



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2013 – 933 Newsy Stuff

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February 24 2013



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PERU, LIMA, FEBRUARY 14 2013. GAS COMPANY TARGETS PROTECTED MANÚ PARK IN PERUVIAN AMAZON LEAKED DOCUMENT REVEALS PLUSPETROL IS EYEING A REGION WHERE BIODIVERSITY 'EXCEEDS THAT OF ANY OTHER PLACE ON EARTH'

david hill



Pluspetrol's Pagoreni-B gas well, part of the Camisea project in the Amazon jungle near Cuzco, Peru.

An [energy](#) company is eyeing up the [gas](#) reserves of a national park in the Peruvian Amazon whose [biodiversity](#) Unesco says "exceeds that of any other place on Earth" and is home to indigenous people who have no regular contact with the outside world, a leaked document seen by the Guardian shows. The revelation about Manú national park follows rumours and reports circulating in [Peru](#) that the government will create a gas concession bordering or including parts of the park, but which have not been publicly confirmed. The document, Research Plan for Geological Exploration and Surface Geochemistry in the Manú National Park and its Buffer Zone, was written by Lima-based consultancy

Quartz Services for company Pluspetrol, which operates an existing gas concession in the region, Lot 88, known as the Camisea project. "It's shocking. This is the first time we've seen evidence for plans to expand hydrocarbon activities into Manú," said anthropologist Daniel Rodriguez, who has worked with Peruvian indigenous federation Fenamad for years. "This proves what conservationists and indigenous rights activists have long suspected, but which petrochemical representatives and Peruvian officials have concealed or outright denied: that there are gas and oil deposits in Manú national park," said anthropologist [Glenn Shepard](#). Manú is home to 10% of the world's bird species, 5% of all mammals and 15% of all butterflies, as well as rare animals like jaguars and giant armadillos. Unesco has declared the park a World Heritage Site and biosphere reserve, and says it is [more biodiverse than any other place on the planet](#). "Manú is probably the most biodiverse protected area on the planet," agreed Rob Williams from the Frankfurt Zoological Society. "Madidi in Bolivia is the only likely competitor." "It's terrifying to think that Pluspetrol has been planning this," said Rebecca Spooner, a researcher at Survival International. "How can any company justify working in such a sensitive region?" Peruvian law prohibits extractive operations in [national parks](#). According to Quartz's document, dated March 2012, Pluspetrol has applied for and been denied permission from Peru's protected areas authority to enter the region, but Quartz could develop a strategy to obtain such permission in the future. "Our mission, as an institution providing specialist technical services to Pluspetrol, will be to contribute not only to the continuation of activities in Lot 88, but also to the development of the Manú National Park protected area," reads the document. "Pluspetrol has plans to do geological exploration in the River Maquizapango region and/or its surroundings, an area to the east of the Lot (88) and inside the Manú National Park." Quartz's manager, Efrén Tomaylla, confirmed the document had been prepared at Pluspetrol's request and submitted to it, but said Quartz had not heard back. One anthropologist told the Guardian under condition of anonymity that Quartz's plans, if put into practice, would seriously endanger people in Manú. "It says it will do 'a direct study of human cultures', but doesn't say who exactly that would involve," said the anthropologist. "Even settled communities in Manú contacted 50 years ago remain extremely vulnerable to any kind of illness." Pluspetrol refused to comment.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/feb/11/gas-company-manu-park-amazon>

USA, N.H, CONCORD, FEBRUARY 14 2013. EXXONMOBIL CHALLENGES NEW HAMPSHIRE WITNESS OVER MTBE

sarah earle & don jeffrey

A groundwater expert has vacillated on how much work must be done on New Hampshire sites contaminated with a gasoline additive, an [ExxonMobil Corp.](#) lawyer said in a trial to determine whether the company is liable for damages. Gary Beckett, a state witness who is a hydrogeologist, testified yesterday that 228 sites in the state require additional monitoring because of contamination by the additive methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE, at a cost of \$85,000 each. He said 85 of those sites need even more extensive work. "Your opinions have changed a bit over the course of the case, right?" [David Lender](#), a lawyer for ExxonMobil, asked Beckett today during cross-examination in court in Concord. Had Beckett relied on the state's standard for MTBE in drinking water of 13 parts per billion, fewer sites would require additional testing, Lender said. "If that had been the only criteria, yes," Beckett said. "I've expanded the criteria to be more robust and more encompassing of all the site information." New Hampshire might be seeking more than \$200 million from ExxonMobil, the last defendant on trial in the \$816



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million lawsuit filed in 2003. The number of wells found to be contaminated with MTBE is one factor in determining damages if ExxonMobil is found liable. The state has received \$213 million from oil companies for two MTBE cleanup funds since 1989 through a 1.5 cents-a-gallon fee on all gasoline imported into the state. The funds have \$4 million left in them, the state has said.

Federal Law

ExxonMobil, based in Irving, Texas, has argued in court that it isn't liable for damage because it added MTBE to gasoline to comply with federal regulations, which pre-empt state law. Oil companies added MTBE to make gasoline burn more thoroughly in order to reduce air pollution, as required under the 1990 [Clean Air Act](#). The state was aware of MTBE's risks when it opted into a clean-air program in 1991 because the additive already had been studied for several years, ExxonMobil said in court. New Hampshire banned the additive as of January 2007. State witness Gary Lynn, a manager of the state Department of Environmental Services' [petroleum mediation section](#), testified that MTBE still shows up in wells six years after it was banned. MTBE, which is highly soluble in water and thus can be carried great distances from where it leaked, is a "toxic chemical that does not belong in the state's drinking water," [Jessica Grant](#), a lawyer for the state, said in opening remarks to the jury. It leaked from gas stations, vehicle junkyards, underground storage tanks and pipe fittings, the state said.

Monetary Damages

Besides the number of contaminated wells, the state is seeking monetary damages based on ExxonMobil's market share of gasoline sales in New Hampshire during the period covered by the lawsuit. ExxonMobil's share was about 30 percent, the state said. Based on an estimated cost of \$816 million to test for, monitor and clean up the groundwater, New Hampshire could be seeking about \$245 million from the company. On Jan. 15, New Hampshire Superior Court Judge Peter Fauver agreed to dismiss [Citgo Petroleum Corp.](#), the other defendant, from this trial while the company and the state work to complete a settlement. Citgo is the Houston-based unit of [Petroleos de Venezuela SA](#), that country's state-owned oil company. If an accord isn't reached by Feb. 15 and no extension is approved, Citgo would be reinstated to the trial.

Companies Settle

Besides ExxonMobil and Citgo, New Hampshire also sued [Shell Oil Co.](#), [Sunoco Inc.](#), ConocoPhillips, Irving Oil Ltd., Vitol SA and [Hess Corp.](#) All settled before the trial began except ExxonMobil and Citgo. New Hampshire has received more than \$100 million in settlements from defendants so far, according to court papers. The case is one of scores involving MTBE that have been filed since 2000 against oil refiners, fuel distributors and chemical makers. MTBE lawsuits have been consolidated in federal court in New York for pretrial evidence-gathering and motions. In 2009, a federal jury ordered ExxonMobil to pay New York City \$104.7 million after finding the company liable for polluting wells in the city. ExxonMobil has appealed. The New Hampshire trial began Jan. 14. The state said it may rest its case Feb. 21. The case is New Hampshire v. Hess Corp., 03-C-0550, New Hampshire Superior Court, Merrimack County (Concord).

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-12/exxonmobil-challenges-new-hampshire-witness-over-mtbe.html>

USA, WI, DUNN CO, TAINTER, FEBRUARY 14 2013. FIREWORKS EXPLODE IN MAN'S HAND

Dunn County sheriff's officials say a man suffered substantial injuries when a large piece of fireworks exploded his hand. First responders were called to a residence in the Town of Tainter Monday evening. Authorities say 55-year-old Michael Schmitt was standing in the doorway of a house when he lit the explosive, intending to throw it into the yard. But, it exploded in his hand. Sheriff's Capt. Kevin Bygd says Schmitt was airlifted to Regions Hospital in St. Paul. His condition was not immediately available.

