

Colonial Pipeline Spill

Huntersville, N.C.



Fact Sheet

2020

Introduction

On Friday, August 14, 2020, at 5:42 p.m., local and state response agencies and Colonial Pipeline were notified of liquid product smelling of gasoline near the intersection of Huntersville-Concord Road and Asbury Chapel Road in the Oehler Nature Preserve. Local first responders and Colonial Pipeline employees responded to a leak in one of its underground lines crossing the Oehler Nature Preserve owned by Mecklenburg County, located at 14511 Huntersville-Concord Road east of the Town of Huntersville in Mecklenburg County. The pipeline was immediately shut down to conduct repair work. As of Wednesday, August 19, the repair to the pipeline has been completed.

Emergency Response

The Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Waste Management, along with Charlotte/Mecklenburg County Emergency Management, Town of Huntersville and Colonial Pipeline, have been responding to the situation since it began on August 14.

To address the emergency nature of the situation, Mecklenburg County Air Quality established air monitoring, and Colonial Pipeline began soil excavation to reach the underground pipe. Foam was used to limit flammable vapors. As of Sept. 15, 2020, no product was detected in nearby surface waters, and surface waters continue to be monitored. Soil and water supply well samples were collected during initial response efforts. Colonial Pipeline established a perimeter of 2,000-feet from the breach for environmental sampling purposes. As many as 22 drinking water wells have been tested for petroleum products; to date, those samples have not shown any gasoline products in the results. The first two rounds of supply well sampling were wells within a 2,000-foot radius; and the second two rounds were within a 1,500-foot radius. More than 80 soil samples have been collected with only those nearest to the leak showing impacts from gasoline products. Thirty-two product recovery wells and 47 groundwater monitoring wells have been installed. Colonial Pipeline estimates that 272,580 gallons of gasoline was released from the fuel line.

Colonial Pipeline has reported the cause of the release as equipment failure. The full extent of the environmental impacts from the spill is currently being assessed and necessary proactive actions are being undertaken to ensure that these impacts are minimized. Local, state and federal agencies are working in cooperation with the Town of Huntersville and the Huntersville Fire Department, along with Colonial Pipeline, on initial cleanup activities.

