

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Silvertip Pipeline Spill



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, Region VIII

Subject: SITREP # 06 July 19, 2011
Silvertip Pipeline Oil Spill Response
Billings, Montana Latitude: 45° 39' 25.57" Longitude: 108° 44' 54.35"



Reporting Period: 0700 hours 07/16/11 to 0700 hours 07/19/11 (72 hour Op Period)

USEPA Concurrence	Finance Section	Logistics Section	Planning Section	Operations Section
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1.0 Introduction

At approximately 11:00 PM on Friday, July 1 a break occurred in a 12-inch pipeline owned by ExxonMobil that resulted in a spill of crude oil into the Yellowstone River approximately 20 miles upstream of Billings, Montana. According to the company's estimates, 1,000 barrels of oil entered the river, which was in flood stage, before the pipeline was cut off. EPA's primary concern is protecting people's health and the environment. EPA will remain on-site to ensure cleanup and restoration efforts do just that. EPA continues to hold ExxonMobil, the responsible party, accountable for assessment and cleanup.

1.1 Background Information

D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	OPA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	7/2/11	Start Date:	7/2/11
RCRIS ID:			
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#: E11809		Reimbursable Account	

1.2 Preliminary Site Inspection and Response Activities

An EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has been directing and overseeing cleanup activities since arriving at the site. EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel conducted aerial assessments and reported seeing bank deposits and small pooling of oil in backwaters and slow water at intermittent points along both the north and south banks of the Yellowstone River. Personnel are walking the shores and are deploying absorbent booms along the river banks to absorb oil that collected in slow water along the shoreline. EPA conducted air monitoring and took water samples to determine what impacts the spill may have on air or water quality. Shoreline assessment is ongoing to determine effective strategies for recovering the oil. Sorbent boom deployment is ongoing and where possible other oil recovery and containment approaches are being implemented. Flood conditions on the river have hampered oil recovery efforts and prevented a more thorough assessment of the impacts at this time.

1.3 Incident Objective

The following incident objectives and command emphasis are taken from the IAP for the Operational Period: 10 July 17, 2011, at 0730 to July 20, 2011, at 0730.

General Response Objectives

1. Ensure the safety of the responders.
2. Maintain the source of the spill.
3. Characterize and assess the impact to maximize the protection of public health and welfare.
4. Define impacted areas.
5. Contain and recover spilled material.
6. Develop and execute a remediation work plan for impacted areas.
7. Manage a coordinated response effort.
8. Execute Wildlife Plan to recover and rehabilitate injured wildlife.
9. Keep stakeholders and public informed of response activities (Residential, Commercial, Agricultural, and Tribal)

2.0 Background

On July 6, 2011 EPA issued an administrative order to ExxonMobile instructing them to provide information on the circumstance of the spill, conduct appropriate recovery and remediation actions, and perform ongoing environmental sampling. The order required ExxonMobile to provide a Workplan under Paragraph VI. ExxonMobil submitted the required Workplan documents or revisions to those documents on July 19, 2011. Those documents are now being reviewed by EPA, the State of Montana, and other agency partners.

3.0 Current Operations

Pipeline Operations

Source control group initiated and completed operations to evacuate any remaining oil in the pipeline sections that released oil in the Yellowstone River. Crews used vacuum trucks to remove oil from both north and south sides of the pipeline break. California Office of Spill Prevention and Response is setting up to gauge the baker tanks (determine amount of removed oil) from both the north and south side used to evacuate the lines.

Division A

There are approximately 242 clean-up personnel working in Division A. Division A teams are staged at Thiel Road, Clarks Fork, and Duck Creek Staging areas and continue to apply sorbent boom along the Thiel road ditch and in shallow backwaters behind the islands. Water levels continue to decline opening up access to contaminated areas. Air and Jon Boats are being used to retrieve oiled debris and to set sorbent boom and pads in areas to a lesser extent as water levels drop and further recovery of free oil in the previously flooded areas is not productive. There is extensive build up of operations capacity out of Duck Creek staging area for future shore and island operations. A mess-hall has been set up, multiple jet boats have been brought in and contractors are in the process of being secured along the existing Duck Creek boat ramp along with support for the boat operations.

Division B

There are 115 clean-up crews in division B. Division B personnel are staged at Hayfield Staging and Billings Flying Club. Division B staging area is building up with several operations mobile trailers, mess-haul, decontamination area, 4-wheel UTVs, airboats, trucks, and hauling equipment. Teams are cutting and removing oil stained vegetation. Clean up crews are working north of the staging areas in B47. Dropping water levels are revealing extensive oiled debris piles.

Division C

Limited shoreline assessment has occurred in Division C (e.g. sensitive areas). Light and sporadic oil has been observed as far as mile marker 72 (near Bundy Road Bridge).

