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Oil Spill In Anacostia River

Sabri Ben-Achour

August 16, 2011 - A large quantity of an as yet unidentified petroleum product spilled into the Anacostia River Monday evening.



A view of the petroleum substance that spilled into the Anacostia River Monday evening.

Courtesy of: Sabri Ben-Achour

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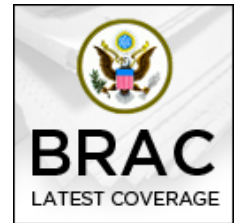
A brown swirling cloud of oil was covering about 80 percent of the width of the Anacostia River near Benning Road NE Monday evening.

Crews worked through the night to try to stop its spread. The spill stretched from Bladensburg Road in Prince George's County to the 11th Street bridge near the Washington Navy Yard in D.C., officials said this morning.

The oil was floating on the surface of the river; it wasn't quite forming a sheen but it was easy to see. The smell of oil was very pungent close to the water.

A Hazardous Materials Response Unit (Hazmat) crew was laying out booms to trap some of the oil and keep it from spreading. U.S. Coast Guard officials were also responding to the spill this morning.

The exact source of the petroleum product is still unknown, but authorities believe the spill started somewhere in the 2600 block of Benning Road NE.



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The environmental impact of the spill was still unknown this morning; on Monday evening there had been no signs of fish kills or damage to birds, but that may change as petroleum can be very toxic to aquatic organisms and birds.

Updated: Aug. 16, 2011 at 10:16 am







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