

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention and Emergency Response Program

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: *Empress of the North* Grounding **SITREP #:** 4

SPILL NUMBER: 07119913401 **LEDGER CODE:** 14233160

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: At approximately 12:35 AM on May 14, 2007, the vessel sent a radio report to the U.S. Coast Guard reporting the incident.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 2:45 PM, May 17, 2007.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: As situation warrants.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: A light sheen was observed in the immediate area of the grounding that may be due to the vessel. The vessel's crew reported there was approximately 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel oil on board the vessel at the time of the grounding. One empty fuel tank was breached during the grounding.

LOCATION: Correction from previous sitreps - The vessel was originally reported to have grounded near Hanus Reef. Further investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the U.S. Coast Guard determined the vessel actually grounded on or near Rocky Island, a charted and marked reef, at the intersection of Icy Strait and Lynn Canal (Southeast Alaska) about 25 air miles southwest of Juneau. After the grounding, the vessel apparently drifted into the vicinity of Hanus Reef.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The vessel struck Rocky Island resulting in damage to the vessel's hull. The cause of the grounding is under investigation by the NTSB and the Coast Guard.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Majestic America Cruise Line.

RESPONSE ACTION: The *Empress of the North* remains at the Alaska Marine Highway System dock at Auke Bay in Juneau, Alaska. The vessel remains boomed off in Auke Bay with SEAPRO personnel monitoring the boom. The SEAPRO response vessel *Neka Bay* remains on standby in Auke Bay. A salvage team continues to conduct inspections for damage on the vessel hull. Divers were able to video tape the damage to the hull late Tuesday but the video has not yet been released. The survey did reveal several areas of damage to the hull and broken blades on the starboard propulsion unit.

The owners submitted a salvage/repair plan to the U.S. Coast Guard, which was approved with the following restriction: A written dewatering plan for the damaged void spaces must be submitted and approved by both the vessel's classification society and Coast Guard Sector Juneau.

A plan for disposal of potentially contaminated water from the voids has been presented by SEAPRO. The water will be pumped into two oil spill response barges. The barges will transit to Ketchikan where the water will be treated at Alaska Ship and Dry Dock Company

The owners of the vessel will be required to submit a transit plan to the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Juneau for approval before the vessel departs Juneau.

SOURCE CONTROL: The Southeast Alaska Petroleum Resource Organization (SEAPRO) has boomed the vessel off and continues to standby at Auke Bay with the Oil Spill Response Vessel (OSRV) *Neka Bay*, one 249-barrel oil response barge, and response equipment.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Marine waters near Hanus Reef and Rocky Island. There have been no reports of impact to wildlife or the environment.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Awaiting submittal of a transit plan and identification of a repair facility to accomplish permanent repairs.

WEATHER: Southeasterly winds 10 knots. Seas remain calm. Rain showers. Highs in the mid 50's.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Drew Green, Cruise Line Agency of Alaska
F.O.S.C.: CPT Mark Guillory, USCG Sector Juneau
S.O.S.C.: Scot Tiernan, ADEC
Field S.O.S.C.:

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scot W. Tiernan at 907-465-5378

Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at:

<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm>

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

This sitrep has been distributed via email to the Governor's office, ADF&G, ADNR, SECC, USEPA, USDOJ, NMFS, USFWS, and USFS in addition to the following.

Agency	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
Senate Dist. A	Senator Bert Stedman	E-mail	senator_bert_stedman@legis.state.ak.us	465-3873	465-3922
Senate Dist. B	Senator Kim Elton	Fax		465-4947	465-2108
Senate Dist. C	Senator Al Kookesh	Fax		465-3473	465-2827
House Dist. 2	Representative Peggy Wilson	Fax		465-3824	465-3175
House Dist. 3	Representative Beth Kerttula	Fax		465-4766	465-4748
House Dist. 4	Representative Andrea Doll	Fax		465-3744	465-2273
House Dist. 5	Representative Bill Thomas	Fax		465-3732	465-2652
USCG (MSD Ketchikan)	LT Jason Boyer	Email	jason.a.boyer@uscg.mil	225-4496	225-4499
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Lt. Chris Williammee	Email	Christopher.J.Williammee@uscg.mil	463-2470	463-2445
USDA Forest Service – Tongass Env. Engineer	Michele Marie Parker	Email	mmparker@fs.fed.us	772-5850	772-5895
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	Jon.kurland@noaa.gov	586-7638	586-7358
ADF&G	Tom Schumacher	Email	Tom_schumacher@fishgame.state.ak.us	465-4346	
ADNR Petersburg	Jim Cariello	Email	Jim_cariello@dnr.state.ak.us	772-5224	772-9336
Angoon Community Association	President Edward Gamble, Sr.	Fax		788-3411	788-3412
City Of Hoonah	Mayor Windy Skaflestad	Fax		945-3663	945-3445
City Of Gustavus	Mayor Sandi Marchbanks	Fax		697-2451	697-2451
Organized Village of Kake	President Heinrich Kadake	Fax		785-6471	785-4902
Petersburg Indian Association	President Michael Lopez	Fax		772-3636	772-2991
City and Borough of Juneau	Manager Rod Swope	E-mail	City_clerk@ci.juneau.ak.us	586-5240	586-5385
City of Kake	Mayor Henrich Kadake	E-mail	violette_a@hotmail.com	785-3804	785-4815
City of Petersburg	Manager Bruce Jones	E-mail	clerk@ci.petersburg.ak.us	772-4519	772-3759
SEAPRO	Dave Owings	E-mail	dave@seapro.org	225-7002	247-1117
City and Borough of Juneau	Mike Patterson - Emergency Response Coordinator	E-mail	michael_patterson@ci.juneau.ak.us	586-0221	586-5385