



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

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

## **Qinaq River Submerged Caterpillar EL180**

**SITREP #: 2**

**SPILL #: 16279908401**

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 2:00 PM on April 8, 2016**

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Wilson's General Contracting, Inc.; Specialty Supply Inc.

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** The Qinaq River, an estimated 325 feet southwest of the south end of the "old" runway near Tuntutuliak (60° 19.900 N, 162° 40.049 W).

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The incident was initially reported by concerned citizens in Tuntutuliak on Friday March 25, 2016. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) contacted and confirmed the incident with the responsible. The PRP said that the incident occurred in the evening on Thursday March 24, 2016.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** The amount of product released is unknown. The PRP reported maximum capacities of the excavator are up to 40-gallons of diesel, up to 40-gallons of hydraulic oil, about 5-gallons each of engine lube oil and glycol.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The responsible party was driving the equipment from Tuntutuliak to Kongiginak and broke through the ice about 15 feet from the south shore of the Qinaq River.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** The excavator is submerged in the river and currently surrounded by ice except for an exposed part of the excavator's boom. The excavator's compartments containing fuel and oil are submerged and are not accessible.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** The Coast Guard sent two people to Tuntutuliak on April 3 and 4 to do a site assessment of the incident and to meet with concerned members of the community. The PRP also returned to Tuntutuliak to check on the incident site, bring additional spill response equipment, and meet with community members. ADEC took part in a teleconference on April 4 with the responsible party, the Coast Guard, and concerned citizens of Tuntutuliak, including members of the tribal council, staff from Tuntutuliak Community Services Association, Inc. electrical utility and water treatment plant, and other residents.

On April 4 the ADEC received the initial recovery plan from the PRP. ADEC, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) are reviewing the plan and will provide direction to the PRP as needed. A Unified Command including representatives from the ADEC, USCG, and the PRP was formed and meet as needed to ensure response progress. PRP local staff continue to monitor the site.



**RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED:** The Qinaq (Kinak) River is influenced by the tide, with fluctuations up to several feet reported by local residents. The incident occurred about four miles upstream of the confluence with the Kuskokwim River which flows about twenty-two miles south into Kuskokwim Bay. **The area is located within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Both the Qinaq and the Kuskokwim Rivers are anadromous. The Qinaq River is known to support sheefish and whitefish and the Kuskokwim River is known to support both resident and anadromous fish populations. Migratory birds typically arrive in early to mid-April.** There have been no reports of impacts to the shoreline or fish and wildlife.

The community of Tuntutuliak has a water treatment plant that uses water from a groundwater well more than half a mile from the incident location. **The river is the community's traditional water source. The community has been notified that if they want to use the river for household water needs they should collect the water upstream of the excavator far enough to be outside of where a release may have migrated upstream due to tidal influence. Water collected for drinking and brushing teeth should be boiled for at least two minutes according to the ADEC Drinking Water Program.**

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** A PRP local employee will continue to monitor the site several times daily deploying absorbent materials if a release is observed and it is safe to access. The PRP will report weekly or more frequently as needed to apprise the Coast Guard and ADEC of updates and notable information.

Due to safety hazards involved in equipment recovery while the river remains iced up, it is not likely that the equipment will be recovered until spring breakup.

**WEATHER:** 44° F, Sunny, Wind 10 MPH. No significant changes to ice have been reported.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Mr. Lee Wilson, Wilson's General Contracting, Inc.

