



# News Release

U.S. Forest Service

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CLEAN-UP EFFORTS CONTINUE ON OIL SPILL NEAR CHAPPEL FORK, MCKEAN COUNTY**

*Warren, Pa.* – The Allegheny National Forest is continuing coordination with federal, state, and local agencies, and Snyder Brothers, Inc. (Snyder Brothers) to clean-up a major oil spill in McKean County that took place on August 17, 2008. Clean-up is ongoing, although efforts have been hampered due to low stream flow conditions.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) continues to monitor the clean-up progress with periodic inspections and will request Snyder Brothers to submit a detailed spill report in accordance with 25 Pa Code § 91.33(b). The report will describe the cause of the incident, the extent of the pollution, steps taken to prevent injury to downstream users, efforts made to remove the spilled oil from the ground and surface waters, and disposal methods for residual substances.

Snyder Brothers has maintained two temporary siphon dams to contain oil on Chappel Fork. DEP issued an Emergency Permit authorizing use of the dams for 30-days. Since oil is still gathering behind the dams, DEP has extended the permit at the request of Snyder Brothers to maintain the dams until November 29, 2008.

A damage assessment team consisting of multiple federal and state agencies continues to measure resource damages as a result of the spill. Resources being assessed include, but are not limited to, threatened and endangered species, fish populations /tissue /ecology, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, benthic macro-invertebrates, water quality, wetlands, soils, vegetation, cultural resources, and recreation. Analyses of collected data are ongoing.

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