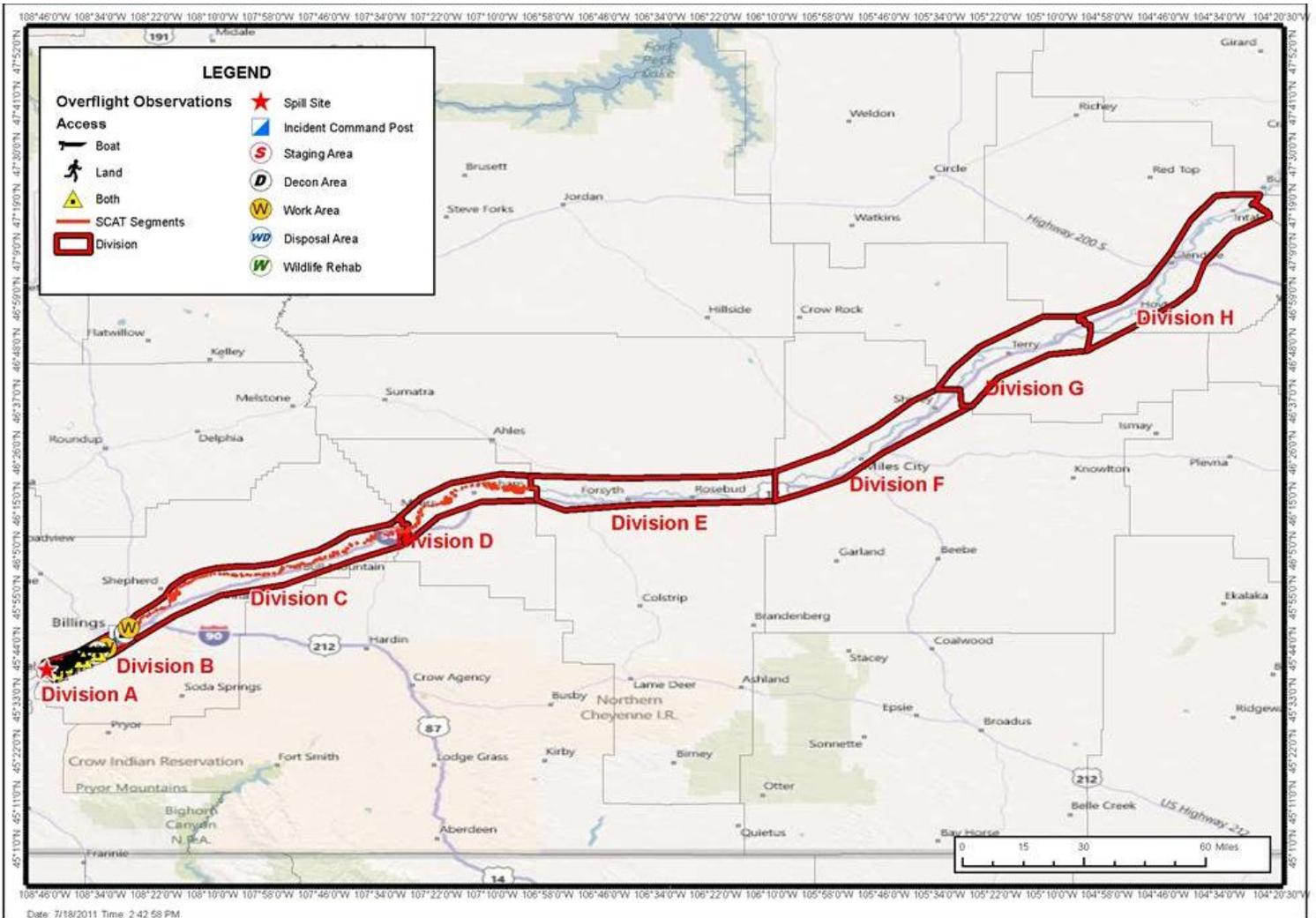
Divisions D through H

Decisions regarding the manner and extent of assessment activity necessary in Divisions D through H are pending consideration of ongoing scientific analysis of the oil release and downstream observations.

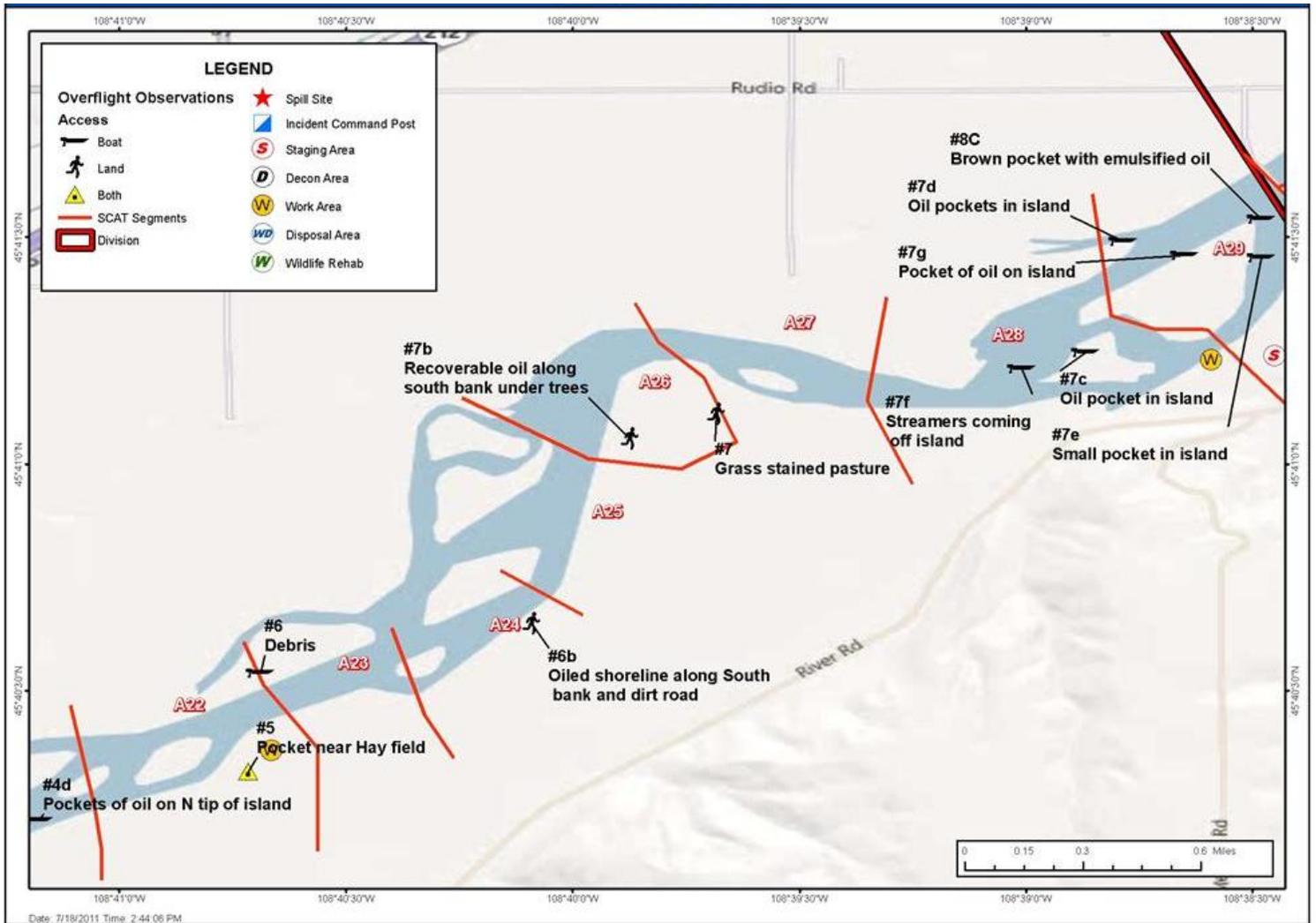
Technology Advisory Group

The TAG has been formed to evaluate treatment options and technologies. Currently TAG is evaluating approaches for dealing with extensive oiled debris piles in Divisions A and B.

