



Freeport Road Train Derailment

EPA Response Highlights



NRC Report - 5/26/22

- 225 car train
- 17 car derailment including one locomotive
- 8 of the cars were tank cars carrying Natural Gas condensate
- 4 Tank cars landed in Guys Run, a tributary to the Allegheny River.

INCIDENT LOCATION

MP: LC65.01 County: ALLEGHENY
SUB: CONEMAUGH LINE City: OAKMONT State: PA
RAILROAD DERAILMENT

RELEASED MATERIAL(S)

CHRIS Code: OTH Official Material Name: OTHER OIL
Also Known As: PETROLEUM DISTILLATES (UN1268)
Qty Released: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT Qty in Water: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

CALLER REPORTS A FREIGHT TRAIN STRUCK A DUMP TUCK ON THE TRACKS, DERAILING THE SECOND LOCOMOTIVE AND HEAD 17 CARS. AN UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF THESE CARS WENT INTO THE MOUTH OF DEER CREEK AND THE ALLEGHENY RIVER. THERE IS A SHEEN PRESENT ON THE WATER, WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE FROM A PETROLEUM DISTILLATE CONTAINED WITHIN SOME OF THE DERAILED CARS. THE AMOUNT RELEASED IS UNKNOWN. IT IS UNKNOWN IF THE LOCOMOTIVE OR DUMP TRUCK DISCHARGED ANY FUEL. THERE ARE NO INJURIES/FATALITIES REPORTED.

INCIDENT DETAILS

Grade Crossing: NO
Location Subdivision: CONEMAUGH LINE
Railroad Milepost: LC65.01
Type of Vehicle Involved:
Crossing Device Type:
Device Operational: YES
DOT Crossing Number:
Date and Time Service was/will be Restored:
Brake Failure: UNKNOWN
Federal Post-Accident 219.201 Sub Part C Testing Required: NO
Passenger Train Route: NO
Passenger Train Delay Expected: NO
Passenger Train Delay Handling:

Body of Water: ALLEGHENY RIVER





EPA in Unified Command

- EPA joined Unified Command with local fire and emergency management, NFS, US Coast Guard MSU Pittsburgh, PA Fish & Boat, and PA DEP.
- Cause of the derailment was the train striking an off-road dump truck.
- 3 of the derailed tanks on land were leaking.
 - 2 of the 3 had already been secured
 - 4 tank cars in the water, none were believed to be leaking
- Allegheny County HAZMAT had deployed boom within 45 minutes of the derailment.



Initial EPA Actions

- EPA On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) mobilized
- EPA START & ERRS contractors mobilized
- EPA OSC notified EPA Water Response to coordinated downstream notifications to surface water users
- Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) was notified and coordinated with response
- EPA OSC contacted Trustees – DOI/FWS
- EPA Environmental Response Team was deployed to assist in air monitoring





Initial Response Actions

- EPA contractors set up air monitoring around incident.
 - Monitoring was conducted for VOC, LEL, H₂S, and O₂



- RP's contractors collecting spilled natural gas condensate using vac trucks.
- Damaged tank cars on land were offloaded into trucks.
- UC coordinated press conference



Tank Car Recovery

- Response personnel determined that offloading the derailed cars remaining in Guys Run would be problematic
 - Decision was made to remove cars from the water prior to offloading
- Empty “buffer” cars were in the river along with a hopper containing 130 tons of PVC pellets which complicated in-water offloading.
- EPA START contractors and RPs contractors would collect samples from the river to ensure that booming strategies were containing the released product.



Tank Car Recovery (cont)

- Overnight on 05/28, small fires were started by bulldozer blades sparking on rocks and igniting spilled product.
- Elevated LEL readings were observed on the water, PFAS-free foam was used to blanket released product and cut down flammable vapors to allow safe handling of the derailed tank cars.
- Hopper car was breached during incident releasing small PVC pellets. PVC pellets made product recovery more difficult.







Tank Car Removal

- Land-side crane was used to remove several railcars from the river.
 - A barge-mounted crane was mobilized to remove remaining railcars from water.
- As one of the tank cars in the river was righted for removal, it was determined that the bottom outlet valve had been damaged and was releasing a significant amount of product.
 - Valve was plugged prior to removal of the car
- Tank cars were offloaded via tank truck once removed from the river.





Challenges

- Site control
 - Intense press interest prior to holiday weekend
 - Trespassers
- Communication
 - Day/night shifts & within Unified Command

