



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2014 – 1,063 Newsy Stuff

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USA, TN, MCEWEN, APRIL 17 2014. EXPLOSION AT TENNESSEE AMMUNITION FACTORY KILLS ONE, INJURES THREE OTHERS

nina golgowski

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Explosion, Fire at Tennessee Plant Kills 1, Injures 3](#)
- [Plant Explosion](#)

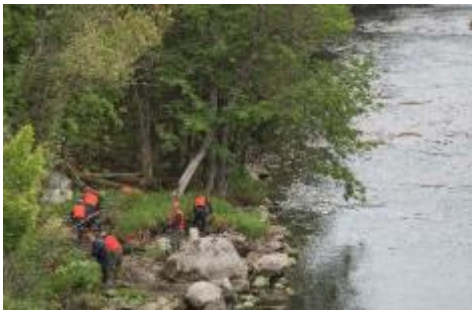


The blast at the Rio Ammunition plant in McEwen killed one man, left another in critical condition and a third man and woman in stable condition, according to a hospital spokesman. The factory produces a range of law enforcement and civilian ammunition, according to their website. One person was killed and three others hospitalized when an explosion ripped through a Tennessee ammunition factory Wednesday, according to officials. The back of the Rio Ammunition plant in McEwen blew out around 4 p.m., sending at least two LifeFlight helicopters to the scene, WKRN reported. The explosion, approximately 55 miles west of Nashville, killed one man, left another in critical condition and a third man and woman in stable condition, according to Vanderbilt University Medical Center spokesman, Craig Boerner. Boerner said their injuries are consistent with an

explosion and he doesn't expect their conditions to change over night. The cause of the explosion wasn't immediately known. Odell Poyner, director of the Humphreys County Emergency Management Agency, [told the Tennessean](#) that there were 10 to 12 people at the building when the explosion occurred. He described the blast as having "pretty much destroyed the building" before leaving brush fire in the surrounding area. The factory produces a range of law enforcement and civilian ammunition. Their parent company, MAXAM, supplies civil, military and sparking markets with ammunition, according to their website. A call to the factory and the EMA for comment was not immediately returned.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/explosion-tenn-ammunition-factory-injures-4-report-article-1.1758901>

CANADA, QC, LAC-MÉGANTIC, SEPTEMBER 17 2014. THAW STIRS UP OIL SPILLED IN LAC-MÉGANTIC DERAILEMENT



Workers remove soil from the shore of the Chaudière River in Lac-Mégantic in August. Residents and teams from Quebec's environment department have seen oil sheens on the surface of the river in the past week.

The spring thaw has stirred up crude oil in the Chaudière River that spilled in the Lac-Mégantic derailment last summer, prompting two towns along the river to use alternate sources of drinking water. Residents and teams from Quebec's environment department have seen oil sheens on the surface of the river in the past week, as warm weather and rain have melted ice and raised the level of the river, which starts at Lac-Mégantic and travels 185 kilometres downstream to the St. Lawrence River. The Chaudière has flooded several towns in the Beauce region south of Quebec City in recent days. People in Beauceville have reported smelling oil along the river. Environment department employees flying

over the river have seen oil sheens in certain locations, mainly near Lac-Mégantic itself, spokesperson Frédéric Fournier said Wednesday. Oil was also detected in water samples taken from the river since April 8, but analysis showed it does not exceed safe limits, Fournier said. The oil sheen was also observed near Vallée-Jonction, about 120 kilometres from Lac-Mégantic. Fournier said that oil likely entered the river when four garages, including two service stations, were flooded in nearby Beauceville. Environment department teams are doing water sampling to determine if the oil in the water came from those service stations or if it is the crude oil spilled in Lac-Mégantic. The towns of St-Georges and Ste-Marie are using alternate sources for drinking water. The two towns had to use alternate sources for more than two months after the train derailment last summer, because of the oil that had spilled into the river. Ste-Marie Mayor Gaétan Vachon said the town decided Sunday to use another source for its drinking water. "When the ice started to move, and the water level went up, we thought it was the right thing to do, given what happened at Lac-Mégantic last summer," he said Wednesday. "With the hydrocarbons that are at the bottom of the river, we wanted to be careful." Downtown Ste-Marie was completely flooded Wednesday, he said. But Vachon said he hasn't heard of anyone smelling or seeing evidence of oil in the river there. He said he doesn't believe the fact



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that the oil is moving in the river will pose a risk to his town of 13,500 people. "The government is following the situation very closely, and we'll also continue to do tests," he said. Environment department teams working along the Chaudière are collecting water samples to determine what impact the spring thaw has had on the oil that remains in the river after last fall's cleanup operations, Fournier said. The government has said a report on the state of the Chaudière River will be made public in May. While the results of drinking-water samples taken at St-Georges, Ste-Marie and Lévis — all more than 85 kilometres downstream from Lac-Mégantic — were made public last year, the only results made public for the first 85 kilometres of the river were three drinking-water samples taken in September and October. Nearly six million litres of oil spilled July 6, when a runaway oil train derailed and exploded in Lac-Mégantic, killing 47 people. The environment ministry estimates 100,000 litres of oil spilled into the Chaudière, a figure that has been disputed by the Société pour vaincre la pollution (SVP), an environmental group that has done its own sampling of water and sediment from the river. It estimates as much as 300,000 litres of crude oil entered the river. Daniel Green, of SVP, said his group had repeatedly warned the government that the movement of the river water during the spring thaw would stir up the oil that had settled on the riverbed. Since the derailment, more than 49 million litres of oily water have been pumped from the lake and river, according to the environment department.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Thaw+stirs+spilled+Mégantic+derailment/9745530/story.html>

CHINA, JIANGSU PROVINCE, RUGAO, APRIL 17 2014. CHEMICAL PLANT EXPLOSION IN CHINA KILLS AT LEAST FIVE

 **Photo's [4]** [Chemical Plant Explosion in China Kills at Least 5](#)



The explosion of a chemical plant and subsequent fire killed at least five people in the city of Rugao, in China's eastern Jiangsu Province, on April 16, according to official reports. Two loud explosions sounded at around 10 a.m., issuing from the machine shop of a chemical plant that produces stearic acid in Rugao City, according to the official local newspaper Jianghai Evening News. The fire was controlled at around 11 a.m, though rescue activities continue into the evening. At least 5 were found dead and 12 hospitalized, reports said. Three people were missing. The final death toll has not been made public. "Bang! It was so loud. I thought it was a military exercise! And then I saw fire in the sky!" said a local resident who lives near the plant, [in an interview with](#) the U.S.-based Sound of Hope radio. "The doors and windows shook." [Photos from China News](#), an official website, show heavy black smoke and large fires emanating from the plant, with part of the building collapsed. An irritating odor filled the air, the report said. Bodies were moved with a forklift. Reports said that 20 ambulances were dispatched; police are still investigating the cause of the explosion. The burnt plant belongs a large private manufacturer in Rugao City, called Shuangma Chemical, which launched in 1997. It [mainly produces](#) stearic acid, glycerin, palm wax. Similar production safety accidents have been often reported in China's chemical factories in recent years. Last week, an explosion took place at a resin plant of Hengtong Chemical company in eastern China's Shandong Province. A chlorine gas leak took place there in 2011, poisoning 125 people. [On Dec. 29 last year](#), three people were killed in a chemical plant in Linxi City of Shandong Province, after several barrels of hydrogen peroxide exploded.

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/624341-chemical-plant-explosion-in-china-kills-at-least-five/?photo=2>

PUERTO RICO SAN JUAN, APRIL 17 2014. PUERTO RICO PROBES OIL SPILL IN POPULAR LAGOON

Authorities in Puerto Rico are investigating who caused a diesel spill they say has contaminated a popular lagoon in the U.S. territory's capital. Officials are advising people not to bathe in the Condado Lagoon in San Juan. The lagoon was one of the locations used for an Ironman triathlete event over the past weekend. It is also a popular spot for swimmers, kayakers and standup paddle boarders. Authorities said the spill apparently occurred late Tuesday. It is unclear how many gallons of diesel were spilled. The lagoon is part of the San Juan Bay Estuary.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=11239586&ref=rss



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USA, MA, NORTH ATTLEBORO, APRIL 17 2014. NORTH ATTLEBORO GAS STATION IS CLOSED AFTER MISHAP

The Gulf gasoline station/convenience store on Draper Avenue was shut down Tuesday night after a fire suppression system went off for an unknown reason, showering the station with a white chemical powder. The incident was reported just before 10 p.m. A woman pumping gas at the time was dusted with the powder, but declined medical treatment, Fire Capt. Ronald Meyer said. The town's health inspector was called to the scene. "A little powder went into the store when the manager ran out to see if the girl was OK," Meyer said. A cleaning company was expected to arrive early this morning.

http://www.thesunchronicle.com/news/local_news/na-gas-station-is-closed-after-mishap/article_4e5ec159-b280-5c98-9a9a-f4a1e211e7d0.html

CANADA, NUNAVUT, APRIL 17 2014. NUNAVUT FUEL SPILLS ARE DOWN, BUT ACCIDENTS STILL HAPPEN



In 2011, 87,000 litres of gasoline spilled from the tank farm in Resolute, Nunavut. Over a million litres of fuel have been spilled in the territory since its creation in 1999. Reports show that about 100,000 litres of oil spill every year in Nunavut, with the highest number of spills in Iqaluit. Since the territory was created in 1999, more than one million litres of oil and gas have been spilled in Nunavut, according to the Hazardous Materials Spill Database. Some spills happen in the

summer, when oil is offloaded from boats to giant tanks where it's stored for the winter. Others happen closer to home, as fuel tanks are refilled with home heating fuel. "The more handling of the product, the more chances there are of spills," said Robert Eno, Nunavut's director of environmental protection. Overall, spills have dropped significantly since the 1970s, when for several years in a row, spills of between 300,000 and 700,000 litres were reported. "The trend is generally downwards, but every once in a while we'll get a blip," said Eno. For example, in 2007, about 150,000 litres of oil spilled from a broken fuel line at an unmanned North Warning System site on Brevoort Island. Four years later, a crack in a containment berm led to another spill there of about 14,000 litres of jet fuel that leaked into the mouth of Cumberland Sound. In 2011, [about 87,000 litres of gasoline spilled out of the tank farm in Resolute](#), partly due to holes in the berm liner. Most spills involve diesel, a heating oil for furnaces. Most happen around spring time.

