

# DEC: Oil spill not a threat

By Christopher Michel Olean Times Herald | Posted: Friday, April 13, 2012 11:02 am

OLEAN — A recent small oil spill in a tributary of Olean Creek poses no long-term threat to the environment or consumers of water treated at the city's water filtration plant.

That's according to a New York state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) report released to the Times Herald Thursday.

"There was a problem reported a couple of weeks ago from a few residents that there was (oil) getting into the creek from one of its tributaries," said Dale Walker, senior manager of the city's water filtration plant. "When we went and looked at the creek, we did notice some small spots of oil, but it wasn't enough to affect our operations."

The DEC first received notification of oil in the creek March 27. The oil was spotted in the creek at Back Hinsdale Road near Blakeslee Hollow.

"DEC immediately dispatched spill response staff to the site to assess the situation and monitor cleanup," said Megan Gollwitzer, a DEC spokesperson. "An oily sheen and small amount — approximately 5 gallons or less — of a crude-oil substance was observed collecting in an a tributary to Olean Creek."

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