



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2014 – 1,049 Newsy Stuff

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

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USA, PA, PITTSBURGH, FEBRUARY 23 2014. CHEVRON HALTED DRILLING ON ALL OF ITS PENNSYLVANIA GAS WELLS FOLLOWING EXPLOSION

molly born & sean d. hamill

Chevron has shut down gas wells in Pennsylvania that it was still drilling or working to put into production following the deadly explosion and fire on a well pad last week in Greene County, a state environmental official said today. Scott Perry, a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection deputy secretary, said work on seven well pads with wells that have been fracked and are awaiting production, or have not yet been fracked, has been suspended since the Feb. 11 blast in Dunkard. Fracking is a part of the drilling process that involves shooting millions of gallons of water, sand and chemicals into the well hole to fracture the shale and allow the gas to escape. Mr. Perry said the DEP asked Chevron to shut down the wells, but the company had already done so, last week. State environmental inspectors are visiting the sites, and Chevron is inspecting all of its wells statewide, he said. The wells in Dunkard continued to leak today, Mr. Perry said, but that presents no danger to the community or environment. Crews don't expect to cap the two well heads until the middle of next week. "Obviously, the most critical thing is that this be done safely," he said. It's still unclear what caused the explosion that killed one contractor and injured another, sparking a fire that burned out of control for five days. Officials will focus their investigation on a bolt -- used to support production tubing that workers were going to run into the well -- that appears to have been ejected from the well head. "It's a rare event, obviously, but we need to make sure it cannot reoccur," Mr. Perry said. State police investigators on Wednesday recovered the remains of who they believe to be Ian McKee, 27, a field service technician for Cameron International who was working on the site. Mr. McKee was originally from Warren, but lived in Morgantown, W.Va. Just before the blast, workers on site said they heard a noise coming from the well, and at least two people -- Mr. McKee and another Cameron contractor -- "approached the well when it lost its integrity," Mr. Perry said.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/local/marcellusshale/2014/02/21/Chevron-halted-work-on-all-of-its-Pennsylvania-gas-wells-following-explosion/stories/201402210175>

CANADA, ONT, TORONTO, FEBRUARY 23 2014. ENBRIDGE LINE 9: W5 UNCOVERS UNREPORTED SPILLS, ALARMING COMMUNITIES ALONG 830-KM PIPE

jessica mcdiarmid & annie burns-pieper

- Investigation unveils 35 spills along Enbridge's suddenly controversial 830-km pipeline, many not revealed to communities until now.



An aging Enbridge pipeline that runs across Ontario has had at least 35 spills — far more than reported to federal regulators — but many municipalities along its route have never been informed of the incidents, a CTV W5 investigation

reveals. The National Energy Board, which regulates pipelines in Canada, has records of seven spills, while Enbridge told the investigative program there had been 13. But W5's analysis of information from the energy board, the company and Ontario's Ministry of the Environment showed 35 spills associated with the 830-kilometre Line 9. (The Quebec government refused to provide W5 with any information). The company is seeking federal approval to increase and reverse flow on the 38-year-old pipeline and use it to transport, in part, diluted bitumen from Alberta's oilsands. "It's quite alarming," said Brian McHattie, a city councillor in Hamilton, where seven leaks over the years have released nearly 3,000 litres of crude oil at company facilities northwest of the city. "This is new information for me." McHattie said the information raises concern about what is shared with municipalities. Hamilton staff met regularly with Enbridge officials since the company submitted its application, but none, to McHattie's knowledge, were ever informed of the spills. "They just haven't been very forthcoming with us," said McHattie. "It just makes you less confident in their integrity as a company and their willingness to share information and be above-board." Companies are required only to report hydrocarbon spills to the National Energy Board that are larger than 1,500 litres — equivalent to about 25 tanks of gas in an average car — or could have a "significant adverse effect" on the environment.



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Enbridge spokesperson Graham White wrote in an email to the Star that the 13 leaks and ruptures noted in pipeline engineering assessments refer to mainline spills. The remainder were spills at facilities, he wrote. Ontario's Ministry of the Environment requires all spills to be reported, both those occurring on the main line and those within associated facilities. The ministry recorded 22 spills between 2003 and 2013. Just one occurred on the main line, spokesperson Kate Jordan told the Star. Provincial law also requires that all spills be reported to municipalities in which they occur, but there are many exceptions. Spills such as those occurring at company facilities are usually exempt. Cramahe Mayor Marc Coombs said he first learned of five spills that together leached 1,824 litres of oil when he was contacted by a W5 reporter. "We were not notified of any of them," said Coombs. "It does (raise concerns), from the point of view of transparency." The Calgary pipeline company raised the ire of Terrebonne, just outside Montreal, when municipal officials learned of a 2011 spill of 4,000 litres at Enbridge's local facility — more than two years later. The revelation came in the midst of controversial public hearings in front of the National Energy Board. "Terrebonne was surprised (by) the Enbridge attitude in this file, you know, because according to us Enbridge, as a good corporate citizen, has a moral responsibility to inform the city that a spill was occurring in that sector, a sector where there is a college, professional training centre, sports complex, daycare and several more businesses," spokesperson Joël Goulet told W5. Goulet said the company was willing to notify Terrebonne of similar incidents in the future. Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley said the city isn't usually notified when spills are contained within facilities and don't require municipal staff to be involved in containment or cleanup. He said the city hadn't heard about the nine spills linked with Line 9 facilities in the past decade — but it should. "It's just a good practice to notify, and then we can make our own judgment whether we need to do anything further," said Bradley. "Just tell us. That's all we want — to know." Enbridge spokesperson White said standards and expectations have "changed dramatically in a short period of time." "In the past, if there was zero impact to municipalities and leaks were able to be completely and safely maintained, managed and cleaned, on sites that had well-managed and implemented spill prevention and contingency plans, we would report it to regulators as required, but there was no requirement or stated request from municipalities to inform them of incidents that did not impact them in any way whatsoever," White wrote in an email to the Star. "We fully understand that expectations have changed due to the prominence that pipeline issues have achieved in recent years, and we are successfully working with municipalities and local emergency responders to inform them of any incident, regardless of whether or not it has any impact off our sites."

http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/torontopipeline/2014/02/22/enbridge_line_9_w5_uncovered_unreported_spills_alarming_communities_along_830km_pipe.html

ENGLAND, OXFORD, FEBRUARY 23 2014. FUEL SPILL INVESTIGATED IN OXFORD

linda bock

Local fire officials took steps on Saturday afternoon to contain what they believe is diesel fuel runoff from a gas pump at R&M Leasing, across its parking lot and into Barbers Hollow Brook. Fire Chief Sheri Bemis said diesel trucks fuel up at pumps in the alcove area that is not on a concrete slab at the trucking company, located at 430 Main St. She said it appeared that fuel had collected around the frozen ground and ice over the winter. That fuel built up over time in an ice pocket, and appears to have begun to melt with the warmer temperatures. The diesel fuel traveled across the parking lot and flowed into the waterway. "You can smell it," Chief Bemis said of the spilled fuel. She said she notified the town's Conservation Commission on her way to the brook. Chief Bemis said an absorbent material was spread in the area, and two large booms were placed into the brook to absorb the spilled fuel. She said state environmental officials were notified and will be at Barbers Hollow Brook on Monday to investigate. She said the owner of the business was contacted, and told her that he had an approved plan in place to construct a concrete pad for the fueling area in spring. Glenn E. Krevosky, environmental consultant with EBT Inc., said he was working in the area on Friday when he first noticed a sheen on the water. He called the nearby R&M Leasing company to notify them. He was told the owner was on vacation. On Saturday, Mr. Krevosky said he was back working in the area when he saw what seemed like some sort of heating fuel sheen discharging out of a pipe from the business into the brook, as well as a significant buildup of "greyish, whitish, brownish" sludge on the brook. He called the state's Department of Environmental Protection emergency number to report the sludge build-up he saw on the brook. "This is something leaking, or a leaking tank. There's something wrong," Mr. Krevosky said. A DEP official called him Saturday afternoon to give him an update. "I totally don't agree that it's just runoff," Mr. Krevosky said from the fuel pump area. He said the strong odor of fuel in the air, the volume of the sludge and the potential duration that fuel has leaked into the brook have him concerned that there is a much bigger environmental problem. The state Division of Fisheries & Wildlife granted Mr. Krevosky a permit to stock the trout eggs on 5.3 acres he owns off nearby Prince Street. Mr. Krevosky, his son Mark, and Donald Tremblay created the brook trout incubator, hauling in stone and gravel to create the gravel-bottomed channel that flows into the brook and the protected spot



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that is home to 400 fertile brook trout eggs. The plan is that the trout hatch and survive to eventually find their way into Barbers Hollow Brook. On Saturday, Mr. Krevosky said the eggs are located in a protected area and were not threatened. "My main issue is to just get the problem fixed," he said.

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20140222/NEWS/302229851/1116>

USA, WA, LA CONNER, FEBRUARY 23 2014. ECOLOGISTS CLOSELY MONITOR OIL SPILL AFTER MARINA FIRE DESTROYS 7 YACHTS

hana kim

 **Watch the Video** [Crews Work to Clear Charred Boats from La Conner Marina](#)

 **Photo's [4]** [Wash. Marina Fire Destroys at Least 7 Boats](#)

- Up to 2,400 gallons of oil potentially been released.



