

Pipeline leak causes large oil spill

By Tim Martin
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. — Crews were working Tuesday to contain and clean up more than 800,000 gallons of oil that poured into a creek and flowed into the Kalamazoo River in southern Michigan, coating birds and fish.

Authorities in Battle Creek and Emmett Township warned residents about the strong odor from the oil, which leaked Monday from a 30-inch pipeline built in 1969 that carries about 8 million gallons of oil per day from Griffith, Ind., to Sarnia, Ontario.

Crews waded in oily water as they worked to stop the oil's advance downstream. Oil-covered Canada geese walked along the banks of the Kalamazoo River, and photos showed dead fish floating in the spill. The Kalamazoo River eventually flows into Lake Michigan, but officials didn't expect the oil to reach the lake.

"This is just a disaster," said Raymond Woodman, 33, of Emmett Township, who watched workers use a vacuum truck to suck oil from the water at the Ceresco Dam, downstream from leak. "It shouldn't matter how much it costs to clean this up. They need to clean it up."

Calgary, Alberta-based Enbridge Inc.'s affiliate Enbridge Energy Partners LP of Houston estimated about 819,000 gallons of oil spilled into Talmadge Creek

before the company stopped the flow. Enbridge crews and contractors deployed oil skimmers and absorbent booms to minimize its environmental impact.

"We are going to do what it takes to make this right," Enbridge's president and CEO Patrick D. Daniel said during a news conference in Battle Creek.

The company had begun testing the air near the spill, with the primary concern being the possible presence of the cancer-causing chemical benzene. On Tuesday, the company said it hadn't found any levels that would be of concern in residential areas. Groundwater testing also was planned. Authorities evacuated two homes near the leak, and some locals said they were concerned about the fumes. But there were no reports of sickened residents.

As of Tuesday afternoon, oil was reported in about 16 miles of the Kalamazoo River downstream of the spill, said Mary Dettloff, spokeswoman for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment. She said state officials were told during a company briefing that an estimated 877,000 gallons spilled — a figure more than 50,000 gallons higher than the company's public estimate.

U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer, D-Mich., said he discussed the spill with President Barack Obama. Schauer called the spill a "public

health crisis," and said he plans to hold hearings to examine the response.

The company was originally slow to respond and it is now clear that this is an emergency," Schauer told reporters on a conference call.

Obama has pledged a swift response to requests for assistance. White House spokesman Matt Lehrich said.

The cause of spill was under investigation. The site is in Calhoun County's Marshall Township, about 60 miles southeast of Grand Rapids. Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm activated the State Emergency Operations Center.

"Our focus is protecting Michigan citizens and our environment by providing any needed state resources to expediently address the situation," Granholm said in a written statement.

Enbridge said it had about 200 employees and contractors working on the spill. Local, state and federal agencies also were involved, and the National Transportation Safety Board launched an investigation. The pipeline was shut down Monday and isolation valves were closed, stopping the source of the oil, the company said.

The Kalamazoo River eventually bisects the city of Kalamazoo and meanders to Saugatuck, where it empties into Lake Michigan. Officials didn't think the



John Grap/Battle Creek Enquirer

Volunteers scramble to save local wildlife affected by the pipeline leak.

oil would spread past Morrow Lake, which has a dam upstream of Kalamazoo, Dettloff said.

The river already faced major pollution issues.

An 80-mile segment of the river and five miles of a tributary, Portage Creek, were placed on the federal Superfund list of high-priority hazardous waste sites in 1990.

The Kalamazoo site also

includes four landfills and several defunct paper mills.

The Michigan Department of Community Health warned the public to stay away from the creek and river during the cleanup. It also said people shouldn't eat fish from the waterways or have contact with the water, and farmers and homeowners who use the water for irrigation or livestock should stop.

Obama quickens fundraiser pace

By Charles Babington
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is accelerating his fundraising pace, inviting Democratic candidates to decide whether the money he draws is worth the Republican attacks that a presidential visit might also bring.

For some, it's no easy choice. Democrats need millions of dollars to defend dozens of House and Senate seats this fall.

But Obama's approval ratings are sinking well below 50 percent in several key states.

Obama is headlining four Democratic fundraisers in three days, including one Tuesday night, and hosting another four events next week.

For now he's playing it safe, holding the eight events in non-competitive states or in a competitive place where he's sure to be embraced: his home state of Illinois.

