

Bentonite spill reported in McKenzie County

BISMARCK, N.D. – Jomax Construction Company, Inc. has notified the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) of a bentonite spill from a pipeline drilling project in McKenzie County. The incident occurred on Wednesday, Dec. 11, about 6 miles southeast of Watford City.

Jomax estimates approximately 238 barrels (10,000 gallons) of bentonite were released, impacting an unnamed dry creek bed. Bentonite, a clay material, is used as a lubricant in horizontal pipeline drilling. The product used for this project contained no additives.

NDDEQ personnel have inspected the site and will continue to monitor the investigation and cleanup.

Federal and state laws require that operators report the spillage of any materials that may pollute water, air or soil. Visit spill.nd.gov for more information about North Dakota's Unified Spill Reporting System notifications and the public access tool.

For more information, contact:

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