

REPORT OF A JOINT INVESTIGATION VISIT CARRIED OUT IN RESPONSE TO AN OIL SPILL OBSERVED ALONG IBENO SHORELINE (ATIA COMMUNITY) IN IBENO LGA, AKWA IBOM STATE.

1.0 Introduction:

The Zonal office was notified through a telephone call at about 1800 Hrs on Saturday November 7, 2020 from Mr. Billy Ikpong Etteh from Ibeno Community that there was an oil spill on Ibeno shoreline. This was confirmed by Mr. Collins Ijeomah of ExxonMobil who called to notify the Zonal Head via a telephone call at 1824 Hrs on the same day. According to Mr. Ijeomah, they received a report from members of the community of the appearance of crude oil on the shoreline of Ibeno on the evening of Friday 6 November 2020. They dispatched their personnel to the location and carried out a helicopter overflight to confirm the incident on Saturday 7 November, 2020. Helicopter overflight of the area showed significant sheen trailing a vessel at about 1nm (1.6 km) from the shoreline close to Atia Community. Since ExxonMobil claimed that there was no upset or releases from their facility within the period, the Zonal office constituted a Joint Investigation Team involving the Other Operating Companies around Ibeno, the State Ministry of Environment and members of the community and a Joint Investigation Visit was fixed for Monday, 9 November 2020.

2.0 Location/Site Address:

Ibeno Shoreline, Ibeno L.G.A., Akwa Ibom State.

3.0 Geo-Reference/Coordinates:

N: 4° 32' 43.6" E: 8° 08' 07.8"

4.0 JIV Date and Time:

Monday 9 November, 2020, 1118Hrs -1500Hrs

5.0 Inspection Team of Regulators and others:

1. Engr. Melvis Odobo (Zonal Head)+
2. Engr. Frank Okon (PES)
3. Mr. Uno Uno (ES1)
4. Mr. Gideon Alademoni (ES1)
5. Engr. Anietie Emah (AKSMOE & Pet. Res.)

Please see attached attendance list.

6.0 Site Contact: Hon. Sunday Isokobo (Executive Chairman, Ibeno LGA)

The Zonal Office had called on the LGA Chairman, Hon. Sunday Isokobo on Sunday 8 November to request for his support in providing security for the Joint Investigation Visit. He requested the team of regulators to meet with him first and proceed afterwards to the paramount ruler of Ibeno. However, after the brief meeting with the Chairman and the various Youth presidents, the Chairman advised that we should proceed to site because of the tide table.

7.0 Toolbox Briefing:

The team of regulators arrived at Ibeno Shoreline in company of the Executive Chairman, Hon. Sunday Isokobo and some community members. After the arrival of the representatives of ExxonMobil (Olufemi Adebayo and Dada Oyeniyi) and Network Petroleum & Exploration Ltd, (Nsikak Ekpo) a toolbox briefing was conducted by Engr. Melvis Odobo at about 1115 hrs., after which the Chairman excused himself because he received a call to attend to another urgent matter.

8.0 The Joint Investigation:

The team proceeded in Hilux Vehicles along the Ibeno shoreline (QIT East) and after about 13km drive we noticed crude oil impacts intermittently along the stretch of Atia Community. Beyond Atia Community along the shoreline, there was no visible impact.

Samples of the weathered crude oil (2 nos, C₁: N:04° 32' 44.0", E: 008° 07' 40.2"; C₂: N:04° 32' 43.6", E: 008° 08' 07.6"), soil (2 nos S₁ N:04° 32' 44.1", E: 008° 08' 12.1" ; S₂ N:04° 32' 43.7", E: 008° 07' 56.0") and control (1 nos N:04° 32' 45.3", E: 008° 08' 12.0") were collected at different intervals. The Team had to retreat when the tide started rising at about 1325 hrs. The JIV form was then filled and signed off by all parties with all the observations captured and the recommendation made.

9.0 Closing Conference:

The Zonal Head, Engr. Melvis Odobo expressed his gratitude to all who participated in the JIV for their peaceful and cooperative disposition. He encouraged all to please maintain this disposition in the interest of the environment and all other stakeholders.

10.0 Findings: Following the assessment of all sites, below are the observations made:

- a. There was visible impact of crude oil intermittently along the Ibeno shoreline in Atia Community.
- b. The estimated area of impact is Fifty-Five Thousand Sq. meters (55,000 m²)
- c. The source or cause of the spill is unknown.
- d. There was no visible impact beyond Atia Community

11.0 Recommendation:

The shoreline should be cleaned up immediately by ExxonMobil to protect the environment.

PHOTOGRAPHS



A Cross section of Stakeholders during the Joint Investigation Visit (JIV)



Participants brainstorming on the way forward at Ikot Akpan Abia during the JIV.



The impacted area of the Shoreline



JIV team members examining the Impacted area



Obong Ukot explaining the extent of the impact.



A group photograph with Atia Community members.