To: Breen, Barry[Breen.Barry@epa.gov]
From: Stanton, Larry
Sent: Sat 1/11/2014 1:30:13 AM
Subject: Re: EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #3

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

From: Breen, Barry
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2014 8:07:19 PM
To: Stanton, Larry
Subject: Fw: EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #3

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

From: Eoc, Epahq
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2014 6:36:11 PM
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #3

This report is being sent as a bcc to prevent accidental Reply to All messages.

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EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #3

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 1900 January 10, 2014

Overview: On January 10, the President approved an Emergency Declaration for the State of West Virginia after a chemical leaked through a secondary containment area at a Freedom Industries chemical plant and into the Elk River in Charleston, WV (pop. 51,018) (NRC#1070627.). The chemical (4-methycyclohexane methanol) is a flammable solvent used in the coal preparation process and is an irritant to eyes, respiratory system, and skin. The West Virginia Office of Environmental Health Services (OEHS) estimates no more than 5,000 gallons of chemical leaked in the Elk River. Based on river flow dilution, officials calculate the chemical concentration in the water to be well below the CDC declared safe level. A statement from West Virginia American Water said the company is monitoring the water. The spill occurred near the Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant. The Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant detected the chemical even after the increased carbon treatment effort was put in place. Freedom Industries is working to clean up the spill at the facility and in the river.

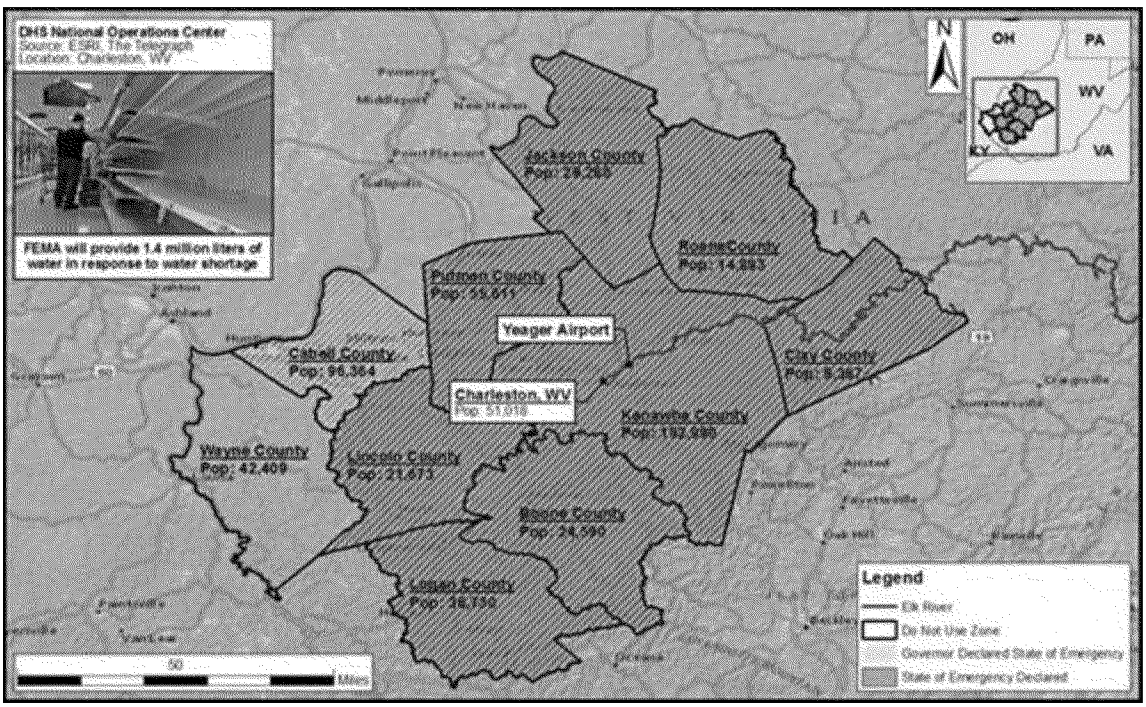
The Elk River is an area that has been designated a "Critical Habitat" for the Diamond Darter which is a freshwater fish listed as an endangered species. Located about 30 miles to the southeast of Charleston are the Gauley River National Recreation Area and the New River Gorge National River. As of this morning, there have been no reported impacts to these areas at this time.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: West Virginia water authorities have issued a "Do Not Use Water Notice" for 10 counties (Kanawha, Boone, Putnam, Lincoln, Logan, Clay, Roane, Jackson Cabell and Wayne) and the President's Emergency Declaration covers eight counties (Kanawha, Boone, Putnam, Lincoln, Logan, Clay, Roane, and Jackson). A shelter-in-place was not launched for the area at this time, but residents are urged to stay inside. WVAW customers are told not to use tap water for drinking, cooking, washing, or bathing. Water can be used for toilets and fire emergencies. Boiling water will not get rid of the chemical. This is believed to impact 100,000 customers (300,000 people). Schools in 7 of the affected counties will be closed Friday 1/10/2014.

The WV Department of Environmental Resources (WVDEP) is the lead for the incident and has worked with the owner of the facility to establish a more aggressive strategy to control the source of the contamination. The facility has placed boom in the river to collect the material before it moves downstream. Working to interrupt subsurface water flow into the river, the facility has deepened on-site trenches to capture the leachate that is presently in the soil

downgradient from the leaking tank. Even with these measures, some leachate continues to enter the river.

WVDEP reported that the water company, WV American Water Corporation, is collecting samples. DuPont developed a drinking water sample and analytical method for this chemical, which was shared with the WV Department of Health and Human Resources so both labs can run samples simultaneously. DuPont has a facility ten miles downstream from the leak and has detected the chemical in their water system.



The West Virginia Emergency Operations Center is fully activated and the state has activated their Health Operations Center. The FEMA Region III Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) is activated to Level II (Partial) and the FEMA Region III Liaison Officer and Incident Management Assistance Team have been deployed.

FEMA reports that initial shipments of drinking water will begin arriving this morning.

The IMAAC was activated and produced a modeling product which has been shared with the RRCC.

Today the facility received a threat that prompted the local/state police and FBI to secure access to the facility. After investigating the threat, the police later this afternoon ramped down their presence.

EPA Actions: EPA Region 3 convened a meeting of the Regional Incident Coordination Team this morning. The team discussed questions raised by FEMA concerning EPA's authorities and discussed the status of the water treatment plants. The water treatment plants are attempting to eliminate the chemical through systematic flushing. As of early today, the flushing process had not yet begun and there is not an estimate of when the water will be safe.

WVDEP has requested EPA assistance in developing additional air and water monitoring strategies. EPA is working with its contractor to develop the appropriate sampling for the chemical so the sampling can start as soon as possible. There are two on-site EPA OSCs who will be working with the FEMA IMAT team which is scheduled to arrive today. In addition, EPA Region 3 personnel will be staffing the FEMA response center in Philadelphia through the weekend on a 24 hours basis.

EPA HQ and Region 3 PIOs had a conference call today and are available for reachback over the weekend.

Media Interest: High

http://usnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2014/01/09/22245996-west-virginia-chemical-spill-cuts-water-to-up-to-300000-state-of-emergency-declared?lite

http://www.foxnews.com/us/2014/01/10/west-virginia-chemical-spill-gov-declares-emergency/

http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-usa-westvirginia-spill-20140109,0,5360274.story

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provided updates as needed.

Tim Grier, Watch Officer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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