

Marine Safety Unit Huntington  
& West Virginia DEP

# Spill Response & Water Quality Coordination

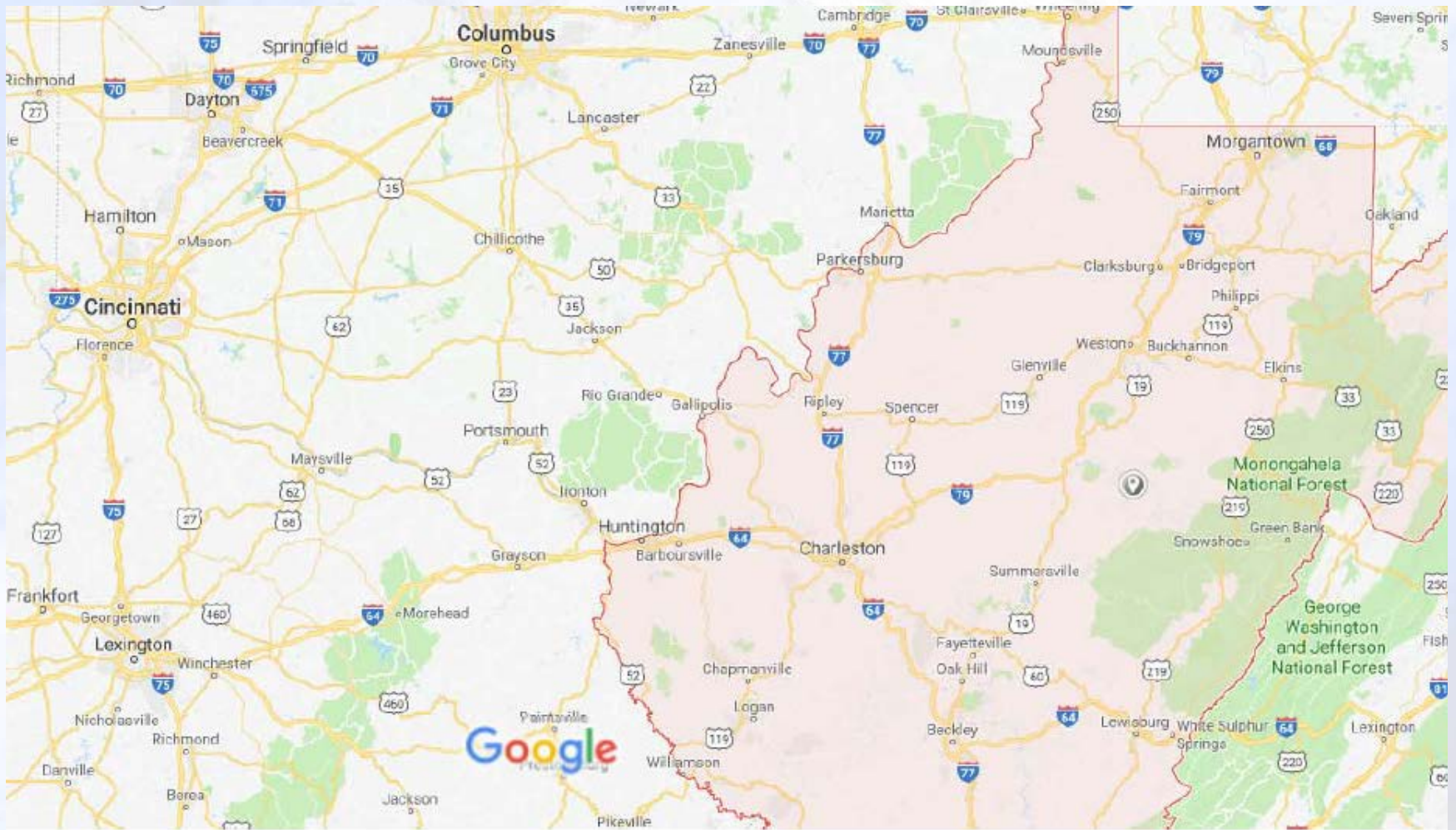
M/V Gate City Sinking

May 23, 2018 – RRT3 Spring Meeting





# Location







# Initial Situation



- Looking into NRC reports of mystery sheens. Noted ANNA C and GATE CITY on BSR.







