



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



HEF Waste Dumping at Rolling Stone Gravel Pits

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED

SITREP #: 3

SPILL #: 20309911405

DATE/TIME OF DISTRIBUTION: June 29, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Eielson Air Force Base (EAFB), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Rolling Stone, Inc. (Rolling Stone), Bethel Federal – Unit Joint Venture, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Watterson Construction Co., and North Star Honey Wagon

INCIDENT LOCATION: Rolling Stone, Inc. Salcha Gravel Pit at 6665 Richardson Highway, Salcha, Alaska 99714 (Lat/Long: 64.5686N, -147.0483W) and Rolling Stone, Inc. Harding Pit off of Rolling Stone Court in Salcha, Alaska 99714 (Lat/Long: 64.440833N, -146.91138W)

DATE/TIME OF SPILL: Multiple instances of discharges at both properties in 2019 and 2020. Specific dates and times of the discharges are still under investigation.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED: Reported anonymously to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) on April 23, 2020, at 3:45 p.m.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The USAF has revised the estimated volume from 33,000 gallons to approximately 53,400 gallons of Ansul Jet-X 2% High Expansion Foam (HEF) waste generated from fire suppression system testing at EAFB and improperly discharged on the ground. The total estimated volume of HEF concentrate used during the testing and improperly discharged remains unchanged. The USACE investigation determined that potable water used to clean the hangars following the tests was mixed and discharged with the HEF waste and wasn't included in earlier volume estimates. The discharged waste was transported off base via tanker trucks and totes. The reuse of totes to transport HEF waste off base indicate that other chemicals could be present in the waste. An additional estimated 12,000 gallons of HEF waste/mixed chemical waste contained in totes remain at the Rolling Stone properties. Results have been received by ADEC for part of the collection of samples and indicate the presence of perfluorinated compounds and ethylene glycol in some of the totes.

CAUSE OF SPILL: HEF waste was transferred from EAFB to Rolling Stone via subcontractors and improperly discharged at two gravel pits owned by Rolling Stone. The investigation into the improper waste disposal is ongoing.

SOURCE CONTROL: There is no ongoing discharge occurring. Additionally, HEF waste is no longer being transferred from EAFB to the Rolling Stone gravel pits.

RESPONSE ACTION: ADEC worked with EAFB and USACE to sample the contents of the 46 totes at the Rolling Stone Salcha and Harding gravel pits to determine the compounds of concern. ADEC staff were onsite during sample collection by an environmental consultant on May 11, 2020, and May 26, 2020. Not all results for the tote samples have been received from the lab. The laboratory results received on June 16, 2020 indicated some of the waste in totes contained levels of ethylene glycol in exceedance of the state groundwater cleanup levels. Concentrated Ansul Jet-X 2% contains ethylene glycol per the product's Safety Data Sheet. Additional results from the sampled totes received since the distribution of the second ADEC situation report are still under review by the department.

Six totes were sampled for fluorinated compounds; ADEC received results for three of those. One of those three totes contain perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) exceeding the state cleanup level. Information provided by EAFB from the manufacturer of the Ansul Jet-X 2% HEF concentrate indicates it does not contain PFOS.

Water samples from two public water systems, the Knotty Shop, LLC. and the Salcha Community well at the fairground were collected on June 5, 2020. The Knotty Shop is within a quarter mile and the Salcha Community well is approximately 0.7 miles from the Salcha gravel pit. All the results have been received from the public well samples and there are no concerns about the safety of the drinking water. Partial sample results were received by ADEC on June 18, 2020 and found no Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in the samples. Neither public well sample contained fluorinated compounds and no Semi Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs) exceed drinking water standards. Because of concerns surrounding data quality for sample results received on June 19, 2020, ADEC resampled both public wells for glycols on June 22, 2020. The analytical results received on June 26, 2020, did not detect glycols in either well.

On June 1, 2020, ADEC approved the plan submitted by EAFB and USACE to survey and sample private wells within a quarter mile of the two discharge locations. The survey evaluated a total of 38 parcels for the presence of private wells. On June 25, 2020, the federal contractor began work to schedule sampling at properties with wells. Sampling conducted by the federal contractor will be based on the certificate of composition of HEF. ADEC has issued a contract for an environmental consultant to work alongside the federal contractor to simultaneously collect samples for fluorinated compounds after EAFB declined to include that analysis in their sampling plan.

