



# FRANKLIN MYSTERY OIL RESPONSE

Community Update  
September 2024

## OVERVIEW

On August 16, 2024 the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) notified the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) sub-area On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) of oil discharging from an unknown source along the shore line of the Allegheny River in Venango County, Pennsylvania. A rainbow sheen was visible for approximately half a mile and was reported as far down as Fishman's Cove Boat Launch. The discharge location is located near the Sandy Creek Trail.

## WHAT'S BEEN DONE SO FAR?

- Initial responders had installed a sorbent boom within the river which began to collect the discharging oil. After an initial Site visit EPA activated its Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor to deploy a more robust boom and begin collecting the discharging oil.
- EPA and its contractor have established protective booming and has begun collection of oil and oiled debris. Oiled debris will be transported off-site for disposal.
- EPA, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), and EPA's Superfund Technical Assessment Response Team (START), contractors have performed various source investigation techniques at this time. Source investigations have included advancing soil borings and excavating test pits to determine the pathway and extent of oil discharge, inspecting known oil wells, reviewing records identifying documented oil wells, and a metal detector survey to locate any buried well casings.
- At this time a source of the discharge has not been located, but the extent of oil contamination and a preferential pathway has been located.
- An underflow dam has been constructed for an oil collection location and as a method to minimize oil entering the Allegheny River. Oil is being collected using a drum skimmer.
- To date, approximately 1,000 gallons of oil/water mixture has been collected and will be sent off-site for recycling.



## NEXT STEPS

EPA, its contractors, and PADEP will continue source investigation activities. A geophysical survey of the area will be performed to help locate potential oil wells, and the pathway of oil to the Allegheny River. EPA will continue to maintain its containment measures and collect oil for off-site disposal.

EPA asks recreators using the bike trail to please be mindful of the active work area. EPA also asks boaters in the vicinity of the discharge to please minimize wake and maintain a safe distance from the booming location.



**For more  
Information visit:  
[https://response.epa.gov/  
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## Questions? Contact Us!

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