

AUG-29-1996 11:01

LA OILSPILL COORDINATOR

922 3239 P.01/04



M. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Baton Rouge

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August 28, 1996

James W. Soialabba, HES Policy and Analysis
Marathon Oil Company
539 South Main Street
Findlay, Ohio 45840-3295

Dear Jim,

I am sending you a copy of our Notice of Intent to Conduct Restoration Planning prior to its publication. The notice will be published in the Morning Advocate, the Potpourri section of the Louisiana State Register and the Parish Journal, beginning the around September 5th or 6th. I'll let you know the exact starting date and duration when we meet on Wednesday. Call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marion E. Boulden".

Marion E. Boulden
Natural Resource Specialist

meb/meb

attachment

cc: Linda Pace
Chris Peihler
Heather Finley
Jim Hanifen
Gus Stacey III
Steve Spencer
Paul Conzelmann

AUG-28-1996 11:01

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922 3239 P.02/04

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONDUCT RESTORATION PLANNING

Marathon Pipe Line Company Unleaded Gasoline Spill Blind River **May 24, 1996**

PURPOSE

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office and the US Department of the Interior, have determined that the impacts of the May 24, 1996 Blind River discharge of unleaded gasoline by Marathon Pipeline Company warrant conducting a natural resource damage assessment, *ie.* restoration planning.

TRUSTEE AUTHORITY

Under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 USC §2701 et seq) and pursuant to 33 U.S.C. §2702 and §2706(c), the U.S. Department of the Interior and the natural resource trustees of the state of Louisiana, to wit, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries have authority to pursue damages resulting from the incident.

The Trustees have the authority to pursue restoration under 15 C.F.R. §41:

An incident has occurred, as defined in 15 C.F.R. §30;

The discharge was not permitted under state, federal, or local law or from a public vessel or from an onshore facility subject to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authority Act 43 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.; and

Natural resources under the trusteeship of the trustees listed above may have been or may be injured as a result of the incident.

SITE AND RELEASE INFORMATION

1. At 0215 on May 24, 1996, Marathon Pipe Line Company personnel discovered a spill from a 20" pipeline which transfers unleaded gasoline from Marathon's Refinery in Reserve, Louisiana to the Marathon Terminal at Zachary, Louisiana. At the time of that report, 474,963 gallons of unleaded gasoline had been released from a rupture in the line located about 3 miles northwest of the intersection of LA 20 and LA 61, near Gramercy, Louisiana. A portion of the gasoline was retained in a low area along the pipeline right-of-way; however, an unknown quantity flowed southwest into the swamp and southeast into Blind River. The spill affected the Blind River, several tributaries, drainage and oil field canals, and the surrounding freshwater swamp. A Marathon representative indicated during the response phase that the released product was from a Marathon Pipe Line Company line. Based on information obtained by the LOSC, Marathon subsequently assumed responsibility

AUG-28-1996 11:02

LA OILSPILL COORDINATOR

922 3239 P.03/04

for the spill and its effects on natural resources of the affected area.

2. The Blind River swamp is characterized by bald cypress, tupelo, red maple, palmetto, willow and duckweed. Fish species present include, but are not limited to: gar, bowfin, freshwater drum, catfish, shad, bass and others. Wildlife species present include, but are not limited to: white tailed deer, alligator, various species of turtles, herons, egrets, ducks, raccoons, nutria, among others. The area is used extensively for fishing, hunting, boating, crawfishing, and other commercial and recreational activities.
3. Persons at the scene following the release of gasoline from Marathon's pipeline observed wildlife and fish mortality. Gar, bowfin, freshwater drum, deer, alligators, turtles, ducks, herons, egrets, raccoons, nutria were among the animal species for which post-spill mortality was observed. Observations of browned vegetation and animal carcasses brought to the collection point represent only a subsample of all the living renewable natural resources injured, or which may be injured by the gasoline release.

NATURAL RESOURCE INJURIES

Injuries to the following natural resources and impairment of natural resource services have resulted or may result from this incident:

benthic communities;

water quality;

wildlife and fisheries resources, based on observed mortality of fishes, aquatic and terrestrial species and measured injury to water quality and adjacent wetland habitat;

vegetated wetlands, based on observed mortality of wetland vegetation in the area of the spill; and

recreational opportunity, as a result of the spill and spill response.

POTENTIAL ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

To determine the nature and extent of damage to natural resources under their trusteeship, the Trustees may use, in addition to other accepted methods, field studies to document the extent and longevity of the injury to wetland and aquatic habitats, data collected as part of the preassessment, and laboratory toxicity studies.

POTENTIAL RESTORATION ACTIONS

Potential restoration actions relevant to the expected and observed injuries include, but are not limited to:

1. Stocking of fish species and alligators into the Blind River and tributaries;

AUG-28-1996 11:02

LA OILSPILL COORDINATOR

922 3239 P.04/04

2. Water quality enhancement projects for the portion of the Blind River affected by the discharge;
3. Planting appropriate wetland species along river banks to replace vegetation injured by the spill.
4. Acquisition and improvement of wetland properties in the Blind River watershed;
5. Conservation easements.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Pursuant to 15 C.F.R. §990.14(d), the Trustees seek public involvement in restoration planning for this spill, through public review of and comment on the documents contained in the administrative record, which is maintained in the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, as well as on the Draft and Final Restoration Plans when they have been prepared.

Comments should be sent to:

Roland J. Guidry
Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 94095
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
Telephone: (504) 922-3230