



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2013 – 941 Newsy Stuff

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March 21 2013



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AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, CAIRNS, MARCH 13 2013. BP CHEMICALS FLOW INTO INLET

damon guppy



Oil giant BP has been ordered to prepare a report on damage caused in a Queensland chemical spill.

A highly toxic chemical is likely to have polluted Trinity Inlet when a malfunction caused by ants led to more than 30,000 litres of water containing fire-fighting foam being released at a fuel terminal, a report says. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection is investigating what damage has been done to the inlet's water quality and marine life and whether people have been exposed to the pollutant. At 6am on January 28, the firefighting deluge boom at the BP fuel terminal at the corner of Kenny and Draper streets, Portsmith, was accidentally activated for about one hour, during which up to 31,000 litres of water containing fluorinated foam was released. "While some of the water was contained on-site and disposed of, it appears an unknown quantity has entered Trinity Inlet as stormwater," EHP executive director Rob Lawrence said. "Water and sediment samples have been taken for laboratory analysis and the department's investigation is continuing." The BP staff member who discovered the release of foam immediately alerted authorities. The fuel company has

launched an internal investigation into the incident. An EHP investigation report obtained by The Weekend Post classes the incident as being of "very high severity". "It is highly likely that contaminated waters have been discharged into Trinity Inlet," it says. "The fire-fighting foam is a fluorinated ... foam and is considered to be highly toxic." Investigators also fear tidal movements could have moved the substance, which is water soluble for a lengthy time, out to sea. A nest of ants is believed to have triggered an electrical fault, causing the activation of the fire-fighting deluge system. The report says no visual presence of foam or fish deaths in Trinity Inlet have been reported. If found negligent, BP Australia faces fines or prosecution, depending on the harm recorded. Pollution incidents can be reported to EHP on 1300 130 372.

Related Links

- [BP Told to Assess Damage fom Cairns Spill](#)
- [BP to assess damage of Qld chemical spill](#)
- [Chemicals flow into inlet](#)
- [Investigations continue into Cairns chemical spill](#)

http://www.cairns.com.au/article/2013/02/16/239407_local-news.html

USA, GA, ATHENS, MARCH 13 2013. NO INJURIES REPORTED IN ATHENS TANKER TRUCK WRECK

allie jackson



Officials with Athens-Clarke Fire Department examin a Toyota Tacoma trapped underneath a tractor trailer Wednesday morning. The driver of the truck said the tractor trailer pulled out in front of him while he was traveling on Jefferson Road.

All lanes on Jefferson Road at the Marathon Gas Station were blocked Wednesday morning after a small truck crashed into a tractor trailer carrying thousands of gallons of gasoline. No one was injured in the wreck, according to officials at the scene. "Our main concern was the fuel. There was 9,000 gallons of gasoline in the tanks, so we were concerned with leaks," said Capt. Billy Burrell with Athens-Clarke Fire. "There were no leaks though and everything was fine." Jason Smith of Monroe was driving the Toyota Tacoma that struck the tanker truck. "The way I feel, it was like I didn't even exist," Smith said. "I was just coming through (the intersection) and saw him coming over the tracks (turning

left from Old Jefferson Road onto Jefferson Road), and he was coming like nothing was going on and he was coming good, and I'm thinking to myself, 'You're gonna stop, ain't ya?'" Upon realizing the semi truck didn't intend to immediately stop, Smith said he pressed the brakes and tried to swerve, but failed to avoid the collision. The incident is under investigation by the



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Georgia State Patrol. A phone message left for Georgia State Patrol to inquire about possible charges was not immediately returned.

<http://onlineathens.com/breaking-news/2013-03-13/no-injuries-reported-athens-tanker-truck-wreck>

PORTUGAL, LISBON, MARCH 14 2013. PRAYERS OFFERED FOR MISSING PINOY SEAMAN AFTER TANKER EXPLOSION IN PORTUGAL

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said prayers were offered for a Filipino seaman who went missing after an explosion on a tanker off Portugal on March 6. A team from the Philippine Embassy on March 9 brought a Lisbon-based Filipino priest who officiated a Mass for the 13 remaining Filipino crewmembers of the MT Harbour Krystal, the DFA said. "Filipino chaplain Rev. Father Jovito Osalvo prayed over the officers and crew of the MT Harbour Krystal, especially the missing Filipino seafarer," the DFA said in a [news release](#). Osalvo also offered prayers for the emotional and spiritual healing of the crew, the DFA said. Some of the Filipino crewmembers still showed signs of trauma and have had trouble sleeping since the accident happened, it added. During the visit of the embassy team, led by Third Secretary and Vice Consul Rogelio Villanueva Jr., "the Filipino crew recounted to the Embassy team their frightening experience when they heard a loud blast followed by fire and thick black smoke coming from the forecastle," the DFA said. "Despite extreme heat and danger from the fire spreading to the other tanks containing highly flammable cargo, the Filipino crew courageously stood their ground and succeeded in putting out the fire after more than an hour," it added. According to the Maritime Rescue Coordinating Center (MRCC) Lisbon, the Bahamas-flagged chemical tanker owned by Nordic Tankers of Denmark suffered an explosion on March 6 in the forward compartment. The explosion caused a huge fire in the ship carrying a cargo of light virgin naphtha. The accident happened 30 miles south of Lisbon as the ship was sailing from Port de Bouc in France to Amsterdam. "Despite extensive search operations conducted by Portuguese maritime and air units, the Filipino seaman remains missing," the DFA said. The MT Harbour Crystal was anchored off the Port of Setubal in Portugal after the explosion.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/299019/pinoyabroad/news/dfa-prayers-offered-for-missing-pinoy-seaman-after-tanker-explosion-in-portugal>

USA, MI, DETROIT, MARCH 14 2013. DETROIT RESIDENTS WORRY ABOUT POLLUTION FROM MOUNDS OF OIL REFINERY BYPRODUCT



A truck unloads a large pile of pet coke Tuesday, March 12, 2013 in Detroit. Hulking black mounds that have risen recently on two sites along the banks of the Detroit River in southwest Detroit are prompting concerns about potential pollution. The petroleum coke, or pet coke, mounds are a byproduct of oil refining used in energy production. The material has been brought by trucks from the nearby Marathon Petroleum Co. refinery. Area residents, the Canadian government and Democratic U.S. Reps. Gary Peters and John Conyers are among those concerned about the potential impact on the area.

Concern is growing about potential pollution as black mounds of refinery byproducts rise in two locations along the banks of the Detroit River. The Detroit

Free Press reports the mounds located in southwest Detroit are petroleum coke or pet coke and are a byproduct of oil refining used in energy production. Residents are concerned about the potential impact the materials that have been trucked to the river banks from the nearby Marathon Petroleum Co. refinery will have on the environment. Democratic U.S. Reps. Gary Peters and John Conyers along with the Canadian government are also among those also expressing concerns. On Tuesday, the lawmakers sent a joint letter to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality urging the agency to consider the material's potential impact on the river and nearby residents. "We fear the storage of petroleum coke along the river poses a potential threat to water and air quality. The material may contain trace amounts of metal and could have damaging health impacts if fugitive dust enters the air. Petroleum coke that enters the water may continue to frustrate efforts to prevent contamination from runoff," according to the letter. Marathon Petroleum says the pet coke is no longer owned by the Findlay, Ohio-based company so it would not comment on its storage. But the company says if stored properly pet coke poses no environmental concerns.

<http://www.myfoxdetroit.com/story/21630080/residents-worry-about-pollution-from-mounds-of-oil-refinery-byproduct>



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MALAYSIA, MALACCA, MARCH 14 2013. EXPLOSIONS AND FIRE RAZE FACTORY PRODUCING FURNITURE UNDERCOAT

r.s.n. murali



Raging fire at a factory producing undercoat for furniture at Bukit Rambai Industrial estate.

Several deafening explosions were heard as Fire Officers battled to douse an inferno that ravaged a factory producing undercoat for furniture at Bukit Rambai Industrial estate here. The fire also caused the factory operating at the site for the last 12 years to suffer almost 80 percent in damages. State Fire and Rescue Department deputy [director Sohaimi Mohamed](#) said that distress call was made at 3.51pm and its Tangga Batu station responded in just four minutes by dispatching engines to the scene. "However, the factory had it own safety features to contain any fire outbreak that made us to swiftly control the inferno in just an hour taking into consideration that the large built-up area of the factory,"

he told reporters after leading the operation. Sohaimi said 46 fire officers were involved in the operation where some 750liters of foam were used to squash the fire. He said the fire also had caused 5,000 liters of shellac coating in liquid resin form to emit a pungent stench. "No injuries were reported. We are in the midst of probing the cause of the fire and the estimated loss," he added. Meanwhile, eyewitnesses said they heard several loud explosions before the factory was engulfed in flames. The owner of the factory, Loh Seng, 62, said he received call from his worker at 4pm, informing him about the fire. "I was in Batu Pahat to attend a meeting and rushed back upon hearing the news only to see that my factory was destroyed. I estimate losses at almost RM2mil," he said.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2013/3/13/nation/20130313202802&sec=nation>

UKRAINE, ODESSA, MARCH 14 2013. OIL SPILLED INTO DANUBE RIVER IN UKRAINE

A large oil slick was discovered on the surface of the Danube River in Ukraine's southern Odessa region, authorities reported Tuesday. A pool of about 400 square meters has appeared, after fuel oil was spilled into the river from a "Timekstron-2" freighter near the port city of Reni on Monday, the State Service for Emergencies reported. Emergency crew are containing the pollution and they will try to determine how much oil leaked, it said. According to preliminary reports, there is no threat of polluting the water supply as the oil did not spread along the riverbed.

http://www.china.org.cn/environment/2013-03/13/content_28223478.htm

USA, OK, SEQUOYAH CO, MARCH 14 2013. OK MAN'S CAUSE OF DEATH: SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION?

 **Watch the Video** [Okla. Sheriff Said Man's Death Spontaneous Combustion](#)



OK Man's Cause of Death: Spontaneous Combustion?

Authorities speculate that the death of a 65-year-old Oklahoma man was caused by spontaneous human combustion.

The man's neighbors called the fire department when they noticed smoke emanating from his home. Firefighters arrived on the scene, and attempted to extinguish a pile of burning debris. They quickly realized that the 'debris' was a human body. 65-year-old Danny Vanzandt appeared to have burst into flames in his kitchen. Firefighters reported no evidence of fire damage to the man's house or furniture. Authorities were flummoxed. County Sheriff Ron Lockhart, who had investigated cases of arson for two decades, was baffled by the man's demise. After extensive research, Lockhart concluded that the event may have been a rare case of spontaneous human combustion. "That is basically what we have [in this situation]," he said, calling the man's death "an unusual and bizarre case." While the victim consumed alcohol and smoked cigarettes, authorities concluded that it was impossible for the combination to prompt his death by fire. Just two years ago, the public was stunned by a coroner's decisive confirmation that an Irish man had died by

spontaneously combusting. Michael Faherty died at home in December of 2010. His home appeared to be undamaged by the fire that consumed his body. In 2011, coroner Kieran McLoughlin reported that the man's death "fit the category of



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spontaneous human combustion." The postmortem examiner noted that the spontaneous combustion of a living being remains a phenomenon for which there is no sufficient scientific explanation. While human combustion remains largely an area of speculation, there are frequent cases of non-living substances bursting into flames spontaneously. In spontaneous combustion cases, an internal reaction self-heats an item, rapidly boosting its temperature. Heat cannot escape quickly enough to prevent the item's temperature from reaching an ignition point. If an oxidizer and ample fuel are both present, the item will ignite and combust. Haystacks, coal, pistachio nuts, and piles of manure or compost are all capable of spontaneously combusting under the right circumstances. Dry grasslands can also ignite during periods of intense heat, but the causes of vegetative combustion are not yet scientifically understood. Roughly two hundred deaths have been attributed to spontaneous combustion since the 1700s. Explanations range from scientifically reasonable (unobservable natural phenomena) to unabashedly spiritual (direct divine intervention). In each case, a human form is completely consumed by flames while the surrounding area remains unaffected. No external triggers or accelerants are located on the scene, nor can authorities pinpoint a single point of origin on the body. Aside from a few cases of postmortem combustion, investigators tend to conclude that victims were alone and living when the fire erupted. Some speculators believe that spontaneous combustion is directly related to lifestyle factors, such as raised blood alcohol levels or a lack of proper hydration. Others point to a dropped cigarette or abundant (but unobservable) natural gas concentrations as the only possible causes. An autopsy will be performed to pinpoint the Oklahoma man's cause of death. The results may influence scientific speculation on the exact nature of the widely unexplainable phenomenon.

Related Links

- [Spontaneous Combustion Eyed in Oklahoma Man's Death](#)
Spontaneous Combustion Eyed in Oklahoma Man's Death. The first time spontaneous combustion has been considered as a cause of death.
- [Spontaneous combustion looked at as cause of Oklahoma death ...](#)
Did an Oklahoma man die of spontaneous combustion?
- [Danny Vanzandt May Have Died From Spontaneous Human](#)
Spontaneous combustion looked at as cause of Oklahoma death Sheriff says spontaneous combustion may be behind man's death.
- [Extra tests ordered in man's cause of death](#)
Extra tests ordered in man's cause of death in speculated 'spontaneous combustion' fire. [Sheriff Says Man's Death Was Spontaneous Combustion](#)
Sheriff Says Man's Death Was Spontaneous Combustion
- [Okla. puzzle: Possible death by spontaneous combustion](#)
months before they determine whether a 65-year-old man's mysterious death resulted from spontaneous combustion or some other cause.
- [Okla. sheriff said man's death spontaneous combustion](#)
Sheriff Lockhart said he is serious spontaneous human combustion could be the cause of the Sequoyah County man's death.
- [Did Spontaneous Combustion Kill a Man?](#)
There were no signs of a break-in, a struggle or any other cause of death. Spontaneous combustion has long been the stuff of legend.

<http://beforeitsnews.com/strange/2013/02/man-dies-from-spontaneous-combustion-2-videos-2447454.html>

ISRAEL, GALILEE, MARCH 15 2012. FIREWORKS FACTORY EXPLODES IN WESTERN GALILEE >> FIVE INJURED IN BLAST; FIREFIGHTERS WORK TO CONTAIN THE BLAZE

Five people were injured Thursday in an explosion at a fireworks factory in the western Galilee in northern Israel. One person was seriously injured and the rest were moderately injured in the blast. Firefighters were struggling to control the inferno that raged across the industrial zone. Police blocked off traffic to the area, but said the fire posed no risk to nearby residents. A resident of the nearby village of Goren said the blast shattered windows and cracked walls 300 meters (yards) away. "We heard a series of smaller blasts first and thought it was a terrorist attack, since we are so close to the [Lebanese] border. We were told that there was no risk, but I really don't know what type of fumes we're breathing now," said Irit Klehman.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/fireworks-factory-explodes-in-western-galilee/>



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USA, N.C., RALEIGH, MARCH 15 2013. REPORT: CAMP LEJEUNE WATER HIGHLY CONTAMINATED WITH CARCINOGENS

william r. levesque

 **Watch the Video** [Did Camp Lejeune Water Cause Man's Breast Cancer?](#)



For much of Camp Lejeune's history, its drinking water was contaminated by potent carcinogens at levels rarely if ever seen in a large water system, a new federal report shows. A study by scientists at the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry shows vinyl chloride and trichloroethylene (TCE) in water at the North Carolina Marine Corps base reached levels 33 to 153 times higher than what federal regulators today consider safe. These compounds originate from several potential sources, including industrial solvents used at the base. A copy of the report was obtained Thursday by the Tampa Bay Times. When it is publicly released today, it is expected to renew health concerns for the up to 1 million people who lived and worked at Lejeune from 1953 to 1985, when water was polluted. That includes tens of thousands of Floridians. Many of those who drank, bathed and cooked with the fouled water have reported a range of

cancers, from bladder and liver cancers to more than 80 men diagnosed with rare breast cancer. "The findings are dramatic," said Richard Clapp, an epidemiologist who peer-reviewed the study and has advised the scientific agency on Camp Lejeune water issues. "These contaminant levels are extraordinarily high. Camp Lejeune is the most highly contaminated drinking water in the U.S. that I'm aware of. "I think (the report) confirms the concerns people had all along — that this was a highly contaminated water source for lots and lots of people." The Marine Corps would not yet comment. Capt. Kendra Motz, a spokeswoman, said, "I'm unable to comment on a report that has not been officially published by ATSDR." It long has been known Camp Lejeune water was contaminated. But this report draws into sharper focus the scale and intensity of it. "These levels are unprecedented in the history of modern-day drinking water systems," said former Marine drill instructor Jerry Ensminger, whose 9-year-old daughter, Janey, died of leukemia in 1985 that he believes was triggered by this polluted water. "After nearly 16 years of involvement on this issue," Ensminger said, "this report is vindication and validation of what I've said all along." The Corps has previously argued these contaminants were not regulated until the late 1980s and that it closed tainted water wells as soon as contamination was confirmed. But documents show the Corps' own regulations, starting in 1963, barred the use of water with these contaminants, critics say. And other military bases in the 1970s closed wells tainted with "unregulated" solvents, including Willow Grove Naval Air Station and the Warminster Naval Air Warfare Center, both in Pennsylvania. The agency study is a "water model" that estimates contaminant levels at Camp Lejeune based on data from tens of thousands of federal and state documents during periods when water testing wasn't conducted. The model is a reconstruction of contaminant levels, but Clapp said it is "state of the art" and considered highly reliable. This report examines contamination levels at Camp Lejeune's Hadnot Point and Holcomb Boulevard water supply systems. During much of the base's history, they served wide swaths of Camp Lejeune. "Historical reconstruction provide(s) considerable evidence that concentrations of several contaminants of interest in finished water substantially exceeded current" thresholds of what is considered safe, the report said.

The Report Found:

- TCE levels in tap water exceeded safe levels from August 1953 to January 1985 with the highest level, 783 parts per billion, coming in November 1983. The maximum contaminant level of TCE today considered safe by federal regulators is 5 ppb.
- Vinyl chloride, perhaps the most toxic substance found in drinking water, exceeded safe levels from November 1972 to January 1985 with the highest level of 67 ppb coming in November 1985. The maximum safe level for vinyl chloride is 2 ppb.
- Tetrachloroethylene, or PCE, (used in dry cleaning or as a degreaser) exceeded safe levels from August 1974 to January 1985 with the highest reading of 39 ppb in November 1983. The maximum safe level for PCE is 5 ppb.
- Benzene (a fuel component) exceeded safe levels from January 1979 to January 1985 with the highest level found 12 ppb in April 1984. The maximum safe level for benzene is 5 ppb.
- The "most likely date" TCE contamination first exceeded safe levels was August 1953, but could go as far back as 1948 — just seven years after Camp Lejeune opened.



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A municipal water system would typically close off a water source that exceeds the maximum safe levels for any of these contaminants, scientists say. The scientific agency has several health studies under way, including studies of childhood cancer, birth defects and male breast cancer. Former residents of the base have pressed the agency to conduct a cancer incidence study to determine if base residents and workers suffered abnormally high cancer rates. But that will be difficult without legislation to force individual state cancer registries to participate, Ensinger said.

Related Links

- [Report Says NC Base Toxic Water May Date to 1948](#)
- [Contamination at NC Marine base lasted up to 60 years](#)
- [AP NewsBreak: Lejeune toxic water may date to 1948](#)
- [Report: Camp Lejeune water highly contaminated with carcinogens](#)
- [Marine Corps response to NBC Rock Center story](#)
- [Contractor underreported levels of chemicals](#)
- [Congress probes toxic water at Marine base](#)
- [Camp Lejeune water contamination history detailed in documents](#)
- [Camp Lejeune vets suffer from drinking water contamination](#)
- [No evidence Marine Corps conducted critical water test at Camp Lejeune](#)
- [Fed scientists dispute Marine Corps booklet](#)
- [Critics say Marine Corps contract on Camp Lejeune is conflict of interest](#)

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/report-camp-lejeune-water-contaminated-at-unprecedented-levels/2108929>

PAKISTAN, ISLAMABAD, MARCH 16 2013. BYCO REFINERY TOLD TO SEEK INTERNATIONAL SAFETY CERTIFICATE



Staving off pressure from the government's top brass, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) has refused to allow full-fledged operations to Byco's new refinery in the absence of a clearance certificate from an international oil spill control agency to address fears of oil leak.

"If Ogra allows Byco's Single Point Mooring facility to work without being certified from an international agency, and an oil spill occurs, it will pollute the sea, triggering a major scandal," an official told The Express Tribune. Byco Oil Pakistan Limited has recently completed work on the new refinery with a capacity of 120,000 barrels per day situated close to the company's first refinery in Hub, Balochistan. Despite repeated attempts to approach Byco Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Amir Abbassciy, he was not available for comments. Earlier, Byco had been allowed to operate the Single Point Mooring – the first such facility in the

country – for testing purpose and it also handled some crude oil consignments. "Now, Byco has come up with the demand that it should be allowed to run full-fledged operations without seeking a no-objection certificate (NOC) as representatives of the international oil spill control agency are reluctant to visit Pakistan due to poor law and order conditions," the official said. Byco management has assured the government that it will be responsible for any oil spill. But, according to sources, Ogra is unrelenting because of fears of a mishap and wants Byco to obtain NOC from the third party before kicking off regular operations. They cite the case of British Petroleum, which was forced to pay billions of dollars for an accident at its oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico that caused a major oil leak. The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet has allowed Byco to charge Rs0.15 on every litre of petrol to meet the transport cost of crude oil feedstock from tankers discharged at the Single Point Mooring, installed 15 kms into deep sea, to the seashore. Byco management contends that it will be receiving imported crude oil at the Single Point Mooring and will not be causing any additional burden on the exchequer. Initially, Byco Petroleum Pakistan, earlier known as Bosicor Pakistan, had set up an oil refinery with a capacity of 35,000 barrels per day in Hub, which had been working since 2004. Recently, Byco Oil Pakistan established another refinery of a capacity of 120,000 barrels per day close to the first refinery. According to Byco estimates, the project with 40% foreign investment has cost about \$700 million and the Single Point Mooring \$90 million. The ECC, in a meeting held in April 2012, had given tax exemptions to Byco for seven and a half years, despite the fact that the company failed to start the refinery by the scheduled time of December



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2011. The ECC allowed a one-year extension to complete the project. Byco had sought 20-year tax holiday, but it was allowed concessions for only seven and a half years because it was considered a relocated project.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/520914/byco-refinery-told-to-seek-international-safety-certificate/>

USA, LA, ST CHARLES PARISH, NORCO, MARCH 15 2013. WORKER AT MOTIVA REFINERY IN NORCO DIES AFTER PUMPS FALL ON HIM

bob warren

A worker was killed at the [Motiva Refinery](#) in Norco Wednesday when two large cylinders fell on him, authorities and a company official said. Michael Louque, 56, of Grammercy, was pronounced dead at St. Charles Parish Hospital in Luling, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office said. The Sheriff's Office said Louque, who worked for River Parish Maintenance, was loading the equipment onto a flatbed truck when the load shifted and the pumps fell on him. The Sheriff's Office initially said he was loading pumps, but Roger Landry, president of River Parish Maintenance, said it was actually 16-foot-long cylinders that weigh more than 1,000 pounds. The Sheriff's Office said the incident is under investigation. Landry said Louque had worked for the company for more than 32 years. "This is the worst thing we've ever gone through," Landry said, describing the accident and the loss of a longtime worker.

http://www.nola.com/traffic/index.ssf/2013/03/worker_at_motiva_refinery_in_n.html

USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, MARCH 15 2013. CHINESE FIRM PUTS MILLIONS INTO U.S. NATURAL GAS STATIONS

nichola groom



ENN Group Co Ltd, one of China's largest private companies, is quietly rolling out plans to establish a network of [natural gas](#) fueling stations for trucks along U.S. highways. With plans to build 50 stations this year alone, ENN joins a small but formidable group of players including [Clean Energy Fuels Corp](#) and [Royal Dutch Shell](#) in an aggressive push to develop an infrastructure for heavy-duty trucks fueled by cheap and abundant [natural gas](#). Clean Energy is backed by T. Boone Pickens and [Chesapeake Energy Corp](#). The move is yet another example of China's ambition to grab a piece of the U.S. shale gas boom. Just last month, Sinopec Group said it would pay \$1 billion for some of Chesapeake's oil and gas properties in the Mississippi Lime shale. The natural gas bounty is also expected to help wean the U.S. transport industry off its dependence on diesel fuel made from imported crude oil, and the trucking

industry is in a big push to use more of the domestically produced fuel. The potential savings are huge: shippers can save around \$2 a gallon by switching to natural gas from diesel. Nearly half of the garbage trucks sold in the United States last year run on natural gas. They are able to refuel at dedicated stations at their home bases. To convince the far larger market for long-haul trucking to run on natural gas, truckers need to know they can refuel along their highway routes. Enter ENN, led by billionaire energy tycoon Wang Yusuo. The [company](#) has already built natural gas stations in [China](#), which is farther along in its adoption of natural gas trucks.

A Tiny Company in Utah

The average liquefied natural gas station costs around \$1 million to build, according to industry experts, putting ENN's investment this year at about \$50 million. The company's U.S. joint venture would not say how much it plans to spend. Two years ago ENN began looking to put its expertise in natural gas equipment to work in the United States and first approached the top player in U.S. natural gas fueling, Clean Energy, about forming a partnership, according to people familiar with the matter. Clean Energy would not comment. But when they rebuffed ENN, the Chinese firm reached out to a small Utah company, CH4 Energy Corp, which had opened a single LNG and CNG fueling station in Salt Lake City with the help of federal stimulus funds. The deal created Transfuels LLC, which operates as Blu LNG. ENN has a majority stake in the joint venture and controls its board of directors, according to sources familiar with the deal. Merritt Norton, who founded CH4, is Blu's chief executive, while Jun Yang is chairman and also the vice president of ENN Group. Blu LNG's plans are bold and moving quickly. "We have five stations in operation right now, and within I would say two weeks we will have another three stations," Norton said in an interview last week. Eventually, ENN has said it also plans to build LNG plants. A source close to the situation said the company "is just testing the market. You can call it an experiment." As for the secrecy around its plans, the



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source said, "ENN Group is mindful of potential U.S. reaction to its expansion there because it would bring in more competition." Blu had no comment on its ownership structure or the makeup of its board of directors. The company said it was not able to comment on behalf of ENN Group. Efforts to reach ENN Group in China were unsuccessful.

A National Network

Today there are 28 public LNG refueling stations in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. LNG is denser than compressed natural gas, which fuels many buses and garbage trucks. That means trucks require fewer fuel storage tanks to go the same distance. Also, LNG stations are cheaper to build than CNG stations because they do not tap into gas lines. Much like diesel, the liquid fuel is trucked in. The number of stations Blu will open this year is about equal to the 50 to 60 stations Clean Energy is planning. Clean Energy already has 70 LNG stations, though most will only start operating when there are a sufficient number of trucks that need them. Shell has said it plans to build about 100 LNG fueling stations in the United States, but has not given a timeline. Blu's eventual plan is to build about 500 LNG stations in the United States, according to another person familiar with their strategy. When asked about that figure, a Blu spokesman said the company was committed to building a network of fueling stations, but that the exact number would depend on a number of factors. Most of Clean Energy's filling stations are located at truck stops run by Pilot Flying J. Shell said it is in the final stages of negotiations to work with another major U.S. truck stop operator, TravelCenters of America LLC. Blu has no such deal with a national truck stop owner, but is working with some regional players, Norton said, adding that he did not view other players in natural gas as competition. All of the company's current stations are in Utah, but it is expanding throughout the country. Blu has between 50 and 100 employees, Norton said, mostly at its headquarters in Salt Lake, but also in the Midwest, Southeast and Northwest. Blu LNG isn't ENN's first foray into the U.S. market. The company in recent years has announced partnerships with power company [Duke Energy Corp](#) to develop green energy projects, though none have yet been built. It has also been developing a \$5 billion solar farm and manufacturing plant in Nevada for years, though the project still does not have a buyer for its power. The company hopes to have better luck in natural gas. Last month ENN inked a global deal with natural gas engine maker [Westport Innovations](#) to collaborate on efforts to speed the proliferation of natural gas as a transportation fuel. But Westport is not helping ENN with its U.S. LNG stations. "They don't need us," said Husayn Anwar, president of Westport's China business. "They know what they are doing and they have the money for it."

Related Links

- [Why this Chinese Company is Investing in US LNG](#)
- [China Partners with CH4 Energy Corp to Fuel LNG Highway](#)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/14/us-enn-lng-usa-idUSBRE92D09Y20130314>

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, DUBAI, MARCH 15 2013. RTA LAUNCHES AWARENESS INITIATIVE TARGETING DRIVERS OF TRUCKS TRANSPORTING DANGEROUS GOODS

manal khalid



The event is held in coordination with Dubai Civil Defense.

The Monitoring & Enforcement Department, Roads & Transport Authority (RTA), in conjunction with the Dubai Civil Defense, has rolled out an awareness initiative targeting drivers of trucks transporting hazardous materials (petroleum items, gas, lubricant & oil wastes, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials and domestic gas supplies) with the aim of verifying their compliance with safety conditions in place. Abdulla Al Mahra, Acting Director of Monitoring & Enforcement, RTA Licensing Agency, said: "Through a specialist work team, the Department is seeking to undertake a host of initiatives in support of our business such as frequent inspection visits to installations and sites of relevance to our tasks and specific responsibilities. The Dep't is also keen on staging a variety of awareness campaigns and training lectures for these parties in order to identify bottlenecks encountered during the implementation of plans, and figure

out suitable solutions, besides verifying the compliance of these businesses, site facilities and service providers with the applicable systems. "The awareness and inspection events contributed to slashing the rate of traffic offences, where brochures were distributed to drivers of trucks transporting dangerous goods highlighting the key offences related to the trucks used in the transportation of these materials. These covered the soundness of the truck's body, tires, and side mirrors among others



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besides detailing the timing of the ban on the movement of traffic on various roads. "The awareness event, which is being held in conjunction with the Dubai Civil Defence, included visiting around 18 companies specialized in transporting these dangerous goods and carrying out inspection campaigns for about 20 trucks to ensure their compliance with the conditions & criteria in place. It was revealed that 5 trucks were found in breach of the applicable rules and were issued with appropriate fines, and 17 trucks were found compliant with the rules; which is an indicator of the commitment of the concerned bodies to conform to the highest standards of security & safety.

http://www.zawya.com/story/RTA_launches_awareness_initiative_targeting_drivers_of_trucks_transporting_dangerous_goods-ZAWYA20130315070824/

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 15 2013. BAYOU BLAZE STILL BURNING, OIL SPILL CREATES SHEEN

 **Watch the Video** [Oil Spill Blaze Still Burning](#)



The scorching [fire on the bayou](#) that started last night after a tugboat slammed into a pipeline near Lafitte continues to burn Wednesday afternoon. Officials are apparently set to let the Bayou Perot blaze run its course as they begin operations to contain and clean up oil that was spilled in the area, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. The tugboat, owned by Setoon Towing LLC, hit the Chevron-owned pipeline just before 7 p.m. Tuesday, sparking a massive fire that engulfed the tug and the barge it was towing. All of the crew members escaped, but the captain of the tug reportedly sustained second-to-third degree burns. A one mile wide by 75 foot long sheen is visible in the area, but the U.S. Coast Guard did not have information on how much oil was spilled. Containment boom, a skimmer boat and more than five other vessels were deployed to begin the oil cleanup. The pipeline was shut in Tuesday evening, which the Coast Guard

hopes will diminish the oil. The Coast Guard plans to fly over the scene at 1 p.m. Wednesday to assess the extent of the oil spill.

<http://www.noladefender.com/content/bayou-bla23ze-still-bur67ning-oil-spill-creates-sheen>

USA, FLA, ST AUGUSTINE, MARCH 15 2013. STATE TO REFILE CHARGE AGAINST DRIVER IN BP EXPLOSION >> DAVID HUNT COWLES, 61, FACING ONE COUNT OF CULPABLE NEGLIGENCE

stuart korfhage

Criminal charges against the truck driver in the BP gas station explosion in 2011 have been dropped, but the state is expected to refile them. David Hunt Cowles, 61, of Palatka, was facing a second-degree misdemeanor charge of culpable negligence resulting in exposure to injury in the Aug. 19, 2011 explosion. His attorney, Mycki Ratzan, of South Florida, filed a motion to dismiss the charge as legally insufficient. The motion was granted without prejudice by Judge Charles Tinlin on Tuesday. At the time of the explosion, Cowles lived in Fort McCoy. He has since moved to Palatka. Because the dismissal is without prejudice, Tinlin gave the state 20 days to complete amended charging information. There is another pretrial hearing scheduled for May 30. At that time, Cowles will be arraigned on amended information, or the charge could be dismissed again. In her motion to the court, Ratzan describes the state's case against Cowles as "so vague and indistinct to render it fundamentally defective." Tinlin agreed and asked the state to file more specific information. Cowles was driving the fuel truck that delivered about 8,800 gallons of gasoline to the gas station owned by Coomes Oil. There was a leak during the transfer of fuel from Cowles' truck to Coomes Oil's tanks, and there was an explosion. Cowles was the only one seriously injured in the incident, suffering third-degree burns. There was extensive property damage in the fire, which took hours to extinguish. Both Cowles and Coomes Oil have filed lawsuits against each other. The civil cases are at a standstill while the criminal side of things is worked out. Clearly, Ratzan is seeking to end the criminal case before it reaches the trial stage. "There is no allegation that Mr. Cowles violated a known legal duty or that his violation of that duty caused anything," Ratzan's motion says. The state's charging information was filed on July 17. The allegation made by the state is that Cowles did "expose various individuals in and around Coomes Oil and Supply Inc. to personal injury by removing himself from the pump and fuel tanker." The defense — and the judge, for now — find the charge to be too vague. "What that means, why that is reckless indifference or gross disregard for the safety of others and how that exposed various individuals to personal injury is left to speculation and conjecture," the defense motion says. In the civil suit, filed by Stuart Ratzan, Coomes Oil is blamed for the explosion because



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it did not have proper gauges and other equipment in place to prevent an overflow. The complaint filed by Ratzan says Cowles attempted to access the tanker's shutoff valves once he realized there was an overflow. However, the fumes from the spilled fuel ignited before he could stop the pumping.

<http://staugustine.com/news/local-news/2013-03-13/charge-against-truck-driver-bp-explosion-dismissed-state-re-file#.UUOP3hzDCM4>

USA, TX, MIDLAND CO, MARCH 15 2013. OIL SPILL FROM PUMPING UNIT ONTO TX 191 IN MIDLAND COUNTY

dylan brooks

 [Watch the Video Oil Spills from Pumping Unit](#)



Oil from a pumping unit spills over a Midland County road. Midland officials say that a pumping unit malfunctioned just south of TX 191 east of intersection with South County Road 1275 around 11:30 PM Wednesday. Oil and water from the well spilled onto the eastbound service road of TX 191 and the main lanes of TX 191 itself. However, Midland officials say the spilled material posed no danger to the public. Midland firefighters, Midland County Sheriff's deputies and TX-DOT crews rushed to the scene to clean up the spill. Part of the eastbound service road of TX 191 was closed temporarily after the spill as crews got rid of the oil and water.

http://permianbasin360.com/fulltext?nxd_id=256212

AUSTRALIA, A.C.T, CANBERRA, MARCH 15 2013. DRINK DRIVER CRASHES THROUGH PETROL STATION



Police say a man had a blood alcohol reading more than three times the legal limit when his car crashed into a Canberra service station on Wednesday night. Around 10:00pm the 38-year-old disqualified driver lost control of his vehicle when entering the Belconnen petrol station, striking a bowser before crashing into the shopfront. Police say the man returned a blood alcohol reading of 0.169. The man is expected to face the ACT Magistrates Court, where he will be charged with drink driving and driving while disqualified. Nobody was injured in the incident.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/latest/a/-/article/16368102/drink-driver-crashes-through-petrol-station/>

USA, ARK, MAGNOLIA, CORNIE BAYOU, MARCH 15 2013. REFINER DELEK CLEANING UP 5,000-BARREL SPILL IN ARKANSAS BAYOU

bradley olson & christine harvey

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and [Delek US Holdings Inc.](#), a refiner that owns a plant in El Dorado, [Arkansas](#), are working to clean up a 5,000-barrel oil spill about 20 miles north of the Louisiana border. The EPA has removed about 4,200 barrels of crude from the March 9 spill that fouled about three miles of Little Cornie Bayou near Magnolia, Arkansas. Jennah Durant, a spokeswoman for EPA Region 6, said in a telephone interview today. Work to clean up the remaining barrels has been stalled by rain and freezing temperatures, according to an EPA incident report yesterday. The release, more than five times bigger than a 1,000-barrel oil spill in the Yellowstone River caused by a 2011 [Exxon Mobil Corp.](#) pipeline rupture, stems from the failure of a pump that transports crude to an underground transmission line, Durant said. "The recovery crews are still continuing to work to get the rest of it," Durant said. "That should continue this evening and tomorrow as well." The facility where the spill occurred is owned by Delek's logistics unit. The spill has not affected delivery of crude to Brentwood, Tennessee-based Delek's El Dorado refinery and the company can't estimate potential costs or liabilities, according to a



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regulatory filing yesterday. "Based on information currently available to us, we believe these total costs and liabilities will not be material to our operations or financial results," the company said in the filing. Assi Ginzburg, a company spokesman, didn't immediately return a call seeking comment.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-03-13/refiner-delek-cleaning-up-5-000-barrel-spill-in-arkansas-bayou.html>

PHILIPPINES, MANDAUE CITY, LOOC VILLAGE, MARCH 15 2013. NO DANGER OF OIL SPILL, FOR NOW: COAST GUARD

bernadette a. parco & rebelander s. basilan



A cargo vessel about to depart for Masbate tilted before it capsized at around 9:46 in the evening last Monday.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) assured that there is no imminent threat of an oil spill from a barge that capsized off a private wharf in Barangay Looc, Mandaue City last Monday night. PCG Cebu Station Commander Weniell Azcuna said mv Maria Angelica Grace carried 8,000 liters of oil but this is confined in its tank. "There is no immediate threat to the environment right now because the fuel is trapped inside the ship," Azcuna said in a phone interview. The Coast Guard has put oil spill booms around the vessel, whose hull remains visible above the water off Cabahug Wharf, in case the fuel leaks.

Confined

EMB 7 Director Fernando Quililan said in a report to EMB Director Juan Miguel Cuña that spill booms will confine oil that may leak out of the vessel operated by Manila-based Repal Inter-Island Shipping Lines. Azcuna said he told the ship owner in a letter to immediately remove the fuel and retrieve the ship. As of yesterday, the Coast Guard's Oil Response Team siphoned off 160 liters of oil from the ship's vicinity. The Mandaue City Council yesterday adopted a resolution requesting the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to check the cargo vessel and detect any presence of oil spill.

Sample

An EMB 7 team, led by engineer Annabeth Roble, inspected the vessel last Tuesday. Roble said the team took a sample of the oil from the vessel for evidence but another sampling will be made once the barge is taken out of the water. Azcuna said Salvador Repal, the shipping line's owner, has asked three firms capable of salvaging the vessel to submit quotations or cost estimates. The cost will be shouldered by the shipping firm's insurance company, who sent a representative to assess the vessel's damage. "We are not setting any deadline but we are constantly pressuring the owner to remove the vessel as soon as possible," said Azcuna.

Loading

The 416-gross-ton ship was loading cargo at the Cabahug Wharf around 9:45 p.m. last Monday when it lost its balance because of the waves caused by a passing fast craft. The ship, which was loaded with rice and sugar, was supposed to leave for Masbate Province at 11 p.m. All 18 crew members managed to evacuate before the ship capsized. The PCG will investigate whether the ship owner and the crew can be held liable, but Azcuna said the investigation will follow after the retrieval of the fuel and the vessel.

"We are in the process of conducting an investigation but our primary concern is the removal of the fuel," he said. Depending on the result of their investigation, Azcuna said the Coast Guard can recommend for the revocation of the vessel's franchise by the Maritime Industry Authority. They can also recommend for the revocation of the crew's licenses by the Professional Regulatory Commission. Roble said ship captain Wilson Dieta recounted that the vessel was tilted while a van was unloading cargo on the vessel, shortly before the incident.

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/cebu/local-news/2013/03/14/no-danger-oil-spill-now-coast-guard-272832>

INDONESIA, JAKARTA, MARCH 15 2013. JAKARTA POLICE CONCLUDE BALLOON EXPLOSION CASE

Police say they will likely name no suspects and close a case in which 29 people were injured in an explosion of hundreds of balloons last month in West Jakarta. "We have concluded that no suspects will be named related to the accident," Jakarta Police spokesman Sr. Comr. Rikwanto said Wednesday, adding that police had questioned three people in connection with the explosion. "The investigation found that the balloons exploded due to hot weather on the day." The explosion occurred during



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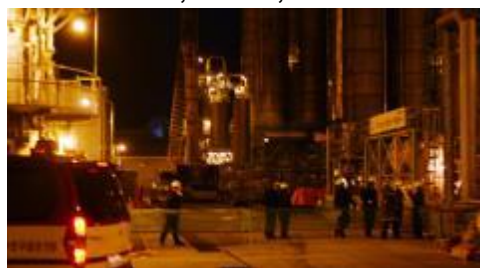
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an event to launch a culinary center in the complex of the private TV station Indosiar. The balloons, intended to be released at the end of the event, suddenly burst into flames and ignited a fire at midday on Feb. 27, eyewitnesses said.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/03/14/jakarta-police-conclude-balloon-explosion-case.html>

SOUTH KOREA, YEOSU, MARCH 15 2013. CHEMICAL PLANT EXPLOSION KILLS 7 IN YEOSU



Firefighters examine the scene after a massive explosion ripped through a chemical plant in Yeosu, South Jeolla Province on Thursday.

A massive explosion at a chemical plant in Yeosu, South Jeolla Province, Thursday left seven workers dead and 13 injured. The explosion took place at a high-density polyethylene plant in the city's industrial complex owned by Daelim Industrial at about 9 p.m. There was a similar explosion that killed one person at the complex in 2003, and the cause of Thursday's incident is thought to be inadequate safety precautions. Police believe that lingering gas in a storage tank reacted with a flammable substance and exploded. A fire broke out after the explosion but was contained in 10 minutes. "Rather than the fire, it

was the shock from the massive explosion that caused the high death toll," police said. Many workers are severely burned, so the number of deaths will likely rise.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2013/03/15/2013031500705.html

USA, MI, ISABELLA TWP, MARCH 15 2013. RACE CAR GAS TANK EXPLODES IN BARN, SPARKING BLAZE

tom plahutnik

A gas tank on a race car has exploded as a crew worked on it in a mid-Michigan barn, sparking a blaze that destroyed the car and damaged the barn. The Morning Sun of Mount Pleasant says no serious injuries were reported following the Wednesday night explosion in Isabella County's Isabella Township, north of Mount Pleasant. Terry Fedewa is a welder who was among the crew taking parts off the car. He says no one noticed until it was too late that there was a leak in the gas tank. The newspaper says a vintage John Deere snowmobile also was destroyed. A total damage estimate wasn't immediately available.

<http://www.wnem.com/story/21640906/race-car-gas-tank-explodes-in-barn-sparking-blaze>

USA, OH, AKRON, MARCH 15 2013. GETGO SOLD CONTAMINATED FUEL AT AREA STATIONS



Giant Eagle GetGo gas station on the corner of Trunko Road and West Market Street in Fairlawn. Giant Eagle announced Thursday that it is promising to compensate motorists who were sold gasoline contaminated with diesel fuel at the Copley and Massillon GetGo locations.

Giant Eagle is promising to compensate motorists who were sold gasoline contaminated with diesel fuel at two GetGo locations earlier this week. The company said its supplier, Bulk Terminal Storage, put the gasoline-diesel fuel mix in tanks reserved for 87 and 89 octane gasoline at the GetGo stations on Medina Road in Copley Township and Lincoln Way East in Massillon. "Giant

Eagle and GetGo apologize for any inconvenience caused by this supply chain error, and the company is working diligently to satisfy its affected customers," a news release said. "GetGo offers the highest quality fuels, and all the fuels sold at GetGo are 100 percent guaranteed." The company said customers may call 800-553-2324 to make claims.

<http://www.ohio.com/news/getgo-sold-contaminated-fuel-at-area-stations-1.381242>

USA, OR, CORVALLIS, MARCH 15 2013. GASOLINE ON BURN PILE SENDS CORVALLIS MAN TO ER

A burn pile explosion sent a man to the emergency room in Corvallis. Firefighters were called out to the 7000 block of Northwest Zinfandel Drive at about 3:30 p.m. Wednesday. They found a gas can still on fire near a burn pile. They put it out and searched the area to make sure nothing else was burning. The man who started the fire said he was using gasoline to ignite a large burn pile consisting of tree limbs and other vegetation. He told firefighters he poured gas on the pile and then continued to pour it several feet away to act as a "trailer" for him to ignite the pile. Investigators said that created a significant amount of flammable vapor. When he lit the fire, the vapors violently ignited, creating an open explosion. He went to the



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hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Firefighters encourage people to recycle or compost vegetation instead of burning it, otherwise follow steps to stay safe. That includes making sure it is an approved burn day, the burn pile is at least 50 feet from any structure and a reliable water supply is nearby. Also, don't leave a burn pile unattended and don't burn if conditions are not favorable, such as high winds. Firefighters said flammable liquids like gasoline should never be used to ignite a burn pile. Instead, use straw, kilning or approved fire starters. Call the Corvallis Fire Department with any questions at 541-766-6903.

<http://www.kptv.com/story/21644957/gasoline-on-burn-pile-sends-corvallis-man-to-er>

SOUTH KOREA, GUMI, MARCH 15 2013. OIL TANK EXPLODES IN CITY GRAPPLING WITH GAS LEAK



A tank at an oil refinery in the southeastern city of Gumi exploded Thursday, with no injuries reported, police and fire officials said. The 200,000-liter tank containing 4,000 liters of bunker C fuel oil at the Kyung Buk Kwang Yu Co. refinery located in Gumi, some 200 kilometers southeast of Seoul, exploded around 8:21 a.m., they said. A small stream runs nearby the refinery, but no oil has been found to have leaked, they added. Over 190 firefighters with the use of 20 fire engines were able to extinguish the blaze in about 30 minutes, they said. The explosion comes just two days after a chlorine gas leak at another chemical factory in Gumi, causing nearly 200 people to receive medical attention.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2013/03/07/25/0302000000AEN20130307002551315F.HTML>

USA, WYO, LARAMIE, MARCH 16 2013. NEW EPA FARM FUEL-TANK REGULATIONS START MAY 10

Those who store fuel, oil, crop oil, hydraulic oil, surfactant, adjuvant and other materials on farms or ranches must comply with EPA-mandated Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plans by May 10. The EPA's new SPCC rule includes requirements for oil spill prevention, preparedness and response to prevent oil discharges to navigable waters and adjoining shorelines.

http://www.thebusinessfarmer.com/v2_news_articles.php?heading=0&page=72&story_id=2311

USA, WYO, WASHINGTON TWP, MARCH 16 2013. WYOMING COUNTY WELL MALFUNCTION CAUSES SPILL, EVACUATION

laura legere



A Wyoming County gas well run by Carrizo Oil and Gas shoots wastewater into the air Thursday.

Three Wyoming County families near a malfunctioning natural gas well were evacuated Wednesday night and Thursday as thousands of gallons of fluid waste escaped from the well before crews could shut it down. The Marcellus Shale well on Carrizo Oil and Gas' Yarasavage pad off Keiserville Road began malfunctioning during a fracking operation at around 6 p.m. Wednesday, Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman Colleen Connolly said. The problem worsened overnight when natural gas was detected leaking from the well and the salty, chemically treated wastewater flowed out at a rate that peaked at around 800 gallons per minute before subsiding, according to the company and regulators. Gas company and specialty well control crews regained control of

the well by early Thursday and had it capped by the afternoon. About 5,400 barrels, or 227,000 gallons, of the fluid was captured in tanks and trucked off site, Ms. Connolly said. Some of the fluid ran off the pad but crews built a temporary catch basin across the road to contain it, she said. Four families within 1,500 feet of the well site were asked to evacuate on Wednesday night because officials were concerned that as the fluid in the well was released to the surface, gas would blow out behind it. "Fortunately, we had the outcome we were looking for," Ms. Connolly said. "There was no major gas buildup, no explosion, no large flare off. Now we need to find out why this happened and what can be done to prevent it from happening



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again." No was injured in the incident. The three families that evacuated to hotels were invited to return by Thursday afternoon. A fourth landowner did not evacuate. Carrizo is offering bottled water to families within 1,500 feet of the well and will return to the homes today to test their drinking water supplies, although there is no specific indication of contamination, Ms. Connolly said. "The safety of our employees, community residents and stakeholders is our first priority," Carrizo said in a statement. "This is an unfortunate incident and we will apply the experience gained to the continuous improvement of our future operations." The problem started while crews were in the 23rd stage of fracking, or hydraulically fracturing, the Yarasavage 1H well, a process of injecting chemically treated water and sand underground at high pressure to crack the gas-bearing shale. The malfunction might have been caused by a flange at the wellhead but the exact cause is unclear. Officials with the county and state emergency management agencies responded to the incident along with Carrizo, its contractors, first responders and environmental regulators. Keiserville Road was closed at both ends to most traffic on Thursday and dozens of trucks traveled to and from the site. Shortly before noon, a brief burst of vapor shot high into the air from the hillside well and stopped. County EMA director Eugene Dziak said the public was not in any danger. "We've been monitoring the air all night long," he said. "There has been no release of gas to the atmosphere." DEP crews found no detections of volatile chemicals or methane in the air during a sweep of a mile-and-a-half-wide circle around the well. Officials also detected no or very low levels of radiation in the fluid that flowed out of the well, Ms. Connolly said. Carrizo notified emergency officials of the problem in a timely way, as required, which aided the response, she said. "There have to be systems in place to collect the flow back water at a certain pace," she said. "Since this started to flow back so fast, they couldn't get control of it until this morning." The department will continue to investigate the cause of the incident and any soil or water impacts, and eventually determine whether to fine the company, she said. Houston-based Carrizo has drilled 85 shale gas wells in Pennsylvania, according to DEP records. Thirty of them are in Wyoming County.

