**January 20, 2021, Brine Spill at Deep Rock Pipeline Near Marietta**

We learned about this spill shortly after it occurred from the National Response Center of the U.S. EPA. In February I contacted Adam Schroeder of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Oil & Gas Resource Management. I asked him for some details on this spill—how much brine was spilled, the extent of damage it caused, and whether it leaked any brine into a stream or river that feeds the Ohio River. I also asked if Ohio EPA and US EPA had been informed of the spill.

I never received a response to this query so I re-sent it on May 18, 2021. Mr. Schroeder said he would respond to my request in a “reasonable period of time.” After more than two weeks I reminded him of my request, and he told me that ODNR attorneys were reviewing my request and that I should hear the result of their disposition soon. On June 4 I received a letter from the ODNR attorney stating that my request was denied since it was “overly broad.” I was told that ODNR would advise me how to revise my request to be more specific. Mr. Schroeder directed me to some data sources on the ODNR web site, which were not helpful for finding anything about the spill. He did mention in his message to me that I might contact Ohio EPA and the National Response Center of EPA. I did find several reports on this spill on the Ohio EPA web site.

What I learned from Ohio EPA is that this spill occurred on January 20 2021 at a pipeline that feeds three Deep Rock disposal wells and is located 0.5 mile from the intersection of Rts. 550 and 7. Approximately 23 barrels of brine (225 square yards) were spilled on the surface, and some of the brine entered Mile Run Creek which empties into the Ohio River. Ohio EPA issued a citation of violation for this spill, which was caused by equipment failure of a 4-inch pipe. At the time of the spill according to the Ohio EPA report there was a “hostile and threatening” neighbor and this led to the summoning of the Sheriff. There were no injuries, evacuations, or harm to wildlife as result of the spill. The company that provided the pipe repaired the failed pipeline. The Ohio EPA report also indicates that ODNR is responsible for overseeing the remediation of soils on the spill site.

After reviewing these materials I contacted Mr. Shroeder and asked if there was any consequence to Deep Rock, e.g., fine, revocation of permit, as result of this incident. I have not yet received a response to this most recent query.

George Banziger

June 20, 2021