

May 5, 2011

Cleanup ongoing of pipeline leak northeast of Peace River

Edmonton... The Alberta government continues to work with Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB), Plains Midstream Canada, and other appropriate agencies during cleanup efforts following a crude oil pipeline leak about 100 km northeast of Peace River on April 29.

The following highlights the activities underway as of May 5.

Spill overview

- The release is contained
- 28,000 barrels of light sweet crude oil has been spilled
- Oil is contained in pipeline right of way and is 300 metres from the nearest flowing water
- Air quality monitoring has detected no hydrocarbon levels above Alberta's ambient air quality standards
- The company has implemented a wildlife protection plan
- The pipeline has been excavated and examined by company and regulatory officials
- The company has completed repairs and has applied to reopen the line. No approval will be granted until the ERCB is assured the line is safe.

Spill containment/clean-up

- Alberta Environment and Energy Resources Conservation Board worked with the company and contractor to develop an action plan for clean up and remediation of the impacted area. Clean up activities began shortly after the spill was noticed and remediation activities are ongoing.
- Approximately 300 response personnel are on the scene working on containment, oil recovery, line repair and site remediation.
- Skimmers are collecting oil from open water in the pond. Soil cleanup preparations are underway. There has been no migration of oil from the effected area, which is fenced off.
- Clean up crews are currently recovering 15m³ per hour from the pond during daylight hours, and slightly less at night due to the product becoming thicker with lower temperatures. Additional skimmers are expected soon.
- Contaminated soil is being removed and being taken to an approved waste disposal facility.
- To date, 551 m³ of product has been removed from the site (of the original 4,500 m³ estimated to have spilled).
- Water samples have been taken from the beaver pond and downstream to determine the water quality. To date no evidence of migration has occurred.
- Alberta Environment will continue to work with the Energy Resources Conservation

Board and Plains Midstream Canada to ensure the clean up is conducted as quickly as possible.

Response to air quality/ health concerns raised by local residents:

- Two air monitoring stations have been set up: one at the site of the incident and one at the school. Both stations have been monitoring air emissions since May 3.
- May 4th, Alberta Health Services sent an Environmental Health Officer to the community to conduct monitoring.
- AHS has reviewed all air monitoring data conducted for this area thus far - including ambient air quality and indoor air quality at the school - and all results are well below the maximum acceptable concentration guidelines set by Health Canada.
- The Mobile Air Monitoring Lab has been deployed by Alberta Environment and is on site to measure for Volatile Organic Compounds around the school.
- Based on the current data, there is no evidence that the air quality poses risk of long term health impact, at this time.
- Alberta Environment, ERCB and AHS will continue to review the air monitoring data. AHS will advise on all health-related aspects of the oil spill response, and exposure to related air quality concerns over time.

Results of the monitoring in school:

- The air quality parameters tested in the school were carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.
- The highest carbon monoxide level detected in the inside the school was found to be 0.2 parts per million. Acceptable short-term exposure ranges (ASTER) for carbon monoxide in residential indoor air are 11 parts per million or less, based on an eight-hour average concentration.(Health Canada's Exposure Guidelines for Residential Indoor Air Quality).
- Carbon dioxide levels inside the school were in the range of 400 - 550 parts per million. The acceptable long-term exposure range (ASTER) for carbon dioxide in residential indoor air is 3500 parts per million or less.(Health Canada's Exposure Guidelines for Residential Indoor Air Quality).
- The findings demonstrate that the carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide levels inside the school are well below the acceptable indoor air quality guidelines for these parameters.

Results of the monitoring at spill site:

- An ambient air quality monitoring station located at the site of the Plains-Midstream oil spill, detected benzene at a concentration of 1.0 part per billion. This is the only site where benzene was detected.
- Acceptable concentrations of benzene in ambient air, as outlined in the Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives and Guidelines (December 2010) is 30 parts per billion, based on a 1-hour average.
- This result shows that the concentration of benzene detected in the ambient air near the oil spill site was significantly lower than acceptable levels.

Where residents can go for more information:

- Residents experiencing symptoms can call HealthLink (1-866-408-5465) to discuss concerns, and receive advice on personal protection measures/symptom management.

Information on Little Buffalo school closure:

- Alberta Education continues to work with Northland School Division and other provincial ministries including Health and Wellness and Environment to ensure the health of the students.
- We will also work with Northland to see that students return to school as quickly as

possible. In the meantime, alternative arrangements will be made for Little Buffalo students to continue their education

- For more information, residents can contact Donna Barrett, Superintendent of Schools, Northland School Division. Donna.Barrett@northland61.ab.ca Or Office: (780) 624-2060
Toll Free: 1-800-362-1360

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