

PREASSESSMENT SCREENING OIL SPILL REPORT FORM

ERTS# 734834

Date of Incident: 11/06/2024

Potential Liable Party: Union Pacific Railroad

Product Spilled: Diesel Low Sulphur

Spill Source: Union Pacific Railroad (Train)

Oil Spill Size Estimate: 1,449 Gallons

Water Body Affected: Columbia River

Ecology Region: ERO

County: Walla Walla

Nearest City: Wallula

Cause: Structural Failure, Unknown

Ecology Responder: Kelly Gilchrist

Incident Summary: On the morning of November 6, 2024, Ecology received notification that a Union Pacific train had derailed near Wallula due to a broken track along the Columbia River and five refrigerated train cars of vegetables were off the track. Ecology Spills responded and confirmed that four of the cars were overturned at the edge of the river and leaking diesel from their individual refrigeration units onto the riverbank. Union Pacific contracted GrayMar Environmental for cleanup. GrayMary quickly placed containment and absorbent boom adjacent to the shoreline, effectively containing the majority of the spill. Clean up was complicated when the level of the river rose three feet in the days following the spill, spreading the oil along a greater part of the riverbank. Ecology and WDFW approved water-flushing operations to mobilize oil from the rip-rap rock of the riverbank where it was collected as it floated on the river. Response operations continued through November 12, 2024. The cars were removed and relocated to a rail yard where GrayMar pumped out the remaining diesel to determine that 1,449 gallons were unaccounted for and considered released to the Columbia River. According to Union Pacific's environmental consultant, Arcadis, approximately 1,358 gallons of oil was recovered from the Columbia River through absorbent sweep and boom, with 256 gallons recovered in the first 24 hours. GrayMar continues to monitor and replace absorbent boom as needed and the incident has been turned over to Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program.