Small Spills Preventable

Eno said many spills are preventable with routine maintenance. "A lot of our heating oil tanks spills are because the tanks are rusting out. They've been around for too long. We get some because of trucks backing into heating oil tanks or because fuel lines are breaking." Eno reminds people to check their home heating fuel tanks regularly. Nunatta Environmental Services helps clean up fuel spills. Axel Have is the chairman of the board of directors. "It's nasty stuff. If you don't clean it up, the kids are going to step in it, bring it in the house," said Have. "As time goes on it'll leach away from the house. It'll get into creeks which end up in the ocean. It'll affect aquatic life." All spills of more than 100 litres on land and 5 litres on ice must be reported, but Officials encourage people to report any spill so it can be cleaned up as soon as possible. When it comes to the cost of clean-ups, the law says the polluter pays.

Related Stories

- [Environmental effects of Resolute Bay fuel spill unknown](#)
- [Report shows Resolute tank farm's spill liner faulty](#)
- [Nunavut fuel spill due to mechanical error](#)
- [Broken fuel line blamed for Brevoort Island spill](#)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/nunavut-fuel-spills-are-down-but-accidents-still-happen-1.2612118>

USA, MN, ST. PAUL, APRIL 18 2014. ETHANOL PLANT AT BUFFALO LAKE CITED

The ethanol plant in Buffalo Lake formerly owned by Minnesota Energy is in the process of correcting water and air quality permit violations, and must pay a \$10,000 civil penalty, according to an agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). In October 2012, Renville County officials reported a "white discoloration" in a section of Judicial Ditch 15 downstream from the plant. An MPCA inspection revealed that contaminated stormwater and cooling tower wastewater had been discharged to the ground, causing a storm pond to overflow, and eventually flowing to Judicial Ditch 15. The inspection also noted that the plant had failed to meet permit requirements for observing discharge limits, monitoring, and reporting. Minnesota Energy is a cooperative previously permitted to produce up to 23.5 million gallons of ethanol per year. In June 2012 it licensed operation of the plant to Purified Renewable Energy, and transferred ownership in November 2012. Purified Renewable Energy has since filed for bankruptcy. The plant is now owned by Buffalo Lake Advanced Biofuels, LLC, which is



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now responsible for the remaining corrective actions. The penalty and cleanup are part of a stipulation agreement between Minnesota Energy and the MPCA. This type of agreement is one of the tools the agency uses to achieve compliance with environmental laws. When calculating penalties, the MPCA takes into account how seriously the violation affected the environment, whether it was a first-time or repeat violation, and how promptly the violation was reported to appropriate authorities. The agency also attempts to recover the calculated economic benefit gained by failure to comply with environmental laws in a timely manner.

<http://www.kduz.com/2014/04/17/ethanol-plant-at-buffalo-lake-cited/>

USA, WYO, SINCLAIR, APRIL 18 2014. OSHA PROPOSES \$210,000 IN FINES FOR SINCLAIR REFINERY



The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services (DWS) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited Salt Lake City-based Sinclair Oil for seven violations stemming from a September 2013 incident at the Sinclair Refinery in Sinclair, Wyoming. An OSHA inspection following the September 27, 2013 explosion and subsequent fire resulted in seven citations and proposed penalties totaling \$201,000. No injuries occurred as a result of the incident. "The OSHA investigation revealed a variety of violations present that could have been prevented if the required internal inspections had been conducted and the necessary safety procedures had been followed," said Director of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services Joan Evans. "Every employer has a duty to ensure a healthy and safe working environment. Sinclair has several health and safety related projects and improvements in process. We look forward to the long-

term resolution of these issues." Monetary penalties go entirely to the local school district where the violations occurred. The OSHA investigation found that an explosion and subsequent fire occurred at Sinclair Refinery's #4 Hydro-Desulphurization (4HDS) Unit within the Hydrocracker Complex on Friday, September 27, 2013, at 10:10 p.m. Hydrogen embrittlement of a carbon steel control valve in the 4HDS Unit caused a leak of hydrogen which ignited. Hydrogen embrittlement is the process by which various metals become fatigued, brittle and fracture following exposure to hydrogen. The source of ignition is unknown. As a result, the control valve had deteriorated from the inside-out and caused the leak and subsequent explosion. The following citations were issued by OSHA as a result of the September 27 incident:

Willful Violations

During the inspection, OSHA found conditions that merit two willful violations. A willful violation is defined as a situation in which the employer either knowingly failed to comply with a legal requirement (purposeful disregard) or acted with plain indifference to employee safety. Violations in the willful category total \$140,000 in fines. The inspection found:

- Citation 2-1: Adequate quality assurance review, which helps ensure the proper use of materials in construction and appropriate installation procedures, had not been performed for the flow control valve assembly. The valve was found to be carbon steel and was not suitable for the 4HDS unit.
- Citation 2-2: Required inspection and testing of a corrosion-prone piping loop within the 4HDS unit had not been adequately performed. Repeat citation.

Repeat Serious Violations

The inspection found a condition that merits one repeat serious violation. A repeat serious violation exists when the workplace hazard has been cited previously for the same or a substantially similar condition and could cause an accident or illness that would most likely result in death or serious physical harm. This violation carries a \$35,000 fine.

- Citation 3-1: A process hazard analysis, a careful review of what could go wrong and what safeguards must be implemented to prevent releases of hazardous chemicals, had not been performed to specifically address the consequences of failure of engineering and administrative controls within the required time period on the 4HDS Unit.

Serious Violations

The inspection found conditions that merit four serious violations. A serious violation could cause an accident or illness that would most likely result in death or serious physical harm. Violations in the serious category total \$26,000 in fines.

- Citation 1-1: Adequate emergency response radio communication protocols were not properly in place at the time of the incident.



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- Citation 4-1: A process hazard analysis, a careful review of what could go wrong and what safeguards must be implemented to prevent releases of hazardous chemicals, had not been performed to specifically address the hazards present in the 4HDS process within the required time period.
- Citation 4-2: A pre-start up safety review, a full evaluation of initial start up procedures and normal operating procedures to ensure a safe transfer into the normal operating mode, was not adequately performed within the required time period.
- Citation 4-3: Initial air quality monitoring was not conducted immediately following the explosion.

Previous citations issued by Wyoming OSHA can be found on the establishment search page on the U.S. Department of Labor OSHA website. Pursuant to federal law, Sinclair Refinery has 15 days from receipt of the citations and penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA, or contest the citations and proposed penalties before the Wyoming Occupational Safety and Health Commission.

<http://www.kgwn.tv/home/headlines/Wyoming-OSHA--255533401.html?ref=401>

CANADA, P.E.I., RUSTIC, APRIL 17 2014. OIL LEAK AT SOUTH RUSTICO SCHOOL CREATES CLEANUP WOES >> FROST HEAVE SUSPECTED TO HAVE SNAPPED LINE AT ÉCOLE ST-AUGUSTIN



An oil leak at the French school in South Rustico has meant a lengthy cleanup ... and a big hole.

An oil leak at École St-Augustin in South Rustico three weeks ago is causing cleanup problems for the P.E.I. French Language School Board. The leak in the line to the outdoor tank occurred on March 31 and cleanup efforts have been taking place ever since. "We have got an environmental engineering firm who

specializes in these types of clean ups who's co-ordinating the work there at the present time," said Brad Samson, the board's director of administration and finance services. "The fuel tank has the capacity of 9,100 litres. It wasn't all lost. We still had about half a tank when we noticed. So we are assuming that it was full at the outset. We do know that we did have a fuel delivery on March 28, so we would be assuming that the tank was topped up at that time." There is quite a mess outside as digging takes place, said Samson. But only one class had to be relocated. It was moved to the library in the school. There are some fumes and as a precaution, an air extractor has been installed in that classroom to ensure the odours don't spread. An environmental engineering firm is taking care of the oil leak at the school, says school principal Sylvain Gagné. (CBC) "For the most part, we don't smell anything, said school principal Sylvain Gagné. Officials are not sure what caused the line to break, but they suspect the fluctuating mild and cold temperatures played a role. "Our most educated guess at this point is that there would have been some frost heave at the base of the oil tank, which would have caused a shift in the tank and snapped the line, said Gagné. School board officials say at this point they're not sure how much longer crews will need to there, or how much the cleanup is ultimately going to cost. They do expect it will be covered by insurance. The board says all its schools have outdoor tanks. Before it installs a new permanent one at École St-Augustin it plans to assess the setup there to see if there is any way to avoid another leak in the future.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/oil-leak-at-south-rustico-school-creates-cleanup-woes-1.2614016>

USA, N.J, WANTAGE, APRIL 18 2014. PROPANE TANKER OVERTURNS IN SUSSEX COUNTY, CLOSES ROUTE 23



A propane tanker truck overturned, took down two poles, and is likely to cause some headaches on Route 23 this morning – and perhaps into the afternoon. No injuries or fire are reported after the crash, which happened at 9:58 a.m., said Trooper Jeff Flynn of the New Jersey State Police. But Route 23 is closed off in both directions – and is likely to remain so for some undetermined amount of time while the tanker is cleared off the road, the trooper added. The propane tank lost control and overturned at the intersection of County Road 519 and Route 23, bringing down two electrical poles with it, Flynn said. However, wires are off the roadway, and JCP&L has been called to assist at the scene, he added. The

propane tank on the trailer was fully loaded, and local fire departments have responded for precautionary measures, Flynn said.

http://www.nj.com/sussex-county/index.ssf/2014/04/propane_tanker_overturns_in_sussex_county_closes_route_23.html



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USA, TX, AUSTIN, APRIL 18 2014. STATE LEGISLATORS CONSIDER NEW REGULATIONS ON AMMONIUM NITRATE STORAGE



Piles of rubble, such as the remains of this house on Jerry Mashek Drive, still exist a year after the fertilizer plant explosion in West. New regulations for ammonium nitrate storage are being considered to prevent any future incidents.