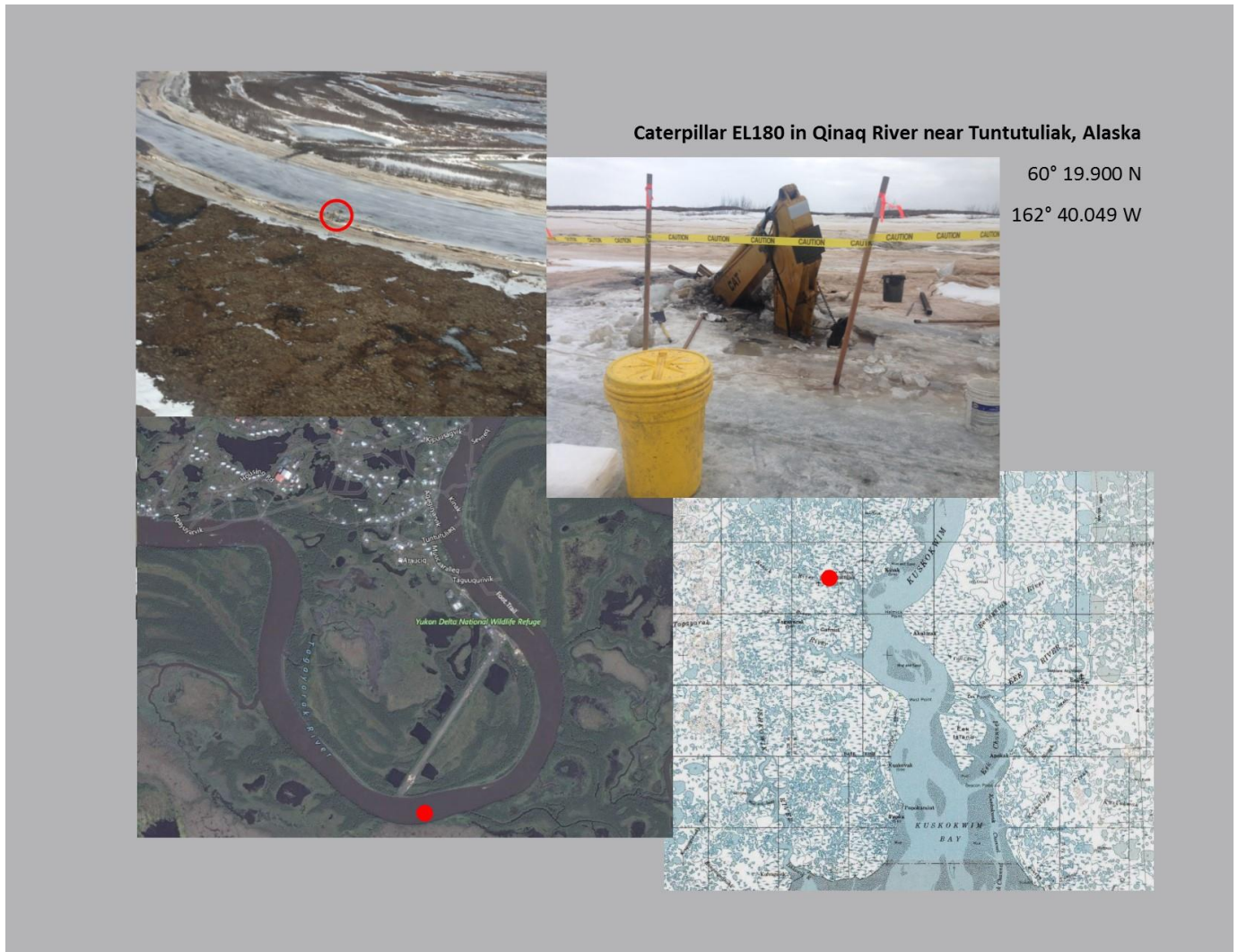
SOSC: Mr. Ron Doyel, ADEC

Deputy SOSC: Ms. Lisa Krebs-Barsis, ADEC

FOSCR: **LT Todd Bagetis**

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION:** The next report will be distributed **as the situation warrants.**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lisa Krebs-Barsis, Division of Spill Prevention and Response, Prevention Preparedness and Response Program, Aleutians/Western Alaska Unit, ADEC (907) 269-8487 [dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sr\_active.htm]



**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:**

Please refer to SITREP #1, distributed March 31, 2016, for the agency/stakeholder notification list. SITREP #1 can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.