<http://www.wsaw.com/news/headlines/Fireworks-Explode-in-Mans-Hand-191019841.html?ref=841>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, FEBRUARY 14 2013. BLACK ELK ENERGY CONTRACTOR TIED TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

loren steffy

 **Watch the Video** [A WWL-TV investigation into the Grand Isle Shipyard's use of Filipino workers. \(WWL-TV\)](#)

Since the Nov. 16 explosion on a Black Elk Energy platform in the Gulf of Mexico left three men dead and three injured, one of the questions I've been asked most frequently is why were most of the workers Filipino. Houston-based Black Elk has a long history of offshore violations, but the Filipino connection apparently relates to Grand Isle Shipyard, the contractor it was using for maintenance on the rig. In [my interview with Black Elk chief executive John Hoffman](#) for Sunday's column, he referred me to a report, see the video above from a New Orleans television station that investigated the Filipino connection.



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Pipeline to the Platform: Brendan McCarthy's Eyewitness Investigation

Lured by the promise of good money to send home to their families, some Filipino workers now say those lures were lies and they are treated like slaves, right here in America. [view full article](#). As this video shows, many of Grand Isle's workers were recruited from the Philippines, and they claim they were forced to work under deplorable, even slave-like conditions. As WWLT's Brendan Murray reported, the government has now granted some of the workers amnesty and designated them as victims of human trafficking. Hoffman called the accident "a terrible tragedy" and said he has met with the victims' families. Filipino workers were recruited because they were cheaper, Francis Spagnoletti, the Houston attorney representing the injured workers, told me. While they weren't hired by Black Elk, Spagnoletti said the company is still responsible for the accident. "Black Elk was the operator," he said. "Black Elk is responsible for what happened out there."

Related Links

- [Black Elk turns over safety audit plan to regulators](#)
- [Steffy: What does it take to get booted from the Gulf?](#)
- [Body pulled from Gulf that of oil platform worker](#)
- [House members want details on fatal offshore fire](#)
- [Worker burned in Gulf oil platform fire dies](#)
- [Houston's Black Elk Energy had history of violations before fatal fire](#)
- [Probe looks to "hot work" in fatal offshore fire](#)
- [Platform fire stokes fresh criticism of offshore oil development](#)
- [2 missing, 11 injured in platform fire](#)

http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/02/13/black-elk-energy-contractor-tied-to-human-trafficking/?utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=FuelFix&utm_campaign=FuelFixNewsLetter

UKRAINE, KIEV, CHERNOBYL ZONE, FEBRUARY 14 2013. ROOF COLLAPSES AT CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR PLANT

Photo's [Images of Chernobyl's Ghosts](#)



The world's worst nuclear accident, at Chernobyl in April 1986, led to the creation of a 30km exclusion zone around the plant. Entry to the zone is now strictly controlled through checkpoints like this one.

A section of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine has collapsed under the weight of snow, officials say, raising new concerns about the condition of the facility that was the site of the world's worst nuclear accident. There were no injuries after Tuesday's accident nor any increase in radiation from the reactor that exploded in 1986, the country's emergency agency said. French construction firms Vinci and Bouygues said on Wednesday they had evacuated as a precaution around 80 employees working on a new protective shelter from the site. "The preliminary reason for the collapse was too much snow on the roof," the emergency agency said, adding that radiation levels were "within the

norm". The roof was constructed after the 1986 disaster but is not part of the sarcophagus structure covering the exploded reactor, it said. However the collapse underlines concerns about the condition of the now defunct nuclear plant over two-and-a-half-decades after the explosion of reactor number four. "Even if the radiation levels did not change, this is a worrying sign," Vladimir Churov of Greenpeace in neighbouring Russia told the Interfax news agency. "If there are sections in the turbine hall that are falling down there is no guarantee that the sarcophagus built in 1986 will not be the next to fall." The 80 Vinci and Bouygues workers employed to set up the new shelter over the exploded reactor as part of the Novarka consortium were all given radiation checks and evacuated, a Bouygues spokesperson said. "Novarka is employing all measures to limit surface contamination. These are currently within admissible limits." However the spokeswoman for the Chernobyl plant, Maya Rudenko, dismissed Greenpeace's concerns and said that the existing sarcophagus had been strengthened from 2004-2008 and could last until 2023. "There is absolutely no risk," she said. The area of the accident is estimated at about 600 square metres, the emergency agency said. A statement on the website of the power station described the accident as the "partial failure of the wall slabs and light roof of the Unit 4 Turbine Hall." Chernobyl is only around 100 kilometres from Ukraine's capital Kiev and lies close to the borders with Russia and Belarus. The area around the plant is still very contaminated and is



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designated as a depopulated "exclusion zone". Amid concerns about the state of the sarcophagus, an arch-shaped structure called the New Safe Confinement is being built nearby to slide over the existing sarcophagus covering the reactor. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is administering the fund to build the shelter with the help of donor contributions. When it is finished in 2015, the structure will weigh 20,000 tonnes and span 257 metres. Since the final of the four reactors at the plant was shut down in 2000, workers at the plant have been solely engaged in work to ensure safety. Two workers were killed by the April 26, 1986 explosion and 28 other rescuers and staff died of radiation exposure in the next months. Tens of thousands of people needed to be evacuated and fears remain over the scale of damage to people's health. In 1986 and 1987, the Soviet government sent more than half a million rescue workers, known as liquidators, to clear up the power station and decontaminate the surrounding area. However the total death toll from Chernobyl remains a subject of bitter scientific controversy, with estimates ranging from no more than a few dozen deaths directly attributable to the disaster to tens of thousands.

Related Links [Chernobyl's Ghost Cities | Atlas Obscura](#) [Visit the abandoned towns left by the worst nuclear disaster of all time]

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/chernobyl-radiation-ok-after-roof-collapse/story-e6frf7k6-1226577507009>

USA, WASHINGTON, DC, FEBRUARY 14, 2013. US CSB - IN COOPERATION WITH CAL/OSHA, CSB RELEASES TECHNICAL REPORT ON CHEVRON 2012 PIPE RUPTURE AND FIRE; EXTENSIVE SULFIDATION CORROSION NOTED



The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) and the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) today released a technical evaluation report on piping samples taken from the Chevron Refinery in Richmond, California, where a hydrocarbon release and massive fire occurred on August 6, 2012. Cal/OSHA participated in this technical evaluation as part of its enforcement investigation. [The report](#), prepared by Anamet, Inc., a metallurgical laboratory in Hayward, California, concludes that the 8-inch steel pipe, from a section designated as 4-sidecut which was installed in 1976, ruptured due to severe sulfidation corrosion, and that tested pipe