An extensive clean up continued on Saturday at Shelter Bay Marina in La Conner after a huge fire damaged or destroyed nearly a dozen yachts. The main concern for crews was to contain the oil that spilled into the bay. Witnesses say Friday evening they first heard an explosion then saw the fire. "Actually I thought my boats was up flames," Matt Wing said. Wing's yacht was just inches away from the inferno, he says someone untied his boat saving it from being destroyed. "It did suffer quite a bit of smoke damage to see it in that condition it's kind of heartbreaking," Wing said. But things could be worse. The flames quickly jumped from one boat to the next and there was nothing even firefighters could do about it. In all 7 vessels were destroyed with most of them sinking under water. "They were really nice absolutely beautiful yachts," Larry Kibbee said. Kibbee is the president of Shelter Bay's Board of Directors. He says the estimated damage could be in the millions. Crews fished two boats out of the

marina on Saturday and it could be Monday before the rest of the vessels are picked up. But the rainbow of diesel fuel polluting the bay cannot wait. "Anytime oil gets into the environment we want to make it a priority to get it out as quickly and safely as we can," ecologist Laura Hayes said. Ecologists say up to 2,400 gallons of oil could have potentially been released. But they are using containment booms to prevent the fuel from traveling to the nearby Swinomish channel. "As for human health and safety we are monitoring the oil and air quality," Hayes said. They are also closely watching wildlife, hoping there are no long term environmental problems. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined

<http://q13fox.com/2014/02/22/ecologists-closely-monitor-oil-spill-after-shelter-bay-marina-fire-destroys-7-yachts/#axzz2u8dNh5FU>

USA, TX, DALLAS, FEBRUARY 23 2014. EXXON CEO COMES OUT AGAINST FRACKING PROJECT BECAUSE IT WILL AFFECT HIS PROPERTY VALUES

rebecca leber



As ExxonMobil's CEO, it's Rex Tillerson's job to promote the hydraulic fracturing enabling the recent oil and gas boom, and fight regulatory oversight. The oil company is the biggest natural gas producer in the U.S., relying on the controversial drilling technology to extract it. The exception is when Tillerson's \$5 million property value might be harmed. Tillerson has joined a lawsuit that cites fracking's consequences in order to block the construction of a 160-foot water tower next to his and his wife's Texas home. The [Wall Street Journal reports](#) the tower would supply water to a nearby fracking site, and the plaintiffs argue the project would cause too much noise and traffic from hauling the water from the tower to the drilling site. The water tower, owned by Cross Timbers Water Supply Corporation, "will sell water to oil and gas explorers for fracing [sic] shale formations leading to traffic with heavy trucks on FM 407, creating a noise

nuisance and traffic hazards," the [suit says](#). Though Tillerson's name is on the lawsuit, a lawyer representing him said his concern is about the devaluation of his property, not fracking specifically. When he is acting as Exxon CEO, not a homeowner, Tillerson has lashed out at fracking critics and proponents of regulation. "This type of dysfunctional regulation is holding back



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the American economic recovery, growth, and global competitiveness," [he said in 2012](#). Natural gas production "is an old technology just being applied, integrated with some new technologies," he said in [another interview](#). "So the risks are very manageable." In shale regions, less wealthy residents have protested fracking development for impacts more consequential than noise, including [water contamination and cancer risk](#). Exxon's oil and gas operations and the resulting spills not only sinks property values, but the spills have [leveled homes](#) and [destroyed regions](#). Exxon, which pays Tillerson a total [\\$40.3 million](#), is staying out of the legal tangle. A spokesperson told the WSJ it "has no involvement in the legal matter."

Related Stories

- [Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson joins lawsuit to stop fracking activity near his home](#)
- [The CEO of Exxon loves fracking, as long as it doesn't spoil his view](#)

<http://www.countercurrents.org/leber220214.htm>

USA, GA, LAWRENCEVILLE, FEBRUARY 25 2014. ETHANOL STORAGE TANKS CONSIDERED NEAR LAWRENCEVILLE

camie young

After years of transferring ethanol from trains to tanker-trucks, officials will consider a proposal to build three storage tanks in a Lawrenceville-area business park. With the federal government mandating 10 percent ethanol in gasoline, the operation is there to stay, said Mitch Peevy, a consultant for the business WB Services. But the question is whether the ethanol will go directly into the trucks or be transferred to storage tanks. "It sounds like a safe and secure, better way than the current system," Peevy said of the proposal to add storage tanks to CSX railway property off of Winder Highway in the Gwinnett Progress Center. Peevy said the current operation requires a lot of manpower and two weeks of work at a time to offload all of the ethanol that is brought in one shipment. Adding the storage tanks would allow the offloading to be done in a matter of days. "It'll be a more efficient and safer way," he said. "It has safety features that the (current procedure) doesn't have." The proposal has risks, said Gaye McNeil, a Lawrenceville woman who researched the issue when it was brought to the attention of Citizens for a Better Gwinnett, a group that brought hundreds in opposition to an airport commercialization proposal several years ago. "We're just a little concerned because ... the general public doesn't seem to be aware of this issue," McNeil said. "If I lived in close proximity, my concern first would be safety issues. ... We found that conditions have to be met in terms of environmental protection and fire protection." McNeil said the organization has not taken sides on the issue, although she may speak out at Tuesday's Board of Commissioners' hearing seeking more time for public input on the proposal. But Peevy said he has not heard any complaints, adding that the current operation has been key to transporting ethanol across Georgia for the past three years without any problems.

<http://www.gwinnettdailyreport.com/news/2014/feb/22/ethanol-storage-tanks-considered-near/>

JAPAN, OKINAWA, GINOZA, FEBRUARY 25 2014. SOIL CONTAMINATED WITH HARMFUL SUBSTANCE AT U.S. HELICOPTER CRASH SITE

ryukyu shimpō

On February 18, the U.S. military announced the result of testing of soil at the site where an HH-60 rescue helicopter belonging to U.S. Air Force Kadena Air Base crashed in Camp Hansen in Ginoza last August. The lead level in one sample was 0.744 milligrams per liter, 74 times higher than the reference standard of the Japan Ministry of Environment Soil Contamination Countermeasures Law. The arsenic level in one sample was 0.215 milligrams per liter, 21 times higher than the reference standard. It is possible that these substances are residual materials from the aircraft. The Okinawa Prefectural Government and the Ginoza Village Office will investigate the site on and after February 19, when the U.S. military removes the polluted soils. A Ginoza official complained because six months have passed since the accident occurred. "Even if we are given access to the site after removal of the soil we do not know exactly where the helicopter crashed." All surface-water samples collected from the Okawa Drinking Water Reservoir and a nearby stream, which are about 70 meters distance from the crash site, were within Japan Environmental Governing Standards limits. The U.S. government concluded that water in the reservoir was safe. The U.S. Air Force collected soil at the crash site between October and December last year and analyzed it using the United States Environmental Protection Agency standard protocols. Soil removed from the site will be disposed of in accordance with the Japan Environmental Governing Standards, the U.S. military said. The Okinawa Defense Bureau explained to the Ginoza Village officials that the polluted soil would be taken to the United States. The U.S. military will reinvestigate the site and then carry out an aerial hydro seeding to prevent soil erosion. If the Okinawa Prefectural Government requests access to the site, the U.S. military authorities will grant it after removing the polluted soil. The



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prefectural government had requested to be allowed to investigate the site, but the U.S. military did not grant permission. Prefectural government officials want to carry out the investigation as soon as possible to address concerns of the residents of Ginoza who are under water supply restrictions. Ginoza officials entered the crash site for the first time last December but the military did not allow them to carry out the investigation. They were permitted only to take photographs of the scene. The prefectural government and the village office carried out investigations in the area around the base. They have not detected abnormal values from the samples. On its website, the Okinawa Defense Bureau has published the results of the assessment prepared by Joe Vogel, Environmental Affairs Branch Head, Marine Corps Installation Pacific.

<http://english.ryukyushimpo.jp/2014/02/23/13223/>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, FEBRUARY 24 2014. OIL CLOSES NEW ORLEANS PORT, PART OF MISS. RIVER

janet mcconnaughe

A 65-mile stretch of the Mississippi River, including the Port of New Orleans, was closed to all water traffic Sunday as crews cleaned up oil that spilled from a barge after it ran into a towboat between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, the [Coast Guard](#) said. Officials don't know how much oil spilled, but only a sheen was reported on the river following the collision, which happened Saturday afternoon near Vacherie, 47 miles west of New Orleans by land, said Coast Guard Petty Officer [Bill Colclough](#). No one was hurt and all barges were secured, Colclough said. By late Sunday afternoon, 16 vessels were waiting to go downriver and 10 vessels were waiting in an upriver queue, he said. He could not estimate when the river would reopen. The cause of the collision was under investigation.

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/science/article/Oil-spill-closes-part-of-Miss-River-in-Louisiana-5260828.php>

USA, MS, D'IBERVILLE, FEBRUARY 24 2014. TWO DEAD IN I-10 ACCIDENT, TANKER CONTAINS HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE

 [Watch the Video 2 Dead in I-10 Accident.](#)



WLOX News has confirmed the traffic accident involving an 18-wheeler on Interstate 10 near the 47 mile marker in D'Iberville has left at least two people dead. Corporal Jason Gazzo with the Mississippi Highway Patrol confirms the driver of the 18-wheeler and the driver of the car the truck hit are dead. Gazzo said the 18-wheeler was carrying a hazardous substance, so moving the tanker will take awhile. Luckily the tank did not rupture. Authorities are asking drivers headed eastbound on I-10 to find an alternate route. All three eastbound lanes

are closed at the accident site. The Harrison County Coroner is on the scene, but the identities of the victims are being withheld until next of kin can be notified.

<http://www.wlox.com/story/24795947/police-serious-wreck-on-i-10-involving-18-wheeler>

CANADA, QC, MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 24 2014. LIGHT FUEL SPILL AS TRAINS DERAIL IN MONTREAL



Two CN trains derailed overnight in Montreal, causing a small gasoline spill.

Nearly 4,000 litres of diesel fuel spilled after two CN trains derailed early Sunday in St. Henri, a neighbourhood in Montreal's southwest borough. At 12:10 a.m., a CN train derailed near the corner of Acorn and de Courcelle, blocks from both Montreal's Atwater Market and the Lachine Canal. The train derailed after failing to stop at a designated area for reasons that are still unknown. The train, used only locally and known as a switcher, had two locomotives at the front and was pulling 25 cars. Transportation Safety Board (TSB) investigator Guy Laporte told QMI Agency that the switcher was heading east on a secondary rail and only came to a stop approximately 400 feet past the designated stop area. The train was involved a minor collision with a westbound train that was en route from

Halifax. The train from Halifax had 120 cars attached and Laporte said it was not carrying any hazardous materials. Five cars (13 through 17) on the Halifax train rubbed up against the switcher, causing the first four units (two locomotives and two cars) on the switcher to derail. While the trains stayed upright, the switcher's second locomotive sustained a punctured diesel tank, causing the spill. According to TSB official Roxanne D'Aoust, 1,000 gallons (3785.41 litres) of fuel seeped out of the engine. Emergency workers from Quebec's Ministry of the Environment and CN were on the scene overnight overseeing the cleanup.