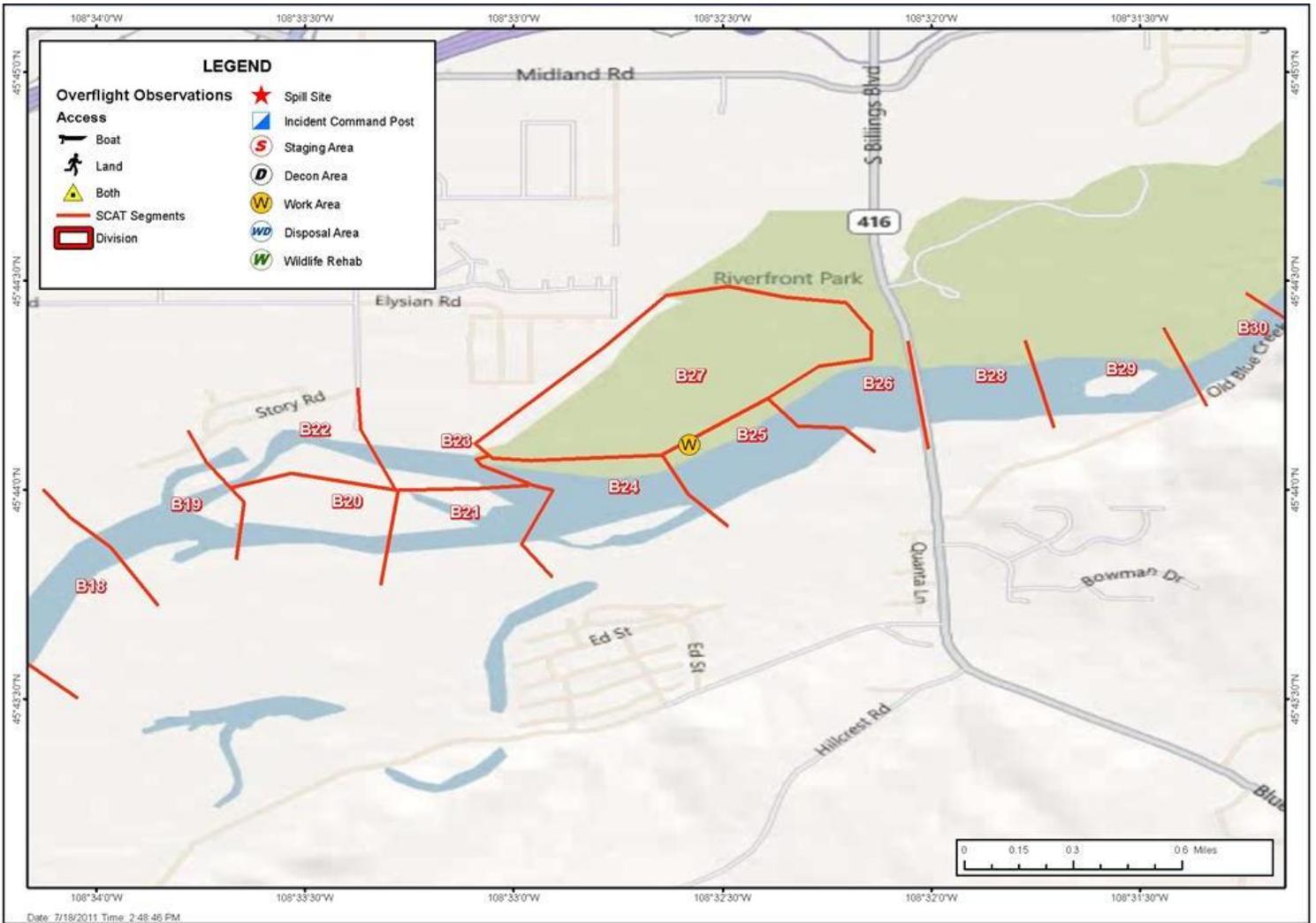
7-18 Silvertip Pipeline Incident Work Areas Overview



