

Oil spill sullies river in Ecuador

June 3 2013



Employees of state-owned Petroecuador work on environmental cleansing at a 30-year-old oil spillage in the province of Orellana, Amazonia, on February 20, 2011. A Petroecuador pipeline ruptured in Ecuador's Amazon basin region, spilling 10,000 barrels of crude into a river and alarming locals left without fresh well water, authorities said Monday.

A Petroecuador pipeline ruptured in Ecuador's Amazon basin region, spilling 10,000 barrels of crude into a river and alarming locals left without fresh well water, authorities said Monday.

"Crude oil has been found in the Coca River ... and equipment has been put in place to control the spill," Environment Minister Lorena Tapia said.

The active Reventador volcano triggered the spill Friday, on Ecuador's main pipeline from the [Amazon basin](#) region in the east, to a Pacific port on the coast, officials said.

Authorities in the town of Francisco de Orellana, with about 60,000 people, ordered well-water pumping to stop for now. Petroecuador on Sunday started bringing in large [water bottles](#) to hand out to locals.

Ecuador is OPEC's smallest producer, pumping about 504,000 barrels per day in 2012. Petroecuador is the country's state-owned [oil company](#).

© 2013 AFP

Citation: Oil spill sullies river in Ecuador (2013, June 3) retrieved 10 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-06-oil-sullies-river-ecuador.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--