As is true with most presidents, candidates from his party know there's often a political cost to the hundreds of thousands of dollars a presidential visit can net.

In Missouri, Republican Senate candidate Roy Blunt is airing a TV ad showing Democratic opponent Robin Carnahan campaigning with Obama during his July 8 fundraising visit to Kansas City. The ad says Carnahan would be a "rubber stamp" for Obama's policies.

A recent statewide poll for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and KMOV-TV found that 57 percent of likely Missouri voters disapprove of Obama's performance as president, while 34 percent approve. Among independent voters, the president's disapproval rate was 63 percent.

The poll showed Blunt leading Carnahan in the race to succeed retiring GOP Sen. Kit Bond.

Having the president visit "is a double-edged sword," said Brian Walsh, spokesman for the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

Carnahan raised a lot of money from the event, he said, but it also provided grist for Blunt's new ad.

"We'd welcome him to campaign in states like Indiana, Kentucky, Arkansas," Walsh said of Obama. "These are states where his agenda is deeply unpopular."

White House officials say Obama will campaign vigorously throughout the nation.

"The fall campaign boils down to a choice between those who want to keep moving forward and those that want to take us back to the policies that got us into this mess," said White House communications director Dan Pfeiffer. "The President will help make that case across the country."

Obama is clearly the biggest draw for Democratic donors in general, and he's spending significant time this week and next at events where guests have been asked to give the legal maximum of \$30,400 per election cycle.

Only one of the eight fundraisers is tied to a specific candidate: Senate hopeful Alexi Giannoulias of Illinois.

The president attended a Democratic National Committee fundraiser Tuesday night in Washington that was closed to reporters.

He was set to attend two DNC events Wednesday in New York

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City, and a DNC fundraising dinner Thursday in a private home in Washington.

Next week he will headline a Democratic fundraiser in Atlanta, and three events in Chicago: two for the DNC, the other for Giannoulias.

He also will attend fundraisers in Dallas and Austin, Texas.

Giannoulias is seeking the seat Obama once held, so he's unlikely to be harmed by being closely linked to the president.

In California, which Obama carried easily, Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer has invited the president to her re-election events.

In Nevada, a more closely divided state, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid also has welcomed Obama and the money he raises.

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, who was practically forced out of the Republican Party because he embraced Obama and his stimulus bill, is happy to pose with the president now that he is running for the Senate as an independent.

But in some states, Democratic candidates are wary.

Ohio Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher, the Democratic Senate nominee, was absent when Obama made two trips to the state earlier this year, although he joined the president and other top Democrats in Columbus in mid-June.

A Quinnipiac University poll in late June found that 49 percent of Ohioans disapproved of Obama's job performance, while 45 percent approved.

Obama carried Ohio by 4 percentage points in 2008.

Bill White, the Democratic nominee for governor in Texas, said he will not appear with Obama when the president visits his state, known to be conservative, next week.

He suggested Obama's appear-

ances might hurt his bid to unseat Republican Gov. Rick Perry.

White said he thinks Perry "will try to run against President Obama because he knows that he can't beat me."

Democratic officials said Obama will campaign next month for Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, Wisconsin gubernatorial candidate Tom Barrett and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash.

Other candidates will welcome him also, party officials said, but details are not ready for release.

Meanwhile, events as mundane as Obama's 49th birthday next week may be used for fundraising purposes.

First lady Michelle Obama is asking Americans to sign an e-mail birthday card, being distributed by the pro-Obama group Organizing for America.

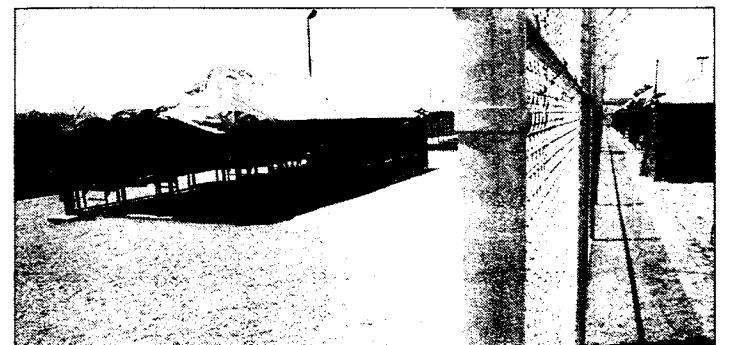
It doesn't ask for money, but well-wishers can't forward their e-mail addresses to the president without including their e-mail addresses, which can be used later to seek funds, votes or volunteers.

