

# General Environmental Incident Summary

**Incident:** 1872      **Date/Time Notice:** 2/14/2013      14:15      **DEM Incident No:**

**Responsible Party:** Alliance Pipeline, L.P.

**Date Incident:** 2/14/2013      **Time Incident:** 18:00      **Duration:**

**County:** Burke      **Twp:** 162      **Rng:** 88      **Sec:** 32      **Qtr:**

**Lat:** 48.81438      **Long:** -102.12020      **Method:** Derived from TRS

**Location Description:** Southern half of Section 32. North side of U.S. Highway 52 at the crossing of Upper DDes Lacs Lake. Approximately 5.3 miles east of Bowbells. Approximately 9.0 miles north of Kenmare.

**Submitted By:** Kevin Wienke

**Affiliation:**

**Address:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Zip:**

**Received By:**

**Contact Person:** Troy Meinke  
6385 Old Shady Oak Road, Suite 150  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

**Distance Nearest Occupied Building:** 0.5 Miles

**Type of Incident:** Surface release of drilling mud associated with pipeline construction

**Description of Released Contaminant:** Drilling mud consisting of water and bentonite clay with small quantities of quartz, tridymite and cristobalite.

**Volume Spilled:** 150.00 gallons

**Ag Related:** No

**EPA Extremely Hazardous Substance:** No

**Reported to NRC:** Unknown

**Cause of Incident:**

The surface release of drilling mud occurred in association with installation of a natural gas pipeline (Alliance Pipeline's Tioga Lateral Project) beneath Upper Des Lacs Lake using the horizontal directional drill (HDD) construction method. This activity has been underway since January 5, 2013. Previous notifications have described the process of using the HDD. On February 13, 2013, the final stage in the process was underway. The reaming process is complete, and a prefabricated segment of pipe was attached to the drill string on the exit side of the crossing, and pulled back through the hole toward the drill rig. The length of the HDD at this location is approximately 1 mile. Although the HDD method typically avoids impacts on water quality by precluding disturbance of the bed and banks, an inadvertent release of drilling mud (sometimes referred to as a "frac-out") is possible if drilling fluids escape the drill hole and are forced through fractures in the subsurface substrate to the ground surface. This is what occurred for Alliance's crossing at Upper Des Lacs Lake. A summary of the circumstances regarding the surface releases of drilling mud is provided in the bullet list below:

- Twelve surface releases to date have been documented by Alliance along the drill path adjacent to Upper Des Lacs Lake. The first occurred on Sunday, January 6, 2013, and the last occurred on Wednesday, February 13, 2013.
- All 12 releases occurred on North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT) lands adjacent to U.S. Highway 52. One release occurred on the west hillside adjacent to the lake along the highway. The remainder occurred along made land across the lake associated with the highway.
- Alliance estimates that a combined total of 16 cubic yards of drilling fluid was released (including approximately 0.7 cubic yards during the last release on February 13). All of the fluid remained on land at the release site.
- None of the fluid reached federal land under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

The drilling mud is comprised of non-toxic, industry-standard materials. The mud consists of water and bentonite clay, with small quantities of quartz, tridymite, and cristobalite.

**Risk Evaluation:**

There are no immediate or long-term risks associated with the release. The drilling mud poses no risk to the environment and no health risk.

**# of Fatalities:** 0      **# of Injuries:** 0      **Affected Medium:** 03 - soil

**Potential Environmental Impacts:**

None.

**Action Taken or Planned:**

Actions which have been implemented by Alliance are described in the bullet list below: • At the time of the release construction crews worked to contain and clean-up the drilling mud. Work to install the pipe was not halted because erosion control devices had been installed in the area prior to the activity and were functioning properly. In addition, onsite crews began immediate clean up using two vacuum trucks. • Approximately Nearly 100 percent of the released materials was cleaned up and removed. There is no active flow at the release site. • Alliance notified the FWS of the surface release. • Drilling and pipe installation at this location are now complete, therefore it is not anticipated that future work activities at the site will result in further surface release incidents.

**Wastes Disposal Location:** The material removed from the release site will be disposed of at an approved waste facility.

**Agencies Involved:** USFWS

**Updates**

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**Date:** 2/14/2013      **Status:** Reviewed - Assigned to NDDoH Division      **Author:** Roberts, Kris

**Updated Volume:**

**Notes:**

Pete Wax is overseeing all activities with this project.