

Thirty Spills Impacting Surface and Groundwater in New Mexico Oil and Gas Industry Operations, 2011-2012

Mark Sardella, PE Data Compiled February 25, 2013

- 1. January 26, 2011:** A production tank at an XTO Energy wellsite in San Juan County leaked 1850 gallons of produced water, crude oil and condensate onto the ground, which seeped into shallow groundwater.
- 2. February 7, 2011:** A filter screen housing froze and cracked at a Burlington Resources wellsite in San Juan County, releasing 210 gallons of produced water. The spill reached Lewis Park Canyon, which is 4-miles upstream from Navajo Lake State Park.
- 3. March 6, 2011:** A pipe burst due to overpressure at an XTO wellsite in San Juan County, spilling 970 gallons of produced water onto the ground. The spill ran down a drainage into a dry wash.
- 4. April 26, 2011:** A softball-sized hole was discovered in the bottom of a tank at an XTO wellsite in San Juan County, spilling about 1500 gallons of produced water and crude oil onto the ground, which seeped into shallow groundwater.
- 5. May 16, 2011:** An air-vent valve failed at a Burlington Resources facility in San Juan County, spilling 14,000 gallons of a mixture of produced water and crude oil. The spill washed over the wall into Lewis Park Canyon, about 4-miles north of Navajo Lake State Park.
- 6. May 26, 2011:** A 3-inch natural gas pipeline operated by Elm Ridge Exploration ruptured, releasing 450 gallons of a mixture of crude oil and produced water. The spill traveled 300-yards down a wash.
- 7. July 27, 2011:** A pipeline operated by OGRID #1000347 was found to be leaking, and the leak was repaired 75 days later on 10/10/2011. Two weeks following the repair, groundwater tests showed impact, and the incident was reported to OCD on 10/25/2011. Report incorrectly shows a spill volume of zero.
- 8. September 10, 2011:** A decayed pipeline by Elm Ridge Exploration ruptured 5-feet below grade, releasing a mixture of crude oil and produced water that traveled about 10-miles down into Gallegos Canyon. The report indicates that 300 gallons was released.
- 9. September 21, 2011:** A pipeline operated by OGRID #1000347 was found to be leaking, and the leak was repaired the following day. Tests showed groundwater impact, and the incident was reported to OCD on 10/25/2011. Report incorrectly indicates a spill volume of zero.
- 10. October 11, 2011:** A plastic natural-gas gathering line operated by DCP Midstream broke, releasing 340 gallons of condensate into a dry creek bed that is a tributary to the Pecos River near Artesia.
- 11. November 4, 2011:** A historical release was discovered while a below-ground tank was being closed at an XTO Energy wellsite in San Juan County. Soil tests indicated total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) in the soil measured 7500 ppm, seventy-five times the allowable limit. Impacted groundwater was found 7-8 feet below grade. Report indicated a release of crude oil and other unknown hydrocarbons, but the volume released is incorrectly shown as zero.
- 12. December 1, 2011:** A hole in a pipeline operated by Dugan Production released an unknown amount of produced water, which flowed about 200-feet down a wash. Volume of release was incorrectly reported as zero.
- 13. December 26, 2011:** A pipeline operated by OGRID #1000347 ruptured twice above Kiffen Canyon, spilling an unknown amount of condensate, impacting groundwater. Report indicated a spill volume of zero.

- 14. January 4, 2012:** Pipeline operated Elm Ridge Exploration discovered a gas leak in a buried 6" pipeline and groundwater was encountered during excavation. Reporting indicated a spill volume of 210 gallons of liquids.
- 15. January 13, 2012:** A pipeline operated by OGRID #1000347 ruptured above Kiffen Canyon, and groundwater was impacted. Reporting incorrectly shows a spill volume of zero.
- 16. February 18, 2012:** While permanently closing a pit in San Juan County, Dugan Production Corporation identified impacted soils that had reached a waterway. Reporting incorrectly shows a spill volume of zero.
- 17. February 23, 2012:** After a fire at the Navajo Artesia Refinery in Eddy County, operators discovered a crude oil leak that impacted the shallow groundwater. Reporting incorrectly shows a spill volume of zero.
- 18. March 24, 2012:** An operator at the Navajo Artesia Refinery in Eddy County left a bleed valve open, releasing 840 gallons of kerosene that impacted the shallow groundwater.
- 19. March 31, 2012:** A crude-oil pipeline operated by OGRID #1000347 ruptured, spilling crude oil and condensate and impacting groundwater. Reporting indicates a spill volume of zero.
- 20. April 3, 2012:** During another fire at the Navajo Artesia Refinery in Eddy County, some catalyst spilled on the ground, impacting groundwater.
- 21. April 6, 2012:** During an investigation of a spill of crude oil and condensate that resulted from corrosion of a pipeline operated by OGRID #1000347, groundwater impact was discovered.
- 22. April 11, 2012:** During an investigation of a spill of crude oil and condensate that resulted from corrosion of a pipeline operated by OGRID #1000347, groundwater impact was discovered.
- 23. April 12, 2012:** During an investigation of a spill of crude oil and condensate that resulted from corrosion of a pipeline operated by BP America, groundwater impact was discovered.
- 24. April 29, 2012:** Navajo refining reported that groundwater was impacted after a fire broke out at the Navajo Artesia Refinery in Eddy County. Reporting incorrectly asserts a spill volume of zero.
- 25. May 24, 2012:** Navajo Refining Company reported that groundwater was impacted after a pipeline failed and released 14,700 gallons of an unspecified fluid at the Navajo Artesia Refinery in Eddy County.
- 26. June 3, 2012:** Navajo Refining Company reported that groundwater was impacted after an instrumentation failure caused a tank to overflow, spilling 840 gallons of diesel at the Navajo Artesia Refinery in Eddy County.
- 27. June 19, 2012:** Groundwater impact was discovered following a spill of 210 gallons of condensates from a corroded pipeline operated by OGRID #1000347.
- 28. July 17, 2012:** A rainstorm washed an unknown volume of lube oil into Cox Canyon in San Juan County. The oil had leaked from a compressor being operated by ConocoPhillips Company. Spill volume was incorrectly reported to be zero.
- 29. September 6, 2012:** Corrosion led to the release of 210 gallons of produced water at a site operated by Dugan Production Corporation, and the spill traveled across a road and down a wash.
- 30. December 12, 2012:** A pump line froze and broke at a site operated by ConocoPhillips Company, releasing 10,600 gallons of produced water in Rio Arriba County. The spill traveled more than 1000 feet offsite and over a canyon wall.