

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Pelican Seafoods, Inc
Anhydrous Ammonia

SITREP #: 2

SPILL NUMBER: 09119923202

LEDGER CODE: 14277560

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: 2:50 PM on August 25, 2009

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 5:00PM on August 31, 2009

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

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: This is an informational sitrep on the current situation at the Pelican Seafoods facility in Pelican, AK. There has been no release reported to the Department, but the situation presents a potential anhydrous ammonia release.

LOCATION: Pelican Seafoods, Inc. - Pelican, AK.

CAUSE OF SPILL: Beginning on August 16, 2009, heavy rains in Pelican caused severe flooding of the area. At approximately 2:30 AM on August 20, 2009, a 30-foot section of the water flume supplying water to both the City of Pelican and the Pelican Hydroelectric plant collapsed, damaging the main water supply line and leaving the town without a water supply. Water from the flume also provides cooling water to the Pelican Seafoods fish processing facility's refrigeration system. The hydroelectric plant was undergoing maintenance at the time of the incident and the town was already using the backup diesel generator.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): There is no responsible party.

RESPONSE ACTION: An information sharing teleconference was held on August 28, 2009, at the request of the Coast Guard Sector Juneau, on the potential anhydrous ammonia (ammonia) release in Pelican. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) was present during the teleconference.

During the teleconference, the current situation and safety concerns for the town were discussed and the SSC was asked to conduct an ALOHA plume model in the event that there is a catastrophic release of ammonia from the seafood processing plant. ADEC volunteered to contact the Pelican Utility District to determine the amount of ammonia present in the system and volume of any chlorine cylinders on the property and to provide this information to the SSC.

The operating engineer stated that the exact amount of ammonia in the system could not be determined. The system was recharged several years ago but minor leaks since then make it impossible to determine the exact amount of ammonia present. The engineer estimated that the system contains approximately 20,000 pounds of ammonia. No chlorine is present at the facility per the engineer; he also reported the freezer temperatures were holding steady and there was no further increase in pressure in the piping. The engineer provided a more detailed description of the ammonia system and methods that could be employed to prevent a large release of ammonia should the water supply fail.

The issue of safety of the residents was discussed with the engineer. The town has a 911 phone system and an emergency siren in place for warning people in case of an emergency.

The contractor working on the Village Safe Water (VSW) project continues to assist Pelican with the current water problem. A new pump to increase the flow through the temporary waterline was reported to be in Juneau and was scheduled for delivery to Pelican on August 29. The delivery was delayed until Sunday due to bad weather, but a saddle needed to plumb the pump into the system is still under construction in Seattle and should be in Pelican in the next two days.

The pumps currently being used to supply water are pumping 220 gallons per minute through the temporary line. The new pump will be capable of pumping up to 660 gallons per minute, providing Pelican with maximum water flow and pressure so the community's drinking water supply and the seafood plant can resume normal operations.

ADEC provided information on the amount of anhydrous ammonia and chlorine present at the processing plant to the SSC on the morning of Monday, August 31.

The operating engineer at the seafood plant was contacted on August 31 for an update on the situation. The plant is now running the refrigeration system 16 to 17 hours per day. Since the previous report, the temperature of the freezers at the plant has been reduced from 20 to 10 degrees F. When the new pump is installed, the refrigeration system will resume 24-hour per day operations. Because the situation is improving, the engineer has stopped working on an alternative saltwater cooling system.

The EPA was contacted on August 31 concerning this incident.

Also, last week, the Ketchikan Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team offered their assistance to Pelican, if needed.

SOURCE CONTROL: There is no reportable discharge at this time.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: There has been no major release of anhydrous ammonia at this time and no resources have been affected.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: ADEC will continue to provide information and assistance to the City of Pelican and the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, as requested, and respond to all requests for information from state and local agencies. ADEC Village Safe Water Program's contractor remains on-scene in Pelican and is assisting with the current emergency.

Additional repairs are necessary prior to the winter months; the 10-inch line now being used will be replaced with four lines that are mounted in the old flume and span the area that collapsed. The flume will be permanently repaired in the spring of 2010.

WEATHER: Rain. East winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts up to 50 mph. Winds switching to the southeast at 30 mph with gust up to 40 mph.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander:	Patricia Phillips, Mayor of Pelican
F.O.S.C.:	Capt. Melissa Bert, USCG
S.O.S.C.:	Scot W. Tiernan, ADEC
Field S.O.S.C.:	None

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Scot W. Tiernan, ADEC, 907-465-5378

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. C	Senator Al Kookesh	Fax	session	465-3473	465-2827
House Dist. 2	Representative Peggy Wilson	Fax	session	465-3824	465-3175
House Dist. 5	Representative Bill Thomas	Fax	session	465-3732	465-2652
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Lt. Latarsha McQueen	Email	Latarsha.s.mcqueen@uscg.mil	463-2835	463-2445
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Cdr. Matt Jones		Matt.n.jones@uscg.mil	463-2452	
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Cdr. Kurt Clarke		Kurt.a.clark@uscg.mil	463-2475	
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Capt. Melissa Bert	Email	Melissa.bert@uscg.mil	463-2836	
USDA Forest Service - Tongass Env. Engineer	Michele Marie Parker	Email	mmparker@fs.fed.us	772-5850	772-5896
USDA Forest Service - Hoonah Ranger District	District Ranger Rich Jennings	Email	rdjennings@fs.fed.us	945-1201	945-3385
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	Jon.kurland@noaa.gov	586-7638	586-7358
ADF&G	Jackie Timothy	Email	jackie.timothy@alaska.gov	465-4275	
Organized Village of Kake	President Henrich Kadake	Fax	keexkwaan@kakefirstnation.org	785-6471	785-4902
City of Kake	Mayor Henrich Kadake	E-mail	city.of.kake@gmail.com	785-3804	785-4815
City of Pelican	Mayor Patricia Phillips	Fax	cityhall@pelicanity.net	735-2202	735-2258
SEAPRO	Dave Owings	Email	dave@seapro.org	225-7002	247-1117
Kake Tribal Corporation	Paula Burgner			735-2296	
DEC - Village Safe Water	Philip Gagnon	Email	Philip.gagnon@alaska.gov	269-2681	
DMVA	Claude Denver	Email	Claude.denver@alaska.gov	428-7090	
DEC – Water Quality	Bill Griffith	Email	bill.griffith@alaska.gov	229-4695	
DEC – Water Quality	Greg Magee	Email	Greg.magee@alaska.gov	269-7613	



Location of Pelican in Southeast Alaska.