Homeland Security

# Initial Situation

United States Coast Guard



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# Initial Situation



- Admin Order issued to owner in Dec.
- Given until Jan 31 to clean both vessels with FOSC oversight.





# Gate City Sinks - Jan 10



Sunrise, Jan 10, 2018, rcvd report of oil discharging from a partially sunken towboat in the Big Sandy River at ~ 7.8 miles upstream from the Ohio River (~Butler, WV). The 116 foot Gate City reportedly sank overnight on the WV side with 5-7,000 gallons of oil and diesel on board. Heavy oil was observed in the water around the vessel and sporadic oiling on the shoreline ~0.5 mile downstream.







Homeland Security

# Gate City

United States Coast Guard



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Homeland Security

# Gate City

United States Coast Guard



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Security

# Gate City

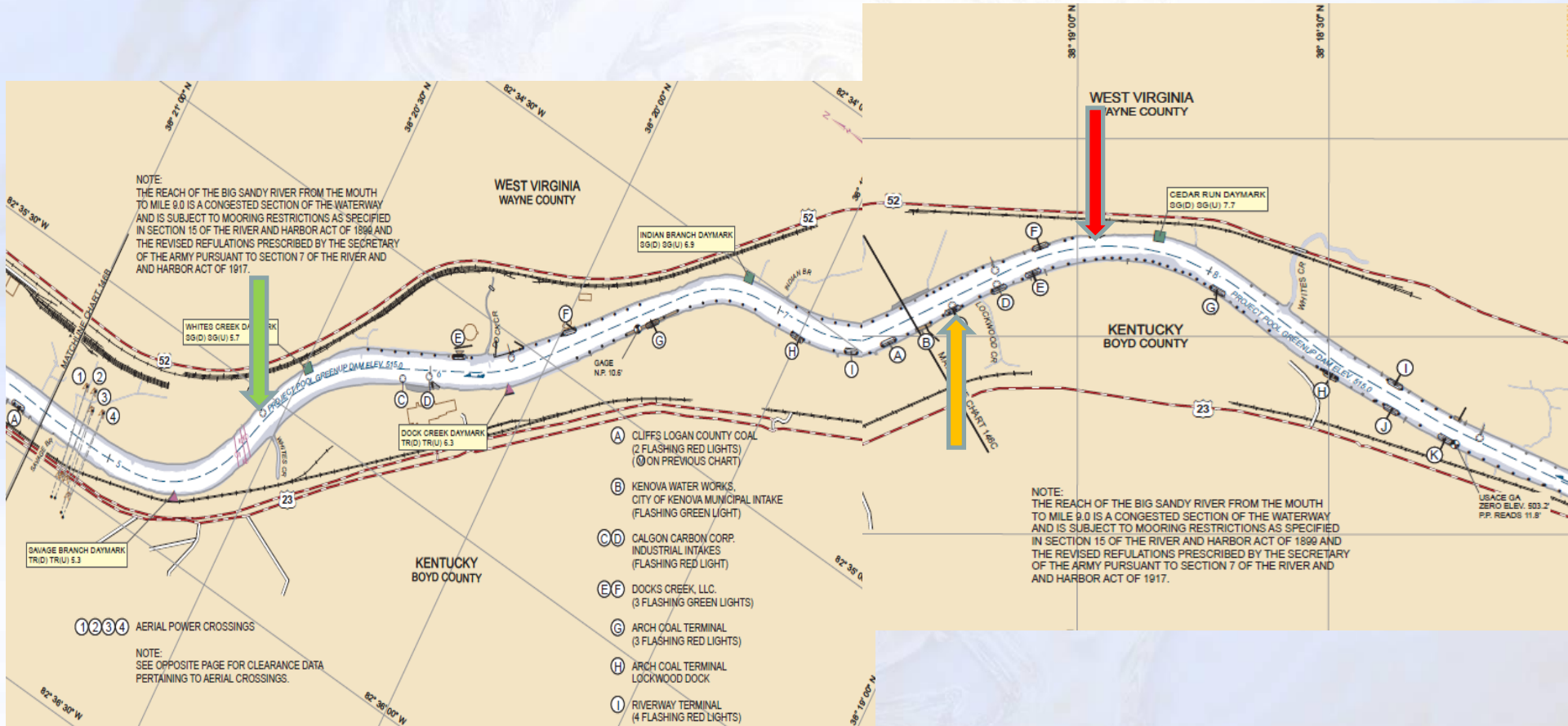
United States  
Coast Guard



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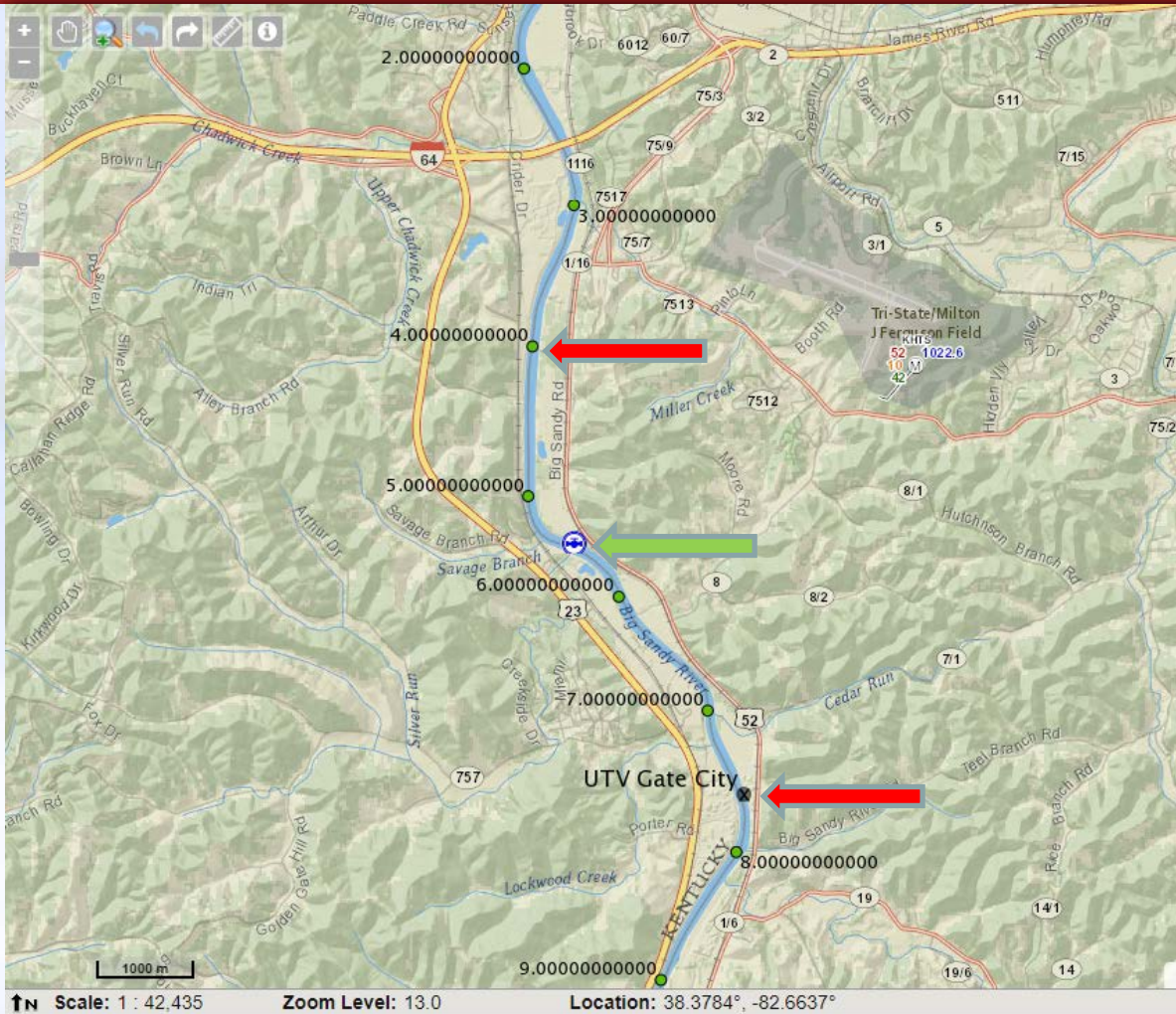
# Upper Big Sandy River







# NOAA Trajectory



- NOAA ran calculations for worst case discharge based on initial observations.
- Notifications sent out that morning to multiple federal, state & partner agencies.







