Water Quality Protection Division

Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Region 6 Update

Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 4**
Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: May 5, 2010

Reporting Period: May 5, 2010 1300 – May 6, 2010 1300

6065044

Situation Status:

Monitoring and Assessment

- R6 is proposing assistance from OW the addition of a monitoring/sampling design for nearshore marine waters for both R4 and R6. OW will examine similar nearshore marine sampling activities by NOAA to evaluate need.

- BP has contracted with ESRI to manage GIS services during this spill event. EPA is developing a plan to manage GIS coverages in the event that DC tasks EPA to take the (GIS) lead for this spill event. Command sites have been established in Homa, La (R6) and Mobile, Al (R4) and possibly St. Petersburg, Fl.

- Staff are currently working on:
  - Compilation of data benchmarks for sample comparison
  - Evaluation of dispersant toxicity
  - Coordination on QASP development for WQ sampling
  - Addressing toxicity of dispersant constituents, as well as assist the monitoring and assessments section with ongoing water quality sampling.
  - Exchange of ideas on data will be evaluated based on screening levels and reported on a periodic basis. Meetings will occur on an ongoing basis on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Attendees include Region 4, 6, Region 6 Emergency Response Environmental Unit and OW.

- Data and LA water quality standards were forwarded to HQ to assist with development of water quality sampling benchmarks.

Drinking Water

- Responded to information requests concerning drinking water quality.
- Received an updated map from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) that includes a larger area of Southeastern Louisiana. That map is attached on the next page. The public drinking water system data is current and accurate, however, LDHH does not maintain a data set for domestic wells (wells owned by individuals and not regulated by LDHH/EPA) so the accuracy cannot be guaranteed.
- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen and are not projected to be impacted by the oil spill.
- Neither EPA nor the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) regulates industrial cooling or processing tank intakes nor do we regulate drinking water in offshore vessels or rigs.
- Continue to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- 6WQ-NI continues to provide mapping/GIS support as needed and/or requested. Information is posted to Region 6 incident folder on the share drive. Utilizing data sets of National Wetlands Index (NWI), bathymetry, endangered species, shipping lanes and fairways, marine protected areas and national wildlife refuge areas, shellfish sites for Gulf of Mexico, Coastwide Reference Monitoring System CRMS wetland data.

Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team (SCAT) Training for Response Support Corp (RSC) Members:

- Water Quality Protection Division staff have been attending SCAT training in preparation for possible deployment.

CWPPRA Situational Report

Based on best available information, the status of impacted CWPPRA projects remains unchanged. It appears that MR-09 Delta Wide Crevasses (NMFS sponsored) probably has experienced oil impacts and PO-27, Chandeleur Islands Marsh Restoration (NMFS sponsored) may have experienced impacts. Information on other CWPPRA projects in the area is still limited. NOAA Gulf of Mexico forecasts on 5/4/10 at 2100 CDT mention that the westward current development may carry the oil slick to the west of the Delta.

NPDES

- MR-09 Updated Map of NPDES Discharges with focus on industrial (non-drinking water) intake structures in SE Louisiana could be affected. All appear to be well inland. Map was developed in coordination with LDEQ and with assistance from 6SF and Regional GIS Contractor. (Map next page)

Louisiana NPDES Facilities with industrial (non-drinking) water intakes