

Daily Log for Greg Gearheart
January 13, 2010

The times below are approximates and rounded to the nearest whole ten minutes.

0640 - Chris Haynes, Dylan Seidner and I left Sacramento and drove to San Leandro.

0830 - Chris Haynes, Dylan Seidner and I arrived at the Metro Poly Corp. facility on Aurora Drive in San Leandro. We drove by the entrance and did not enter. We observed three to four men doing work on the storm drain in the front entrance and some plywood and orange bins near the rail siding used to transfer LDPE pellets from rail cars inside the building.

0840 - We briefly inspected the outfall referred to as ESTN and its surroundings for the sampling effort to happen there later in the morning.

0900 - Met with Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Warden Kyle Hiatt and Biologist Janna Rinderneck in the Costco parking lot on Davis St., San Leandro. SF Bay Regional Water Board staff (Boschen, Felix, Rembaum-Fox, and Pham) also met us there. DFG staff decided to inspect Metro Poly Corp. facility on Aurora Dr. while Water Board staff headed to ESTN to begin implementing our rapid field debris assessment and sampling plan.

0920 - Implemented rapid field debris assessment and field sampling plan. I teamed with Rembaum-Fox and started on Sub-transect 10 working backwards, completing assessments and sampling on Sub-transects 10, 9, 8 and 5. Sub-transects 7 and 6 were flooded by high tide so they were skipped. I both recorded and sampled.

1120 - Left the ESTN area and drove by Metro Poly Corp. facility on Aurora Dr. Stopped to briefly talk to Warden Hiatt, who mentioned they had sampled the raw LDPE materials from this facility and were almost done there and planning to go inspect and possibly sample the area we refer to as ESTN.

1130 - Broke for lunch.

1230 - Water Board team headed to southern outfall of interest, referred to as ESTS, to inspect and possibly conduct assessment and sampling. Decided to break outfall ESTS into two areas, Northern bank and Southern Bank, and only sample (no rapid debris assessment) this area for plastic pellet debris. This area appeared to have much less debris, including plastic pellets, than ESTN area.

1320 - Received call from Warden Hiatt, who, along with Biologist Rinderneck, had discovered another facility owned and operated by the same Metro Poly Corp. (owners and operators of the Aurora facility) at 2020 Williams St. in San Leandro. Warden Hiatt requested that our Water Board team should join them immediately. We drove to the Williams St. facility.

1340 - Arrived at the Williams St. facility and was joined by Laura Drabant of the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement. Met with Tommy Law and Peter Kung in the parking lot of the Williams St. facility and obtained consent to conduct an inspection and take any samples at the facility.

1345 - Water Board team (all except Pham, Drabant and Seidner) entered the facility and began inspecting the facility. SF Bay Regional Water Board led the inspection and is preparing a separate inspection report. My observations are summarized below:

- In the front parking lot I observed a lot of plastic pellets disbursed on the pavement and near the storm drain inlets.
- The rail siding on the Western edge of the facility was paved and covered with many plastic pellets, which appeared to have escaped the hoppers in the rail cars during transloading activities.
- There appeared to be no best management practices (BMPs) in place for many of the rail cars parked in siding area. Some had poor BMPs in place. For example, some had small pans under the hopper valves and makeshift caps designed to prevent spillage during vacuuming process. Vacuum hoses were often PVC pipes taped together and stuck in valve opening (observed some with and some without makeshift caps). Hoses and vacuums were undersized and pellets were observed all over the area, including on the upper dock area and beyond the fence.
- At the Northern edge of the rail siding area the walkway narrowed and led directly to a storm drain inlet that contained plastic debris stuck on the grate and a bag of similar debris full next to it. There were lots of pellets in this walkway area.
- At the Northern edge of the facility I observed a door accessing the inside of the facility (later discovered to be the recycling area) and lots of debris that appeared to have been washed off the landing near the door towards the Northern fence line (and into the rail spur area directly on the other side of the fence). John Camp from the City of San Leandro joined us at this point in the inspection and indicated to me had to leave soon to complete other work.
- We entered the facility in this Northern edge door and began inspecting the inside operations. Tommy and Peter indicated that this back area is where internal recycling of both LDPE and HDPE occurs. They indicated that this recycled material accounts for about 5% of all the material they use at the facility to make products.
- From the recycling area we exited the building near the offload docks on the Eastern edge of the building. I observed lots of debris (plastic pellets, recycled plastic pieces, and general trash/debris) on this loading dock and on the asphalt ground beneath it. I observed no BMPs in place and little regard for debris and litter entering the storm drains directly beneath the loading docks. In the Southeastern area of the parking lot I observed a man sweeping pellets and debris into small piles on the asphalt.
- From the Southern edge of the loading docks we entered the main manufacturing part of the building. I noticed a pungent smell of "hot plastic, burning plastic"

and the air inside appeared to be a little bit smoky. Almost all the machinery was operating and I observed some pellets and other debris on the ground. We walked West through the building and exited back onto the docks near the rail siding. I observed a lot more pellets on the raised docks and additional missing or poor BMPs in this critical area to control the release of pellets into the environment.

- Tommy and Peter appeared to be very cooperative with the entire inspection team.

1530 - The Water Board team left the Williams St. facility and headed to the former Kaneka facility on Pulverosa Dr. Entered the parking lot and took samples of the plastic pellet materials present in the loading dock area of the former Kaneka facility. Observed a lot of the materials on the rail tracks bordering the Western and Northern edge of the property, approximately 100-200 yards from the former facility's main entrance. I also observed some plastic pellets stuck on the inside of the storm drain inlet walls in the middle of the parking lot South of the former Kaneka facility's entrance and loading dock areas.

1600 - The Water Board team met with DFG staff to discuss observations and next steps.

1640 - Departed San Leandro and drove to Sacramento.

1820 - Arrived back in Sacramento.