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Laporte said that the TSB was told by CN that the spill had been cleaned up and that the frozen ground made the recovery operation easier. The TSB was also assured by CN and the Ministry of the Environment that no fuel leaked into the city sewers. Via Rail spokesperson Mylene Belanger told QMI Agency that their service will not be disrupted.

<http://www.torontosun.com/2014/02/23/light-fuel-spill-as-trains-derail-in-montreal>

NEPAL, BIRATNAGAR, FEBRUARY 24 2014. PETROLEUM DEALERS MAKING FALSE INSURANCE CLAIMS

ajit tiwari

Claiming hefty insurance money much above the actual loss incurred during road accidents has become a novel way of earning extra money for some oil tanker operators and dealers of eastern Nepal. The fact had come to light after the February 7 incident when Manish Maru, a tanker operator, demanded insurance money for the loss of 20,000 liters of petrol when the tanker (Na. 4. Kha. 3114) met with an accident at Forbesgunj. The tanker was transporting petrol from Bairani Petroleum Depot of India to Biratnagar. Dissatisfied over the excessive loss of petrol, surveyor Amod Chaudhary had even called for a press meet. Addressing the meeting, Chaudhary cited the claim as vivid exhibition of fraudulent act. "The tanker was never carrying 20, 000 liters of petrol. Imagine the scene of destruction it would have created but the impact was far less then reported," said Chaudhary. "The fire had not even touched the grass five meters away from the scene of accident," added Chaudhary. Talking to Republica, a source revealed that both the surveyor deployed from insurance companies and the owner of the oil tankers or petroleum depots make heavy sum of insurance money through such tactics. "This recent case would have never revealed if both the parties had succeeded to settle their share in silence," said the source. "If the surveyor approves of his share, the report of loss and expenses will be prepared without any hassle," added the source. Denying the allegation, Chief of Morang Petroleum Entrepreneur Association Ghun Raj Niroula, said that he has never been involved in making false accident expense reports. "We have always accessed ground realities. Our estimations are based on reports collected from the field survey," said Niroula. Chief of Biratnagar region depot of Nepal Oil Corporation, Jagarnath Ghimire shared that he himself was at the accident site and assisted in the survey. "However, it's the work of insurer to access the loss," said Ghimire. Five years ago, a tanker carrying petrol had crashed near Rani Police Station of Biratnagar. Although the accident had led to the spilling of a total of 1000 liters of petrol, petroleum entrepreneur Shiva Prasad Ghimire filed an insurance claim for 12,000 liters. Without any intervention, Ghimire won the case and received the compensations within a few days. Similarly, seven years ago, another petroleum entrepreneur, Laxman Singh, had received compensations for a total of 12,000 liters of petrol when his tanker was not even carrying half of the claimed quantity. "Petroleum entrepreneurs are taking advantage of this situation because it is always difficult to estimate the actual quantity of petroleum products lost during accidents. As petroleum products are volatile in nature, they dry up in the air before the survey team reaches the accident site," said the source.

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=70054

CHINA, BEIJING, FEBRUARY 24 2014. SINOPEC SEEKS PRIVATE CAPITAL IN MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR RETAIL ARM REVAMP

charlie zhu, meg shen, tom pfeiffer & muralikumar anantharaman

Sinopec Corp, Asia's largest oil refiner, plans to sell up to 30 percent of its retail oil business to private investors in a multi-billion dollar restructuring aimed at boosting the value of its sprawling downstream arm. The proposed stake sale in state-run Sinopec's marketing arm, which owns more than 30,000 petrol stations, comes as China is looking at promoting private investment in the country's oil industry and vowed in November to let the private sector play a bigger role in the economy. Private investors have long complained of a lack of access to the lucrative industry in the oil and gas sector of the world's largest energy user, which is dominated by Sinopec and other state oil giants such as PetroChina and CNOOC Ltd. Sinopec shares soared about 9 percent in Hong Kong and Shanghai on Thursday morning in reaction to the news, following an 8.4 percent rally overnight in its New York-traded shares. In a filing with the Hong Kong bourse late on Wednesday, the company said its board had passed a resolution to restructure the oil product marketing activities and "diversify the ownership by way of introducing social and private capital". The board has authorised the company to bring in "social and private investors" who would acquire up to 30 percent of the business, said Sinopec, formally known as China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. The statement gave no further details. A person close to Sinopec's strategy on the restructuring told Reuters that Sinopec chairman Fu Chengyu hopes that a revamp of its massive marketing arm, which mainly includes more than 30,000 petrol stations across the country, and a sale of the stake to non-state investors would help revalue the business segment. "Fu believes the marketing business has been seriously undervalued by the market," said the industry source, who spoke on



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condition of anonymity. "Also they hope to bring in some industry expertise to run gas stations in a more professional way and make more use of the vast retail network."

Unlocking Value

The marketing and distribution division of Sinopec, which also engages in oil and [gas exploration](#) and production, refining and chemicals production, accounts for nearly half of the group's annual total operating profits. The segment posted an unaudited operating profit of 27.03 billion yuan (\$4.46 billion) for the first nine months of 2013, down 10.5 percent year on year, partly because of a slowing Chinese economy. The divestment should "enable Sinopec to begin to unlock the enormous hidden value within the company", Neil Beveridge, senior energy analyst at Bernstein Research, wrote in a note to clients. Operating profit at Sinopec's marketing division is expected to rise to 52 billion yuan in 2015 from 42 billion yuan in 2013, Beveridge said. Hong Kong-based analysts expect Sinopec to raise several billion dollars from the sale of a 30 percent stake in the marketing arm and use the proceeds to modernise and expand the business, lower the gearing ratio and boost investment in exploration and production. Andy Meng, energy analyst at Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong, said the sale of 30 percent stake may create a net cash inflow of more than 50 billion yuan to Sinopec. It is unclear whether Sinopec would divest the stake through a trade sale to investors or through an initial public offering of shares on the stock market. The possibility of bringing in a foreign strategic investor into the marketing business also can't be ruled out, analysts said Sinopec's move to take in private investors comes after PetroChina, the country's No. 1 oil and gas producer, divested part of its pipeline activities in the past two years, raising billions of dollars from domestic institutional investors. (\$1 = 6.0673 Chinese yuan)

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/02/20/uk-sinopec-divest-idUKBREA1J07Y20140220>

USA, AR, MAYFLOWER, FEBRUARY 24 2014. FIRST HEARING IN MAYFLOWER OIL SPILL LAWSUIT SET FOR MONDAY

 **Watch the Video** [Monday: 1st Mayflower Oil Spill Lawsuit Hearing](#)



Lawyers for Exxon Mobil and a landowner in Mayflower are expected in a courtroom Monday morning. It's the first hearing in Faulkner County for a lawsuit stemming from last year's oil spill. It's been nearly 11 months since 3,500 barrels of oil poured out of that ruptured pipeline in Mayflower. Heading to court Monday, is one of the many lawsuits filed in the wake of the spill. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the owners of a Mayflower R-V dealer. It claims the business lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in profits as clean up crews clogged up roads near the spill. Little Rock attorney Kent Walker is representing the R-V dealer. He says potential customers went elsewhere in the months after the spill. During the hearing Monday morning at 9:00am attorneys are expected to wrangle over documents used to determine how severely the business was damaged. The judge may also set a trial date, though a settlement before trial is

likely in these type of cases.

<http://www.arkansasmatters.com/story/d/story/first-hearing-in-mayflower-oil-spill-lawsuit-set-f/20898/ZU80tqTkHk-DDS7q5UQUaA>

USA, TN, HARDEMAN CO, TOONE, FEBRUARY 24 2014. INITIAL INVESTIGATION OF CHEMRING PLANT EXPLOSION BEGINS

brittany nicholson

 **Watch the Video** [Investigation of Chemring Plant Explosion Begins](#)

Federal authorities began their investigation into a pair of Chemring plant explosions that left a man in critical condition, Sunday. A Hardeman county man said he believes his mother is in danger by working at the plant. "When something like this happens, you don't think about it til it happens and its really scary," Bryant Hopper, a Toone resident, said. Hopper remembers hearing explosions occasionally in his 17 years there, but after hearing one of the Chemring explosions Saturday, he now fears for his mother's safety. "I think she's be better off finding another place to work. You know, safer than here," Hopper said. Sunday afternoon the Bureau for Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and the Hardeman County Sheriff, John Doolen, explained how they plan to tackle the investigation of the explosion that leaves one man in critical condition. "We bring in ATF's national response team which is a collection of experts from around the country with ATF including chemists, engineers, bomb technicians," Special Agent John Fulton said. Fulton said they have already conducted interviews, obtained



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video, and secured the scene. They will start the official investigation first thing Monday morning. "We're here to try to determine what the cause was and if there was anything criminal here," Fulton said. Sheriff Doolen said his goal is to make sure residents are safe and they give the victim an explanation for why the explosion occurred. "I believe giving the family a fair shake on what happened and having questions answered for them. I think that's the best thing we can do right now," Sheriff Doolen said. The Sheriff said he wants to assure residents of Toone they do not need to worry about about any chemicals in the air from the explosion.

<http://www.wbbjt.com/news/local/Initial-Investigation-of-Kilgore-Plant-Begins-246808571.html>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, FEBRUARY 25 2014. MCALEESE GROUP MAY PARK COOTES TRUCKING BRAND



McAleese Group, owner of the Cootes fleet, is planning to restructure its fuel distribution business.

