

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention and Emergency Response Program

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: *Empress of the North* Grounding **SITREP #:** 5

SPILL NUMBER: 07119913401 **LEDGER CODE:** 14233160

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: At approximately 12:35 AM on May 14, 2007, the vessel sent a radio report to the U.S. Coast Guard reporting the incident.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 3:00 PM, May 21, 2007.

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

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: A light sheen was observed in the immediate area of the grounding that may be due to the vessel. The vessel's crew reported there was approximately 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel oil on board the vessel at the time of the grounding. One empty fuel tank was breached during the grounding.

LOCATION: The vessel was originally reported to have grounded near Hanus Reef. Further investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the U.S. Coast Guard determined the vessel actually grounded on or near Rocky Island, a charted and marked reef, at the intersection of Icy Strait and Lynn Canal (Southeast Alaska) about 25 air miles southwest of Juneau. After the grounding, the vessel apparently drifted into the vicinity of Hanus Reef.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The vessel struck Rocky Island resulting in damage to the vessel's hull. The cause of the grounding is under investigation by the NTSB and the U.S. Coast Guard.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Majestic America Cruise Line.

RESPONSE ACTION: Temporary repairs were completed to the *Empress of the North* on Sunday May 20, 2007. The vessel departed Auke Bay in the early evening of May 20th. It is anticipated to arrive at Alaska Ship and Dry Dock, Inc in Ketchikan, Alaska on the morning of May 22.

A waste management plan was completed and signed by the State, vessel's owner and the U.S. Coast Guard. Approximately 3,500 gallons of potentially contaminated water from the damaged fuel tank was off-loaded to a SEAPRO oil spill response barge and moored at Gitkov dock in Auke Bay pending treatment of the water in an oily water separator. Some potentially petroleum-contaminated water remains in the damaged fuel tank as ballast.

The vessel representative presented, and the U.S. Coast Guard approved, a transit plan for the vessel's voyage to the Alaska Ship and Dry Dock, Inc (shipyard). The vessel is to be escorted by two tugboats from Juneau through Wrangell Narrows. After exiting Wrangell Narrows, one tugboat will return to Juneau and the second tugboat will accompany the *Empress of the North* for the remainder of the voyage. The containment boom, previously used to surround the vessel in Auke Bay, has been lashed along the edge of the main deck and is available for immediate deployment in the event of an oil discharge. The escort tugboats have also been equipped with additional pollution containment and response equipment. The salvage master and divers remain on-board the vessel.

The SEAPRO response vessel Neka Bay has been demobilized.

SOURCE CONTROL: Temporary repairs to the damaged areas of the vessel were completed and a portion of the potentially contaminated water in the damaged fuel tank was offloaded to a SEAPRO barge.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Marine waters near Hanus Reef and Rocky Island. There have been no reports of impact to wildlife or the environment.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The vessel will be dry docked in Ketchikan. An inspection will be conducted to determine if repairs can be completed at the dry dock in Ketchikan or if the vessel will have to proceed to the lower 48 for completion of repairs.
Remaining contaminated water will be removed and treated at the shipyard.

WEATHER: Southwesterly winds 8 knots increasing to 15 kts tonight. Clear skies with seas to three feet. Temperature in the 60's today and the 50's tonight.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Randy Burns, Majestic America Line
F.O.S.C.: CPT Mark Guillory, USCG Sector Juneau
S.O.S.C.: Bob Mattson, ADEC

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scot W. Tiernan at 907-465-5378
Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at:
<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm>

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

This sitrep has been distributed via email to the Governor's office, ADF&G, ADNR, SECC, USEPA, USDOJ, NMFS, USFWS, and USFS in addition to the following.

Agency	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
Senate Dist. A	Senator Bert Stedman	E-mail	senator_bert_stedman@legis.state.ak.us	465-3873	465-3922
Senate Dist. B	Senator Kim Elton	Fax		465-4947	465-2108
Senate Dist. C	Senator Al Kookesh	Fax		465-3473	465-2827
House Dist. 2	Representative Peggy Wilson	Fax		465-3824	465-3175
House Dist. 3	Representative Beth Kerttula	Fax		465-4766	465-4748
House Dist. 4	Representative Andrea Doll	Fax		465-3744	465-2273
House Dist. 5	Representative Bill Thomas	Fax		465-3732	465-2652
USCG (MSD Ketchikan)	LT Jason Boyer	Email	jason.a.boyer@uscg.mil	225-4496	225-4499
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Lt. Chris Williammee	Email	Christopher.J.Willammee@uscg.mil	463-2470	463-2445
USDA Forest Service – Tongass Env. Engineer	Michele Marie Parker	Email	mmparker@fs.fed.us	772-5850	772-5895
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	Jon.kurland@noaa.gov	586-7638	586-7358
ADF&G	Tom Schumacher	Email	Tom_schumacher@fishgame.state.ak.us	465-4346	
ADNR Petersburg	Jim Cariello	Email	Jim_cariello@dnr.state.ak.us	772-5224	772-9336
Angoon Community Association	President Edward Gamble, Sr.	Fax		788-3411	788-3412
City Of Hoonah	Mayor Windy Skaflestad	Fax		945-3663	945-3445
City Of Gustavus	Mayor Sandi Marchbanks	Fax		697-2451	697-2451
Organized Village of Kake	President Heinrich Kadake	Fax		785-6471	785-4902
Petersburg Indian Association	President Michael Lopez	Fax		772-3636	772-2991
City and Borough of Juneau	Manager Rod Swope	E-mail	City_clerk@ci.juneau.ak.us	586-5240	586-5385
City of Kake	Mayor Henrich Kadake	E-mail	violette_a@hotmail.com	785-3804	785-4815
City of Petersburg	Manager Bruce Jones	E-mail	clerk@ci.petersburg.ak.us	772-4519	772-3759
SEAPRO	Dave Owings	E-mail	dave@seapro.org	225-7002	247-1117
City and Borough of Juneau	Mike Patterson - Emergency Response Coordinator	E-mail	michael_patterson@ci.juneau.ak.us	586-0221	586-5385