



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2012 – 808 Newsy Stuff

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

February 11 2012



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MALAYSIA, PENANG, JANUARY 28 2012. CLOSE CALL FOR ESSO FUEL TANK FARM

adie suri zulkefli



Quick action by firefighters averted a major disaster at the Butterworth Esso fuel tank farm after 25 wooden shops located five metres away were razed in a fire late Thursday. The 11.15pm fire near the temporary Penang Sentral bus terminal also left more than 20 people who were renting in the wooden houses in the area homeless. However nobody was injured in the incident but most of the victims did not manage to rescue their belongings. The incident also left dozens of express bus passengers stranded for more than one hour after the buses leaving for the last trip could not leave the terminal as the area was cordoned. The state Fire and Rescue Department director Azmi Tamat said they received the first call at 11.39pm and five fire engines from the Butterworth, Prai, Perda stations with 34 firefighters rushed to the scene. They were assisted by 157 volunteer firefighters from

Seberang Perai, Penang island and Lunas, Kedah and the Penang Port Sdn Bhd fire brigade. Azmi said the wooden premises were highly flammable and the whole 100m by 100m square area was engulfed in fire within minutes. "We had to move quickly to control the fire as we feared for the worst that it would pose grave danger to the nearby fuel tank farm. We managed to control the fire within 25 minutes and the Esso fuel tank farm authority had activated its water sprinklers to cool down the tanks," he told Pressmen at the scene. Among the businesses affected were express bus ticketing agents, sundry shops, telecommunication shops, foodstalls, motorcycle parking area and a motorcycle workshop. A victim Haron Wahab, 40, who operates a telecommunication and dry fruits stall, said the fire started from one of the wooden houses behind his shop. "The fire spread so fast, I only managed to grab my laptop and some handphone reload cards before fleeing," said Haron. He estimated his losses at about RM70,000. Another victim Indrawarni Mahmud, 38, who operates a bakso stall said she was asleep with her four children when she was awakened by her husband. "I only managed to grab my bag and important documents before immediately dashing out from the upper floor," she said.

<http://www.nst.com.my/top-news/close-call-for-esso-fuel-tank-farm-1.37803>

USA, WASHINGTON, JANUARY 28 2012. CSB SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM GHENT, WEST VIRGINIA PROPANE EXPLOSION LARGELY ADOPTED, EFFECTING LIFE-SAVING CHANGE



Statement by Chairman Rafael Moure-Eraso Marks Five-Year Anniversary of the Convenience Store Tragedy that Claimed Lives of Two Emergency Responders and Two Propane Technicians.

Monday, January 30, marks the fifth anniversary of a terrible tragedy that occurred in Ghent, West Virginia – a propane explosion that took the lives of four people and injured six others at a Little General convenience store. The accident occurred as an inexperienced worker attempted to transfer propane from a tank located against an outside wall of the store. I am pleased to report today satisfactory progress in the adoption of a number of important CSB recommendations made in our final report of September 2008, aimed at improving training requirements for propane technicians, and at improving emergency response actions by on-scene technicians and 911 operators. The recommendations have largely been adopted and will result in lives

saved.

We recall with sadness that the explosion killed two emergency responders and two propane technicians and injured four clerks inside the store and two other emergency technicians standing by outside the store, which had not been evacuated. The store was leveled. The CSB's final report found that a junior propane service technician was preparing to transfer propane, unsupervised, to a new tank from an old tank located near an outside wall of the store – a location that violated state and federal regulations. The technician removed a plug from the liquid withdrawal valve on the old tank, but the valve evidently malfunctioned, causing an uncontrollable release of propane. Propane entered the store through the restroom ventilation system. The technician had only 45 days of limited on-the-job training with his supervisor.

We issued twelve recommendations to a total of nine recipients and most have resulted in what the Board determined to be "Acceptable" action, or are being held as "Open Acceptable" because they are on the brink of completion.



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It's particularly gratifying to note that our recommendation to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) resulted in the issuing of a temporary standard providing guidance for personnel who work with liquefied petroleum gas. This includes training with a defined curriculum and testing, actions which resulted in an "Open Acceptable" status determination in April 2011. I encourage the NFPA to permanently adopt the training and testing requirements for individuals who work with propane, helping reduce the loss of life and injury among propane workers and potential dangers to members of the public.

Our recommendation to the governor and legislature of West Virginia – dealing with training and qualification requirements of propane workers – was closed as "Acceptable" in August 2010 when the State Fire Marshal's Office reported that the state fire code was updated earlier that year. This kind of action serves as an example for other states.

The Board had recommended that the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials develop a guide card for propane emergencies to assist 911 operators. The association moved promptly and within a year we determined this action to be "Acceptable."

The National Propane Gas Association adopted our recommendation, and we closed it as "Acceptable Action," in 2010, as a result of NPGA's communication with OSHA and its work with the West Virginia 911 Council to develop emergency propane guidance for 911 operators. The West Virginia 911 Council on a similar recommendation received the same satisfactory determination from the Board following the council's action.

The Board voted just last month, in December 2011, to close as "Acceptable" the response by Ferrellgas to our recommendation to establish and implement a comprehensive safety management system, as the company has improved its inspection and auditing program to detect and correct safety deficiencies. For many years, Ferrellgas owned and serviced the existing tank, which had been installed in 1994 by another company directly next to the store's exterior back wall, in violation of West Virginia and U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations.

The CSB called on the Propane Education and Research Council – which has the critical mission of determining procedures and certifying propane technicians – to revise its Certified Employee Training Program. This would include, among other things, guidance to emergency responders, and procedures for, or a prohibition on, transferring liquid propane from tank to tank.

While we were pleased with PERC's statement in 2009 that they would act on the recommendation, we had hoped for more expeditious action. However, we are retaining its status as "Open, Awaiting Response," because PERC has indicated it will submit its revised guidance documents by the end of this month. Finally, I must note a disappointment resulting from our recommendations:

- The Board was compelled to vote as "Unacceptable" action not taken by the West Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services. We urged the agency to require annual hazardous materials response refresher training for all emergency medical personnel in West Virginia. To date, training occurs only once every two years. The CSB believes recurrent annual training is critical for responders who must deal with hazardous materials emergencies such as with propane.
- We made a similar recommendation to the West Virginia Fire Commission. Though this has not been acted upon, we are keeping this status "Open" because we are informed that revised evaluation forms requiring annual training have been completed. We look forward to receiving the materials so we can determine this "Closed-Acceptable."

To view the CSB's Little General Store Investigation Information Page (and associated recommendations), [click here](#).

To View the CSBs Safety Video on the accident, "Half an Hour to Tragedy," [click here](#).

www.csb.gov.