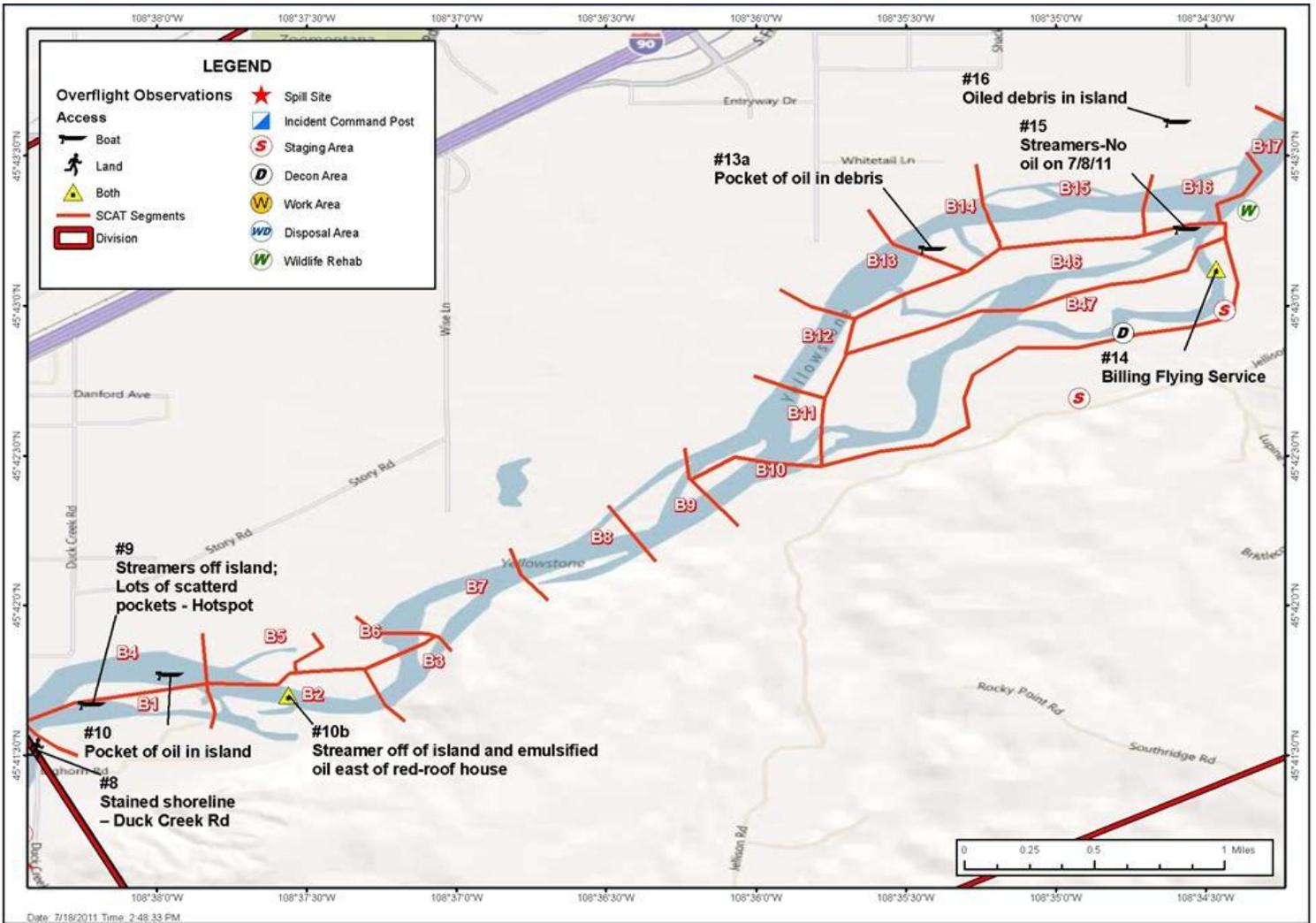
7-18 Silvertip Pipeline Incident Division A East Overflight Observations



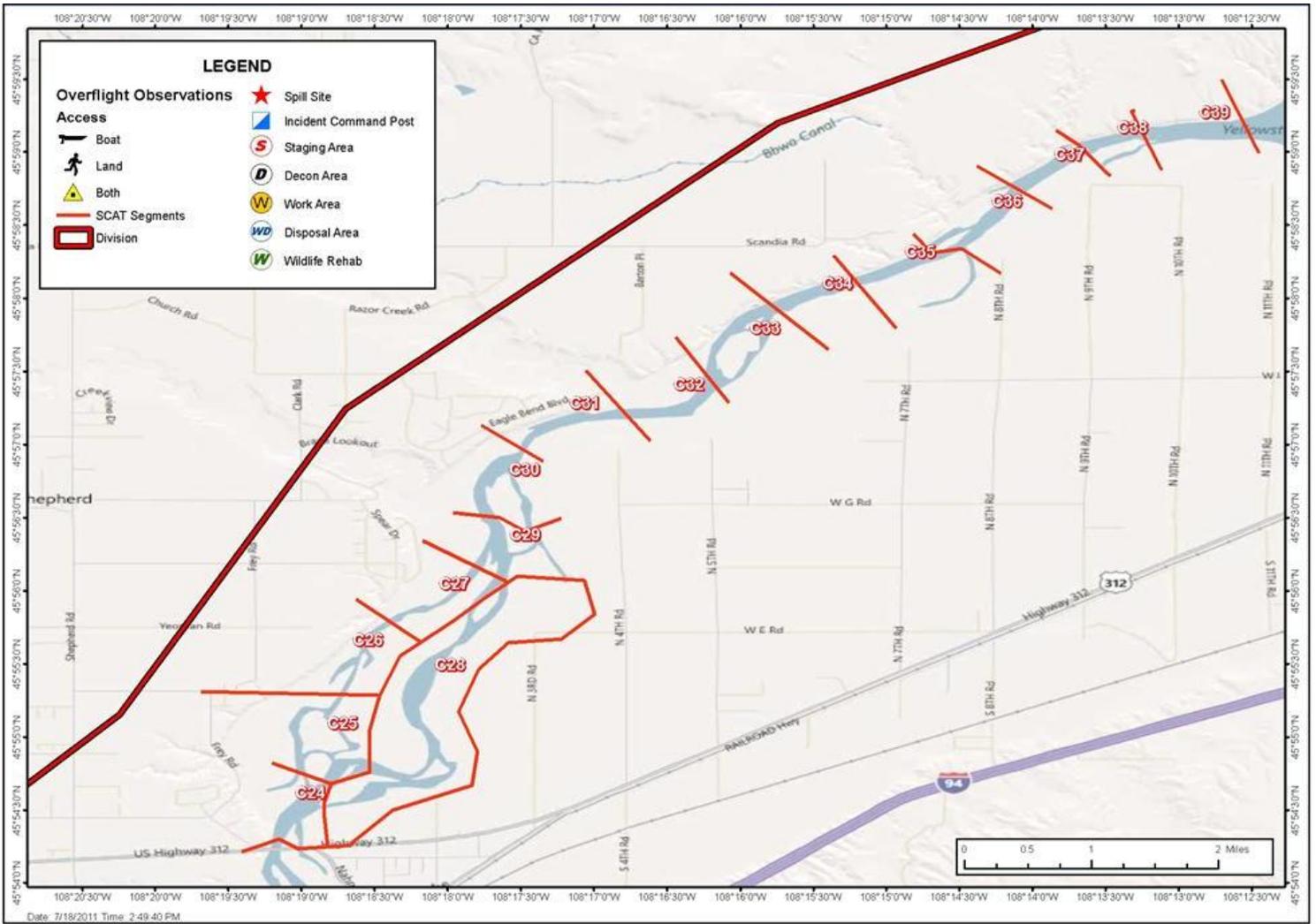
7-18 Silvertip Pipeline Incident Division B East Overflight Observations



