

Oil Field Environmental Incident Summary

Incident: 20140214142744 **Date/Time of Notice:** 02/14/2014 14:12

Responsible Party: Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation

Well Operator: WHITING OIL AND GAS CORPORATION

Well Name: CHERRY STATE 31-16H

Field Name: PLEASANT HILL

Well File #: 26483

Date Incident: 2/13/2014 **Time Incident:** 15:50

Facility ID Number:

County: MCKENZIE

Twp: 149

Rng: 99

Sec: 16

Qtr: NW NE

Location Description: Main area impacted is the constructed well facility. Minor areas outside of facility perimeter has been impacted include soil surface and vegetation northwest of the location; include minor area along the frozen Cherry State Creek in the immediate vicinity of the facility.

Submitted By: Adam Rookey

Received By:

Contact Person: Mitch Haugeberg
1700 BROADWAY STE 2300
DENVER, CO 80290

General Land Use: Well/Facility Site

Affected Medium: Well/Facility Soil

Distance Nearest Occupied Building: 0.41 Miles

Distance Nearest Water Well: 0.41 Miles

Type of Incident: Other

Release Contained in Dike: No

Reported to NRC: Yes

	Spilled	Units	Recovered	Units	Followup	Units
Oil	25	barrels	0	barrels	66	barrels
Brine	25	barrels	0	barrels	152	barrels
Other	0	barrels	0	barrels		

Description of Other Released Contaminant:

Inspected:

Written Report Received: 3/26/2014

Clean Up Concluded:

Risk Evaluation:

To be determined

Areal Extent:

300 ft. around location.

Potential Environmental Impacts:

Potential to impact frozen soil surface and nearby Cherry State Creek.

Action Taken or Planned:

Regaining well control still in progress. Heavy water being pump down to kill well. Steam trucks will clean off rig platform once well is killed and safety group clears area. Pickers to strip BOP and replace with new BOP, estimated at 1 hour for change out. Efforts to contain and divert release to portable is tanks on going to minimize released fluids on ground. Clean up activities will be initiated when control in attained and area cleared by safety personnel. Clean up crews and roustabout services called and on standby to initiate immediate clean-up activities. Access to facility and on site personal restricted to authorized and necessary personnel for incident response.

Wastes Disposal Location: At a local approved disposal facility

Agencies Involved: State Highway Patrol, Local Fire Department, Local Law Enforcement, Luke Chavez, EPA Region 8 Exercise Coordinator

Updates

Date: 2/13/2014 **Status:** Reviewed - Follow-up Required **Author:** O’Gorman, Brian

Updated Oil Volume:

Updated Salt Water Volume:

Updated Other Volume:

Updated Other Contaminant

Notes:

Received a call from Emergency Preparedness and Response Division at 17:10 CT, 2/13/14, regarding a release of crude oil in McKenzie County. Phoned the McKenzie County emergency manager and Whiting Oil environmental coordinator shortly thereafter. According to the two observants, there had been a wellhead blowout and approximately 30 to 50 barrels of crude oil had been released on to the wellpad, with a small portion being sprayed on to some adjoining property. The Whiting representative explained to me that Whiting had activated its response plan and had people and equipment on site to handle the situation, including temporary diversion tanks which could be loaded into trucks on site and heavy equipment for any emergency berms that might need to be constructed. The Whiting representative also stated that the company had Absorbent Safety Solutions on site to help with the cleanup. Followup required from NDDoH field personnel.

Date: 2/14/2014 **Status:** Correspondence **Author:** Martin, Russell

Updated Oil Volume:

Updated Salt Water Volume:

Updated Other Volume:

Updated Other Contaminant

Notes:

2/14/14 - approximately 19:30. Phone call with incident commander; personnel were able to seal the well.

