

Site:	Martin Co.
Break:	2.10
Other:	

85502

**POLREP NUMBER 16
KENTUCKY/WEST VIRGINIA COAL SLURRY SPILL
MARTIN COUNTY COAL CORPORATION
INEZ, KENTUCKY**

DATE: NOVEMBER 29, 2000
TO: DOUG LAIR, EPA REGION IV
CHARLIE KLEEMAN, EPA REGION III
FROM: FRED STROUD

I. BACKGROUND

See prior POLREPs.

II. CURRENT ACTIVITIES

**(FROM 1700 HOURS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2000, TO 1700 HOURS,
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2000)**

Weather: Weather condition during this reporting period have not hindered clean up efforts. On site condition have been overcast with short periods of very light rain. Temperatures have ranged from the mid 40s to mid 50s.

Personnel: MCCC continues to respond to the spill 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with their company and subcontractor resources. The company reports approximately 540 personnel and contractors are responding. Federal and State agencies continue to support and provide guidance to the company's response team (ICS). Federal, state and local agencies represented on-scene include:

Federal: EPA OSC (Fred Stroud), EPA ERT (Greg Powell), USCG Strike Team,
U.S. DOL-MSHA, U.S. DOI-OSM, EPA START Contractor

State: KYDNREPC (Tom Gabbard), Roger Martin, KY Dept. of Fish and
Wildlife Resources, Kentucky Dept. for Surface Mining and Reclamation
(KY DSMRE)

Totals of recovered sludge/slurry material that has been pumped and or hauled into impoundments located on or around the site are located in the attached tables. Ongoing operations in Coldwater and Wolf Creek watersheds are as follows:

Coldwater Creek

MCCC has removed the blockages from the creek to allow flow to continue down the Coldwater Creek.

Two crews continue to use an excavator to dip slurry from the creek at several locations to keep the channel open.

The sludge has been removed from the flood plain areas from the gate 4 bridge to Mullet Branch. This area has been inspected by the KYDEP and approved for restoration activities.

Backfill top soil material has been obtained from the Lynn Bark Fork area as haul roads have been constructed to access the area.

Three crews continue to remove trees and other vegetation destroyed during the spill and subsequent operations. The material is being chipped and staged on mine property. MCCC has placed saw dust in corn field cell 1 to assist in solidifying the cell contents. This practice will be evaluated and repeated if deemed effective.

Tandem and articulated trucks continue hauling operations (see Table 1). Road maintenance continues and conditions have improved. Road construction is complete to the Lynn Bark confluence, solidification activities continue.

MCCC is constructing cells on Lynn Bark Fork and Road Fork as well as constructing additional cells at the south MTR location. These cells will be used for excavated creek bed sludge.

Wolf Creek

The blockages in Wolf Creek have been removed resulting in lowering the water level the creek which has exposed sludge on the banks. Excavation of the sludge on the banks and flood plains continues. Crews are currently working in Maynard Fork and the log yard.

The material excavated from the creek bed removal operations had too high of a liquid content and was spilling on the road ways. Once brought to the attention of MCCC by the OSC, practices were changed and crews limited their removal to firmer sludge. Roads along Wolf Creek and up to Pegasus Mine are in poor condition due to the material spilled from the trucks. A grader and excavator are being used to remove the spilled material and maintain the roads.

A permanent pond was constructed at the mouth of the South Mains portal and the eroded hillside was filled in.

Freds weir has been breached to allow the back waters to drain and dry out the banks and the flats so sludge removal can begin.

Big Andy, Old Slurry Station, security gate 3, and slurry impoundment pumps are operational. Pumps and sediment traps are being serviced on an as need basis.

Creek bank washing/flushing activities are ongoing in divisions WC, WD, and WE, between Pigeon Roost and Pilgrim Mine (see Table 2). Seven Hydroseeders are currently being used.

No visible suspended solids were noted at the Wolf Creek/Tug Fork confluence. Blackburn contracting Inc. reduced their sampling effort at the Wolf Creek (No.4 Discharge) to sample collection twice a month.

Tug Fork and Big Sandy River

Ft. Gay and Kermit WTP are currently operational and pumping water from the Tug Fork into their plants for water treatment. The in-line turbidity meter for Kermit was delivered and will be installed by MCCC this week.

The slurry assessment of the Tug Fork and Big Sandy River performed by Potesta was concluded on November 28, 2000. Preliminary results indicated that little variation in depth of sediment was present. A final report is due next week.

General/Issues

A public meeting was conducted in Inez, KY on November 27, 2000. Representatives from MCCC and EPA public affairs were in attendance to answer questions.

The KY Environmental Quality Commission sponsored a public meeting on November 28, 2000. A discussion was held on the spill, response and cleanup, and efforts underway to assess the safety of other coal waste impoundments in KY. Representatives from KYNREPC, MCCC, EPA, and MSHA were in attendance to make presentations and participate in the discussion.

MSHA is performing their investigation of the release from the impoundment. The investigation includes collecting 20 cores from locations within the impoundment. They have completed drilling in one location to date.

MCCC contracted a stream restoration specialist from E&E, Inc. to assist in generating a riverbank and flood plain restoration plan. The E&E representative mobilized on 11-29 to coordinate his efforts with EPA ERT. They will be performing a study of the creek banks over the next few days.

The environmental unit's Toxicity Report continues to go through review and modification.

III. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- A. Continuing remediation efforts including pumping and solidifying slurry from both watersheds. Solidification efforts will continue using lime and mechanical methods to excavate the sludge.
- B. Crews will continue working downstream excavating sludge from private yards and seed for erosion control.
- C. EPA and MCCC will continue gaining access to properties along Wolf Creek and Coldwater Creek in order to maintain clean up operations.
- D. Construction on new sedimentation impoundment cells will continue.

E. Evaluate creek bank and flood plain remediation options.

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**REMOVAL TOTALS
Table 1**

WOLF CREEK		COLDWATER CREEK
DATE**	VOLUME REMOVED*	VOLUME REMOVED*
11-26-00	8344	8253
11-27-00	8450	8102
11-28-00	8622	7916

- * Cubic yards includes pumping
- ** 24 hour period ending 0600 hours

**BANK WASHING TOTALS
Table 2**

WOLF CREEK	
DATE	LINEAR FOOTAGE
11-26-00	3800
11-27-00	3500
11-28-00	3700