

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

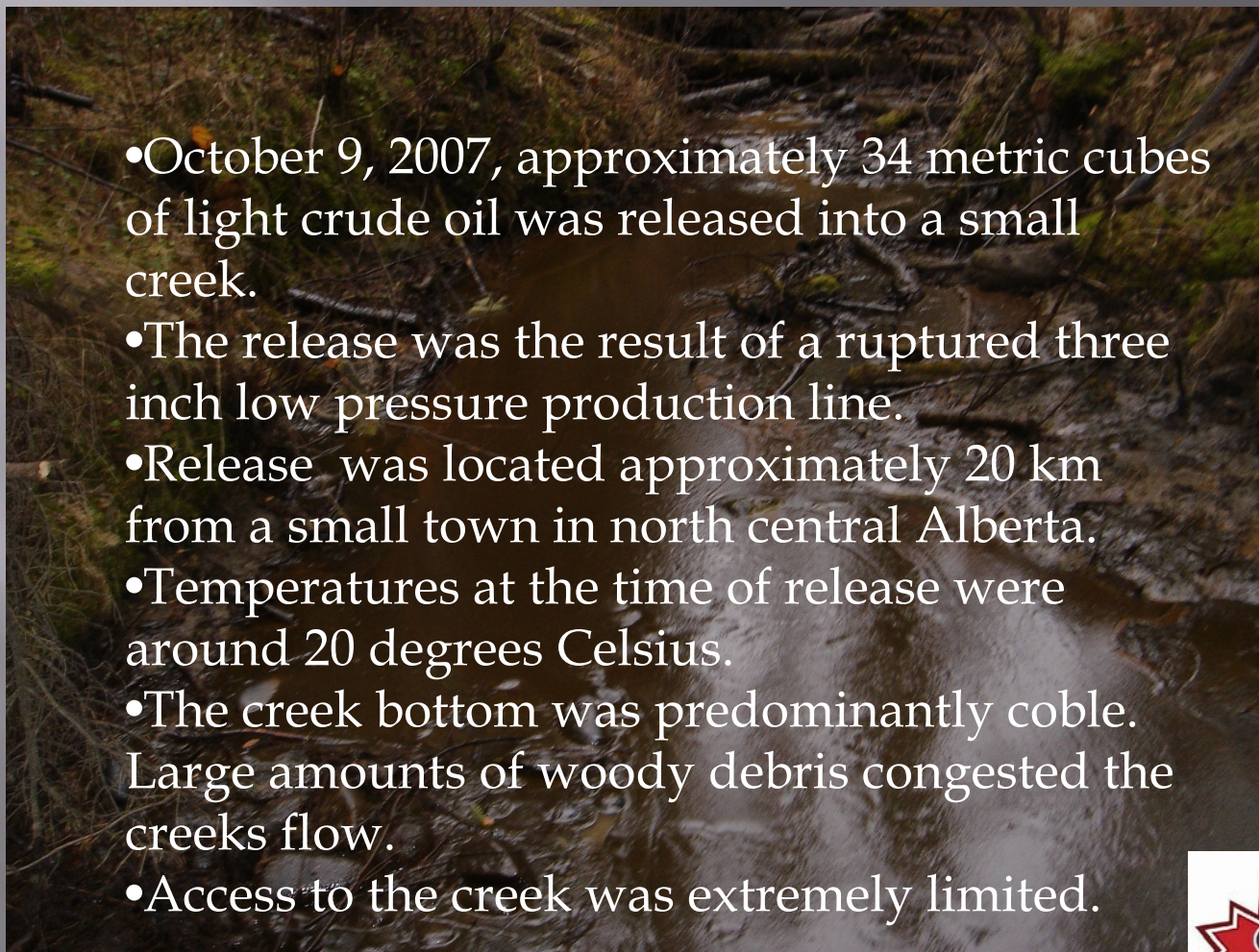
# RESPONSE TO LIGHT CRUDE SPILLS IN TRANSITIONING SEASONAL ENVIRONMENTS

April 29, 2009  
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# Release Details



- October 9, 2007, approximately 34 metric cubes of light crude oil was released into a small creek.
- The release was the result of a ruptured three inch low pressure production line.
- Release was located approximately 20 km from a small town in north central Alberta.
- Temperatures at the time of release were around 20 degrees Celsius.
- The creek bottom was predominantly cobble. Large amounts of woody debris congested the creek's flow.
- Access to the creek was extremely limited.



# Response Phases

- ❖ Phase 1 – Initial Release : October 9, 2007- October 23, 2007
  - Install containment
  - Begin product recovery
- ❖ Phase 2 – Containment and Recovery : October 23, 2007 – November 26, 2007
  - Upgrade existing containment
  - Removal of bulk product/impacted debris
  - Transitioning to low impact containment
- ❖ Phase 3 – Winter monitoring: November 26, 2007 – April 28, 2008
  - Monitor and maintain spill site and containment





## Response Phases

- ❖ Phase 4 – Shoreline clean up: April 28, 2008 – May 31, 2008
  - Maintain containment
  - Assess impacted shoreline
  - Remove impacted vegetation and debris
  - Spot treat impacted soil and sediment
  - Phase 5 – Removal of weirs and remaining equipment.
  - Reclamation of work area and access.
  - Final inspection before site closure