samples showed a very low concentration of corrosion-inhibiting silicon. CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso said, "The report, resulting from a cooperative effort between the CSB, Cal/OSHA, the United Steelworkers (USW), and Chevron provides a solid, technical basis for the firm conclusion that the pipe corroded over time from sulfidation corrosion. We hope this report receives widespread attention throughout the petrochemical industry as a precaution to all refiners to carefully examine potential corrosion mechanisms and use the safest possible materials of construction to avoid failures. Refineries and other plants must incorporate strong mechanical integrity and inherently safer strategies in their process safety management programs. Cal/OSHA Chief Ellen Widess added "This reports confirms what Chevron already knew-- that the pipe was severely corroded and should have been replaced -- but failed to act on before the August fire. This failure to act was included among the multiple Serious and Willful Serious citations issued to Chevron. Chevron's own metallurgists and pipe inspectors reached the same conclusion and recommended as far back as 2002 that Chevron take action to protect its workers, the community and the environment by replacing the pipe that finally ruptured in 2012." The CSB determined that nineteen Chevron employees were engulfed in a vapor cloud formed by the hydrocarbon release. Eighteen employees escaped before the fire started and one employee escaped without injury after the fire ensued. The incident resulted in six minor injuries. Production at the crude unit has been suspended since the accident. More than 15,000 residents in the surrounding area sought treatment at area medical facilities as a result of the release and fire. Dr. Moure-Eraso said, "Based on the CSB's investigation, the corroded pipe should have been replaced when opportunities arose years earlier. On the day of the accident, Chevron should have shut down the crude unit as soon as a leak was observed and removed workers to a safe location. Continuing to troubleshoot the problem and having firefighters remove insulation searching for a leak --while flammable hydrocarbons were flowing through the leaking piping -- was inconsistent with good safety practice." The evaluation, performed by Anamet, Inc., was designed and overseen by the CSB, the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA), the United Steelworkers union, and Chevron. The evaluation was funded by the CSB. The report cites wall thinning due to sulfidation corrosion as the cause of the piping failure. In crude oil distillation, the report notes, naturally occurring sulfur and sulfur compounds are available to react with steel components, particularly plain carbon steels. Corrosion rates vary according to the sulfur content of the oil being processed, temperature, and other factors, including silicon content and other materials in steel pipe. The report concludes, "The reported service conditions of the #4 Crude Unit 4-sidecut piping, the composition of the carbon steel, presence of thick sulfide scale on the inside surfaces of the pipe, and



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generally uniform wall thinning indicate that sulfidation corrosion was the cause of the 8-inch 4-sidecut rupture." The report noted that the failed pipe section was subjected to a higher corrosion rate than neighboring components due to low silicon content in the pipe. The report states that "Experience has shown that silicon in carbon steel is known to inhibit sulfidation" when the concentration is above a threshold value. Chemical analysis of the Chevron pipe showed the silicon concentration of the ruptured section to be far below this value, resulting in a significantly higher rate of sulfidation corrosion. The report, which contains numerous photographs of the corrosion and pipe rupture, also notes the presence of an inward deformation toward the inside surface of the pipe. The CSB has determined this deformation was likely caused by a fire pike used during the plant's emergency response. A photograph depicts a tight fit between the fire pike tip and this inward deformation of the failed pipe. The incident occurred when a combustible hydrocarbon liquid known as "gas oil" leaked from an 8-inch pipe connected to an atmospheric crude oil distillation column in the refinery's crude unit. Workers initially noted the leak and were in the process of attempting to diagnose the source of the leak in the still-operating crude unit when the pipe ruptured catastrophically. Due to the high temperature, in excess of 600 degrees Fahrenheit, and physical properties of the material in the equipment, the gas-oil immediately formed a large hydrocarbon vapor cloud. The Anamet report provides the following conclusions:

1. Rupture of the 8-inch 4-sidecut resulted from wall thinning caused by sulfidation corrosion.
2. Post rupture corrosion destroyed fracture morphology that could have indicated the rupture initiation site. However, rupture likely originated in the thinnest region and initially followed a longitudinal path driven by the hoop stress. Consequently, an area of likely rupture initiation was identified.
3. The wall thickness of the ruptured section was less than all the other sections of the 8-inch 4-sidecut that were evaluated.
4. Chemical analysis showed the silicon concentration of the ruptured section was 0.01-wt%.
5. Six of twelve specimens (50%) from unique sections of the 8-inch 4-sidecut, 12-inch 4-sidecut, and 2011 12-inch samples were found by chemical analysis to have a silicon concentration of less than 0.1-wt%.
6. Deformation of a small region of the 8-inch 4-sidecut rupture edge was consistent with mechanical force applied from the outside surface of the pipe, possibly from a fire pike, such as samples E-099 and E-082-2, or other pointed object. This deformed region was located within the area of likely rupture initiation.

The CSB investigation to determine the root causes of the incident is ongoing. The CSB will release a report detailing its findings and recommendations to key stakeholders later this year. Cal/OSHA has already issued 25 citations and civil penalties of \$963,000. Chevron has announced it will appeal these citations. The CSB, Cal/OSHA, the USW, and Chevron are cooperating under an agreement to test 4-sidecut carbon steel piping from Chevron's refinery in El Segundo, California, south of Los Angeles. The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating serious chemical incidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical incidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems.

www.csb.gov.

USA, ME, AUGUSTA, FEBRUARY 14 2013. HAZMAT SPECIALIST PLEADS GUILTY TO DESTROYING DOCUMENTS >> PROSECUTION CLAIMS JON P. ANDREWS WAS A DISGRUNTLED EMPLOYEE

betty adams

A former hazardous materials cleanup specialist for the state has pleaded guilty to destroying records of the final three years of cleanups he was involved in. Jon P. Andrews, 58, of Augusta, destroyed his notes after he retired from the job and didn't think it was wrong, according to his attorney, Walter McKee. But the case prosecutor, Assistant Attorney General Leanne Robbin, said Andrews was disgruntled and the action on his final day on the job was "a parting shot at the department he had had a difficult relationship with." "This affects parcels that were the subject of spills, the owners, prospective owners, insurers, responsible parties," she said. "The [Department of Environmental Protection](http://www.epa.gov) took this conduct really seriously. They're essential to the department doing their business and a lot of staff time went into trying to reconstruct some of (the records of) the bigger spills." Andrews entered an Alford plea of guilty in Kennebec County Superior Court on Monday to a charge of tampering with public records. Under the Alford plea, "it means he acknowledged that a jury could find him guilty, but not that they would," McKee said. The court complaint says Andrews destroyed or tampered with 265 reports "documenting oil or hazardous materials spills that he had responded to in his capacity as an oil and hazardous materials specialist for the Maine



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DEP in the years 2010, 2011 and 2012." Robbin said Andrews destroyed the records on March 6 in Augusta, the day he retired. "He was the sole custodian of all the records, some handwritten notes, some emails, some reports from other sources," she said, adding that those records had not been uploaded to an electronic recordkeeping system. Andrews told a contract worker who was uploading data that "nobody will be able to find the records when I'm gone," Robbin said. Robbin said the contract worker at first thought Andrews was joking, but officials later saw that filing cabinets for recent cases were empty. Robbin said a coworker reported seeing Andrews putting files into a 55-gallon plastic bag normally used for hazardous waste cleanup, and the receptionist reported seeing him dragging it out of the office. "We assume he put it in the trash," Robbin said. McKee said Andrews destroyed his notes when he retired and didn't think there was anything wrong with that. McKee said Andrews was not a disgruntled state employee and there was nothing unusual about his retirement. Andrews had worked for the state since 1989. "When you leave your job, you clear out your desk," McKee said. "There's no policy or procedure that says you can't do it." Andrews has challenged the state government previously. In October 2011, Andrews lost an appeal to have his state job reclassified to a higher level. An arbitrator ruled against the Maine State Employees Association SEIU Local 1989, which had appealed on Andrews' behalf. In 1995, Andrews sued the state, charging that supervisors retaliated against him after he wrote a letter to the editor criticizing the use of state money for the cleanup of privately owned gas stations. The final disposition of that case could not be determined. Under the Alford plea Andrews has entered, the records-tampering case gets continued for five months. If Andrews meets the terms of the deferred disposition, making a \$3,500 donation within that period to the Maine Coastal & Inland Surface Oil Cleanup Fund, the charge will be dismissed. It's a unique deferred disposition," McKee said.

<http://www.kjonline.com/news/HazMat-specialist-pleads-guilty-to-destroying-documents.html>

USA, KS, COFFEYVILLE, FEBRUARY 14 2013. SOUTHEAST KANSAS REFINERY TO PAY \$2.3 MILLION FOR 2007 SPILL

russell hulstine



Flooding at the Coffeyville refinery in 2007.

