production at the site, Neill said. The well wasn't involved in the explosion and fire, which happened on the Hornbuckle Ranch, about 50 miles northeast of Casper. Neill declined to name the company that employed the workers. Samson officials were

traveling to the area, and state and federal investigators were on the scene, he said. A Converse County Sheriff's Office statement didn't say what caused the blast, and authorities hadn't named the three workers by late Monday. "Obviously we're very concerned about the family and friends in this situation," Neill said. The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported last week that the number of occupational fatalities in the state rose to 34 last year — an increase of nearly 79 percent from the year before. Of those 34 workplace deaths, 10 were in natural resources and mining. A bill that would have increased employer penalties for workplace safety violations died early last year in the Wyoming State Senate. Then-Gov. Dave Freudenthal had urged passage of the bill, which had been supported by industry groups.

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/aad171d12e764b47a94f8e5294233345/WY--Oil-Explosion/>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, POINT COOK, AUGUST 31 2011. RAAF'S 'PRESSING' TOXIC CLEAN-UP BACKED

laura little

A public works committee has approved the clean-up of the fire training area at the Royal Australian Air Force's Point Cook base. The federal government standing committee approved the clean-up last week, with its report to Parliament finding there was a "compelling and pressing need" for the work. The report said the area, which was last used for fire training in the 1980s, was the site of about 950,000 litres of toxic liquid waste which was made up of about 120 chemicals. It is expected the clean-up will cost about \$27.3million, meaning the proposed work had to be approved by the committee before going ahead. Under federal law, all public work that's estimated to cost more than \$15million must first be referred to the committee and cannot start until it decides that the work is necessary. The Defence Department said the contamination posed no risk to people or to

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marine life. However, the committee felt the site's proximity to Point Cook Coastal Park and Point Cooke Marine Sanctuary meant there was an urgent need for the clean-up. "It is patently clear that remediation works are urgently needed to prevent damage in the future," the report said. The committee also ordered the Defence Department to provide neighbouring land users with information about the extent of the site's contamination and its plans for remediation. The department said it would use the Environment Protection Authority's audit process to give neighbours certainty that the clean-up had been completed properly. The work is expected to start in February and take about 14 months.

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/raafs-pressing-toxic-cleanup-backed/2275483.aspx>

CHINA, DALIAN, AUGUST 31 2011. FIRE AT DALIAN OIL REFINERY RAISES TENSIONS IN CHINA



The fire at the refinery owned by PetroChina which has a refining capacity of 410,000 barrels a day.

A major Chinese petrochemical hub in the northwestern city of Dalian suffered its fifth major safety incident in just over a year on Monday, further ratcheting up tensions with environmental protesters. In the latest incident, a fire in a diesel tank at an oil refinery belonging to Chinese state oil major PetroChina sent clouds of black smoke billowing into the sky, filling the air with the pungent smell of burning oil, witnesses reported. The fire comes two weeks after Dalian was rocked by a 12,000-strong demonstration demanding the closure of a chemical plant which had threatened to discharge toxic gases into the air after its protective sea wall was breached by a typhoon. The fire at the PetroChina refinery, the company's largest

with a total crude refining capacity of 410,000 barrels a day, comes barely a month after another fire in the same facility that took firefighters six hours to bring under control on July 16. And in October last year PetroChina workers caused another blaze as they were dismantling an oil tank that still had fuel left inside it, Bloomberg news reported at the time. The latest fire also comes barely a year after an explosion at a PetroChina oil storage depot in Dalian's Xingang port on July 16 2010 caused China's worst ever oil spill, sending 1,500 metric tons of oil into the Yellow Sea, forcing the port to close the blaze was brought under control. PetroChina later said the latest fire, which broke out at 10am in its No. 875 diesel tank, had been brought under control by 1.20pm local time, without causing any pollution or injuries to workers or firefighters. However the fires is the latest in a litany of disasters and near-misses that have seriously dented public confidence in Dalian's petrochemical complexes which is one of northwestern Liaoning Province's main drivers of economic growth. Pictures and descriptions of Monday's fire soon sprang up online, with censors moving to delete some of the photographs as online users posted angry comments about the risks posed by Dalian's petrochemical industries. "My parents live in Ganjing district, I asked them and they said they saw dense smoke billowing, they could see it from their home," said online user 'Star Crazy', "The fire engines and police cars were going by continuously, there were pungent smells in the air." Others openly raised questions about the safety culture at the plant. "Is Dalian the city with highest danger index in China?," asked 'Easy Uncle', while others said that human error, not bad luck was behind the spate of accidents. Recalling Dalian's narrow escape earlier this month when the protective wall of a paraxylene (PX) plant had to be hastily repaired after it was breached by high waves, another commenter, 'Warm Autumn Baby', wondered if Dalian's luck was running out. "No doubt this is a man-made disaster. This plant is a potential safety hazard, or why else would the fire disasters be so frequent?" he wrote, "Don't blame the God for everything: last time the Meihua typhoon passed Dalian, God was already very kind to the people of Dalian."

Related Links [Oil clean-up with bare hands](#)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/china/8729456/Fire-at-Dalian-oil-refinery-raises-tensions-in-China.html>

BANGLADESH, GAZIPUR, AUGUST 31 2011. 3 HURT IN GAZIPUR FILLING STATION FIRE

Three people, including an engineer, were injured as a fire broke out at a CNG filling station in Tongi of Gazipur on Tuesday. The reason behind the fire could not be known immediately. Fire service sources said the fire broke out at the power unit of Aftab CNG Station in Cherag Ali area around 6:30am and soon spread to other units. Receiving information, local fire service personnel rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control after hour long hectic efforts. Hafizur Rahman, engineer of the station, and two employees - Shanilal and Masud - were injured in the fire. They were first admitted to Tongi Hospital from where they were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=31942

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NORWAY, SANDEFJORD, AUGUST 31 2011. EXPLOSION ON SHIP ROCKS SANDEFJORD



The Oleon plant in Sandefjord.

