



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
Division of Spill Prevention and Response  
Prevention Preparedness and Response Program  
**SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)**

**CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED**

## Askinuk Tank Farm Gasoline Release

SITREP #: 2

SPILL #: 18279911101

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: May 4, 2018 at 4:00 pm

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Askinuk Corporation

INCIDENT LOCATION: Scammon Bay- Askinuk Tank Farm

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: Between April 9<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup>

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED: The suspected spill was reported to the department on April 23<sup>rd</sup> by concerned community members. The tank farm operator confirmed the release on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: Reportedly 7,000 gallons were released into the secondary containment. At some time after or during the release into the secondary containment, gasoline may have been pumped over the tank farm's secondary containment dike and migrated into the Kun River.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The cause of the release from the tank into the secondary containment is being investigated. Mixed water and gasoline were likely pumped over the side of the secondary containment by the tank farm operator.

SOURCE CONTROL: The leaking tank in secondary containment is empty. **Some fuel may remain under snow and ice inside the secondary containment and in the area between the tank farm and an unnamed creek.**

RESPONSE ACTION: Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and United States Coast Guard (USCG) have formed a unified command and are working with the Askinuk Corporation to gather information. **ADEC and USCG responders travelled to Scammon Bay on Friday April 27<sup>th</sup> to assess conditions at the tank farm.**

**During the site visit, responders observed snow and ice cover on the wetland immediately adjacent to the tank farm. Except for a few areas of open water, the unnamed creek, small unnamed river, and Kun River remained ice covered. Ribbons of unrecoverable silver sheen could be observed intermittently in two open water locations on the creek. Fuel remaining under snow and ice may continue to migrate as break up progresses.**

The ADEC and the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) have issued an advisory to the community of Scammon Bay with recommendations against subsistence use of affected areas until potential impacts to subsistence use areas can be assessed and mitigated. An advisory on subsistence use will likely remain in place until the ice breaks up on the Kun River. Fact sheets on the subsistence use advisory and how to



report oiled wildlife can be found on the ADEC response web page and **have been** posted throughout the community.

**Resources at Risk or Affected:** Gasoline is volatile and evaporates quickly when exposed to air. Gasoline contains toxic compounds that can have impacts to the water column and intertidal resources. At this time the immediate concerns are effects to subsistence resources around the impacted area in the Scammon Bay community. Scammon Bay residents frequently fish for saffron cod and rainbow smelt through the ice and in open water close to the village. Hook and line fishing occurs along the left bank of the Kun River near the village. Herring fishing will begin by late May in Kongishluk Bay, Smith Point, and Romanzof, and residents will gather herring roe along the coast from Kongishluk Bay to the barrier islands. Gull egg gathering on the barrier islands typically occurs this time of year, as well as, sea duck hunting (mainly for eiders and scoters) around Scammon Bay and Cape Romanzof. Seal hunting typically occurs in open water when people can safely get out. Hunting for geese and other waterfowl typically begins around this time of year in the Kun River and its tributaries. By June, set nets are often fishing in Scammon Bay north to the Black River. Whitefish and salmon are fished in nets beginning in May in brackish waters of the Kun River and upstream in its tributaries.

Subsistence plants gathered in brackish ponds and in the area directly impacted by the release could also be effected.

The brackish and fresh water wetlands and unnamed creek adjacent to the tank farm provide habitat for migratory birds and fish. The Kun River is Essential Fish Habitat for all five species of Pacific salmon. Numerous fish including whitefish, Dolly Varden, Alaska blackfish, stickleback, herring, and sculpin occur throughout. Endangered Species Act-listed species that could be in the area include Steller sea lions, bearded and ringed seal, and spectacled eider. Various other marine mammals, waterfowl, and shorebirds could be in the area.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** ADEC and USCG are monitoring conditions at the tank farm and impacted areas through communication with the Askinuk Corporation and environmental professionals employed by the Traditional Council. As snow and ice melt, water will accumulate in the secondary containment. Askinuk Corporation is actively procuring equipment necessary to treat the water in the secondary containment. Responders will return to the community as breakup progresses to assist the Askinuk Corporation with water treatment and management and to observe and evaluate the extent of impact from the release.

**WEATHER:** Mid 30s, snow showers, north winds 21 mph

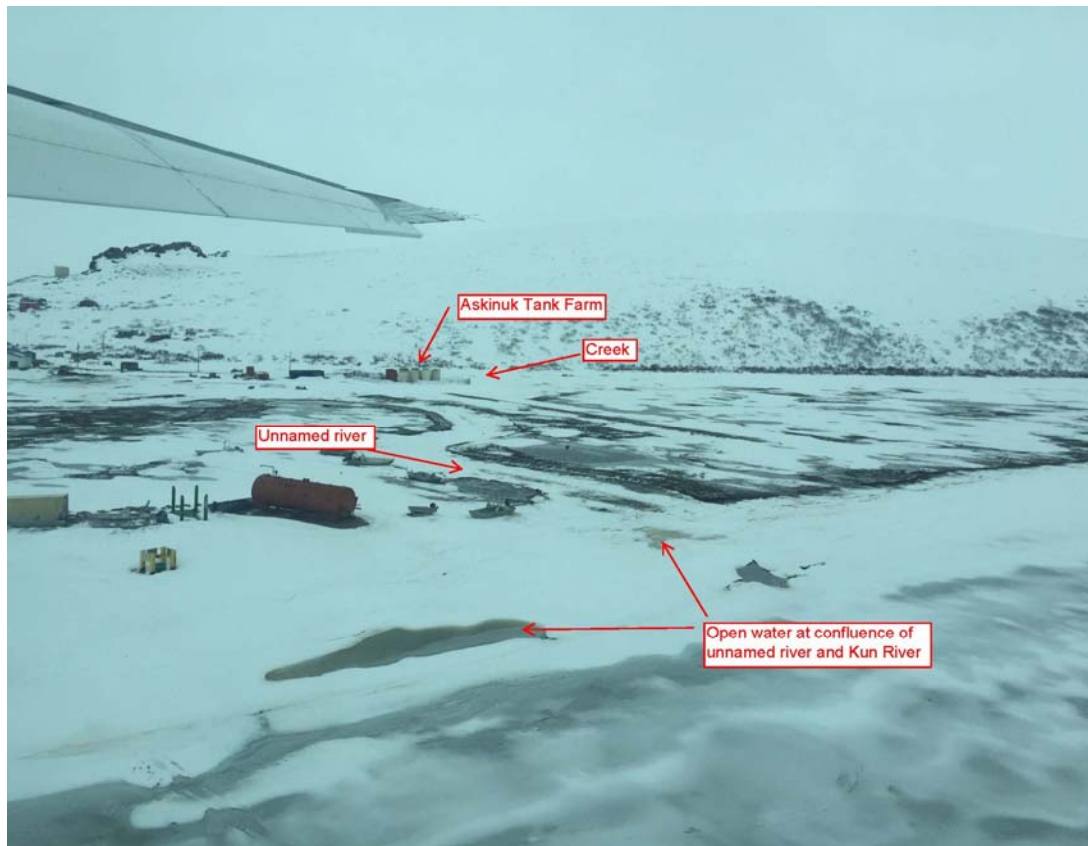
**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

SOSC: Geoff Merrell, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

FOSC: Captain Sean Mackenzie, United States Coast Guard

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION:** As the situation warrants.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lisa Krebs-Barsis, EPS IV, ADEC (907) 269-8487  
<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/>

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:**

Please refer to the first SITREP, distributed [date], for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.