



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

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED

MP317 Richardson Hwy US Army Tanker Rollover



SITREP #: 4 and Final

SPILL #: 18309906301

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 4:00 p.m. January 25, 2023

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): United States Army.

INCIDENT LOCATION: Milepost 317.3 Richardson Highway, approximately 45 miles South of Fairbanks. The main release occurred at the bottom of a steep embankment adjacent to the highway (the “lower spill area”), but additional release locations are being investigated closer to the paved road surface (the “upper spill area”).

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The incident occurred at approximately 2:22 p.m., March 4, 2018.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED: The release was reported to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) by the Alaska State Troopers through the afterhours spill line at 3:20 p.m. on March 4, 2018.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: An estimated 600-825 gallons of Jet Propellant 8 (JP-8) was released.

CAUSE OF SPILL: A United States Army (US Army) owned and operated Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) tanker hauling an estimated 1,800-1,900 gallons of JP-8 when it departed the roadway, rolled over and slid partially down the west embankment of the highway. The pressure increase inside the tanker triggered a pressure relief valve on the rear hatch of the tanker, causing the majority of the fuel release.

SOURCE CONTROL: The source has been controlled.

RESPONSE ACTION: Initial response actions conducted on March 4 included containing some fuel released from the pressure relief valve on the rear hatch of the tanker. Responders righted the damaged tanker, winched it closer to the shoulder of the road, and lightered the fuel from it to another tanker. The U.S. Army removed the damaged tanker from the site around 3:00 p.m. on March 5 using a Stryker Recovery Vehicle. Personnel from ADEC, Fort Wainwright Department of Public Works, and U.S. Army spill response contractor Paragon-Jacobs conducted an initial delineation and site assessment effort on March 5.

During March 6 through March 9 additional Paragon-Jacobs personnel and resources mobilized to the site, and equipment (two excavators and one dozer) arrived to initiate remedial activities. From March 10 through March 13, Paragon-Jacobs personnel constructed two temporary ramps out of borrow material to safely access the “lower spill area”, cleared trees within the delineated areas, removed contaminated snow, and delineated the

“upper spill area”. During this time frame, several questions about easements, right-of-ways, potential utility interference, and property ownership were evaluated by the affected stakeholders (ADEC, ADOT&PF, ADNR, and one private property owner). The various agencies and the potentially affected land owner have reviewed and approved the Traffic Control Plan, Response Plan, as well as the Lane Closure Permit provided by the U.S. Army on March 7, 2018.

On March 14, while excavating affected soils from the release area, groundwater was discovered at seven feet below ground surface. A petroleum based sheen was observed on the water surface, but not in any recoverable amount. **Paragon – Jacobs collected analytical solid and aqueous matrix samples, which indicated hydrocarbon remains in the environment.** A test pit (used to delineate potentially affected subsurface soils and groundwater) was excavated approximately 25 feet downgradient from the initially identified release area on March 15, but no contaminated soil or groundwater was detected. On March 16, a trench was excavated approximately 25 feet downgradient of the initial excavation in an attempt to intercept any product migrating through the subsurface

Response actions included soil excavation from the three distinct extents above, removing approximately 83 tons of snow and 508 tons of hydrocarbon contaminated soil. Backfill imported to the site included 297 cubic yards of unclassified backfill and 231 cubic yards of “pit-run” soil material from the Rolling Stone material site in Salcha, Alaska. Groundwater sampling in 2020 confirmed contamination is present in the groundwater exceeding ADEC cleanup levels. This site was transferred to ADEC Contaminated Sites in May 2020 for oversight of the installation monitoring wells and ongoing groundwater monitoring. Updates can be found online at:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/SPAR/PublicMVC/CSP/SiteReport/27220>

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: To date, only Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) right-of-way is known to have been impacted. ADOT&PF personnel has been assisting the response effort by reviewing and approving various documents to allow for the U.S. Army and Paragon-Jacobs to conduct required response actions. An unnamed chute cutoff channel connected to the Tanana River is within 60 feet from the delineated “lower spill area”. This chute cutoff channel, regardless of the physical ability, is considered navigable and the submerged lands of said channel are property of the State of Alaska and fall under the jurisdiction of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR). ADNR personnel has visited the spill site and are also actively engaged in the response and ready to provide permits, as needed, for access and activities relating to response actions within the chute cutoff channel and Tanana River. The land southwest of the chute cutoff channel (please see figure below) is private property. A right of entry (ROE) agreement between the private property owners and the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright is being secured by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Migration of contaminants from the spill site could impact the unnamed chute cutoff channel and the Tanana River during a thaw event. The Tanana River is considered an anadromous water body, and is of particular concern due to the various species of fish that may be present.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: **This site has been transferred to ADEC Contaminated Sites for ongoing groundwater monitoring.**

