



Prepared for Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety

Submitted by Department of Ecology Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program – Pipeline Oil Spill Contingency Plan, Drill, and GRP Updates

05/11/2021

Background

Ecology's Spills Program is a comprehensive program for preventing, preparing and responding to oil spills in Washington State for vessels, facilities, rail, and pipelines.

Contingency Plan Review: Ecology is responsible for the review and approval of pipeline oil spill contingency plans through an interagency agreement with the Utilities and Transportation Commission. Contingency plans are approved for five years.

Drills/Readiness Exercises: Ecology evaluates oil spill drills for pipelines here in Washington State. Plan holders are required to have one tabletop exercise and two deployment exercises per year within a three-year drill cycle. In one of the years, in this cycle, each plan holder is required to hold a worst case tabletop drill. Integrated contingency plans covering multiple facilities typically have alternative drill programs. The Northwest Area Committee Exercise Schedule can be found [here](#).

Geographic Response Planning: Geographic Response Plans (GRP) are pre-identified response strategies to protect sensitive, cultural, and economic resources. Ecology develops GRPs for the water bodies that pipelines cross. These geographic response plans are referenced in the plan holder's contingency plan.

Pipeline Oil Spill Contingency Plan and Drill Updates

Phillips 66 Integrated Contingency Plan Washington State

The Phillips 66 Washington State ICP includes four terminals and the portion of Yellowstone Pipeline from the Idaho border to Moses Lake. The plan received a 5-year approval on September 17, 2018. Plan updates have been received to comply with the 12-month phase-in of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan rule update. The plan was posted for public review for 60 days and reviewed by Ecology. It was determined that additional information was needed, so the plan was granted conditional approval on April 23, allowing for additional time to complete the required changes.

2021 Drills:

- 05/10/2021: Equipment Deployment – Moses Lake
- 05/12/2021: Table Top – Spokane
- 05/13/2021: Equipment Deployment – Spokane
- 06/16/2021: Equipment Deployment - Renton
- 06/16/2021: Table Top – Renton
- 06/17/2021: Equipment Deployment – Tacoma

Spills: None

Tidewater Transportation & Terminals, Washington Pipeline

The Tidewater Transportation & Terminals contingency plan includes a 4.2-mile long, 4-inch diameter pipeline connecting their Snake River Terminal and Burlington Northern Railroad's refueling depot, and three 4903-foot long, 6-inch diameter pipelines connecting to the Andeavor Pasco Terminal. Their plan received 5-year approval on October 30, 2019. The most recent plan update was an annual update which was approved on November 6, 2020. Plan updates have been received to comply with the 12-month phase-in of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan rule update. The plan was posted for public review for 60 days and reviewed by Ecology. It was determined that additional information was needed, so the plan was granted conditional approval on April 23, allowing for additional time to complete the required changes.

2021 Drills:

- 08/25/2021: Equipment Deployment, Vancouver
- 09/22/2021: Equipment Deployment, Pasco
- 10/27/2021: Worst Case Tabletop, Vancouver

Spills: None

SeaPort Sound Terminal, LLC

SeaPort Sound Terminal is located on the Hylebos Waterway in Tacoma. The facility includes a 3-mile long pipeline that connects to the Olympic Pipeline at the Tacoma Station. Their plan received 5-year approval on November 24, 2015. The 5-year approval has been extended until May 22, 2021, to allow time to complete updates for the first phase-in date of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan rule, along with updates for a new 5-year approval. Plan updates have been received to comply with the 12-month phase-in of the new rule. The plan was posted for public review for 60 days and reviewed by Ecology. It was determined that additional information was needed, so the plan was granted conditional approval on April 23, allowing for additional time to complete the required changes.

2021 Drills:

- 05/06/2021: Tabletop, Tacoma
- //2021: Equipment Deployment,
- //2021: Equipment Deployment,

Spills: None

Andeavor Logistics Northwest Products System

The Northwest Products System contingency plan covers their pipeline from the Oregon border near Pasco to Spokane. The plan received a 5-year approval on February 3, 2020. Plan updates have been received to comply with the 12-month phase-in of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan rule update and annual update requirements. The plan was posted for public review for 60 days and reviewed by Ecology. It was determined that additional information was needed, so the plan was granted conditional approval on March 26, allowing for additional time to complete the required changes.