A Coffeyville oil refinery has agreed to pay a civil penalty and reimburse the federal government for costs associated with the cleanup of an oil spill during a 2007 flood in the southeast Kansas community. The EPA says Coffeyville Resources Refining and Marketing will pay a \$556,244 civil penalty for violating the Clean Water Act on July 1, 2007. It also will pay \$1.7 million to reimburse the federal government for its emergency response to contain the oil that spilled into the Verdigris River. The oily floodwater coated a surrounding residential neighborhood. As part of the agreement, the company also agreed to train its

employees on ways to properly shut down the refinery in the event of a flood.

EPA News Release.

"The settlement with CRRM requires the company to make upgrades to its facility that will protect human health and the environment from future spills," said EPA Region 7 Administrator Karl Brooks. [7/30/2007 Related Story: Open Valve Led To Oil Spill At Coffeyville Refinery, Officials Say](#) About 3,000 Coffeyville residents were displaced after flooding along the Verdigris River that began at the end of June 2007. The river topped its banks and flooded the refinery, spilling about 71,000 gallons of oil into water.

Related Links

- [Coffeyville resilient after refinery flood](#)
- [Feds sue Coffeyville refinery over river oil spill](#)
- [Coffeyville refinery to pay nearly \\$13 million to settle suit](#)
- [Coffeyville refinery agrees to fine, pollution controls](#)

<http://www.newson6.com/story/21145033/southeast-kansas-refinery-to-pay-23-million-for-2007-spill>

USA, PA, LEWISBURG, FEBRUARY 14 2013. GASOLINE SPILL CONTAINED IN LEWISBURG

evamarie socha

Emergency responders contained about 20 gallons of gasoline that spilled from a pump Wednesday afternoon at a GoSunoco station at Routes 15 and 192 in Lewisburg. The spill is contained, said Dave Wagner, mitigation officer for Union County



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Emergency Management. William Cameron Engine Co. personnel entered a storm drain at the intersection to block any fuel from getting into the system. The larger worry was that the gasoline could reach the Susquehanna River, said Career Assistant Fire Chief Richard Scheesley. Fire personnel sopped up all the gasoline they could with a substance much like kitty litter, then cleared it away. Aside of a thick smell of gasoline in the air, residents and business patrons in the area were not in danger, Wagner said. It is not yet known how the fuel leaked, though the gas station management believes a patron may have left the pump running after use.

http://dailyitem.com/0100_news/x1303549143/Gasoline-spill-contained

USA, S.C, ST. HELENA, FEBRUARY 14 2013. FUEL SPILL CLOSES ST. HELENA SHELLFISHING BEDS

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control has closed some St. Helena Island shellfish harvesting beds while it investigates a fuel spill, the agency announced Wednesday. "This closure affects a portion of Coffin Point on St. Helena Sound," Mike Pearson, manager of DHEC's Shellfish Sanitation Section, said in a news release. He said the area will reopen once tests indicate the spill is no longer an issue. For more information on harvesting areas in Beaufort County, call DHEC's Region 8 Environmental Quality Control office at (843) 846-1030.

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/02/13/2379400/fuel-spill-closes-st-helena-shellfishing.html>

USA, ME, PORTLAND, FEBRUARY 14 2013. LARGE GAS SPILL ON BRIGHTON AVE IN PORTLAND

dennis hoey

The Maine [Department of Environmental Protection](#) responded Tuesday after a large amount of gasoline spilled onto one of the city's most heavily traveled roadways. Portland's Deputy Fire Chief Bill Flynn said a fuel truck was making a delivery at the Brighton Avenue Xtra Mart, 865 Brighton Ave. around 3 p.m. when close to 50 gallons of fuel leaked onto the ground after the truck's delivery hose became dislodged. Firefighters and DEP workers placed absorbent booms and sand around street manhole covers to prevent gas from entering the city's stormwater system. Only one household on neighboring Dennett Street complained of a gas odor in their basement. Fire crews checked the home out to make sure it was safe. TMC Services, an environmental cleanup firm based in New Hampshire, was expected to work into the night on Tuesday cleaning up the spill.

<http://www.pressherald.com/news/Crews-cleaning-up-gas-spill-near-Brighton-Avenue-gas-station.html>

USA, CA, RICHMOND, FEBRUARY 15 2013. CHEVRON WORKERS FAULTED IN REFINERY LEAK

jaxon van derbeken



A burst pipe at Chevron's Richmond refinery caused a fire that wrecked part of the plant Aug. 6. Photo: -, U.S. Chemical Safety Board.

A lab analysis released by federal investigators Wednesday confirmed suspicions that a Chevron firefighter's sharp, pole-mounted device punctured an already leaking oil pipe at the company's Richmond refinery before the line caught fire in August. The damage inflicted by the implement, called a pike, may have worsened the chemical-vapor leak from the pipe and contributed to the scope of the ensuing fire, federal investigators say. The blaze destroyed part of the refinery and sent a cloud of vapor and smoke thousands of feet into the air over Richmond and surrounding cities, prompting 15,000 people to visit hospitals complaining of respiratory and other problems. Chevron has said it hopes to have the refinery back in full operation by next month.

Warning to Refiners

The metallurgical analysis by [Anamet Inc. of Hayward](#) was released by the [U.S. Chemical Safety Board](#), which is investigating the Aug. 6 fire. The safety board's chairman, [Rafael Moure-Eraso](#), said in a statement that the findings should serve as a "precaution to all refiners to carefully examine potential corrosion mechanisms and use the safest possible materials of construction to avoid failures." The Hayward lab found that high-temperature, sulfur-heavy crude oil had eaten away 80 percent of the 8-inch carbon steel pipe, which Chevron installed in its crude-oil unit in 1976. Chevron has already conceded that the pipe was corroded and that managers opted to leave it in place after an inspection nine months before the fire. The corrosion made the pipe especially vulnerable to damage when Chevron firefighters used pikes to try to remove insulation



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from around the line the afternoon of Aug. 6 to reach the source of a leak, officials say. The Hayward lab's report cites an "inward deformation" inside the line, something investigators believe was caused by a pike.

Widespread Problems

The lab's findings also indicate that the pipes were weak throughout the refinery because they were low in a key protective element, silicon. Of 12 sections of pipe examined at the crude-oil unit, half were low in the protective silicon, which inhibits corrosion in carbon steel pipe. The analysis was commissioned by the agencies probing the blast, the Chemical Safety Board and the state's workplace safety agency, Cal/OSHA. The federal board has not issued its report on the fire, but the state worker agency recently sought to fine Chevron nearly \$1 million for 25 violations, including two serious and willful violations related to workers using pikes and fire hoses to remove insulation from around the leak. The chief of Cal/OSHA, Ellen Wides, said in a statement that the report reaffirms the findings of her agency's probe - that Chevron knew the pipe was vulnerable to corrosion but failed to act. "Chevron's own metallurgists and pipe inspectors," she said, "recommended as far back as 2002 that Chevron take action to protect its workers, the community and the environment by replacing the pipe that finally ruptured in 2012."

Narrow Escape

The federal safety board said 19 workers were enveloped by a cloud of hydrocarbon vapor just before the fire broke out. All managed to escape without serious injury. Moure-Eraso echoed findings of the state probe, which said Chevron should have shut down the crude-oil unit when managers detected the leak and should have evacuated workers. Instead, Chevron kept the unit running for another two hours while employees tried to fix the leak. "Continuing to troubleshoot the problem and having firefighters remove insulation searching for a leak - while flammable hydrocarbons were flowing through the leaking piping - was inconsistent with good safety practice," Moure-Eraso said. Chevron officials issued a statement saying their "strong focus" is on preventing similar failures. The company has strengthened management oversight of safety procedures, leak response and inspections, the statement said. The statement added that "we do not agree with some of the characterizations" in the Chemical Safety Board's statement accompanying the lab report, but did not specify which ones.

