


Diesel Seep Site Inspection  
USDOC/NOAA/SO/CAO/SECO  
St. Paul Island, Alaska  
Saturday, May 4, 2013

1. Background. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Pribilof Islands Environment Restoration Project Office (NOAA PPO) received a conditional closure for the Diesel Seep Site (Two Party Agreement Sites No. 13a and 13b) on February 13, 2006. A condition of this closure was to periodically inspect and report the condition of the site. The inspection was to determine if there was any evidence of petroleum contamination breaking through the granulated activated carbon barrier wall system between the upland site (TPA Site 13a) and the Salt Lagoon Channel (TPA Site 13b). The visual evidence would be petroleum sheen on the channel surface, blurbs of oil rising to the surface, or adversely impacted marine flora or fauna in the channel.

2. Inspection. On May 4, 2013, David B. Winandy, NOAA Safety and Environmental Compliance Office, inspected and photo documented the site. The inspection started at approximately 6:20 PM and ended at 7:05 PM (Alaska). The tide was transitioning from slack to ebb tide with channel flow from the Salt Lagoon to the Bering Sea. Temperature was approximately 34<sup>0</sup>F. Wind was from the east at an estimated 5 - 8 mph. Skies were clear with high overcast on the horizon. Pack ice had been accumulating and grounding on the south shore of the island from last night through the early afternoon, but was beginning to move to the west with the rising wind. The St. Paul Harbor was ice free. The Salt Lagoon still had an 80% ice cover. Winter snow was still covering a portion of the upland site, and a snow/ice mix was covering the shoreline boulders. Channel waters were clear with macro algae growth on the bottom and little evidence of microalgae or phytoplankton growth. There was a sand shelf adjacent the shoreline boulders and a deeper channel visible in the center of the channel. Channel flow had eroded some sandy soil at the northern terminus of the shoreline boulders. Three (3) small crab pots were seen in the channel with two (2) of these at the base of the boulders along the shoreline of the Diesel Seep site.

No sheen was seen upstream, along or downstream of the site. No oil blurbs were seen in the water column. Bottom vegetation appeared healthy and growing. Crab pots would indicate a harvestable population of crabs (e.g., Tanner crabs). Channel water was clear. Due to snow/ice on the shoreline boulders, the channel bottom was not probed for petroleum contamination.

3. Site Photographs. Photographs taken during the inspection are attached.



August 29, 2013

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