



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

FACTS ABOUT: Colonial Pipeline – Bel Air Station

GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION COLONIAL PIPELINE – BEL AIR STATION 2942 CHARLES STREET, FALLSTON HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND OCP CASE NO. 2018-0459-HA (OPEN)

SITE LOCATION

The Colonial Pipeline – Bel Air Station (the site) has been a booster station for an interstate refined liquid petroleum pipeline since the mid-1960s. A pipeline booster station includes both aboveground and underground piping, controls, and related equipment. The underground steel pipelines are coated with a protective material and also have cathodic protection. The booster station pumps are used to move the liquid petroleum through the pipeline at a desired flow rate and pressure. The facility is not manned 24/7, but it is inspected on a regular schedule. The facility is served by a private supply well.

SITE HISTORY

The Maryland Department of the Environment's (the Department) Oil Control Program (OCP) received notification from the Colonial Pipeline Company (Colonial) that a release of diesel and kerosene had been observed during a routine facility inspection on March 7, 2018. An environmental spill response company was hired and the recovery of liquid phase hydrocarbons (LPH) and petroleum-impacted soil and water began on March 7, 2018. Investigation of the cause of the release found two corrosion perforations on the 20-inch diameter alternate discharge ("kick back") line, approximately 16 inches from the top line of the pipe. The perforations were repaired and the line was returned to service on March 8, 2018.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AND ACTIONS

On March 12, 2018, an emergency subsurface investigation was initiated to characterize the extent of petroleum impacts at the site. The on-site private supply well was sampled on the same day and was non-detect for petroleum-related compounds. As part of the investigation, a total of 28 soil borings were advanced (17 hand-augured and 11 direct-push technology) at the site. Six groundwater monitoring wells were also installed around the perimeter of the site and sampled on April 4, 2018.



On March 16, 2018, an environmental contractor collected samples from 11 private supply wells located on ten properties adjacent to the site. Personnel from the OCP and the Harford County Health Department oversaw the collection of the drinking water samples. The results of the samples collected from the private supply wells did not reveal any petroleum-related impacts.

On April 13, 2018, the Department received notification that benzene was detected at a concentration of 11 parts per billion (ppb) in the sample from monitoring well MW-2. The sampling results for the other five monitoring wells were found to be non-detect or below regulatory levels for petroleum-related compounds. A confirmatory sample was collected from MW-2 on April 16, 2018. The results confirmed the presence of benzene at a concentration of 59 ppb. Because of the benzene detection, a half-mile notification was sent to property owners.

Colonial estimates that a total of 6,518 gallons of oil was released during this incident. As part of the initial emergency response, Colonial recovered 5,868 gallons of LPH and 5,276 gallons of petroleum-impacted water and excavated 89 cubic yards of oil-contaminated soil. Colonial excavated an additional 205 tons of oil-contaminated soil as part of a project to assess and repair protective coatings of underground piping structures potentially damaged by the oil release.

CURRENT STATUS

Colonial has been directed to complete a half-mile well survey and to begin quarterly sampling of the network of six monitoring wells, the on-site supply well, and the 11 private supply wells. Additional assessment, remediation, and monitoring decisions may be evaluated as more data becomes available.

FUTURE UPDATES

- Postings available on www.mde.maryland.gov
- File available at the Department's headquarters in Baltimore.

CONTACTS

- Oil Control Program: 410-537-3442 or 1-800-633-6101, ext. 3442
- Harford County Health Department: 410-877-2300
- Colonial Pipeline Company Bel Air Station Call Center: 888-840-0213

DISCLAIMER

The intent of this fact sheet is to provide the reader a summary of site events as they are contained within documents available to the Department. To fully understand the site and surrounding environmental conditions, the Department recommends that the reader review the case file, which can be requested through the Public Information Act. The inclusion of a person or company's name within this fact sheet is for informational purposes only and should not be considered a conclusion by the Department on liability, involvement in a wrongful act, or contribution to environmental damage.