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Chevron-workers-faulted-in-refinery-leak-4276068.php>

USA, DE, ST GEORGES, FEBRUARY 15 2013. 1,600 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL SPILL IN DEL.; CLEANUP TO COST \$50,000

michelle provencher

Oil spill cleanup continues after about 1,600 gallons of diesel is leaked from a DelDOT station in St. Georges. Vehicles were gassing up at the location for storm preparation over the weekend, which is when the leak started. DelDOT says their investigation took shape Tuesday, when it was determined the leak was caused by a broken pipe connecting the tank to the fuel pump. Luckily, the diesel pooled in a retention pond, preventing contamination of a nearby stream. DelDOT says environmental experts are confident most of the diesel can be recovered. A cleanup crew was on the scene within 30 minutes to begin containing the spill. It will cost about \$50,000 to mitigate the damage. DelDOT is working with DNREC's Environmental Crimes Unit as the analysis continues.

<http://www.wdel.com/story.php?id=49023>

ALBANIA, TIRANA, FEBRUARY 15 2013. ALBANIAN APPEALS COURT REDUCES JAIL SENTENCES OVER MUNITIONS FACTORY BLAST THAT KILLED 26

An Albanian appeals court on Wednesday reduced sentences for several top defendants convicted in a deadly ammunition factory blast and acquitted one defendant. The decision was met with dismay by relatives of the deceased. The explosion at Gerdec near Tirana in March 2008 killed 26 people, wounded 300 others, destroyed or damaged 5,500 houses and caused the temporary closure of the Albanian capital's airport as unexploded ordnance landed near it. Investigators said it was started by a lit cigarette, in the factory where some 1,400 tons of explosives, mostly obsolete artillery shells, were stored for disposal. According to the Tirana court's ruling Wednesday, factory owner Mihal Delijorgji and manager Dritan Minxolli had their terms reduced from 10 to six-and-a-half years and from 18 to 12 years, respectively. Former Defense Ministry official Ylli Pinari's sentence was reduced from 18 to 15 years. Former army chief of staff Luan Hoxha, who has fled to the United States, had his term lowered from six to five years. All four were convicted of mismanagement and negligence. The court also acquitted Shpetim Spahiu, a former army general initially sentenced to four years in prison, which he served under house arrest. Then-defense minister Fatmir Mediu had also been charged with breach of duty over the accident after Parliament agreed to lift his



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immunity from prosecution. But the charges were dropped when he was subsequently re-elected to Parliament, as Albanian law doesn't allow a lawmaker's immunity to be lifted twice for the same alleged offence. Mediu is now environment minister. A handful of relatives of the dead were in court for the decision. Zamira Durda, whose six-year-old son was killed in the blast, told reporters the verdict was "scandalous and shameful." In a statement, bereaved relatives said: "It is painful that after five years ... we have discovered that the lives of the victims are so little valued."

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/albanian-appeals-court-reduces-jail-sentences-over-munitions-factory-blast-that-killed-26/2013/02/13/3c419b6c-7607-11e2-9889-60bfcbb02149_story.html

USA. N.Y., HOOSICK, FEBRUARY 15 2013. FUEL TANKER CRASHES, BURNS

keith whitcomb jr.

 [Watch the Video](#) [Inferno Follows Fuel Truck Crash](#)

 [Photo's \[10\]](#) [Rt. 7 Back Open after Gas Tanker Rollover in Hoosick](#)

 [Photo's \[4\]](#) [Fuel Spilled, Driver Burned In Tanker Fire](#)

 [Photo's \[9\]](#) [Inferno Follows Fuel Truck Crash](#)



Firefighters climb down an embankment to the still-burning wreckage of a tanker truck that went off Route 7 in Hoosick, N.Y., down the embankment and into the creek, where it burned, spilling much of its cargo into the water.

A truck hauling 8,500 gallons of unleaded gasoline and 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel broke through the guardrail on Route 7 shortly before noon on Wednesday, spilling what fuel did not burn up into the Shingle Hollow Creek, which runs between the road and Tibbits State Forest. Hoosick Fire Department Chief William Rifenburgh said fire crews were summoned to the area east of the Man of Kent on Route 7 for a report of a rollover crash involving a fuel truck that had caught fire and exploded. The truck traveled 150 feet off the road into the creek, causing fuel to run down river. Gasoline could be smelled roughly a mile east, where the road was closed by the Stewart's Shops at Route 22 and Route 7. New York State Police Sgt. James Allendorph, supervisor for the Commercial Vehicle

Enforcement Division assigned to Troop G said the driver of the gas truck was found walking on the roadside by a passing motorist and driven to the Stewart's Shops, where a local ambulance was flagged down. That ambulance transferred the driver, a 34-year-old Massachusetts man, to a Mohawk Ambulance which then took him to Albany Medical Center. From there he was taken to Westchester Medical Center. Allendorph said the driver suffered burns to his hands and face and possibly his respiratory system. Allendorph said the driver's name has not been released. He said he does not have enough information yet to speculate on a cause for the crash but said he did not notice skid marks that would indicate the truck's brakes had been locked up. Most of the truck had burned up in the fire, leaving two large pieces to be towed out. "Normally we would inspect the truck at this point," said Allendorph, adding he was surprised to see how quickly the fire destroyed the vehicle. He said he arrived on scene within the hour of it being reported and by then it was largely gone. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation was on hand to slow the spread of the fuel spill. Rifenburgh said large truck crashes on that stretch of Route 7 are not uncommon but did not know how it compared to similar stretches of highway. "There are lot of tractor trailer accidents along this stretch of road, it is a winding stretch of road," he said. "There are suggested speed reductions for traffic." Rifenburgh said trucks heading east downhill mostly come from being loaded at the Port of Albany or the Port of Rensselaer. "Typically high speed is not always the issue," he said, adding that it was early in the investigation. Last year a propane truck went off the road and caught fire about half a mile west of the latest crash. The driver escaped injury there, while the truck burned for two days, scorching a 100-yard circle of roadway and trees as residences within a one mile radius were evacuated and a no-fly zone was declared over the area. Allendorph said the propane truck last year did not rupture enough for the fuel to spill out, so when it began to burn off it heated the fuel inside. He said when propane boils it poses an explosion risk. The gas truck that crashed Wednesday, owned by J.P. Noonan Transportation, had ruptured more spilling most of its fuel into the creek.

http://www.benningtonbanner.com/ci_22585849/fuel-tanker-crashes-burns



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AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, FEBRUARY 15 2013. ORICA PROMISES TO BE 'TRANSPARENT AND HELPFUL' IN EPA MERCURY CONTAMINATION INVESTIGATION

matt hagas

Orica executives have promised the company will be transparent and helpful throughout the Environment Protection Authority's investigation into mercury contamination at its former ChlorAlkali Plant in Botany. Communications manager Simon Westaway said residents could expect a "newer" Orica that would accurately and fairly address community concerns. "The fact that we continue to remediate the site and are funding the EPA investigation should be a strong sign that we want to work with the community to allay any fears," Mr Westaway said. "We've done a lot of work to clean up the site already and it's important people know that all contaminated material is capped and contained in our temporary emission control enclosure." Last week a petition with more than 8000 signatures was presented to Orica, calling on testing in residential areas within a 1.25km radius of the former plant. Pagewood resident and mother-of-two Chantall Snell, who has been leading the campaign to have soil tested, said the petition was "positively received" by Orica executives.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/city-east/epa-mercury-contamination-investigation-origa-promises-to-be-transparent-and-helpful/story-fngr8h22-1226577650040>

