



NEWS RELEASE

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grant Aviation found guilty of violating oil spill laws at Emmonak Airport

Thursday, February 9, 2007—Anchorage--Grant Aviation, Inc., through its president, Robert Bruce McGlasson, appeared in Anchorage District Court Tuesday, February 6, 2007, and pled no contest to one count of failing to file a written spill report. Four other charges against the corporation, for violating the state's oil spill laws and reporting requirements, were dismissed, as were identical charges alleged against Mr. McGlasson personally.

Per the parties' plea agreement, District Court Judge Paul Olson sentenced Grant Aviation to a fine of \$50,000 with \$35,000 suspended for three years. Grant Aviation agreed to pay the imposed \$15,000 portion of the fine within 6 months. The court also ordered Grant Aviation to pay \$6,522.43 to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to reimburse the agency for costs of responding to and investigating the spill. Finally, Grant Aviation will be on probation for three years.

The charges followed a DEC Environmental Crimes Unit investigation that revealed Grant Aviation spilled approximately 500-1,000 gallons of jet fuel at its Emmonak airport facility on or about February 3, 2003, during a fuel transfer from its tank farm. Grant Aviation originally informed DEC that no fuel had escaped the containment area around the tank farm and that all of the spilled fuel would be removed, which proved to be untrue. When DEC regulatory staff next visited the Emmonak airport in October 2003, it was evident that Grant Aviation had not completely cleaned the spilled fuel and had pumped oil-contaminated water from the tank farm into an adjacent wetland. In addition, when Grant Aviation first reported the spill, DEC instructed the company to file

a written clean-up plan within fifteen days. No report was filed until December 2003.

Over the course of the following two years, Grant Aviation hired an environmental consulting firm to remediate the contaminated soils adjacent to its Emmonak tank farm. Grant Aviation also engaged an engineering firm to design a system to pump and treat the water accumulating in the tank farm from rain and snow. The soil cleanup was completed in 2004. The dewatering treatment system was installed in 2006. The sentence imposed on Grant Aviation Tuesday, requires the corporation to maintain the dewatering treatment system and to make further improvements to it.

Failing to file a written spill report is a violation of 18 AAC 75.300 that is punishable as a class A misdemeanor pursuant to AS 46.03.790. Companies convicted of such offenses can be fined up to \$200,000 and placed on probation for up to five years.

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To report a spill during normal business hours, call the nearest DEC Area Response Team Office at:

Central (Anchorage) 907-269-3063

Northern (Fairbanks) 907-451-2121

Southeast (Juneau) 907-465-5340

Outside normal business hours, call 1-800-478-9300