The former whaling port of Sandefjord was rocked by a loud explosion on board a ship berthed at a chemical plant Tuesday afternoon. Police were asking people to stay indoors as a strong odor settled over the area. Norwegian Broadcasting (NRK) reported that police initially were unsure whether there was any danger of more explosions. The vessel, described by VG Nett as a specially built chemical tanker, was tied up at the Oleon factory outside the city center. There were no further blasts nor any injuries or fatalities. Officials later said the explosion was probably caused by remnants of oil on the vessel and was not connected to the loading of dangerous waste material.

Large Cloud of Smoke

The vessel was listing to one side following the blast, and one witness said its deck had blown up. The explosion also sent a large cloud of smoke into the air, and police set up a security area of 1,500 meters around the stricken ship, called the Mar Christina and registered in Malta. The blast could be heard all over Sandefjord and some residents initially thought it was thunder. "But then we understood it was something more serious," one witness told VG Nett.

Belgian Chemical Firm

Oleon is a Belgian firm based in Ertvelde near Ghent and bills itself as a leading producer of oleochemicals in Europe. It converts natural fats and oils into a wide range of products such as glycerine, esters, dimers, technical oils and biodiesel. The Sandefjord plant, doing business as Oleon Scandinavia AS, has recently been specializing in "the production of esters based on pure fractions of fatty acids, mainly used in the cosmetics sector." The company said it is ISO-, kosher- and Halal-certified, and has around 20 employees. It attracted protests from environmental group Bellona in June, however, which accused it of storing dangerous waste materials from the offshore industry. Local newspaper Sandefjords Blad reported that Bellona suspected Oleon had tried to "hide environmental crimes" and mounted a demonstration against the company. Oleon later conceded it was storing oil from the grounded tanker Full City. Norway's climate and pollution directorate Klif investigated and said there was no danger of fire or explosions at the time, but noted that Oleon had no permission to store dangerous waste. Oleon responded that it was "provoked" by Bellona's demonstration but conceded that Bellona's claims were correct "to a large degree."

<http://www.newsinenglish.no/2011/08/30/explosion-on-ship-rocks-sandefjord/>

SOUTH AFRICA, DURBAN, AUGUST 31 2011. SCUTTLE PLAN FOR GROUNDED TANKER

The Phoenix, which ran aground at Sheffield Beach in July.



The tanker Phoenix, which ran aground on the rocks at Sheffield Beach and has attracted crowds of curious bystanders since July 26, is destined for a watery grave. It will disappear below the waves by the end of the week. Maritime officials are preparing to refloat it, then tow it almost 80km out to sea before sinking it. The South African Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa) plans to involve the South African National Defence Force in the scuttling effort, which could see the vessel used as target practice in order to sink it, possibly as deep as 2 000m. The operation, which included clearing the ship of fuels and other environmentally dangerous substances, has already cost about \$4.25 million (R29.8m). This excludes the direct costs incurred by Samsa and the legal costs to trace the vessel's owners. The overall cost will only be known once the Phoenix has been successfully

scuttled. Yesterday, Sobantu Tilayi, the executive head at Samsa's Centre for Shipping Services, said the Phoenix was initially to have been refloated today. However, the tide and swells which, combined, have to be enough to take it off the rocks, are only expected to be at optimum levels towards the end of the week. Once it is off the rocks, the 125m steel vessel will be pulled, in an almost upright position (because of flooding in the engine room), about 78km out to sea, south-east of Durban. The nearest marine protected area will be Aliwal Shoal. However, this is Samsa's best-case scenario as the vessel could sink before it reaches this point as it will take on water while being towed. If this happens, the Department of Environmental Affairs has indicated three other points closer to shore at which the vessel can be safely sunk. Captain Saroor Ali, Samsa's regional

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manager for the east coast, said the Phoenix would be pulled very slowly, at about two or three nautical miles an hour, to prevent it flooding too quickly or breaking up. A skeleton crew will be on board during the transportation, but in the event of severe flooding, the crew will be urgently disembarked. The trip from Sheffield Beach to the Phoenix's final resting spot should take about 24 hours. If efforts to refloat the Phoenix are not successful, maritime officials will "go back to the drawing board" and see where more money can be obtained for further operations. "Even if we can move her 100m then we could just leave her there and wait for the waves to break her up after 10 years. She poses no danger to the environment but would just have to be an ugly neighbour." He also explained that the Phoenix had been in an "appalling" condition when it ran into trouble off East London at the beginning of July. It failed to comply with almost every international standard and should not have even been allowed to set sail from Nigeria. However, he revealed that cases like this had appeared to become a pattern as the economic climate suffered, adding that there were many more like it in South African waters in the winter seasons. The difference with the Phoenix was that it was in view of the public and had been brought to its attention. Although there had been offers to buy the vessel and sell it for scrap, Samsa decided to sink it as the costs for a potential buyer to keep it afloat while cutting it up for scrap would outweigh the metal's value.

<http://www.iol.co.za/mercury/scuttle-plan-for-grounded-tanker-1.1127964>

LIBYA, RAS LANUF, AUGUST 31 2011. TANK BURNS AT LIBYA'S BIGGEST OIL TERMINAL

alexander dziadosz



Libya's largest oil terminal has been damaged during fighting between rebels and forces loyal to Muammar Gaddafi, oil workers and witnesses said. A Reuters witness saw flames and black smoke spurting from a tank at the Es-Sider oil terminal, which loaded an average of about 450,000 barrels per day before the uprising against Muammar Gaddafi began in February. "One tank is on fire now, and we expect it will be damaged completely," one oil worker who declined to be named said, adding he believed it was hit by a rocket in the last four days. The extent of the damage was not immediately clear, and no one at the Waha Oil Company, the state-owned firm that controls the terminal, was immediately available to comment. The oil worker, who had come to survey the damage, said two fires had been extinguished already and no one was currently working in the

