

## Communiqué

### **Oil Spill Incident at Marine Biotechnology Product Limited, Riche Terre**

1. It is to be recalled that, an oil spill incident involving around 1500 litres of heavy fuel oil (HFO) which occurred at Riche Terre on 18 January 2024 due to the leakage from the HFO line that feeds the boiler of Marine Biotechnology Products Ltd (MBPL). On 19 January 2024, the Ministry was informed that the ruptured pipe has been repaired. There was no further entrainment of oil into Feeder Sèche. Clean-up operation started on the same day.
2. At the fifth meeting of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) held on 06 February 2024, the following salient issues were agreed:
  - Cleaning exercises of Feeder Sèche and its bank have been completed;
  - MBPL to pursue the monitoring and cleaning of the estuary;
  - the National Environmental Laboratory (NEL) to pursue monitoring of sediments at the Estuary; and
  - the National Parks and Conservation Service to continue monitoring the number of migratory birds in the Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary.
3. It is to be recalled that during the incident a total of 240m sorbent booms and 395m of fence booms have been deployed by Polygreen and the Special Mobile Force at 7 different locations, namely, at *Pont Bruniquel*; three locations across the rivulet; at the entrance of the estuary; at the mouth of the estuary; and across the southern side of the estuary to prevent dispersion of the oil.
4. As at date, a total of 9.18 tons contaminated solid wastes, 19.5 tons of non-contaminated solid wastes; and 44.9 m<sup>3</sup> of oily water (mixture of oil and water) has been recuperated.
5. On 26 and 29 January 2024 the National Environment Laboratories carried out ambient air screening exercises at four residential sites, no petroleum like odour was discernible at the four sites. All VOCs screened at all the sites were below the detectable limits at the time of measurement.
6. An enquiry has been initiated by the Terre Rouge and Roche-Bois Police Stations and the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change and the Police de L'Environnement are fully collaborating in the enquiry.
7. The Ministry would also, seek the guidance of the Attorney General's Office, in respect of necessary legal actions as provided under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and any relevant legislation.

**Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Division)**  
**06 February 2024**