

MISSOURI



NATURAL RESOURCES

Crude Oil Release

St. Charles County

February 2019

Incident Summary

At 10:48 a.m. on Feb. 6, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources received notification from the National Response Center regarding a release of crude oil from a pipeline in rural St. Charles County. An estimated 43 barrels (approximately 1,800 gallons) of crude oil was released to the soil. The exact quantity has not yet been determined.

The release site is located on the county's northern border near the Mississippi River and adjacent to Highway C. Two pipelines are located in the affected area: the TransCanada Corp.'s Keystone pipeline and Enbridge Inc.'s Platte pipeline.

During exploratory excavation conducted around the two pipelines between Feb. 7 and 8, contractors for the pipelines were able to verify that the oil release originated from the Keystone pipeline. Efforts will continue to excavate the pipeline and expose the segment of concern to allow workers to pinpoint the problem. The Keystone pipeline will remain closed until any necessary repairs are made, and it can be safely placed back into operation. There is no estimated timeline for those actions to be completed.

While both pipelines had been shut down until the source could be determined, on Feb. 8 the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration approved the Platte pipeline to restart operations. The company then began startup measures, which also included different types of additional monitoring and inspections, and the pipeline was back to normal operations by the end of the day.

Environmental Impact

To date, no surface waterways have been affected. The release was contained to an area of approximately 4,000 square feet (about 1/10 of an acre). No material has migrated beyond the initial area of containment. As a precaution, the flooded agricultural fields adjacent and south of the release are being drained.

Site stabilization efforts were completed on Feb. 8. Contractors for the pipeline companies are working nonstop to recover the released material from containment and to establish a temporary staging area to hold the contaminated material that will be removed during the excavation process. When the staging area is ready, contractors will excavate the Keystone pipeline to expose the section of concern. The pipeline has a 30-inch diameter and is buried approximately 8 feet deep. Work at the site will continue around the clock until the issue is fully resolved.

Agency Actions Taken

Shortly after the incident was reported, the Department dispatched hazardous materials emergency response specialists to oversee the onsite response and cleanup operations, as well as to coordinate support activities and information with other local and state agencies and private entities.

The Department had also collected samples of the released product to analyze in case assistance was needed in verifying the source.

Department personnel have also notified all owners of property potentially affected by the release and will continue to keep them updated on the situation. The Department is conducting a survey to determine the number and type of wells in the area in preparation for future groundwater sampling.

There are two other pipelines located in proximity to the impacted area: One is owned by MoGas Pipeline, LLC, which carries natural gas; the other is owned by Amoco Oil Company, which carries non-highly volatile liquid (oil) product. These pipelines remain in operation; Department personnel are keeping the two companies informed as the situation develops.

Next Steps

When onsite workers complete excavation of the contaminated material, contractors for TransCanada will continue to clean up and remove onsite contaminated soil and other material for disposal at an approved waste facility. They will then determine why the release occurred and initiate necessary repairs. When it is deemed safe, the pipeline will be restored to operation.

In coordination with onsite activities, the Department will take additional actions as deemed necessary. Any further actions at the site will be coordinated with the responsible party, along with local and state partner agencies.

For More Information

For additional information, contact the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Office of Communications, at 573-751-6115 or communications@dnr.mo.gov.

Aerial Map