terminal, which has a storage capacity of 6.3 million barrels of crude. Waha is owned by Libya's National Oil Corporation in a joint venture with U.S. firms ConocoPhillips, Marathon and Hess Corp, according to information previously published on its website. It operates four main oil fields - Waha, Dahra, Samah, and Gialo - the website, which was down on Tuesday, previously said. The Es-Sider terminal, about 180 km from Sirte on Libya's eastern coast, stores oil pumped from the Sirte Basin containing fields operated by French oil major Total and Italian oil firm Eni. Abdeljalil Mayouf, an official at rebel oil firm AGOCO, said the tank at Es-Sider had been hit during fighting between rebels and Gaddafi forces within the last few days. "The tank is still on fire. It was shot maybe three days ago," he said. An announcement on Sunday that AGOCO would be able to export crude from its Tobruk terminal by the end of September had raised hopes for a quick resumption of Libyan exports. The National Transitional Council, Libya's de facto government after Gaddafi's forces were expelled from most of the capital Tripoli last week, is struggling to revive the oil- and gas-based economy. Revenues from the industry will be vital as the council tries to pay salaries, restore basic services and impose order across the vast, war-battered country more than six months after the revolt against Gaddafi's four-decade rule began. A damaged tank at the Brega export terminal was also still spewing flames and black smoke on Monday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/30/us-libya-oil-tanks-idUSTRE77T1JZ20110830>

USA, CA, SACRAMENTO, AUGUST 31 2011. STATE WATER BOARD REACHES \$6 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH PETROLEUM FIRM OVER VIOLATIONS IN 17 COUNTIES

[Watch the Video](#) [State Water Board reaches \\$6 million settlement with Golden Gate Petroleum Company](#)

On Monday the State Water Board, in coordination with the California Attorney General's Office and district attorneys in 17 counties including Lake County announced a \$6 million settlement with Golden Gate Petroleum Co. in a case alleging environmental violations. The settlement followed a two-year investigation that state officials said found widespread violations of environmental rules on storage of petroleum in underground tanks owned or operated by Golden Gate Petroleum, based in

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Martinez. Dennis O'Keefe, president and sole shareholder of Golden Gate Petroleum and its affiliated companies, is a defendant in the action and is jointly liable for payment of the penalties, the State Water Board reported. "The case against Golden Gate Petroleum is another in a series of underground storage tank cases brought by the State Water Board against facilities that substantially threaten water quality and public safety," said Reed Sato, director of the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement. "The judgment against GGP compels the defendants to operate and maintain its fuel storage tanks in a manner protective of the environment," Sato added. The settlement covers violations at approximately 30 gasoline stations located in 17 counties throughout Northern California. Parties to the lawsuit include district attorneys' offices in Alameda, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Glenn, Humboldt, Kings, Lake, Mendocino, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter and Yuba counties. Court records identified three Golden Gate Petroleum gas stations in Lake County that are covered by the settlement: Lakeport Shell, 2725 S. Main St.; Cobb Texaco, 16340 Highway 175; and Two Jacks, 5200 Main St., Kelseyville. According to its Web site, Golden Gate Petroleum also owns Westgate Petroleum outside of Kelseyville, but that station was not alleged to have any violations. A two-year investigation conducted by the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement and various counties' environmental protection staff revealed that Golden Gate Petroleum had extensive violations, including the failure to install and repair leak detection equipment designed to prevent releases of petroleum into the environment. The court action does not resolve any liability or responsibility that Golden Gate Petroleum has to cleanup leaks of petroleum from its tank systems, the State Water Board said. Under the terms of the settlement, Golden Gate Petroleum will pay \$3 million in cash over a period of five years. The remaining \$3 million will be suspended conditioned on Golden Gate Petroleum maintaining compliance with underground storage tank requirements. Court records show that the State Water Board will receive \$500,000 and the California Attorney General's Office will get \$447,000 in the settlement, with \$268,000 going to the Craig Thompson Environmental Protection Prosecution Trust. Contra Costa and Monterey counties will each receive \$410,000 to cover business and professional and health and safety code violations, the highest amount to any of the 17 counties, followed by Solano with \$400,000 and Santa Clara with \$220,000. Lake County will receive a total of \$35,000, due by June 30, 2014, according to the settlement. Golden Gate Petroleum also must employ an environmental coordinator to oversee compliance in the future, according to the settlement. The State Water Board said the settlement amount was based on Golden Gate Petroleum's financial inability of GGP to pay higher penalties. The lawsuit is the latest in a series of major enforcement actions that the California Attorney General's Office and local prosecutors have jointly brought against violators of California's Underground Storage Tank laws. To date, those actions have reportedly resulted in numerous multimillion dollar penalties and extensive corrective action and operational improvements by the violators to prevent unauthorized spills of motor vehicle fuel to the environment.

<http://lakeconews.com/content/view/21219/919/>

USA, MA, BOSTON, AUGUST 31 2011. STATE, LOCAL OFFICIALS PREP FOR ETHANOL TRAINS >> GLOBAL'S TRAINS WILL BRING IN 3.6M GALLONS A WEEK

Most if the ethanol that is mixed with gasoline in Massachusetts enters the state by ship or fuel truck, but that will change next year when Global Petroleum Corp. begins shipping ethanol to its blending terminal in Revere by 60-car trains. With each car carrying 29,000 gallons of nearly pure ethanol, the two trains a week will bring in nearly 3.6 million gallons. The staggering volume of ethanol coming in by rail has inspired a flurry of state, local, and company safety preparations. Transport by train is more cost-effective and statistically safer than by truck, but the sheer scale of an ethanol train disaster is so much greater than an accident with a fuel truck that it has rattled Revere, where companies have handled millions of gallons of explosive fuels since the 1930s. The ethanol trains will run from Global's terminal in Albany, NY through northern Massachusetts to the Fitchburg/Ayer commuter rail line, skirting around Walden Pond in Concord and on to Boston. The trains will switch lines in Charlestown and continue north along the Newburyport/Rockport commuter line through Everett and Chelsea and into Revere. The trains will roll only after renovations to Global's facility and the rail spur that once connected it to the main rail line. Global presented plans for its renovations and their impact on nearby wetlands at two public hearings this spring before the Revere Conservation Commission, which approved the work despite safety concerns raised by environmental groups and concerned citizens. Community members, like "Guida" Rita Falzarano, feared that the three-and-a-half car spill containment system Global described wouldn't stop a large spill. "What happens if five cars spill?" Falzarano asked. "The system fails." The activists also worried about a train derailment outside of Global's property along the rail line. Ethanol fires require special equipment and training to fight effectively, raising concerns about whether local fire departments are prepared to deal with several train cars of burning ethanol. Officials at Global did not return calls seeking comment on the ethanol trains or their

