



Unified Command News

Suisun Marsh Pipeline Spill Update

DATE: May 19, 2004

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

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PIPELINE SPILL UPDATE #6

SUISUN CITY, Calif. – The U.S. Coast Guard, California Dept. of Fish and Game Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), and Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P. (KMP), continue activities in response to the diesel spill from a pipeline into Suisun Marsh, near Cordelia, California. The following applies to this incident:

- There are currently 85 personnel on scene: 4 federal, 3 state, 3 Kinder Morgan, and 75 contractors retained by the company to continue clean up operations.
- From all indications, no diesel, contaminated soil or water has been detected outside of the 242-acre diked area surrounding the pipeline break.
- Due to extensive on-water recovery efforts, no sheens are visible on most of the sloughs or cuts within the diked area. Sheen can still be seen on unnamed cuts in the vicinity of the East Levee.
- Over the past week, one tidal gate in the marsh was opened at short intervals to raise total marsh water levels. This allowed much of the remaining diesel to be washed off marsh grass and into the water where it is now being contained and recovered.
- OSPR representatives continue to assess the environmental impact on the marsh. No oiled wildlife has been discovered since May 4. Although wildlife recovery efforts were suspended on May 11, wildlife hazing devices remain in place and continue to be effective in discouraging wildlife from entering the marsh.
- A population of the endangered Salt-marsh harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*) has been found in Suisun Marsh. These mammals are on both the State and Federal Endangered Species lists.

- Much of the diesel has been extracted from the oiled areas farthest away from the pipeline by skimmers, sorbent pads, and vacuum trucks. The Unified Command will evaluate these areas in the coming days to determine if further cleanup is necessary.
- Clean up efforts continue in the heavily affected soil closest to the pipeline. Crews have dug several trenches in this area and are currently using vacuum trucks to extract oil that has seeped beneath the surface.
- Soil samples are being taken throughout the marsh, at different depths, to guide clean up planning.
- The Unified Command is currently looking at other potential options to remediate the soil, including excavation and removal, as well as bioremediation (the use of microorganisms to degrade a contaminant). EPA representatives are on scene assisting the Unified Command with the technical aspects of soil excavation and bioremediation.
- The Unified Command is analyzing the environmental impact of various cleanup strategies, in order to utilize available technologies to achieve the best overall outcome for the marsh ecosystem and its plant and animal populations.
- Kinder Morgan is currently working to calculate the amount of fuel released and will update its original preliminary estimate as necessary.
- The cause of the pipeline break remains under investigation.