The Cootes trucking brand may be scrapped by the McAleese Group almost 50 years after it was founded, as the group tries to restore its reputation following last year's fatal fuel tanker crash in Sydney. McAleese, which bought Cootes from private equity group CHAMP in 2012, is considering renaming its fuel distribution business McAleese Oil & Gas as part of a restructure. It expects to make a decision on the brand name by the end of March. McAleese executive chairman Mark Rowsthorn said it was reassessing the branding of Cootes' fuel tankers and the age of its fleet and customer service as it tried to retain key

clients such as Caltex. Caltex has been developing its own fuel transportation business, revealing on Monday it had bought the fuel division of privately held transport group Scott's for \$95 million. The purchase includes 28 service stations and 18 fuel depots, mostly in regional Victoria, South Australia and NSW. Mr Rowsthorn expressed surprise at the acquisition, telling analysts he had only learnt of Caltex's purchase on Monday morning, and had not discussed it with Caltex. "At first glance, I don't think it's an issue with our contract, but clearly it's too early to tell," he said. Along with Origin Energy, Caltex is one of Cootes' most important remaining fuel customers after the company lost a national transport contract with Shell last month to rival Toll Holdings. Cootes has also lost BP's NSW fuel distribution contract, which is being retendered nationally. Toll said last week it was hopeful of winning the national BP contract. Analysts said while Cootes' Caltex contract was for distribution in metropolitan areas, not regional areas, the Scott's purchase could make it more difficult for McAleese to renew the contract when it expires in March 2015. "We believe this presents a risk for Cootes," Deutsche Bank analyst Cameron McDonald said. Caltex Australia chief executive Julian Segal said the group would consider renewing Cootes' contract. "If Cootes would be in a position to reassure us of the reliability and safety of the trucks then they would be considered," he said.

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/mcaleese-group-may-park-cootes-trucking-brand-20140224-33d15.html>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, FEBRUARY 25 2014. CALTEX TO BUY SCOTT'S FUEL OPERATIONS >> VEHICLES INVOLVED ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEPOTS RATHER THAN DISTRIBUTION



Caltex is discussing supply chain issues.

Caltex has agreed to buy the Scott's fuel divisions for \$95 million, including working capital and related acquisition costs. To be finalised mid-year, the deal includes the businesses known as Scott's Agencies and Sabadin Petroleum. Some vehicles are involved in the transaction but they are associated with the depots rather than distribution. "Caltex and Scott's are committed to continuing to service the Scott's Fuel Divisions' customers with quality products, safely and reliably," a Caltex spokesman says. "Scott's customers will continue to be supplied until the transaction is finalised, after which time Caltex will manage the supply chain. "Some arrangements may change once Caltex begins managing the supply chain, however this is still to be assessed." The acquisition will complement the fuel firm's existing national network, according to Caltex Australia Managing Director and CEO Julian Segal. "Strategically the acquisition is a good fit," Segal says. "It is consistent with our strategic pillars of offering a

comprehensive and targeted offer to customers across products, sales channels and geographies. "This acquisition once



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again demonstrates our commitment to fuelling Australia into the future. The purchase is expected to be earnings per share positive by the end of its first full year of operation, under Caltex ownership. It will be funded via existing financial facilities. "This acquisition continues Australian ownership and management of the Scott's fuel business, which includes 28 retail sites and 18 depots," Segal says. "In addition, this network expansion also supports our recent supply chain investments including the soon to be commissioned \$85 million terminal at Pelican Point, South Australia." Scott Group of Companies Chairman Tony Johnson says that "after many decades of service to customers, it was the right new direction for this part of the business to take". "The decision was made ultimately to ensure the business continues to grow, prosper and maintain the safe and reliable supply of quality fuel that the community and region expects," Johnson says. "The company and the Scott family, in particular, are very grateful for the many years of loyal service provided by the staff and for the loyalty shown by customers. "We know that Caltex holds the same commitment to servicing and supporting customers and the regional communities it operates within. Under Caltex's stewardship, the fuel business will continue to further develop and grow. "We are confident that this is a good deal for customers, who can rely on Caltex to maintain the safe and reliable delivery of quality fuel. "Our customers will also benefit from the national expertise that Caltex brings to meeting their individual needs."

<http://www.fullyloaded.com.au/news/logistics/1402/caltex-to-buy-scott%E2%80%99s-fuel-operations/>

NEW ZEALAND, PAENGAROA, FEBRUARY 25 2014. CHECK WATER AFTER TANKER SPILL



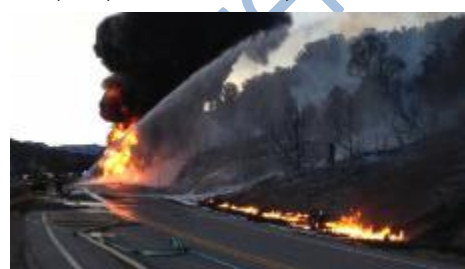
The tanker, which overturned on Old Coach Road on Saturday.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council is advising residents with bores or water takes near Saturday's fuel tanker crash at Paengaroa to check for signs of contamination from the spill. The McFall fuel tanker crashed at about 8.40am Saturday on Old Coach Rd, rupturing two fuel compartments and causing petrol and diesel to leak onto the road. On Saturday morning, Maketu Fire Brigade chief fire officer Shane Beech told SunLive fuel was leaking from two ruptured sections of the fuel tank. Northern Fire Communications shift manager Paul Raddon said that morning the fuel had been leaking into a nearby open drain and firefighters had plugged the drain to stop the fuel getting into the environment. BOPRC acting team leader pollution prevention David Ede says about 9500 litres of diesel and 400 litres of petrol was spilt by the overturned

tanker, with the amounts confirmed with the haulage company that owned the tanker. "While there was no immediate contamination of the nearby waterway, due to the quick actions of the response team, the fuel which entered the roadside drain could have contaminated groundwater near Old Coach Rd and Maniatutu Rd, moving in a north to north-east direction towards the coast." David says residents in this area should check for petrol films or odour in water bores or water takes – and if they think the water might be contaminated, they should call the regional council's Pollution Prevention Hotline 0800 884 883. "If the water is used as a drinking water source, residents should notify Toi Te Ora Public Health on 0800 221 555," says David. "Council staff will continue to investigate any potential contamination of water supplies in the area, and will be sampling soil and streams that may be contaminated." Police are investigating the cause of the crash and the commercial vehicle investigation unit has been called.

<http://www.sunlive.co.nz/news/65197-check-water-after-tanker-spill.html>

USA, CO, GARFIELD CO, FEBRUARY 25 2014. HWY 13 CLOSED AFTER FUEL TANKER ROLLS OVER, SPARKS FIRE



Highway 13 shut down in both directions Feb. 23, 2014 after a fuel tanker rolled over, said deputies.

Highway 13 was shut down in both directions north of Rifle after a single fuel tanker rolled over. The accident happened shortly before 6 p.m. Sunday, according to the Garfield County Sheriff's Office. Deputies said the crash ignited a fire that spread into the nearby grass and woods. As of 7 p.m. Sunday, deputies reported that the fire had been extinguished, but that Highway 13 remained closed. They added that they except the clean up of spilled fuel and hazardous materials to take an extended amount of time. No one was injured in the crash and no other vehicles were involved, said deputies.

<http://kdvr.com/2014/02/23/hwy-13-closed-after-fuel-tanker-rolls-over-sparks-fire/>



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USA, TX, HOUSTON, FEBRUARY 25 2014. HOUSTON HOMES EVACUATED AFTER CHEMICAL TANKER CRASHES, LEAKS

craig hlavaty

Photo's [6] Houston Homes Evacuated



Houston Fire Department personnel work at scene where a tanker truck drove into a ditch at the corner of Des Chaumes and Roland St. near U.S.59 Monday, Feb. 24, 2014 in Houston. HFD District Chief Johnny Smith said the tanker contained a corrosive alkaline. He said the contents would be off loaded to another tanker.

Several homes in north Houston have been evacuated after a tanker carrying chemicals crashed into a ditch and began leaking Monday afternoon. The accident happened at the corner of Des Chaumes and Roland St. near U.S. 59 at around 2:45 p.m. Houston Fire Department District Chief Johnny Smith

said the truck was carrying a corrosive alkaline, and the leak was less than 25 gallons. "Right now we are just trying to contain the leak," said Smith from the scene of the accident. Smith added that an environmental team was coming to take care of the spill, and another tanker was en route to offload the stranded truck. A one-block area near the truck was evacuated as a precaution, Smith said. He didn't offer a timetable of when the scene would be cleared.

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Houston-homes-evacuated-after-chemical-tanker-5263225.php?cmpid=bn>

USA, ME, YORK, FEBRUARY 25 2014. HOLE IN GAS TANK CAUSES SPILL AT YORK STATION

susan morse

Local and state officials responded Saturday afternoon to a hazardous materials spill at the local Irving gas station on Route 1. A driver began filling his vehicle with gasoline but there was a hole in the tank, according to police. "Gas is pouring out of the tank," police reported. An estimated 15 gallons spilled, police said. York police, the York Village Fire Department and the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) responded around 5:35 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 22, according to police and Village Fire Captain Dave Butler. "We shut down the area around the store, no one was allowed in," Butler said. "We blocked off the exits." The gas station and Circle K convenience store were off limits for about an hour-and-a-half, he said. Irving called a contractor for cleanup overseen by state DEP officials, Butler said. "It quickly diluted itself in the snow and it was contained in the area," he said. The male driver from York was not charged in the incident, according to police.

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20140224-NEWS-140229864>

USA, TN, TONE, FEBRUARY 26 2014. UPDATE: TENNESSEE EXPLOSION >> WORKER DIES

A worker that was seriously burned after an explosion at the Kilgore Plant in Toone Tennessee, has died. Michael Chism was burned over 90% of his body in Saturday's blast. The plant is under investigation after having two explosions just a few hours apart. No one was hurt in the second blast, which is being called a controlled explosion. Agents from the ATF say they should have some answers as to what caused the first explosion quickly. The plant makes military decoy flares.

