Message

From: Ferguson, Doug [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E7731719159B467E84B405A98596D9A6-FERGUSON, DOUG]
Sent: 2/14/2021 4:47:38 AM
To: O'Connor, Daniel [oconnor.daniel@epa.gov]
CC: Krueger, Roy [Krueger.Roy@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: AltEn...Fwd: Response request

I forgot to mention, Eric and I plan to depart for the site at 0800. I think it is supposed to be -6F at that time. I have plenty of warm clothes and I am not too worried, but are you aware of any work restrictions for low temp work?

I also don't want to to put the RP's workers at undue risk. I am hoping we can find an area down stream that is ahead of the release and block the flow. If the material freezes at that point, I believe they could just excavate the ice? We will just have to see.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 13, 2021, at 10:34 PM, O'Connor, Daniel <oconnor.daniel@epa.gov> wrote:
>
> Scott, below is an overall summary of the AltEn response and description of the planned work for tomorrow. Doug put together the attachment, which includes photos and figures depicting the release location, impacted drainage ditch, and sampling locations.
>
> Doug arrived at the AltEn facility at approximately 1500 hours on Saturday, February 13. Upon arrival, Doug met with Kirk Morrow of NDEE and they proceeded to the facility to begin an evaluation and assessment of the source of the release. The release originated at a 4 million gallon aboveground storage tank. The tank ruptured during the cold weather, releasing a majority of its contents. The tank's contents, a mixture of liquid stillage and manure, flowed past the facility boundaries and into an agricultural drainage ditch. AltEn focused their initial response on the facility property, where they constructed berms and used a vacuum truck to siphon liquids. The siphoned material was added to facility lagoons. In addition, a second 4 million gallon tank has been insulated against the cold to prevent a similar, second release. AltEn also attempted to create dams in the agricultural drainage ditch to impede or slow the spill from traveling further; however, at this point, the spill continues to advance. Doug spoke with the General Manager for the PRP group on Saturday evening and recommended the response effort shift to the drainage ditch and attempting to stop any further spill advancement. Doug and START collected liquid and sediment/sludge samples from points near the impacted tank and along the drainage ditch. Doug is planning to return to the facility on Sunday, February 14, along with START, to collect additional samples and further evaluate the extent to which the spill has advanced.
>
> Thanks,
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> Danny O'Connor
> Acting Chief, Response, Removal, and Emergency Preparedness Section
> Superfund and Emergency Management Division
> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
> 11201 Renner Boulevard
> Lenexa, Kansas 66219
> Phone: 913-551-7868
>
> From: Hayes, Scott <Hayes.Scott@epa.gov>
> Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 7:28 PM
> To: O'Connor, Daniel <oconnor.daniel@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Doug <Ferguson.Doug@epa.gov>
> Subject: Re: AltEn...Fwd: Response request
>
> Some comprehensive situational
> Assessment would be good.
> Scott D. Hayes, Deputy Director
> Superfund & Emergency Management Division
> US EPA Region 7
> Lenexa, Kansas 66219
> 913-551-7670
> Sent from my iPhone - please excuse typos
>
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>
> On Feb 13, 2021, at 7:22 PM, Hayes, Scott <Hayes.Scott@epa.gov<mailto:Hayes.Scott@epa.gov>> wrote:
> Let's talk first thing in the morning or as soon as we can.
>

> Ed needs to call the NDEE director in the morning with a good description of what's going on. I don't have that yet. Thanks for your response so far
>
> Scott D. Hayes, Deputy Director
> Superfund & Emergency Management Division
> US EPA Region 7
> Lenexa, Kansas 66219
> 913-551-7670
> Sent from my iPhone - please excuse typos
>
>
> Begin forwarded message:
> From: "Hayes, Scott" <Hayes.Scott@epa.gov<mailto:Hayes.Scott@epa.gov>>
> Date: February 13, 2021 at 7:07:00 PM CST
> To: "Chu, Ed" <Chu.Ed@epa.gov<mailto:Chu.Ed@epa.gov>>
> Cc: "Tapp, Joshua" <Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov<mailto:Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov>>, "Juett, Lynn" <Juett.Lynn@epa.gov<mailto:Juett.Lynn@epa.gov>>, "Buchholz, Ken" <Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov<mailto:Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov>>, "Curry, Tim" <Curry.Timothy@epa.gov<mailto:Curry.Timothy@epa.gov>>, "Ferguson, Doug" <Ferguson.Doug@epa.gov<mailto:Ferguson.Doug@epa.gov>>, "O'Connor, Daniel" <oconnor.daniel@epa.gov<mailto:oconnor.daniel@epa.gov>>, "Cozad, David" <Cozad.David@epa.gov<mailto:Cozad.David@epa.gov>>, "Peterson, Mary" <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov<mailto:Peterson.Mary@epa.gov>>, "Humphrey, Leslie" <Humphrey.Leslie@epa.gov<mailto:Humphrey.Leslie@epa.gov>>, "Weekley, Erin" <weekley.erin@epa.gov<mailto:weekley.erin@epa.gov>>, "Peterson, Mary" <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov<mailto:Peterson.Mary@epa.gov>>
> Subject: RE: AltEn...Fwd: Response request
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> Ed,
>
> Daylight has restricted activities at the scene. Doug will focus on containing the off-site migration of the material, with the facility, in the morning. My understanding is they have been cooperative to this point.
>
> Scott
>
> From: Hayes, Scott
> Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 6:13 PM
> To: Chu, Ed <Chu.Ed@epa.gov<mailto:Chu.Ed@epa.gov>>
> Cc: Tapp, Joshua <Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov<mailto:Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov>>; Juett, Lynn <Juett.Lynn@epa.gov<mailto:Juett.Lynn@epa.gov>>; Buchholz, Ken <Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov<mailto:Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov>>; Curry, Tim <Curry.Timothy@epa.gov<mailto:Curry.Timothy@epa.gov>>; Ferguson, Doug <Ferguson.Doug@epa.gov<mailto:Ferguson.Doug@epa.gov>>; O'Connor, Daniel <oconnor.daniel@epa.gov<mailto:oconnor.daniel@epa.gov>>; Cozad, David <Cozad.David@epa.gov<mailto:Cozad.David@epa.gov>>; Peterson, Mary <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov<mailto:Peterson.Mary@epa.gov>>; Humphrey, Leslie <Humphrey.Leslie@epa.gov<mailto:Humphrey.Leslie@epa.gov>>; Weekley, Erin <weekley.erin@epa.gov<mailto:weekley.erin@epa.gov>>
> Subject: RE: AltEn...Fwd: Response request
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> Ed,
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> Updated information:
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> There was a 4M gallon tank of concern that was leaking. This tank apparently had the pesticide containing material. The tank is no longer leaking. The material level is below the leak point.
> There is a second 4M tank of the same or similar material. These tanks have been known by the regulatory agencies, apparently, for quite some time.
> The current spill has traveled off the facility. EPA and NDEE have collected samples and are sharing data as it is obtained. The facility is collecting material that has migrated off of the facility and returning it to lagoons on the facility.
> There is a concern with building additional retention structures off of the facility due to the unavailability of soil.
>
> Scott
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> From: Hayes, Scott <Hayes.Scott@epa.gov<mailto:Hayes.Scott@epa.gov>>
> Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 3:36 PM
> To: Chu, Ed <Chu.Ed@epa.gov<mailto:Chu.Ed@epa.gov>>
> Cc: Tapp, Joshua <Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov<mailto:Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov>>; Juett, Lynn <Juett.Lynn@epa.gov<mailto:Juett.Lynn@epa.gov>>; Buchholz, Ken <Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov<mailto:Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov>>; Curry, Tim <Curry.Timothy@epa.gov<mailto:Curry.Timothy@epa.gov>>; Ferguson4, Doug <Ferguson.Doug@epa.gov<mailto:Ferguson.Doug@epa.gov>>; O'Connor, Daniel <oconnor.daniel@epa.gov<mailto:oconnor.daniel@epa.gov>>; Cozad, David <Cozad.David@epa.gov<mailto:Cozad.David@epa.gov>>; Peterson, Mary <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov<mailto:Peterson.Mary@epa.gov>>; Humphrey, Leslie