USA, MI, WASHTENAW COUNTY, SCIO TWP, JANUARY 28 2012. INDUSTRIAL OIL SPILL AT ZEEB AND MARSHALL CLEANUP ONGOING

sean dalton

Officials involved in first response to a HAZMAT scene that originated on Zeeb and wound up on Marshall Road say to expect restricted traffic and potential backups in and around that intersection throughout the day. At approximately 4 p.m. Thursday, an industrial hauler was attempting to transport an industrial transformer from an undisclosed site in Scio Township, when the driver noticed that the piece of equipment was leaking oil by the gallon onto the street surface. "When he pulled onto the road he noticed the oil coming off of the tailgate end of the truck," Scio Township Fire Chief Carl Ferch said Friday, adding that the driver then pulled onto Marshall in a westerly direction, where he pulled over and attempted to right the transformer. Rather



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than stop the leakage, the action worsened the leak, at which time the driver contacted the authorities and Scio Fire arrived on the scene with Washthenaw County HAZMAT officials not far behind. "By the time we arrived 30 gallons of transformer oil had leaked onto Marshall Road," Ferch said. The main concern for Scio fire officials was the potential for PCB contaminants in the oil, which would be carcinogenic to the public in the area. Fortunately the transformer had been updated by the undisclosed owner, so the oil was benign with regard to the contaminants that were initially a concern. Scene containment was maintained at an emergency level until 9:30 p.m., after which the site was primarily a cleanup zone. The cleanup is ongoing today with no specific completion time, according to Ferch, but in the meantime Marshall Road traffic is being kept to a single lane. "When they had the vacuum truck out last night nobody was allowed to go through, but today the road is open while the cleanup company scrapes the road bed to take up the oil soaked dirt," Ferch said, adding that a DTE consultant was called to the scene to advise HAZMAT and recommend an effective contractor to handle the cleanup job. When asked who was responsible for the cleanup cost, Ferch indicated that one of the companies involved would have to cover the liability costs associated with the county's response and cleanup efforts, as well as the fees for DTE consultation and the private cleanup company's fee, but indicated that the incident wasn't far enough along for there to be a concrete answer to such questions at this time.

http://www.heritage.com/articles/2012/01/27/dexter_leader/news/doc4f22ef9700604530484889.txt

UK, HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE, JANUARY 28 2012. REVISED LOSS OF CONTAINMENT MANUAL PUBLISHED

 **Document** [Loss of Containment Manual](#)

HSE's Loss of Containment Manual has been revised. The expanded document now gives advice on ten important elements of process integrity, and should help industry to further reduce the number of offshore hydrocarbon releases.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/offshore>

USA, AKA, NOME, JANUARY 28 2012. CREWS CLEAN UP AFTER SAVOONGA FUEL SPILL

ben matheson

Crews in the St. Lawrence Island community of Savoonga are digging to reach contaminated snow after a fuel tank overflowed last Thursday and spilled thousands of gallons of diesel into a containment area. No fuel has breached the containment area. The operator for the Native Village of Savoonga tank farm reports that a new employee opened the wrong valve during a gasoline purchase and pumped diesel fuel into a full tank, resulting in the overflow. Wesley Ghormley is an Environmental Program Specialist for the state Department of Environmental Conservation and is monitoring the response for the state. Ghormley says workers have collected 6,000 gallons so far. They've removed around 100 cubic yards of uncontaminated snow, but have yet to get into the contaminated snow. Ghormley says he expects a significant amount of fuel-soaked snow, which will be stored in 270 gallon totes. The recovered diesel will be able to be used after a filtering process. Ghormley expects another week of work to remove snow. He says the fumes are strong and crews are wearing full protective gear and using respirators. DEC plans to send a representative out during spring thaw to complete a site assessment.

<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2012/01/26/crews-clean-up-after-savoonga-fuel-spill/>

CANADA, AB, BOWNESS, JANUARY 28 2012. PROVINCE HAS HAD ENOUGH WITH GAS PLUS



Alberta has given the owners of a former Bowness gas station a firm order to clean up the site after rejecting an appeal from the company. The appeal was submitted to the Environmental Appeals Board in November 2011. Alberta Water and Environment Minister Diana McQueen said in a release that the order requires the company to take aggressive action to clean up the site. "It is important that Bowness residents get closure to a situation that has been unacceptable for far too long." The provincial order requires the company to confirm the location all of the contaminated material, remove it, and begin a remediation program for the remainder of the property. In addition to the order, the Alberta Health Services will also be able to work with a broader indoor air quality sampling area which will include more homes and businesses and devote an independent qualified professional to the task. The issue with the Gas Plus station all started when an estimated 9,000 litres of fuel



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started leaking from underground tanks into the soil. As a result, residents nearby complained of gas fumes in their basements and several building permits have been held up ever since the leak was found in May 2010. At that time, the company said the leak was the size of a pinhole and claim they responded immediately to the problem. However, in December, residents in the area still complained about the fumes. "We didn't know what it was. We thought it might've been a new laundry detergent. We thought it might have been the new fabric softener. Go thru everything making sure there's not paint in the house, trying to narrow it down, that type of thing, before we realized it was coming out of the well," said Terry Floate. At that time, Alberta Environment slapped the company with an environmental protection order for failing to remediate contamination on and off its property. The company was given an order to clean up by March 2011, but project delays forced that to be pushed back to the end of June 2011. Following that deadline, the province worked out a deal with the company to build a concrete retaining wall around the contaminated soil instead of removing it from the ground. The problem took a turn for the worse in January 2011 when three families had to be evacuated from their homes until the clean up was finished due to dangerous levels of fuel in the ground. In March, the final report hadn't been completed on the site so any remediation efforts were stalled, causing businesses in the area to become concerned. Patience Gold, owner of Afrikana Beauty Supplies, and her husband Rick Gold began to talk with other business owners about their concerns with the leak. "I think from what I gather, these kinds of toxic spills can be dangerous to your health," said another area business owner J.D. Esler. "A good clean-up, you wonder if that's enough."

http://calgary.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20120126/CGY_bowness_station_120126/20120126/?hub=CalgaryHome

USA, N.J, HUNTERDON CO, HIGH BRIDGE, JANUARY 28 2012. OIL LEAK CONTAINED IN SOUTH BRANCH RARITAN RIVER

todd petty



oil spotted in the South Branch Raritan River on Saturday, Jan. 21, is being cleaned by Custom Alloy.

Oil found in the South Branch Raritan River near the Custom Alloy last weekend is being contained, although officials aren't sure of the source yet. Pat Schriver, vice president in charge of support services at Custom Alloy, said that a "light oil slick" was spotted near the bridge and reported to police (and subsequently to the Department of Environmental Protection) on Saturday, Jan. 21. Oil spill containment booms were put into place the same night by Custom Alloy, Schriver said. The company's Rapid Resource Recovery Group arrived on the scene the next day to clean up the patch of oil found near the bridge and to put in additional booms. "It's

minor, but it's still a concern to us. We certainly want to make sure that it's corrected, remediated and to find out where it's coming from so that that area can be taken care of also," she said. The original booms were replaced with new booms earlier today, Schriver said. Schriver said they aren't sure whether the substance came from their plant, explaining that a lot of water moves through one large pipe that comes through the property from off-site. Schriver said they hope to identify to origin of the oil by process of elimination. Booms positioned at various catch basins and an additional off-site may reveal the source of the oil. "It sounds like they're being very good custodians of their site from a health perspective. There's no apparent threat, it's nice to see businesses respond so responsibly," said Carl Rachel, director of media and public relations with the county division of public health. Peter Enea, senior registered environmental health specialist at the county department of health, confirmed that there appears to be no immediate health concern.

http://www.nj.com/hunterdon-county-democrat/index.ssf/2012/01/oil_leak_contained_in_south_br.html

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, MUSWELLBROOK, JANUARY 28 2012. GREEN WARNING OVER ORICA STORAGE FACILITY

dale hilly

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW has warned against allowing the proposed Orica facility in Denman district to go ahead. "Orica has a long track record of breaching its pollution licence at each of its existing facilities in NSW," the environment group's chief executive officer Pepe Clarke told the Muswellbrook Chronicle this week. "This track record of non-compliance should be taken into account by (Muswellbrook Shire) Council when considering whether to grant consent for the storage facility. "State parliament is currently investigating whether the litany of toxic incidents at Orica's Kooragang Island



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facility indicates a systemic failure to control pollution," Mr Clarke said. "Orica is a multi billion dollar company which can afford to invest in improved pollution compliance and risk management. "Orica's proposed new ammonium storage facility in the Hunter Valley should be ruled out until the company can demonstrate a stronger risk management approach and compliance with pollution laws across all its facilities," Mr Clarke said.