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planned renovations. Ethanol is mixed into gasoline as part of a federal effort to reduce carbon emissions and fossil fuel consumption. Most of the country's ethanol is made in the Midwest and shipped to the rest of the country, with about 70 percent delivered by train. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection estimates that an ethanol train passes through Massachusetts two or three times each week, but Global's trains would be the first with a final destination inside the state. Ethanol is an alcohol and behaves differently than gasoline and other petroleum-based fuels. It burns with little smoke or flame, making it difficult to detect. It also dissolves in water, unlike oil or gasoline, which float on top. That makes ethanol difficult to remove if spilled into a creek or groundwater source. It also means that water will spread rather than douse an ethanol fire because ethanol is still flammable when diluted with four times its volume of water. An ethanol fire requires special alcohol-resistant fire-fighting foam. If ethanol spills and doesn't catch fire, it can suffocate aquatic life or biodegrade into methane in soil. Methane can pose a new explosion hazard weeks or months after a spill. The Department of Environmental Protection recently completed a report on ethanol and how to deal with it in the event of a spill. The report is the first single comprehensive source of information about ethanol spills, according to Ken Kimmel, commissioner of the agency. Kimmel called the study "a risk prevention measure in and of itself," since the information will promote appropriate responses to ethanol spills. Fire departments are preparing for the special challenges of ethanol fires. The state's Department of Fire Services is designing an ethanol-specific training program for new and current firefighters, said Revere Fire Chief Gene Doherty. Doherty also said that the 38 communities in the Boston Harbor area are conducting a "foam survey" to coordinate their resources. The communities have mutual aid agreements under which any fire department can call on nearby communities for additional foam, trucks, or firefighters. Doherty said Global has been working with him for months to prepare for the arrival of ethanol trains. He said the company has gone beyond what it is legally required, agreeing to provide 500 gallons of alcohol-resistant foam to the Revere Fire Department, install cameras to monitor ethanol cars waiting to unload, and upgrade Revere's, Chelsea's, and Everett's foam carriers into foam sprayers, all at Global's cost. The company will also provide ethanol to burn during training exercises. Chief Doherty chuckled when asked if he was comfortable with ethanol trains coming into the community. "I have more fear of tank trucks coming in than I do with the rail," he said, noting the train tracks generally are farther from homes and neighborhoods. Public safety agencies are doing all they can to prepare, he said, but acknowledged there is always the possibility of a catastrophic accident. "We can never, probably, truly prepare."

<http://www.commonwealthmagazine.org/News-and-Features/Online-exclusives/2011/Summer/017-State-local-officials-prep-for-ethanol-trains.aspx>

BULGARIA, SOFIA, AUGUST 31 2011. TURKISH DRIVER CHARGED FOR CAUSING TOXIC SPILL IN BULGARIA



In July, firefighters and the Civil Defense team worked for 18 hours to secure and remove the overturned Turkish cistern.

The Regional Prosecutor's Office in the central Bulgarian city of Veliko Tarnovo has pressed charges against Turkish driver, Yumer Var, 45, over him causing a harmful spill. Var is charged with two counts - polluting the environment and transporting hazardous substances without a permit in the causing of an accident on July 11 near the town of Debelets in the Veliko Tarnovo area. The incident happened when a Turkish cistern truck transporting amounts of a dangerous chemical rolled over, triggering the evacuation of 2 200 residents of Debelets, including 51 toddlers and babies. Over 4 tons of styrene, which is used to make plastic, were spilled and a toxic cloud was formed. The Regional Governor declared an emergency situation in

the town. The driver was arrested and was kept behind bars for 24 hours. Upon expiration of the 24 hours, his ID documents were taken away on the order of the Prosecutor's Office and under the Foreign Citizens Act, so that he couldn't leave the country before the end of the investigation. A probe of the Bulgarian Automobile Inspection, DAI, revealed Var did not own a certificate allowing him to transport hazardous substances. The probe further showed the cistern did not have signs it contains such substances while the driver did not have a break in the last 24 hours before the incident. According to the indictment, the spill polluted the soil and the waters of the Belitsa River. Firefighters and the Civil Defense team worked for 18 hours to secure and remove the overturned Turkish cistern. The cost of the operation is estimated at BGN 18,000. Var was fined in the amount of BGN 8 000 while DAI fined the Istanbul-based carrier company "Tap Ted Global Logistics" with BGN 5 000. The trial is expected to begin in the next few days.