USA, TX, JEFFERSON CO, FEBRUARY 15 2013. 16 COMPANIES NAMED AS DEFENDANTS IN BENZENE SUIT

david yates

China residents Robert and Brenda Fontenot are suing Goodyear Tire & Rubber, along with 15 other companies, for allegedly exposing Robert to benzene throughout his career. The suit was filed Feb. 4 in Jefferson County District Court. The other defendants named in the lawsuit include ExxonMobil, ExxonMobil Oil, Mobil Oil, Chevron USA, Texaco, Huntsman Petrochemical, Total Petrochemicals, Shell Oil, Shell Chemical, Atlantic Richfield, BP Amoco, BP Products North America and Union Oil Company of California. According to the lawsuit, Robert worked as a contractor in Southeast Texas, where he was occupationally exposed benzene. As a result, he developed Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. The suit accuses the defendants of manufacturing, selling and using benzene products without warning Robert of the danger. Alleging the defendants acted in disregard of Robert's wellbeing, the plaintiffs are suing for punitive damages. Attorney Keith Hyde of the Beaumont law firm Provost Umphrey represent them. Judge Milton Shuffield, 136th District Court, is assigned to the case. Case No. D193-890

<http://setexasrecord.com/news/281666-16-companies-named-as-defendants-in-benzene-suit>

USA, CO, WINDSOR, FEBRUARY 15 2013. 2,000 BARRELS OF FRACK WATER SPILLED AT OIL WELL EAST OF FORT COLLINS >> INDUSTRY EXPERTS SAY THE INCIDENT WAS 'NO BIG DEAL,' BUT ENVIRONMENTALISTS SAY THERE'S REASON FOR WORRY

bobby magill

 [Watch the Video Frack Chemicals Spill near Windsor Contained after nearly 30 Hours](#)

 [Watch the Video 2,000 Barrels of Frack Water Spilled at Oil Well East of Fort Collins](#)



Fracking flowback water spews from the ground at an oil rig on Monday, Feb. 11, 2013, near 7554 County Road 74 in Windsor, Colo.

About 2,000 barrels — 84,000 gallons — of fracking flowback water gushed from a PDC Energy oil well for 30 hours during the incident that flooded an oil and gas drilling site east of Fort Collins on Monday and Tuesday. That's PDC Energy's estimate for how much fluid was spilled after a mechanical failure caused a valve to break and create a horizontal geyser of fluid that took about 20 people to control, Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission spokesman Todd Hartman said Thursday. The broken well, Ochsner 50-441, is about 1,500 feet from the nearest home, 3 miles north of Windsor and 4 miles east of Fort Collins. "This released material, almost all water with residual oil

and some 'frac' additives, was contained and removed," Hartman said. "Affected soils have also been removed and additional sampling is ongoing." A spokesman for PDC Energy could not be reached Thursday afternoon. Environmentalists said the incident is significant and indicates that oil and gas development should be more tightly regulated in Colorado. Oil and gas industry experts say the incident is rare but shows how oil and gas can be developed safely. "The takeaway from this incident: You have good reason to be worried and to be concerned," said Mike Chiropoulos of Boulder-based Western Resource



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Advocates. "It just reinforces the need for the state to get in front of these issues and put stronger protections in place to ensure our quality of life and health is not going to be a victim as this boom continues to expand." Neal Adams, an independent Houston-based oil well blowout control expert, said he's seen this type of incident occur only once or twice in his 40-year career. "It's not a big deal," he said. "No one was even in danger. If anyone was in danger, it was the people out at the rig." Flowback fluid, which is what comes out of the well bore hole after the well is fracked, is generally not harmful, he said. William Fleckenstein, interim head of the Petroleum Engineering Department at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, said this incident is rare but shows that a 30-hour stream of frack water can be contained on a well pad. But, he said, the incident "should give people a pretty good sense of what the safety issues are." PDC Energy has been involved in numerous spills over the years, most dramatically last June southeast of Eaton when the equivalent of about 30 barrels of crude oil was seen flowing down a dirt road leading to an oil well PDC was working on. The spill forced the removal of 22 cubic yards of dirt and 1,380 barrels of contaminated pond water. The incident forced the U.S. military's National Response Center to mobilize. PDC Energy's report on this week's incident east of Fort Collins is due to oil and gas regulators early next week.

Related Links

- [Data points to environmental, health impact of Fort Collins-area fracking accident](#)
- [Fort Collins-area fracking fluid leak stopped after spewing for 30 hours](#)
- [Colorado oil and gas panel approves 500-foot oil well buffer](#)

<http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20130214/NEWS01/302140034/2-000-barrels-of-frack-water-spilled-at-oil-well-east-of-Fort-Collins>

PAKISTAN, ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 16 2013. GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTS EURO-II STANDARDS OF PETROL IN PAKISTAN

The government decided on Thursday to implement the international standards of Petrol with effect from Mar 1, DawnNews reported. Dr Asim Hussain, adviser to Prime Minister on Petroleum and Natural Resources, said that Mar 1 onwards Euro-II standard petrol would be sold in the country. He further said that the oil mafia bleeds petrol in Fujairah before it is sold to Pakistan adding that the Pakistan State Oil (PSO) was importing substandard petrol since the past eight years. Dr Asim Hussain added that the ministry had ordered for an inquiry into improving the standard of petrol eight years ago and that the burden of the substandard petrol cost the consumers \$ 20 million annually

<http://dawn.com/2013/02/15/3184756/>

GHANA, ACCRA, FEBRUARY 16 2013. 'CLEVER' DONKEYS SMUGGLING FUEL IN NORTHERN GHANA



Petrol smugglers in northern Ghana are using donkeys to transport fuel to Burkina Faso because they can follow smuggling routes without human supervision. Government recently expressed concern about an increase in the rate of fuel smuggling across Ghana's borders to neighbouring countries. An Anti-Fuel Smuggling exercise was therefore carried out by the security agencies and resulted in the seizure of significant quantities of fuel smuggled in jerrycans and petrol tankers to neighbouring countries. But some unscrupulous persons have found a different way to outwit the security agencies - using donkeys. The donkey can be trusted to do many tasks without human supervision. It has remarkable memory especially for paths and routes. It is therefore considered as a very good animal for anyone who is visually impaired. Considered as territorial animals, donkeys mark their territories with dung piles or urine. Knowing this, Joy FM's Upper East Regional correspondent Albert Sore reported that the smugglers load

their donkeys with jerrycans-full-of-fuel, and leave the animals to make their way across the border into Burkina Faso using paths unmanned by security personnel. He said the smugglers would often go ahead of their fuel-carrying donkeys whose load is often concealed in bales of pasture. Riding on motorbikes, they will then meet up with the animals at designated places and offload the fuel for sale. The business is lucrative because the government of Ghana subsidises fuel which keeps prices of the product artificially low locally. Critics say the government's claims of an increase in fuel smuggling is simply a ruse to probably justify its plans to remove the fuel subsidy.

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=264982>



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USA, CA, SIMI VALLEY, FEBRUARY 16 2013. AUDIT QUESTIONS NASA'S PLAN FOR FORMER ROCKET SITE



This Feb. 12, 2009 file photo shows buildings at the old Rocketdyne facility, the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, in the Simi Valley area near Los Angeles. A report released Thursday Feb. 14, 2013, by NASA's inspector general questioned NASA's cleanup plans for this former rocket test site, which suffered a partial meltdown in 1959.