7-18 Silvertip Pipeline Incident Division B West Overflight Observations



7-18 Silvertip Pipeline Incident Division C East Overflight Observations

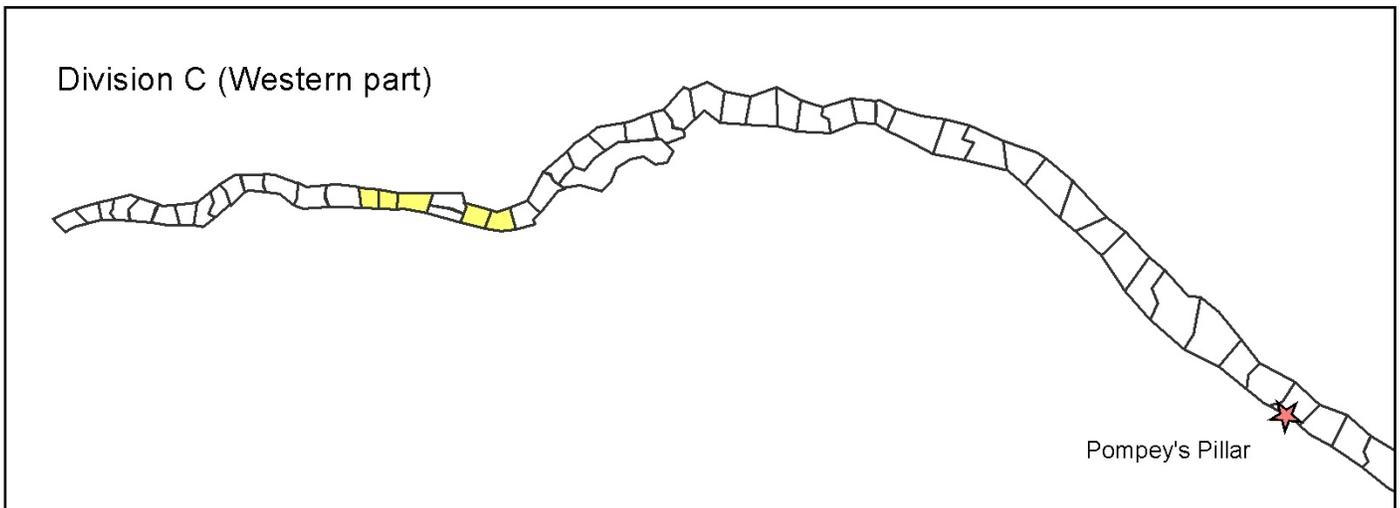
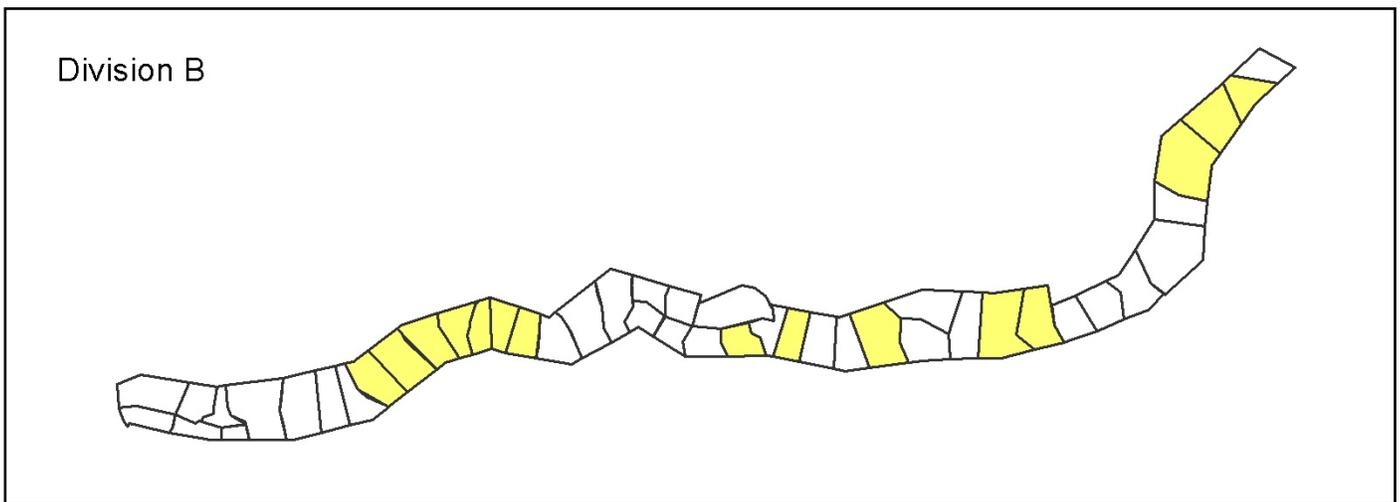
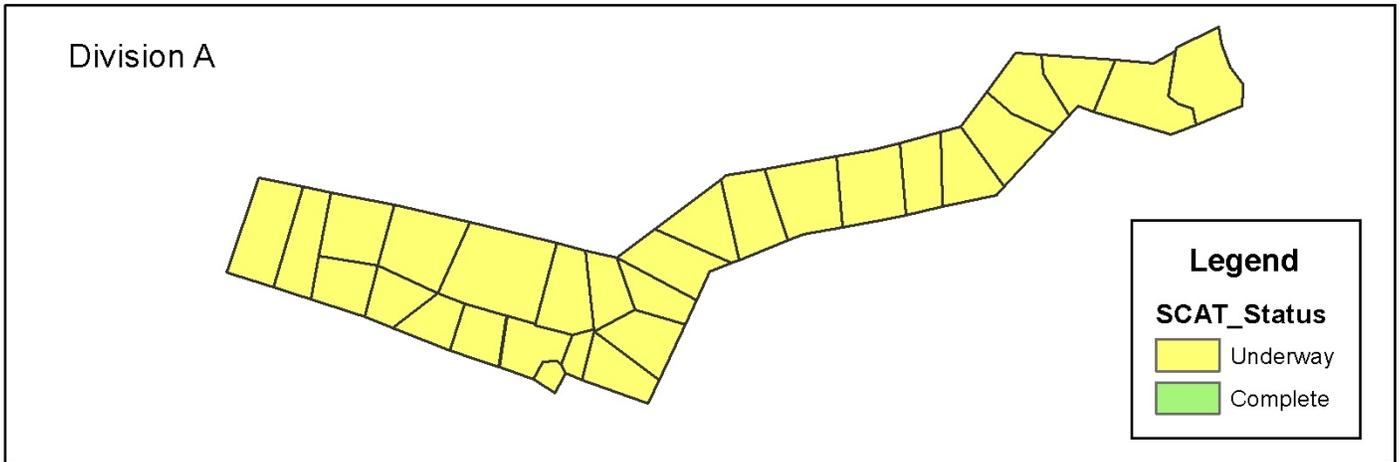


