

Husky-Maidstone Oil Spill

About the spill

On July 21, 2016, a leak was reported on Husky Energy's 16TAN pipeline where it crosses the North Saskatchewan River near Maidstone, Saskatchewan. The pipeline was immediately isolated at the river crossing valves, and spill response crews were dispatched.

The break occurred on land, approximately 160 metres from the riverbank on the south slope of the river and 75 kilometres upstream of Paynton

Ferry, Saskatchewan. An estimated 225 cubic metres (m³) of crude oil blended with condensate was released, and about 60 per cent of this volume was contained on land.

The spill response was overseen by a unified command structure involving Husky and the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) provided science

support and guidance. This unified command stood down on September 14 and Husky used its own incident command structure until October 1.

Husky's ongoing spill management project will address longer-term monitoring, regulatory compliance requirements and ongoing stakeholder engagement, and will target the cleanup of any potential small, isolated areas that warrant remediation in 2017.

2016 Shoreline cleanup and assessment

A Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) team surveyed and documented affected areas and provided an accurate picture of shoreline conditions, leading to the development of response and cleanup plans.

The first phase of SCAT safely removed any mobile oil and the heaviest concentrations of oil from the shoreline. The second phase removed recoverable oil to meet the goals developed by Husky, Ministry of Environment and ECCC.

Assessment and cleanup included: collection of free liquids near the release point; soil and vegetation removal at the release point and along the shoreline; and removal of oil from the river through the use of skimmers and absorbent materials.

The land impacted by the spill at the point of entry was completely remediated to meet regulatory criteria for soil and closure requirements.

Specially trained dogs (K9 units) located small areas of oil, and were the first of their kind deployed in Canada.

A late-August flood event redistributed oiled debris that had not yet been recovered and necessitated a second survey phase to characterize the post-flood oiling conditions and cleanup requirements.

Husky has conducted additional winter monitoring and will re-survey in 2017. This will involve an overall environmental protection plan (EPP) to the Ministry of Environment with proposals for remedial strategies and/or monitoring, to address any remaining impacts.

A human health risk assessment addressed potential risks to people whose water is sourced from river-based intake systems downstream of the 16TAN spill. The assessment evaluated the risk to people drinking untreated water directly from the river. Risks were found to be within acceptable limits for lifetime drinking water use.

On September 16, 2016, the Water Security Agency advised the communities of North Battleford, Prince Albert and Melfort, as well as SaskWater, that they may again start diverting and treating water from the North Saskatchewan River and Codette Reservoir.

What is Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment (SCAT)?

The SCAT process relies on experienced observers, is based on a systematic approach to data collection, and employs standard terms and definitions.

Five to nine SCAT teams were working each day, including two K9 units.

2016 by the numbers

More than **90 per cent** of the oil was recovered and accounted for by the end of September 2016. This represents an estimated 210,000 of the 225,000 litres spilled.

In total, **1,812 SCAT shoreline surveys** were completed and **802 kilometres** of shoreline surveyed.

A total of **101 shoreline treatment recommendations** were conducted to address specific cleanup actions for **133.9 kilometres of river shoreline**. 1,021 individual isolated, small volume locations were documented and remediated.

By year-end 2016, **5,112 water and 1,293 sediment samples** had been collected.

2017 planned activities

A corrective action plan including a new 2017 Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment (SCAT) program is being developed and submitted in spring 2017, with field work expected to begin in early May.

Some planned activities include:

- Engaging with First Nations communities and Aboriginal associations, with impacted shoreline access. Regular meetings to discuss concerns, plans for 2017 SCAT program, business inclusion, traditional use studies, etc. will occur with local First Nations communities. Engagement with other Aboriginal groups is ongoing.
- Husky will continue to work with agencies and municipalities that were impacted by the release.
- A post-treatment (cleanup) assessment program will be developed by Husky in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and ECCC, and aligned with the Saskatchewan Environmental Code for any corrective action plans.
- An Environmental Protection Plan will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment that includes the shoreline assessment (resurvey/re-inspection) program design, the Tier 3 (no further treatment) endpoints, and the overall SCAT data management plan.
- Summary documentation of the 2017 SCAT program will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment. First Nation stakeholders will be engaged for the SCAT program, including involvement in the assessments and the Tier 3 endpoints implementation aspects.
- The observation and the removal of any additional oil-impacted areas, such as small isolated areas and oiled vegetation mats will be addressed. The area at kilometer point 18.25 will be reassessed and remediated to meet cleanup objectives.
- A Submerged and Sunken Oil Working Group consisting of Husky, regulatory and subject matter experts will be initiated. The Working Group will review the 2016 sediment sample, bottom oil and oil fate and transport data and findings in order to develop the 2017 program.
- In spring 2017, an additional wildlife assessment will be conducted to determine any potential continuing threats to wildlife.

For more information, please contact the Ministry of Environment toll-free at 1-800-567-4224 or centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca.