

JULY 2021



Ongoing Oil Spill Cleanup

EPA continues to work in the town of Bangor to address a release of oil in the storm sewer system. The oil is running through the storm sewers in town and discharging into Martins Creek at Pennsylvania Avenue and 1st Street. The source is currently unknown. EPA, state, county, and local officials are investigating the release to the creek and examining potential sources.

EPA placed containment booms downstream of the release. Booms are floating, physical barriers to contain and slow the spread of oil. All oiled materials are being stockpiled for future off-site disposal.

Please see contacts on the back of this fact sheet for questions or concerns.



The photo above shows containment boom placed in Martins Creek to help contain and clean up the oil at the site.

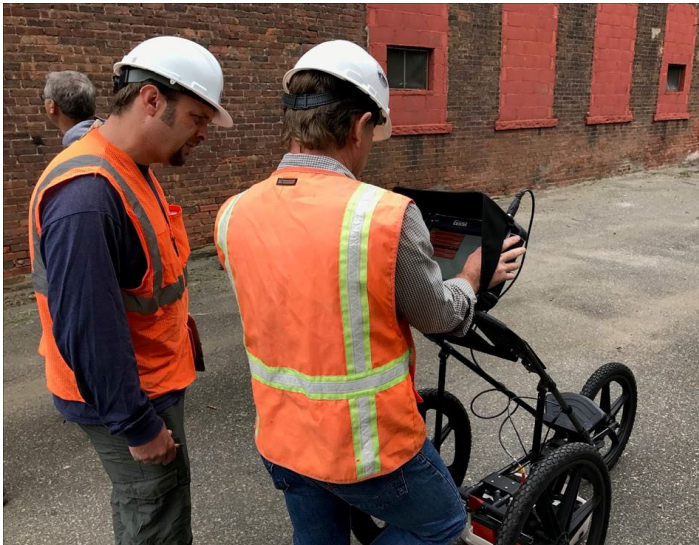


The photo above shows oil on the surface of the water behind the underflow dam installed in the storm water outfall into Martins Creek.



Site Work to Date

- Regularly replace oiled cleanup materials from the waterways with clean materials
- Regularly remove oiled debris from the waterways
- Investigated nearby facilities with large oil tanks
- Conducted a video survey of the sewer pipe and collected water samples to determine where the oil is entering the storm sewer
- Used ground-penetrating radar surveys to look for historic tanks
- Drilled 30+ holes to evaluate the groundwater and soil in the vicinity of the storm sewer to determine the source of the release.



This photo shows an example of the type of equipment that will be used in the site source investigation.



If you notice unusual odors in the area, sheen in water, or suspicious activity near manholes or sewer grates, please reach out to any of the contacts below.



What to Expect

In late June, EPA and partnering agencies selected an Oil/Water Separator as a semi-permanent solution for oil containment at the site. The Oil/Water Separator will be installed in the storm water collection system to help reduce the amount of oil reaching the creek. Installation preparation for the Oil/Water Separator is ongoing, and EPA anticipates that construction at the site will begin in Fall 2021. There will be road closures around 1st Avenue and 6th Street during the time of the construction. EPA will provide more specific information about these road closures before they take place.

Source investigations will also continue at the site. EPA and partnering agencies are planning to use geomagnetic technology to help identify and locate the source of the oil flowing into Martins Creek.



For More Information

Visit the EPA Bangor Oil Spill Response webpage for up-to-date information and photos from the site. You can access the page with the following URL, response.epa.gov/BangorOilSpill, or by scanning the QR Code with a smartphone.

Contact Information

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