ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention Preparedness and Response Program

SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)

Selawik Water Treatment Plant Diesel Overfill

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED

SITREP # 3

SPILL #: 20389933001

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 2:00 p.m. on December 15, 2020

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): City of Selawik

INCIDENT LOCATION:
Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Selawik, Alaska (Lat/Long: 66.5993755, -160.00275), approximately 610 feet from the Selawik River.

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: November 25, 2020, at approximately 10:00 p.m.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED:
An operator at the WTP discovered the overfill of a WTP diesel tank when checking the tanks at approximately 10:00 p.m. on November 25, 2020. The WTP operator reported the spill to the department at 2:30 a.m. on November 26, 2020.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:
The spilled product is diesel fuel that was transferred from the City of Selawik Tank #4, a 45,986-gallon aboveground tank that services the city, into an aboveground "day tank" at the WTP with a capacity of approximately 4,000-gallons. The source tank is reported to still contain approximately 35,000 gallons following the release. Following review of fuel records the City of Selawik estimates that the spill was approximately 1,013 gallons.

CAUSE OF SPILL:
A diesel fuel transfer from the Consolidated Tank Farm Tank to the WTP "day tank" was left unattended on November 25, 2020 from 2:25 p.m. until the WTP operator was notified the tank outside the WTP was overflowing and closed the valve at approximately 10:00 p.m.

SOURCE CONTROL:
Fuel transfer operations from the Consolidated Tank Farm to the Selawik WTP have ceased, controlling the source.

RESPONSE ACTION:
After initial notifications, a response crew from Selawik removed free product using a pump and sorbent materials on November 26, 2020. Recovery work consisted of a crew shoveling contaminated snow into

supersacks, bulk containers, and recovering free product by wringing out absorbents. The extent of the spill has been delineated and estimated to be approximately 1,800 square feet, including an additional 300 square feet of contamination discovered December 9, 2020. The additional 300 square feet of contamination was found beneath a boardwalk, adjacent to the spill site, and approximately 10 feet from the WTP building air intake. The City of Selawik reports that contaminated snow removal was completed at the spill site on December 11, 2020, and that approximately 750 gallons of diesel was recovered, including 400 gallons of free product. The City has moved all recovered contaminated snow and oily waste to a lined containment cell built on city property outside of town for storage until it can be treated for disposal. Contamination remaining in the soil has been covered until it can be addressed for clean up in the spring. The spill location is approximately 610 feet from the Selawik River and less than 100 feet from the Selawik Davis Ramoth Memorial School. No injuries have been reported.

The City of Selawik, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), United States Coast Guard (USCG) and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) have formed a Unified Command to maintain communication and support the cleanup. ADEC is assisting the city in developing waste disposal plans, treatment plans, and with permitting as well as locating the necessary response equipment, and personal protective equipment for the response work. USCG representatives arrived in Kotzebue on November 30, 2020 and remained based in Kotzebue with regular day trips to Selawik for site visits. USCG returned to Anchorage on December 10, 2020. Due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, the Unified Command, in coordination with local tribal, city, and borough officials, is limiting agency travel to minimal levels needed to assist the local response.

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED:

The Selawik River serves the population of Selawik and is a potential resource at risk. The location of the spill is approximately 610 feet from the Selawik River. The community drinking water intake on the Selawik River is near the spill location but is submerged and not expected to be at risk from this release. The Selawik River is listed as an anadromous stream in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's stream inventory.

There have been no reports of impacts to wildlife or the shoreline. Sheefish and whitefish are common in the Selawik River system with eggs and larval life-stage at this time of the year. Waterfowl and the Southern DPS Spotted seal, a threatened species, could be present at this time of year.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

ADEC will continue to monitor the response actions including the storage, treatment, and disposal of contaminated material. The City of Selawik is waiting for federal permitting approval to begin disposing of oily waste and the arrival of equipment needed to treat contaminated snow, which is expected to begin in early January 2021. The Unified Command will continue working with local responders to ensure they have the resources needed for the spill response.

WEATHER:

Today: Cloudy skies, high of 16F. Easterly winds at 15-25 mph. Tonight cloudy and becoming windy. Low of 6F with winds east northeast at 20 to 30 mph.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Donna Harris, City of Selawik
SOSC: Sarah Moore, ADEC
FOSC: Dane Grulkey, USCG

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: 2:00 P.M. JANUARY 5, 2021

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Moore, SOSC, ADEC (907) 465-5239

https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/2020/05-selawik/

City of Selawik and Location of Spill (Image credit: Google Earth)

Spill site at the WTP day tank (Photo credit: Sonny Berry, USFWS)

Response crew members recover contaminated snow December 9, 2020 (Photo credit: USCG)

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: Please refer to the first SITREP, distributed December 1, 2020 for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.