Diesel Seep Site Inspection
USDOC/NOAA/SO/CAO/SECO
Salt Lagoon Channel, St. Paul Island, Alaska
Tuesday, October 17, 2017

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 October 17, 2017, David B. Winandy, NOAA Safety and Environmental Compliance Office, inspected and photo documented the site. The inspection started at approximately 12:00 PM and ended at 1:00 PM (Alaska). The high tide was at low water with the tide changing to the flooding stage. Sunrise was at approximately 10:14 AM (Alaska). Temperature was 41^{0}F. Winds were from the North Northeast (NNE), at 21 – 24 mph, gusting to 30 mph. Skies were partly cloudy with sunbreaks between the rain squall lines passing over the island. No pack ice was visible around the island, nor was there any snow accumulation. The St. Paul Harbor and Salt Lagoon were ice free. Channel waters were relatively turbid, due to wind, wave and channel tidal currents. Macroalgae growth on the sand shelves alongside the main channel and bottom were visible, as were the sand shelves. Beyond the Diesel Seep boulder rip-rap shoreline, erosion and slumping of both channel shorelines continued. The Small Boat Harbor construction circa 2010, the 2014 & 2015 filling of tidelands east of the Small Boat Harbor, which obstructed one of the Salt Lagoon Channel outlets to the Saint Paul Harbor, and the 2016 USACE St Paul Harbor Improvement Project appear to be impacting channel flow and shoreline erosion. There were no crab pots or gill nets in the channel this year, although there were king crab pot doors on the shoreline.

No sheen was seen upstream, along or downstream of the site. No oil blurbs were seen in the water column. Macroalgae visible on the site's boulder rip-rap shoreline appeared healthy and growing. The channel sand bottom was ***not*** probed due to the rain-slickened shoreline boulders. There was no distressed vegetation. Again, there was no odor or visual evidence of oil.

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

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