



Terrance G. Alexander, Executive Director

July 26, 2010

Mr. Jon Russell
MDNRE - Water Bureau
Jackson District Office
301 East Louis Glick Highway
Jackson, MI 49201

Re: University of Michigan (UM)
Incident Report –Oily Material Discharge Observed to Storm Water System
NPDES Certificate of Coverage #MIS040090

Dear Mr. Russell:

This report was prepared to meet the requirements of Part II, Section C.6 Spill Notification of the above referenced NPDES Certificate of Coverage (COC) issued to the University of Michigan (UM), and the MI Part 5 Rules. An Ann Arbor resident observed an unknown material on a portion of the Huron River and contacted 911 at approximately 7:30pm on Monday, July 19, 2010. The Ann Arbor Fire Department (AAFD) initially responded to the scene and tracked the discharge back to a storm water outfall near the UM Hospital (UMH) parking lot on Nichols Drive. The outfall is located at the edge of parking lot #M-29; Nichols Drive near E. Medical Center Drive, on the University of Michigan's Medical Campus in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

UMH security, UM-Department of Public Safety (DPS) and UM-Occupational Safety and Environmental Health (OSEH) also responded to the scene where Ann Arbor Fire had established incident command. UM-OSEH was notified of a potential spill at approximately 8:45pm. Initial reports relayed to OSEH by AAFD identified the material as a cloudy white liquid, with no discernable odor, floating on the surface of the water. On site testing systems utilized by AAFD preliminarily identified the material as phosphoric acid. AAFD also performed repeated pH testing of the material sampled at the scene; all results showed the pH was neutral (7).

In an effort to contain the material which was floating in a layer on the surface of the water, AAFD created a coffer dam utilizing rocks from the river, placed a small pool at the outfall to collect additional material discharging from the outfall, and deployed booms and adsorbent pads at the outfall in an effort to contain and collect the material. AAFD also deployed booms downstream at Gallup Park.

UM-OSEH reported the discharge by phone to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) PEAS line on July 19, 2010 and provided the description of the material, as relayed from the field; a white cloudy liquid, pH of 7, no odor, floating in a layer on the surface of the water. The AAFD and various units at UM were not able to identify the source the night of the event.

Once containment efforts were in place, AAFD turned the scene over to UM. Rain hindered the response efforts, and eventually washed away the material that had been contained at the outfall. However, the boom deployed downstream at Gallup Park was in place prior to the start of the rain event, and thus, should have collected/removed available residue from the surface of the river. OSEH-Hazmat collected the booms and pads from the outfall and downstream (Gallup Park) for proper disposal on Tuesday, and Wednesday, respectively. The booms displayed petroleum residue, but the quantity of material collected is not known.

In follow-up to the event, OSEH staff reviewed construction and renovation project information/reports, DPS reports, staffing inquiries, as well as general maintenance operations in the area. Field investigation of catch basins and manholes in the system was also performed on Tuesday, July 20, 2010. These efforts did not identify the source of the discharged material.

UM obtained a very small split sample of the discharged material from AAFD on Tuesday, July 20, 2010. The substance appeared yellow in color and displayed a distinct layer on top of the water. A faint gasoline odor was also observed by OSEH. In addition, UM utilized a Spilfyter test strip on the sample which identified the substance as petroleum-based, with a neutral pH (7). OSEH notified Ms. Deb Snell and Ms. Rachel Matthews at MDNRE of the revised description of the discharged material the afternoon of July 20, 2010 via voicemail.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact me at (734) 763-5267 or e-mail trcullen@umich.edu.

Sincerely,



Timothy R. Cullen, Manager
Environmental Protection & Permitting Program (EP³)

Copy to:

L. Moore – Washtenaw County Health Dept.
D. Snell – MDNRE
R. Matthews – MDNRE
T. Blessing – OGC
S. Benedict – OSEH
H. Rice – OSEH