SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Fuel Barge T/B 160-1
SPILL NUMBER: 09279925702
TIME/DATE OF SPILL: This was only a potential spill. No fuel release has been reported. On September 14, 2009, at 7:45 AM, the fuel barge T/B 160-1 grounded on a sandbar at the mouth of the Kanektok River near Quinhagak. Initial efforts to refloat the barge were unsuccessful.
LOCATION: Mouth of the Kanektok River in the Bering Sea near Quinhagak, approximately 80 miles south of Bethel.
CAUSE OF SPILL: This was only a potential spill.

RESPONSE ACTION: After initial attempts to refloat the grounded barge failed, a Unified Command (UC) consisting of representatives from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and Crowley was established to plan for the safe removal of the vessel and its fuel cargo. The UC met on September 19, 20, 21, and 22, and approved a plan to lighter the remaining fuel from the T/B 160-1 and refloat the barge.

On the afternoon of September 18, a relief barge and tug dispatched to the site off-loaded approximately 60,000 gallons of Jet A fuel from the T/B 160-1. Later that evening, the relief barge and tug delivered the off-loaded fuel to the village corporation tank farm in Quinhagak. Despite the removal of the fuel, the T/B 160-1 remained grounded, with 71,384 gallons of gasoline and 11,154 gallons of Jet A fuel aboard.

On September 19, a second relief tug and a barge with a shallower draft were dispatched from Nome to complete the lightering process. Before these vessels could assist, however, the T/B 160-1 floated free from the sandbar at approximately 1:00 AM on September 22. It was later towed to Quinhagak, where it will off-load all but approximately 5000 gallons of Jet A fuel to the village corporation tank farm. The T/B 160-1 is scheduled to depart on September 23 for Bethel, where it will be emptied, cleaned, and inspected.

SOURCE CONTROL: There has been no reported release. The crew of the T/B 160-1 is monitoring the vessel’s compartments and the sea around the vessel for any sign of a fuel release.
RESOURCES AFFECTED: There have been no reports of a release or any impacts to local resources. The vessel was grounded in the vicinity of the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. There is a UC-approved response plan for use in the event of a release.
FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue to monitor the condition of the T/B 160-1 as it off-loads fuel and is then towed to Bethel; respond to any fuel release. The T/B 160-1 is due to make Bethel on September 24.
WEATHER: Southwest Alaska waters, Cape Newenham to Dall Point:

.TODAY...W WIND 20 KT. SEAS 5 FT.
.TONIGHT...W WIND 15 KT. SEAS 4 FT.
.WED...VARIABLE WIND 10 KT. SEAS 4 FT.
.WED NIGHT...NE WIND 25 KT. SEAS 6 FT.
.THU...N WIND 30 KT. SEAS 9 FT.
.FRI...NW WIND 30 KT. SEAS 10 FT.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:
Incident Commander: Stephen Wilson, Crowley
F.O.S.C.: Capt. Jason Fosdick, USCG
S.O.S.C.: Gary Folley, ADEC
Field S.O.S.C.: Bob Carlson, ADEC

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Carlson, ADEC Bethel, 907-543-3215

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST
This sitrep has been distributed via email to the Governor’s office, Senator Begich’s office, ADF&G, ADNR, SECC, USEPA, USDOI, NMFS, USFWS, and USFS in addition to the following.

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