

**Unified Command: *Drift River Terminal Coordination***

Unified Command Drift River Fact Sheet No. 4: Water Usage Options, Updated

April 7, 2009

Update to Fact sheet #1, of April 1, 2009

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - The Unified Command, Drift River Terminal Coordination, presents the following information to address the questions about water usage at the terminal in the oil storage tanks.

- The water supply at the Drift River Oil Terminal does not have the capacity to fill the tanks to the levels necessary to maintain structural integrity. (Approximately four million gallons)
- No system exists to tie the water well to the tanks.
- Once injected into the tanks, the water becomes a hazardous waste and there are no facilities onsite to properly dispose of it.
- **Update:** Cook Inlet Pipeline agreed to accept water ballast to facilitate removal of approximately 60% of the total amount of crude oil. After the oil was transferred to the tanker Seabulk Arctic, the tanker then pumped water from Cook Inlet into the two Drift River tanks in order to prevent them from becoming buoyant in a possible flooding situation. Eventual disposal of the oily water mixture remains an issue to be solved.
- We know of no tankers that will take on water into their tanks. Under standard operating procedures, tankers are not configured to transport oily waste in this quantity.
- The Christy Lee loading platform is not configured to berth barges at the tanker loading platform.
- **Update:** Cook Inlet Pipe Line will seek an acceptable way to remove and ship the oily water.
- Water introduced into the tanks at the Drift River Terminal could result in the shutdown of Cook Inlet oil production for months.
- **Update:** Cook Inlet Pipe Line, upon assessing the situation after the April 4th volcanic explosion, decided to take additional measures to further protect the safety of their workers on site and to protect the environment. They chose to temporarily suspend operations at the terminal.
- All other tanks at the River Terminal are out of service.
- **Clarification:** Of the seven oil storage tanks at Drift River, one has been converted into a warehouse, two have been decommissioned, two are inactive but operational and two now contain a mixture of oil and water.

For more information please visit: Coast Guard District 17 website at <http://www.uscgalaska.com> or the State of Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation Site at http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/response/sum_fy09/090324201/090324201_index.htm.