



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

**CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED**

## **Jarvis Power Plant Diesel Tank 1**

**SITREP #:** 3 & FINAL

**SPILL #:** 15119922701

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION:** 5:00 p.m. August 21, 2015

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** City and Borough of Sitka

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** 133 Jarvis Street Sitka, Alaska

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The spill occurred at approximately 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 15, 2015.

**HOW AND WHEN THE SPILL WAS DISCOVERED:** The U.S. Coast Guard received a report of diesel washing ashore in Sitka Sound near Indian River, at approximately 11:45 a.m. on August 15. Coast Guard personnel cleaned up the oil that was observed; however, they were unable to identify the source. The City and Borough of Sitka discovered fuel in the secondary containment area of the Jarvis Street diesel power facility and reported a leaking valve from the secondary containment area at 2:30 p.m. on August 16.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** City and Borough of Sitka estimated approximately 30,000 gallons of diesel fuel were released to the facility's secondary containment area. The valve on the secondary containment area failed, and approximately 2,500 gallons of diesel were released into the storm drain system which empties into Sitka Sound at the mouth of the Indian River.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The City and Borough of Sitka contracted an engineering firm to make a root cause analysis and report. The root cause report will be provided to ADEC.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** Delta Western was hired to pump out the remaining diesel from the secondary containment area. The containment drain was secured and all diesel in the containment was pumped out recovering an estimated 23,000 gallons.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** The secondary containment draw-down operation completed on August 18<sup>th</sup> failed to flush all oil from the containment drain line. On August 20<sup>th</sup>, City and Borough of Sitka, ADEC and Coast Guard personnel conducted a two-phase flushing operation on the secondary containment drain line to remove all remaining pockets of free product and oil/water emulsion which has been the source of continuing sheens flowing from the storm drain system. The first phase was the drawdown of approximately 2,000 gallons of rainwater in containment. This was immediately followed by active flushing using a 2 ½" hose from a fire hydrant. Each phase was tagged at its leading edge with green tracing dye. The active flushing phase lasted about 1.5 hours in total, and flushed out a sheen and approximately 5 gallons of filamentous mousse, an



oil/water emulsion. ADEC deployed 150 feet of green snare to collect mousse and heavy sheen not recoverable with sorbent material. ADEC and Coast Guard responders checked the outfall today and observed no sheen in the outflow water.

The City and Borough of Sitka and ADEC conducted an inspection of the facility including the liner in secondary containment, three inspection wells located between secondary containment and Indian River, and the facility yard storm drain system. No oil was observed in the wells or the yard storm drain system. The liner inspection located two areas on a side wall with wear and four to five small holes 1-2 mm diameter, the lowest located approximately 12" above the bottom of containment. This places the lowest hole near the level of oil in containment at its highest level prior to pumping out.

The National Park Service (NPS) and ADEC posted signs at Eagle Beach asking the public to refrain from using the beach due to the oil. NPS also posted signs printed by the City and Borough of Sitka asking fisherman not to dump fish carcasses on the beach in order to avoid attracting birds to areas where they could come in contact with residual oil.

**RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED:** There have been no confirmed reports of impacted fish or wildlife in the area. To date, the Sitka National Historic Park and mouth of Indian River have not been impacted by the spill. Sheens are expected to become smaller over time and subsistence gatherers are reminded to avoid harvesting in the area between Indian River and Cannon Island as long as a sheen is visible.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** The incident is transitioning from the emergency response phase to the project phase. The Unified Command is standing down but will continue coordination into the project phase as needed. The City and Borough of Sitka will maintain the containment and sorbent booms at the outfall and the Coast Guard will continue to monitor the storm drain outfall and shoreline of Eagle Beach. The booms will remain in place until the Unified Command determines that they may be removed. A cleanup plan for the secondary containment will be submitted to and approved by ADEC before the secondary containment cleanup operation is completed. The root cause report will be submitted to ADEC for review and follow up. State and Federal response cache supplies used for the response will be replaced by the City and Borough of Sitka. Equipment from the response caches will be cleaned and returned to service.

**WEATHER:** Tonight: Chance of rain in the evening...then rain late. Lows around 53. South wind to 25 mph. Wind gusts up to 35 mph in the evening.

Saturday: Rain. Highs around 56. Southeast wind 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 40 mph.

Saturday Night: Rain...heavy at times. Lows around 55. South wind 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 40 mph.

Sunday: Rain. Highs around 57. South wind 10 to 20 mph.

#### **UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: **Erin Clay**, City and Borough of Sitka

Park Superintendent: Mary A. Miller, Sitka National Historic Parks

SOSC: Bob Mattson, SOSC

FOSC: Shannan Greene, FOSC

FOSC-R: Michael Whortman, Chief Warrant Officer

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



**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kayley Moen, Environmental Program Specialist, ADEC (907) 465-5378.

[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sr\\_active.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sr_active.htm)

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:** Please refer to the first sitrep distributed August 17, 2015 for the agency/stakeholder notification list. In addition, Lawrence Spotted Bird of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska has been added to the stakeholder list. The link to the first sitrep can be found in the Additional Information box above.



*Public Advisory Signs above Eagle Beach, August 20, 2015. (Photo/ADEC)*





*Containment drain line flushing operation, August 20, 2015. (Photo/ADEC)*