To: Koglin, Eric[Koglin.Eric@epa.gov]; Bowling, Charlena[Bowling.Charlena@epa.gov]
From: Sayles, Gregory
Sent: Tue 1/21/2014 8:34:40 PM
Subject: Fw: EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #16
R3_Chemical Spill_Charleston WV_1_21_14 Update_16.docx

From: Eoc, Epahq
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 2:03:02 PM
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #16

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EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #16

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 14:00 January 21, 2014 (Contains consolidated updates from Jan 19-21)

Overview: On January 10, 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.

Region 3 Water Division reports that the WVAWC has lifted the alert for three towns (Buffalo, Frazier's Bottom and Pliny). WVAWC test results show that MCHM readings in the plant's raw water and finished water have been non-detectable since Monday evening, January 13. WVAWC is sampling, flushing and re-sampling throughout the water distribution system until the samples show a non-detect level throughout the distribution system. A majority of the samples collected are non-detect. Labs that are available to measure down to the non-detect level could be an issue.

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) estimated that the plume arrived at Mt Vernon, Indiana at 6:30 PM, Jan. 20. Up river concentrations at Louisville KY peaked at 3.5 ppb.

Region 3 OSCs reported that the facility extended the boom on 1/19 approximately 20 feet upstream in the river to contain the drainage from the additional "seep" that was located along the NE bank of the facility. A vacuum truck is now being used along the slope to vacuum contaminated surface soil and water .The facility continues to maintain the boom and is reporting no odor or sheen on the absorbent booms nor is visible sheen was seen on the river behind the booms.

Under WVDEP order, the facility's contractor hand-dug an extension to the existing trench to the end of the tank farm, at the NE end of the facility.

On 1/19, exploratory excavation revealed a compromised corrugated drainage pipe just inside the containment area, in the vicinity of the MCHM tanks. This pipe could be the source of water collecting beneath the tank farm. In the same area, three additional smaller-sized pipes were discovered, which may be water/foam suppression lines used by the former owners of the facility.

Water from an unknown source, continues to collect just outside at the base of the containment wall, The contractors were pumping water from inside and outside of the containment wall, at a rate of approximately 5,000 gallons every 10 hours. WVDEP was provided water samples from the area inside the containment.

The facility will consolidate the high-concentrated MCHM water, segregate it for treatment and disposal and provide EPA and WVDEP with an inventory of the volume of water at the Poca staging facility.

Region 3 OSCs report that the focus of site operations on 1/21 continues to be controlling the on-site water and collecting contaminated water/product from the ditches and the collection trench.

Runoff water is being collected in a hand-dug sump to collect it before it reaches the contaminated property. The collected water will either be diverted or collected in tanker trucks to send to a wastewater treatment plant.

On 1/21 work continues to contain water coming from the upgradient source, which is clean and will be pumped into the tank containing the glycerin sludge to dilute the sludge, which should ease pumping the glycerin. The glycerin will be hauled to customers to comply with the WVDEP order. An updated inventory of the remaining chemicals will be provided to the WVDEP tomorrow.

Soil removal is delayed due to the cold temperatures and snow fall. The facility's contractor will inspect the river boom to break up the ice and stop ice forming to prevent the ice from becoming a conduit if there was an additional release.

The facility was to receiving more double-walled tanks at the Poca facility to contain water from the site, but the Chapter 11 court hearing has delayed shipment of these tankers, which will not be released until after today's (1/21) court appearance. The facility will profile the water for disposal by collecting samples from the storage tanks.

The court filing is extremely important for Freedom Industries to continue to operate and continue to meet WV DEPs requirements. If they are unable to proceed with Chapter 11 filing for reorganization, then Freedom Industries will have to file Chapter 7 and discontinue the removal work.

The remediation contractor, Civil Environmental Consultants, has begun to work on a plan for the site. They stated that the cost or scope of remediation work will not be cost prohibitive due to deterioration of the product and the clay base under the site that kept the chemical from infiltrating deep into the ground.

Installation of wireless cameras was scheduled for 1/20 at both the Poca facility and the Freedom Industries tank farm. The additional security measures should enable immediate response if additional discharge or compromise of the tanks on site occurs.

ATSDR was on site on 1/19 to consult with EPA and WVDEP.

The WV Emergency Operations Center transitioned to a Partial Activation on 1/19. The FEMA National Watch Center is at Normal Operations (Watch/Steady State). The FEMA Region III Regional Response Coordination Center remains at Level III (Partial Activation). An Interim Operating Facility is operational in Charleston, with a Federal Coordinating Officer, a Type-III Incident Management Assistance Team, and a FEMA Liaison in place.

EPA Action: 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. Region 4 OSC demobilized from the site on 1/20 but will continue to coordinate with ORSANCO and Regions 3 and 5.

Media Interest: High
http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2014/01/chemistry-experiments-west-virginia-dont-try-home/all/

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/west-virginia-chemical-spill-in-elk-river-poses-a-new-chemistry-test-for-lawmakers/2014/01/19/993d5a66-7ed7-11e3-93c1-0e888170b723_story.html

http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201401200080

http://www.charlestondailymail.com/News/201401200069

http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201401200041

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

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