



Unified Command Continues North Trading Bay Sheen Investigation Following Planned Pipeline Infrastructure Test

September 9, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: The Unified Command (UC), consisting of the U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Hilcorp Alaska, continues its investigation into the previously reported sheen in Cook Inlet near the North Trading Bay Unit and inactive Spark platform.

As part of the ongoing investigation, Hilcorp today conducted additional planned testing of facility and pipeline infrastructure in coordination with the Unified Command. The testing is part of a systematic process to isolate individual components of the piping system and evaluate potential sources through a process of elimination.

Testing commenced at approximately 8:00 a.m. this morning with the planned restart of the Granite Point Tank Farm (GPTF) outfall pipeline. Prior to initiating restart, a sample was collected and analyzed. Following startup, additional samples were collected for immediate analysis and Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) compliance testing. Response personnel and equipment were positioned in the area, and aerial monitoring was conducted in coordination with DEC during the test.

At approximately 10:52 a.m., a light, small sheen was observed near the southeast corner of the Spark platform. The outfall line was shut in at approximately 11:08 a.m., and the Alaska Resources Corporation (ARC) response vessel Perseverance, which was on site as a precaution, deployed recovery equipment. Representatives of the regulatory agencies participating in the Unified Command were present to observe the testing process. The investigation management and scene evaluation process established for today's testing had been reviewed and approved by the participating agencies, and the testing was carried out as proposed. All appropriate agency notifications were also made.

Today's observations will be evaluated as part of the ongoing investigation, the Unified Command has not determined the cause of the previously reported sheen.

The Unified Command's Joint Information Center (JIC) will remain in place to coordinate public information and provide updates as additional information becomes available. A Unified Command website has been established at: <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/2026/04-2026-north-trading-bay-sheen/>

Additional information will be provided as the investigation progresses.

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