Date: 2/14/2014 **Status:** Inspection

Author: Martin, Russell

Updated Oil Volume:

Updated Salt Water Volume:

Updated Other Volume:

Updated Other Contaminant

Notes:

2/14/2014 at 16:30, on location. Vapor has dissipated; crews currently scraping up impacted snow and ice in the creek. Took sample of impacted snow from creek. Requested sample of source fluid; was sent to nearby wellpad to the west. Company is staging equipment there, including storage tanks for source fluid from blowout. Retrieved samples of source fluid. Wellpad of blowout currently closed due to critical phase in the attempt to seal the blowout; unable to check on mist in field to southwest.

Date: 2/14/2014 **Status:** Inspection

Author: Martin, Russell

Updated Oil Volume:

Updated Salt Water Volume:

Updated Other Volume:

Updated Other Contaminant

Notes:

2/14/2014 at 11:45, on location. Road leading to wellpad has been closed; large amount of truck traffic on it. White vapor coming out of wellhead. Spoke with incident commander; well is not under control, vapor is mostly gas. Currently pumping fluid from releasing well into 400 barrel tanks and then into trucks. Original blowout did impact nearby creek to the northwest and a field bordering the wellpad to the south/southwest. Impacted creek downwind of gas vapor; unable to sample at this time. Downstream of impact location to the northeast, creek has no visible impact. Personnel are planning to "kill" the well by 6 pm tonight. As incident is still developing; will return later in the day to gather samples if vapor has cleared.

Date: 2/14/2014 **Status:** Reviewed - Follow-up Required

Author: O'Gorman, Brian

Updated Oil Volume:

Updated Salt Water Volume:

Updated Other Volume:

Updated Other Contaminant

Notes:

Received a phone call from a Whiting representative to update the situation at 9:05 CT, 2/14/14. According to the Whiting representative, Whiting had flown in personnel from Wild Well Control, Houston, TX to inject 600 barrels of kill fluid into the well, which would allow them to gain control of the well and repair the wellhead. Approximately 30 to 50 barrels of oil were on the well pad, and approximately 3 to 5 barrels had made it off site on to a frozen creek adjacent to the well pad. The representative indicated that the off-site release would not be worked upon until the wellhead had been secured due to safety concerns. Followup required by NDDoH Field personel.

Date: 2/18/2014 **Status:** Awaiting Documentation

Author: Roberts, Kris

Updated Oil Volume:

Updated Salt Water Volume:

Updated Other Volume:

Updated Other Contaminant

Notes:

2/18/14 - 10:00 on location. Met company representative and inspected the off-site impact locations. Cleanup crew was using shovels and absorbent socks to remove as much oil residue on the ice as possible. Plan is to remove the visually impacted ice from the creek bed (appears the ice thickness goes all the way to the creek bed in most of the area of impact). Grasses on both sides of the creek in the impact area will be removed to the extent possible. Impacted shrubs and brush will be monitored into the spring and summer to determine if there is a lasting impact. Company will be drafting and submitting an assessment and monitoring plan in next few days that will begin immediately and extend into the summer for both vegetation and the creek quality.

Date: 2/28/2014 **Status:** Inspection

Author: Roberts, Kris

Updated Oil Volume:

Updated Salt Water Volume:

Updated Other Volume:

Updated Other Contaminant

Notes:

Received status/assessment/monitoring plan from Whiting Oil Company this date. Letter in full is in the linked directory. Synopsis:
Absorbent booms placed along and across Cherry Creek in several places.
All impacted vegetation and topsoil outside of perimeter fence to the west side of the facility were collected, removed, and sent to an approved disposal facility.
Crews removed any sign of crude oil that appeared on the snow and ice along the banks, as well as on the creek ice.
Ice was scraped by shovel, and squeegees were used to collect ice, water, and remaining oil.
Contractor cut and collected impacted vegetation along the creek, shoreline, and west bank of creek toward County Road 30.
Environmental media samples have been collected for analytical laboratory testing; sample results are pending.
Due to the sensitive nature of the location, ongoing assessments and inspections will be conducted along Cherry Creek and surrounding area routinely through spring green-up and into summer.