http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=131634

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USA, N.D, BISMARCK, AUGUST 31 2011. OIL COMPANIES FORMING LAKE SPILL RESPONSE COMPANY

lauren donovan

Companies developing oil wells around Lake Sakakawea will share costs of equipment and training to handle oil spills on the lake should more occur. Six companies, including Whiting Oil and Gas, have said they'll sign an agreement Friday to create Sakakawea Area Spill Response LLC. The new company will spend an initial \$300,000 on three boats, boom and two oil skimmers and store them near New Town, possibly as soon as October. Jack Braun, of Whiting, who's heading the group, said 16 other companies have said they are interested in being part of the group, but want to see the formal contract first. Braun said a second set of boats, boom and skimmers would then be purchased and stored on the east end of the lake's north shore, possibly in the Parshall vicinity. He said the lake is much longer east to west than it is wide across, so it makes sense to have equipment at each end. Also, oil development is most intense on the north side of the lake. He said the equipment could handle spills ranging from "small to medium," in scale. In the event of a major spill, it would be enough to handle containment until large-scale containment crews could get on scene, he said. The major oil companies have in excess of 100 oil wells near the lake and there also are several oil pipelines near the lake, including one tied into the 4 Bears Bridge over Lake Sakakawea at New Town. The issue came to a head this spring when oil and saltwater spilled into the lake for the first time. A Petro-Hunt well north of Keene in McKenzie County spilled 5 barrels of oil and 100 barrels of saltwater April 2, when the lake was iced over so no clean up was conducted. A second water spill occurred last month, when a storage tank at a Ryan Exploration well floated in Missouri River floodwaters and spilled at least 20 barrels of oil. The Ryan well was among 40 that the Oil and Gas Division ordered to be shut off when Missouri River floodwaters started rising in May. Braun said the group will decide whether to train a six- to 10-person response team, or use one on a contract basis. State responders also will be able to use the equipment. The group doesn't have plans to add other types of jointly owned equipment, like for oil well fire response, though two of those in the oil zone this year have required special well fire teams from Texas. Braun said the companies will form a mutual aid list of equipment, so that everybody knows what's available from other companies in an emergency.

http://bismarcktribune.com/news/local/oil-companies-forming-lake-spill-response-company/article_35fe7448-d340-11e0-98ee-001cc4c002e0.html

USA, WA, LYNDEN, SEPTEMBER 1 2011. WASHINGTON MAN, STUNG BY BEE, DECIDES TO POUR GASOLINE ALL OVER THE BEEHIVE AND BLOW IT UP

jack dickey



Those damned bees. They sting you, and perhaps you get particularly swollen, and somewhat irritated, and then your summer day is ruined and you've got a moderate-sized welt on your arm. So a Lynden, Washington man decided to get back at the bees—one of them stung his friend—by teaching them a fiery lesson: A Lynden man dumped gasoline on a beehive that was in a tree and then ignited it Sunday night, Aug. 28, causing an explosion in the suburban neighborhood that could be seen from a few hundred feet away. The man lit the hive on fire about 8:30 p.m. in retaliation for a bee sting one of his friends got earlier that day at the house on Twin Sister Loop, said Lynden Fire Chief Gary Baar. The fire caused a

large "whoosh" and singed the tree pretty badly, Baar said, but nobody was hurt. There were no flames when firefighters arrived about 10 minutes later. "No damage, except for a bunch of dead bees," Baar said. "The correct way to do that is to call a beekeeper."

[Related Links Lynden man causes explosion after igniting gasoline-soaked beehive](http://deadspin.com/5836029/washington-man-stung-by-bee-decides-to-pour-gasoline-all-over-the-beehive-and-blow-it-up)

<http://deadspin.com/5836029/washington-man-stung-by-bee-decides-to-pour-gasoline-all-over-the-beehive-and-blow-it-up>

CHINA, BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 1 2011. HUGE STOCKPILE OF TOXIC WASTE IN 12 PROVINCES

zhou wenting

One million tons of untreated toxic industrial waste are piling up across China, risking environmental disasters like the recently exposed case in Yunnan province, a non-governmental organization has warned. Earlier this month it was revealed that more than 5,000 tons of chromium residue were illegally dumped on roadsides and in mountains by a chemical factory in Yunnan's Qujing city, causing the deaths of 77 head of livestock. Official tests found "excessive hexavalent chromium" in water in the area where the waste was dumped. Tests of the groundwater near the factory by Greenpeace, an environmental protection

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organization, showed that the concentration of hexavalent chromium in the water was 242 times the national standard. Chromium residue is a heavy metal and hazardous waste residue generated in the production of chromium metal and chromium salt. Hexavalent compounds in the residue are the most toxic. The soluble and unstable chemical may cause health problems, such as kidney and liver damage, after entering human bodies through respiration, the skin, mucous membranes and digestion of food. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), part of the World Health Organization, lists these compounds as carcinogenic for humans. A national remediation scheme for chromium residue pollution in 2005 showed more than 4million tons of the chemical had been stockpiled untreated in 19 provinces. This led to official demands that the waste be disposed of safely by the end of 2010. "Most of the waste was not properly disposed of, but directly discharged into the environment. Some of it was even dumped in important water sources and densely populated areas" reported the scheme published on the website of the National Development and Reform Commission, the country's top economic planning agency. It also said without decontamination, chromium residue had seriously polluted surface water groundwater and soil, and posed a huge threat to people's lives and property. According to the 2010 Report on the State of the Environment in China, 3 million tons of the residue in seven provinces have been treated, which means there are still 1 million tons left untreated in 12 provinces. Wang Peilin, deputy secretary-general of the China Inorganic Salts Industry Association, said in previous interviews the figure was 1.3 million tons. "This Yunnan incident also confirmed that disposal of the waste was not completed by 2010, and was a warning for other businesses which had not completed their disposal tasks. We can no longer be sluggish in the management of waste," she said. Official data shows China is the world's largest producer and consumer of chromium with an annual production capacity of more than 300,000 tons. The chemical is widely used for the manufacture of stainless steel, leather and bicycle parts. "Due to outdated technology, 3 to 5 tons of hexavalent chromium are generated when producing 1 ton of chromium," said Ma Tianjie, senior toxics prevention campaigner at Greenpeace. He said this latest contamination incident once again showed the dangers of the development model of "pollution first, treatment later". The organization urged the government to conduct an immediate nationwide evaluation of the surrounding environment where the waste is stored, and to use all possible means to prevent the public from being exposed to the contamination.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2011-08/31/content_13224360.htm