7-18 Silvertip Pipeline Incident Division C West Overflight Observations



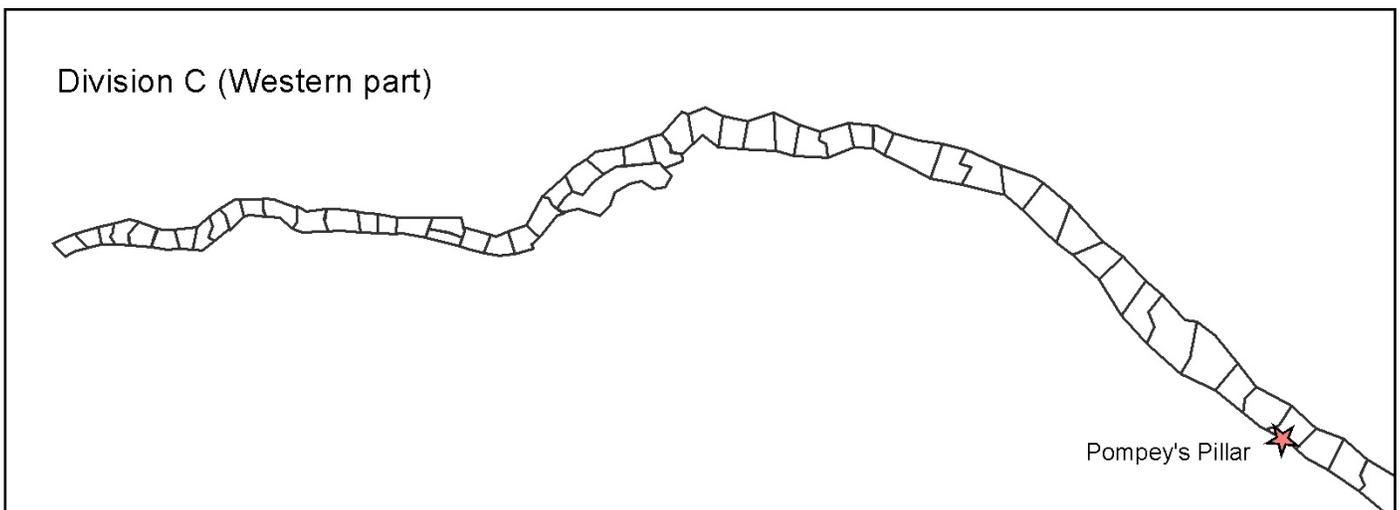
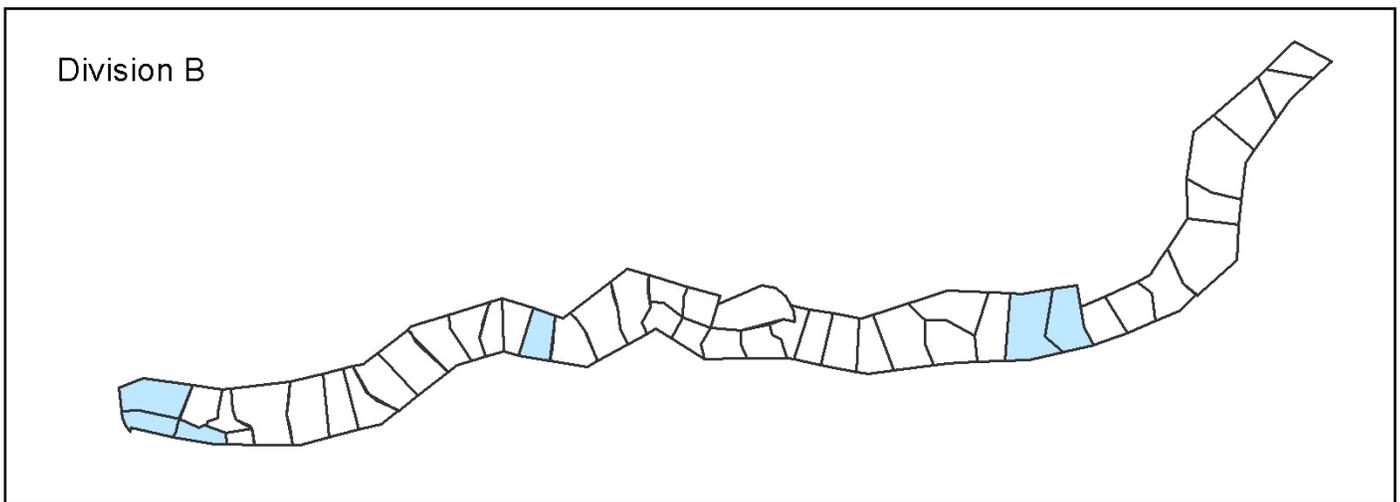
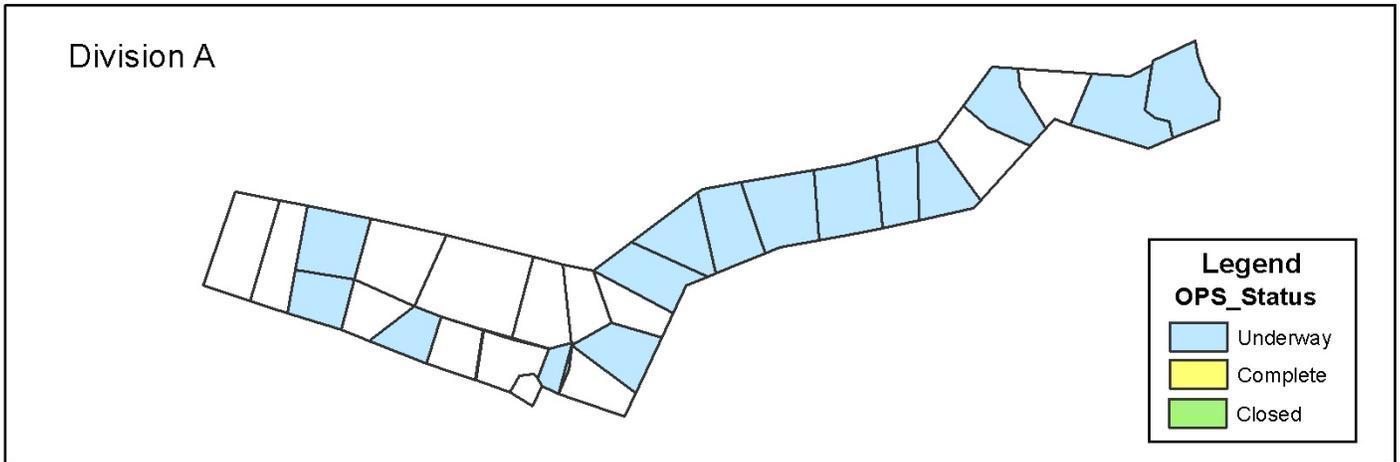
Silvertip Incident SCAT Work Status 7/19/2011