<Humphrey.Leslie@epa.gov<mailto:Humphrey.Leslie@epa.gov>>; Weekley, Erin
<weekley.erin@epa.gov<mailto:weekley.erin@epa.gov>>; Hayes, Scott
<Hayes.Scott@epa.gov<mailto:Hayes.Scott@epa.gov>>
> Subject: AltEn...Fwd: Response request
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> Ed,
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> I just talked to Danny O' Connor, Section Chief with our removal program. Doug Ferguson, OSC, just got up to the scene recently and he' s meeting with the senior responder from Nebraska, Kirk Morrow. Doug has contractor support with him. Kirk has been with the Nebraska program a long time. They' re getting together on the results of sampling and what needs to be sampled, etc, and then they' re trying to make contact with the facility. That' s where we are right now. I' ll let you know when they make contact with the facility and see if they can get any more commitment for responsive measures from the PRP in place.
> Scott D. Hayes, Deputy Director
> Superfund & Emergency Management Division
> US EPA Region 7
> Lenexa, Kansas 66219
> 913-551-7670
> Sent from my iPhone - please excuse typos
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> Begin forwarded message:
> From: "Hayes, Scott" <Hayes.Scott@epa.gov<mailto:Hayes.Scott@epa.gov>>
> Date: February 12, 2021 at 11:14:29 PM CST
> To: Jim Macy <jim.macy@nebraska.gov<mailto:jim.macy@nebraska.gov>>
> Cc: "Cozad, David" <Cozad.David@epa.gov<mailto:Cozad.David@epa.gov>>, "steve.goans"
<steve.goans@nebraska.gov<mailto:steve.goans@nebraska.gov>>,
kirk.morrow@nebraska.gov<mailto:kirk.morrow@nebraska.gov>, "Buchholz, Ken"
<Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov<mailto:Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov>>, "Hoefer, David"
<Hoefer.David@epa.gov<mailto:Hoefer.David@epa.gov>>
> Subject: Re: Response request
> Jim,
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> Yes. On-Scene Coordinator Doug Ferguson plans to mobilize in the morning.
>
> Scott D. Hayes, Deputy Director
> Superfund & Emergency Management Division
> US EPA Region 7
> Lenexa, Kansas 66219
> 913-551-7670
> Sent from my iPhone - please excuse typos
>
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> On Feb 12, 2021, at 9:42 PM, Macy, Jim <jim.macy@nebraska.gov<mailto:jim.macy@nebraska.gov>> wrote:
>
> Scott
> We have an emergency at a ethanol plant near Mead Nebraska called Alt En. They have a shut down order from us and in process of shutting down they are freezing up and have about 4 million gallons of thin sillage and a liquefied imanure going off site. Would you have ability to assist?
>
> Immediate concern is the ability of the plant to control leaks during this sub zero weather. Additionally the facility has several vessels that contain a pesticide used in seed corn production that we have found to bioaccumulate in the wet cake and process water. The lagoons are approximately Within 2 feet of topping
>
> Late today the site experienced compounding emergencies with two additional undisclosed vessels that contain liquid manure and are also freezing and or have potential to rupture.
>
> We need assistance to asses the site, make technical recommendations on contain/control and overall management. As of 1730 ndee has taken effluent samples approximately 1 mile downstream from site. This is already impacting University of Nebraska research fields.
>
> Please keep this list informed of next steps.
>
> Get Outlook for
iOS<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Faka.ms%2Fo0ukef&data=04%7C01%7CFergu
son.Doug%40epa.gov%7Ca742e4fd2ec94abd906c08d8d0a1cb58%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C63748
8740622153415%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%
7C1000&sdata=YBxEhiTf5fuvQeggXsbpGYeQsHqLaTkbM57ZfCcYBxU%3D&reserved=0>
> <Alten Facility Release Assessment.pdf>