



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 #: 2

SPILL #: 20239935001

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 3:00 PM December 17, 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. Hilcorp describes slop oil as oil that includes more water than their specifications for selling that oil. This slop oil goes through additional treatment to remove excess water and then is re-entered into the oil processing system. 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: Currently there are Hilcorp and CISPRI response personnel on site who are continuing to recover oil from the containment area. As of 06:00 12/17/2020, a total of 17 bbl (714 gal) of slop oil had been recovered. Response personnel continue to recover oil from the containment area. The oil has not migrated off of the facility pad. 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. Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. (CISPRI) has been activated to assist in this response and have mobilized personnel and equipment to the site.

RESOURCES AT RISK: There have been no reported impacts to wildlife or sensitive areas at this time. Passive bird deterrents have been delivered to the site and will be installed at the impacted area. 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 drinking water source well is located about ¼ mile southwest and upgradient of the spill site.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Initial recovery will be conducted by cutting the liner at the low spots to enable suctioning out product above and below the liner. **Additional response personnel are anticipated to arrive on Sunday, 12/20. USCG personnel conducted a site visit to the facility today.** Response actions, sampling, and waste disposal will be coordinated with Hilcorp, ADEC and **the** United States Coast Guard.

WEATHER: **Today: Mostly cloudy with snow showers. Temperature highs around 23°F. NNE wind to 12 mph. Wind chill values as low as 13°F. Chance of precipitation 100%.**

TOMORROW: **Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of snow. Temperature highs around 21°F. SW wind to 7 mph, gusting to 18 mph. Wind chill values as low as 12°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: **As the situation Warrants.**

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

<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/2020/06-hilcorp-trading-bay-slop-oil-release/>



Figure 1. Photo of the spill area. (Photo courtesy of Hilcorp Alaska, LLC)

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: Please refer to the first SITREP, distributed December 16, 2020, for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.