Chance to See & Have Your Say

Information about traffic impacts and environmental and hazard management from the proposed Orica ammonium nitrate storage and distribution facility will be available at the Denman Memorial Hall on Thursday, February 2. "Our initial feedback from the local community and council indicated that these are issues of interest and we are committed to fully informing the community about these important aspects of our proposal," Orica Mining Services project manager Andrew Walker said. Community members are welcome at the drop in session anytime between 3pm and 7pm. The company is also offering tours of the former winery site they want to turn into a storage facility holding 2,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate, on Saturday, February 4 at 9am, 10am and 11am. Orica's development application can be viewed at either Muswellbrook council offices or the Denman library. The environmental statement is available on the council website. Written submissions about the proposal are due to Muswellbrook Shire Council by February 10. So far three submissions from Denman residents have been received. They raised concerns about traffic, environmental hazards, impacts on tourism and property values and Orica's future plans for the site.

<http://www.muswellbrookchronicle.com.au/news/local/news/general/green-warning-over-origa-storage-facility/2435137.aspx>

BRAZIL, CAMPOS, JANUARY 28 2012. CHEVRON TO FACE CHARGES OVER BRAZIL SPILL

jeb blount & joshua schneyer

A Brazilian prosecutor plans to file criminal charges against Chevron Corp and some of its local managers within weeks, adding the threat of prison sentences to an \$11 billion civil lawsuit as punishment for a November offshore oil spill. The filing in federal court in Campos, Brazil, will likely include a request for criminal indictment of George Buck, chief executive of Chevron's Brazil unit, as well as other staff, three Brazilian government officials involved in the case told Reuters. Transocean Ltd, whose rig was used in the operation, and some of its employees in Brazil are also expected to be charged, according to the officials, who requested anonymity because the case has not been presented to a judge. It is up to a judge to determine whether to accept the charges and proceed with indictments. The backlash against the Chevron spill has highlighted the risks that energy companies face as they rush to get a piece of Brazil's oil bonanza. Chevron's legal troubles come as new oil rules give Brazil's government more control over the country's vast oil wealth. The regulatory overhaul has also delayed investment projects and new drilling licenses. Buck and Chevron acted in a "careless and irresponsible way," an official who investigated the 2,400-barrel spill told Reuters. The official said it is unlikely that people facing charges will be arrested in the near term or be barred from leaving Brazil. As the case advances and more evidence is collected, however, such measures could be applied, the official added. When Reuters informed Chevron that charges were pending, company spokesman Kurt Glaubitz said "Chevron believes that the charges are without merit." "Chevron is confident that once all the facts are fully examined, they will demonstrate that Chevron responded appropriately and responsibly to the incident," he added. Transocean spokesman R. Thaddeus Vayda declined to comment. Transocean is the world's biggest offshore oil rig operator. Brazilian prosecutors have become more active in going after alleged polluters, sometimes bringing aggressive charges to encourage offenders to settle cases. They are moving far more swiftly than their U.S. counterparts: BP's 2010 spill in the Gulf of Mexico, more than 1,000 times larger in terms of oil, has not yet resulted in any criminal charges. In Brazil, charges in cases such as these can take a decade before all appeals are exhausted. That could saddle Chevron and Transocean with years of costly litigation, said Paulo Augusto Silva Novaes, a lawyer with the Rio de Janeiro firm of Benjo, Garcia, Souto & Novaes. The charges would come more than a month after a Federal Police investigator submitted a report saying Chevron and Transocean took "unacceptable" risks in the Frade oil field off Brazil's southern coast, and recommended that 17 individuals be indicted. As many as 12 of those people are from Chevron, according to legal documents reviewed by Reuters. Chevron is also fighting a separate 20-billion-real (\$11 billion) lawsuit brought by the same Brazilian federal prosecutors. Chevron also is contesting an \$18 billion judgment in Ecuador related to environmental contamination from 1964 to 1992 by Texaco, which Chevron bought in 2001.

Pressure Kick

On November 7, a well drilled by Chevron using a Transocean rig 107 kilometers (73 miles) from the coast of Rio de Janeiro state, experienced a pressure "kick" after tapping into an oil reservoir in Frade. An emergency blow-out preventer was



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activated, plugging the well 1,200 meters (3,937 feet) below the ocean surface. But days later, Chevron discovered oil seeps from the seafloor hundreds of meters from the plugged well. Pressure caused a breach of the well wall far beneath the seabed, allowing oil to infiltrate surrounding rock and work its way into the ocean, Chevron said. Police and prosecutors allege that Chevron knew it was drilling in a high pressure area and that rock structures above the reservoir were fragile, factors that resulted in the spill and should have prompted more caution. "This well could not and should not have been drilled," the Federal Police said in a December 20 report. Chevron denies taking any undue risk and says Brazilian authorities approved its drilling plans. "The pressure was estimated using complex modeling and the data obtained from the 50 wellbores previously drilled at the Frade project," Chevron's Glaubitz said in a statement. "However, it is not uncommon to experience different conditions or pressures during drilling operations than those previously experienced." Chevron said it acted quickly and correctly to stanch the leak from the seafloor within four days. Its operations and spill response adhered to the "best practices" of the oil industry, the company said. Brazilian prosecutors have independence to file criminal and civil charges against companies and their employees for environmental damages, said Gustavo Trindade, who was chief legal advisor to Marina Silva, a former Brazilian Environment Minister and presidential candidate. These cases rarely result in convictions, large fines or prison sentences, said Novaes, a corporate law expert. For example, state-run oil company Petrobras, a partner with Chevron at Frade, is still appealing convictions and more than 100 million reais of damages resulting from an offshore oil platform accident in 2001 and a giant oil spill in Rio in 2000. Oil from the recent Chevron leak did not reach shore and was less than 0.1 percent of BP's 4.9 million barrel Gulf of Mexico spill in 2010. The Frade leak was also much smaller than several previous spills in Brazil by Petrobras. Petrobras owns 30 percent of Frade. Chevron own 52 percent and is responsible for field management. The rest is owned by Frade Japao, a unit of Japan's Inpex. Brazil's oil regulator, the ANP, has suspended Chevron's drilling license at Frade. The ANP and Brazil's environmental protection agency Ibama have fined Chevron more than \$50 million as a result of the spill. Chevron says that there is no evidence the Frade leak, which prosecutors estimate was closer to 3,000 barrels, has had any impact on aquatic life or on humans. Oil is still leaking from the sea floor, government officials said. The oil has leaked at an average rate of 1.4 liters a day for the last week and is being captured by undersea traps, Chevron said. Recent flyovers have not detected oil on the ocean surface, Chevron added. Brazil's newfound oil wealth - including at least 15 billion barrels of deepwater discoveries since 2007 - puts the country among the world's most promising oil frontiers. Since the new finds, the government has stopped auctions of oil concessions in its richest offshore areas. Petrobras will be the operator and hold a minimum 30 percent stake in all future oil projects in those areas. Under a new system, oil producers must share their production with the government. San Ramon, California-based Chevron has operated in Brazil for nearly 100 years. It has invested around \$2 billion in the country and has plans to spend several billion more on future projects.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/26/us-chevron-brazil-idUSTRE80P22M20120126>

USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, JANUARY 28 2012. CHEVRON LOSES INJUNCTION IN \$18 BILLION ECUADOR CASE

jonathan stempel

A U.S. appeals court threw out an injunction that Chevron Corp had won to block enforcement of an \$18 billion judgment in Ecuador for polluting the Amazon jungle and damaging the health of residents. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York said Chevron acted prematurely in seeking to block enforcement of the judgment worldwide, given that the residents of Ecuador's Lago Agrio region had not yet sought to enforce it. Chevron says the Ecuadorean judgment is fraudulent and is appealing it separately. Thursday's decision overturned a March 2011 injunction issued by U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan in Manhattan to block enforcement of the judgment, imposed by an Ecuadorean court in February 2011. The appellate court also directed Kaplan to dismiss Chevron's complaint. Chevron could challenge the judgment's validity "only defensively, in response to attempted enforcement," which the Ecuadorean plaintiffs "have not yet undertaken anywhere, and might never undertake in New York," Judge Gerard Lynch wrote for a unanimous three-judge panel of the 2nd Circuit. The panel expressed no view on the merits of Chevron's fraud allegations. In a statement, Chevron said the decision "may change the order in which courts address the fraud being perpetrated in the Lago Agrio case, but it will not affect the ultimate outcome. In fact, the 2nd Circuit acknowledges the extensive evidence of fraud submitted by Chevron." James Tyrrell, a partner at Patton Boggs representing the Ecuadorean plaintiffs, said his clients are pleased with the appellate court decision, and added: "The Ecuadorean plaintiffs are not coming to New York to enforce this judgment." Thursday's decision is the latest in a nearly two-decade conflict between Chevron and the Lago Agrio residents, which Lynch said "must be among the most extensively told in the history of the American federal judiciary." It stemmed from environmental contamination from 1964 to 1992 by Texaco,



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which Chevron bought in 2001. Oil companies are watching the case closely because it may affect other cases accusing companies of polluting areas where they operate. On January 20, Chevron asked Ecuador's Supreme Court to review the \$18 billion judgment, after an intermediate appeals court in that country upheld it earlier in the month.

Too Much Friction

The judgment against Chevron includes \$8.6 billion of environmental damages, a sum that was more than doubled because the San Ramon, California-based company failed to make a public apology. Chevron had sought protection from the judgment under a New York state law, the Recognition Act, that governs the recognition of money judgments imposed in foreign countries. Lynch, however, said that granting the type of "speculative" relief sought by Chevron would "unquestionably provoke extensive friction between legal systems" by encouraging challenges in New York to the legitimacy of courts in foreign countries. "The Recognition Act and the common-law principles it encapsulates are motivated by an interest to provide for the enforcement of foreign judgments, not to prevent them," Lynch wrote. To rule in Chevron's favor would "turn that framework on its head," he added. The case is *Chevron Corp v. Naranjo et al*, 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Nos. 11-1150 and 11-1264.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/26/us-chevron-lagoagrio-injunction-idUSTRE80P1HE20120126>

USA, TX, PEARSALL, JANUARY 28 2012. AFTER WELL FIRE IN PEARSALL, QUESTIONS REMAIN

terrence henry



An explosion and fire rocked an oil fracking site in South Texas last week. Three were injured.

What happened last week at a disposal well outside of Pearsall, Texas? An explosion rocked the site early Thursday evening — about 50 miles southwest of San Antonio in the [Eagle Ford Shale](#) — blowing the lid off a storage tank and injuring three. [A fire burned for over an hour](#) as the all-volunteer Pearsall Fire Department (and three other nearby departments) battled the flames with twelve trucks and 33 firefighters. The explosion likely started when workers there were welding near storage tanks, a decision that has many in the industry scratching their heads. The accident is now under federal investigation. But there's still much we

don't know.

Who Owns the Well?

First, we don't know who owns the disposal well, which is used for taking wastewater from [fracking](#) and drilling and injecting it deep underground. That water contains highly flammable oil and natural gas. While the well is operated by a company called High Roller Wells (which doesn't appear to have a website), it's unclear who actually owns it. When asked, the Railroad Commission would only say that it does not "have information on investors or owners of oil and gas facilities." A call to the only available number online for High Roller Wells leads to the office of Terry Bailey, listed as a manager of the company. A woman who answered the phone at his office declined to answer any questions about the company or the accident. She directed all inquiries to the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA), then abruptly hung up. High Roller Wells incorporated in 2010, and it received a permit for the disposal well in August of last year. The company appears to be named after another of Bailey's companies, [High Roller Whitetails](#), a deer breeding operation. They breed whitetail bucks, some of them with horns over 300 inches, with names like [Escalade, Bambi Rio and Rolex](#). According to the [Texas Deer Association's website](#), Bailey is an avid hunter who "made a niche for himself in the oil and gas industry on the manufacturing end." [Online business directories](#) list High Roller Wells and High Roller Whitetails at the same address and phone number. On Google Maps, the street [appears to be mostly residential](#).

What Happened in Pearsall

The [Railroad Commission of Texas](#), which oversees drilling and disposal wells in the state, conducted an initial investigation of the explosion. It released a two-paragraph statement the next day, but since then has provided little other information on the accident, referring questions to the [OSHA](#), the federal agency now investigating the accident. Jeff Funke, area director for the OSHA San Antonio office, spent some time talking about the fire with StatelImpact Texas. He says one issue investigators have run into is determining which ignition source at the site started the fire. "I can tell you there were many potential sources [of ignition] there," he says. "You shouldn't be handling that water around ignition sources," says David Blackmon, Texas spokesperson for the [American Natural Gas Alliance](#), a group that represents many major gas companies, some of which drill in the area. "It's a pretty significant error in safety, no doubt about that. Somebody's not happy about that, believe me." The



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most seriously injured worker was Ruben Esparza, 47, of Pearsall, who was admitted to the hospital after the accident. Esparza "was spitting out quite a bit of blood, maybe from the impact," Frio County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Joel Arellano [told the San Antonio Express](#). "Maybe from the explosion he kind of blew against something." Esparza was the only worker admitted to the hospital. "It could have been worse," says OSHA's Funke, echoing the assessment of the volunteer fire department that responded to the call. "Actually, I gotta say that the fact that the fire department was able to fight this with foam and water is pretty impressive for that area, for them to be able to respond at that level. Most fire departments [in the area] don't have that capability with the foam." The accident has damaged High Roller Wells' reputation. "It's a big deal for the company," Blackmon with the American Natural Gas Alliance says, "because we all get graded by institutional investors on our safety record. So we go to great leaps to avoid having any kind of incident like that. I think if you look at the safety records of the big companies that are down there, these large independents are pretty stellar."

New Kids on the Block

The OSHA area director echoes that sentiment. "We have a lot of producers and workers that are out there trying to get up and running as fast as they can," Funke says. "And we have a lot of folks that are new to the oilfield industry." Small, new companies like High Roller Wells are where the industry has the most issues, says Funke. "It's not that they're knowingly or willfully doing things wrong, but there's so much work, they want to get up and going. That's the real issue here." Another issue is that as drilling and fuel exploration boom in the Eagle Ford, accidents are becoming more common. "Last year we had three fires related to oil and gas in [neighboring] Atascosa County," says Funke. The Pearsall Volunteer Fire Department Chief who responded to the fire, Placido Aguilar, says they've responded to two other incidents in the past six months, "and they [drillers] say they're gonna be here for a while." But while accidents are on the rise, local emergency services haven't had an opportunity to catch up by increasing personnel, training and equipment. While [drilling has been good for local coffers](#), causing tax revenues in some [Eagle Ford](#) counties to surge [900 percent in one month](#), it will take some time before those taxes translate into more robust emergency services. "It's gonna take some catching up here," says Funke of OSHA. "There's an added strain on these local fire departments because of the influx of industry, there's no doubt about that." "There's always a one to two year time lag," says David Blackmon of the ANGA. "This year is the first year when those local tax districts are really going to be using their revenues." In some cases, Funke of OSHA says, companies take their own initiative to help local emergency services. "If you're a large company, and they come out and respond [to an incident]," he says, "the company pays back the volunteer fire department for whatever they used up." Companies have in some instances bought new trucks for the fire departments in their area.

What Happens Next

In the meantime, the investigation into the fire at the Pearsall disposal well continues. While Funke of OSHA says he doesn't know a lot about High Roller Wells, he does say they've been cooperative.

He's also certain that the company will be punished. "There will be proposed citations that will be issued to the company," he says. They have six months from the date of the fire to issue those citations, but he doesn't expect it will take that long. He says High Roller Wells can likely expect a citation from OSHA within a few months.

