



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

SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)



Selawik Water Treatment Plant Diesel Overfill

SITREP # 1

SPILL #: 20389933001

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 1:30 p.m. on December 1, 2020

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): City of Selawik; Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative

INCIDENT LOCATION:

Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Selawik, Alaska (Lat/Long: 66.5993755, -160.00275), approximately 610 feet from the Selawik River.

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: November 25, 2020, at approximately 10:00 p.m.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED:

An operator at the WTP discovered the overfill of a WTP diesel tank when checking the tanks at approximately 10:00 p.m. on November 25, 2020. The WTP operator reported the spill to the department at 2:30 a.m. on November 26, 2020.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:

The spilled product is diesel fuel that was transferred from the City of Selawik Tank #4, a 45,986-gallon aboveground tank that services the city, into an aboveground "day tank" at the WTP with a capacity of approximately 4,000-gallons. The volume of the spill is under investigation at this time. The source tank is reported to still contain approximately 35,000 gallons following the release.

CAUSE OF SPILL:

A diesel fuel transfer from the Consolidated Tank Farm Tank to the WTP "day tank" was left unattended on November 25, 2020 from 2:25 p.m. until the WTP operator was notified the tank outside the WTP was overflowing and closed the valve at approximately 10:00 p.m.

SOURCE CONTROL:

Fuel transfer operations from the Consolidated Tank Farm to the Selawik WTP have ceased, controlling the source.

RESPONSE ACTION:

After initial notifications, a response crew from Selawik removed free product using a pump and sorbent materials on November 26, 2020. Recovery work has continued, with a crew shoveling contaminated snow into 250-gallon containers and recovering free product. Approximately 750 gallons of free product has been collected and the response crew continues to excavate contaminated snow around the tank and a nearby shipping container. The spill location is approximately 610 feet from the Selawik River and less than 100 feet from the Selawik Davis Ramoth Memorial School, but the extent of contamination is under investigation due to fresh snow cover. No injuries have been reported.

The City of Selawik, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), United States Coast Guard (USCG) and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) have formed a Unified Command to maintain communication and support the cleanup. ADEC is assisting the city in locating the necessary response equipment and personal protective equipment for the response work. USCG representatives arrived in Kotzebue on November 30, 2020 and are expected to travel to Selawik on December 1, 2020. Due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, the Unified Command, in coordination with local tribal, city, and borough officials, is limiting agency travel to minimal levels needed to assist the local response.

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED:

The Selawik River serves the population of Selawik and is a potential resource at risk. The location of the spill is approximately 610 feet from the Selawik River. The community drinking water intake on the Selawik River is near the spill location but is not currently in use. The Selawik River is listed as an anadromous stream in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's stream inventory.

There have been no reports of impacts to wildlife or the shoreline.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

ADEC will continue to monitor the response actions including the recovery of free diesel product and removal of contaminated snow and efforts to delineate the area of snow impacted by the release. The City of Selawik is working on developing a plan for waste storage and disposal for Unified Command approval. An investigation is being conducted to determine the volume of the spill and the Unified Command will continue working with local responders to ensure they have the resources needed for the spill response.

WEATHER:

Today: Occasional snow showers. High 7F. Winds NW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of snow 50%. About one inch of snow expected.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Donna Harris, City of Selawik
SOSC: Sarah Moore, ADEC
FOSC: Dane Grulkey, USCG

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: 2:00 P.M. DECEMBER 8, 2020

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



City of Selawik and Location of Spill (Image credit: Google Earth)

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
City of Selawik	Donna Harris	Email	City_of_selawik@hotmail.com	484-6125	
Selawik Tribal Council				484-2225	
Senate T- Nome	Donny Olson	Email	Senator.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov Juneau (1/18-4/15) Anchorage (4/20-1/15)	465-3707 269-0254	465-4821 269-2031
House 40	John Lincoln	Fax	Representative.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov	465-3473	
Alaska State Troopers	Kotzebue	Fax		442-3222	442-3221
ADF&G	Todd Nichols	Email	dfg.hab.infofai@alaska.gov todd.nichols@alaska.gov	459-7289 or 459-7285	
USCG-Sector /ANC	USCG-Anchorage	Fax		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
Dept of Law Attorney General Office	Steven Mulder	Fax/Email	Steve.mulder@alaska.gov	269-5274	278-7022
North West Arctic Borough Mayor	Lucy S. Nelson	Email	lnelson@nwabor.org	907-442-8201	442-2930