



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

July 21, 2010 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



MDEQ JULY 21 UPDATE ON OIL MATERIAL IN MISSISSIPPI

BILOXI, Miss. – Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) staff through aerial surveillance with the Mississippi National Guard, MDEQ response staff, and Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Teams (SCAT) have observed the following Wednesday (as of 7:30 p.m.) and sent to Unified Command for review and appropriate response:

Flight information:

- Air boom patrol flight cancelled.

Other Information from MDEQ staff:

- A 45 meter by one meter band of tarballs one to five cm in diameter with sporadic coverage at N30 18.0' W89 20.53' (St. Charles Street and S Beach Boulevard).
- SCAT team surveyed east of the Highway 90 bridge to Graveline Bayou--oil stained areas of boardwalk in trace amounts in the super tidal zone measuring approximately three inches located near the small boat launch at N 30° 22' 19.0" W 88° 47' 01.1". Intermittent areas (approximately once every 75 yards) of tar ball coverage and rip rap staining in trace amounts was noted in the inter-tidal zone from N 30° 22' 19.0" W 88° 47' 01.1" to N 30° 21' 17.9" W 88° 40' 54.1".
- SCAT team performed aerial reconnaissance of all barrier islands. Aerial observations did not reveal any new oil. Walking observations of Cat Island and Petit Bois Island revealed trace amounts of tar balls in the tidally influenced areas on both islands. Also, patches of tar balls and tar patties which had previously washed ashore were observed in the subsurface of the upper inter-tidal zone and on the surface in the supratidal zone. These patches have already been observed and mapped for clean-up operations.
- Tar balls in Hancock County at the following locations:
 - N 30° 18.000', W 89° 20.053', 45m x 1m band, sporadic, one to five cm
 - N 30° 17.294', W 89° 21.610', 20m x 1m band, sporadic, two to five cm
 - N 30° 17.234', W 89° 21.726', 20m x 1m band, sporadic, two to five cm
 - N 30° 16' 24.2", W 89° 22' 34.3", one tar ball
 - N 30° 16' 19.7", W 89° 22' 39.8", sporadic
 - N 30° 16' 16.3", W 89° 22' 43.8", sporadic
 - N 30° 16' 13.8", W 89° 22' 47.6", one mousse patty
 - N 30° 16' 11.0", W 89° 22' 51.8", one tar ball
 - N 30° 16' 05.3", W 89° 23' 00.8", sporadic
 - N 30° 16' 01.2", W 89° 23' 08.7", sporadic
 - N 30° 15' 57.5", W 89° 23' 14.4", sporadic
 - N 30° 15' 56.6", W 89° 23' 18.2", sporadic
 - Start N 30° 15' 56.1", W 89° 23' 19.7", end N 30° 15' 48.4", W 89° 23' 35.4", sporadic
 - N 30° 15' 38.8", W 89° 24' 13.2", sporadic but over entire area
 - N 30° 15' 29.7", W 89° 24' 44.9", 30 percent coverage
 - Start N 30° 14' 34.4", W 89° 25' 29.7", end 30° 15' 00.5", W 89° 25' 19.8", sporadic
- A patch of tar balls between Kittiwake Drive and Least Tern Drive in Long Beach.

More information and links about MDEQ's and DMR's roles in oil spill response are available at www.deq.state.ms.us/oilspill and www.dmr.state.ms.us/DMR/oil-spill.htm. Water sampling information available at: <http://opcgis.deq.state.ms.us/oilspillmap> and air monitoring data at: <http://gulfcoast.airnowtech.org>.