CANADA, WORKSAFEBC >> WORKER EXPOSED TO HAZARDOUS GAS AT MUSHROOM COMPOSTING OPERATION

 **Document** [See Hazard Alert](#)

At a mushroom composting facility, run-off liquids and fresh water were stored in an open tank until needed for soaking bales of straw. The materials remained in the tank for a few days during warm weather. As a worker was removing straw floating on the surface, he was exposed to a hazardous gas, likely hydrogen sulphide. The worker had trouble breathing, eye irritation, and a sore throat. Mushroom compost typically includes water, chicken manure, straw, and gypsum. The run-off liquids and solids are often collected so that they can be re-used. These materials can stagnate in ponds, tanks, vessels, bunkers, or pipes. If the run-off materials are not aerated, hazardous gases (such as hydrogen sulphide, ammonia, and carbon dioxide) can be produced. Workers might be exposed to these hazardous gases or to a low-oxygen atmosphere when they open the equipment or disturb and handle the composting material. The hazardous gases can be immediately harmful and even life-threatening. Read More at:

http://www2.worksafebc.com/i/posters/pdfs/2011/ha_2011_09.pdf

UGANDA, LUGAZI, SEPTEMBER 1 2011. LUGAZI FUEL PRICES DROP AFTER ACCIDENT >> TANKER TRUCKS OVERTURNED ON THE JINJA-KAMPALA HIGHWAY

herbert mugagga



Summary

Many times people have been burnt to death while siphoning fuel from crashed fuel transport trucks, but this has not stopped the practice from occurring again.

A young man siphoning fuel from a fuel tanker that crashed. Police in Lugazi were battling residents who rushed to accident scenes involving two fuel tankers.

The price of petrol and diesel has been low for three days in Lugazi Town, following an accident that involved two fuel trucks from Kenya. The two separate accidents occurred on the night of August 28, involving two fuel tankers transporting fuel from Mombasa to Kampala. The trucks overturned at almost the same spot on the Jinja-

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Kampala highway after the drivers lost control, according to Mr Chris Omaka, the Buikwe District traffic officer. No deaths were reported, but the drivers sustained minor injuries. A crowd started siphoning fuel shortly before police arrived and fired bullets in the air to disperse it. However, a few residents managed to tap the fuel from the swamps. It is now being sold at a give-away price. A 20-litre jerry-can of petrol is selling between Shs15,000 and Shs20,000, while that of diesel is going for as little as Shs10,000. One litre of petrol is sold at Shs3,900. However, police and local authorities are searching for those selling the fuel which is believed to be kept in people's homes. Police are also warning motorists to desist from buying it, saying it is not good for their vehicle consumption. "It's definitely not good if you look at the way these people were fetching it from those trenches and swamps," said the District Police Commander, Ms Caroline Akoth. The cheap fuel has affected sales of the petrol stations in Lugazi.

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1228642/-/bjsog9z/-/>

USA, N.Y, SCHOHARIE COUNTY, SEPTEMBER 1 2011. IRENE CALLS DEC TO FUEL TANK SPILLS >> FLOODWATERS LIFTED AND TIPPED OVER A 60,000-GALLON TANK AND TWO 20,000-GALLON TANKS

nancy sanders

New York state's environmental chief says crews have their hands full cleaning up fuel and other spills following Tropical Storm Irene, including a big one in Schoharie County that sent diesel, gasoline and other fuel spilling from massive tanks. Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joe Martens toured the site Tuesday where floodwaters lifted and tipped over a 60,000-gallon tank and two 20,000-gallon tanks at a storage site in the town of Schoharie, 26 miles west of Albany. Contractors vacuumed up what they could at the rural Ottman and Enders facility. But officials don't know yet how much fuel escaped or how far it spread. Some may have gone into nearby Schoharie Creek. Martens says his agency has responded to 430 spills big and small since midnight Sunday, including at homes where flooding affected tanks.

http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/new_york/irene-calls-dec-to-fuel-tank-spills

RUSSIA, MOSCOW, SEPTEMBER 1 2011. NEW BLOW FOR BP IN RUSSIA AS OFFICE RAIDED

vladimir soldatkin



BP Russia President Jeremy Huck (R) speaks to the media as he leaves an office building housing a trading unit of British oil company BP in Moscow August 31, 2011.

Black-clad special forces raided BP's Moscow offices on Wednesday, deepening the British company's problems in Russia after its attempts to salvage an oil exploration agreement in the Russian Arctic collapsed. The raid, a day after ExxonMobil signed a deal giving it access to fields BP had hoped to develop, was ordered to let bailiffs search for documents in a legal battle over BP's failed bid to partner Russia in the Arctic, a spokeswoman said. But BP, which has a long history of problems in Russia, denounced the raid and said it feared the search could continue for the rest of this week. "It is our opinion that the court order under which ... court bailiffs are now in our office has no legal grounds. The office's work has been paralyzed," BP Russia President Jeremy Huck was quoted as saying by

Interfax news agency. "We see these actions as pressure on BP's operations in Russia," he said. Most of BP's employees in Moscow were sent home or told not to come to work because of the raid, and the offices were sealed off. The raid highlighted BP's problems in Russia since it fell out with authorities this year over its failed Arctic exploration alliance with state-owned oil firm Rosneft. A group of rich minority shareholders in TNK-BP, BP's Russian joint venture, have sued BP over the failed alliance with Rosneft. They objected to the pact, saying BP was obliged to pursue all its Russian ventures through TNK-BP and that they suffered big losses when the venture collapsed shortly after it was announced in January. The minority shareholders also prevented a parallel \$16 billion share-swap deal between BP and Rosneft going ahead.

