

Media Statement

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GAMBLE TOWNSHIP (October 23, 2016) – Work continued today at the site of the gasoline release on a Sunoco Logistics pipeline in Gamble Township, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania.

Maintenance personnel finished capping the north end of the pipeline that crosses Wallis Run at the confluence with Loyalsock Creek, meaning the pipeline is now completely sealed on either end. Workers purged the contents of the pipeline section with nitrogen, and removed the small amount of gasoline that remained in the pipe.

The approximately 80-foot section of the pipe was removed Sunday evening.

Sunoco representatives were in contact with residents, local officials and first responders to make them aware that heightened gasoline odors would likely accompany Sunday's work.

Governor Tom Wolf, Acting Secretary of Environmental Protection Patrick McDonnell and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Director Richard D. Flinn Jr. visited the Incident Command Headquarters in Eldred Township as part of their tour of storm damage in north central Pennsylvania. They were joined by State Senator Gene Yaw, State Representative Garth Everett, and local elected officials and emergency responders for a briefing on the pipeline response. .

Water monitoring of Loyalsock Creek and the West Branch of the Susquehanna River will continue under supervision of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The PA DEP provided this [update](#) on Saturday night, and Pennsylvania American Water [lifted a conservation advisory](#) for the Milton service area.

The release was confirmed at approximately 3 a.m. Friday, Oct. 21, when the Sunoco Logistics Pipeline Control Center detected a drop in pressure on the 8-inch pipeline, which transports refined petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel and home heating fuel between Sinking Spring, Pa., and markets in Rochester and Buffalo, N.Y. The pipeline release site is at Wallis Run near the intersection of Wallis Run Road and Butternut Grove Road in Gamble Township, Lycoming County. Wallis Run is a tributary of the Loyalsock Creek, which feeds into the West Branch of the Susquehanna.

The pipeline was shut down immediately and emergency response personnel were dispatched to the scene. Federal, state, county and local officials were notified. The area received heavy rainfall overnight Thursday into Friday, resulting in flash floods, landslides, riverbank erosion and significant road and bridge damage. The bridge over Wallis Run was completely washed out at the site of release and carried 100 yards downstream. The exact cause of the release is under investigation.

Sunoco Logistics personnel have been meeting with affected residents and addressing any of their needs and concerns, including well-water testing. Air monitoring is ongoing with the U.S. EPA and Pennsylvania DEP. No hazardous levels have been detected. Crews continue to monitor areas for potential impact as floodwaters recede, and will deploy skimmers, booms and pads to remove any petroleum product detected. No significant traces of gasoline have been found beyond odors in isolated areas.

Residents who have been impacted by the release may call a Sunoco Logistics representative at **1-800-759-5644**.

The U.S. EPA and Pennsylvania DEP have joined Sunoco Logistics in a Unified Command structure to manage the response, with headquarters at the nearby Eldred Township Volunteer Fire Company. Additional agencies on scene include Lycoming County Emergency Management and the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The Lycoming County Sheriff and the Pennsylvania National Guard are assisting.

At this time a resumption plan has not been finalized so a return to service date has not been determined.

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