

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
16TH DECEMBER 2016**

Update on the situation regarding the kerosene leak incident at Nantycaws

To consider and comment on the following issues:

This Report is to update Members on the latest situation regarding the Pipeline Leak at Nantycaws that occurred on 4th October 2016. The Report does not cover the causes of the incident or the initial emergency response which will be addressed at a multi-agency structured de-brief on 19th December.

Reasons:

For the committee's Information

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr H Evans

Directorate

Environment

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ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY

16TH DECEMBER 2016

Update on the situation regarding the kerosene leak incident at Nantycaws

On the 4th October 2016 a significant amount of kerosene oil escaped from a damaged pipeline at the A48 Nantycaws, Carmarthen.

The incident was initially responded to by emergency services and Natural Resource Wales (NRW) were the lead agency co-ordinating the response. The pipeline is owned and managed by Valero. Initial works improved recovery or oil lost, isolating and repair of the damaged pipeline and commissioning the new pipeline. Carmarthenshire county Council has now taken over as lead agency for recovery.

A multi-agency recovery coordination group was held on 21st November attended by representatives from Carmarthenshire County Council, Natural Resources Wales, Public Health Wales, Valero, Valero's Recovery Contractors and Monitoring Consultants.

Situation as of 29th November 2016

The new pipeline has now been in operation for over a month. All residual oil has been removed from the old damaged section of pipe, which has been sealed off at both ends. Some additional tree planting still remains to be carried out at the site.

1. Monitoring

Six monitoring bore holes have been drilled near the roadside (A 48) with a further nine within valley floor. These have been installed to monitor potential pollution of the ground water. The bore holes will continue to be monitored for the foreseeable future. The initial set of monitoring results taken before 16th October showed no discernible hydro carbons detected from both the ground water bore holes and from surface water.

However, the prolonged heavy rainfall that occurred on 21st November flushed through some remaining product, enabling further recovery. Additional measures were put in place by Valero's clean-up contractors to deal with 'remobilised' contamination entering the Nant Pibwr.

The absorbent booms on the stream are still in situ and will remain in place as a precaution until additional sampling data has been received.

In addition to the monitoring at or near the source of the spill, all known properties benefitting from a Private Water Supply in the area have been visited and five of them have had samples taken by Carmarthenshire County Council Environmental Health Officers. No contamination has been detected apart from an initial sample taken shortly after the spill from Ty Liliwen. The reason for this anomaly is still unclear, but the property will remain temporarily connected to the mains supply until further samples are taken (directly from the well bore hole) to rule out any future contamination. Residents of Ty Liliwen will be contacted by representatives from Carmarthenshire County Council Environmental Health and Valero's monitoring consultants to explain the rationale behind the additional monitoring of their water supply.

There may be some low level land contamination on land owned by Ty Liliwen, but quantities are so small, these would be difficult to recover.

There have also been reports of "black coloured" effluent entering the stream, the source being upstream of the kerosene leak. Valero's monitoring consultants have confirmed that they have observed this happening on two separate occasions.

Natural Resources Wales are aware of this and are currently investigating the source of the pollution.

2. Health Implications

Health advice has previously been given to local residence, but there appears to be no further health implication (apart from possibly Ty Liliwen private water supply as above).

With regards to animal health fencing was erected to prevent stock drinking from the water source. Natural Resources Wales are investigating as to when the fencing that has been erected can be removed

3. Community Engagement

Llangunnor Community Council has requested feedback for their Meeting in December. The "Recovery Group" agreed to offer representatives to attend their meeting if they required. Natural Resources Wales is also holding meetings with representatives from the local fishing community.

4. Cost Recovery (Agencies)

Valero have stated that all claims for compensation should be submitted to them via their offices in Waterston, Milford Haven.

Some agencies involved in the incident have, or are in the process of submitting claims to Valero for costs incurred.

Officers from Carmarthenshire County Council involved in the incident are also keeping track on "officer time" and a claim will be submitted to Valero in due course.

5. Cost Recovery (Community Councils and Private Residents)

Community Councils are in direct dialogue with Valero regarding their claims.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: R Mullen

Director of Environment

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: R Mullen

Director of Environment

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Local Member(s) - N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners - N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE