



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Carlson, Mital, Helgeson, Schlossberg and Brown
FROM: Rod Price, Chief Operating Officer; Karl Morgenstern, Water Quality Supervisor
DATE: January 20, 2020
SUBJECT: International Paper Spill Debrief Follow-up
OBJECTIVE: Information Only

Issue

Following an oil spill event into the McKenzie River from the Springfield International Paper (IP) plant in March 2018, EWEB and IP staff held a debrief meeting at Hayden Bridge on Wednesday, January 9th, 2019. This is a memo to review the status of the action items agreed on by both parties at that meeting to protect EWEB's drinking water source.

Background

On March 12, 2018 at 9:00 pm, IP experienced an equipment failure during startup of the No. 2 paper machine resulting in approximately 1,000 gallons of hydraulic oil being released from the system. According to the spill report filed with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (Oregon DEQ), IP estimated that approximately 660 gallons of oil bypassed their treatment system and entered the effluent discharge pipe (001). The remaining 340 gallons of oil went to their effluent treatment system. Of the 660 gallons of oil that reached the effluent discharge pipe, IP estimated that 95 gallons of oil entered the McKenzie River at the 001 outfall, which is located downstream of EWEB's intake. On 3/13/18 at 11:20 am, IP inspected the 001 outfall and reported no visible sheen on the river.

At around 1:00 pm on 3/13/18 a fisherman notified Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODF&W) of a large sheen on the lower McKenzie River. At 5:00 pm the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) received a call of a large oil sheen on the river in the Harvest Landing area. LCSO reported the spill to the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS 2018-0580), which notified EWEB (Karl Morgenstern and David Donahue) of the spill at 6:06 pm. EWEB activated the McKenzie Watershed Emergency Response System (MWERS) notifying Hayden Bridge and others of the spill. IP notified the National Response Center (NRC) of the oil release at 7:08 pm resulting in a second OERS notification at 7:26 pm (OERS 2018-0581). EWEB, City of Springfield, LCSO, and the Region II Hazmat team on scene decided not to try and deploy a solid containment boom in the dark due to high flows, safety concerns, and the fact that the majority of the oil was miles downstream and decided to wait until the morning. IP's 001 discharge pipe was shut off to prevent further releases.

On March 14, 2018, Oregon DEQ requested MWERS partners (EWEB, LCSO and Region II Hazmat Team) deploy solid containment and absorbent boom downstream and along south bank of

the 001 outfall. This boom remained in place until 3/16/18 when the IP contractor (Clean Harbors) arrived on scene and removed the MWERS boom and replaced it with their solid containment boom farther downstream.

From 3/17/18 to 3/29/18, DEQ worked with IP to clean oil out the of the 001 discharge pipe and test increasing flows through the pipe until the discharge water no longer had oil sheens associated with it. During this time, on 3/21/18, a large rain event hit the area, overwhelming IP's stormwater system (due to 001 pipe being shut off), forcing them to discharge stormwater to Keizer Slough upstream of EWEB's intake. As a result, EWEB Hayden Bridge staff began feeding activated carbon as part of treatment and increased the chlorine dose to mitigate potential threats from the redirected stormwater.

At 4:00 pm on March 29, 2018 IP ran 8,000 gallons per minute (gpm) through the 001 discharge pipe without visible impacts to the river and DEQ gave IP clearance to resume full operations.

Discussion

As a result of the spill, IP was fined \$20,000 by the DEQ with the agreement that this money could be re-directed toward mitigation project work, including wetland repair at the 48th street storm water channel discharge into Keizer Slough. Staff will discuss the status of this project as part of the upcoming Drinking Water Source Protection program update (March 3, 2020). Additionally, as previously mentioned, EWEB was able to meet with IP this last January to debrief on the spill and talk through actions that would prevent this from happening again. The following is a summary of those agreed to actions and an update on their status.

Action Item 1: EWEB staff requested IP staff contact Hayden Bridge anytime a spill or release reportedly reaches the river, regardless of who the responsible parties are. IP staff agreed this type of notification is reasonable.

Status: Approved. No reports of releases to date.

Action Item 2: EWEB staff will provide IP staff a demonstration of the Oregon Watershed Emergency Response system (OWERS) and if IP staff decide it would be a good tool to have access to, EWEB can follow-up to get them setup. OWERS would allow IP to send out quick notifications via text to EWEB and others if either IP or someone else has a release so that interested parties can track spill response efforts.

Status: Completed. In April 2019, EWEB staff provided OWERS training to Brian Brazil at IP. Brian now has access to OWERS for spill notifications and tracking.

Action Item 3: EWEB staff requested IP notify EWEB whenever stormwater is diverted from the wastewater treatment system to stormwater outfalls. IP said they would look into the request and get back to EWEB.

Status: Approved. As per email from Brian Brazil on 8/23/2019 "We've updated our internal Reliable Method on Diversion of the outfall to the Slough to include notifying you if it occurs."

Action Item 4: EWEB staff requested either direct access to IP's cooling ponds for HAB sampling or that IP staff collect algae samples and provide those to EWEB staff for analysis. IP staff said they would coordinate pond sampling efforts.

Status: Completed. Brian Brazil provided EWEB staff access to the cooling ponds on August 27th, 2019, for a round of HAB monitoring. Samples collected from the cooling ponds had cyanobacteria

levels ranging from 32,661 to 34,550 cells/ml, but no cyanotoxins were detected. EWEB staff would appreciate additional opportunities to conduct HAB monitoring during the 2020 bloom season, usually between April and October, or anytime significant bloom conditions are observed by IP staff. EWEB staff will provide IP staff with HAB monitoring results.

Action Item 5: EWEB staff asked IP staff if there was any interest in sharing expenses for a water quality monitoring station in Keizer Slough. The station would help identify spills/releases/blooms before such events reached EWEB's intake. IP directed EWEB to send in a funding proposal for proposed Early Warning Water Quality Monitoring Station – Keizer Slough, preferably in July for the proposed monitoring station. EWEB staff provided IP a proposal in July 2019.

Status: Pending. EWEB provided equipment quotes from YSI for the proposed water quality monitoring station. The total estimated cost is approximately \$24,000 for all necessary water quality equipment, solar panel, data logger, telemetry and secure structure. The water quality monitoring station would be located in the vicinity of the lower Keizer Slough bridge. Real-time data would be accessible to both EWEB and IP staff. EWEB is requesting that IP fund the initial equipment purchase and EWEB would cover the installation and ongoing maintenance costs. IP has not responded to this request to date.

TBL Assessment

NA at this time

Requested Board Action

None at this time, information only

If you have any questions or wish to discuss please contact Rod Price, Chief Operations Officer at 541-685-7122 or email rod.price@eweb.org.