

Remed # 3749



Ferguson, Randall

From: Knoy.Jim@epamail.epa.gov
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2006 1:06 PM
To: Ferguson, Randall
Cc: bethann.williams@state.co.us; miller.johanna@epamail.epa.gov;
wolf.martha@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: Inspection of UPRR 41 Pan Am K#2 Tank Battery
Attachments: P9290001.JPG; P9290005.JPG; P9290006.JPG



P9290001.JPG (405 KB)



P9290005.JPG (425 KB)



P9290006.JPG (387 KB)

On September 29, 2006, I inspected the above mentioned Tank Battery in response to a call from the landowner, Mr. Mark Schell. I met Mr. Schell at his home and he accompanied me on the inspection. I observed two laborers using a backhoe to finish, what appeared to be, the backfilling of a hole where, according to Mr. Schell, the contaminated soil was first noted. I took pictures of this operation. I noted that there was essentially no secondary containment at this time, with the presumption that when the backfilling was completed, the secondary containment would be re-established. I did not meet with any company representatives during this inspection.

I looked at the stream immediately adjacent to the facility to the south and found surficial water. I took pictures of that water which are waters of the United States. I observed closely, but did not note any evidence of petroleum contamination at this time. I also took pictures of two ponds and the same stream, further downstream from the facility.

this stream is a tributary to the St Vrain River. Mr. Schell stated that the ponds often have ducks on them and he has observed White Pelicans and Sandhill Cranes there at times. I observed frogs in the west pond.

Apparently there is a dispute between the land owner and the facility operator/owner over how much oil was spilled on the soil. I could not make any determination in that regard. It does appear, however, that if there is a sizable quantity of contamination in the surficial aquifer, and that it is a very short trip, perhaps 40 feet, from the oil spill to the stream, and that violations of the Clean Water Act, as amended, would occur if not abated.

It is EPA's opinion that a determination of the existence and extent of a groundwater plume is needed soon so any needed cleanup/remediation can occur before heavy precipitation events occur which could increase the extend of contamination and costs to cleanup.

I also recommend that Ms. Wolf's team follow-up on this facility, in coordination with the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission to ensure that secondary containment is restored adequately.

I would appreciate copies of any reports the COGCC may have on this response and would certainly be willing to assist in any way possible.

Site location: Weld CR 15, approximately 1 mile north of road east from I-25 at the Mead exit, NE corner of first intersection and immediately north of the stream. SWSW Section 5, T3N, R67W COGCC Complaint # 200096598

Following are some of the pictures I took

(See attached file: P9290001.JPG) (See attached file: P9290005.JPG) (See attached file: P9290006.JPG) Backfilling Spill area Stream water

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