<http://www.wbko.com/news/headlines/UPDATE-Tennessee-Explosion-247100731.html>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, FEBRUARY 26 2014. 1 JULY 2014: NEW RULES ON TRANSPORTING DANGEROUS GOODS

Heavy vehicle tank trailers built after July 1 2014 must have an approved rollover function installed or be banned from NSW roads, according to new determinations under the Dangerous Good (Road & Rail Transport) Regulation 2009. The determination, by the NSW Environmental Protection Agency, applies to everyone who own, operate or use tank trailers in the transport and distribution of Dangerous Goods. The move is in response to a 2011 coronial recommendation that dangerous goods vehicles be fitted with the technology. EPA Director of Hazardous Incidents and Environmental Health Craig Lamberton wrote to the industry to inform them of the change. The letter explains that the requirement applies to all tank trailers greater than 4.5 tonnes and includes semi-trailers, B-double trailers and dog trailers. "Stability control on dangerous goods vehicles is consistent with good industry practice both here and internationally," he wrote. ACAPMA has developed a Quick Reference Guide on the determination to assist members in understanding their obligations. It will be distributed to members directly, or



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can be downloaded on the [ACAPMA Website](#). Members are encouraged to call ACAPMA with any questions on 1300 160 270.

<http://goo.gl/oAiJMW>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, FEBRUARY 26 2014. COLES PETROL TO KEEP FLOWING AS SHELL EXITS

john dagge



Coles says there will be no changes to the arrangements governing the Coles Express stations.

Supermarket giant Coles says it will be business as usual at its petrol stations following partner Shell selling out of the retail fuel business. Both Coles and incoming partner Vitol — a Swiss-based oil trader which last week emerged as the buyer of Shell's 870 petrol stations and Geelong refinery — have stressed there will be no changes to the arrangements governing the Coles Express stations. "It's very much business as usual for our customers and our team members with the Shell brand and quality fuels continuing to be sold at Coles Express," Coles spokeswoman Anna Kelly told BusinessDaily. "Our relationship

with Shell over the last 10 years has enabled us to build a fantastic fuel and convenience network for customers and we look forward to continuing this with Vitol, the new owners." Coles leases 630 stations from Shell and operates them under a Shell-Coles Express banner.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/business/coles-petrol-to-keep-flowing-as-shell-exits/story-fni0dcne-1226835360751>

USA, MA, WEST BRIDGEWATER, FEBRUARY 26 2014. HAZMAT CREW CALLED IN FOR WEST BRIDGEWATER CHEMICAL FIRE

benjamin paulin

 **Watch the Video** [Hazmat Crew Called In For Chemical Fire](#)



Marc Vasconcellos/The Enterprise West Bridgewater firefighters at the scene of a fire on Manley Street on Monday, Feb. 24, 2014.

The West Bridgewater Fire Department responded to a chemical fire at a metal processing plant Monday morning. Fire Chief Leonard Hunt said the fire, at 340 Manley Street, began as an electrical fire that was inside of a tank full of chemicals. He did not know what the chemical was. When they arrived there was smoke coming out of the front of the building. The fire was quickly knocked down. The fire occurred at R&H Metal Processing, which, according to its website, does metal plating and x-ray fluorescence testing. An employee of the shop told fire officials that there was hydrochloric acid and nitric acid in the area of where the fire started. A state hazardous materials crew was called in to deal with the chemicals. Hunt said the chemicals inside the building do not pose a threat to surrounding buildings. Manley Street is lined with several commercial and

industrial buildings near the Brockton line. The Easton Fire Department assisted on the call. The call came in around 9 a.m.

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/article/20140224/NEWS/140228361/12581/NEWS>

USA, CO, GREELEY, FEBRUARY 26 2014. OIL AND GAS SPILL REPORT FOR FEB. 25

The following spills were reported to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission in the past two weeks. Information is based on Form 19, which operators must fill out detailing the leakage/spill events. Any spill release which may impact waters of the state must be reported as soon as practical. Any spill of five barrels or more must be reported within 24 hours, and any spill of one barrel or more which occurs outside secondary containment, such as metal or earthen berms, must also be reported within 24 hours, according to COGCC rules. Spills and leaks are typically found during routine maintenance on existing wells, though some actual 'spills' do occur among the 19,000-plus wells in the county.

- Mineral Resources, Inc., reported that on Sept. 13, a water tank floated when a tank battery near Greeley was inundated with floodwaters from the banks of the South Platte River. More than 50 barrels of water were spilt and



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none were recovered. The crew excavated the soil from within the berm for off-site disposal. The company reconstructed the berm, backfilled the excavation and replaced the water tank.

- Kerr-McGee Oil and Gas Onshore LP, reported that on Jan. 28, due to equipment failure, approximately one barrel of oil was released at a production facility in Platteville. The spill was not recovered. The crew shut in and constructed an earthen berm to prevent any condensate from migrating off site with possible snowmelt. The company will reconstruct the battery and replace the production tank.
- Kerr-McGee Oil and Gas Onshore LP, reported that on Jan. 30, due to a frozen dump line failure, 15 barrels of oil were released within the berm at a production facility in near Longmont. The crew recovered approximately 13 barrels of the spill with a vacuum truck and transported it to a production tank. The company will reconstruct the tank battery with a geosynthetic liner, poly dump lines, and a double walled fiberglass water tank.
- Kerr-McGee Oil and Gas Onshore LP, reported that on Feb. 2, an oil dump separator did not keep up with the volume of oil production and two barrels of oil were released at a production facility in Fort Lupton. The crews shut it in and a vacuum truck was used to recover a barrel of the spill. The company will install new automation equipment to prevent problem from reoccurring.
- Caerus WashCo LLC., reported that on Feb. 6, a release of 25 barrels of water occurred due to a leak in a valve at a tank battery in Briggsdale. The valve froze and separated the internal seal. The crew contained the release within the berm. The spill was not recovered. The company has replaced the faulty valve and will conduct more frequent inspections of the facility
- Bonanza Creek Energy Operating Company LLC., reported that on Feb. 8, an employee proceeded to pump fresh water into the wrong tank causing a spill of two barrels of water at a well pad in Gill. The spill was not recovered. The crew used a vacuum truck to clean up the spill. The company will have water haulers confirm the loading and unloading tanks when on location.
- Bonanza Creek Energy Operating Company LLC., reported that on Feb. 11, a dump line valve froze open on a separator at a production facility in Kersey. Forty barrels of oil were spilt and contained within the berm. It is unknown how much was recovered. The company shut in and a vacuum truck recovered the spill. The company is currently investigating the incident.
- Noble Energy, Inc., reported that on Feb. 12, a water vault had been leaking at a tank battery in LaSalle. It is unknown how much water was spilt and none was recovered. The crew removed the tanks and shut in equipment. The company will continue to inspect water vaults.

<http://goo.gl/g2WKV3>

USA, AZ, FLAGSTAFF, FEBRUARY 26 2014. CHEMICAL SPILL BADLY BURNS DRY-CLEANING EMPLOYEE

A dry-cleaning employee was severely burned by a chemical spill at the business Monday afternoon. According to information from the Flagstaff Fire Department, firefighters responded to the business on the 1400 block of East Route 66 at about 4:30 p.m. on a report of a chemical spill. When crews arrived, they found that the employees had been evacuated from the business. One employee was suffering from severe burns and firefighters quickly decontaminated the victim and had the victim rushed to Flagstaff Medical Center. The victim was later flown to a burn center in Phoenix. According to the subsequent investigation, although the chemical was a standard product used in dry cleaning, the chemical is heated to very high temperatures. That chemical came in contact with the employee, which caused the burns. Fire officials would like to remind residents to be careful and safe and always read and follow directions when using any chemicals.

http://azdailysun.com/news/local/chemical-spill-badly-burns-dry-cleaning-employee/article_3da69706-9e37-11e3-8b21-001a4bcf887a.html

USA, N.M, CARLSBAD, FEBRUARY 26 2014. MORE RADIATION LEAK DETECTED

More airborne radiation has been detected in southeastern New Mexico from a leak at the nation's first underground nuclear waste dump. The federal Energy Department said Monday that the results were from samples collected last week at air monitoring stations at and around the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad. Last week, federal officials confirmed the first-ever leak at the facility. It stores plutonium-contaminated waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory and other government nuclear sites. Officials say there is no public health threat. Waste shipments to the site were halted this month after a truck caught fire underground. Officials say they did not think the incidents were related.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/25/us/new-mexico-radiation-leak-detected.html?_r=0



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USA, LA, MINDEN, FEBRUARY 26 2014. TANKER CATCHES FIRE

bruce franklin



Minden Fire Department was dispatched to Love's Travel Stops near Interstate 20 around 11:30 a.m., Monday to extinguish a transport truck fire. Capt. Guy Mandino says the transport truck was filled with elevated temperature molten resin. "They had overfilled the truck and the product was between an inner liner and an outer liner," Mandino said. "It was smoldering and smoking, not really burning. We put some water between the liners and put it right out." Mandino said that while the product was flammable, it was not hazardous; however, to "be on the safe side, we called the state police hazardous investigator."

http://www.press-herald.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8808:tanker-catches-fire&catid=34:local-news&Itemid=69

ENGLAND, WORCESTER, FEBRUARY 26 2014. MAN DIES IN COLLISION WITH TANKER ON A449 KIDDERMINSTER ROAD

gema bate

A Pensioner has died in hospital after his van crashed with a tanker on the A449, Kidderminster Road. At 11.45am this morning, police were called when the white panel van ended up wedged in the front of the oil tanker. Firefighters took 45 minutes to cut the driver of the van free before he was airlifted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. The Ambulance Service were also in attendance. A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: "Crews arrived to find a van and a lorry that had been in a serious collision. "The man driving the van suffered multiple serious injuries and was trapped in the vehicle. "Advanced life support was carried out at the scene by medics and resuscitation attempts continued as the patient was airlifted to Queen Elizabeth Hospital Major Trauma Unit where a trauma team were on standby. "Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of everyone at the scene and at hospital, nothing could be done to save the man and he was confirmed dead shortly after arriving at hospital." He was pronounced dead at 1.35pm. The driver of the oil tanker had no reported injuries. The road was closed in both directions from the Hoo Farm roundabout to the Droitwich turnoff with collision investigators working at the scene. It is now reopen to traffic travelling both ways. The police are appealing for witnesses to the incident who should contact West Mercia Police's Operation Policing Unit on the non-emergency number 101, quoting incident reference 221-S-250214.

