# ecylogo-horiz-color.pngMeeting Minutes

**Resource Damage Assessment Committee (RDA)  
Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, September 13, 2023  
**Zoom and Ecology HQ Room R0A-32**

Call to Order: 9:03 AM

Introduction and Agenda Review

Approval of Minutes: 9:13

* Motion to approve meeting minutes for the August 9, 2023, RDA Committee Meeting passed.

Adjournment: 10:19 AM

## Attendees

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| --- | --- |
| Entity | Representative |
| RDA Committee, Chair Washington State Department of Ecology | Geoff Baran |
| RDA Committee, Chair Washington State Department of Ecology | Josh Weide |
| RDA Committee  Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife | Travis Washburn |
| RDA Committee Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation | Rob Whitlam |
| RDA Committee Washington State Department of Natural Resources | Shayne Cothern |
| Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation | Amelia Stanger |
| Yakima Nation Fisheries | Natalie Swan |
| Makah Tribe | Jenna Rolf |
| Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council | Amy Moon |
| Energy Northwest | Mary Ramos |
| Energy Northwest | Denis Mehinagic |
| Energy Northwest | Angela Smith |
| Energy Northwest | Ryan Lukson |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Valerie Chu |
| Washington Department of Ecology | Krystal Rodriguez |
|  |  |

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings:

##### ERTS #723430 Energy Northwest Turbine Oil Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On June 13, 2023, an estimated 300 gallons of turbine lubrication oil released from Energy Northwest's Columbia Generation Station due to the failure of a turbine lube oil cooling manifold. The cooling system draws approximately six million gallons of water from the Columbia River to circulate through six cooling towers onsite before discharging the water back into the Columbia River. Once Energy Northwest identified the failure, they isolated the system and recirculated oil-contaminated water with no discharge to the Columbia. The facility noted that they had a window of approximately five days before the system would need to cycle water to allow for continued operations and power production. Energy Northwest hired GrayMar Environmental to manage the cleanup and remediation of the contaminated system. GrayMar placed absorbent boom on June 15 and was able to recover and estimated 137 gallons of the spilled oil contained within the system based on weight of the absorbents after recovery. On June 20, the remaining water was released back into the Columbia River with no observable sheen. The investigation is ongoing, and the amount released to the Columbia River has not yet been determined. Consultant has completed an incident report indicating 190 gallons spilled. Report has been sent to Sean Thompson.
* Mary Ramos: emphasized that the blowdown was secured within a few hours after discovery of the release. Also noted that Energy Northwest immediately notified EFSEC and Ecology. The spilled oil was contained well by the system and Energy Northwest continued monitoring and only released to the Columbia River blowdown after three days of no observable sheen in the system. Mary pointed out that the oil SDS shows that the oil is non-hazardous and that the 300 gallons released was a conservative estimate. Mary will forward GrayMar’s final report.
* Rob Whitlam: Was the Richland office of Department of Energy involved with the incident or with any investigation?
* Angela Smith: Energy Northwest is leasing the land from Department of Energy but is not part of the agency. There was no notification needed.
* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 4 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 4 no.
  + Compensation schedule authorized to calculate damages.

##### ERTS #723829 P/C LEESEAS Grounding and Oil Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On July 1, 2023, the 38' yacht, LEESEAS, lost steering and grounded on the rocky shore of Flint Bay on the south side of Lopez Island. At the time of the incident, the vessel reportedly contained up to 150 gallons of diesel. The vessel owner worked with his insurance and hired TowBoatUS, who was able to recover a total of 128 gallons of diesel from the fuel tanks along with 2 gallons of hydraulic oil, but did not have the equipment needed for vessel recovery. The owner then worked to hire Global Diving to provide a crane and barge for recovery. Global confirmed that the holding tanks for lube oil were fully ruptured and the engines had been flushed out by multiple tide cycles, resulting in an estimated 8 gallons of lube oil lost to Puget Sound in addition to an estimated 22 gallons of diesel. Global recovered the badly damaged vessel and it was relinquished to DNR through the voluntary turn-in program.
* Travis Washburn: In addition to the damages caused by the oil release, are we considering the damage caused by the vessel on the shoreline for the time it was grounded?
* Geoff Baran: Assessing damages in this case are likely not at a reasonable cost, but we are open to discussing it.
* Krystal Rodriguez: What were the issues with the insurance company?
* Geoff: The owner had difficulty getting his insurance to act.
* Shayne Cothern: A good example of having a plan in place to remove vessels when owners have difficulty removing the vessel.
* Travis: It seems like most of the vessel damage was caused by the vessel being on the rocks, was there any evidence that parts of the vessel drifted away?
* Geoff: Not that had been observed.
* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 4 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 4 no.
  + Compensation schedule authorized to calculate damages.

