

Mosaic provides update on Bartow seepage and remediation steps

Lithia, Fla., January 21, 2020 – Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC (Mosaic) today announced that it has concluded the initial investigation related to the Bartow seepage feature that was discovered in Oct. 2019 at the Bartow facility in Bartow.

Based on the investigation results, the company now has a better understanding of the cause of the seepage and can begin repairs – which includes the installation of additional drains at the toe of the gypstack. The gypstack itself remains structurally sound.

The investigation and containment efforts included the installation of an earthen coffer dam and pump to prevent offsite migration, a dye study to evaluate potential seepage sources, the installation of additional piezometers to measure water and pressure levels in the gypstack system and water quality evaluations/analyses. To date there have been no offsite impacts nor are any expected.

In tandem with the containment efforts, downstream locations were sampled to verify the seepage water was contained. Additionally, Mosaic evaluated the performance of the existing cutoff wall designed to prevent subsurface water migration and evaluated the flows in the closed stack drainage system. Both are performing as designed.

No evidence from the investigation indicates a direct connection between active process water of the active stack system and the seepage locations.

Based on the water quality and measured water levels in piezometers, the seepage is coming from remnant water within the old gypsum below the gypstack liner. As the gypstack ordinarily consolidates, remnant water is typically collected in the closed stack perimeter collection drain system. The seepage flow pattern changed due to additional hydraulic loading from rainfall and higher water levels in adjacent unlined treated water ponds which resulted in the formation of the surface seepage features.

Using this information, Mosaic developed a repair plan to address the seepage. We predict this work will be completed within 6-8 weeks.

We continue to work closely with FDEP and continue to keep Polk County apprised of our efforts to repair the seepage.

As a final step in the remedial phase, Mosaic will submit a summary report to DEP documenting completion of the repair.

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