Arctic Dreams Shattered

Tuesday's deal between Exxon and Rosneft, signed in the presence of Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, gives BP's U.S. rival access to potentially substantial reserves in Russia, the world's top oil producer. The deal was a big blow for BP, finally ending its chances of salvaging its own agreement with Rosneft. Yevgeny Minchenko, director of Russia's International Institute for Political Expertise, said BP was now vulnerable to police raids -- which can happen frequently in Russia -- and

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short of allies. "I don't think that it was the Kremlin or the government that sent the order to the bailiffs (to carry out the raid). It's just that the people who carry out the decision understand that the authorities won't stand up for BP," he said. But political analyst Nikolai Petrov of the Moscow Carnegie Center said the raid did not mean BP would now face frequent harassment from the police or legal authorities. "Although there is a coincidence in timings between what is happening with BP and the announcement of the Rosneft-Exxon deal, I wouldn't say the search is a sign that BP will be pressured by the law-enforcement bodies," he said. It is not the first time BP has been subjected to such treatment in Russia. Security forces searched BP's headquarters in Moscow in 2008 during a corporate stand-off at TNK-BP that resulted in TNK-BP boss Bob Dudley, who is now CEO of BP, being forced out of Russia.

<http://planetark.org/wen/63133>

USA, R.I, EAST PROVIDENCE, SEPTEMBER 1 2011. EAST PROV. HAZMAT IS 'RIVER OF OIL' >> EVACUATIONS ORDERED AFTER HOME HEATING OIL SPILL

nancy krause

 **Watch the Video** <http://www2.turnto10.com/news/2011/aug/31/15/hazmat-east-providence-ar-714324/>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.abc6.com/story/15368286/diesel-spilled-near-river-in-east-providence>



East Providence authorities say a construction company severed a fuel line, spilling tens of thousands of gallons of diesel along a riverfront street.

"A river of oil." That is how emergency officials described an ongoing Hazmat situation in East Providence Wednesday morning. The call came in from Valley St. shortly after 9 a.m. Wednesday, for reports of a ruptured fuel line. The fire marshal said a barge was off-loading oil, when an excavator somehow hit a line - causing a geyser of oil to shoot three stories into the air. A total of 10,000 to 20,000 gallons of home heating oil covered nearby buildings and Valley St. Businesses in the area were evacuated and the nearby street was shutdown. "This is a hazmat situation. It could have been a lot worse," officials said. While officials said there was no immediate threat to the public, they are concerned about long-term environmental effects. The Department of Environmental Management, Coast Guard and two

hazardous materials teams were called to the scene. Marina crews said there was no oil in the water, and the leak had been stopped. But some of the fuel did reach nearby storm drains. Crews dumped in sand hoping to contain the oil. Valley Street was still closed as of 5:40 p.m. on Wednesday while crews continue to clean up. On Thursday, crews will try to fix the ruptured pipe, before the contaminated soil can be cleaned up.

Related Links

- [Diesel Spilled Near River in East Providence](#)
- [Fuel Line Rupture Spews More Than 10,000 Gallons of Diesel](#)

http://www.wpri.com/dpp/news/local_news/providence/east-providence-valley-street-hazmat-diesel-spill

USA, MI, WATERFORD, SEPTEMBER 1 2011. GAS STATION LAWSUIT: WATERFORD RESIDENTS SAY LEAK CAUSED HEALTH PROBLEMS

taryn asher

 **Watch the Video** [Waterford Residents Say Leak Caused Health Problems](#)



"I came home from the hospital having respiratory trouble really bad," said Julie Prahler. The Prahlers had no idea they were living across the street from the alleged culprit -- the Sunoco gas station at the corner of West Huron and Voorheis in Waterford Township. Records show an environmental group found the underground leak three years later. "Like New York's Love Canal where there's so much pollution and you can't sell your homes or anything, that's what it's like here," Julie Prahler explained. The Prahlers can't say much. They, along with other neighbors who live within feet of the gas station, have decided to sue the owners -- SRI Gas X Cstore Incorporated. The lawsuit alleges they are dealing with a myriad

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of health issues because of an underground storage tank leak. The carcinogen benzene and other harmful chemicals found in gasoline that were seeping into the ground from a flex hose leak and into their homes. "They had no knowledge that they were being poisoned," said attorney Joseph Krajewski. It wasn't through the water, but Krajewski claims through their tiles in their basement. "Because they negligently operated and they failed to warn residents across the street that there could be a potential for harm, we're now suing them," Krajewski told FOX 2's Taryn Asher. "I had no idea that it was this close," said Nathan Haynes. He said three years ago there was a water monitoring system put into the ground in front of his house. That was the first and last time he heard of anything about problems with the gas station until now, but he is concerned and worried. His live-in girlfriends may have been affected. "My ex-girlfriend, she had to have her ovaries removed, and now my current girlfriend that lives with me is having problems with possible ovarian cysts," Haynes said. The gas station has been closed for the last few months, a sign says for remodeling. One neighbor has since moved, but the Prahlers can't help but feel stuck, they said, with one health problem after another and in a home they can never sell. "Who wants to buy a house on a busy corner with pollution?" said Julie Prahler. This lawsuit just isn't going after the current gas station owner, but also the two previous ones. We were unable to reach their attorneys Wednesday evening. However, we were told they are not disputing that there was a leak. They just don't think that it impacted the health of the residents

<http://www.myfoxdetroit.com/dpp/news/local/gas-station-lawsuit-waterford-residents-say-leak-caused-health-problems-20110831-wpms>

USA, CA, DOS PALOS, SEPTEMBER 1 2011. OIL COMPANY TO COMPENSATE DOS PALOS RESIDENTS, SETTLEMENT REACHED IN CONTAMINATION LAWSUIT

yesenia amaro



Larry Bonds talks to a reporter concerning a lawsuit about the groundwater beneath some 20 houses in Dos Palos that were allegedly contaminated by a leak of gasoline and diesel from the Nicoletti Oil, Inc. on Tuesday, August 30, 2011 afternoon.

