

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
LAND AND MATERIALS ADMINISTRATION – OIL CONTROL PROGRAM**

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Report of Observations

Date	4/10/26	Facility ID	7874
Type of Inspection / Observations	Spill Investigation	Case #	26-0420PG
Site / Facility Name	Andrews Air Force Base	Permit #	
Address	██████████ Andrews AFB	MDEnviroScreen¹	31.1
Point of Contact (POC)	██████████	POC Phone	██████████
POC Email	██████████	POC Fax	

Remarks

Regional inspector Michael Jester is following up on open case No.: 26-0420PG. The case was opened after fuel odors and a slight rainbow sheen were observed near an outfall into Piscataway Creek at the ██████████ of the base on 3/23/26. Following discovery of the sheen, the facility deployed absorbent material onto Piscataway Creek at the referenced outfall. The facility also began investigating the source of the sheen and has been providing Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) with daily updates since 3/24/26. To date, the facility has not identified a source. The facility is part of the public water system.

On 3/24/26, the facility received additional complaints that petroleum odors were present in a storm drain near Hanger ██████████. The facility shut down the ██████████ fuel hydrant system at that time. The facility also observed petroleum odors and sheen on Piscataway Creek further upstream than the initial impacted section. The facility added additional absorbents to Piscataway Creek and investigated the storm drain on that date.

On 3/30/26, the ██████████ fuel hydrant system was precision tightness tested and failed. The facility stated that the tester determined that the point of failure was row ██████████. Additionally, it was determined that a prior precision tightness test was performed on December 11, 2025 which also failed and was not reported to MDE. ██████████ stated that the facility intends to have a tracer test performed on the failed section of pipeline to help identify the point of failure.

On 4/7/26, the facility submitted a request to place the ██████████ fuel hydrant system back into service except for Row ██████████ which would remain isolated and shutdown.

On 4/8/26, inspector Jester reviewed inventory and release detection records submitted by the facility for the months of March 2025-March 2026 for the ██████████ hydrant system (Facility ██████████ Hydrant Loop). The facility is using HCNA Consult Leak Detection as their method of release detection. The ██████████ hydrant system passed release detection for the months of March 2025 – December 2025. The ██████████ hydrant system subsequently failed release detection for the months of January 2026 – March 2026.

Inventory records also showed losses of 4,347-gallons in January 2026, 5,790-gallons in February 2026 and 22,277-gallons in March 2026 for a total estimated loss of 32,414-gallons.

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The Oil Control Program (OCP) hereby denies the facilities request to place the [REDACTED] fuel hydrant pipeline back in service.

The following requirements are to be completed by Monday April 13, 2026 unless otherwise stated:

- Empty row [REDACTED] piping of all petroleum and submit a liquid disposal receipt.
- Submit a timeline for the investigation and subsequent repairs for the failed piping section (Row [REDACTED]).
- Provide the amount of oil recovered to date. According to the daily reports, vac events occurred between March 28 (the initial vac event) and April 9, 2026 resulting in the removal of 17,350-gallons of oil-contaminated water described as sheen, fuel, and water. Add the amount of oil recovered with each event and cumulative total in the daily reports. Additionally, provide documentation of the location of all prior vac events.
- Provide a detailed description of the failure point of the 3/30/26 HCNA precision testing labeled as "Facility [REDACTED] Hydrant Loop Issue – Pump House to IVP [REDACTED]" on test records.
- Provide the length of the hydrant loop sections.
- Provide the piping installation date for all sections of the hydrant loop piping.
- Provide the length of the hydrant loop piping that includes the point of failures.
- Do not perform repairs to the hydrant piping without the written approval of MDE. Provide a schedule for the proper abandonment or repair of the hydrant piping.
- Provide a scale schematic of the hydrant piping and connected UST and AST systems.
- Submit a report to the Department summarizing the steps taken to date to investigate the point of failure and to properly control, contain, and clean up the release of regulated substance.
- Submit a report identifying all steps taken to determine the cause of the December 11, 2025 hydrant piping precision tightness test failure and any subsequent repairs that were made to the piping system.
- Submit a report of the investigations and findings following the January, February, and March 2026 hydrant piping release detection failures.
- Continue to keep the [REDACTED] fuel hydrant system closed until approval from MDE.
- Immediately investigate the source of the sheen/release observed on Piscataway Creek and adjacent storm drain.
 - Submit daily updates of the investigation and activities findings.
- **Immediately, but no later than April 15, 2026**, initiate an Emergency Subsurface Investigation in the area of the [REDACTED] fuel hydrant system at Joint Base Andrews. This investigation must evaluate the vertical and horizontal extent of petroleum impacts to soils and groundwater and identify the migratory pathway to the Piscataway Creek.
 - **Immediately, but no later than close of business on April 13, 2026**, provide OCP with proposed boring locations on a site diagram for review.
 - The investigation must include the advancement of subsurface borings and the installation of permanent groundwater monitoring and recovery wells.
 - JBA must be prepared to begin immediate recovery of any liquid phase hydrocarbon (LPH) identified in a method approved by OCP and maintain a cumulative table documenting all LPH recovery totals.
 - OCP personnel must be on site to observe all investigation activities.
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- OCP has notified the Prince George's County Health Department and will assist with back permitting of all borings installed as part of this Emergency Investigation. All well completion reports generated by the

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Maryland-licensed well driller must be submitted as a complete permit application package to the Prince George's County Health Department within 15 days of receiving notice from OCP that Emergency Investigation requirements have been satisfied.

- The investigation must utilize appropriate drilling methods to allow for the characterization of subsurface soils and groundwater including direct-push methods and a drill rig capable of installing, at a minimum, six-inch diameter permanent groundwater monitoring/recovery wells. Mobilization to the site must promote continuous investigation to satisfy this Emergency order.
- Install, monitor and maintain booms and sorbent pads at the outfall to Piscataway Creek, All spill containment must be monitored daily to determine if additional LPH recovery methods must be employed. If evidence of LPH absorption is observed, immediately replace the absorbent booms and pads.
- At least 24 hours prior to beginning a vac event, notify OCP of any enhanced fluid recovery events (vac events) scheduled to occur at the location of the sheen in Piscataway Creek. After completing the EFR event, the vacuum truck must sit for approximately two hours and be gauged to determine the volume (in gallons) of LPH and water recovered during the EFR event. A liquid disposal manifest must be included in the summary report.
- If an increase of petroleum sheen or LPH is observed in Piscataway Creek at any time, report the condition to the Department immediately, but not later than 2 hours after the detection, at 410-537-3442 during normal business hours, or to the Emergency Response Division hotline at 1-866-633-4686.
- During the advancement of all borings, soils must be field screened at regular intervals with a photo-ionization detector (PID), and a lithological description recorded for each boring. If elevated PID responses are observed at the target depth, the boring must be continued until PID responses decrease.
 - Field screening of the soil cores must be performed utilizing a consistent methodology that will not be adversely affected by site conditions. The use of glass jars or plastic baggies to store a portion of the sample material for screening purposes is recommended.
 - Soil samples must be collected for laboratory analysis from each boring. Soil samples must be collected at the interval exhibiting the highest PID response and at the soil/groundwater interface. If the highest PID reading is observed at the soil/groundwater interface, only one sample needs to be submitted for analysis.
 - All soil samples submitted for laboratory analysis must be collected and field preserved in accordance with EPA Method 5035.
 - All soil samples submitted for laboratory analysis must be analyzed for full suite volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including fuel oxygenates, and naphthalene, using EPA Method 8260 and total petroleum hydrocarbons - diesel and gasoline range organics (TPH-DRO and TPH-GRO) using EPA Method 8015.
 - Four-inch diameter monitoring wells must be installed as directed by OCP. Your contractor must be prepared to install six-inch diameter recovery wells in any borehole that exhibits evidence of LPH.
 - All monitoring wells must be installed and developed in accordance with the MDE's Maryland Environmental Assessment Technologies (MEAT) for Leaking Underground Storage Tanks guidance document.
 - All wells must be constructed and maintained to prevent the infiltration of surface water.
- All newly installed wells must be properly developed by a Maryland licensed well driller. Following development, all wells must be surveyed for incorporation onto a scaled site map.
- All monitoring and recovery wells must be gauged daily. Record depth-to-product, depth-to-groundwater, product thickness, and the amount of LPH recovered for each event. Appropriate measuring devices must be used to accurately record LPH recovery volumes. Submit the groundwater gauging results in table