As a result of a fertilizer plant explosion in West exactly one year ago, state politicians are considering new regulations for ammonium nitrate storage in fireproof bins or by installing fire sprinklers. Ammonium nitrate is often used in agriculture as a high-nitrogen fertilizer. When exposed to heat, the chemical becomes explosive. Investigators confirmed ammonium nitrate as the material that exploded in West. The State House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety heard recommendations from several state agencies and officials Monday. State Rep. Joe Pickett, D-El Paso, who is also chairman of the committee, said he asked state agencies to work together to form testimonies and recommendations to the committee. "The goal is to give some direction, with [the committee] support to the state agencies on coming up with a very specific plan for West," Pickett said. "We will be looking at how to go forward and try to keep these situations from happening in the future." Pickett said he would like to draft legislation by the end of this summer for the 84th Texas State Legislature commencing in January. However, Pickett said he did not necessarily want to file legislation to initiate a statewide fire code but, rather, wants narrow legislation on the issue. State Fire Marshal Chris Connealy said there are nearly 100 ammonium nitrate facilities in the state. Connealy said approximately half of those facilities store ammonium nitrate in wooden, flammable buildings similar to the West Fertilizer Co. facility. "We have to keep fire away from ammonium nitrate," Connealy said. "If you want to keep ammonium nitrate in a combustible facility, you need to put fire sprinklers in there." Connealy said investigators still don't know the cause of the initial fire. For rural areas, it is more difficult to implement sprinklers within facilities because these facilities typically don't have water distribution systems, according to Connealy, who said the best way to prevent another explosion is to isolate the ammonium nitrate by storing it in a noncombustible bin made of concrete, stone or metal, and keeping vegetation away from it. "Ammonium nitrate is pretty stable in its normal state, and as long as you keep fire and those things that could catch on fire away from it so it doesn't travel and get to that bin, you've largely fixed the problem," Connealy said. Connealy said he recommended that agricultural businesses be given a three-year time frame to comply and accumulate funds to pay for the equipment. Williamson County Grain in Taylor, Texas once delivered and stored ammonia nitrate but stopped doing so in July because of the West explosion, according to manager Joe Mueck. The facility is near a school, which is part of a greater residential area. Pickett said he worries people will stop working to regulate ammonium nitrate storage in the future. "I think that is our responsibility and our duty," Pickett said. "Knowing this committee and the makeup of this committee, I think we've got enough people here that can give us a perspective to do something that makes sense and keep the business acumen alive."

Related Stories [Chemical Safety Board Plans Public Hearing on TX Fertilizer Explosion](http://www.dailytexanonline.com/news/2014/04/17/state-legislatures-consider-new-regulations-on-ammonium-nitrate-storage)

<http://www.dailytexanonline.com/news/2014/04/17/state-legislatures-consider-new-regulations-on-ammonium-nitrate-storage>

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, CARONI, APRIL 18 2014. TANKER MISHAP CAUSES MASSIVE TRAFFIC JAM

susan mohammed



Crude Crash: A fire officer looks at the smashed truck carrying crude oil that collided with a Toyota Vigo Hilux, yesterday, on the Uriah Butler Highway close to the Caroni Bird Sanctuary. As a result of the accident, the Minister of Works along with the Minister of National Security, the acting Commissioner of Police and the commander of the National Operations Centre (NOC) collectively advised that the Priority Bus Route be opened to all east-bound traffic in the evening. The opening of the PBR was to alleviate the back-up due to the impact of the accident which took place in the morning.

It was a traffic nightmare yesterday for motorists using the major roads between South and North Trinidad as they were stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic for some five hours after a tanker carrying crude oil crashed into a vehicle and



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overturned along the Uriah Butler Highway (UBH) near Caroni. The collision occurred at around 10.30 a.m. and commuters along the Solomon Hochoy Highway, UBH, and Churchill-Roosevelt Highway were caught in almost standstill traffic during peak hours as authorities struggled to clean up and remove the wrecks. Police said the tanker truck, driven by Rajendra Maharaj, of Mendez Village, Siparia, was proceeding north along the middle of the three-lane highway when in the vicinity of Guayamare, a tyre to the front of the truck blew out. The truck slid into the right lane and collided with a Toyota Vigo Hilux, driven by Nazir Mohammed, of Valsayn. The truck overturned and came to a stop across the south-bound lanes, the Express was told. Maharaj was said to be seriously injured, and was taken to hospital for treatment. Mohammed and his passenger were also taken to hospital. Police officers of the Highway Patrol Unit in Freeport and officers of the Chaguanas Police Station responded and cordoned off the crash site, directing motorists to use the shoulder to keep traffic moving. And as motorists along the north-bound lane stopped or slowed to capture images of the crashed vehicles, police officers distributed 25 tickets to offenders using a hand-held device whilst driving. Officers of the Chaguanas Fire Station were called in to clean the roadway. Traffic remained gridlocked until around 1 p.m. when two tow trucks wrecked the vehicles away from the scene and to the Chaguanas Police Station. Social network users on Facebook and Twitter reported being stuck in traffic as far as the Beetham Highway until well after 2 p.m.

<http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Tanker-mishap-causes-massive-traffic-jam-255595571.html>

USA, WA, SEATTLE, APRIL 18 2014. HAZMAT TEAMS TAKE OUT 4,000 CONTAINERS OF CHEMICALS FROM SEATTLE HOME

Hazardous material teams completed removing about 4,000 containers of hazardous chemicals from a Seattle home Wednesday, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Firefighters discovered the chemical stockpile in the Green Lake neighborhood home while helping a resident walk down the steps of the house on April 8. They alerted the EPA because some of the containers were leaking and many were stored improperly and unlabelled. It took nine days to clean up the home of a brother and sister in their 90s as the containers had to be safely packed before removal. Absorbent pellets were used to capture and neutralize chemicals spilling from leaking and open containers placed in plastic buckets. The 91-year-old co-owner of the house told EPA inspectors that he's a scientist and he never felt endangering himself or his neighbors. Investigators, however, said chemicals oozing, seeping and spilling out of containers pose danger to neighbors as they could produce violent chemical reaction or cause a fire, said Jeffrey Rodin, on-scene coordinator for the EPA. Neighbors were unaware of the chemical stockpile in the home and they were relieved when the cleanup was over.

<http://www.gantdaily.com/2014/04/17/hazmat-teams-take-out-4000-containers-of-chemicals-from-seattle-home/>

CHINA, BEIJING, APRIL 18 2014. AS OPPOSITION GROWS, CHINA DEFENDS PLANS FOR PETROCHEMICAL PLANTS

chen aizhu



A man and a girl on his shoulders hold up a paper that reads, "PX (paraxylene petrochemicals) get out of Maoming, return us clean land", as demonstrators gather to protest against a chemical plant project, near the city government building in Maoming, Guangdong province in this April 3, 2014 file photo.

China has launched an intense media campaign to defend the safety of producing a chemical used to make polyester fibre, as public opposition to new petrochemical plants threatens to disrupt expansion plans by state energy giants such as Sinopec Corp. Choking smog and environmental degradation in many parts of China is angering an increasingly educated and affluent urban class and after a series of health scares and accidents there is deepening public scepticism of the safety of industries ranging from food to energy. Illustrating this distrust, hundreds of residents in the southern Chinese city of Maoming

demonstrated this month against plans to build a petrochemical plant to produce paraxylene, known as PX, a chemical used in making polyester fibre and plastics. The plant is backed by the local government and China's biggest refiner, state-controlled Sinopec Corp. China is the world's largest producer and consumer of PX and polyester, vital for the country's textile industry, which generated \$290 billion of overseas sales, or 13 percent of China's total exports last year, according to customs data. State television, CCTV, last week aired six short features showing staff reporters visiting petrochemical facilities in Japan, South Korea and Singapore producing PX in a bid to assure the public over safety. China's state-dominated oil and



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petrochemical sector has had a poor safety record in the last decade. Accidents have included a gas well explosion in the sprawling municipality of Chongqing in 2003 that killed 234, a 2005 chemical leak into a river in Jilin that poisoned drinking water and a pipeline explosion in Qingdao that killed 62 last November. "The reason why the industry has lost credibility is not that it hasn't carried out public relations or education work properly, but because of repeated accidents," said Ma Jun, head of the Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs, an independent environmental group. China still relies heavily on importing PX. Last year, China imported just over 9 million tonnes worth about \$18 billion, mainly from South Korea, Singapore and Japan, exceeding domestic output of 8.3 million tonnes. There have been demonstrations in six Chinese cities since 2007 against plans for PX plants, forcing at least one plant to relocate and another two to be shelved or cancelled. The state media campaign on television and online has sought to reassure the public over the safety of PX. One CCTV broadcast showed a middle-aged man taking a stroll at a beachside park in Singapore, across from the city state's chemical hub of Jurong Island, saying he liked walking in the park because "the air there was fresh". A CCTV story headlined "Telling you the truth on PX" said that countries such as the United States did not treat PX as a toxic chemical. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says effects from exposure to the xylene group of chemicals derived from refining oil - including mixed xylene and paraxylene - can range from nose and throat irritation to memory impairment, though they are not classified as cancer-inducing. Cao Xianghong, a former senior vice president at Sinopec, told a government-backed conference of nearly 300 participants on PX that the petrochemical industry had to share some of the blame for the public concerns, particularly in the way safety and environmental issues have been managed. "The serious pollution cases and accidents that the industry has had have naturally scared people," Cao said at the PX forum last week organised by the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST).

