



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



Savoonga AVEC Tank Farm Diesel Oil Release

CHANGED FROM PREVIOUS SITREP ARE DENOTED IN RED

SITREP #: 2

SPILL #: 21389906001

DATE/TIME OF DISTRIBUTION: March 5, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Alaska Village Electric Coop (AVEC)

INCIDENT LOCATION: Savoonga Power Plant in Savoonga, (63.694988/-170.475011).

DATE/TIME OF SPILL: February 27, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED: The release was discovered by AVEC personnel on-site while taking inventory the afternoon of February 27, 2021. The spill was reported to the National Response Center (NRC) at 8:30 a.m. on March 1, 2021, and to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) at 8:45 a.m. on March 1, 2021.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: An estimated 20,000 gallons of #2 Diesel was released from a bulk oil storage tank into secondary containment. The quantity of the spill was estimated by AVEC personal on-site by reviewing current tank capacities against recent tank capacity records prior to the spill. Diesel has breached the secondary containment wall, potentially by wicking through snow drifts, affecting an estimated area of 2 square feet. The exact extent of the contaminated area outside of secondary containment is still under delineation, **however no further spill migration has been uncovered.**

CAUSE OF SPILL: A valve was added to a header line on a 29,950 gallon bulk fuel tank as a temporary fix to alleviate an airlock. The valve was not removed at the appropriate time and left in an open position allowing diesel to flow to the ground.

SOURCE CONTROL: It is believed the release has been stopped by shutting off the open valve. Fuel levels **are being** monitored daily to ensure that this corrective action has stopped the release. **To date, no discrepancies in fuel levels have been found during daily inventory.**

RESPONSE ACTION: AVEC has assembled an on-site cleanup crew. The crew has been **continuing to collect** diesel **from within** secondary containment. Contaminated snow **that was collected** from outside the secondary containment **has been** bagged and moved to within the secondary containment area. **Survey holes have been dug in the snow around the spill site to search for migrating or additional leaks outside of secondary containment. None of these survey holes have uncovered fumes or product.** To date, 5,350 gallons of diesel has been pumped from an excavated hole in the snow drifts at a low point within the secondary containment into an empty tank on-site. **Apart from March 4, when blizzard conditions did not permit pumping, each day has**

yielded around 1,400 gallons. After the blizzard, enough snow was removed to resume pumping on March 5. Pumping is progressing at pre-blizzard rates. DEC and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) are monitoring off-site through phone conferences and email.

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: The spill location is approximately 450 feet from the Bering Sea and 65 feet from wetland tundra. AVEC responders on site do not believe these resources have been impacted at this time and are continuing to investigate the extent of the spill outside of the secondary containment. DEC will continue to monitor the response actions and review plans being developed to clean up contaminated soils from the area and prevent diesel oil migration to nearby resources.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: DEC will continue to work with the USCG and AVEC to develop plans for site cleanup activities and monitor for additional environmental impacts. Snow will be removed around the fence line to minimize snow pileup in the secondary containment area as a precaution should there be another blizzard event. Removed snow will be checked for contamination before removal outside of the spill site. Survey holes will be dug out from under freshly fallen snow. AVEC is developing plans to melt contaminated snow and treat the water for discharge.

WEATHER: Tonight: High 6° F / Low of -6° F. Partly cloudy. SW 20 mph winds. Tomorrow: High 16° F / Low of 13° F. Mostly cloudy. 50% chance of snow showers. S 5 to 15 mph winds becoming E in the afternoon. Wind gusts up to 25 mph.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Scott Stiker, Alaska Village Electric Coop

SOSC: Sarah Moore, DEC

FOSC: Nathan Hatfield, USCG

LOSC: Leon Nayokpuk, Alaska Village Electric Coop

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

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Moore, Environmental Program Manager II, DEC, (907) 465-5239 <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response>



Photo 1. Survey holes to check for additional contamination outside of secondary containment. (Photo provided by Scott Stiker, March 3, 2021)



Photo 2. Excavation site where diesel was found outside of secondary containment. The area was covered in preparation for high winds and snow. (Photo provided by Scott Stiker, March 3, 2021)

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
Alaska Village Electric Coop (AVEC)	Scott Stiker	Email	ssstiker@avec.org	907-565-5319	
Senate T	Senator Donny Olson	Email	senator.donald.olson@akleg.gov Juneau (1/18-4/15) Nome (4/20-1/15)	465-3707 269-0254	465-4821 269-2031
House 39	Representative Neal Foster	Fax	representative.neal.foster@akleg.gov Juneau (1/18-4/15) Nome (4/20-1/15)	465-3789 443-5036	465-3242 443-2162
Alaska State Troopers	Nome	Fax		443-2835	443-5840
ADF&G	Todd Nichols	Email	todd.nichols@alaska.gov	907-459-7363	
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 Nelson	Email	lnelson@nwabor.org	442-2500	442-2930

Date of the last SITREP distribution: March 2, 2021