Message

From: Albano, Emily [Albano.Emily@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/16/2021 3:25:57 PM
To: Hayes, Scott [Hayes.Scott@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Update to EOC Spot Report: Region 7, AltEn Ethanol Plant Release Assessment

I appreciate it, Scott!

Emily V. Albano
Office of Public Affairs
EPA Region 7
913-551-7860
albano.emily@epa.gov

From: Hayes, Scott <Hayes.Scott@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 9:25 AM
To: Albano, Emily <Albano.Emily@epa.gov>
Cc: Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Update to EOC Spot Report: Region 7, AltEn Ethanol Plant Release Assessment

Emily, this is the single-most current and comprehensive email. It should have enough for Ed's RA call.

From: Curry, Tim <Curry.Timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 8:11 AM
To: Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>
Cc: Peterson, Mary <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov>; Hayes, Scott <Hayes.Scott@epa.gov>; Buchholz, Ken <Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov>; Juett, Lynn <Juett.Lynn@epa.gov>; Ruiz, Adam <Ruiz.Adam@epa.gov>; O'Connor, Daniel <oconnor.daniel@epa.gov>; Hoefer, David <Hoefer.David@epa.gov>; Irizarry, Gilberto <Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov>; Nazar, Kristen <Nazar.Kristen@epa.gov>; Woodyard, Josh <Woodyard.Joshua@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Update to EOC Spot Report: Region 7, AltEn Ethanol Plant Release Assessment

Update:

- The release was from a large anaerobic, closed-loop digester tank that produces the methane used to fuel boilers for the ethanol production process.
- Raw materials for the digester come from the Mead Cattle Company feedlot operations and stillage from operations.
- The release from the tank has been stopped.
- OSC Ferguson with START support traced the extent of off-site migration and collected samples in the drainageway and on the facility (see attached). Drainage off site eventually leads to the Platte River 16 miles downgradient.
- The NDEE has granted an emergency exemption to reduce freeboard in the impoundments to account for adding the collected materials.
- The responsible party has established containment measures at the downstream extent and agreed to collect released materials for return to the on-site impoundment.
- OSC and START demobilized from the site and initiated the process of identifying analytical methods and available laboratories for quick turnaround analyses.
- The samples have been submitted for analyses including a list of potential pesticides/herbicides/fungicides commonly used to treat seed grains.
- Analytical results and subsequent actions will be coordinated with NDEE.

From: Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 7, AltEn Ethanol Plant Release Assessment

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EOC Spot Report: Region 7, AltEn Ethanol Plant Release Assessment

MEAD, NE, NRC#1297838

US Environmental Protection Agency
Report Date: 2/13/2021
Last edited 2/13/2021 4:12 PM UTC

Overview: The Nebraska Department of Energy and Environment (NDEE) has requested assistance in responding to a release of materials from the AltEn LLC ethanol plant storage tanks in Mead, NE. Material has reached drainageways from the site and migrated beyond facility property. The site had recently been ordered by NDEE to cease operations while regulatory compliance issues were being evaluated and addressed. Potential for involvement of listed hazardous substances is high due to the ethanol feed stock being seed grains treated with various pesticides, herbicides and/or fungicides. Previous sampling of waste by NDEE has identified elevated levels of various seed treatment compounds. The responsible party has been attempting to secure and contain the release.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: NDEE has deployed staff to the scene to investigate the situation.

EPA Actions: A Region 7 OSC and START contractor deployed to the site on Saturday, February 13 and will assist with assessment of the release and determination of appropriate follow up response activities.

Media Interest: Medium

Media Links:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dtnpf.com%2Fagriculture%2Fweb%2Fag%2Fnews%2Fbusiness-inputs%2Farticle%2F2021%2F02%2F12%2Fpollution-fungicide-pesticide-wdg&data=04%7C01%7CCurry.Timothy%40epa.gov%7C7f5329e9b9fc43e88b8e08d8d03a9c95%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637488297457029577%7CUnknown%7

CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=tnYbdi8mN%2FdkLxUDRXBm2wEhCeEo74fkZqQ4cgqH%2Fsg%3D&reserved=0

The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

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