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: Impacts to soil at the Rolling Stone, Inc. Salcha and Harding gravel pits. Groundwater near the gravel pits may be impacted. Groundwater supplies public and private drinking water wells in the area.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

EAFB and USACE will be resampling the tote that contained PFOS to confirm presence and concentration and will be sampling all fire suppression systems and water system on Eielson Air Force Base to validate existing systems do not contain PFOS. ADEC is also requiring EAFB and USACE sample the remainder of the 46 totes (40 totes) for fluorinated compounds.

ADEC will continue to review sample results as they are received and review work plans associated with site assessment and response. ADEC has requested EAFB develop a written plan for installation of monitoring wells on the Rolling Stone properties. In addition, once all the tote sampling results are received, ADEC will request a written work plan to sample the soil/gravel area where discharges occurred at each gravel pit as necessary.

ADEC is continuing to conduct an investigation to determine why the HEF waste was improperly disposed of at the gravel pits.

WEATHER: Tonight: Showers and possible thunderstorms. Low around 47°F. Winds from the west around 10 mph. Tomorrow: Isolated showers and cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny. High around 61°F. Winds from the west around 5 mph.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Eielson POC: Amanda Gallagher, EAFB
SOSC: Sarah Moore, ADEC

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

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Moore, SOSC, ADEC (907) 465-5239.

For additional information about potential health impacts contact: Sarah Yoder, DHSS, (907) 269-8054.

For additional information about private well sampling within a quarter mile of the Salcha properties contact: John Budnik, USACE Public Affairs, (907) 753-2615.

<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/>



FIGURE 1: Salcha Pit location at 6665 Richardson highway. The red dot indicates the approximate location of discharge. Basemap imagery provided by ESRI. Figure by ADEC.



FIGURE 2: Harding Pit location off Rolling Stone Court. The red dot indicates the approximate location of the discharge. Basemap imagery provided by ESRI. Figure by ADEC.

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: This situation report was distributed to the agencies listed on the standard distribution list, which includes the governor's office, State Emergency Operations Center, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other state agencies. This situation report was also distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders:

AGENCY / STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
Eielson Air Force Base	Captain Kay Nissen	Email	kay.nissen.1@us.af.mil	377-2116	
Senate A Fairbanks area Ft Wainwright	Senator Scott Kawasaki	Email	senator.scott.kawasaki@akleg.gov Juneau (1/18-4/15) Fairbanks (4/20-1/15)	465-3466 456-7423	451-9293
Senate C Fairbanks, Chena Ridge, Airport	Senator Click Bishop	Email	senator.click.bishop@akleg.gov Juneau (1/18-4/15) Fairbanks (4/20-1/15)	465-2327 456-8161	465-5241 456-8163
House 6 Eielson, Denali, Upper Yukon, Border Region	Representative David Talerico	Email	Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov	465-4527	
Senate B – North Pole & West Fairbanks	Senator John Coghill	Email	senator.john.coghill@akleg.gov Juneau (1/18-4/15) Fairbanks (4/20-1/15)	465-3719 451-2157	465-3258
Alaska State Troopers	Fairbanks	Fax	dispatch.fairbanks@alaska.gov	451-5100 or (800) 478-9300	451-3002
USCG-Sector /ANC	USCG-Anchorage	Fax	sector.anchorage@USCG.mil	428-4100	428-4114 (24 hr)
US EPA	Bob Whittier	Fax/Email	whittier.robert@epa.gov	206-553-1263 or 206-553-1264	271-3424
ADF&G	Al Ott	Email	al.ott@alaska.gov	459-7289 or 459-7285	
Dept of Law Attorney General Office	Steven Mulder	Fax/Email	steve.mulder@alaska.gov	269-5274	278-7022
Fairbanks North Star Borough	Bryce J. Ward, Mayor	Email	bryce.ward@fnsb.us	459-1304	
Tanana Chiefs Conference	Bill Justice (Environmental Health Dir.)	Email	William.justice@tananachiefs.org	452-8251 x 3433	459-3989
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Fairbanks North Star Borough, Director of Emergency Operations	Dave Gibbs	Email	dgibbs@fnsb.us	459-1481	