Initial Required Response Efforts

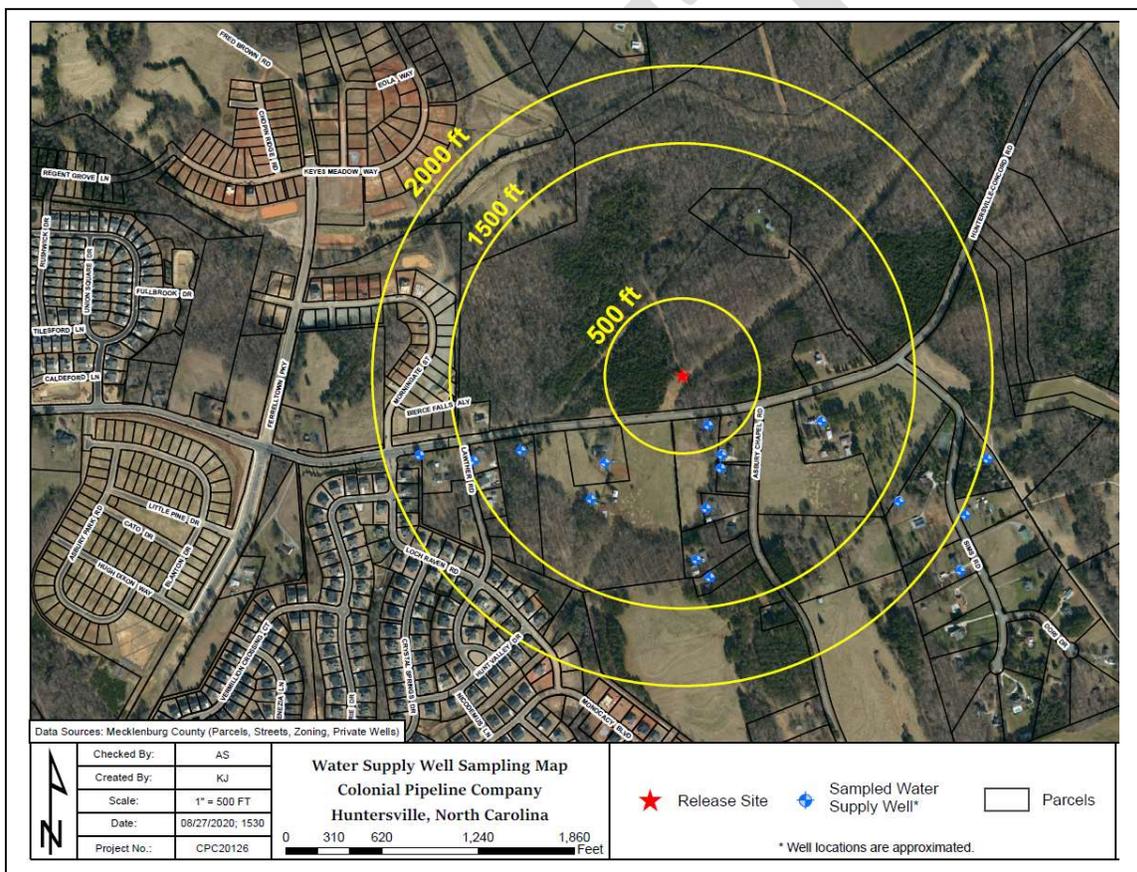
The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) has a process for site cleanup, which includes required sampling/testing and monitoring based on the evaluation of environmental impacts. The Department's oversight adheres to regulatory requirements. NCDEQ has sent Colonial Pipeline a Notice of Regulatory Requirements (NORR) that outlines the requirements that Colonial Pipeline must meet during the initial phase (described above) of site cleanup. The immediate response – called the Initial Abatement Phase – requires Colonial Pipeline to stop the leak and address impacted soils at the point of release. As part of this phase, the responsible party (Colonial Pipeline) samples soil and groundwater at the release site and at

drinking water supply wells and surface waters within an area set by NCDEQ. Air monitoring is also on-going at the worksite but not required by DEQ's non-underground storage tanks statutes. Colonial Pipeline is providing sampling and testing data to NCDEQ. There have been no gasoline impacts identified during the four rounds of sampling for water supply wells and surface waters as of Sept. 15, 2020. Colonial Pipeline has 90 days to submit an Initial Assessment Report that documents all of the actions it has taken during the initial response phase, which includes all soil, groundwater and surface water data and documentation on amounts of soil removed from the site.

Next Steps

Following receipt of the Initial Assessment Report, NCDEQ will require a Comprehensive Site Assessment (CSA) that specifies that the groundwater plume and soil impacts be fully identified and described. DEQ must approve the CSA before Colonial Pipeline can prepare and submit its Corrective Action Plan, which is a plan that details Colonial Pipeline's actions to clean up any remaining soils and groundwater to state groundwater standards. The NCDEQ guidelines for non-UST releases can be found at:

<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/ust/nonust-program>.



Map provided to DEQ by Colonial Pipeline.

Health-Related Questions

If you have questions about health concerns from exposure to gasoline or gasoline products, contact the

FOR MORE INFORMATION

DEQ - Division of Waste Management | (919) 707-8200 | <https://deq.nc.gov/>

Town of Huntersville - <https://www.huntersville.org/>

Charlotte-Mecklenburg - <https://charlottenc.gov/StormWater/AboutUs/Pages/Newsroom.aspx>

Mecklenburg County Health Department – Daniel Ortiz, Environmental Health Director | (980) 314-1636

RESPONSIBLE PARTY | Colonial Pipeline - <https://sr2448.colonialresponse.com/>

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