<http://www.thestar.com.my/News/World/2014/04/18/As-opposition-grows-China-defends-plans-for-petrochemical-plants/>

USA, UT, WOODS CROSS, APRIL 18 2014. REPORT SHEDS LIGHT ON 2009 SILVER EAGLE REFINERY EXPLOSION

melinda williams

 **Watch the Video** [Silver Eagle Refinery Explosion Surveillance Footage](#)



Silver Eagle Refining officials expect the Chemical Safety Board still has one last report to release on the Nov. 4, 2009 explosion that ripped through the refinery and devastated the nearby community, but they are looking forward and planning for the future. Four and a half years after the massive explosion, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board released a report last week, saying the explosion was caused by a rupture in a pipe that had become dangerously thin from corrosion. The CSB released the metallurgical report on Thursday that was commissioned in the course of the ongoing investigation into the tragedy. In the years since the accident, Silver Eagle has instituted a number of safety measures and replaced failing equipment. "We're focused on moving forward," Jerry Lockie, Silver Eagle general manager, said on Friday. "We've been given a clean bill of health," Lockie said. "We've inspected the reactors and the pipes

are all at 100 percent. Our inspections on the reactors go above and beyond what is required by the regulatory agencies." Lockie said the company was in contact with the CSB monthly for six months after the explosion. In addition to equipment upgrades, the company's merger with the International Group Inc., in 2011, changed the focus of the operation to a much less volatile process that requires fewer units to operate. IGI develops and manufactures waxed-based products used in nearly every aspect of life from the packaging of cosmetics to application on fresh fruits and vegetables. The CSB report didn't vary much from the initial observations. It said the catastrophic rupture occurred in a 10-inch pipe at the bottom of a reactor in the mobile distillate dewaxing unit. That led to a massive release of hydrogen, which caught fire immediately and exploded. The resulting blast wave damaged over 100 homes, many with shattered glass. The Texas-based company that conducted the report said there was record of the ruptured pipe having ever been inspected "This is the same syndrome we found in the Bay Area Chevron refinery fire of 2012 and the Tesoro refinery explosion and fire that killed seven in Anacortes, Washington, in 2010," said CSB Chairman Rafael Moure-Eraso. That syndrome includes thinning pipe walls and sulfidation corrosion "the same kind ... that we found in the Chevron accident, according to CSB lead Investigator, Dan Tillema. "Fortunately, there were no fatalities resulting from the explosion and it was only by chance no one was in the immediate area. But many lives were disrupted as residents in Woods Cross, just north of Salt Lake City, had to move out of homes pending repairs," said Moure-Eraso, in the report. There were four workers near the processing unit at the time of the explosion. They were



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blown to the ground, but none were seriously injured. Another worker had been taking readings next to the pipe that failed just moments before the release. It was also noted in a press conference held days after the Nov. 4, 2009 blast that a FrontRunner train had passed through the areas moments after the blast. "Clearly, this explosion had the potential to cause deaths or serious injuries had it occurred even a few moments earlier or later in the day," Don Holstrom who was the CSB Investigations supervisor at the time, said. Upon releasing the report on Thursday, Moure-Eraso said the CSB had to delay completion of the report due to a series of accidents in the oil production and refining sector. Shortly after the explosion, Silver Eagle officials instituted a "safety moment," held prior to every meeting. That practice continues today.

Related Stories [Silver Eagle Refinery Flash Fire & Explosion & Catastrophic Pipe Explosion](http://www.davisclipper.com/view/full_story/24942573/article-Report-sheds-light-on-2009-Silver-Eagle-refinery-explosion?instance=lead_story)
http://www.davisclipper.com/view/full_story/24942573/article-Report-sheds-light-on-2009-Silver-Eagle-refinery-explosion?instance=lead_story

USA, TX, MINERAL WELLS, APRIL 18 2014. TANKER TRUCK ROLLOVER SNARLS TRAFFIC

The rollover of a tanker trailer snarled traffic along Highway 281 south of Mineral Wells this week. Trooper Gray Rozzell, information officer for the Texas Department of Public Safety, said the tanker carried hazardous material. "There were 4,097 gallons of 1307 Xylene and 1,202 gallons of 1993 flammable liquid," he said. Rozzell explained that David Wayne Palmer, 45, of Mineral Wells, was driving south on Highway 281 just south of Oaks Crossing when, about 2:40 a.m., he drove into the west-side bar ditch and struck an embankment. The 2007 Volvo truck with its 2002 Polaris trailer rolled onto the passenger side, spilling its load. Palmer was transported to Palo Pinto General Hospital with what Rozzell described as non-incapacitating injuries. He also said the spill was contained at the scene a fire department and a cleaning team.

http://www.lakecountrysun.com/ci_25583340/truck-rollover-snarls-traffic

USA, DE, DELAWARE CITY, APRIL 19 2014. DNREC REPORTS SULFUR DIOXIDE RELEASE AT DEL. CITY REFINERY

tom lehman



Nearly 200 pounds of sulfur dioxide was released into the air at the Delaware City Refinery on Thursday, state environmental officials said. The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control said the release was tied to a flaring incident caused by a mechanical malfunction at the facility, located on the 4500 block of Wrangle Hill Road. The agency said 195 pounds of sulfur dioxide, a chemical compound considered hazardous by the Environmental Protection Agency, was released into the air.

<http://www.wdel.com/story.php?id=58634>

USA, IN, WHITING, APRIL 18 2014. BP WHITING REFINERY EVACUATED AFTER EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTION

joseph s. pete

Production units were shut down and non-essential employees were evacuated from the BP Whiting Refinery on Thursday. An equipment malfunction at about 1:40 p.m. caused several units to stop working, spokesman Scott Dean said. They remained offline for a few hours. Production halted, and contractors and employees were evacuated in keeping with safety procedures. Repairs were made, and the units were restarted and back online by about 4 p.m. The refinery on Lake Michigan is the largest in the Midwest with a crude distillation capacity of 413,000 barrels per day, but the temporary halt in production is not believed to have been long enough to have an impact on retail gasoline prices, Dean said. He said he did not know whether any of the units that faltered were new ones installed during the recent \$4.2 billion modernization project, which allows the refinery to process more heavy crude from the oil sands region in Alberta.

http://www.nwtimes.com/business/local/bp-whiting-refinery-evacuated-after-equipment-malfunction/article_461851c6-2cbe-5d1d-b774-a4173db68d7f.html



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USA, WASHINGTON DC, APRIL 18 2014. STATEMENT BY CSB CHAIRPERSON RAFAEL MOURE-ERASO ON FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF DEEPWATER HORIZON TRAGEDY IN GULF OF MEXICO; CSB INVESTIGATION REPORTS TO BE RELEASED AT JUNE 5TH PUBLIC MEETING IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

As we approach the fourth anniversary of the April 20, 2010, Deepwater Horizon tragedy and environmental disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, I would like to announce that the comprehensive Chemical Safety Board investigation of the Macondo well blowout is in the final stages of completion and the first two volumes are planned to be released at a public meeting in Houston on June 5. The death and destruction of that day are seared in our consciousness. The forthcoming CSB investigation report has a singular focus: preventing such an accident from happening again. Eleven workers lost their lives, many others were injured, and oil and other hydrocarbons flowed uncontrolled out of the well for months after the explosion on the rig, owned and operated by Transocean under contract with BP. The CSB, at the request of Congress, launched an independent investigation with a broad mandate to examine not only the technical reasons that the incident occurred, but also any possible organizational and cultural causal factors, and opportunities for improving regulatory standards and industry practices to promote safe and reliable offshore energy supplies. While a number of reports have been published on the incident, and changes made within the U.S. offshore regulatory regime, more can be done. On June 5, the CSB will release the first two volumes of our four-volume investigation report, covering technical, regulatory, and organizational issues. The CSB examines this event from a process safety perspective, integrating fundamental safety concepts, such as the hierarchy of controls, human factors, and inherent safety into the U.S. offshore vernacular. While these concepts are not new in the petrochemical world or in other offshore regions around the globe, they are not as commonplace in the U.S. outer continental shelf. At the public meeting, investigators will present for board consideration what I believe is a very comprehensive examination of various aspects of the incident. Going beyond other previously released reports on the accident, the CSB explores issues not fully covered elsewhere, including:

- The publication of new findings concerning the failures of a key piece of safety equipment—the blowout preventer—that was, and continues to be, relied upon as a final barrier to loss of well control.
- A comprehensive examination and comparison of the attributes of regulatory regimes in other parts of the world to that of the existing framework and the safety regulations established in the US offshore since Macondo.
- In-depth analysis and discussion of needed safety improvements on a number of organizational factors, such as the industry's approach to risk management and corporate governance of safety management for major accident prevention, and workforce involvement through the lifecycle of hazardous operations.

Recommendations will be included in the various volumes of the CSB's Macondo investigation report. Volume 1 will recount a summary of events leading up to the Macondo explosions and fire on the rig, providing descriptive information on drilling and well completion activities. Volume 2 will present several new critical technical findings, with an emphasis on the functioning of the blowout preventer (BOP), a complex subsea system that was intended to help mitigate and prevent a loss of well control. This volume examines the failures of the BOP as a safety-critical piece of equipment and explores deficiencies in the management systems meant to ensure that the BOP was reliable and available as a barrier on April 20, 2010. Later in the year, the board will consider report Volume 3 which will delve into the role of the regulator in the oversight of the offshore industry. Finally, Volume 4 will explore several organizational and cultural factors that contributed to the incident. We look forward to presenting this vital information to the public, industry, Congress, and all others interested in fostering safety in the offshore drilling and production industry.

<http://www.idevmail.net/message.aspx?d=86&m=1390&e=petenv@optusnet.com.au&r=7851234>

USA, N.M, ALBUQUERQUE, APRIL 18 2014. CREWS FIND UNDERGROUND CONTAMINATION SITE AT WIPP

lauren villagran

A Waste Isolation Pilot Plant manager on Thursday said crews have found contamination underground. A team wearing protective gear discovered radioactive contamination in the storage unit known as panel seven, one of eight sprawling panels built into an excavated salt mine designed to house waste from the country's nuclear defense program. The team made its discovery on Wednesday. "The more they went into panel seven, the more (the contamination) became more widespread," said Tammy Reynolds, deputy recovery manager, at a Thursday town hall meeting in Carlsbad. The crew did not investigate the source of the contamination because their respiratory equipment was running low on power. "They made the correct decision to turn back," Reynolds said. "Everyone was safely returned to the surface." Reynolds said WIPP is now evaluating how to proceed deeper into the contaminated area to investigate the source of a Feb. 14 radiation leak.

<http://www.abqjournal.com/385664/abqnewsseeker/crews-find-underground-contamination-site-at-wipp.html>



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THAILAND, PHUKET, APRIL 18 2014. FUEL TANKER JUMPS RED LIGHT, WHACKS PHUKET COP'S CAR



An 18-wheel fuel tanker today (April 17) collided with a car after the truck went through a red light at the Tesco-Lotus intersection on the bypass. Unfortunately for the driver of the Saha Oil Transport tanker, the car he hit belonged to Pol Capt Supawit Suwanpirom, who was driving from Samkong to Thung Thong Police Station. Fortunately, no one was injured. "I was coming down the slope [from the north] when I saw the light change to flashing amber but I couldn't brake in time. You can see from the tyre marks," the truck driver told The Phuket News, declining to give his name and walking away. "The light was green and I was driving as usual, said Capt Supawit. "He ran through the red light and crashed into my car." Distressed at the damage, Capt Supawit ordered traffic police to get a sample of the truck driver's urine.

<http://www.thepuketnews.com/fuel-tanker-jumps-red-light-whacks-phuket-cop's-car-45735.php>

USA, LA, BARATARIA BAY, APRIL 18 2014. BP OIL SPILL FOUR YEARS LATER: RETURN TO BARATARIA BAY AND CAT ISLAND

julia kumari drapkin

 **Watch the Video** [Return to Barataria Bay & Cat Island](#)

 **Photo's [19]** [Return to Barataria Bay & Cat Island](#)



A black plastic container sits amidst the bones of black mangroves on what was once a thriving bird nesting area on Cat Island on Thursday, April 10, 2014. "It looks like there was fire here, but there wasn't a fire," said Doug Meffert, Vice President of the of the National Audubon Society. Cat Island along with many degrading islands in Barataria Bay have long struggled with coastal erosion and subsidence, but the oil spilled from BP Deepwater Horizon is accelerating their demise. Footage of oiled brown pelicans and the thousands of shorebirds nesting here were seen around the world in the aftermath of the 200 million gallons of thick crude that spilled into the Gulf of Mexico. Four years later, there are no pelicans, no mangroves, and worse, much of Cat island itself is washing away.

BP Oil Spill Anniversary: Return to Cat Island and Barataria Bay: Four years

ago, footage of oiled brown pelicans and the thousands of shorebirds nesting on Cat Island and the Barataria Bay went around the world in the aftermath of the 200 million gallons of thick crude that spilled into the Gulf of Mexico. Today there are no pelicans, no mangroves, and worse, much of Cat Island itself is washing away. When a crew of journalists and environmental groups studying the effects of the BP Deepwater Macondo oil spill disembarked on Cat Island in Barataria Bay last week, there was a collective gasp. "It looks like the Arizona desert," said [Eileen Fleming](#), who's reported for [WWNO](#) spring after spring since the April 20, 2010 spill. "It looks like there was a fire here," said [Doug Meffert](#), vice president of the National Audubon Society and president of the Louisiana chapter, "but there wasn't a fire." The bones of black mangrove stumps are all that remain of what was a thriving bird rookery here in Plaquemines Parish Four years ago, [footage of oiled brown pelicans and the thousands of shorebirds nesting here](#) went around the world in the aftermath of the 200 million gallons of thick crude that spilled into the Gulf of Mexico. Today the only green thing on the beach is a glass bottle. There are no pelicans, no mangroves, and worse, much of Cat Island itself is washing away. It and most of the barrier islands and marsh in Barataria Bay are steadily degrading, losing their battles with coastal erosion and subsidence faster than ever. They took blows from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustave, and Ike. But the oil from the spill is rapidly accelerating their demise. "The oil persists in this soil," said Meffert in nearby Bay Jimmy as he drove the handle of a boat brush into the marsh with ease. "To contrast it with the Exxon Valdez, that oil hit rock, which is like oil hitting a Teflon pan. Our oil hit what is analogous to sponge" It is a sponge that re-releases oil when the underlying soil is disturbed by storms and waves along the shoreline. As the grasses die, the roots degrade. As the roots degrade, the soil washes away. "It's washing away as we're looking at it," Meffert said, pointing to pole markers that are likely to be underwater next year. He pokes the brush into the underlying soil, but no oil bubbles up to the surface. But experts say not seeing oil now doesn't mean it's not there doing damage to the ecosystem. These marshes



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are a nursery not just for birds, but for marine mammals and fisheries. [A recent report by the National Wildlife Federation](#) lists independent scientific studies outlining 14 species in distress as a result of the spill and its byproducts, including adrenal and reproductive problems in dolphins, heart defects in tuna and amberjack, and declines in other fish. BP spokesman Jason Ryan said in a [press release that the NWF report is political advocacy](#) that overlooks other independent scientific reports that have a rosier view of post-spill conditions. But as for Barataria Bay, Capt. John Stubbs said he doesn't need science to tell him the effects of the oil spill on fish. "Places you used to catch fish all the time right here, you got to adjust and move on and find other places." The recreational fisherman, who works night shifts at the Chevron oil refinery in Belle Chasse, said when it comes to his job versus his love for fishing he feels torn. He has to make a living and the industry preaches safety and the environment first. Still he never thought the oil would come so far inland. I thought it would have been cleaned up sooner," Stubbs said. "I feel the whole oil industry was caught off guard in the bay." As he steers our boat across the water, Stubbs points out what really worries him: his GPS indicates land where there is nothing but open water. "That's the biggest problem - the erosion," said Stubbs. "You keep hearing about these millions and millions of dollars for coastal restoration and we haven't seen it out here yet. Not at the magnitude of the money they say is dedicated to it compared to the progress we've made. It doesn't add up." Keeping up with a system already in decline and teasing out where fault lies with the rapid decline is part of the problem with getting those funds. Under the [Restore Act](#), Congress set aside 80 percent of the federal fines for violations of the Clean Water Act from the spill for restoration. At least a third of what is expected to be billions of dollars will go to Louisiana. The law measures the fines based on how much oil was spilled and to what degree BP and its partners are found negligent. The more oil or the more negligence, the more money. The [Federal Oil Pollution Act](#) also requires BP and its partners to pay for restoration after completion of a multi-year damage assessment. The assessment is well under way, but when it comes to assessing the damage in court is where the bottlenecks lie. "The burden of proof for the government is to prove the damage is the result of the spill," said [David Muth, director of the National Wildlife Federation's Coastal Campaign](#). "In nature those simple propositions are very difficult, it is especially when the other side has very, very deep pockets." Muth said his biggest fear is that BP will fight over every nickel, dragging this out for years like the [1989 Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska](#), and by that time it'll be too late to save Barataria Bay. But his biggest hope is that BP will keep its promises and Louisiana will see more restoration projects. That includes projects like the one at [Lake Hermitage](#), paid for with part of a billion-dollar advance payment made by BP. Here a 5-mile pipe is pumping dredged Mississippi River sediments over the levee and the highway to rebuild marsh land south of the lake. Both Muth and Meffert caution that real restoration requires restoring the natural Mississippi river flows of sediment and water that built the delta in the first place. Some of the oil spill fines are already dedicated to that and could provide much needed opportunities to experiment with solutions. Unlike most coastal communities, Louisiana has a natural land-building process that if harnessed can help against land loss even in the face of sea level rise. Despite its stark state, Doug Meffert even sees hope for the pelicans and shorebirds to return to Cat Island. "Field-of-Dreams" style. "If you build it, they will come. If we can find the right source material, replant mangroves, and yes, I do believe the birds will come back," he said.

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2014/04/bp_oil_spill_four_years_later.html

USA, AZ, TONOPAH, APRIL 18 2014. 'EXPLOSION' AAT PALO VERDE NUCLEAR PLANT NOT REPORTED FOR 5 MONTHS

jonathan lowe

 **Watch the Video** ['Explosion' Aat Palo Verde Nuclear Plant not reported for 5 Months](#)



There was a small explosion at the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant late last year but plant officials didn't report it to federal officials until six days ago. APS said at no point was public health and safety in danger. The incident happened on a non-nuclear side of the plant and there was no damage to the reactors' components. William Londrie has had no fear in calling the Palo Verde nuclear power plant his next door neighbor of nine years. "They got so many back up systems that pretty much nothing wrong could happen," Londrie said. On the contrary, something did go wrong at the plant back on Nov. 6 of last year. APS officials said there was a leak in a hydraulic fluid tank that's about the size of a file cabinet. When a worker opened the tank to inspect it, there was a small explosion by rapid decompression. APS said there was only damage to the tank, but no flames and no one was injured. "What you had here was



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equipment failure," thinks Steve Brittle, an environmentalist and former volunteer with the Maricopa County emergency planning committee. Plant officials didn't consider it an explosion by nuclear standards, and therefore didn't publicly report it or notify the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. "There's something fishy there. They should notify them within that week I'd say," Londrie said. But just six days ago, APS finally reported it to the feds as an "unusual event." When NRC inspectors joined the investigation, APS discovered it had been an explosion. "This is six months later. What were you doing?" Brittle asked. "For them to not realize that it should be classified as an explosion raises questions about their safety and their training," he added. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission considers the incident a "failure to report an unusual event." There will be no fines, neither for the explosion, nor for failing to report it.

<http://www.kpho.com/story/25279507/explosion-at-palo-verde-nuclear-plant-not-reported-for-5-months>

USA, MA, SPRINGFIELD, APRIL 18 2014. MASSACHUSETTS DEP FINES BALISE MOTORS \$5,000 AFTER WASTE OIL, GASOLINE SPILL AT SPRINGFIELD DEALERSHIP

patrick johnson



Balise Motor Sales was fined \$5,000 by the state DEP for an oil and gasoline spill at its Balise Chevrolet Buick GMC dealership in Springfield.

The [Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection](#) announced on Friday that Balise Motor Sales has been fined \$5,000 for its role in the spill of an unknown amount of waste oil and gasoline at its location off West Columbus Avenue in the city's South End. The fine was levied for violating the state's hazardous waste management regulations during a spill July 25 at the [Balise Chevrolet Buick GMC lot at 440 Hall of Fame Ave.](#) According to the DEP, the dealership notified them of an accidental spill of four drums containing a mixture of water, waste oil and waste gasoline. Employees were removing debris from a waste storage area and the four drums were punctured. The amount spilled is

not known but DEP officials said it exceeded 10 gallons. The spill spread over an unpaved area as well as across a paved lot into a storm drain. Balise employees took steps to absorb as much of the spill as they could, and DEP officials placed absorbent materials inside the storm drain to prevent it from reaching the Connecticut River. An investigation by DEP officials revealed several violations of state regulations including the drums were not labeled for containing hazardous waste, the area was not marked as a waste storage area and there were no signs that hazardous materials were present. There was also no containment dike to hold a spill inside the area. Additionally, one container was bulging and in poor condition. Balise has since met with DEP officials and agreed to retrain employees with requirements for handling hazardous waste, and to pay a \$5,000 fine for the violations.

http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2014/04/massachusetts_dep_fines_balise.html

SCOTLAND, ABERDEEN, APRIL 18 2014. SEVEN-YEAR-OLD IN HOSPITAL AFTER ABERDEEN 'PETROL INCIDENT'

 **Watch the Video** [7 Year-Old Burns Victim 'Screaming & Crying'](#)

A seven-year-old boy is being treated for "serious" burns after reports that he was "on fire" after an incident apparently involving petrol in Aberdeen. Police are now investigating after receiving several "reports of a boy on fire" at 2pm today.

About 12 Hours Ago [Police Say Aberdeen Incident 'Involved Petrol'](#)

Police in Aberdeen have issued a statement confirming that a seven-year-old boy suffered burns this afternoon after an incident that "involved petrol". A seven-year-old boy is undergoing treatment following an incident in Bedford Avenue in Aberdeen. It was reported to us at 2pm this afternoon. The incident involves petrol and the boy has quite serious burns. Police are at the scene and following a positive line of inquiry."

About 12 Hours Ago [7 year-old burns victim 'screaming and crying'](#)

Eyewitnesses have described the scenes after a seven-year-old boy suffered burns in an incident in Aberdeen this afternoon. Victoria Jayne Pirie said the boy was on fire from "the neck downwards", while Shona Henderson described the boy's clothes "sticking to his skin" before somebody poured water over him to douse the flames. Police have said they are investigating the incident and trying to establish whether petrol was involved.

About 15 Hours Ago [7 year-old boy burned in 'petrol' incident](#)

A seven-year-old boy is being treated for serious burns after reports that he was "on fire" in an Aberdeen street. Police said they received "reports of a boy on fire" at around 2pm and are following a positive line of inquiry. Petrol was said to have been



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used in the incident and the boy was taken to Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital where his injuries have been described as serious. A force spokesman said: "A seven-year-old boy is undergoing treatment following an incident in Bedford Avenue in Aberdeen. It was reported to us at 2pm this afternoon. "The incident involves petrol and the boy has quite serious burns. Police are at the scene and following a positive line of inquiry."

Related Stories

- [Seven-year-old in hospital after Aberdeen 'petrol incident'](#)
- [Boy, 7, 'doused in petrol and set on fire by children' in Aberdeen](#)

<http://www.itv.com/news/story/2014-04-18/boy-of-7-treated-for-burns-after-aberdeen-petrol-incident/>

USA, TX, WEST, APRIL 18 2014. INDUSTRY PUSHING BACK IN TEXAS AGAINST FERTILIZER PLANT SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

The state fire marshal wants 46 facilities that store ammonium nitrate in Texas to make safety improvements following the deadly West fertilizer plant explosion last year. State Fire Marshal Chris Connealy proposed new building requirements ahead of the anniversary of the April 17, 2013, blast at West Fertilizer Co. Fifteen people were killed and another 200 were injured after tons of ammonium nitrate exploded into a massive fireball. The fertilizer plant had stored the chemical in flammable wooden containers. Most of the dead were firefighters and first responders. Connealy testified to a House committee that facilities similar to West Fertilizer should be given three years to either install sprinklers or retrofit their buildings to mitigate the potential for explosions. But lawmakers are already warning of industry pushback.

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/southcentral/2014/04/17/326749.htm>

CANADA, QC, MONTREAL, APRIL 18 2014. ICAO AGREES TO PROHIBIT LITHIUM METAL BATTERIES ON PASSENGER FLIGHTS >> ICAO LITHIUM BATTERY MEETING REPORT

The much anticipated ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel meeting on Lithium Metal Batteries took place last week in Montreal. The focus of the meeting was on a proposed prohibition of lithium metal batteries as cargo on Passenger Aircraft. While you may have heard from other sources that the meeting adopted the proposal early in the week, this was incorrect. Due to the importance and the many conflicting parameters in the decision, the process was carefully guided by incoming chair, Ms. Paquette of Canada, assisted by DGP Secretary, Dr. Rooney. It would have been inappropriate to comment while these discussions were ongoing. However, we can now bring you up to speed as to what the decision was. The DGP agreed to adopt a prohibition of lithium metal batteries carried as cargo on passenger aircraft, but this does not include:

- those packed with or contained in equipment, or
- those carried by passengers in the cabin of the aircraft.

The report of the meeting should be available on the ICAO website sometime this week. This decision is expected to be approved by the DGP's parent committee, the Air Navigation Commission (ANC) at its scheduled meeting later this month. Please note, the ANC may adopt the DGP's decision but has within its prerogative, the option of amending/extending it. The actual text of the decision, including associated consequential amendments, can be expected towards the end of May. Some key points to consider:

- Will there be an approvals process, that is, will Special Provision A1 be applied? The Panel voted to apply A1, but only by a simple majority and it was clear that this is one area where the ANC may adopt the stricter criteria of the Exemptions process. My recommendation is that industry should look at the implications of these two options very carefully.
- Second, the effective date was discussed, albeit very briefly. Industry made the observation that this represents a substantial change and as yet no text of the requirements is available, therefore, a considerable transition period would be required. As discussed, the effective date would be January 1, 2015, but this date could be moved up or pushed back depending on the discussion and decisions of the ANC.

<http://www.aviationpros.com/news/11411810/icao-agrees-to-prohibit-lithium-metal-batteries-on-passenger-flights>

AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, DARWIN, APRIL 19 2014. MAN SERIOUSLY BURNED AFTER POWER DRILL STARTS FIRE IN BOAT IN DARWIN SUBURB OF NIGHTCLIFF

Map: [Nightcliff 0810](#)

A Darwin man is being treated in hospital for severe burns after he accidentally ignited litres of fuel with a spark from a power drill. The 29-year-old amateur fisherman was working on his tinnie at his Nightcliff home when the fire started. Police told the



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NT News he had filled the bottom of boat with petrol and had been trying to drain it into jerry cans when he began using the drill. "The man filled the boat up with about 50 litres or so (of petrol), but instead of putting it in the fuel valve he put it through the rod holder," Constable Karen Gossow told the newspaper. "He soon realised it hadn't gone in the fuel tank but under the hole." She said he was using the drill to undo some screws to get into the flooring when a spark set the fuel alight. The man's parents moved him into a shower to cool his burns, drawing praise from paramedics. Craig Garraway from St John Ambulance says it is important to act fast when helping burns victims. "The first thing is obviously ring triple-0, get help there as quickly as possible," he said. "[Then] get someone in and cool their burns as best you can. And hopefully the ambulance will be there very quickly and be able to assist and get the patient to the hospital very quickly." The man was rushed to the Royal Darwin Hospital and was then flown in a Careflight jet to Melbourne's Alfred Hospital for further treatment. Acting Superintendent Bob Harrison says the incident is a reminder to Territorians to be careful around flammable substances. "Any time you're dealing with fuel of any sort - it's a very volatile substance," he said. "You've got to be so careful when you're dealing with sparks and flames around fuel. You don't know what's going to happen

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-04-20/man-seriously-burned-after-power-drill-starts-fire-in-boat/5400490>

THAILAND, BANGKOK, CHACHOENGSAO, APRIL 18 2014. PING-PONG BOMBS FOUND AFTER 6-YEAR OLD GIRL'S DEATH



Severe damage resulted from two blasts believed to have been caused by ping-pong bombs on Friday.

Police found 1,900 ping-pong bombs ready for delivery after raiding a damaged house in search of clues into the death of a six-year-old girl after two explosions on Friday. Authorities on Saturday searched the home of Warawut Penjawattana house in Plaeng Yao district, where firecrackers and ping-pong bombs were being assembled. The ping-pong bombs found at the house are usually used by farmers to scare birds away from rice fields. About 1,000 bombs were packed into two sacks and another 900 in two bags. Officers also found more than 100 boxes of firecrackers. The exact number of firecrackers was unknown. Mr Warawut was not in the house during the search but his younger brother, whose name was not revealed, showed documents

authorising Mr Warawut to produce the explosives. Mr Warawut had a Por 5 permit issued by the Bang Bo district office in Samut Prakan on March 10 to make explosives for one year. His brother said Mr Warawut bought the house six years ago to keep raw materials, make firecrackers and explosives and store them as it is four kilometres from Bang Bo. Several people in the neighbourhood helped make parts of the firecrackers and ping-pong bombs to earn extra income and all parts were brought to be assembled at the house, he said. The search was part of an investigation into the death of a six-year-old girl in the house on Friday after two explosions. Her body was found several metres away from the blast site. Jirawas Chueachantha-at, deputy chief of the Muang district police station in Chachoengsao, said a preliminary investigation found two blasts had taken place less than one minute apart. Ping-pong bombs were suspected of being the cause of the explosions, which severely damaged the house. The first blast was not loud and forced Wassana Phasuk, the mother of the girl, and her two other daughters to seek shelter under the bed in the room, according to the police. But the six-year-old girl went to the kitchen during the more powerful second explosion, said Pol Lt Col Jirawas. A crater one metre deep and two metres wide was found in the kitchen, said Pol Capt Wetcha Chanthasi, chief of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit at the Phraya Surasee Border Patrol Police camp. Investigators have yet to file charges against the house owner.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/crimes/405647/bombs-found-after-child-dies>

CHINA, HUNAN PROVINCE, ZHUZHOU, APRIL 20 2014. OIL SLICK IN XIANGJIANG RIVER THREATENS WATER SAFETY

mo hong'e

A moving oil slick found on Xiangjiang River is moving from its upper to lower reaches in central China's Hunan province, provincial authorities said on Friday. A preliminary investigation showed that the oil leak was caused by a sinking dredge near the Zhuzhou dam, navigation lock and power station complex on Xiangjiang River on Thursday. Water could be contaminated in the cities of Zhuzhou, Xiangtan and Changsha, authorities said. Luo Yi, spokesman for Zhuzhou tap water company, said the city's water had so far not been affected as the water source was located deep underwater, with the oil slick floating on the



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surface. Monitoring data collected by two water plants in Zhuzhou showed that the water quality met national standards. The city is getting ready to cut the water supply although no contamination has been found so far. The oil leak is expected to reach the Changsha section of the river at midnight.

