



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 #: 4th and Final

SPILL #: 20309911405

DATE/TIME OF DISTRIBUTION: September 21, 2020, at 11:00 a.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 the fall of 2019 and early 2020.

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 estimates approximately 53,400 gallons of Ansul Jet-X 2% High Expansion Foam (HEF) waste was improperly discharged on the ground. The waste consists of a 2% solution of the HEF product mixed with water used in fire suppression system testing at EAFB. The discharged waste was transported off base via tanker trucks and in totes. An additional estimated 12,000 gallons of waste transported to the site in totes remain containerized at the Rolling Stone properties. The reuse of totes to transport the HEF waste off base indicated that other chemicals may also be present in the waste. Samples of the material in the totes indicate contaminants of concern for this spill include glycol, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Semi Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs), and perfluorinated compounds.

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. **The totes still containing waste are now securely stored within shipping containers pending approval for disposal.**

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. The laboratory results indicate **some of totes contain** 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.

During the initial sampling, six totes were sampled for fluorinated compounds and three of those six totes were found to contain perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) exceeding the state groundwater cleanup level. Information provided by EAFB from the manufacturer of the Ansul Jet-X 2% HEF concentrate indicates it does not contain PFOS. **The remaining 40 totes were sampled for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances, including PFOS, on September 1, 2020, and September 2, 2020. Those the results are still pending.**

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. Sample results were received by ADEC on June 18, 2020 and found that Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and fluorinated compounds were not detected in the samples. Semi Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs) that were detected did not exceed drinking water standards.** Because of concerns surrounding data quality for **the glycol results**, 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 **then** sample private wells within a quarter mile of the two discharge locations **for compounds in the HEF product.** ADEC 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. **The survey evaluated a total of 38 parcels for the presence of private wells; 24 private wells were found and sampled. All the results were received from the labs by August 18, 2020. All of the private well results have been received and there are no concerns about the safety of the private wells.** Results for 15 of the private wells were non-detect for all the compounds tested. Six private wells had detections for some PFAS compounds but all were below the EPA health-based Lifetime Healthy Advisory Levels for protection of human health. All the other private wells were non-detect for PFAS compounds. Four private wells had detections for one or more Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) or Semi Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs), but all were below ADEC standards set to be protective of human health. No private wells had detectable levels of glycols. Property owners were contacted directly with results specific to their well(s).

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:

ADEC has approved a groundwater site characterization work plan submitted by Bethel Federal – Unit Joint Venture, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, and Watterson Construction Co. This plan includes installation of

temporary groundwater monitoring wells for groundwater sampling and collection of soil samples from both gravel pits.

The responsible parties are working with ADEC to remove the totes from the Rolling Stone properties for eventual disposal.

If groundwater and soil sampling results show the need for additional site characterization or clean up on the Rolling Stone properties, ADEC's Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPR) program will transfer the case to ADEC's Contaminated Sites (CS) program.

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

WEATHER: Today: Mostly sunny. High near 54 F. Winds calm. Tomorrow: Partly sunny. High near 55 F. Calm winds.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

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

DATE/TIME OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: This is the final sitrep.

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/>

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:

Please refer to SITREP #3, distributed on June 29rd, 2020, for the agency/stakeholder notification list. This SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.