

General Environmental Incident Summary

Incident: 2126 **Date/Time Notice:** 12/2/2013 05:30 **DEM Incident No:**
Responsible Party: JR Simplot
Date Incident: 12/2/2013 **Time Incident:** 03:30 **Duration:** 10 minutes
County: Grand Forks **Twp:** 152 **Rng:** 50 **Sec:** 32 **Qtr:**
Lat: 47.93328 **Long:** -97.08195 **Method:** Address matching
Location Description: 3630 Gateway Drive Grand Forks, ND 58203

Submitted By: Taylor Heins **Affiliation:**
Address: 3630 Gateway Drive
City: Grand Forks **State:** ND **Zip:** 58203

Received By:

Contact Person: Taylor Heins
3630 Gateway Drive
Grand Forks, ND 58203

Distance Nearest Occupied Building: 1000 Feet

Type of Incident: Tank Overflow

Description of Released Contaminant: Fresh Water

Volume Spilled: 4500.00 gallons **Ag Related:** No

EPA Extremely Hazardous Substance: No **Reported to NRC:** No

Cause of Incident:

At approximately 3:30 am on December 2, 2013, our water resources operator discovered that our pump station pumps were not running. He checked the level sensor of the wet well and noticed it was reading 0. This reading caused our automatic control to tell the pumps to shut off. This resulted in the wet well overflowing and discharging to the storm sewer. This storm sewer flows directly into the English Coulee in Grand Forks. The operator turned on the pumps manually and pumped down the wet well. We believe that because our plant was shut down for the Thanksgiving Holiday this caused the sensor freeze in the cold weather. The water released was fresh water. At the time the plant was beginning to prepare for startup after the shutdown.

Risk Evaluation:

No Immediate Risk

of Fatalities: 0 **# of Injuries:** 0 **Affected Medium:** 02 - water

Potential Environmental Impacts:

We believe that the impact will be negligible due to the release being fresh water.

Action Taken or Planned:

Pumps were ran in manual until the level sensor was fixed. Implementation of a Redundant level sensor. Will not use the same design as current level sensor in order to keep from freezing.

Wastes Disposal Location: There is no waste to recover.

Agencies Involved: City Of Grand Forks Pre-Treatment Coordinator

Updates

Date: 12/2/2013 **Status:** Correspondence

Author: Rockeman, Karl

Updated Volume:

Notes:

Karl asked me to describe the phone conversation for the last Simplot spill.

Taylor Heins had left a voicemail on my phone early that morning 12-2-13 relating the spill and again around 8 a.m.

I called him back to check in and later sent an email to remind him to do the EIR.

The spill was early in the morning. It was mostly "clean" water since the plant was just starting up after the holiday. A sensor in the pit had frozen and was not functioning and therefore did not turn on the pumps. The pit filled up and overflowed, sending the water into the street and down the storm drain into English Coulee. Tyler had left messages for the city of Grand Forks but had not been able to reach anyone by the time we talked.

I think that is about all there was to it. If I remember anything else I'll let you know.

Luci Snowden
Division of Water Quality
North Dakota Department of Health
701-328-5239

Date: 12/2/2013 **Status:** Reviewed - Assigned to NDDoH Division

Author: Roberts, Kris

Updated Volume:

Notes:

Water that overflowed the system is reported as fresh. Storm sewer conveyed the overflow to English Coulee, which runs into the Red River of the North. City of Grand Forks pretreatment personnel have been alerted to the release, and the incident has been forwarded to the NDDoH Permits Program for followup.