Giannoulias' struggle to keep the Illinois Senate seat in Democratic hands is indicative of the party's struggles this year, when conservatives seem far more energized than liberals.

David Plouffe, Obama's 2008 campaign manager, said the president's Chicago visit next week will give Democrats a needed boost.

"You've got Republican enthusiasm at a very high level," Plouffe told reporters Tuesday. "I don't think it can go much higher. Democratic enthusiasm, obviously, is trailing and I really don't see it declining anymore, so the question is how much more can we grow it."

A lot will depend on Obama's reception in coming months not just from voters, but from Democrats on the Nov. 2 ballot.



Matt York/Associated Press

Tents in Phoenix have been set up to prepare for illegal immigrants.

Arizona prepares for new state law

By Jonathan J. Cooper
and Michelle Price
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

PHOENIX — The sheriff of Arizona's most populous county is making room in a vast outdoor jail and determined to round up illegal immigrants to fill it. Police from the U.S.-Mexico border to the Grand Canyon are getting last-minute training. And protests and marches are planned throughout Phoenix.

Arizona's new immigration law takes effect Thursday, creating a potentially volatile mix of police, illegal immigrants and thousands of activists, many planning to show up without identification as a show of solidarity.

At least one group plans to block access to federal offices, daring officers to ask them their immigration status.

"Our message for that day is: 'Don't comply, don't buy,'" said activist Liz Hourican, whose group, CodePink, plans to block the driveway for immigration offices in downtown Phoenix.

As both sides prepare, a federal judge is deciding whether to step in and block the law.

It requires officers enforcing other laws to check a person's immigration status if they suspect the person is in the country illegally.

It also bans illegal immigrants from soliciting work in a public place.

Police across the state scrambled on Tuesday to train officers, including on how to avoid racial profiling, and plan for a potential influx of detainees.

The hardest-line approach is expected in the Phoenix area, where Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio plans his 17th crime and immigration sweep.

He plans to hold the sweep, regardless of any ruling by U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton.

Arpaio, known for his tough stance against illegal immigration, plans to send about 200 deputies and volunteers out, looking for traffic violators, people wanted on criminal warrants and others.

He's used that tactic before to arrest dozens of people, many of them illegal immigrants.

"We don't wait. We just do it," he said. "If there's a new law out, we're going to enforce it."

He said that the space he made in the complex of military surplus tents can handle 100 people, and that he will find room for more if necessary.

Elsewhere in the state, police officials said they didn't expect any dramatic events.

They were busy wrapping up

training sessions this week, with some agencies saying that untrained officers will not be allowed on the streets.

Many of the state's 15,000 police officers have been watching a DVD released this month that signs that might indicate a person is an illegal immigrant are speaking poor English, looking nervous or traveling in an overcrowded vehicle. It warned that race and ethnicity do not.

Some agencies added extra materials, including a test, a role-playing exercise or a question-and-answer session with prosecutors.

Critics of the law among police chiefs remain, saying that the law is so vague that no amount of training could eliminate potential confusion.

"Am I going to sit here and say I think every officer has a clear understanding of the law when they leave the training?" Tucson Police Chief Roberto Villasenor said. "No, because I think the law is poorly constructed."

Arizona's law gives police two options to confirm whether a detainee is an illegal immigrant.

Virginia Kice, a spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, declined to comment on preparations or the role federal authorities would play in enforcing the law, except to say ICE "focuses first on criminal aliens who pose a threat to our communities."

Arpaio vowed to arrest all illegal immigrants and make them spend time in his jail.

Other police officials said they'd try to get the Border Patrol involved as often as possible to avoid the time and cost of booking the detainees into jail.

Prosecutors are also preparing for a potential influx of cases.

They are reminding officers that they are required to explain the circumstances of the original stop, why they suspected the person was an illegal immigrant and any comments made by the suspect.

A march from the state Capitol is planned at 4:30 a.m., followed by a prayer service, a rally outside Arpaio's office and later that afternoon a concert outside a Maricopa County jail, according to the Los Angeles-based National Day Laborer Organizing Network.

The protesters both from Arizona and elsewhere plan to show up without identification and hold peaceful rallies.

"It's defiance, to see if they want to come and arrest those people," said Pablo Alvarado, the executive director of the NDLON. "We dare them to come and ask."



David Zalubowski/Associated Press

Obama joins Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., during a rally in February.