

Secondary Containment Pumping or Draining SOP

1 Purpose and Scope

This standard operating procedure (SOP) documents the proper removal of accumulated storm water in sized secondary containments during non-winter months in order to maintain sufficient containment capacity in case of a catastrophic release of oil or diesel from a tank or portable container residing within the containment.

The scope is derived primarily from the facility SPCC Plan (Federal EPA, 40 CFR Part 112) and State regulation 18 AAC 75.075 (tanks > 10,000 gal.), both address how secondary containments are inspected and maintained based on these requirements.

2 Procedure

This procedure applies to all sized secondary containment in which only oil or diesel is stored within the containment. Sized secondary containment structures include everything from lined containments for the large diesel storage tanks located at the port and mine site down to the smaller portable pallet type containments in which drums or totes are placed while in use.

This procedure does not apply to secondary containments where petroleum liquids “miscible with water” i.e. methanol, gasoline or glycols are stored nor does it apply to containments which are not exposed directly to precipitation such as double wall tanks or covered containments.

Prior to the winter months pertinent oil and diesel secondary containments shall be inspected to confirm all water has been removed prior to freezing. Accumulated snow or ice from winter months will be managed once the snow begins to melt in the spring.

3 Inspection

The responsible owner of the containment will conduct an inspection after any significant rain event (> 0.5”) and if needed will remove excess water from the containment. If determined water removal is needed the inspector will complete an entry in the *Secondary Containment Draining / Pumping Log* for the specific containment. Prior to removing any water from containment an inspection of the water quality in the containment is required to determine if the water requires “treatment” prior to removal or discharge.

3.1 If water is present with no sheen:

Pump, drain or siphon water to ground outside containment area. If the containment is affixed with a drain valve, ensure the valve or plug is closed when the transfer is completed.

3.1.1 If water is present with light sheen:

Remove contaminant (sheen) from water by one of the following methods:

- Using “floating” absorbent pads treatment may be achieved by placing oil absorbent pads on sheen until the sheen is completely absorbed and no longer visible on the water surface. Bag and dispose of the used absorbents with incinerator waste.

- If significant water level is observed with a sheen, water level may be lowered by pumping or draining clean water from the below the water surface to a manageable level prior to utilizing absorbent pads to treat the remaining water. When pumping or draining using this method, the water level must be closely watched by the inspector to ensure adequate water is left and contaminants (sheen) are not passed through the discharge. Once the water level is lowered, the remaining water can then be treated using absorbent pads. With the sheen no longer visible, the water may be removed from the containment. Note: record this two-step process on the log accordingly.

3.1.2 If oils (thick, not dispersed) are noticed inside containment (on water or not):

The inspector will immediately notify the spill reporting line to report the oil or diesel in the containment. Note this to his Supervisor or the as a spill to containment. The Spill Response Officer (SRO) and or the Response Chief will evaluate and direct the clean-up procedure if needed.

4 Safety and Environmental

- PPE must be worn at all times
- Siphons if utilized, should never be started using ones mouth

5 Key Responsibilities

Inspector: Responsible for the inspection of the secondary containments and to report any sheen or oil to his/her supervisor.

Spill Response Official: Responsible for ensuring secondary containment and records are being maintained. Assist with any questions and conducts all spill reporting to required agencies.

EMS Coordinator: Responsible for ensuring this document is maintained relevant to the EMS standard.

6 Departure from Procedure

This SOP was written to comply with applicable laws and regulations pertaining to secondary containment pumping. Failure to follow this procedure could result in damage to the tundra and surface waters. Departure from procedures resulting in pollution may also lead to criminal or civil penalties for you and the Company as well as adverse effects on corporate performance and reputation.

7 Definitions

Sheen: a film or colored luster on the water's surface or any "oily" sludge or emulsion noticed beneath the water surface.

Inspector: Mine, Port or Contractor who has completed the annual SPCC Oil Handling Training for Red Dog and is responsible for inspecting and maintaining secondary containments.

8 General Requirements

- 18 AAC 75.075(d)
- 40 CFR 112

9 Key Documents/Tools/References

[Secondary Containment Pumping Log](#)

[Port Large Fuel Tanks Secondary Containment Pumping Log](#)