



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



## **Hilcorp Trading Bay Slop Oil Release**

**SITREP #:** 1

**SPILL #:** 20239935001

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION:** 3:00 PM December 16, 2020

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Hilcorp Alaska, LLC

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** Trading Bay Production Facility, approximately 20 miles northwest of Kenai on the western side of Cook Inlet

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** Discovery of the spill occurred at 12:30 PM on December 15, 2020

**HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED:** The spill was discovered at approximately 12:30 PM on December 15, 2020 by the operator on duty. The spill was reported to ADEC at 2:25 PM on December 15, 2020.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** The type of product spilled is slop oil in concentration of 80% crude oil, 20% water. Slop oil is defined as crude oil emulsified with water and solids rendering it a waste stream that cannot be sold down the pipeline. The amount released is 190 barrels (bbl) or 7,980 gallons (gal).

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The cause of the spill is from a leak in an underground line in the slop oil processing system.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** The source is secured.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** During a transfer of slop oil from Tank 4 to the slop oil tank, TK-9500, the operator noticed the TK-9500 tank level was not increasing proportionately to the decrease in the Tank 4 level. After visual inspection, the operator observed oil under and around the edges of the secondary containment liner. The operator immediately isolated tank TK-9500. The operator immediately isolated tank TK-9500 and the leaking line upon discovering the leak. There are currently nine Hilcorp personnel on site recovering slop oil, and 15 bbl (630 gal) of slop oil were recovered on 12/15. Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. (CISPRI) has been activated to assist in this response and are mobilizing personnel and equipment to the site.

**RESOURCES AT RISK:** There have been no reported impacts to wildlife at this time. The facility is located near the State-of-Alaska-managed special areas Trading Bay State Game Refuge and Redoubt Bay Critical Habitat Area, which are recognized as global priority sites for important bird habitat, particularly during spring and summer. By December, most migratory bird species have migrated away from the area to overwinter. A large portion of the population of the nominate subspecies of the rock sandpiper (*Calidris ptilocnemis ptilocnemis*) is known to overwinter in Trading Bay and the nearby Susitna Flats and may be in the area. Some overwintering waterfowl, seabird, and shorebird species as well as raptor, such as eagles, are also likely to be in the area. The lowlands of Trading Bay provide important wintering habitat for moose. Terrestrial and aquatic furbearers may also be in the area. The National Wetlands Inventory characterizes patches of freshwater forested/shrub

wetlands north, west, and east of the facility. The Hilcorp Trading Bay groundwater source well is located about ¼ mile southwest and upgradient of the spill site.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Hilcorp and CISPRI personnel are expected to fly out to the facility this afternoon to assist the nine operators currently on site. Initial recovery will be conducted by cutting the liner at the low spots to enable suctioning out product above and below the liner. Response actions, sampling, and waste disposal will be coordinated with Hilcorp, ADEC and United States Coast Guard

**WEATHER:** Today: Partly cloudy with areas of freezing fog. Temperature highs around 24°F. WNW wind to 5 mph. Wind chill values as low as 14°F. Chance of precipitation 2%.

**TOMORROW:** Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of snow. Temperature highs around 23°F. NNE wind to 11 mph, gusting to 18 mph. Wind chill values as low as 11°F. Chance of precipitation 20%.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Dan Marlowe, Hilcorp Alaska, LLC

SOSC: Crystal Smith, ADEC

FOSC-R: MST2 Heather Darce, USCG

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION:** 3:00 pm December 17, 2020

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Crystal Smith, Central Region Manager, ADEC (907) 717-6533



Figure 1. Aerial imagery of the Trading Bay Facility, source area circled in red

#### AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:

AGENCY / STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
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Senate O	Senator Peter Micciche	Fax	<a href="mailto:senator.peter.micciche@akleg.gov">senator.peter.micciche@akleg.gov</a> Juneau (1/18-4/15) Kenai (4/20-1/15)	465-2828 283-7996	465-4779 283-3075
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