<http://www.ecns.cn/2014/04-19/110196.shtml>

SINGAPORE, APRIL 20 2014. TANKER ENGINEER JAILED FOR SIPHONING MARINE FUEL



An oil tanker chief engineer was sentenced to 18 months' jail after he was found guilty of siphoning 200 metric tonnes of marine fuel oil worth US\$125,400 (RM405,719). But Greek national Pittis Stavros (pic), 58, is appealing. Bail of S\$120,000 (RM310,402) has been offered pending his appeal, and he was scheduled to leave for home yesterday morning. Stavros – a chief engineer of the MV Sakura Princess which was chartered by V8 Pool Inc – was found guilty last week of criminal breach of trust. On Jan 10 last year, bunker company Constank had been nominated to supply 1,800 metric tonnes of marine fuel oil to Sakura Princess, the prosecution said. A bunker clerk on board the Coastal Saturn was deployed to supply the vessel with 500 metric tonnes of oil, as the vessel claimed it needed fuel urgently. Stavros struck a deal with an independent surveyor and the bunker clerk to shortchange his vessel of 200 tonnes of fuel. More than 42 million tonnes of marine fuel was sold here last year, making Singapore the world's top bunkering port.

<http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Regional/2014/04/19/Tanker-engineer-jailed-for-siphoning-marine-fuel/>

GIBRALTAR, WATERPORT, APRIL 21 2014. WATERPORT FIRE LEAVES GIBRALTAR WITHOUT POWER >> BURST FUEL LINE



Photo's [5] [Gibraltar power station blaze](#)



A fire in the Waterport power station left most of Gibraltar without electricity on Sunday afternoon. Police urged residents in the area to close their windows as thick black smoke billowed from the power station, though no one was injured in the incident. The offices of online betting company William Hill adjacent to the building were evacuated and the company told customers that its services were down. But police said there had been no need to evacuate nearby residential areas. Police investigators ruled out foul play and early indications were that a generator caught fire and exploded due to mechanical failure. The fire started just after 2pm and emergency services rushed to the scene, sealing off access to the area. Fire fighters brought the situation under control within an hour and the blaze was declared extinguished just after 4pm. At 5.30pm, engineers were at work trying to restore power to Gibraltar.

<http://www.chronicle.gi/>

USA, WA, YAKIMA, APRIL 21 2014. AMMONIA IN AIR REQUIRES STUDY THAT MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

We know that agricultural emissions send ammonium nitrate into the air that we all breathe in the Yakima Valley. After that simple fact, the story gets complicated. Scientists from the state Department of Ecology and Washington State University say air monitors in Yakima and Toppenish detect far higher levels of the substance than is found elsewhere in the state. Ammonium nitrate makes up about 20-30 percent of particle pollution in Yakima, according to one scientist, compared with a typical reading of less than 5 percent elsewhere in Washington. The scientists don't know what the higher levels mean for human health, or whether the ammonium nitrate carries its own health risks. They do know that the substance is considered a secondary pollutant, which forms when ammonia emissions from livestock operations and fertilizers mix with automobile exhaust. They also know that nonagricultural sources can emit ammonia, but that in Yakima County the vast majority of that substance's emissions come from agriculture. Outside of that, the information remains limited; ammonia studies are difficult and expensive to conduct. Scientists also know that chemical reactions are complex enough that further studies are needed to



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determine what kind of emission reduction strategies would work. They are working to develop a computer model to study the complex chemical reactions, and from there figure out what possible emission-reduction steps to take. Other types of particle pollution, such as wood smoke and exhaust, are likely to be culprits along with the ammonia. It's far too early to call for new regulations, as no one knows exactly what to regulate. But public, industry and scientific realms need to take the problem seriously. It's far better for local officials and the ag industry to be involved in determining the scope of the problem and the remedies, rather than risk having outside agencies like the federal Environmental Protection Agency swoop in and impose its own standards. Yakima County, most of whose population lives in an enclosed valley subject to air stagnation, has just barely stayed under the EPA limit for particle pollution since 2005. New studies could find that the ammonia reaction requires even more-stringent restrictions on wood smoke and other forms of pollution than we have now. The good news is that steps to deal with wood smoke have proven effective, such as burn bans during air inversions and programs that replace old wood-burning stoves with new, more efficient ones. The Yakima Clean Air Agency is to hear from representatives of Ecology and EPA at its regular meeting next month. This sort of communication is essential as scientists research the problem, and local government and industry officials need to be open to what science concludes about this important and emotional issue.

<http://www.yakimaherald.com/news/yhr/sunday/2110250-14/ammonia-in-air-requires-study-that-must-be>

USA, N.Y, LONG ISLAND, APRIL 21 204. 8 FORMER LI MILITARY SITES MAY HAVE HAZARDOUS WASTE, UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE

emily c. dooley

Eight of the 17 former military installations on Long Island could have hazardous or toxic waste or unexploded munitions present, but the federal agency in charge of the sites lacks the funding to conduct recommended safety investigations, according to documents and federal officials. Three of these sites have had inquiries planned or recommended since 2008 to better detail the type of hazardous or toxic materials present, but the inquiries were never funded. Transferred from military property to federal, state, local and private lands decades ago, the defense sites are run by the Army Corps of Engineers, which has a backlog of about \$500 million in cleanup or investigative projects in the New York and New Jersey area, agency spokesman Gregory Goepfert said. "That's what they call woefully underfunded," Goepfert said. "It will be at least five years before we could be able to get back to these [Long Island] sites." Federal fact sheets state that eight of the local sites could contain hazardous or toxic materials. Nationwide, there are more than 10,000 potential sites in the Formerly Used Defense Sites program and cleanup projects are planned or underway at about 2,700 of them. The program was created in the mid-1980s and about \$5.8 billion has been spent through fiscal year 2012, with ultimate costs expected to be \$14 billion, according to a FUDS fact sheet. Budget appropriations fund the program, on average, about \$238 million per year, and the initiative overseeing Long Island falls under the jurisdiction of a New England office, which gets about \$12.5 million annually, said Heather Sullivan, manager of the Corps' New England district FUDS program, which oversees New York. "There are thousands of projects throughout the country," she said. Funding to clean up sites is based on risk. The recent focus in the region has been on Raritan Arsenal in New Jersey and on Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn. "Our general rule is to keep the projects that we are working on going," Sullivan said. "In terms of if people should be concerned, they should be aware," Sullivan said. "It could be decades before we get back to some of these sites." State DEC officials have input in deciding where funds should be allocated, and most of the 17 sites were inspected between 2005 and 2012, she said. DEC officials said they have discussed using FUDS money for the 14 Long Island sites without outstanding investigations, but they are not high priorities. "We will continue to advocate for the cleanup of all FUDS sites, but due to the [Army Corps] limited funding, the sites . . . are not currently identified as high priority sites," DEC spokesman Peter Constantakes said. New York State has 104 formerly used defense sites, according to federal records. Ten of the Long Island sites, which now range from parks to research centers, are in Suffolk County and seven are in Nassau County. Long Island's military history dates to the Revolutionary War, and installations that served as missile sites, fighter training facilities and shore defense batteries span the region, from Sands Point to Montauk. Three Suffolk sites are included on New York State's Superfund registry of inactive hazardous sites, but the Department of Environmental Conservation has an agreement with the Department of Defense to oversee cleanup, Constantakes said. Two places -- Suffolk County Army Airfield and Bombing & Gunnery Range and the Suffolk County Air Force Base -- are in Westhampton. Both were part of a sprawling World War II military installation used for fighter pilot training, bombing and gunnery ranges and a fighter interceptor base. Many of the former facilities now house portions of the Francis S. Gabreski Airport, Suffolk County Police facilities and a BOCES building. In 2008, perchlorate was discovered in the water, though not exceeding health standards, and in 2009, residual munitions chemical compounds were discovered in soil and groundwater. Both findings came after Army Corps visits. Remedial investigations or studies were



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recommended in both cases but have not happened. Officials were told they were not time-critical, said Antony Ceglio, the airport manager at Gabreski, which is owned by Suffolk County. "They did recommend some future investigations but they haven't come back and done anything yet," Ceglio said.

Munitions Debris Found

In 1996, a practice rocket was found but no other explosives have been discovered. "It's been so long," Ceglio said. "Probably unless you dig into the soil, you won't find anything." Munitions finds are common given the military history, Sullivan said. "A lot of our sites will have munition debris," she said. "If we ever find anything that we know is an immediate risk, we take care of it immediately." At Camp Hero in Montauk, which operated as a gun battery defense site under the guise of a New England-style fishing village to fool German spies, the Army Corps has recommended a hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste investigation, but it has not been funded. Pamphlets are available throughout the state park warning people that if they see ordnance to back away and call authorities. Buildings are painted with signs warning of hazardous material. George Gorman, spokesman for the state Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, said he was not aware of a study being ordered, but that "In the areas that are open to the public, there are no safety concerns." In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the Army Corps visited the site three times to remove old oil tanks and transformers, check buildings for pollutants, remove asbestos and to look in some areas for ordnance, said Tom Dess, director of Montauk-area parks for the state. "The base had one spot in the past where they blew up ordnance to get rid of it," he said. A 2009 site inspection of select locations at the park for munition debris uncovered nothing of concern, and the explosives safety manager made one recommendation: "Maintain all current protective works, i.e. signs, pamphlets and continue to allow the site to revert to its original vegetated state," he wrote in a document obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. "This will keep the public on the maintained trails and out of areas where they could potentially contact