[http://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/11035313.Man dies in collision with tanker on A449/](http://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/11035313.Man+dies+in+collision+with+tanker+on+A449/)

USA, N.C, MOUNT AIRY, FEBRUARY 26 2014. TWO KILLED IN MOTORCYCLE CRASH WITH TANKER TRUCK IN MOUNT AIRY

chad tucker

 **Watch the Video** [2 Killed in Motorcycle Crash with Tanker Truck](#)



Two people, including a retired Stokes County teacher, died Sunday after a motorcycle and petroleum tanker truck collided on U.S. 52 in Mount Airy. Around 7:30 p.m., the truck pulled out of the parking lot at Cooke Trucking onto U.S. 52 north and into the path a 2005 Harley Davidson motorcycle, according to the Highway Patrol. "The petroleum truck was leaving Cooke Trucking and pulled into the path of the motorcycle," Sgt. Kevin Barker told the Mount Airy News. "Apparently, the motorcycle ended up striking the bottom of the trailer. "The driver (of the truck) stated that he misjudged the distance between himself and the motorcycle." The operator of the motorcycle, John Higginbotham, 54, of Elberton, Ga., and the passenger, Mae Margaret Barker, 57, of Haymore Road,

Mount Airy, both died in the crash. Higginbotham died at the scene and Barker died in surgery at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. Charges of misdemeanor death by vehicle are pending against the driver of the tanker truck. Barker was a longtime



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teacher in Surry County and Stokes County, most recently working as the reading teacher at Lawsonville Elementary. "Our kids just loved her," said Lawsonville Elementary parent Ashley Hall. "She would come in with a smile on her face every day." "You would never think your teacher would ride a motorcycle," said Joy Hambright, a friend of Barker who started riding motorcycles two years ago. "She taught me about loving life." Hambright and Barker rode with friends at Cooper's Bar in Pilot Mountain, especially for their charity rides at Christmas, Easter and first day of school. "She loved people; she was always very happy, very proud to be a part of any benefit to help people out," Hambright said. Since her retirement, she frequently returned to Lawsonville Elementary as a substitute teacher. Cooper's Bar plans to celebrate BARKER'S life Sunday at 2 p.m. and at their next charity ride before Easter.

<http://myfox8.com/2014/02/24/two-killed-in-motorcycle-crash-with-tanker-truck-in-mount-airy/>

USA, ORE, NEWPORT, FEBRUARY 26 2014. MAN PUMPING GASOLINE LIGHTS CIGARETTE, SUFFERS SERIOUS BURNS WHEN VAPOR IGNITES

A man who tried to light a cigarette while pumping gasoline in Newport was seriously burned when the vapor ignited. Firefighters said they used a dry chemical to put out the fire Monday after a passer-by called for help. Rob Murphy, assistant chief and fire marshal, said the man was fueling a pickup truck at a station where companies pay to be allowed self-service. Customers at retail stations aren't allowed to pump their own in Oregon. Murphy says the burns weren't life-threatening. But he says the man was sent to a burn center and probably faces a lengthy recovery. The firefighter says the station had no-smoking signs, and he says it's common sense not to light up when you're around flammable liquids — but sometimes common sense gets ignored.

<http://www.dailyjournal.net/view/story/5c80d5b8b1d34a538fe2d56b0731e444/OR--Gasoline-and-Cigarettes/#.Uw-fscZmim4>

USA, NEB, UNION, FEBRUARY 26 2014. TRAIN COLLIDES WITH PROPANE TANKER TRUCK IN OTOE COUNTY >> MAN KILLED IN TRAIN COLLISION

 **Watch the Video** [Man killed in train collision](#)

One person is dead following a train vs. tanker truck collision in northeast Otoe County. The crash was reported around 11 a.m. Tuesday from the intersection of County Road C and the Union Pacific railroad tracks, just west of Highway 75. According to an Otoe County sheriff's deputy at the scene, a propane tanker truck was struck by a northbound train. Reporter Tony Cornett says the railroad crossing here is marked, but there are no crossing arms. Officials said there was an active propane leak at the scene, but it has since been cleared. Otoe County Attorney David Partsch said the locomotive collided with the truck near the cab. The driver of the truck was pronounced dead at the scene. His identity has not yet been released. The victim was identified as 51-year-old John P. Bruns, of Elmwood. Arrangements have been made for an autopsy and toxicology tests to be performed, although there were no apparent signs that alcohol played any role in the collision. Volunteer firefighters from Otoe County, Nehawka and other surrounding communities responded to the incident.

<http://www.ketv.com/news/propane-tanker-truck-struck-by-train-in-otoe-county/24662182>

USA, N.Y, UTICA, FEBRUARY 26 2014. DEC RECOVERS 3,200 GALLONS OF FUEL FROM UTICA HARBOR

amanda fries



Quick response time, ice and a favorable wind helped ensure timely cleanup of a 3,200-gallon diesel spill from a sunken vessel in Utica Harbor over the weekend — a much larger spill than was originally reported by the state Canal Corp.

Vessel used to dredge the Erie Canal rests on the bottom of the Utica Harbor on Feb. 24, 2014. A barrier used to contain the spill can be seen in the foreground. Quick response time, ice and a favorable wind helped ensure timely cleanup of a 3,200-gallon diesel spill from a sunken vessel in Utica Harbor over the weekend — a much larger spill than was originally reported by the state Canal Corp. Stephen Litwhiler, spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Conservation, said DEC crews recovered 3,200 gallons from the vessel's 4,000-gallon tank of the 1926 vessel called Derrick Boat No. 1. "The ice in the frozen

harbor helped contain the spread of the diesel fuel," Litwhiler said. "Plus, there were some steady winds that pushed the fuel to the shore." The fuel was removed with big vacuum trucks along with skimmers, Litwhiler said. Eggen Environmental of Rome



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helped with the cleanup. Since the leak was caught quickly, he said environmental impact is minimal. DEC crews still will monitor the site, especially when the vessel is removed. "They are monitoring the site to make sure there is not continuing leaks, which (there hasn't been) since (Sunday)," Litwhiler said. The state Canal Corp. previously reported that 800 gallons of fuel had leaked from a 1,200-gallon tank; however, officials said Monday those numbers had been preliminary. With the spill cleaned up and the leak secured, state Canal Corp. crews and contractor Tioga Construction will focus efforts on removing the boat from the water. The sunken boat, which is used for dredging, was discovered initially Saturday morning when crews arrived at the Utica Harbor, said Shane Mahar, deputy communications director for the Canal Corp. Mahar said the boat was tied up for the winter, and it's unknown at this time what caused the boat to sink. With cleanup [completed](#), Mahar said a cofferdam will be erected around the barge and the water will be drained. "The salvage operation will take about two weeks to create the cofferdam and then pump the water out," he said. "That will allow us to do the inspection and repair whatever happened to the boat that caused it to sink." Crews then will remove the dam, refloat the boat and get the harbor back to normal — which Mahar said could take 10 to 12 days, weather permitting.

<http://www.uticaod.com/article/20140225/NEWS/140229617>

KUWAIT, KUWAIT CITY, FEBRUARY 26 2014. SHELL REACHES AGREEMENT WITH KUWAIT PETROLEUM INTERNATIONAL FOR THE SALE OF ITS RETAIL, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION LOGISTICS & AVIATION BUSINESSES IN ITALY

Shell and Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) announced that their respective affiliates have reached an agreement for the sale of shares in the companies containing the Retail, Supply & Distribution logistics and Aviation businesses in Italy. The sale is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to complete in 2014. Under the agreement Shell's retail network will be re-branded to Q8. Shell's non-service station Lubricants, Marine Gas & Power and Upstream businesses in Italy are not impacted by the sale and will continue to operate as before. Shell will continue to operate its Lubricants business through Shell Italia Oil Products and its Gas & Power business through Shell Energy Italia. Shell Italia E&P has a material Upstream presence in the country with a strategy to grow and maximise the potential where we have an existing and growing production presence. Italy remains an important country for Shell. The sale is consistent with Shell's strategy to concentrate Shell's Downstream footprint on a smaller number of assets and markets where we can be most competitive. Recent divestment examples include the sale of refineries in the UK, Germany, France, Norway and the Czech Republic and Downstream businesses in Egypt, Spain, Greece, Finland and Sweden as well as the establishment of a Downstream joint venture across Africa.

<http://www.petroplaza.com/news/industry/MiZlbiYxNjIM1MiYmMQ==>

USA, MISS, ST LOUIS, FEBRUARY 26 2014. WORK STARTS TO KEEP TOXIC GAS OUT OF ELMWOOD PARK

bllythe bernhard



Shane Fowler of St. Louis Radon Test and Mitigation installs a venting system for the extraction of gas and vapor from beneath the foundation of an Elmwood Park home in the 1400 block of Werremeyer Place on Monday, Feb. 24, 2014. Homeowners are getting the systems as a result of toxic chemicals that entered groundwater after being dumped decades ago.