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2012/01/27/after-well-fire-in-pearsall-many-unanswered-questions-remain/>

USA, WASHINGTON D.C. JANUARY 28 2012. CHEVRON TO PAY D.C. \$500K FOR GAS SPILL

michael neibauer

Chevron U.S.A. Inc. will pay the District \$500,000 to settle a years-long complaint about an underground gas tank spill that may have threatened the health of some far Northeast D.C. residents. The agreement "addresses the potential human health risks posed by the release of hazardous materials," states a notice of settlement agreement posted in Friday's D.C. Register, including the gasoline from underground storage tanks formerly owned by Chevron in Chillum. Chillum is located immediately across the D.C. border in Prince George's County. The spill, first reported in 1989, emanated from a former Chevron station at 5801 Riggs Road. The Maryland Department of the Environment ordered Chevron to install a pump and treat system to remove gasoline from the ground water. It has been in operation since 1990. But that wasn't quick enough to stop the potentially hazardous plume. Not until 2001 did anyone realize the gasoline vapors had migrated south, across Eastern Avenue into the District's Riggs Park community. The \$500,000 will be used to install vapor mitigation systems in 43 Riggs Park homes "where the human-health risk assessment found that potential vapor intrusion posed an unacceptable risk," according to the notice. Data collected by a D.C. consultant in 2008 found 22 Riggs Park residences with "subslab soil vapor concentrations at levels that pose unacceptable potential human health risks." One home was found to have dangerous vapor



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concentrations in the soil or groundwater, and an additional 20 homes were targeted for mitigation based on data extrapolation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency took over the spill investigation in 2002, at the request of then-Ward 4 D.C. Councilman [Adrian Fenty](#). But the District has continued with its clean-up work, and its talks with Chevron, even as the EPA's testing found little risk to most Riggs Park residents.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/blog/2012/01/chevron-to-pay-dc-500k-for-gas-spill.html>

CANADA, MB, BRANDON, JANUARY 28 2012. MAJOR GASOLINE SPILL TODAY >> SIXTH STREET AND GAS BAR REOPEN



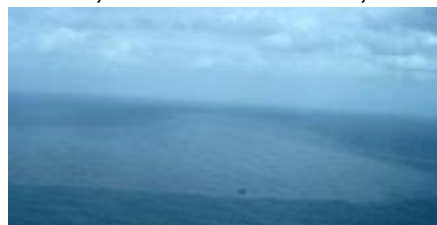
Fire crews respond to the fuel spill on 6th Street in Brandon on Jan. 27, 2012.

Sixth Street has reopened between McTavish and Van Horne Avenue, after workers completed their cleanup of a major gasoline spill today. A tanker truck was filling underground tanks at the Heritage Co-Op gas station mid-morning, when a customer's vehicle is reported to have hit the hose and damaged its connection to the tank. Between 200-300 litres is estimated to have spilled, but officials say they were able to prevent any of the gas from entering the city's sewer system. The gas station and a neighbouring daycare were evacuated as a precautionary measure, police said, as there were fire and explosion worries. Staff and kids have since

returned to the daycare. The gas station has also reopened, though a witness at the scene says a strong odour of gasoline still lingers in the area. There's no report of any injuries from the spill.

<http://www.brandonsun.com/breaking-news/Gas-spill-closes-street-138202339.html?thx=y>

BRAZIL, RIO GRANDE DO SUL, JANUARY 28 2012. PETROBRAS TO BE FINED FOR BRAZIL BEACH OIL SPILL



- joshua schneyer & guillermo parra-bernal
- Brazil's Ibama agency says it will fine Petrobras
- Petrobras says cleaned 317 gallons of oil from beach
- Steelmaker CSN reports oil spill into Brazil river
- CSN says spill of 13,000 gallons is "contained"

Aerial image from the Brazilian coast guard.

Brazil's environmental protection agency plans to fine oil giant Petrobras for a southern Brazilian oil spill this week that fouled a beach, the agency said on Friday.

Petrobras said it has cleaned up the 317 gallons (1.2 cubic meters) of oil that washed ashore from a leaking buoy onto Tramandai beach in Rio Grande do Sul on Thursday, in Brazil's far south. Transpetro, the shipping unit of Brazil's state-run oil firm and the buoy's operator, is investigating what caused the spill. The oil leaked about 6 kilometers (4 miles) offshore, but was swept ashore by ocean currents, Ibama's regional superintendent Joao Moreira Junior told Reuters. After Ibama assesses environmental damages, it will apply a fine that could range from \$50,000 reais (\$28,000) to a maximum of 50 million reais (\$28 million), Moreira Junior said. Transpetro's buoy connects oil tankers to a pipeline at its coastal Osorio terminal, which supplies a Petrobras refinery in Canoas, Brazil. Spill containment crews remain on site, although Petrobras said the leak is contained and there is no sign of more oil in the water.

CSN Oil Spill

Separately, Brazilian steelmaker CSN said it spilled oil on Thursday into the Paraiba do Sul River in Rio de Janeiro State, near its Presidente Vargas steel mill. A company spokesman estimated the spill at around 50 cubic meters (13,209 gallons) of oil, but said the quantity isn't certain yet. CSN says the spill was contained by a barrier in a river tributary, thus posing little or no risk to water supplies. The river serves as a key source of drinking water for Rio de Janeiro state. Rio's state-run water utility, CEDAE, said "the leak was contained in a tributary before it reached an area where we collect drinking water." CSN, Brazil's largest diversified steelmaking group, has a history of spills in the Paraiba River. Efforts to reach the media office for the Rio de Janeiro-based watchdog were unsuccessful. A 2009 oil spill there by CSN led to a 5 million real (\$2.8 million) fine, O Globo newspaper reported on Friday. CSN also spilled charcoal waste into the river in 2010, resulting in a 20 million real (\$11.2 million) fine, the paper said. CSN was also fined in 2009 after dust from its coal coke plant covered most of the city of Volta



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Redonda, where its main mill is located, for several days. Rio de Janeiro state authorities cited CSN for violations to environmental rules at the time. (Reporting By

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/petrobras-to-be-fined-for-brazil-beach-oil-spill>

THAILAND, BANGKOK, JANUARY 28 2012. HOMEOWNERS TO GET BT50,000 FOR DAMAGE

[50,000 Thai Baht = \$A1,510.00. 1,000 Thai Baht -\$A30.20, Ed]



A foundation involved in organising the fireworks display that turned fatal in Suphan Buri's Dragon Park is offering at least Bt50,000 in compensation to each family whose home was damaged in the explosions. Chart Thai Pattana Party's chief adviser Banharn Silapa-archa, who chairs the Suphan Buri City Pillar Shrine Foundation, handed the compensation to victims at Wat Si Rattana Mahathat yesterday. People whose homes have been badly damaged have been seeking shelter at the temple. According to the Rights and Liberties Protection Department (RLPD), the explosions claimed four lives and injured 93 others. Suphan Buri Governor Somsak Purisrisak said an initial survey showed that the accident had seriously damaged 71 houses, though 700 homeowners have lodged complaints with relevant authorities. He said homeowners whose properties had sustained

damages worth more than Bt50,000 could seek additional funds from the foundation. "However, they must first have repairmen estimate the cost before contacting the foundation for extra funds," Somsak said. Comm Art Production, which was hired to organise the fireworks display, has also offered to provide compensation for those whose homes were damaged. Famous film director Supawat "Supakorn" Jongsiri owns the firm. Somsak said an initial investigation suggests that a broken pipe used to set off the fireworks might have been responsible for the explosions. "Officials found a pipe that was broken in two places, which means it was not able to direct the fireworks high up in the air. Instead, they may have exploded at ground level sparking off other fireworks, which resulted in severe explosions," he explained. The governor said he believes the damages sustained from the blast probably stood at about Bt100 million. RLPD's deputy director-general Paitoon Sawangkamol said victims would be eligible for compensation from the government as well. "In the event of death, the family of each victim will get between Bt30,000 and Bt100,000 plus Bt20,000 in funeral assistance," he said, adding that if the victim was the family's only breadwinner, then they could get additional funds of no more than Bt30,000. "A review committee might consider extra compensation where appropriate, though it would be no more than Bt30,000," Paitoon said. He added that in the event of injuries, victims will be given no more than Bt30,000 for medical costs and be given Bt20,000 maximum for physical/emotional rehabilitation. "Victims can also claim Bt200 a day for the period they are not able to work due to the accident," he said.

