



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V**

Subject: POLREP #2
Progress
XTO Energy Well Blowout - E18512

Powhatan Point, OH
Latitude: 39.8690385 Longitude: -80.8509623

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From: Andrew Kocher, On-Scene Coordinator & Sean Kane, On-Scene Coordinator

Date: 2/20/2018

Reporting Period: 02/18/2018 - 02/19/2018

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Z5RZ	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	Incident Category:	
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	2/15/2018	Start Date:	2/15/2018
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	Ohio EPA, ODNR
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

CERCLA Emergency Response - Well Pad Fire

1.1.2 Site Description

1.1.2.1 Location

The XTO Energy, Inc. Schnegg C 7H Pad (previously identified as the Schnegg B Pad) is located at 52168 Cats Run Road, Powhatan Point, Belmont County, Ohio. The well pad is located in a rural area with approximately 94 residents in 36 homes located within 1 radius mile. Discharge from the well pad is directly impacting 'Cats Run' tributary.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

While XTO Energy was performing work at a natural gas production well at the time of the incident, a

blowout occurred resulting in the uncontrolled venting of gas, an initial explosion, and fire. The blowout damaged the well pad and well head. Natural gas, produced water, and brine is discharging, along with unknown fractions of condensate and VOC components. Natural gas flow rate from the well is estimated to be at 100 million cubic feet per day.

Public safety agencies have established a 1-mile residential evacuation around the well; in addition, Unified Command established a 1/2-mile exclusion zone for responding agencies around the well.

Cats Run Tributary flows to Captina Creek and into the Ohio River. Protected wildlife species located in proximity to or downstream from the well site are the Eastern Hellbender Salamander, Northern long-eared bat, and protected fish.

1.1.3 Preliminary Assessment

The XTO Energy Schnegg C 7H natural gas well experienced a blowout on the morning of February 15, 2018. An unknown quantity of brine and produced water, estimated to be more than 5,000 gallons, was initially discharged to Navigable Waters. A continuing release of unknown quantity still occurring. In addition, Unified Command is attempting to evaluate whether natural gas condensate was discharged. Oil assessment and impact evaluation is hindered by weather conditions and safety considerations precluding approach of personnel within 1/2-mile of the well pad. Fires continue to flash from the well head. Produced water and brine was spilling onto the well pad, and uncontained run-off was exiting the site and entering Cats Run Tributary. Unified Command is also attempting to determine whether a release of fracking and well chemicals is occurring.

To protect public safety, air monitoring was initiated at the boundary of the 1-mile evacuation zone; and additional air monitoring was implemented at the boundary of the 1/2-mile exclusion zone. Well pad air monitoring was also operating on the well pad. The well pad monitoring instruments had been installed prior to the beginning of the incident.

Unified Command is evaluating the impact of the release and discharge to Navigable Waterways, and any impact to sensitive ecological receptors. A Natural Resources consultation was conducted with US Fish & Wildlife Service on February 17, 2018.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

On February 15, 2018 at approximately 0900, an explosion and subsequent fires occurred at the XTO Energy Schnegg B Well Pad located at 52168 Cats Run Road, Powhatan Point, Belmont County, Ohio. A blowout occurred and the operators lost control of the well. XTO Energy made a preliminary estimate of 100 Million cubic feet per day of natural gas per day escaping the damaged well head at 6500 psi. Although the fire typically self-quenches, natural gas periodically flashes and catches fire. A 1-mile voluntary residential evacuation is in place for the area surrounding the Site, impacting approximately 94 residences and 36 homes.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

February 18, 2018

EPA continued to support the OEPA with air monitoring and water monitoring/sampling for Unified Command. Unified Command began developing a residential re-occupancy plan for the residents that live between 1/2 mile and 1 mile. Operations included gaining access to the Pad while monitoring the LEL, and clearing equipment/debris from the breached well area for future well sealing operations. Air sampling results, collected on February 16th, revealed no contaminants exceeding regulatory levels.

