# ecylogo-horiz-color.pngMeeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, December 13, 2023  
**Zoom and Ecology HQ Room R0A-05**

Call to Order: 9:05 AM

Introduction and Agenda Review

Approval of Minutes: 9:11

* Motion to approve meeting minutes for the November 8, 2023, RDA Committee Meeting passed.

Adjournment: 9:30 AM

## Attendees

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 | Don Noviello |
| RDA Committee Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation | Rob Whitlam |
| RDA Committee Washington State Department of Health | Merita Trohimovich |
| Yakima Nation Fisheries | Natalie Swan |
| Washington State Assistant Attorney General’s Office | Julian Beattie |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Valerie Chu |
| Washington Department of Ecology | Krystal Rodriguez |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Michael Carlson |
| RDA Committee Washington State Department of Natural Resources | Shayne Cothern**\*** |
| **\***Shayne was unable to join the meeting due to technical difficulties with the meeting invite. Ecology provided him with the post-meeting minutes and received no additional comments from him. | |

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings:

##### ERTS #711210 Colman Dock Oil Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On December 7, 2021, during in-water work to remove petroleum-contaminated sediments at the tidally influenced Washington State Ferry (WSF) Seattle Terminal (Colman Dock), a pocket of buried oil spilled into Puget Sound. WSF contracted Hoffman-Pacific, LLC. (Hoffman) for the project. During this work, an excavator bucket unearthed a buried and previously undetected pocket of heavy fuel oil. The oil flowed into the water at the site which was surrounded by a metal sheet-pile wall. This wall surrounding the excavation area was put in place to help prevent Elliot Bay from infiltrating the excavated area. Most of the sediment removal operation occurred during low tide events when the soil was driest and most exposed. Despite the wall keeping most of the seawater out of the excavation, subsurface water infiltrated the pit from the upland area. Sediment boom surrounded the sheet-pile wall to prevent contaminated sediments from migrating offsite and was in place before the spill occurred. Both the sheet-pile wall and sediment boom helped to restrict the migration of oil outside of the excavation area, but oil sheen was seen outside the waters contained by the sheet-pile wall. Visual estimates put the volume of oil released from a pocket in the soil to the water within the sheet-pile enclosed site at 50 gallons, with an undetermined quantity escaping the sheet pile containment as sheen.  
  Hoffman hired US Ecology to remove spilled oil and debris from the water. US Ecology remained on site during the remainder of the excavation. Hoffman also placed additional containment boom around the site. Additional sampling to ten feet below ground surface did not reveal any further pockets of oil outside of the already known contaminants. Hoffman continued excavation to the originally planned depth with a backfill of clean soil followed by the original plan of capping the site with a clay mat covered with quarry rock.
* 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 #727517 P/C Crab n Jazz Vessel Fire and Spill
  + Responsible party is deceased with no avenue to pursue a damage claim against their estate. Ecology proposed closing the incident without any opposition from the present committee members.
* ERTS #716940 F/V Aleutian Isle Sinking and Spill
  + The responsible party has submitted some input resulting in some minor revision to Ecology’s report. None of the revisions have an impact on the RDA Committee’s previous preassessment screening.
* ERTS #719996 Crystal Creek Heating Oil Spill
  + While heating oil was observed in Crystal Creek and a heating oil tank with multiple holes was recovered, Ecology has not been able to determine a definite pathway between the two. The investigation is ongoing.
* ERTS #727283 Olympic Pipeline Gasoline Spill
  + Ongoing cleanup of a recent spill of an estimated 20,000 gallons of gasoline from a BP pipeline vault to a field with impacts to nearby surface water in Hill Ditch. Ecology has been on site and plans on discussing potential NRDA actions with interested parties.

### Announcements

* Next meeting: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 9:00am via **Microsoft Teams** and in person at Ecology HQ, **Room R1S-16**.
* Happy Holidays!