First it was the lack of blooms on her rose bushes in the late 1980s. Then Mary Branch noticed her hair drying out and hives popping up on her arms. Now she blames the changes on contaminated groundwater underneath the Elmwood Park neighborhood in north St. Louis County, where she has lived since 1978. "I didn't know what was going on," said Branch, 67. "We never knew anybody was dumping toxic chemicals." Spills of the industrial chemical trichloroethylene, or TCE, from the Missouri Metals site at 9970 Page Avenue were first reported in the 1980s. By 1998, the chemical linked to cancer and other health risks was detected in groundwater at the site and in adjoining Elmwood Park. The groundwater is not used for tap water, but the chemical can seep into homes through gases in the soil. Before 2012, it was believed that the levels of TCE in odorless vapors found in some Elmwood Park basements did not pose a health risk to residents. But based on new research, the Environmental Protection Agency tightened the guidelines for safe exposures. Follow-up testing last year found unhealthy levels of TCE in five homes and one apartment in the predominantly black community between Olivette and Overland. Now all 65 homes and 25 apartment buildings in Elmwood Park will receive \$5,000 vapor removal systems identical to radon extractors, with homeowners' consent. "It's hard to understand when you hear that this is a problem that started 20, 30 years ago, but it wasn't an issue until science changed recently," said Tom Zychinski, a



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vice president for the engineering firm Burns and McDonnell which is overseeing the work. "We've been to the public meetings and we've heard people agitated and fearful. We're just doing this now for people's peace of mind, essentially." A radon removal team installed the vapor extraction system last week at Branch's home on Werremeyer Place. About a dozen homes have received the systems so far, with the work on all homes expected to be finished by summer. Workers drill a small hole in the basement to place a pipe with a fan that draws air from below the home's foundation and sends it outside above the roof line to disperse any gases. Each home will be retested the first month after installation and every five years after. Any homes with unhealthy levels of TCE will get upgraded systems. Residents have been told the systems should add about \$4 a month to their electric bills. "If these contaminants exist, we're trying to capture potential vapors before they get into the house," Zychinski said. Massachusetts-based technology company PerkinElmer, which owns the Missouri Metals site and is responsible for the cleanup, is paying for the systems. Residents do not have to release their right to legal action to get the vapor systems. At least two residents have sued PerkinElmer for personal injury or property damage, and the cases are pending. Meanwhile, St. Louis County health workers are surveying current and former Elmwood Park residents about any illnesses that may be connected to the contaminated groundwater. Potential health risks from exposure to TCE, particularly for pregnant women and young children, include kidney cancer, liver disease and heart defects. Results from the health survey are expected to be released by late spring or early summer. The residents of the neighborhood are a mix of renters and longtime homeowners. They have complained of plummeting property values, although the EPA has said it won't offer any buyouts. A three-bedroom home on Elmrige Place purchased for \$72,000 in 2000 sold last year for \$36,000, according to a real estate website. Miguel Lopez owns two homes on Werremeyer Place and said he hasn't had problems getting seasonal renters every March through November. Workers on Monday [installed](#) the vapor systems at both homes, which are now empty. Tom Garner, 72, has lived in the area for most of his life and is scheduled to receive the vapor removal system on Thursday. Garner said his family hasn't experienced health problems related to the vapors, but he's in favor of getting them out. "It's been a long time coming," he said.

Related Stories

- [Toxic fumes spur door to door health survey in Elmwood Park](#)
- [Bridgeton Landfill neighbors seek action after surface fire, more odors](#)
- [New reports of cancers near Coldwater Creek in North County](#)

http://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/work-starts-to-clear-elmwood-park-of-toxic-gas/article_fa0d5f2d-68c8-5e82-aa70-90df3b475135.html

USA, LA, CONVENT, FEBRUARY 26 2014. MOTIVA OIL REFINERY FIRE DOUSED, NO INJURIES REPORTED

david j. mitchell & ryan broussard

Workers battled a fire Monday afternoon at Motiva Enterprises' Convent crude oil refinery in St. James Parish for 45 minutes before extinguishing the blaze, Shell Oil Co. officials said. The fire broke out in an unidentified processing unit at about 3:40 p.m. Monday inside the Mississippi River oil complex between La. 70 and River Road along the Ascension Parish line. Convent refinery spokesman Kevin Hardy Jr. said internal refinery firefighters put out the fire by 4:25 p.m. He said the fire resulted in no injuries and no off-site impact as detected by fence line monitors. Hardy would not say what kind of unit was affected, and it's not clear what effect the fire would have on output from the 235,000-barrel-per-day facility that sits amid cane fields within sight of the Sunshine Bridge. "For reasons of commercial confidentiality, we do not provide details about the operational status of individual units or information on supply," said Kayla Macke, spokeswoman for Shell Oil. Motiva Enterprises LLC is a 50-50 joint partnership between subsidiaries of Royal Dutch Shell and Saudi Aramco, the state-owned oil company of Saudi Arabia. Motiva is managed by Shell, and the Convent refinery is one of three owned by the partnership, the Motiva website says. The Convent refinery is undergoing a turnaround, or routine maintenance work, as a number of cranes peeked up above the plant infrastructure Monday. But Hardy said the fire was not related to "turnaround activity." He would not say whether the affected unit was in operation at the time of the fire. Hardy said the cause of the fire is unknown and under investigation. St. James Parish Sheriff Willy Martin Jr. said sheriff's deputies and emergency response officials on the scene reported a "pretty good-sized fire" while the blaze was going. Capt. Doug Cain, a spokesman for the State Police, said refinery officials, in their notification to the agency, described it as a flash fire. Fire departments across St. James Parish were notified about the fire and told to be on standby some time after 3 p.m., Litcher Fire Chief Jason Amato said, but Martin said local departments did not end up responding. Amato said firefighters were later told to stand down because the site was secure. No indication of the fire was visible during a visit to the plant's main gate at 5:30 p.m. Monday. Hardy could not say how many workers were on the 750-acre plant grounds during the fire. But he said the refinery has 600 Motiva employees and 300 to 350



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contract workers and additional contractors can be on site during a turnaround, though those workers normally are not at the facility all at once.

<http://theadvocate.com/home/8468426-125/crews-responding-to-oil-refinery>

USA, ORE, NEWPORT, FEBRUARY 26 2014. NEWPORT FUEL STATION FIRE

Newport Fire Department was dispatched to a reported fuel station pump on fire at 6:35 p.m. Feb. 24 on the corner of N.E. 3rd and Harney. Initial reports stated that one person had sustained burn injuries. The first arriving engine found a small fuel fire next to the pump. The fire was quickly extinguished, and the fuel station emergency shutoff was activated. One patient was found to have sustained injuries as a result of the fire. The patient was treated on scene and transported to Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital. The name of the victim and the person's condition have not been released by authorities.

http://www.thenewsguard.com/news_paid/article_2c64ac1a-9e1b-11e3-9681-0019bb2963f4.html

USA, OK, NEWALLA, FEBRUARY 27 2014. HAZMAT CREWS CALLED TO TANKER ROLLOVER IN NEWALLA

jay dillon



A semi truck carrying thousands of gallons of gasoline has rolled while taking an exit off I40 and Hazmat has been called in to assist with cleanup. Around 10:45, the tanker rolled at I40 and Harrah Road in Newalla. Initial reports indicate the truck was not leaking fuel but the Oklahoma City Hazmat team was called to the scene as a precaution. According to responders on scene, the truck was exiting the interstate onto Harrah Road when it lost control and rolled over. The driver was found a short distance away from the truck and officials are unsure if he crawled away or was thrown during the accident. Emergency workers say he was talking on the scene and was airlifted by Eagle Med to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries. The truck was carrying about 8,000 gallons of gasoline and started to drip. The eastbound on and off ramps will be closed until the truck can be turned upright and cleared.

<http://www.okcfox.com/story/24829195/hazmat-crews-called-to-tanker-rollover-in-newalla>

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, MADURAI, FEBRUARY 27 2014. 1,157 CASES BOOKED AGAINST FIREWORKS UNITS IN A YEAR: DRO

mohamed imranullah s.



'Illicit units cannot be traced easily as they function in residential houses'

A total of 1,157 criminal cases had been booked against licensed fireworks manufacturing units in Sivakasi of Virudhunagar district in 2013 alone on the charge of violating safety rules, according to District Revenue Officer C. Munuswamy. Of the total cases, 677 had ended up in conviction in the Srivilliputtur Chief Judicial Magistrate Court and a total fine amount of Rs.37.73 lakh had been collected from the convicts, the officer said in a report filed before the Madras High Court Bench here on Tuesday. The report submitted before a Division Bench of Justices R. Sudhakar and V.M. Velumani by Special Government Pleader B. Pugalendhi also said 631 fireworks manufacturing units in Virudhunagar district had permission to store explosives beyond 15 kg. Apart

from them, 152 units possessed licence to store explosives below 15 kg. These units had to obtain licences from the DRO, the Department of Explosives and the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health, besides clearances required from various other authorities. The manufacture of fireworks went through various stages, including ingredient shed, mixing shed, filling shed, fuse making shed, fuse wrapping shed and manufacturing sheds. And a majority of the unlicensed manufacturing units were engaged in manufacturing fuses for the crackers. "The illicit manufacturing of fuses is done mostly in houses and, therefore, they could not be traced easily," the DRO said. Nevertheless, pursuant to the orders passed by the court on July 26, 2013, the Collector had formed special teams to crack down on such units, he added.



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New Block

The officer also said construction of a new block for upgrading burns ward at a Government Hospital in Virudhunagar district at a cost of Rs.2.25 crore would be completed in the next three months. The government had also allotted Rs.1.5 crore for appointing hospital staff. "A mobile team has been formed in the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health Department for inspecting fireworks factories alone and a separate training centre for the workers of the fireworks units is being constructed in the district," the DRO's report stated. After taking the report on file, the judges adjourned the case till March 5.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Madurai/1157-cases-booked-against-fireworks-units-in-a-year-dro/article5728553.ece>

NEW ZEALAND, NORTHLAND, KAIKOHE, FEBRUARY 27 2014. NO EXPLOSION AT GEOTHERMAL STATION

brendan manning

The operator of a Northland geothermal plant has denied reports of an explosion and 30,000 litre gas leak this morning. Northern fire communication shift manager Nicole Bernard said more than 30,000 litres of gas had leaked at the Ngawha geothermal station in Kaikohe, causing an explosion just before 6am. "We received a call at 5.45 to an explosion at the power station. When the Fire Service arrived they transmitted a third alarm and stated that 30,000 litres of methane gas [was] leaking on site." The site holds pentane, not methane gas. However, Russell Shaw, chief executive of the station's operator Top Energy, said the reports were false. "There's been a gas leak, there's been no explosion. We have a safety valve on our pressure vessels. That safety valve operator sensed over-pressure and ... about 5.30am this morning, the operator, who's the only person on site, shut the station down and evacuated the station." "He called the Fire Service who then did a controlled re-entry on the site and to test to see if any gas had been released." The Fire Service had been carrying out tests since 6am and were due to leave the site by 7.30am, Mr Shaw said. "They've found at this stage no release. The station holds 30,000 litres [of gas] so if it had gone up in a big puff of smoke then 30,000 would have been released, but at this stage they've found nothing. That is the latest report that we've had from our plant manager." The safety valves had never gone off before and it was unknown what had caused it to happen today, Mr Shaw said. "At this stage we don't know and as a precautionary process, because the gas is highly flammable, if we have a release, we evacuate our operators from site and we go through this process of a controlled re-entry." A full investigation would be carried out to determine why the safety valve had gone off, he said. Mr Shaw told TVNZ that the site was relatively close to the Ngawha village settlement and the company would be working with them to let them know what had happened.

