

# Oil Spill Decanting Application/Authorization Form

Name of Spill Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Responsible Party: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Approval Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Demonstration of Need for Decanting: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Location and Description of Proposed Decanting Operation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**RP IC SIGNATURE**

**DATE**

Decanting is authorized with the intent to maximize storage capacity for recovered oil and expedite cleanup. If storage, onsite treatment, or transport to a treatment facility is available, and these provisions will not hamper continued oil recovery operations, recovered water shall not be decanted.

The decanting operation must meet the following conditions:

1. Decanted waters must contain a lesser concentration of oily contaminants, determined visually, than the oil/water mixture being recovered.
2. Decant water must be discharged within the collection boom or area, vessel collection well, recovery belt, weir area, or directly in front of a recovery system, unless approved otherwise.
3. Vessels not equipped with an oil/water separator must allow a specified retention time of \_\_\_\_\_ for oil held in internal or portable tanks before decanting commences. Water to be decanted must be withdrawn a minimum of twelve inches below the oil/water interface in any temporary storage tank.
4. Close control over the skimmer/discharge system must be continually maintained by operating personnel to prevent discharge of concentrated oils.
5. The RP shall record all decanting operations including location of the decanting, time decanting started, time decanting stopped, and decanting pump rates.
6. DEC staff shall have access to the decanting operation for the purpose of evaluating its effectiveness and to collect samples if needed.
7. Additional conditions (continued on reverse, if necessary):

**SOSC SIGNATURE**

**DATE**

Note: When verbal authorization is given, a copy of this form must be immediately expedited by the requestor to ensure that the conditions and limitations are clearly understood.

## Decanting

Decanting is the process of draining off recovered water from portable tanks, internal tanks, collection wells or other storage containers to increase the available storage capacity for recovered oil. Decanting is most often thought of in the context of large spills to open water; however, it can also be necessary during land-based spill responses where oil is spilled into ponds or streams or when there are large volumes of water from snowmelt during spring thaw. Decanting may be necessary on water or on land if the available temporary storage capacity is insufficient to hold the total volume of recovered oil/water mixtures.

Decanting involves a discharge of petroleum-contaminated water which is virtually certain to exceed the Alaska Water Quality Standards (18 AAC 70). In the case of an oil spill to water, State water-quality standards have already been violated and efforts must be focused on ways to minimize further environmental damage. A decision by the SOSC to authorize decanting of hydrocarbon-contaminated water must be based upon the determination that greater environmental damage will result if decanting is not authorized and that there are no other alternatives available within the necessary timeframe. This is consistent with AS 46.03.050 and AS 46.04.020, which gives the Department authority to prevent and abate pollution and to approve the method of cleanup.

The SOSC may authorize decanting of hydrocarbon-contaminated water when a determination has been made that the practice is necessary to minimize environmental damage resulting from an oil spill. When there is an identified responsible party (RP), the RP must apply for authorization to decant in each location it is deemed necessary. An Oil Spill Decanting Application/Authorization Form, which includes some standard operational conditions for decanting, is attached. This form, or letter providing equivalent information, can be used to request approval for decanting. The SOSC will work with the RP to modify the conditions for decanting as appropriate for the individual spill circumstances. Verbal approval can be provided by the SOSC or his or her designee, but must be followed-up by a written application as soon as possible. An example of the form is provided at the end of this section.

Decanting will only be authorized when it is essential to the continuing recovery of oil and the SOSC has determined that the net environmental damage will be minimized through this practice. The State's emergency authority to approve decanting in no way relieves regulated operators of the contingency plan requirements of 18 AAC 75.425 relating to emergency storage capacity. Decanting will not be authorized for non-emergency activities, such as vessel washing or boom cleaning, that may occur during a spill response and which often result in incidental discharges of oil.

## Oil Spill Decanting Application/Authorization Form

Name of Spill Incident:

Name of Responsible Party:

Dates of Approval Requested:

Demonstration of Need for Decanting:

There is insufficient temporary storage space for oil/ water mixture collected.

Location and Description of Proposed Decanting Operation:

**RP IC SIGNATURE**

**DATE**

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5. The RP shall record all decanting operations including location of the decanting, time decanting started, time decanting stopped, and decanting pump rates.
6. DEC staff shall have access to the decanting operation for the purpose of evaluating its effectiveness and to collect samples if needed.
7. Additional conditions (continued on reverse, if necessary):

**SOSC SIGNATURE**

**DATE**

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## **Additional Instructions Page:** **ADEC Decanting Application**

By clicking on the **i**, you've reached this instructional page. Here you can find special instructions on individual text fields.

Page 1:

Demonstration of Need for Decanting—describe why the decanting process is necessary

Location and Description of Proposed Decanting Operation—for clarification, this will not always be the spill site.

## **More Information on this Form**

*When do you need this form?*

When decanting operations are required

*Who fills out this form?*

Permitter with the Responsible Party

*Who signs this form?*

Incident Commander, State On-scene Coordinator

*Where does this form get delivered?*

This plan gets filed within the ICS' Documentation section