

Date: August 24, 2016

To: file

From: Bob Schwarz, Project Manager
Eastern Region Cleanup Program

Subject: Mosier spill, ECSI # 6115; status report

Groundwater monitoring. Four monitoring wells were installed north of the railroad tracks in mid-June. Contamination was found in the eastern-most of these wells (well MW-4).

Groundwater treatment. In response to the contaminant concentrations found in monitoring well MW-4, a groundwater treatment system was installed in the vicinity of the contaminated groundwater monitoring well. This process, called biosparging, involves using an air compressor to pump air into the groundwater through five injection wells. The oxygen in the air stimulates naturally occurring organisms in the ground that consume oil, thereby speeding up this process. Construction of this system was completed on August 17.

In addition to the five sparge wells, four additional monitoring wells were installed to evaluate groundwater conditions in this area and to assess the operation of the treatment system. The nine monitoring wells (four old and five new) and two extraction wells installed south of the railroad tracks) were most recently tested on August 23 and 24. Results are not yet available.

Columbia River water testing. Water in the Columbia continues to be tested every two weeks. The most recent testing was conducted on August 23. Data from approximately 25 rounds of sampling does not show significant contamination in the Columbia River. NOAA has requested a more sophisticated type of surface water sampling using passive diffusion bags that are placed in the water for two or more weeks. Oregon State University (OSU) has already collected one round of samples at the site for their own research. Union Pacific, OSU and NOAA are in discussions about obtaining this data, and possibly conducting additional sampling of this type.

Status of issues of concern to the City:

- **Testing groundwater for chemicals in the fire suppression foam.** Although only approximately ten gallons of fire suppression foam was used to put out the fire, the City has requested that the chemicals in this foam be included in some of

the groundwater testing. DEQ has relayed this request to UPRR's consultant. UPRR is looking into doing this.

- **Testing City well No. 2.** This well is 1,000 feet from the derailment location, and water from this well is not used for drinking. It is, however, used to water the lawn at the school. CH2M tested this well on August 23.
- **Modeling to confirm the assumption that the City's wells are not impacted by groundwater.** Based on my discussion with City Manager Kathy Fitzpatrick, UPRR has agreed to pay for the City's consultant to do this work.
- **Nearby neighbor's well.** The City has requested that a nearby neighbor's well be tested. CH2M tested this well on August 23.
-
- **Restoration plan.** DEQ worked with the City to prepare a plan identifying numerous items that need to be repaired or replaced to restore the impacted area to its previous condition, or better. DEQ submitted this draft plan to UPRR for its review on July 29.