



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

## **Kwigillingok 6,000-Gallon Diesel Release**



**SITREP #:** 1

**SPILL #:** 24479903801

**DATE/TIME OF DISTRIBUTION:** February 9, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.  
Information current as of February 9, 2024, at 2:00 PM.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTIES (PRP):** Kwik Incorporated (Kwik) 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.

**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.

**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 overcast with snow showers developing in the afternoon, temperatures hovering around 30 degrees, and NNE 17 mph wind. Tomorrow the forecast for Kwigillingok is variably cloudy with snow showers. High 28f. Winds NW at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60%. Snowfall around one inch.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Steven Pitka, Kwik, Inc

SOSC: Bernie Nowicki, ADEC

FOSC: Christopher Culpepper, USCG

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