2021 Drills:

- //2021: Tabletop
- //2021: Equipment Deployment
- //2021: Equipment Deployment

Spills: None

BP Pipelines (North America) Northwest Pipelines District

The BP Pipelines plan covers the 392-mile long Olympic Pipeline and the 5-mile long Cherry Point Crude Line. Their plan received 5-year approval on June 10, 2016. The most recent plan update, which was an annual update, was approved on July 23, 2020. A revised plan was received in April and put up for a 30-day public review on April 15th. This plan included changes required for the first phase-in date of the new rule as well as updates necessary for the 5-year approval.

2021 Drills:

- //2021: Equipment Deployment –
- //2021: Equipment Deployment –
- 10/06/2021: Worst Case Tabletop – Virtual exercise

Spills: None

Trans Mountain Pipeline (Puget Sound)

The Trans Mountain Pipeline contingency plan covers the Puget Sound portion of the Trans Mountain Pipeline from the Canadian border near Sumas to the four northern refineries. Their plan received 5-year approval on December 26, 2018. The most recent plan update, which was an annual update, was approved on December 31, 2019. Plan updates have been received to comply with the 12-month phase-in of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan rule update and annual update requirements. The plan was posted for public review for 60 days and reviewed by Ecology. It was determined that additional information was needed, so the plan was granted conditional approval on April 13th, allowing for additional time to complete the required changes.

2021 Drills:

- //2021: Deployment Drill
- //2021: Deployment Drill
- 09/21/2021: Worst Case Tabletop – Virtual exercise

Spills: None

U.S. Oil & Refining Company/McChord Pipeline

US Oil/McChord Pipeline’s contingency plan covers the US Oil Refinery and the McChord pipeline, which connects the Tacoma refinery to Joint Base Lewis McChord. The plan received a 5-year approval on January 15, 2016. The approval has been extended, to allow time to complete updates for the first rule phase-in date. A revised plan which included changes required for the first phase-in date of the new rule as well as updates necessary for the 5-year approval was submitted on February 16, 2021. The plan was posted for public review for 60 days and reviewed by Ecology. It was determined that additional information was needed, so the plan was granted conditional approval on April 22nd, allowing for additional time to complete the required changes.

2021 Drills:

- 07/28/2021: Equipment Deployment, TBD
- 09/23/2021: Equipment Deployment, Tacoma
- 09/23/2021: Tabletop, Tacoma

Spills: None

Worst-Case Tabletop Drills in 2021:

- Trans Mountain Pipeline, 09/21/21
- BP Pipelines NW Pipelines District, 10/06/21
- Tidewater Transportation and Terminals, 10/27/21

Rule Updates

Oil Spill Contingency Plan rule updates: 173-182 WAC (facilities, pipelines, and vessels) and 173-186 (Railroad) have been updated. Both rules became effective January 18, 2020 and require changes to contingency plans over the next 24 months. The first phase-in date occurred on January 18, 2021. The rule update effecting pipelines, 173-182 WAC, will:

- Establish requirements for review and approval of Spill Management Teams including entities providing wildlife rehabilitation and recovery services.
- Enhance requirements for readiness for spills of oils that, depending on their chemical properties, environmental factors (weathering), and method of discharge, may submerge or sink.
- Update drill requirements to reflect legislative direction.

- Update planning standards to align vessel and facility requirements and ensure best achievable protection is maintained in contingency plans.
- Enhance planning standards for oiled wildlife response.

Geographic Response Plan Updates

Part of the recent updates to the Oil Spill Contingency Plan rule (WAC 173-182) will require all GRPs to be updated with details about benthic and seafloor resources at risk from non-floating oil spills. Ecology will be updating all the GRPs where non-floating oils are a risk by July 2021. We are also reaching out to all plan holders to share information about the update process and next steps.

The following GRP's are presently undergoing full updates, or have recently been updated, and will affect pipeline contingency plans:

- Central Puget Sound (Published February 2021)
- WRIA 7 (target completion June 2021)
- Clark, Cowlitz, SW Lewis (target completion June 2021)

Comments on any GRP's can be submitted to GRPs@ecy.wa.gov

This concludes Ecology's update.