WEATHER: Today: **Snow showers; high 2°F; winds light and variable.**

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Eric Dick, US Army

SOSC: Kimberley Maher, ADEC
 FOSC: Bob Whittier, EPA

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: This is the final report.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Kimberley Maher, SOSC, ADEC (907) 451-2124

<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/2018/05-richardson-hwy/>

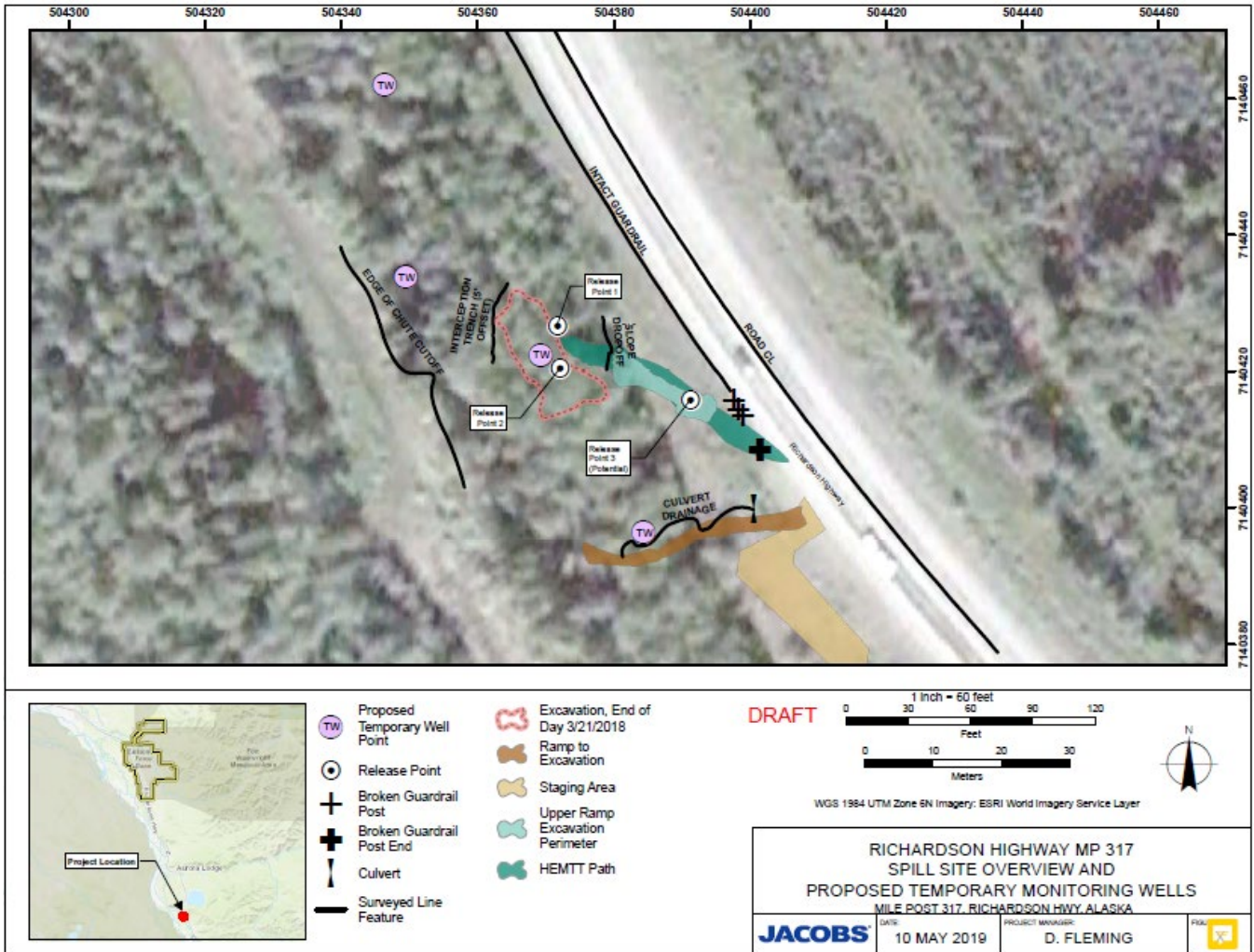


Figure 1: Proposed sites of the Temporary Monitoring Wells as of May 2019 (Paragon-Jacobs)

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: Please refer to the first SITREP, distributed March 6 2018, for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.