NASA has agreed to an "excessive and unnecessarily costly cleanup" of a former rocket test facility near Los Angeles that was the site of a partial nuclear meltdown in 1959, the space agency's watchdog said Thursday. An audit by NASA's inspector general questioned whether it was the best use of limited funds and urged the agency to re-examine its cleanup plans for the [Santa Susana Field Laboratory](#), where the federal government and other parties

conducted nuclear research and tested rocket engines for four decades. Several of the site's former users, including NASA, are required by law to remove contaminated groundwater and soil from the site by 2017. NASA estimated it would cost at least \$200 million to reduce pollution to background levels at its portion of the 2,850-acre hilltop complex about 30 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The NASA section will be preserved as open space once it's decontaminated. NASA "can ill afford to spend tens of millions of dollars to clean up an area beyond its risk level or expected land use," the report said. The inspector general's office said Santa Susana is not NASA's only worry. "Several other projects pose greater risks to human health and the environment than Santa Susana," the report said. During the Cold War, workers at the sprawling site tested rockets and experimental nuclear reactors. Over the years, the site has housed 10 nuclear reactors, low-power reactors, plutonium and uranium carbide fabrication plants. In 1959, one reactor's coolant channels became blocked, causing fuel rods to overheat and partially melt. By the time the lab closed in late 1990s, decades of testing and several accidents after the partial meltdown contaminated the soil. Residents and environmentalists have criticized the slow pace of the cleanup. In a response attached to the audit, NASA did not specifically address the concerns raised. The agency said it will continue to work with the state [Department of Toxic Substances Control](#), which oversees the cleanup. Along with NASA, the [Energy Department](#) and Boeing Co. are also responsible for returning the site to its natural state. The internal audit only dealt with cleanup efforts involving the NASA portion of the lab.

<http://www.sfgate.com/default/article/Audit-questions-NASA-s-plan-for-former-rocket-site-4279064.php>

SOUTH KOREA, HWASEONG, FEBRUARY 16 2013. POLICE CONTRADICT SAMSUNG'S ACID DISCHARGE CLAIMS >> THOUSANDS MIGHT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED

lawrence latif

South Korean Police investigating a leak of hydrofluoric acid at a Samsung DRAM plant have cast doubt on claims made by the firm that the toxic gas did not leak outside the plant. Samsung reported that a [10 litre leak of hydrofluoric acid](#) at one of its plants last month led to the death of a worker and injured four others, but that no gas had leaked outside of the plant itself. Now South Korean police investigating the leak said that the [acid was discharged from the plant to the surrounding areas](#). Song Byung-sun of the Gyeonggi Provincial Police Agency leading the investigation told local journalists, "Hydrofluoric acid has been leaked outside of the chip plant after an analysis of CCTV footage taken inside the Central Chemical Supply System (CCSS) of the chip plant." Song's statement completely contradicts Samsung's claim, which said there was no chance of any gas leaking outside. Song's statement means that Samsung could have broken the Clean Air Conservation Act, and local police are checking whether this is indeed the case. Local police added that they are not ruling out the chance that residents within a two mile radius of the plant could have been affected by the release of hydrofluoric acid. So far Samsung and its contractor STI Service have been fined about \$1,000 for delaying their reporting of the incident. However those fines could go up if they are found to have released the poisonous gas outside of the plant, potentially affecting tens of thousands of people. [Hydrofluoric acid](#) is a poison that can cause severe damage to lungs, eye corneas and bones; when concentrated it can trigger a cardiac arrest, or even death. According to local environmental groups, the leak caused a rise in the concentration of the acid in a 2 kilometer radius around the plant. Police say that they are unable to rule out the possibility that the "tens of thousands" of residents in the area could have been affected in some way by the incident.

Related Links

- [Samsung Electronics Co. Will Be Fined up to 1 Million Won \(US\\$923\) over lax response to gas leak](#)



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- [Samsung Fined \\$1,000 over Fatal Gas Leak](#)
- [Samsung Acid Spill Leaked into the Environment - Crew Caught on Camera](#)
- [Police Refute Samsung's Claim that Fatal Gas Leak was Contained](#)

<http://www.theinquirer.net/inquirer/news/2244389/police-contradict-samsungs-acid-discharge-claims>

USA, PA, POTTSTOWN, FEBRUARY 16 2013. FUEL OIL SPILLED INTO MANATAWNY CREEK; DEP CLEANUP UNDER WAY

caroline sweeney

Crews from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection worked to clean up an oil spill Thursday night on Manatawny Street. The department was notified at 5:30 p.m. that fuel oil was released from a delivery truck, Linda Rebarchak, community relations coordinator for the department said. "The fuel was released after a malfunction occurred in a delivery truck and it went directly into a storm drain," she said. At 5:45 p.m., Farm and Home Oil was on the scene of the spill and estimated between 50 and 75 gallons of oil spilled from the truck. "They indicated that there was a sheen on the creek and that the oil was staying close to the edge," Rebarchak said. DEP crews were on the scene Thursday night and used rolls of absorbent material, called booms, to soak up the oil in the creek. They used an absorbent substance called Oil Dry on the pavement. Due to the lack of daylight, department crews were unable to see how much of the creek was impacted, so they were expected to return Friday morning, Rebarchak said.

<http://www.pottsmmerc.com/article/20130215/NEWS01/130219577/fuel-oil-spilled-into-manatawny-creek-dep-cleanup-under-way->

USA, WI, STOUGHTON, FEBRUARY 16 2013. PROPANE TANKER OVERTURNS IN DANE CO.

A propane tanker truck has overturned on an icy Dane County road and leaked a small amount of LP gas. Sheriff's officials say the tanker carrying 2,600 pounds of propane slid on a curve on Lake Kegonsa Rd. in the town of Rutland about 7:30 a.m. Thursday. The driver of the truck wasn't injured. Sheriff's spokeswoman Elise Schaffer says no evacuations in the area were necessary. The road was closed for several hours.

<http://www.todaystmj4.com/news/local/191281751.html>

USA, MI, ADRIAN, FEBRUARY 16 2013. CHEMICAL SPILL AFFECTS ADRIAN NEIGHBORHOOD

 **Watch the Video** [Crews in Michigan Respond to Chemical Release, HAZMAT Situation](#)



Residents in an Adrian neighborhood have been ordered to stay in their homes and roads are closed nearby as a chemical release disperses, according to emergency officials. There is "no immediate threat to the public" from the release at 1336 E. Maumee, near Gulf Street, according to a statement issued by the Adrian police. The release was reported at 6:53 a.m. Roads are closed in the area. Residents within 1/10 of a mile have been ordered to stay in their homes until further notice. Fire officials expect the restrictions and road closures will end by 1 p.m. A barrel containing 30 to 35 gallons of nitric acid is reacting with a small amount of sodium hydroxide, according to the Adrian Fire Department. Crews from the fire department, Lenawee County Emergency Management and the Lenawee County Hazardous Material Team are at the scene, monitoring the reaction. Officials said in a 9:37 a.m. release that the temperature of the reaction was falling, "a sign that the immediate threat is coming to an end."