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format with a corresponding figure labeling the monitoring wells to OCP's Remediation Division case manager, Chris King, within 24 hours of completing each gauging event.

- If a new occurrence of liquid phase hydrocarbons (LPH) is observed or there is an uncharacteristic increase in the amount of LPH observed relative to historic site data, report the findings to MDE within 2 hours of discovery by calling OCP Baltimore Headquarters at 410-537-3442 during standard business hours, or the Emergency Response Division hotline at 1-866-633-4686. Reports should not be made solely to OCP case managers.
- No sooner than 7 days, but not later than 30 days, following well development, sample all groundwater monitoring wells that do not contain measurable LPH. All groundwater samples submitted for laboratory analysis must be analyzed for full-suite VOCs, including fuel oxygenates, perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene, and naphthalene, using EPA Method 8260; for TPH-DRO and TPH-GRO using EPA Method 8015B; and for PFAS for the target analyte list established in EPA Method 1633.
- No later than 60 days following the installation of the monitoring wells, submit a comprehensive report documenting the results of well installation and sampling activities. Submit soil and groundwater sampling analytical results, laboratory analytical reports, data summary tables, and scaled site maps showing actual sampling locations. Reports must also include, at a minimum, a groundwater surface contour map, including inferred groundwater flow direction; site-specific detailed geologic cross-sections indicating relationships of site lithology, groundwater level, and UST system; LPH thickness and dissolved phase concentration maps; boring logs, PID response, and monitoring well completion reports. Provide receipts to document proper disposal of any petroleum contact soil, groundwater, and recovered LPH. Include a discussion regarding how the newly acquired data influences the potential future investigative and remedial activities.

Photographs Taken: Yes No


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NOTES

- Report the following conditions to the Department immediately, but not later than 2 hours after the detection, at **410-537-3442** during normal business hours, or to the Emergency Response Division hotline at **1-866-633-4686**:
 - Evidence of a spill, release, or discharge of oil;
 - A release detection method, monitoring results, or investigation of an alarm indicates that a spill, release, or discharge may have occurred;
 - Investigation of an inventory variation reveals a leak;
 - If a storage tank system fails a test for tightness,;
 - Two consecutive inconclusive precision tightness test results;
 - A storage system (aboveground or underground) is determined to be leaking;
 - Test failure of spill catchment basins, containment sumps, or test of a cathodic protection resulting determination the system is inadequate;
 - Presence of liquid phase hydrocarbons; absorbed or free product in soil; vapors in soil, basement, sewer or utility line; or waters of the State;
 - Unusual operating conditions exist, such as erratic behavior of product dispensing equipment, the sudden loss of a regulated substance from a storage tank system, unexplained presence of water in a storage tank, or liquid in the interstitial space of a secondary containment system.

- Reports should **not** be made via voice messages to OCP case managers.

- Operating without a permit or in violation of a permit, regulation, or law may result in the assessment of civil or administrative penalties and or other legal sanctions.

MDE Representative: Michael Jester Phone: 410-537-3024 Email: Michael.jester@maryland.gov	Emailed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email: [REDACTED] Person Interviewed (print): [REDACTED]
Signature: 	Signature:
Date: 4/10/26	Date: 4/10/26