<http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/wyoming-county-well-malfunction-causes-spill-evacuation-1.1458575>

USA, WA, SEATTLE, MARCH 16 2013. SALAZAR ON ARCTIC DRILLING: 'SHELL SCREWED UP IN 2012'



kim murphy The Kulluk rig drilling the "top hole" of an exploratory well in the Beaufort Sea before grounding in southern Alaska.

Federal regulators said Thursday they would not allow [Royal Dutch Shell](#) to resume exploratory drilling off the coast of Alaska until the company comes up with a detailed operations program and management plan for operating in the Arctic to head off the mishaps that plagued the company's debut drilling season in 2012. "Shell screwed up in 2012, and we're not going to let them screw up whenever they [resume] ... unless they have these systems in place," Interior Secretary [Ken Salazar](#) said after a [new report](#) found that Shell's contractors were repeatedly ill-prepared to meet the demands of operating in the harsh Arctic environment. "Before Shell is allowed to move forward, they're going to have to show to the Department of Interior that they have met the standards that have been required," Salazar said. Although Shell has spent nearly \$5 billion

preparing to drill in the oil and gas-rich Chukchi and Beaufort seas — the most promising oil reserves in the U.S., outside the Gulf of Mexico — the company was unable to fully drill a single well during its initial season. Shell already had announced that it would not resume offshore Alaska drilling until at least 2014. Salazar said the company would be required to submit a comprehensive plan describing each phase of its operations, from preparations through demobilization. The department will also require a full, third-party management system audit to ensure the company's systems are "appropriately tailored for Arctic conditions." Most of the problems identified in the report were because of Shell's reliance on contractors, many of them without Arctic expertise, and Shell's failure to step in before serious problems had already begun to multiply, according to the report that was prepared on Salazar's orders and overseen by Tommy Beaudreau, director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. "Working in the Arctic requires thorough advance planning and preparation, rigorous management focus, a close watch over contractors, and reliance on experienced, specialized operators who are familiar with the uniquely challenging conditions of the Alaskan offshore," Beaudreau said. "In some areas Shell performed well, but in other areas they did not, and Alaska's harsh environment was unforgiving." The grounding of Shell's Kulluk drilling rig during high winds and heavy seas in the Gulf of Alaska was the most heavily publicized incident in a season plagued with misadventures. Shell's second drilling rig, the Noble Discoverer, drifted and came within 100 yards of grounding in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, the report



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said, because of contractor Noble Corp.'s use of "only the minimum amount of anchor chain" and failure to have a contingency plan for bad weather. The same rig was cited for 16 deficiencies by [U.S. Coast Guard](#) officials on its way back from the Arctic, including "substantial" problems with its main engine, unauthorized piping and equipment modifications, and a failure to adhere to the vessel's safety management system. They were so serious that the Coast Guard ordered the vessel to remain in port until they were fixed, "which only occurs as a result of approximately 1% of USCG foreign vessel safety examinations," the report said. [Interior Department](#) regulators did credit Shell for its sophisticated ice management program, which allowed operators to forecast the impending arrival of a formidable ice floe in the Chukchi Sea and break off drilling operations in time to avoid it. The report also said Shell successfully coordinated with Alaska Native groups to prevent harmful effects on subsistence hunting. The company significantly delayed its operations in the Beaufort Sea to remain clear of the annual bowhead whale migration. "We appreciate the Department of Interior's review of Shell's 2012 Alaska operations and take seriously the findings and recommendations that are highlighted within. We also appreciate the recognition of Shell's successes in Alaska and the commitment we have made to setting a high bar for Arctic exploration," Shell spokesman Curtis Smith said. Conservation groups said this year's problems highlighted the federal government's own failure to put adequate regulation and oversight in place. Niel Lawrence of the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#) said the Interior Department promised "very high standards" for the Arctic last year. "But those standards did not head off an astonishing series of misadventures," he said. "This looks to us like putting a Band-Aid on a life-threatening problem. Instead of focusing simply on how to have oil giants drill better in the Arctic Ocean, Interior needs to look at whether they should be there at all."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/nationnow/la-na-shell-arctic-interior-report-20130314,0,1315294.story>

USA, MI, KALAMAZOO, MARCH 16 2013. EPA ORDERS ENBRIDGE TO DO ADDITIONAL DREDGING IN KALAMAZOO RIVER TO CLEAN UP OIL FROM 2010 SPILL

rex hall jr.



In this file photo, cleanup crews work in the Kalamazoo River near the Ceresco Dam to remove oil from the 2010 spill.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is ordering Enbridge Inc. to do additional dredging in the Kalamazoo River to clean up oil from [a massive 2010 spill](#). The order, which came down Thursday, requires Enbridge to do the dredging in sections of the river above Ceresco Dam near Battle Creek and in Morrow Lake in Comstock Township. The order comes more than two years after a 30-inch pipeline owned by Enbridge ruptured near Marshall and then traveled about 35 miles downstream before being contained. The EPA has said previously that work crews removed 1.1 million gallons of oil and 200,000 cubic yards of oil-contaminated sediment and debris from the river following the July 26, 2010, spill. Despite those efforts, EPA officials said Thursday that the

agency "has repeatedly documented the presence of recoverable submerged oil in the sections of the river identified in the order and has determined that submerged oil in these areas can be recovered by dredging," according to an EPA news release. "The dredging activity required by EPA's order will prevent submerged oil from migrating to downstream areas where it will be more difficult or impossible to recover," EPA officials said. EPA officials said Enbridge has five days to respond to the order and 15 days to provide the EPA with a work plan for the dredging. In addition to the dredging, the order also requires Enbridge to "maintain sediment traps throughout the river to capture oil outside the dredge areas," according to the news release. "I am glad EPA is ordering Enbridge to do additional dredging to remove the submerged oil that they left in the Kalamazoo River," U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said in a statement issued Thursday. "It has been nearly three years since about a million gallons were released into the river, and EPA should continue to press Enbridge to promptly finish the remainder of the cleanup, including removal of all contaminated sediments. Enbridge needs to take full responsibility for ensuring that public health is protected and the disastrous mess they created is fully cleaned up." The dredging is expected to begin this spring and isn't expected to lead to any closures of the river, officials said.

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2013/03/epa_orders_enbridge_to_do_addi.html



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