February 19, 2018

EPA continued to assist OEPA in monitoring water quality as well as provided oversight to XTO Energy's contractors, Hull and Associates, TekSolv, and CTEH. Continued inspection of the creek and river downstream of the incident did not visually identify shoreline or wildlife impact. No oil discharge was visually observed downstream from the discharge point; however, XTO has signed the Notice of Federal Interest. Due to the current knowledge and lack of oil onsite, EPA decided to open a CERCLA Response due to the presence of Methanol onsite.

Currently, XTO has provided a preliminary list of the following chemicals on the well pad:

- ~4,100 gallons Glycol Aqua Clear.
- ~550 gallons Methanol.
- ~75 gallons LB 4300 (contains Mineral Oil).
- ~75 gallons PL 4000 (contains petroleum distillates).
- ~70 gallons VB 625 (Heavy Aliphatic Naptha).
- ~75 gallons FR 9200 (contains ethylene glycol).

The Re-occupancy Plan was implemented today. Approximately, 30 residents that live between 1/2 to 1 mile from the well pad. A remaining six homes lie within the 1/2 mile radius and will continue to be evacuated. Twelve residential properties have been cleared, but not re-occupied due to no electrical power.

An Incident Action Plan (IAP) was developed under Unified Command. In addition, a Water Sampling Plan was developed and reviewed by the OEPA; a second draft is pending.

Well pad operations continued by moving equipment/debris to obtain future access to the breached well.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

XTO Energy is the suspected Responsible Party. Enforcement activities are being identified.

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Continue assisting with the re-occupancy of residences which live outside 1/2 mile of the well pad.

Continue removing equipment/debris from well pad to ensure access to the breached well.

Continue to support worker and public safety through continued evaluation of air monitoring data and providing technical expertise to Unified Command as necessary.

Determine the extent and impact of oil, hazardous substances, pollutants and/or contaminants that have been discharged or released.

Continue to evaluate potential impact of oil to navigable waters, and hazardous substances to the environment.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

EPA will continue to provide air and water quality monitoring support along with providing technical support through the Unified Command structure to evaluate the following plans: Air Monitoring Plan, Water Quality Monitoring Plan, Drilling Fluid Plan, Hazmat Assessment Plan, Biocide Plan, Containment Plan, Community Action Plan, and a Waste Management Plan.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Finalize comprehensive environmental monitoring and sampling plans through Unified Command.

Continue to assess and evaluate potential migration pathways both on and off-site from the well pad.

2.2.2 Issues

Weather and safety considerations are affecting operations.

2.3 Logistics Section

XTO Energy through Unified Command will continue to manage Resources and Logistics.

2.4 Finance Section

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
TAT/START	\$35,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$16,000.00	45.71%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$35,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$16,000.00	45.71%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

Unified Command has established a site safety officer.

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

EPA, as a component of Unified Command, is supporting interactions with local and state stakeholders and elected officials.

On February 16, 2018, Ohio State Senator Frank Hoagland visited the Incident Command Post.

On February 17, 2018, the Director's of ODNR and OEPA visited the Site.

2.5.3 Information Officer

Unified Command is providing information to the public on a regular basis. Local response agencies and XTO Energy have provided media availabilities.

There has been extensive local media coverage of the event.

National Media stories:

<https://www.apnews.com/1e490beec6534a7e8c9896ba4c2b1ffc/Winds-hindering-efforts-to-shut-down-exploded-Ohio-gas-well>

<https://www.apnews.com/ca58533227ac4806887f58a276c00ace/Gas-well-explodes,-residents-living-nearby-ordered-to-leave>

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Oil and Gas
Powhatan Point Fire Department

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Belmont County Emergency Management Agency
ODNR Division of Wildlife
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ohio State Troopers
Belmont County Sheriff's Office

4. Personnel On Site

Personnel on Site

Unified command continues to mobilize essential personnel for response efforts

EPA Staffing:

EPA OSCs: 2
START: 2

5. Definition of Terms

CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ODNR	State of Ohio Department of Natural Resources
OEPA	State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
OPA	Oil Pollution Act of 1990
USFWS	United State Fish and Wildlife Service
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

<https://response.epa.gov/XTOPowhatenPoint>

6.2 Reporting Schedule

Pollution Reports will be issued as operations shift or as warranted

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.