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# Drone Footage - Gate City

United States Coast Guard



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# Drone Footage - Gate City

United States Coast Guard

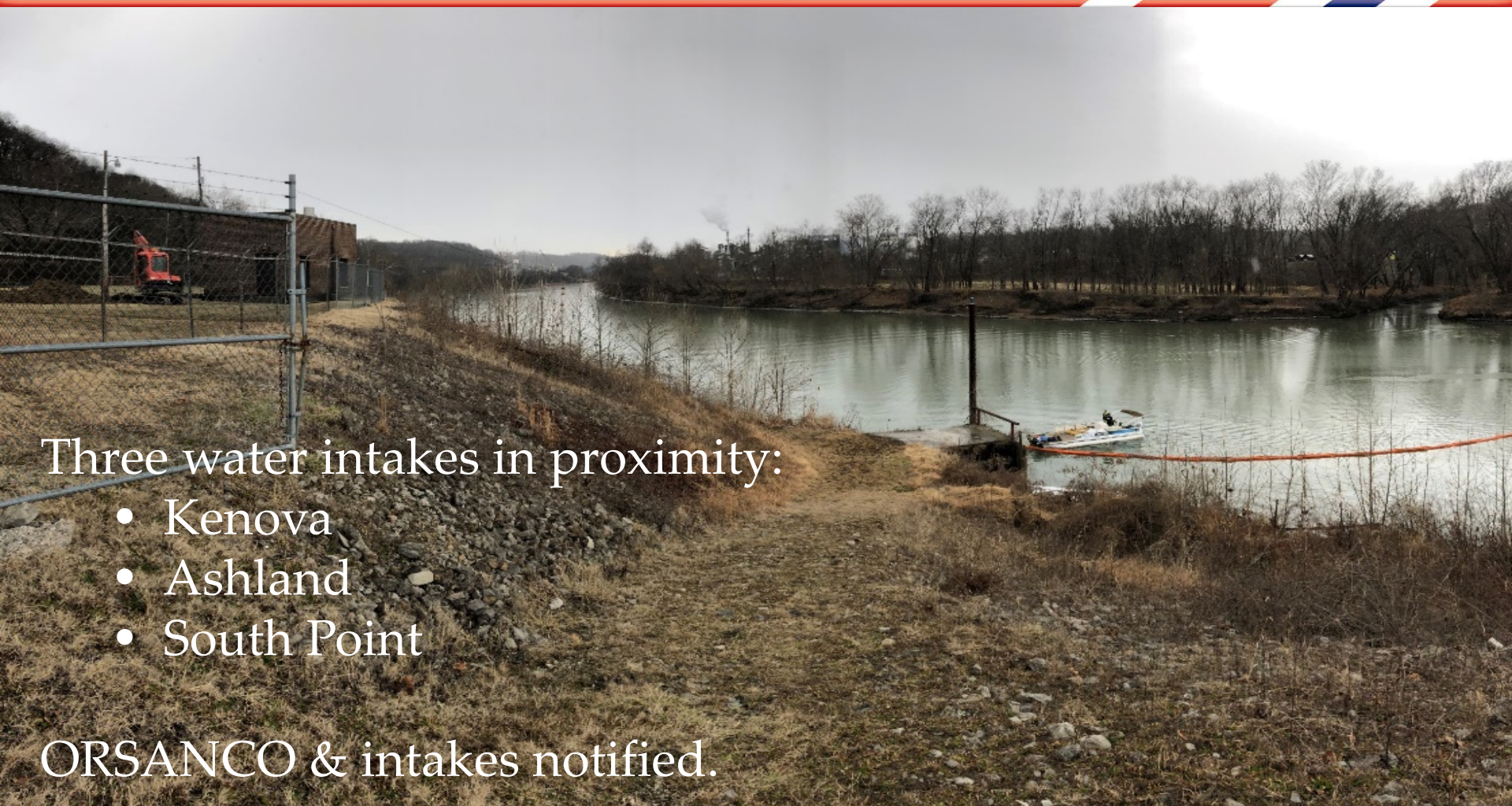


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# Water Intakes



Three water intakes in proximity:

- Kenova
- Ashland
- South Point

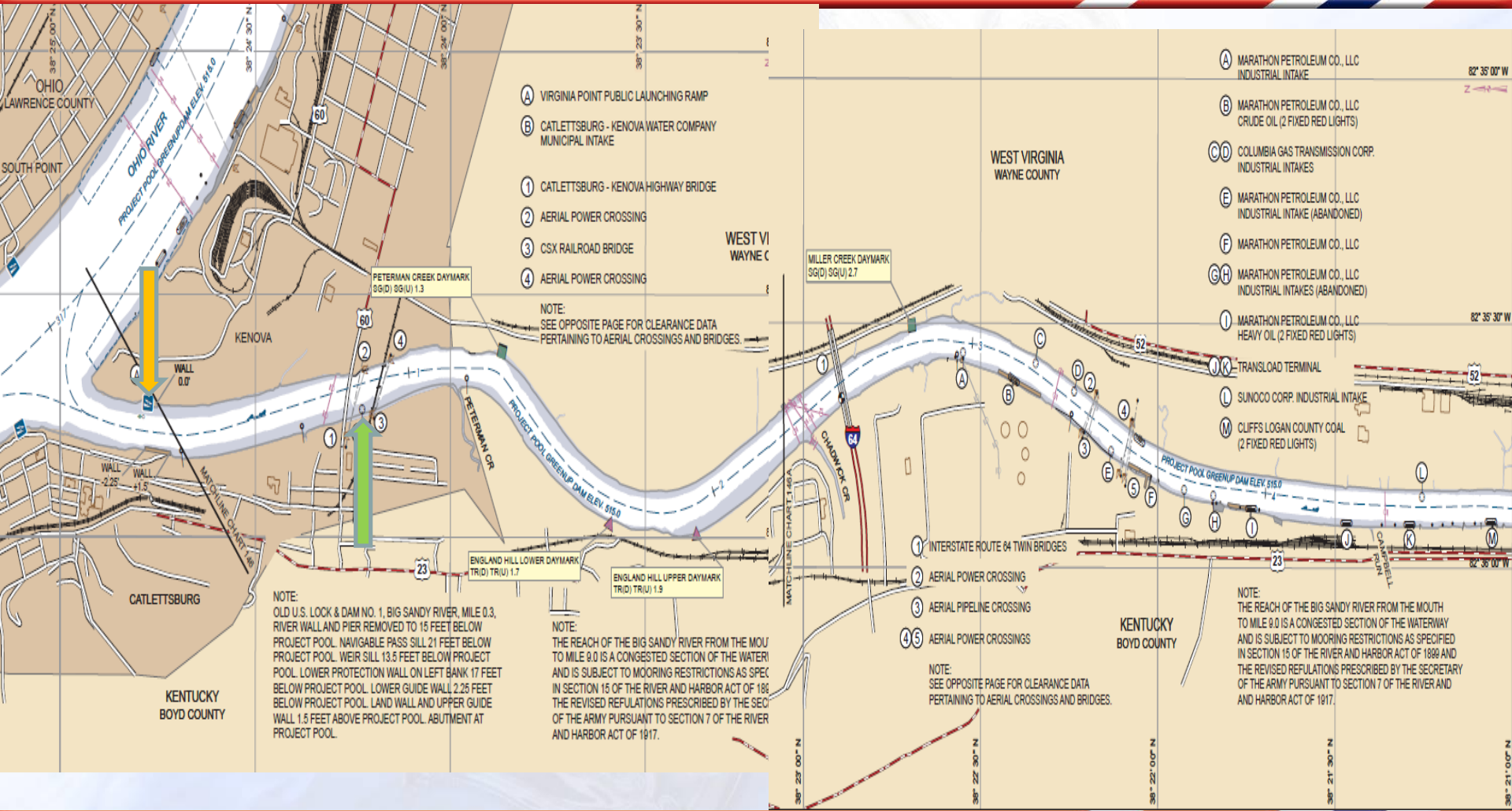
ORSANCO & intakes notified.







