

Liaison Update #9

OES Report # 21-7337 and 22-0017, NRC Report #1325103, 1325728 and 1325851

Initial Report Date: 12/22/21

Name of Incident: Pipeline 0919 Incident

Location: Huntington Beach, Orange County

Unified Command

A Unified Command consisting of US Coast Guard (USCG), California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response (CDFW-OSPR), the County of Orange, and DCOR, LLC continues to respond to a pipeline breach that initially created a sheen on December 22nd, approximately one-mile offshore of Huntington Beach.

A DCOR, LLC pipeline is located in the area where the sheen was initially observed and is believed to be the source. The pipeline from Platform Eva is within California state waters and is currently shut-in with no pressure on the line. Additional state agencies are working within the Unified Command to isolate and mitigate potential leaks in the line and develop a repair plan. These agencies include the CA State Lands Commission and the CA Office of the State Fire Marshal (Cal Fire).

Current Operations

On Saturday, January 1, dive teams completed a visual inspection of 1200-feet of the pipeline in the area of the sheen and observed no anomalies.

On Sunday, January 2, as part of continued operations to determine the location of the potential leak point, DCOR commenced evacuation of the pipeline with seawater, with UC oversight and prepositioned response assets, including 3 vessels with the capability of booming and skimming oil and one helicopter for aerial observation. This process created an on-water sheen which was observed and reported by on-site aerial operations. The evacuation operations immediately ceased, and divers descended to the pipeline and were able to quickly locate the pipeline breach. Mitigation measures were put in place over the breach to capture any residual oil that continued to weep out of the pipeline. An additional sheen was observed on the morning of January 4 and was immediately collected by the prepositioned response assets standing by.

Divers excavated the pipeline in the area of the breach and placed a temporary clamp on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 4, which stopped oil from weeping out of the pipeline. Divers continue to work to excavate the pipeline in the area of the breach in order to move forward with repair operations. Vessels and aerial surveillance monitor for evidence of oil/sheen at the location of the diver work site. Vessels are on scene 24/7 and aerial surveillance is conducting overflights from sunup to sundown, weather permitting.

There are no beach or marina closures, and public volunteers are not needed as there have been no confirmed shoreline impacts. Protective strategies remain in place at Bolsa Chica Wetlands

and Newport Slough. Due to high outflows from recent rains, the protective strategies at Talbert Marsh and the Santa Ana River have been temporarily removed but are staged and ready to be deployed when the outflow recedes or are otherwise needed. Beach cleanup crews and oil spill response vessels remain on-standby to respond to any reports of oil on water or the shoreline.

Shoreline reconnaissance surveys have continued throughout the week. Surveys have been conducted between Surfside Beach and the Santa Ana River and have confirmed no shoreline impacts.

No fisheries closures have been recommended by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

Wildlife

The Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) is on standby and will respond to any reports of oiled wildlife.

Media

Media inquiries can be directed to CDFW-OSPR Public Information Officer Eric Laughlin at Eric.Laughlin@wildlife.ca.gov. More information will be shared when it becomes available.