# Phase 1 Initial Release

- ▣ Construct road into staging area
- ▣ Installation of initial containment including three earthen underflow weirs, straw bales and sorbent booms.
- ▣ Begin recovery of free product utilizing vac trucks.
- ▣ Begin removal of impacted woody debris
- ▣ Crews removed beaver damn





# Phase 1 – Construction of Access and Staging Area





# Phase 1 – Initial Containment Earthen Underflow Weir





# Phase 1 –Removal of Impacted Debris



## Phase – 2 Containment/Bulk product Removal

- ▣ Upgrade Existing Containment
- ▣ Build access along creek
- ▣ Removal of bulk product/impacted debris
- ▣ Transition to low impact weirs
- ▣ Burn impacted woody debris





# Phase 2 – Upgrade Existing Containment



# Phase 2 – Upgrade Existing Containment





## Phase 2 – Upgrade Existing Containment





# Phase 2- Pushing Access Road





# Phase 2- Flushing Product Off of Rocks





## Phase 2- Ice Buildup



- ▣ As product was flushed down stream ice and debris began to form congestion points. This prevented the product from reaching our primary recovery areas.



## Phase 2 – Break Creek Into Manageable Segments



- ▣ Installation of control points every 100 meters prevented congestion at random points. This allowed us to have centralized recovery points with good access.



# Phase 2 – Removal of Bulk Product





# Phase 2 – Removal of Bulk Product





## Phase 2 – Removal of Impacted Debris





## Phase 2 – Removal of Impacted Debris





## Phase 2 – Burn Impacted Woody debris



# Phase 2 - Transition to Low Impact Weirs





## Phase 2 – Transition to Low Impact Weirs





# Phase 2 - Decontamination





# Phase 3 – Winter Monitoring

- ▣ Monitor creek
- ▣ Monitor containment
- ▣ Maintain containment



# Phase 3 – Site Monitoring





# Phase 3 – Site Monitoring





# Phase 3 – Containment Maintenance





## Phase 4 – Shoreline Clean up

- ▣ Maintenance of containment
- ▣ Recovery of debris and stranded sheen
- ▣ Removal of impacted vegetation
- ▣ Treatment of impacted soils and sediment



# Phase 4 – Runoff Management





# Phase 4 Maintenance of Containment





# Phase 4 Maintenance of Containment





# Phase 4 – Recovery of Impacted Debris and Stranded Sheen





# Phase 4 – Removal of Impacted Vegetation





# Phase 4 – Treatment of Impacted Soils and Sediment



## Phase 5 - Closure

- ▣ Removal and disposal of remaining impacted material
- ▣ Removal of weirs and other remaining equipment
- ▣ Reclamation of the work area
- ▣ Reclamation of access road
- ▣ Final inspection for site closure.





# Phase 5 - Removal of Impacted Material



# Phase 5 - Removal of Impacted Material





# Phase 5 - Reclamation





# Phase 5 - Reclamation





# Phase 5 – Shore Line Assessment





# Phase 5 – Shoreline Clean Up





# Phase 5 – Shore Line Assessment





# Phase 5 – Shoreline Clean Up





# Phase 5 – Shore Line Assessment





# Phase 5 – Shoreline Clean Up





## Learnings - Positive

- ▣ Making a call to get the correct personnel on the site – reduced costs, confidence with the regulatory agencies, managed the site.
- ▣ Support from client.
- ▣ Pre-fabricated weirs – full containment within run off with no breeching. The earthen weir washed out.
- ▣ Making an access along side the creek – easier mobilization to work sites and ease of product and debris removal.



## Learnings - Positive

- ▣ Managing impacted woody debris on-site – reduced trucking and tipping fees, re-used bags (this was effective but could have been done quicker)
- ▣ On site decontamination was very effective.
- ▣ Response documentation.
- ▣ Safety – only two reportable incident for the personnel hours and vehicle km.





# Learnings

- ▣ Beaver dam removal :
  - Increased the size of the spill.
  - Created a pressure wave stranding product on shoreline.
  - Reduced water levels; stranding product within the undercut banks.
  - Increased duration of spill; snow fall impeded response objectives.
- ▣ Hauling water:
  - Increased costs.
  - Increased workload at disposal site.



# Learnings

- ▣ Inverted weir not built correctly:
  - Resulting in water hauling and product moving downstream
  - Required a larger retention pond.
- ▣ Not enough control points:
- ▣ Access:
  - Initial response crews did not have adequate access along the creek.





# Learnings

- ▣ Timber removal during creek clearing first couple weeks:
  - Too much timber was removed increasing timeframe, bags to be removed, disposed of or burnt.
- ▣ Waste Segregation
  - PPE was placed within timber bags; time to remove.
- ▣ Response personnel continuity was weak:
  - Different personnel on a daily basis leads to inefficient use of time.
- ▣ Knowledge gaps with response personnel:
  - Initial response personnel were not fully aware of the basics of spill response.



# Learnings

- ▣ No early communication with regulatory personnel:
  - Lack of communication implies someone is hiding something.
- ▣ Not being able to procure the correct resources in a timely manner:
  - Down time waiting for outside personnel and equipment.





# Learnings

- ▣ Communications:
  - Cell phone and radio coverage was intermittent on the creek.
- ▣ Safety:
  - Initial response crews did not have access to the correct PPE.
- ▣ Sample turn around times:
  - Constant waiting on lab work.



# Q & A



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