

July 12, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MDEQ JULY 12, 2010 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 Monday (as of 8:00 p.m.) and sent to Unified Command for review and appropriate response:

Flight information:

*No significant amounts of sheen or oil observed

More Information from MDEQ staff:

*Sporadic tar balls and mousse patties along the beach in Harrison County. (N30 21.407 W89 06.829; N30 21.378 W89 06.899; N30 21.325 W89 07.153; N30 20.783 W89 08.460)

*Patchy tar balls along the beach in Hancock County.

*Five by ten feet area of two to three inch tar balls with approximately 10 percent coverage in Harrison County (N30 21.423 W89 06.782)

*Mousse patties along Beach Boulevard in Waveland with five to eight percent coverage.

* Sporadic tar balls near Belle Fontaine Drive in Ocean Springs with a range from small pebble size to two inches.

*SCAT team assessment of the shoreline from Bay St. Louis to the Louisiana state line: a five meter band in the Upper -Inner Tidal Zone of oiling stains on the marsh grass of less than one percent coverage, similar findings for four segments east of Heron Bay (with the center of the area at N30 11.014 W8927.184). No oiling observed inside the eastern side of Heron Bay. East of the Pearl River mouth was observed a three to five meter band of less than one percent coverage in the Upper - Inner Tidal Zone.

Patches of tar balls and weathered oil are skimmed and corralled by Vessels of Opportunity and BP contractors. Skimming is used to remove streams of emulsified oil, tar balls, and tar patties. Tar balls and mousse patties on land are removed with shovels and rakes.

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.

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