Related Links

- [Safety is not an accident](#)
- [The High-Profile Forgetfulness Disorder](#)
- [Pyrotechnics minus the ordinary perils](#)
- [Blast fireworks 'may have been defective'](#)

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/national/Homeowners-to-get-Bt50000-for-damage-30174668.html>

ENGLAND, LIVERPOOL, JANUARY 28 2012. SONAE CHIPBOARD FACTORY FIRE AFTER EXPLOSIONS REPORTED IN KIRKBY SITE - 10.30AM UPDATE

gemma jaleel



firefighters at a fire at the sonae factory in kirkby.

Campaigners called for the controversial Sonae plant to be closed down today after a massive explosion and fire rocked the Knowsley site. More than 10 tonnes of sawdust held in a vast silo went up in flames last night sending plumes of black smoke over Kirkby. The blaze broke out just weeks after the factory fully reopened following a devastating fire in June. The Health and Safety Executive, which has been called to 22 serious incidents over the past decade, was today poised to launch an investigation as campaigners insisted "enough is enough". Helen Moss,



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who coordinates the Say Bye To Sonae campaign and lives near the site, said: "This has got to be the final straw. "How many accidents and incidents must there be before this factory is shut down? The buck has to stop somewhere. "This factory supports jobs in the local area but why should they work in unsafe conditions? "It has only been back open five weeks from the last fire. "This has got to be the final straw. We all want to see action taken. This cannot go on." The Health and Safety Executive said it had been informed of the fire and was "making initial enquiries". But the severity of the fire and the factory's alarming safety record means an investigation will now almost certainly follow. The department is already investigating the deaths of two workers dragged into machinery in December 2010 and the death of a third worker in August last year who was crushed on a cherry picker. A probe also continues into last June's huge fire in which 1,500 tonnes of wood chips went up in flames. The blaze took firefighters eight days to extinguish and led to Sonae spending £25m on repairs. Last night the alarm was raised again and fire crews were called to the plant at around 6.30pm. A Merseyside Fire and Rescue spokesman said eight fire engines were on the scene at the fire's peak, with the blaze brought under control shortly after 1am. Three explosion vents and electrical systems were damaged in the blast. The spokesman said: "We believe the fire started in a silo and in the conveyor belt system. We have yet to determine the cause." Residents today demanded the factory's closure. Brian Kerrigan, who lives on Jarett Walk just around the corner from the plant, said: "My girlfriend's son heard big bangs. He said he saw sparks coming out of the chimney. "The last time this happened the place burned for days, the smell was disgusting. "I think it's a disgrace this has gone on for so long. I'd be glad to see the back of the place." The factory has been surrounded by controversy over the past few years with neighbours claiming foul-smelling odours from the site were a health hazard although no link has ever been proven. Joe Morgan has lived opposite the factory in Northwood for 17 years. He said: "There were two explosions – one large and one small. I was upstairs and the windows of my house rattled. "It's time to close it down, they should have done it when those two lads died." Nigel Graham, managing director of Sonae Industria (UK) Ltd, tried to deliver some reassurance. He told the ECHO: "We can confirm that there was a fire in one of the silos this evening at around 6.30pm and there were no injuries. "The safety systems activated and stopped the spread of fire with the internal sprinklers preventing any further damage to the equipment. "We can reassure local residents that the fire has been extinguished and do not expect there to be issues with ongoing smoke. "An investigation is already underway to determine the cause." A spokesman for Knowsley council today declined to comment. Knowsley MP George Howarth, a vocal critic of Sonae who has previously called for it to be closed down, was unavailable for comment as the ECHO went to press this morning <http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/liverpool-news/local-news/2012/01/27/sonae-chipboard-factory-fire-after-explosions-reported-in-kirkby-site-10-30am-update-100252-30208687/>

USA, W.VA, MINGO CO, JANUARY 28 2012. WV OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING MINGO GAS SPILL

Environmental officials are investigating a liquid natural gas spill that contaminated a creek in Mingo County Thursday evening. Petroleum Development Corp. owns the gas tank, which leaked the fuel into the Paw Paw's Branch Creek, according to officials. About 15 barrels of the gas were leaked, but not all of it got into the creek. On Friday, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection investigators determined that the gas contaminated about a half-mile of the creek, according to Kathy Cosco, spokeswoman for the DEP. As of Friday afternoon, they have not determined whether there are any drinking water intakes in that portion of the creek. Paw Paw's Branch Creek feeds into nearby Laurel Lake.

<http://www.wowktv.com/story/16618391/wv-officials-investigating-mingo-gas-spill>

CANADA, B.C, PATRICIA BAY, JANUARY 28 2012. DIESEL SPILL SPARKS FEARS FOR PATRICIA BAY WILDLIFE

judith lavoie

Biologists are watching closely to see if fish or wildlife have been affected by a spill of up to 800 litres of diesel oil from a leaking generator into a fast-moving drainage ditch that runs into Patricia Bay. The leak came from a backup generator at Epicure Selections, a spice and cookware company on West Saanich Road, but another company that installed a faulty part in the generator is financially responsible for the clean-up, Epicure spokeswoman Erin Acton said. "We had a part fail in the generator and Finning, the company that supplied the part, is responsible for assessments and mitigation," Acton said. The generator was fired up last Sunday and the Environment Ministry was called as soon as the leak was noticed Tuesday, Acton said. Ministry spokesman Suntanu Dalal said booms and pads were placed at several places between the spill site and Patricia Bay on Wednesday, and more remedial work was scheduled for Friday. Provincial and federal staff will inspect the site Monday, Dalal said. Department of Fisheries and Oceans officials inspected the outfall at the beach on Thursday morning and did not observe any visible contamination," he said. Epicure is working with spill response co-ordinators and agencies that are



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trying to mop up the oil, Acton said. "And we are working with Tseycum [First Nation]. They are our neighbours and our friends and we are very concerned about this," she said. But Tseycum Chief Tanya Jones said band members knew nothing about the spill until late Wednesday when they were horrified to see the oil wash up on a beach they are trying to restore. "We are just concerned about the wildlife and the beaches," Jones said. "You can smell it in the air and see it in the stream and the water." Tseycum biologist Stephen Barr was carrying out sand lance surveys, as part of the beach restoration, when he saw the oil. "This is a big step backwards," he said. "It's going to do some damage somewhere." By Thursday, the rain washed more oil into the ocean and a slick remained clearly visible in the bay, Barr said. "At the moment, the wildlife looks OK, but it's hard to tell," he said. North Saanich Fire Department was first on the scene and laid out booms and absorbent pads, Fire Chief Gary Wilton said. "It got into a little drainage ditch and that takes it right out to the ocean," he said. Recent wind and rain is helping to disperse the diesel, Wilton said. "It shouldn't do too much damage," he said. Meanwhile, the Environment Ministry has warned anyone who has fuel storage on-site to be especially vigilant during and after storms. "Even small amounts of hazardous materials can have negative impacts to public health and the environment when spilled," Dalal said. "Costs of spill response, clean-up and restoration, even for small spills, can be extremely expensive and the person in possession or control of the material at the time of the spill is legally responsible under B.C.'s polluter-pay system." Spills should be reported to 1-800-663-3456.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/thewest/Diesel+spill+sparks+fears+Patricia+wildlife/6064815/story.html>

