



Meeting Minutes

Resource Damage Assessment Committee (RDA) Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Microsoft Teams and Ecology HQ Room R1S-16

Call to Order: 9:05 AM

Introduction and Agenda Review

Approval of Minutes:

- o Motion to approve meeting minutes for the June 12, 2024, RDA Committee Meeting passed.

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	Travis Washburn
RDA Committee Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	Rob Whitlam
RDA Committee Washington State Department of Health	Merita Trohimovich
Yakama Nation Fisheries	Natalie Swan
Washington State Attorney General’s Office	Julian Beattie
Washington State Department of Ecology Spill Response	Greg Dunbar
Fishing Vessel <i>North American</i>	Nikolai Sivertstol
Tacoma Public Utilities	Engel Lee
Tacoma Public Utilities	Christine Lewis
Tacoma Public Utilities	James Bozic
EF Travers & Assoc., Pollution Underwriters for F/V <i>North American</i>	Kevin Mabin

Minutes

I. New Business

Preassessment Screenings:

1. ERTS #730846 F/V *North American* Sinking and Spill, Seattle

- Incident Summary:

On May 14, 2024, Ecology responded to the sunken fishing vessel *North American* in the Lake Washington Ship Canal east of the Ballard Bridge. The US Coast Guard reported that the vessel contained an estimated 23,500 gallons of diesel with a

maximum tank capacity of 31,000 gallons. In addition, the vessel also contained a reported 400 gallons of lube oil and 200 gallons of "slop." The USCG initially contracted Global Diving and Salvage to plug the vessel tanks and recover oil. The vessel owner and their insurance later took over the contract. Global Diving placed two layers of hard boom around the vessel and applied absorbents and a disc skimmer. The boom successfully contained the majority of the spilled oil, although an unknown amount was able to escape containment due to passing vessel wake. Over two days of operation, the skimmer and absorbents were able to recover an estimated 2,148 gallons of oils from the water's surface (not accounting for an unknown amount of diesel that likely evaporated during that time). Global Diving also plugged all release points and successfully recovered around 24,000 gallons of diesel directly from the tanks. On June 19, the North American was raised without further incident or spill. Global Diving was able to remove an additional 6,000 gallons of oily water from the engine room. The investigation is currently underway into the cause of the sinking as well as what percentage of oil to water Global Diving pumped from the vessel.

- Kevin: The adjacent vessel provided immediate assistance when the vessel began to sink and was able to place boom, which contained much of the spill.
- Travis: Does the oily water that was recovered count as a release to the environment?
- Geoff: We don't consider oils contained within a vessel as released.
- Kevin: Oily water was pumped out of the engine room after the vessel was hauled out of the water.
- Rob: Do we know what was recovered within the first 24 hours?
- Geoff: We still need to get some final figures from our investigation.
- Josh: Global Diving has documented that 1,480 gallons were recovered during the first day of operations.
- Travis: This part of the waterway is very developed with not much potential shoreline or wildlife impacts.
- 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.

2. [ERTS #731327 Tacoma Public Utilities Mineral Oil Spill, Tacoma](#)

- Incident Summary:

On June 4, 2024, Ecology responded to a report from the City of Tacoma of a 243-gallon spill of non-PCB mineral oil to asphalt, soil, and nearby Leach Creek from a substation owned and operated by Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU). A TPU crew had been transferring mineral oil at a substation that morning and a valve had been left open, causing mineral oil to spill from the top of the tank to the ground. TPU contracted GeoEngineers and Republic Services for containment and cleanup, which included the placement of hard boom and absorbents at two access points along Leach Creek and the deployment of a skimmer and vac truck at the furthest

upstream point where most of the oil was concentrated. Contractors continued to collect oil at this point as they flushed the stormwater system multiple times. Passive collection with absorbent materials continued as needed over the subsequent month. Ecology continues to investigate and calculate the amount of the 243-gallon spill that impacted surface water.

- James: There are two outfalls that feed into the creek. Most of the oil was seen at northern outfall while light and unrecoverable sheen was seen at the southern. About a quarter mile of the creek was observed to be impacted in total, but the main clean-up area included a length of about 250 feet at the north outfall.
- Christine: The operation at the substation involved a transfer from the substation to a tank and then a return transfer to the substation. Based on tank measurements, the total spill was determined to be an estimated 570 gallons. Much of the total was contained at the substation.
- James: The north and south outfalls were jetted, but not the entire storm system. However, there are current plans for additional cleaning of the drainage system from the substation to the outfalls to prevent any residual oils washing through.
- James: There is also a construction project that will reroute the creek during the creek's driest season. While all the absorbent materials have been collected, the hard boom will remain in place during this project.
- Engel: There was some oil recovered within the first 24 hours.
- Geoff: We are concerned about any oils that impacted surface waters and are happy to work cooperatively with TPU to determine any updated amounts that they have.
- Travis: Were there any observed impacts to wildlife?
- James: There has not been any observed or reported wildlife impacts.
- Greg: Can confirm that there were no wildlife impacts observed during multiple visits.
- 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.

II. Other Business

Open Case Updates:

- ERTS #727283 Olympic Pipeline Gasoline Spill
 - Due to recent business travel and a holiday, there has been some delay in the process, but Ecology will be setting up a meeting in the near future.
 - Geoff is revisiting the list of restoration projects and will provide an updated list to the group for feedback.
- ERTS #721193 P/C *Dan Cameron* Spill, Olympia
 - Paid-in-full on May 30, 2024
- ERTS #717868 F/V *Orca* Spill, Port Angeles
 - Paid-in-full on May 10, 2024

III. Announcements

- Next meeting: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 9:00am via **Microsoft Teams** and in person at Ecology HQ, **Room R1S-16**.

Adjournment: 9:58 AM