After almost four years, several residents in Dos Palos will receive their share of a settlement reached with Nicoletti Oil Inc., after an alleged contamination resulting from a gasoline and diesel leak from the oil company. Larry Bonds is one of the residents. As he walked in the front area of a home he owns in the 2000 block of Blossom Street in Dos Palos, he pointed with his walking stick to equipment on the side of the porch. The system monitors the groundwater at the residence, which was built in the 1940s. The home, which Bonds has owned since 1974, sits across from the Nicoletti Oil office. People wouldn't be able to tell that there was possible

groundwater contamination on the property if it weren't for the system monitoring the water. The system measures "how much of it (water) has been cleaned up," Bonds explained. Bonds and 22 other plaintiffs collectively filed numerous claims against Nicoletti Oil, claiming damages to themselves and their property. The damages allegedly resulted from contamination of soil and groundwater emanating from Nicoletti's bulk fuel dispensing facility in Dos Palos, according to court documents. A civil action was filed in Merced County Superior Court by the plaintiffs against Nicoletti on Sept. 14, 2007, according to documents. The case was later moved to federal court in Fresno. Kenneth R. Mackie, who is with the law office of Canelo, Wilson, Wallace and Padron in Merced, said the firm has handled the case for several years, and he took it over in February 2010. He has been representing the plaintiffs since then. A settlement was approved by the court at the end of June, according to documents. Mackie declined to disclose the amount of the settlement. But according to Bonds and documents, each household will receive \$7,500. The total settlement amounted to \$140,000, of which \$112,500 will go to the residents; \$27,500 will go to attorneys to cover fees and costs involved since a settlement with Exxon-Mobil. The oil giant owned the property years ago, though Nicoletti owns the property now, Mackie said. The same residents also entered a settlement with Exxon-Mobil in 2008 because it was unknown whether some of the chemicals in the contamination plume were old enough to have come from the time that Exxon-Mobil owned the facility, he said. The settlement with Exxon-Mobil was reached before a civil action was filed. "The parties settled with Exxon several years ago," Mackie said. "They (Exxon) are now not involved in any shape or form" in the settlement with Nicoletti. However, Exxon-Mobil has been handling the cleanup for several years now, he said. "The plume has shrunk dramatically over the years, thanks to Exxon-Mobil's efforts," he said. The plaintiffs should receive their portion of the settlement reached with Nicoletti within the next day or two, Mackie said Tuesday. "Our clients have

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been very patient working through the process to arrive at a satisfactory settlement," he said. The owner of Nicoletti Oil didn't return calls seeking comment. Steven R. Tekosky, a Los Angeles-based lawyer representing Nicoletti Oil, said the case was litigated over a period of years because there was an extensive discovery process, and the plaintiffs' claims were evaluated. He said the plaintiffs many claims included the assertion that their property values had suffered. "As a result of that, we think they (the plaintiffs) recognized their claims were vastly inflated and overblown, and as a result we were able to reach a settlement," he said. Tekosky said he believes both sides are satisfied with the settlement. "I think it was more than fair," he said. "I think it was a very, very generous and fair settlement." Bonds, who helped organize the lawsuit, said it's been a long road. The plaintiffs would hold regular meetings, sometimes gathering at his house. He rents out the house on Blossom Street because he owns another house in Dos Palos. Bonds said he received \$42,500 from the settlement with Exxon almost three years ago. Of that, \$2,500 went to lawyers, he said. Exxon officials didn't return calls seeking comment.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2011/09/01/2025171/oil-company-to-compensate-dos.html>

USA, PA, NEWELL, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. CHEMICAL PLANT SPILLS DETERGENT INTO PENNSYLVANIA RIVER

About 1,000 gallons of a biodegradable detergent spilled from a chemical plant into a southwestern Pennsylvania river, killing a small number of fish and prompting an investigation by state environmental authorities, officials said on Thursday. The spill at the Henwil Corp. facility in Newell occurred when a tank overflowed into a cracked containment basin that leaked the cleaning compound into the Monongahela River on Wednesday evening, plant manager Tim Phelps said. A total of 2,600 gallons of the soap-like substance spilled into the containment basin, and about 1,000 gallons or less escaped into the river, he said. The nontoxic chemical, which floated on the surface of the water, killed between 10 and 25 fish by clogging their gills, he said. "Once that disperses away from the initial source, then there's no more harm to the waterways," Phelps said. "It's in no way toxic to humans." The state Department of Environmental Protection dispatched an emergency response team and was conducting an investigation, said Katy Gresh, a spokeswoman for the agency. The chemical was purchased by Henwil to use as an ingredient in its products, which are used in water treatment plants.

<http://planetark.org/wen/63138>

USA, AKA, KODIAK, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. MYSTERY SPILL FOULS KODIAK HARBOR



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A jellyfish can be seen below the layer of diesel fuel and oil near the south entrance to St. Herman Harbor on Sunday.

Officials are unsure about the source of contamination in the waters around downtown Kodiak. A diesel odor and sheen was noticed on the south end of Near Island over the weekend. The harbor master's office and the Coast Guard have been investigating. Harbormaster Marty Owen says he suspects the pollution is from a ship that may have pumped its bilge after the heavy rains on Saturday. Owen says he took investigators from the Marine Safety Detachment out yesterday (Monday) to investigate, after they surveyed the sheen from atop Pillar Mountain. They boarded two floating processors anchored offshore, but found them to be clean and not the likely source of the pollution. Lieutenant Matthew Zinn with the Coast Guard in Kodiak says the spill could be a couple hundred gallons in size. He says as of yet, they've been unable to pinpoint a source of the

pollution. Neither Zinn nor Owen have seen or heard reports of dead seabirds or marine mammals.

<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2011/08/30/mystery-spill-fouls-kodiak-harbor/>

SLOVENIA, LJUBLJANA, SEPTEMBER 2 2011. FOUR BANKS AND ISTRABENZ SELLING 16% STAKE IN PETROL

Four Slovenian banks and the Istrabenz holding are selling a combined 16.25% stake in Slovenia's largest energy company Petrol. The sellers have already signed a sales agreement, Istrabenz said in a press release on Thursday.

<http://www.sta.si/en/vest.php?s=a&id=1670766>

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