USA, MN, ST PAUL, JANUARY 28 2012. FORMER OWNER MARATHON PETROLEUM PAID PENALTY FOR CHEMICAL RELEASE

scott wente

Marathon Petroleum Co., the former owner of the St. Paul Park oil refinery, paid a \$700,000 civil penalty for failing to properly treat wastewater containing the chemical benzene, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency announced. Marathon illegally disposed of nearly 115 million gallons of wastewater containing benzene into an unprotected lagoon at the refinery rather than removing the benzene at its wastewater treatment plant, the MPCA said last week. The lagoon is near the Mississippi River. The company maintained there was no evidence of a release into groundwater, but state officials said that is unknown. The company said the wastewater contained the equivalent of 128 gallons of pure benzene. Marathon paid the \$700,000 penalty in November as part of an agreement with the state agency. "It is a high penalty and it reflects the fact that the agency had a number of concerns with Marathon Petroleum about how they were handling their hazardous waste," said Sam Brungardt of the MPCA. "And then Marathon Petroleum basically continued to dispose of it in a manner that is not legal." The company failed to properly manage wastewater off and on for 65 days between mid-June and mid-October of 2010. Marathon spokesman Shane Pochard said in an interview that the incident was the result of a power outage and "mechanical failures." "After that happened, additional preventative controls were put in place," he said. Brungardt said the refinery's wastewater treatment plant is supposed to contain micro-organisms that remove chemicals such as benzene before water is discharged. In this case, however, that was not occurring before the water containing benzene was disposed in the unlined lagoon, located near the Mississippi River. "Their bugs died," Brungardt said of the micro-organisms. It is not clear how much, if any, benzene leaked from the lagoon. MPCA officials said they learned of the benzene release only after Marathon called them to a meeting to discuss a separate national pollution permit violation. It was during that meeting in September 2010 that company officials mentioned the benzene release. State officials should have been notified much earlier, said Tonya Maurice, compliance coordinator for the MPCA's industrial division. "These are extremely egregious violations," Maurice said. "We have a company who is very large, who runs refineries, who should understand the hazardous waste violations." She added: "They knew that their system was not working and they knew the benzene was not getting removed and they knew where they were sending that wastewater." Benzene is a petroleum product, so it could have evaporated into the air or contaminated shallow groundwater, according to the MPCA. Pochard said routine company testing following the benzene release showed there was "no evidence of any impact outside the refinery itself," including in surrounding groundwater. The oil refinery's wastewater system includes two lagoons. Fluid treated by the wastewater treatment plant cycles through the lagoons, usually over five to seven days, before returning to a building to be filtered. From there the filtered wastewater is discharged into the river, Maurice said. "We really don't know the environmental impact," she said, because of the delay between the time of the release and when officials were notified. Marathon sold the refinery in December 2010 to Northern Tier Energy. The MPCA currently has an "open enforcement action" pending against Northern Tier Energy, Maurice said. She said state law prohibits the release of



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further information while the action is pending, but she did say that an open enforcement action is triggered by an alleged pollution violation.

<http://www.piercecountyherald.com/event/article/id/42524/group/News/>

CANADA, B.C, CHILLIWACK, JANUARY 28 2012. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS REMAIN AFTER CHILLIWACK FIRE >> CONCERN LIES ON WHEREABOUTS OF 115,000 LITRES OF INSULATING OIL

shane woodford

Watch the Video [Power back on after Chilliwack substation erupts in flames](#)

There is more than just an investigation into the cause of the BC Hydro substation fire in Chilliwack there is also a look into the environmental impacts.. The damaged transformer contained 115,000 litres of insulating oil and Environment Minister Terry Lake says that is where the concern lies. Lake says "Now it is a matter of assessing any potential contamination in terms of oil getting into the ground and making its way into the ground water or any streams nearby so we are on site along with Environment Canada we have notified the Fraser Valley Health Authority regarding the public health implications." He adds "We are happy with the response at this time and we are still early in terms of making sure we understand the extent of the potential damage to the environment." Lake says an emergency environmental response officer is on site assess the ramifications of the leaked oil. He says "this cooling oil contains PCB's which when burned can form particles and chemicals that can be harmful." Lake says the amount of PCB's would be small in the four to five parts per million range for the majority of the oil. The NDP environment critic, meanwhile, says the fire is a sign of a much larger potential problem. Rob Fleming says he has several concerns: first and foremost, the PCBs that may be in the air because of the leaked and burned oil. "This situation could become very serious. You are talking about carcinogens – persistent organic pollutants that could get into the environment, into the soil and into residential areas. It is already airborne because of the fire so there is some serious concern here." Fleming says this is also one of many examples of the problems posed by BC Hydro's aging infrastructure, which needs an independent audit. He adds any environmental review of the fire needs to be made public along with any possible health warnings.

<http://www.cknw.com/Channels/Reg/NewsLocal/Story.aspx?ID=1646278>

USA, FLA, DAVENPORT, JANUARY 28 2012, ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP UNDER WAY IN DAVENPORT

mary hurst

environmental cleanup has started on the old Louis Matthews' property. The late Matthews had operated a filling station and automotive repair business on the property. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection began the environmental clean-up this week with grant funds. The property is now owned by Bertha Matthews, his widow. Mayor Peter Rust, 70, said Monday, during the City Commission's regular meeting, the property used to be a Sinclair gas station when he was 11. When the federal government's Superfund funding was cut, the DEP put many of the Superfund sites on a list. Now it's Davenport's turn to get a clean up, City Amy Arrington said. Hank Harrison told commissioners the gas tanks would have to be removed and that surrounding soil decontaminated. A series of wells are being installed not only to monitor the contamination but to treat and remove it as well. Since the work has just begun, they didn't know how long the process will take.

<http://www.newschief.com/article/20120127/NEWS/201275001/1021/news01?Title=Environmental-cleanup-under-way-in-Davenport>

CANADA, ONT, ROBLIN. JANUARY 29 2012. GAS SPILL CASES ON RISE

robin harvey

A gasoline spill from a filling station and variety store has tainted the drinking water and groundwater in this hamlet 15 minutes north of Napanee. Provincial environment ministry officials say the gasoline contamination, above acceptable and in some cases at hazardous levels, was first detected in September and even though cleanup efforts have been ongoing, new cases of contamination are still being detected. "The ministry recently conducted further testing and determined that a number of additional properties, including the local community centre, are now also impacted to varying degrees by hydrocarbon contamination," the ministry's David Arnett wrote in response to questions. "The ministry has completed additional testing this week and is awaiting results." The local community centre was closed before the new year. It's one of 13 properties currently impacted by hydrocarbon contamination. Public health officials have become involved and residents affected by the spill have



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received letters telling them not to drink the water, wash dishes in it or consume it in any manner. Station owner Geet Joshi purchased the filling station in May 2011, and says he complied with all government tests and requirements to ensure the station was safe. A spokesperson for the Technical Standards and Safety Authority said gas stations and their tanks and equipment must be inspected to get a new owner. They also get regular inspections while they in operation to ensure their safety, he said. The authority's Fuels Safety Program administers the Technical Standards and Safety Act, providing fuel-related safety services associated with the safe transportation, storage, handling and use of hydrocarbon fuels (such as gasoline, diesel, propane and natural gas). In September the ministry ordered Joshi to provide treated water to impacted homeowners and to install water treatment units in all homes that were affected. "The owner of the gas station has complied and the water treatment units have been installed," Arnett wrote. "A consulting firm retained by the owner's insurance company is assessing and remediating the impacts from the spill. The remediation work is ongoing." Joshi says since then he has had no gasoline at the station. "I took off all (the) gasoline including (the) tanks," he said. After almost five months without any gasoline on the premises Joshi says he's been told water at some houses located north of his station are affected. The earlier contamination was at homes to the south of his store. "I have all the results for the water samples, which indicate that gasoline is decreasing from the water from my place (to all the initially affected homes)." He says he has not been given clear answers as to how the spill happened and why it is still affecting homes. Residents want a community meeting with government and health officials also to get more answers. They want to know why all residents were not told to stop drinking the water during the ongoing "remediation" of the spill and while water testing was being done in stages. Though they could test their wells themselves, normal testing only detects bacteria. Specialized tests are required to detect gasoline contamination. Residents also want answers about how the spill occurred and why the government agencies in place to inspect and protect communities from such hazards were unable to prevent it. The environment ministry has sampled the Salmon River but found no signs of contamination.