<http://www.freep.com/article/20130215/NEWS06/130215031/Chemical-spill-affects-Adrian-neighborhood>

USA, LA, BATON ROUGE, FEBRUARY 16 2013. BARGE SPILLS OIL AFTER COLLISION ON LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER

A collision involving a barge Thursday night resulted in an oil spill near Baton Rouge, Louisiana on the Mississippi River, the United States Coast Guard said on Friday. The amount of oil spilled was unknown, but the accident was not large enough to



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

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cause the closure of the river, the Coast Guard said. Vessels in the area have been directed to temporarily reduce speed, shippers in the area said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/15/usa-oil-spill-idUSL1N0BF4SP20130215>

USA, OH, COLUMBUS, FEBRUARY 16 2013. MINIVAN STRIKES REAR OF TANKER, KILLING ONE

jim woods

A man died after his minivan crashed into the back of a tanker-truck loaded with fuel in Franklin Township yesterday afternoon. The man was pronounced dead at Doctors Hospital. Authorities declined to release his name until his relatives are notified. The Franklin County sheriff's office was called at 2:27 p.m. to the crash scene on Georgesville Road just north of Sullivant Avenue. The truck driven by Jeffrey Smiley, 56, of Columbus, had been southbound on Georgesville when Smiley stopped for a railroad crossing just north of Sullivant. The minivan following behind ran into the tanker. Smiley was not hurt in the crash.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2013/02/15/minivan-strikes-rear-of-tanker-killing-one.html>

USA, S.D, SIOUX FALLS, FEBRUARY 16 2013. GAS STATION SAFETY

sammi bjelland

 [Watch the Video Gas Station Safety](#)



Not only did Thursday's crash happen at a busy intersection, but it was dangerously close to gas pumps. We spoke with one gas station owner about the safety systems in place to make sure a bad situation doesn't get worse. Gary Cone has been in the gasoline business for 42 years and he knows a thing or two about gas pump safety. "It's this safety valve right here. If something happened and the pump was on and it got busted off, that will flip that little valve in there and it will skip it up and shut the flow of the product off," Cone said. There are a few different safety precautions that Cone takes at his station, the Hilltop BP on South Cleveland Avenue. Even the simplest things can make a big difference in keeping his customers safe. "Our pumps are all built up. There's like a curb around all the pumps. So, they can't jump the curb," Cone said. There are other features like the fire valve, also known as a safety shut-off, which all gas stations are required to have. "This is where the safety valve is. If something were to happen to that pump, this little lever will trip and that will stop the flow of the gasoline from coming out of the ground," Cone said. It's this valve that helps prevent accident, like Thursday's crash, from becoming a major explosion. There's also some comfort in knowing the gas is not flowing into the pumps if they're not in use. "The pump won't come on unless they initiate it inside the store. Or use it with a credit card outside. So there's power out to them, but it won't go on unless they initiate it with a credit card," Cone said. Another accident prevention piece of the pump, that's come in handy often, is for those people who get in a hurry to leave. "We have what they call a breakaway hose. So, if they leave the hose in the car, which they've done several times, they drive off with the hose in it. Instead of tipping the pump over, or pulling it over, it'll breakaway at the top, at the top of the pump where the hose is connected. And there's a valve in there that automatically shuts that off also," Cone said. And in worse case scenarios, Cone says he still has the power to shut it all down himself. "We have automatic shut offs back there. If something happens we can shut every pump off. We have a big valve that will shut every pump off out here. Just push this one button," Cone said. Cone has not had any major accidents at his station. But he did say one gas pump unit alone can cost up to \$20,000.

<http://www.keloland.com/newsdetail.cfm/gas-station-safety/?id=143943>

USA, HI, HONOLULU, FEBRUARY 16 2013. HONOLULU MAN GETS 4 YEARS FOR FIREWORKS TRAFFICKING

A Honolulu man is going to prison for four years for illegal fireworks trafficking, possession of a stolen firearm and structuring funds to avoid reporting currency transactions. Senior U.S. District Court Judge Helen Gillmor on Thursday sentenced Brandon Haleamau as a result of his guilty pleas. Gillmor also ordered Haleamau to forfeit nearly \$350,000 in cash and three vehicles involved in his financial structuring. U.S. Attorney Florence Nakakuni says Haleamau imported commercial grade display fireworks from China with a false declaration. She says he also illegally transported commercial grade fireworks. She



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says he structured financial transactions totaling more than \$1.1 million to evade federal currency transaction reporting requirements Federal law requires financial institutions to file reports on currency transaction over \$10,000.

http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/breaking/20130214_Honolulu_man_gets_4_years_for_fireworks_trafficking.html

USA, OH, TIFFIN, FEBRUARY 16 2013. SENECA COUNTY ENGINEER PUZZLED WHY STATE IS CONCERNED ABOUT CONTAMINATION YEARS AFTER CLEANUP

lisa swickard

The state agency that regulates underground storage tanks has ordered the Seneca County commissioners to revisit a 20-year-old contamination issue at the Seneca County garage. County Administrator Stacy Wilson informed the commissioners Thursday that the Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations has given the county 30 days to develop a remedial action plan to address the issue of contamination at the highway maintenance garage, 3390 S. State Rt. 100. Failure to do so could result in a \$10,000-a-day fine for the county. What started as a tiny leak in an underground gas tank two decades ago has become a recurring nightmare for Seneca County Engineer Mark Zimmerman, who said the site has been cleaned up since November, 2007. According to the engineer, in the early 1990s it was discovered that one of two 10,000-gallon steel tanks — in place since the 1960s — had developed a pinhole leak that contaminated the soil around the pumps. At that time, the old pumps were removed and replaced with fiber-glass ones. Then in January, 2006, the state informed the county that the site had to be cleaned up according to the environmental standards that were developed in the mid-1990s. "We hired a firm that did a remedial action plan, core samples, and monitoring," Mr. Zimmerman said. "We dug up about 400 cubic yards of contaminated soil, and all along we tested the outlying edges of the dig to make sure we were complying with the minimum standards. The preliminary results from BUSTR indicated we were OK." In November 2007, the state again contacted the county. This time, the agency required another remedial action plan to ensure that any remaining contamination was not going to be detrimental to anyone in the area. The county garage sits alone on a sizable lot, and Mr. Zimmerman said there are no drinking wells within 1,000 feet. At that time, the county again complied. Mr. Zimmerman said a conference call with state representatives in late 2008 led him to believe the matter was settled — until the county commissioners received the letter last week that revived the issue. He said the most recent correspondence was not a result of a personal inspection, but rather stemmed from a review of old paperwork. "It's totally out of the blue. I thought we were done with this years ago," Mr. Zimmerman said. "I can't think of what would have triggered this. We have not been getting annual correspondence from them. In fact, we've been getting exemplary reports from our BUSTR inspector who comes every year." In any event, Mr. Zimmerman said the county will again comply with the agency's directive. "They're asking for a Tier 1 site inspection, which means we will probably be doing test bores, core samples, and drilling all around the excavation area, as well as drilling deeper through the excavation to find out what contamination might still exist," he said. "If they are not pleased with the results, we will have to identify the area where we will have to dig out everything we've already done. It's to the point where I wonder if this is the wisest use of taxpayer dollars — to clean up a site that's already clean enough," Mr. Zimmerman said.

<http://www.toledoblade.com/local/2013/02/15/Seneca-County-Engineer-puzzled-why-state-is-concerned-about-contamination-years-after-cleanup.html>

USA, W.VA, FLEMINGTON, FEBRUARY 16 2013. ONE DEAD IN EXPLOSION AT GAS WELL SITE

A worker was killed Friday in an explosion at an EQT Corp. natural gas production site in Taylor County, officials said. Cpl. C. Willis, a Harrison County 911 dispatcher, said an EQT employee originally reported an explosion at a well site near Flemington after finding a water truck driver at the site dead from apparent head trauma. Kathy Cosco, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Environmental Protection, said the incident at an EQT natural gas well pad appeared to have occurred while an employee was attempting to transfer briny wastewater from an on-site tank to a truck. "We are told it was a flash explosion that killed the employee, destroyed the tank and damaged the truck nearby," Cosco said. "Initial reports are that the tank contained brine and that the material in the tank spilled and there is likely hydraulic fluid from the truck on the ground, too." Cosco said the source of the ignition was not immediately clear. Mary K. Singleton, who lives about a mile away, said her house shook at 6:45 a.m. "I heard an explosion, but didn't know what it was," Singleton said. "You never know around here. I got up and made sure the house was all right, but couldn't see anything," she said. "I didn't know what's going on. I asked my husband, 'You suppose it was a meteor?'" The Flemington Volunteer Fire Department, Taylor County Sheriff's Department and Taylor County emergency crews were dispatched. Willis said the body of the victim was taken to Grafton City Hospital.

<http://wvgazette.com/News/201302150050>



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