Two Sites on Fishers Island

Fishers Island had two installations -- a harbor defense site called Fort H.G. Wright that operated from 1879 to 1948, and a fire con station. Federal officials believe both sites could contain munitions, and redevelopment on two parcels of the latter site has not happened because of suspected explosives, federal records show. Further investigation was recommended, but it is unclear if that happened. Pierce Rafferty, who wrote a book about Fort H.G. Wright and is director of the Henry L. Ferguson Museum on Fishers Island, has met with the Army Corps about the sites and shared maps of the area. As for explosives, "I don't think they've found much in that sense," he said. After superstorm Sandy in October 2012, several items, including a uniform, washed up on shore, though none were dangerous. "A number of little objects were brought in, buttons, dog tags," Rafferty said. Nassau's seven sites ranged from serving communication needs and pilot training to naval device testing and equipment production. Two may have hazardous and toxic waste or ordnance present, federal documents show. The first is the former Mitchel Field, which was used during the Revolutionary War for troop encampments and during World War II for training. The site is occupied by Hofstra University, Nassau Community College, Nassau Coliseum and Mitchel Sports Complex. Sands Point Preserve is the other site. Created in the early 1900s by Howard Gould, son of the railroad tycoon and financier Jay Gould, the land was once a Gold Coast estate complete with castle. Industrialist Daniel Guggenheim bought the estate in 1917. It was sold to the Navy in 1946 and became home to the U.S. Navy Device Training Center, which operated in two buildings on the campus and employed 800 civilians. Nassau County took over ownership in 1971. "They did have some labs and there was some testing that was done," said Jean-Marie Posner, executive director for Friends of Sands Point Preserve. Federal records show that hazardous and toxic waste and ordnance could be present, but Posner said that is unlikely. "Other than some green paint, there was nothing that was still locked up," she said. "We haven't found anything, unless it's hidden somewhere."

Related Stories

- [Long Island federal Superfund sites](#)
- [Camp Hero](#)
- [Long Island's former military installations See 254 sites on LI that are or were contaminated](#)

<http://www.newsday.com/long-island/8-former-li-military-sites-may-have-hazardous-waste-unexploded-ordnance-1.7768802>

USA, W.VA, CLARKSBURG, APRIL 21 2014. ANTERO CITED FOR TANK RUPTURES AT 2 W.VA. SITES

State regulators have ordered Antero Resources to suspend operations at two drilling pads where water tanks ruptured recently. Two water tanks ruptured at the company's Marsden Pad in Doddridge County on April 11. On April 15, two tanks ruptured at Antero's Varner-West Pad in Harrison County, Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman Kelley Gillenwater tells media outlets that the agency's Office of Oil and Gas issued two imminent danger notices of violation in



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response to each incident. The office also issued a pollution notice of violation regarding the Doddridge County incident. Gillenwater says pressure buildup in the tanks caused the ruptures. The DEP ordered Antero to suspend operations at both sites until it provides detailed information related to the cause of the pressure buildup and a plan to prevent such incidents.

<http://www.wtrf.com/story/25292510/antero-cited-for-tank-ruptures-at-2-wva-sites>

USA, W.VA, HUNTINGTON, APRIL 21 2014. AFTER DEMOLITION OF HUNTINGTON PILOT PLANT, U 235 AND U 238 CONTAMINATION DEEMED LOW; BASELINE SOIL IN OHIO RIVER BASIN HIGH IN NICKEL CONTAMINATION THEN

tony e. rutherford



Editor's Note: The statements and conclusions expressed are based solely on the contents of the historical documents from 1975-1980. However, ten years AFTER the statements made in these documents, the plant was included for nuclear worker health compensation under the act approved in 1990. The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) is a federal program created by Congress to compensate nuclear weapons workers who were made ill, or the surviving family members of deceased workers, by work done in the US nuclear weapons industry beginning in WW2. Congress determined that nuclear weapons production and testing involves unique dangers and workers could be harmed by exposure to even small amounts of radiation or beryllium. Congress felt that many Cold War nuclear weapons workers at Department of Energy (DOE) sites had been put at

risk without their knowledge or consent. Previously secret records documented unmonitored exposures to radiation, beryllium, and toxic chemicals. Studies also show that 98% of radiation induced cancers in nuclear workers occurred at radiation levels less than the existing maximum "safe" levels. About \$6.3 million has been paid to Huntington workers/survivors. This story does NOT attempt to analyze ; it only reports the newly received memorandums and data. Additional data/info has been posted in PDF form. An analysis will follow. The Huntington Pilot Plant (Reduction Pilot Plant), which processed starting materials for two gaseous diffusion plants, was demolished for "regulatory reasons" and removal of classified nickel materials and nickel carbonyl , according to recently released Department of Energy documents obtained by HNN under the Freedom of Information Act. The plant utilized Uranium 235 and Uranium 238 from gaseous diffusion plants which performed uranium enrichment operations. Until the receipt of the documents, the government decision making process to demolish the plant had not been made public. The Huntington plant was built on four acres of the International Nickel campus in 1951. It was demolished in 1978-1979. According to the documents the decision to remove the structure was more for regulatory and classified decisions, rather than health concerns. During a cold stand by period from 1963 until prior to demolition, the site was maintained by Huntington Alloys under a "separate appendix to the original contract" with the Atomic Energy Commission. Based upon the results of a January 15-16, 1975 radiation survey and security inspection , "the presence or potential presence of nickel carbonyl and the presence or potential presence of classified starting materials determined portions of the plant for disposal at the classified landfill at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. "The process equipment and piping were unsuitable for conventional disposal," the November 14, 1979 RPP Clearance Report stated. "The residue unloading system and the building walls, floors and structural members surrounding it were slightly contaminated and contained classified starting material. The CO holding tanks were slightly contaminated and were all scheduled for burial at Portsmouth." 59 truck and four railcar loads of scrap were transported to the Portsmouth Plant. 138 truck loads of clean scrap were removed by Cleveland Wrecking. Demolition started November 27, 1978 and was finished May 18, 1979. All contaminated material had "left the site" by May 15, 1979. During demolition contaminated equipment was color coded. Red indicated carbonyl contamination and white indicated uranium contamination. The two colors included all classified materials. Clean scrap was placed south of the compressor Building outside the fence. According to Richard D. Smith, health physicist Health Protection Branch, certified that as of May 15, 1979, "the site radiation level" qualified the property to be "released for unrestricted use." Decisions about the site are based on "Guideline for Decontamination of Facilities and Equipment Prior to Release for Unrestricted Use or Termination of Licenses for by product, source, or special nuclear Material" published in 1976 by the Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Oversight for the "unrestricted use" decision was to be filed with both the Fuel Cycle and Material Safety division of the USNRC and the Director of the Regional Office of Inspection and Enforcement of the USNRC. Under these guidelines, the NRC could authorize the relinquishment of possession or control of premises, equipment or scrap having surfaces contaminated with material in excess of limits. One of



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

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the "special circumstances" included "razing of buildings, transfer of premises to another organization continuing work with radioactive materials."

Nickel and Ohio River Flood Plain

At the time of the only radiological survey in 1980 (following removal), the site was tested for Uranium 235, Uranium 238, and Radon. Hot spots were found on the site. For instance, "hot spots" were found in the change and shower areas with "elevated gamma level" readings. The loading pad had been a prior hot spot for "elevated radionuclide concentrations." Describing a northern portion containing a concrete pad, the report states that subsurface testing there was "unnecessary" due to "the presence of coarse gravel" and "subsurface concrete pads." Baseline/control soil samples from near the Ohio River flood plain (1.5 miles from the plant) were substantially higher for nickel than on-site samples, the documents state. This suggests that "general nickel contamination of surface soil may exist throughout this area as a result of past International Nickel Operations." The Radiation Contamination Clearance Report prepared by Oak Ridge Operations or the DOE on April 4, 1980 concluded that "the only uranium introduced into the plant was in the form of contamination contained on the surface of recycled barrier materials." The report stated that primarily uranium "ash" was extracted from the Huntington facility "at the bottom of the reactor and was vacuum transferred to the residue system." The document stated that the ash was "drummed and shipped to Oak Ridge. No material was disposed onsite." William H. Travis, director Safety and Environmental Control Division, stated that there were no "drains or sumps" inside the building. Based on the data available in that time frame, Travis wrote "the only area which might not have complied [with criteria for unrestricted release] was "the housing of the residue system and the residue system itself." Further, at the time, there was no "de minimis [inappropriate] quantity" for enriched uranium under NRC Regulatory Guide 1.86. The letter stated that "contamination levels were already below the applicable guidelines" for unrestricted release; however Travis noted based on a radiological survey that "political pressures may dictate otherwise."

Documents:

- http://www.eecap.org/Covered_Facilities/West_Virginia/Huntington.htm
- <http://www.dol.gov/owcp/energy/regs/compliance/statistics/WebPages%5CHUN...>
- Argonne National Lab report http://www.remm.nlm.gov/ANL_ContaminantFactSheets_All_070418.pdf
- [NRC PT 1.pdf](#) (2.91 MB)
- [NRC PT 2.pdf](#) (1.77 MB)

<http://www.huntingtonnews.net/86212>

USA, S.C, CHARLESTON, APRIL 21 2014. COAST GUARD INVESTIGATING FUEL SPILL AT THREE ASHLEY RIVER MARINAS

corey davis



Saturday evening.

The Coast Guard still doesn't know what caused the fuel spill in the Ashley River Saturday night. The mile long streak of thick, purple diesel-type pollution was in the waters of the Bristol, Ashley River and Charleston City Marinas. A boater who keeps his vessel at one of the marinas first reported the pollution. Other boaters followed. Staff members at the Charleston City Marina say there is still a lot to clean-up. The rainbow colored sheen can be seen covering the top of the water near the Ashley River draw bridges and the James Island Connector. Marina employees have been using oil spill booms. The sponge-like material was put down to absorb the fuel that spilled Saturday night. The Coast Guard says the heaviest pockets of fuel are within the waters of the City Marina. Employees there say their fuel lines used by boaters have been inspected and cleared with the Coast Guard. The staff says they won't be able to get all of the fuel because of the high winds and changing tide. A lot of the fuel is pooling in the corners of the docks and collecting in the seaweed along the shore. The Coast Guard says so far there have been no reports on damage to the environment. They say fuel does not appear to be spreading outside of the marinas.

<http://www.live5news.com/story/25292711/coast-guard-seeks-pollution-source-in-sc-marinas>



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