



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

CHANGES FROM THE PREVIOUS SITREP ARE DENOTED IN RED

Kwigillingok 6,000-Gallon Diesel Release



SITREP #: 2

SPILL #: 24479903801

DATE/TIME OF DISTRIBUTION: February 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.
Information current as of February 19, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTIES (PRP): Kwik Incorporated (Kwik Inc.) and Native Village of Kwigillingok

INCIDENT LOCATION: The release is in the southwest Alaska community of Kwigillingok, approximately 500 feet from the Kwigillingok river, at the Kwigillingok Inc. marina bulk fuel tank farm (lat/ long: 59.882062 n, -163.151846 w).

DATE/TIME OF SPILL: Spill occurred sometime between February 7, 2024, 6:00 PM local time and February 8, 2024, 10:00 AM local time.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED: The release was discovered after the Kwik Inc. staff returned to work on February 8, 2024. The Native Village of Kwigillingok reported the spill at 12:03 p.m.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The spilled product is diesel fuel that overflowed from a 10,000-gallon horizontal tank during a tank-to-tank transfer operation. The fuel was released outside secondary containment and has been estimated to be approximately 6,467 gallons. This estimate is based on tank inventory levels taken by Kwik Inc. tank farm operators before and after the transfer was shut down. **The spill volume was recalculated to 8,827 gallons after the USCG and ADEC personnel completed examinations of the facility oil records during the on-stie investigation February 12, 2024.**

CAUSE OF SPILL: The release occurred during a bulk fuel transfer from a larger storage tank to a smaller storage tank. The cause is under investigation, human error is suspected.

SOURCE CONTROL: The 20 gallon per minute transfer pump being used was immediately, upon discovery, shut off stopping the overflow.

RESPONSE ACTION: Local Kwik Inc. staff have assessed the release and are working toward a preliminary surface delineation of the release footprint. Approximately 95-gallons of liquid product has been recovered, and the local response team is evaluating tactical resource needs. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and other state and federal agencies have been coordinating response efforts. ADEC and USCG response staff mobilization to Kwigillingok is underway.

Personnel from the USCG and ADEC arrived on-site Monday, February 12. ADEC was able to deliver additional cleanup materials from the Bethel community spill response cache. The USCG determined a threat exists to the navigable waters of the Kwigillingok River and issued ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: Kwigillingok Inc. (ANC-K-054). Efforts by Kwik Inc. to find and fund an adequate response were deemed inadequate by the USCG on February 15 resulting in the USCG issuing a Notice of Federal Assumption. Resolve Marine (Resolve) oil spill response contractor (three personnel) and the USCG (two personnel) are now on-site conducting additional plume delineation, drone imagery, and sampling for a more refined assessment of the spill and for development of mechanical recovery tactics. Resolve has also mobilized additional recovery materials on February 19 from their Bethel staging area.

The leading edge of the spill is now approximately 50 yards from the Kwigillingok river. Currently there is no heavy equipment in the village. Kwik Inc. response work has been limited to recovery of free product with hand tools and small portable pumps. Resolve is checking on availability and feasibility of mobilizing a compact excavator and/or skid steer from Kongiganak.

Kwik Inc. response operations have been slowed by several weather holds and accumulation of an additional two feet of snow since February 14. To date approximately 1000 gallons of **oil and oily water** has been recovered. There have been no reports of injuries to Kwik Inc. personnel involved in the initial response operation.

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: There are currently no reports of wildlife in the area. Spill area is frozen tundra and a small pond with currently no discharge to the Kwigillingok River. Tundra wetlands underlying the spill are sensitive to disturbance from equipment/vehicles and even excessive foot traffic. Wetlands are currently frozen, with winter travel open for all vehicles/equipment. Although overall snow cover is good, it may be thin in some areas. To the extent practicable during the response, these areas should be avoided to protect the tundra surface.

Threatened bearded and ringed seals are found in Kuskokwim Bay and found in the bay during winter-spring. Threatened bearded and ringed seal critical habitat is NOT in Kuskokwim Bay. Endangered large whales (fin, humpbacks, etc.) are not expected to be in Kuskokwim Bay during winter-spring. The spill location is within the range of ESA-listed Steller's and Spectacled eiders (both Threatened) and the wood bison (experimental, non-essential population); however, these species are not expected to be present in the spill area during this time of year.

Local subsistence users catch sheefish, northern pike in the river this time of the year. No injuries were reported.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: ADEC, the state and federal governments will continue to work with the responsible parties to assist with developing response actions for the cleanup, develop tactics to maximize the reuse of recovered diesel fuel and minimize damage to the environment.

WEATHER: Today the forecast for Kwigillingok is cloudy. High 23F. Winds WNW at 10 to 15 mph. Becoming windy with snow showers after midnight. Low around 20F. SE winds at 15 to 25 mph, increasing to 25 to 40 mph. Chance of snow 90%. Snow accumulations less than one inch.

Tomorrow the forecast for Kwigillingok is snow and windy conditions during the morning will give way to snow showers during the afternoon. Temps nearly steady around 30. S winds at 25 to 40 mph, decreasing to 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 100%. 1 to 3 inches of snow expected.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: **Jimmy Oscar**, Kwik Inc.
SOSC: Bernie Nowicki, ADEC
FOSC: Christopher Culpepper, USCG
Field SOSC: **Howard Minor**, ADEC

DATE/TIME OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION:

As the situation warrants.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Bernie Nowicki, Western Region State On-Scene Coordinator, (907)-831-1844, bernie.nowicki@alaska.gov
[\[https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/\]](https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/)



FIGURE 1. Incident Location

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
Senate S- Bethel	Senator Lyman Hoffman	Fax	senator.lyman.hoffman@akleg.gov	866-465-4453 907-465-4453	465-4523 543-3542
House 38- Bethel	Representative CJ McCormick	Email	representative.CJ.McCormick@akleg.gov	907-465-4942 907-465-4942	
ADNR	Samantha Carroll	Email	samantha.carroll@alaska.gov	269-7470	269-8913
ADF&G	Jeanette Alas	Email	Jeanette.alas@alaska.gov	267-2805	267-2499
USCG-Sector /ANC	USCG-Anchorage	Fax		428-4100	428-4114 (24 hr.)
US EPA	Bob Whittier	Email	whittier.robert@epa.gov	206-553-1263 or 206-553-1264	271-3424
City of Bethel	Mark Springer, Mayor	Fax/Email	mspringer@cityofbethel.net	545-8819	543-4186
AVCP	Vivian Korthuis	Fax/Email	vkorthuis@avcp.org	543-7304	543-3369
Calista Corporation	Tisha Kuhns	Fax/Email	tkuhns@calistacorp.com	275-2800	275-2977
Bethel Native Corporation	Ana Hoffman	Fax	ahoffman@bncak.com	543-2124	543-2897