##### ERTS #724213 Kelowna Corp/Chevron Diesel Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On July 19, 2023, Ecology was contacted by Cheney Fire Department to assess an unknown oil-based product impacting the vegetation and sediment of Minnie Creek. 50 yards of the creek appeared to be impacted and Ecology hired GrayMar Environmental to conduct cleanup operations with a vac-truck and excavator. During cleanup, the GrayMar crew discovered red-dye diesel under vegetation at an upstream culvert. Cheyney Public Works traced the diesel through the storm drain system to a Chevron fueling station with red-dye diesel pumps. Following further inspection, the crew observed diesel in the pump utility vault. Ecology advised the station owner to shut down the pumps, report the spill, and complete the cleanup. GrayMar expanded cleanup operations through the following month, bringing extra vac-trucks and supplying additional absorbents while they continued to remove red-due diesel from the culvert to Minnie Creek and the drainage system. Ecology, GrayMar, and Cheney Public Works observed impacts to an estimated 0.5 miles of Minnie Creek, noting brown or dead wetland grasses potentially from contamination and patches of petroleum odor. Able Cleanup pumped the Chevron station vault, removing an estimated 3425 gallons of diesel and water mix. GrayMar removed a total of 64,000 gallons of emulsified product and contaminated water in addition to nine 20-cubic-yard roll-off containers of contaminated soil and two additional roll-offs of contaminated absorbents. The spill duration and actual spilled quantity is currently unknown, and the incident investigation is ongoing.
* Travis: The spill appears to have been occurring for some time, do we know how long?
* Geoff: There was evidence that the spill had been occurring for an undetermined amount of time. There were impacts to vegetation, but no reports of impacted wildlife.
* Krystal: Do we know the source of the leak into the vault? Also, the system is exempt from UST regulations because of the vault system.
* Rob: has the responsible party had any response?
* Geoff: No response from the RP at this time.
* Preassessment Screening:

Due to the large number of unknown details, the committee agreed to postpone voting until after further investigation is completed.

##### ERTS #724686 Gonzales P/C Sinking and Oil Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On August 11, 2023, Dock St. Marina staff responded to a sunken vessel at one of their docks. They deployed boom and absorbent pads around the vessel to contain the resulting sheen. Vessel owners, Anna and Jaime Gonzales, informed Ecology responders that the vessel contained an estimated 50 gallons of gasoline prior to sinking. The vessel owners hired Resolve Diving and Salvage to re-float and de-water the vessel. However, Resolve was unable to raise the vessel until the afternoon of August 12, at which time they conducted a 2-hour float test to ensure the vessel would no longer take on water. Resolve confirmed that the gas tanks were empty and that all 50 gallons of gasoline had been released. Resolve towed the vessel to Quigg Brothers for removal and salvage.
* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 4 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 4 no.
  + Compensation schedule authorized to calculate damages.

### Other Business

#### Open Case Updates:

* ERTS #719996 Crystal Creek Roslyn Heating Oil Spill
  + Additional contractor report documented that the underground tank contained multiple holes (~40) when removed, providing evidence of spill origin.

### Announcements

* Ecology IT continues to develop automated damages calculation.
* West Coast Joint Assessment Team meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 7, in Portland.
* Next meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 9:00am via Zoom and in person at Ecology HQ in room R0A-32.