**To:** Eoc, Epahq[Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov]
**From:** Eoc, Epahq
**Sent:** Thur 1/30/2014 8:59:16 PM
**Subject:** EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #22
R3_Chemical Spill_Charleston WV_1_28_14 Update_22.docx

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

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

**EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #22**

**US Environmental Protection Agency**

**Report as of 1500 January 30, 2014**

**Overview:** On January 10, 2014 the President approved an Emergency Declaration for the State of West Virginia after a chemical, 4-methylcyclohexanemethanol, (MCHM) leaked at a Freedom Industries chemical plant and into the Elk River in Charleston, WV. The spill occurred near the Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant which detected the chemical even after an increased carbon treatment effort was put in place. Freedom Industries is working to clean up the spill at the facility and in the river.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** West Virginia water authorities issued a "Do Not Use Water Notice" for 10 counties and the President's Emergency Declaration covers eight counties. West Virginia American Water Company (WVAWC) customers were told not to use tap water for drinking, cooking, washing, or bathing. Water could be used for toilets and fire emergencies. When the incident originally occurred, it contaminated drinking water for 300,000 people. The emergency declaration was closed on January 20, 2014.

Region 3 OSCs report that the facility is continuing to pump water from upgradient of the secondary containment area. However, the majority of the site remains frozen and most of the sumps dug inside the tank containment are frozen and cannot be pumped. The site team met with the facility's consultant to discuss amending the remediation plan to include improvements to the interceptor trench and installation of an additional sump.

Due to heavy ice conditions in the river, the booms are being allowed to freeze in place. However, ice continues to be cleared from the outside of the boom so boats can access the booms along the facility shoreline.

The facility's remediation consultant, CEC, collected two surface water samples on January 29, 2014. CEC plans on re-developing monitor wells onsite to facilitate collection of groundwater samples, which should occur on Monday, February 3, 2014.

The Chemical Safety Board is onsite and is continuing their investigative work.

**EPA Action:**

EPA, WVDEP, and plaintiff representatives collected split samples. EPA's split samples were shipped to the Region 3 Lab for Trace VOC and MCHM/PPH analysis.

The local media reported that a Marshall University professor found formaldehyde in a drinking water sample from a restaurant in Charleston, WV. EPA continues to leave messages for the Marshall University professor who reported formaldehyde in a drinking water sample from a restaurant in Charleston, WV but has received no response to date. EPA's Ft. Meade lab is also investigating the formaldehyde issue.

EPA Region 3 continues to monitor and provide oversight of facility activities at the Freedom Industries tank farm site and the Poca staging facility. EPA continues to coordinate with WVDEP and WVAWC.

**Media Interest**: Medium

http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/01/29/freedom-industries-spill-formaldehyde/5031963/

http://www.ibtimes.com/freedom-industries-meet-chemical-provider-center-west-virginia-chemical-spill-1536036

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

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

Joan Karrie, Watch Officer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Headquarters Emergency Operations Center

1200 Pennsylvania Ave

Washington, DC 20004

202-564-3850 202-564-8729 (fax)

mailto:eoc.epahq@epa.gov

wo_signature_logo