<http://www.thewhiq.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3452323>

USA, CT, PRESTON, JANUARY 29 2012. 90,000-GALLON FUEL LEAK AT SEAT WAS UNDETECTED FOR YEARS, OFFICIALS SAY

jeffrey a. johnson

A diesel-fuel leak that began more than two years ago at the Southeast Area Transit facility on Route 12 has released 90,000 gallons of fuel into the surrounding environment. The ongoing cleanup effort is expected to cost at least \$1.4 million. The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection first detected the fuel leak in August 2010 in an underground fuel line that fed above-ground fuel tanks at the SEAT facility, but no one knows exactly when it began. And SEAT is embroiled in a lawsuit with Meriden-based United Oil Recovery Inc., the independent corporation it hired to handle the cleanup. United is seeking about \$415,000 and claims the transit service did not pay for remediation costs after it realized the scope of the leak. After a review of SEAT's fuel inventory records, DEEP determined that the leak started at least two years ago. SEAT General Manager Ella Bowman said Friday that one estimate states that fuel had been leaking for six to 10 years before it was detected. "This is one of the larger underground releases that we've dealt with," Peter Zack, the assistant director of the emergency response and spill prevention division for DEEP, said Thursday. "It's a really big release." The diesel fuel traveled several hundred feet underground - reaching depths of 18 feet - and polluted a small tributary of Poquetanuck Cove, Zack said. The cove opens into the Thames River. Zack said the leak, which created a sheen on the cove, has not affected drinking wells and fish and other animals have not been greatly impacted. DEEP took over the cleanup effort last July.

Initial Signs

In the summer of 2010, SEAT, which provides transit services to nine towns in the region, hired United to handle the cleanup, according to court documents. The company worked through July 2011 before filing a lawsuit against SEAT in September. The suit claims that SEAT refused to pay for cleanup despite receiving periodic invoices that showed mounting costs. United is seeking \$414,946, plus interest and legal fees, according to court documents. The case is ongoing in Meriden Superior Court. Bowman said Friday that SEAT initially paid approximately \$400,000 for the cleanup. She declined to comment on the ongoing lawsuit but said the underground fuel release was undetectable. "It was a sub-surface release," she said. "There was no evidence of it." However, Jaroslaw "Jerry" Pizunski, president of the SEAT drivers' union, said Wednesday that drivers had complained to Bowman for months about the smell of diesel fuel behind the SEAT facility. DEEP first arrived on the scene after Preston road foreman Bob Boyd reported the smell of diesel fuel as he worked on the Norwich Hospital property across the street from the SEAT facility. Aaron Green, a supervising and environmental analyst for DEEP, said it is unknown how long



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it will take to clean up the affected area, although Zack said it could be years. Green characterized the environmental harm as "moderate" because there are no drinking-water wells in the area. Zack said DEEP's total costs will reach \$1 million. The agency has plans for the installation of sheet piling to prevent fuel from reaching the Thames River. DEEP also recently installed 12 wells as part of a recovery phase that Zack said is expected to cost approximately \$500,000. The recovery wells will pump out the ground water, and once the water table drops, the fuel will flow into the wells, Zack said. He said normally DEEP completes the remediation process and the agency then seeks to recover costs from the responsible party. A state Department of Transportation spokesman said Friday that the DOT is involved in ongoing discussions with SEAT regarding responsibility for the leak. Paul Altman, the chairman of SEAT's board of directors, declined comment earlier this week on the fuel leak and the ongoing lawsuit.

'A Red Flag'

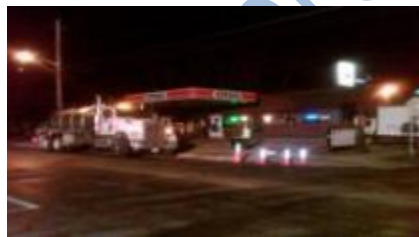
SEAT, which operates out of a state DOT building, has faced major financial difficulties recently. Figures presented at a board of directors meeting earlier this week revealed SEAT's expenses in the most recent fiscal year totaled more than \$6 million while its revenue was about \$5.5 million. The bus company receives 70 percent of its funding - about \$3.8 million - from the state, and 8 percent - about \$450,000 - from the nine towns it serves. SEAT laid off five drivers in February 2011 and has cut routes as it has reduced its group drivers to 36. Pizunski, the president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1209, and two other drivers said Bowman has resisted the union's efforts to see an audit of the financial records of the transit company. One of their concerns is mounting legal costs from the leak, Pizunski said Wednesday. "Guess who's paying for those lawyers? The public," Pizunski said of the lawsuit. The cost of the lost fuel has not been calculated. Bowman said Friday she was uncertain of the cost because the leak took place over a such long period of time. Kevin Nursick, a spokesman for the DOT, said Friday the agency's primary objective is to ensure that a leak does not happen again and that environmental remediation in the area is completed. "From our perspective, the loss of potentially 90,000 gallons of fuel and having that go undetected over a course of time is a red flag for us," Nursick said. "... That is a discussion we have had and will continue to have with SEAT in the future."

Changes at SEAT

The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, a planning agency comprised of 20 top officials from towns in the region, recently accepted a legislative proposal that would give the COG more authority over SEAT. The proposed legislation would allow the COG to add three members to the SEAT board of directors. It also would grant COG the authority to approve the appointment of the SEAT general manager and to ratify any contract in excess of \$100,000. The proposal also calls for an annual audit. Several members of the SEAT board criticized the proposal at a meeting Wednesday. Vice chairman Angelo Yeitz speculated at the meeting that it was the fuel spill that led COG to seek more control over the transit district. The legislation must go before the General Assembly for approval. SEAT's member towns are East Lyme, Griswold, Groton, Ledyard, Montville, New London, Norwich, Stonington and Waterford. SEAT also has recently held several public hearings on a proposal that calls for 25-cent fare increases on all fixed bus routes. Those increases are expected to be in effect at some point in March. In the most recent fiscal year, 19 percent of SEAT's revenue came from passenger fares. That accounted for about \$1 million.

<http://www.theday.com/article/20120128/NWS01/301289970/1018>

USA, N.Y., OWEGO, JANUARY 29 2012. GASOLINE SPILL IN OWEGO



Owego leaders are asking neighbors to avoid the area around the Kwik Fill on West Main Street in the Village, as multiple response teams are on the scene of a gasoline spill. The Owego Fire Department, Village Police, and a Haz-Mat team were called to the Kwik Fill, on the corner of West Main Street and Williams St near the Owego Easy Mart. The New York State Department of Environment Conservation Spill Response Unit was notified as well. Village Trustee Kevin Millar tells Action News as much as 500 to 700 gallons of gasoline may have spilled. Investigators have been at the scene since 6:30 p.m. Saturday. That's when the first call came in. Neighbors from several homes were evacuated for a few hours.

<http://www.wbng.com/news/local/Gasoline-Spill-on-West-Main-Street-In-Owego-138273024.html>



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