*Data Current as of 7/17/2011



Silvertip Incident OPS Work Status 7/19/2011

*Data is current as of 7/18/2011



SCAT Monitoring Data (7/16 and 7-17)

Work Area by Division	Number of Segments 7-17	Number of Surveys in Progress ² 7-17	Oil Impact (Miles) ¹				
			No Oil Observed (7/16/7-17)	Very Light (7/16/7-17)	Light (7-16/7-17)	Moderate (7-16/7-17)	Heavy (7-16/7-17)
A	29	28	8.88/9.70	1.62/2.32	3.47/5.02	10.67/11.12	1.11/1.16
B	45	16	3.69/4.11	2.82/3.73	6.46/7.54	0.54/1.09	0.06/NC ³
C	88	9	1.99/NC ³	1.91/NC ³	0/NC ³	0.19/NC ³	0/NC ³
D	47	0	0/NC ³	0/NC ³	0/NC ³	0/NC ³	0/NC ³
Totals	209	53	14.56/15.80	6.35/7.96	9.93/12.56	11.4/12.40	1.17/1.22

¹Represents miles of impacted areas observed during completed SCATS

²Segments evaluated include only partial shorelines in each segment pending boat access due to unsafe river conditions

³No Change

Operations Work Area/Work Site Summary (7-17 data)

Stage 1 Clean-Up Progress

Work Area by Division	Total Sites	Underway (7-17)	Complete (7-17)
A	11	4	7
B	14	4	5
Total	25	13	12

START and CTEH Samples

Date: 07/19/11		Date: 07/13/11		Date: 07/14/11		Date: 07/15/11		Date: 07/16/11		Date: 07/17/11		Date: 07/18/11		TOTAL COLL'TED TO DATE:	
EPA	Exxon Mobil	EPA	Exxon Mobil	EPA	Exxon Mobil	EPA	Exxon Mobil								
	3	1	1		2		1						3	7	16
1	6	2	4	2	2	2	5					1	6	23	65
1	4				8		1							2	32
16		24		10		7		12						69	0
7		8		5		7		3						30	0
	18		18		18		9		9		9		10	6	178
														4	0
25	31	35	23	17	30	16	16	15	9	0	9	1	19	141	291
81		152		57		100		167				5		48	

No change to 7-16 Soil and Sediment Sampling Locations Divisions A, B, C, D maps reported in SitRep #5 – July 16, 2011

4.0 Environmental Unit Activities

A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) has been established for all stakeholders. The mission of this ad hoc advisory group is to review technical issues and obtain stakeholder input. The TAG will then provide these recommendations for Unified Command for consideration.

- During this operational period, the TAG discussed the use of heavy equipment in areas where other recommended methods are unsafe or impractical because of safety concerns. The TAG group concurred on using heavy equipment for vegetation removal in *land* areas where no wetlands or mixed soils are present. This proposal is being drafted into a proposed CTR for Unified Command Review. This proposal does *not* include soil excavation.
- The Technical Advisory Group is focusing on debris removal options. The group agreed to move forward on proposals for pilot testing on thermal remediation, natural indigenous fixatives (such as sand or sawdust) and removal of dense vegetation potentially using resources from MDCNR. The EU stresses that these methods are *not* currently approved, but are only under evaluation for discussion. The EU also agreed that any enhanced bioremediation involving the use of additives will not be considered for this phase of the cleanup.
- A proposed plan for crop cutting was approved by the EU and forwarded to Unified Command for review.
- NOAA representatives arrived on scene to assist with fate and transport considerations for the released oil. EPA is sharing data with NOAA as requested.
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks performed routine fish shocking on 7/18/11.
- EPA continues to coordinate with Montana agencies daily including, but not limited to MDEQ, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and Montana DCNR.
- EPA continues with natural resource trustees including but not limited to NOAA, USFW, and BLM.
- EPA EU and CIC are working together to develop a fact sheet for the farming community.

5.0 Additional Operations

5.1 Wildlife (reported 7-17) International Bird Rescue (IBR) responded to two calls from SCAT teams reporting dead oiled wildlife. Once on-scene, IBR documented one oiled duckling, and one dead oiled great horned owl.

IBR continued the use of jet boats today, and documented an oiled Cooper's Hawk. The plumage was stained and the flight appeared to be labored. Monitoring will continue, and IBR may employ the use of a snare trap to capture the bird for rehabilitation. One Service member embedded.

(reported 7-18) International Bird Rescue (IBR) responded to two reports of dead oiled wildlife today. A dead beaver and a dead juvenile fox were collected, both were in oiled areas, but were not visibly oiled. IBR also recovered a dead lazuli bunting in an oiled area.

Two adult bald eagles exhibiting evidence of oil were observed adjacent to a nest site. Two Service personnel participated in two aerial surveys today.

6.0 Response Metrics

All progress metrics in this are as reported by ExxonMobil unless otherwise indicated.

Boom/Sorbent Report (7-17, 7-18, 7-19 data)

	Staged	Assigned
Boom Available (ft)	69,494/69,514/68,114	39,168/39,148/41,338
Sorbent Rolls	13,024/15,840/13,629	6,096/7,456/8,544
Sorbent Pads	2,580/3,121/2,583	2,746/NC ¹ /2,752
Boom	10,700/NC ¹ /NC ¹	400/NC ¹ /600
Viscous Sweep	5,580/5,767/11,637	6,025/6,038/6,195

¹No Change

Soil and Debris Waste Tracking (7-19 data)*

Waste Stream	Recovered	Disposed	Stored	Cumulative Quantity Shipped
Oily Liquids (bbls)		942	39	942
Oily Solids (yd ³)	1080	480	600	480

*July 17-July 19 Pipeline pumpout generated an additional 80 bbls of oil, 170 bbls of oily liquid from the south side and 200 bbls of oil from the north side.

7.0 Nothing to report in this reporting period

8.0 Activities for Next Reporting Period

The next reporting period (SITREP #7) will cover July 19, 2011 0700 to July 22, 2011 0700.

9.0 Liaison/ Public Information Officer

See Attachment 1 Press Release (July 18)

11.0 Finance Section

The current FPN ceiling is \$2 Million. Approximately 63.49% of the ceiling (\$2,000,000) has been expended or obligated through July 19, 2011. The latest estimated burn rate is \$44,874 per day. These cost summaries reflect only EPA-funded expenditures for the incident.

**FPN E11809 - Silvertip Pipeline Oil Spill
As of: 07/19/2011**

START Contractor (Ceiling)	Est.Exp.	Est Burn Rate (Latest Daily)
R8, R6, R10 START - \$358,000 Sampl'g, Comm, Resp.Support	\$358,000	\$13,491
Response Contractor Sub-Totals	\$358,000	\$13,491
EPA Funded Costs:		
Total EPA Personnel Costs	\$331,827	\$25,194
Pollution Removal Funding Agreements:		
Total Other Agencies (Total \$405,000.00)	\$405,000	
Sub-Totals	\$1,094,827	\$38,685
Indirect Cost (16.00%)	\$175,172	\$6,189
Total Est. Oil Spill Cost	\$1,269,999	\$44,874
Oil Spill Ceiling authorized by USCG	\$2,000,000	
Oil Spill Ceiling Available Balance	\$730,001	
Est. Percentage Spent	63.49%	

Note – Total EPA Personnel Costs have been adjusted to actuals on 7/15/2011

12.0 Personnel On Site

Agency/Entity	Numbers Reported 7/19/11
EPA	13
START	8
NOAA	3
USFWS	2
US DOI	1
USCG	5
BLM	1
Total	33

13.0 Additional Information

For additional information, please refer to: <http://www.epa.gov/yellowstoneriverspill/>

14.0 Reporting Schedule

SITREPs are issued on the first day of the Operational Period and will continue until the UC establishes a different reporting schedule.

SitReps are posted to:

R08_Documentation_Unit_Leader@epa.gov

Attachment 1

EPA update on Yellowstone River oil spill (Silvertip Pipeline), July 19, 2011

Lisa McClain-Vanderpool, (303) 501-4027, (mcclain-vanderpool.lisa@epa.gov); Wendy Thomi, (406) 351-9014

(Billings, Mont --, July 19, 2011) The river levels continue to drop, giving our assessment and cleanup crews more access to vegetation and shoreline. The crews have assessed approximately 47 river miles of shoreline. We are finding numerous, heavily oiled flood debris piles at various locations along the shoreline and on the islands. Since no two piles are alike, the Unified Command is investigating a variety of options to use for cleaning up these piles. In some cases, it may be necessary to use equipment to remove heavy debris. In other instances, especially on the more sensitive and less easily accessed islands, oiled debris could be covered with a fixative like sand or sawdust, which eliminates the stickiness of the oil and provides a buffer for wildlife. In evaluating clean up techniques, we are carefully considering wildlife and habitat to ensure our remedies do not cause more harm than good.

ExxonMobil has submitted their revised workplan to EPA. We and our federal and state partners will conduct a timely review and will finalize the workplan carefully and promptly. All cleanup activities are continuing under the direction of the Unified Command.

PLEASE NOTE: Our daily media briefings continue this week via conference call only, at 3:00pm MDT. For conference call dial-in information, please contact Lisa McClain-Vanderpool listed above. We will continue to post the latest information including monitoring data and progress on clean-up and restoration as it becomes available on our website, epa.gov/yellowstoneriverspill.

BACKGROUND: At approximately 11:00 PM on Friday, July 1 a break occurred in a 12-inch pipeline owned by ExxonMobil Pipeline Co. that resulted in a spill of crude oil into the Yellowstone River approximately 20 miles upstream of Billings, Montana. The current estimate of the amount of oil released remains at 1,000 barrels based on information provided by ExxonMobil Pipeline Co. EPA's primary concern is protecting people's health and the environment. EPA will remain on-site to ensure cleanup and restoration efforts do just that. EPA continues to hold ExxonMobil Pipeline Co., the responsible party, accountable for assessment and cleanup.

Please visit <http://www.epa.gov/yellowstoneriverspill> for the latest information, data, and maps.

The Montana DEQ encourages people to call the Governor's information line at 406-657-0231 with questions or stop into the Governor's Billings office at 424 Morey Street or visit www.yellowstoneriveroilspill.mt.gov.