Pentane:

- A hydrocarbon of the methane series.
- A colourless liquid, pentane evaporates easily at room temperature and boils at 36 degrees celsius.
- Pentane is highly flammable and mixtures of the vapour with air can be explosive.
- It is also used as an ingredient in petrol, as a solvent and to fill plastic foams.

Ngawha Geothermal Station:

- First commissioned in 1998
- The station's output is fed into Top Energy's network and then connected to the National Grid via Top Energy's sub-station near Kaikohe.
- The station consistently produces around 70 per cent of all electricity consumed in the Far North, which reduces the community's exposure to possible National Grid failures to the south.
- It uses geothermal fluids which are passed through a heat exchanger where energy (heat) is transferred to a working fluid (pentane). The pentane then boils to form a high-pressure vapour which then drives the turbines, turning the generator.
- When the vapour has passed through the turbines, it is condensed back to a liquid and returned to the heat exchanger in a continuous cycle. The pentane is not consumed as a fuel, but is simply used as a working medium to extract energy from the geothermal water and steam.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11210659

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, DUBAI, FEBRUARY 27 2014. ADNOC WAITING FOR SITE ALLOCATIONS IN DUBAI

haseeb haider

The identification of the sites to set up the 10 service stations will be followed by an engineering, procurement and construction tender. Abu Dhabi's oil marketing and distribution company, Adnoc Distribution, is awaiting site allocations by the authorities in Dubai for the eight petrol stations, Abdulla Salem Al Dhaheri, Chief Executive Officer of Adnoc Distribution, said.



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The identification of the sites to set up the 10 service stations will be followed by an engineering, procurement and construction tender, the CEO said, without giving any time line. Adnoc Distribution will set up 11 service stations in Dubai. One petrol station will service the boats and ships on the Dubai Creek. So far, it has received site locations on Emirates Road and Shaikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road. The construction work will start only after that, he said. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi Air Expo 2014, Al Dhaheri said he believed with the Expo 2020 seven years away, the petroleum distribution and marketing infrastructure has to be developed to meet the requirements of an estimated 20 million visitors. After securing site allocations, the petrol stations can be designed and built in 12 months. On expansion into the Northern Emirates, he said: "The legal work is almost complete on the acquisition of the 75 service stations." Out of this, two petrol pumps have already been rebranded.

[http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/nationgeneral/2014/February/nationgeneral_February210.xml§ion=nationgeneral)

[1.asp?xfile=data/nationgeneral/2014/February/nationgeneral_February210.xml§ion=nationgeneral](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/nationgeneral/2014/February/nationgeneral_February210.xml§ion=nationgeneral)

USA, N.C, CANDLER, FEBRUARY 27 2014. COMPANY CITED FOR HOMINY CREEK FUEL SPILL

clarke Morrison



Harrison Construction Co. received a notice of violation for a spill that contaminated Hominy Creek with thousands of gallons of diesel fuel.

State environmental officials issued a notice of violation to the company blamed for spilling thousands of gallons of diesel fuel and contaminating Hominy Creek. Harrison Construction Co. faces fines of up to \$25,000 a day for each of three violations cited in the notice, said Chuck Cranford of the N.C. Division of Water Resources. Meanwhile, Cranford said cleanup efforts to contain the fuel spilled on Feb. 14 have concluded and the creek appears to be free of contaminants. "There is no other remediation that needs to be done along the stream," he said. "There is nothing left to collect from the spill that has gotten into the water. "We've not seen evidence of any loss of aquatic life." Officials said the spill resulted from a leak from an above-ground storage tank at Harrison

Construction on Smoky Park Highway in Candler. A coupling on a pipe failed and a valve on a basin designed to capture spilled fuel had been left open, said Landon Davidson, regional supervisor of the Division of Water Resources. Harrison Construction is working to figure out what caused the spill, company president Todd Quigg said. "Last week we obviously were in a remediation phase," he said. "At this point we're conducting internal investigations and trying to determine the root cause and how we can ensure that we don't have a failure such as this in the future. It really was an overwhelming thing. Now, we've got the time to take a step back and reflect." The company has 15 days from the receipt of the violation notice to submit a report to state officials "assessing the cause, significance and extent of the release," along with a timeline of events that occurred the day of the spill and the abatement measures taken. The spill was discovered when workers at nearby Vulcan Materials noticed fuel running across the property and through a storm drain into the creek. Davidson said an estimated 5,000 gallons leaked from the tank, while the company said the amount was around 3,000 gallons. He said it's unknown how much of the fuel got into the creek. A sheen of oil was visible on the surface of the creek for days, and some of the material made it into the French Broad River. Contractors erected booms in an attempt to catch some of the fuel. The violations cited in the notice issued Tuesday are discharging without a permit, violation of water quality standards and the unlawful discharge of a hazardous substance into a waterway. "You can't discharge anything to the waters of the state without a permit," Cranford said. "You can't discharge any oil or any kind of substance that affects aesthetic quality or if it endangers public health and aquatic life." The company will have to provide information about why the pipe coupling failed and the valve on the containment basin was left open, along with a determination of how much fuel was actually spilled, he said. Landon said his estimate of 5,000 gallons was based on the amount of fuel recorded as being in the tank and the amount measured when the leak was stopped. It will take several weeks after receiving the report for the agency to determine whether the company will be fined and how much, Cranford said. He said contractors completed the excavation of contaminated soil from the site and replacing the storm drain pipe through which the fuel flowed into the creek.

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CROATIA, ZAGREB, FEBRUARY 27 2014. RUSSIA'S ROSNEFT SAID LOOKING TO BUY INA AND PETROL IN THE BALKANS

joseph orovic

Russia's Rosneft hopes to take over Croatian oil and gas firm INA Industrija Nafta along with its Slovenian counterpart Petrol, according to an internal document obtained by the Croatian daily Vecernji List. Rosneft intends to increase both Balkan companies' operations through a newly formed subsidiary, extending the Russian state energy giant's reach into the European market. Until now, Russian interest in INA – which is locked in a dispute with its largest shareholder, Hungary's MOL – has been reported in local newspapers through unnamed sources. The [document](#) obtained by Vecernji List, however, shows Moscow's intentions for the firms are part of a broader plan that includes regional expansion. Croatian Economic Minister Ivan Vrdoljak told reporters on February 24 that the government has not had any direct contact with Russian representatives regarding a potential acquisition of INA. "The country the investor comes from is irrelevant. What is important is an agreement on strategic objectives and those are for INA to be a vertically integrated Croatian company and the strongest energy company in the region, and this is how it is going to be," Vrdoljak said when asked specifically about Rosneft's reported interest. The Russian oil giant's strategy derives from an internal study that explored options for its expansion in the region, Vecernji List reported. It concluded that a unified INA and Petrol would maximize both companies' operations. The proposed plan includes: a unified regional company that would exploit INA's underutilized operations in the Croatian cities of Rijeka and Sisak; the creation of thousands of gas stations; over 10,000 employees; and an increased presence in ten markets - first in the former Yugoslavia, then eventually into the heart of Europe, including Austria, Hungary and northern Italy. The move would require heavy investment upfront by the Russian company to modernize some aspects of both companies' operations. Rosneft is on solid financial ground; the oil firm posted \$11bn in net income in 2012 on revenues of \$102bn. Rosneft's executive chairman and former Russian deputy prime minister, Igor Sechin, told Vecernji List last June that Croatia could provide the basis for any expansion into the region. "Croatia has all the prospects to become a transportation and energy center for all nations in the region. With that, we not only have an interest in expanding into Croatia but have already begun discussions about possible projects we could participate in," he said, without elaborating. In January, Russia's current deputy prime minister, Arkady Dvorkovich, said the government hopes one of its energy companies makes a push for MOL's stake in INA.

Shareholder Dispute

The option to buy INA derives from Croatia's legal and public relations fight with MOL, which holds a minority stake but management rights in INA. Accusations of mismanagement have come from both sides, with Croatia most recently claiming that MOL lowered the value of INA's Syrian assets to avoid making a dividend payout. That move led to INA reporting a \$268m loss for 2013, falling out of profit for the first time since 2009. Relations between the two reached a nadir when the Croatian police issued an arrest warrant for MOL's chairman and CEO, Zsolt Hernadi, over accusations he bribed former Croatian PM Ivo Sanader to gain management rights of INA. A survey of analysts showed the odds of MOL selling its stake in the Croatian firm have increased to better than 50% as the fighting between the two companies continues. Reports have stated representatives from MOL have met with potential Russian buyers, who have expressed an interest in buying the Hungarian company's 49.1% stake in INA. Should MOL part with its INA shares, the Croatian government reportedly is willing to part with some of its almost 45% stake as well, surrendering control of the company if the potential buyer promises to invest heavily in INA, which is looking to exploit potentially huge new discoveries of offshore oil and gas. On February 25, Economy Minister Vrdoljak announced a public tender for concessions to explore Croatia's Adriatic coast for oil and gas. In April, the ministry will offer investors 29 sections to explore in the Adriatic. The inclusion of Petrol in Rosneft's plans is a new addition to already rife speculation about Russia's intentions in the region. The Slovenian company has faced financial problems of its own with rumours of a possible sale, including to MOL at one time. The company's ownership structure, with local banks and the Slovenian state all holding shares in Petrol, could prove problematic to a full Rosneft takeover though, Vecernji List reports. The expansion of another Russian oil and gas giant into the region could also possibly run up against opposition from the EU, of which Croatia has just become a member.

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