# Lower Big Sandy River





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# Drone Footage - Water Plant

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# Water Sampling Plan



- WV & KY
- ORSANCO
- Intakes
- Other stakeholders



Gate City Spill Water Collection Sampling Plan  
14 January 2018

## 1. Situation.

On January 10, 2017 the uninspected towing vessel GATE CITY sunk at its moorings on the Big Sandy River near Butler, WV, discharging approximately 1,300 gallons of a mixture of petroleum products into the river. The decision was made to conduct water sampling of the Big Sandy River to determine if elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) were detected as result of the vessel sinking and subsequent discharge.

The City of Kenova Water Company has a raw water intake on the Big Sandy River and immediately closed its intake valves upon notification as a precaution to avoid drinking water contamination.

This plan was developed to ensure a systematic process is in place to sample the water quality of the Big Sandy River and to ensure Kenova Water Company can continue to draw water from the Big Sandy River and avoid a service disruption to its 4,000 customers.

## 2. Protocol

Pace Analytical (PACE) has been contracted by the responsible party to collect and analyze water samples from the Big Sandy River during salvage operations for the GATE CITY Spill.

PACE will collect five grab subsurface water samples from the Big Sandy River daily before 1200 EST from the following locations:





# Consults



- ESA (Endangered Species Act)
- EFH (Essential Fish Habitat) and State NHPA (National Historical Preservation Act) and SHPOs.
- ACOE & CST







# Response Challenges



- Remote location
- Temperatures
- Steep, rugged terrain







# Response Challenges



- River/current fluctuations
  - Rise/fall
  - Air gap
- Heavy drift







# Salvage Communications Plan



## Gate City Spill

### Salvage Communications Plan

#### 1. Situation.

On January 10, 2018 the uninspected towing vessel GATE CITY sunk at its moorings on the Big Sandy River near Butler, WV, discharging approximately 1,300 gallons of a mixture of petroleum products into the river. The decision was made to conduct water sampling of the Big Sandy River to determine if elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) were detected as result of the vessel sinking and subsequent discharge.

The City of Kenova Water Company has a raw water intake on the Big Sandy River and immediately closed its intake valves upon notification as a precaution to avoid drinking water contamination. The plant reopened its water intakes on the Big Sandy River and began receiving daily water quality test results from Pace Analytical Services.

Additional downriver, water treatments plants are aware of this incident and are conducting enhanced screening of their water intake processes to ensure clean water availability for filtration purposes. These treatment facilities are as follows: the cities of Ashland, KY; Russell, KY; and Ironton, OH.

This plan was developed to ensure a systematic communications process is in place to inform water treatment plants of critical process points during the salvage operation. This will enable plant operators to further enhance intake screening and filtration processes at their discretion.

#### 2. Protocol

The Responsible Party (RP), or someone acting on behalf of the RP, will immediately notify downriver water treatment plants (listed below) with a personal phone call prior to commencing lifting operations of the GATE CITY and upon completion of re-floating the vessel;

- a) Kenova, WV Water Treatment Plant – Mr. Danny Roberts, Plant Manager at (304) 962-3367 (mobile) and Mr. Bill Stambo at (304) 962-3774 (mobile).
- b) Ashland, KY Water Treatment Plant – Mr. Joe Flielman, Plant Superintendent through the plant’s Control Center at (606) 327-2058 (office).
- c) Russell, KY Water Treatment Plant – Mr. Paul Smith, Plant Manager at (606) 922-3651 (mobile).
- d) Ironton, OH Water Treatment Plant – Mr. Ryan Watts, Plant Manager at (740) 532-3412 (mobile).

\*\*Please note, the RP is already required to notify Kenova Water Plant if, at any time, they notice oil downriver of the containment of the sunken vessel.







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# Salvage Operations

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# Salvage Operations

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# Gate City Engine Room Before/After

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# Steering Room

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# Gate City Transit – Mar 7

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# Gate City Transit – Mar 7

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# Gate City Disposal – May 21

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# Gate City Disposal

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# Gate City Disposal

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# Questions?

May 23, 2018 – RRT3 Spring Meeting

