

## Clearwater River Petroleum Seep

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The Nez Perce Tribe and EPA documented the presence of a petroleum sheen on the Clearwater River for a minimum of 16 days over the period of December 30, 2011, to October 26, 2012. Petroleum sheen was eventually linked to an underground pressurized unleaded gasoline line leading from an above-ground storage tank to a fuel dispenser located at the Hunt Oil Card Lock, which is owned by Atkinson Distributing, Orofino, Idaho. In March 2012 sampling documented a minimum of 35 ft of grossly contaminated river bank with total VOCs concentrations of up to 86 mg/L. In July 2012 detailed sampling of shovel pits also documented 35 ft length of river bank with total VOCs ranging from 47 to 122 mg/L. Sheen discharge to the river appears to be hydrologically controlled by river stage, with sheen appearing on the declining limb of the hydrograph when the USGS stream gaging station at Orofino shows a stage between 5.5 and 2 ft.

Monitoring wells documented up to 1 ft of fresh gasoline and 0.7 ft of weathered diesel in two down-gradient wells closest to the site. It is believed that the gasoline remobilized both weathered diesel contained in soil around the tanks and waste engine oil disposed in an abandoned landfill located along the groundwater flow path between Hunt Oil and the river.

In December 2012 approximately 2,300 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soil were excavated, and 2,000 cubic yards were remediated at a single-application land-farm site permitted by DEQ, with the balance disposed at a commercial land-farm site. During the early summer and fall, monitor well sampling documented significant concentrations of gasoline-range compounds, and petroleum sheens were again occasionally observed in the river. EPA has requested that the responsible party develop a corrective action program to prevent future releases of petroleum to the river.