To: Feldt, Lisa[Feldt.Lisa@epa.gov]
Cc: Stanton, Larry[Stanton.Larry@epa.gov]
From: Irizarry, Gilberto
Sent: Wed 2/5/2014 10:24:41 PM
Subject: Fw: EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston, WV- Update #24

Lisa:

Are you getting the reports again?

Thanks,

Tito

Sent from my BlackBerry Z10 smartphone. Please excuse typos.

Gilberto "Tito" Irizarry
Director, Program Operations & Coordination Div.
USEPA Office of Emergency Management
O: 202-564-7982
C: 202-821-8138

From: Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2014 2:55 PM
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston, WV- Update #24

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 #24

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 1500 February 5, 2014
The following updates are for the 24-hour operational period (12:00 pm on February 4, 2014 to

12:00 pm on February 5, 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.

The facility is deepening the intercept trench by the river and installing a water collection system. The section of the trench adjacent to the river slope was excavated to native soil. During excavation, a pipe was inadvertently broken. The pipe, approximately 8 inches in diameter, was discharging water at a rate of approximately 1/4 gal/min and had a slight odor of MCHM. The pipe appears to be an intake line from the river for a former fire suppression system. WVDEP, EPA, the facility and the plaintiff's expert are collecting water samples for analysis. Pumping operations on the trench will continue to prevent flow into the River. The facility is developing a plan to keep offsite water from flowing into the facility, rather it will be re-routed to discharge directly into the Elk River once analytical data shows that it is clean. This would greatly reduce the amount of water currently being pumped and contained. With the rising water level in the Elk River, attention was focused on maintaining the booms along the affected shoreline. Additionally, preparations were made to minimize the amount of rainfall which could enter the interceptor trench. Plastic sheeting was placed over the surface of the impacted slope and over the trench, allowing fresh rainwater to bypass the trench system and flow directly into the Elk River. A vacuum hose was connected directly to the pipe discharging into the interceptor trench which reduced the volume of water entering the interceptor trench. These changes were made to reduce the chance of the excess water overwhelming the interceptor trench system.

The facility noted that they will submit, via e-mail, an inventory of the onsite tanks to the State and to EPA. The facility has also indicated they have begun shipping product (MCHM/PPH blend) to the Poca facility.

EPA Action:
Region III will focus on managing both offsite water flowing onto the Site and water migrating through the Site on 2/5. A large amount of water is being pumped from the site due to rainfall combined with ice/snow melt caused by warmer weather. The water continued to be pumped into onsite tanks for temporary storage. The facility noted that the tank (Tank 400) they had been pumping water into was full and consequently will begin pumping into Tank 401.

Due to efforts focusing on managing and controlling the excess water onsite, sampling of the onsite monitoring wells which had been scheduled for 2/4 has been pushed back until Thursday 2/6. However, a surface water sample from the upgradient sump (outside of containment area) was collected by CEC 2/4. Analytical data from this sample indicated that MCHM was present at a concentration of 290 ppb.

Media Interest: Medium
http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/freedom-industries-to-hold-press-conference-at-530-pm-et-today-239678401.html

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

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