



Nisga'a Lisims Government

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northwest Fuels Bell-Irving Diesel Spill

July 30, 2017 - 3:00 PM, The compromised pup trailer and truck have been removed from the incident site after the remaining fuel was offloaded.

At this time, it is estimated that 17,700 litres of fuel has been released to the environment from fuel compartments in both the truck and pup trailer. Fuel continues to be recovered from the environment and it is estimated that 9,188 litres of diesel and gasoline have been recovered from the site.

Trenches were constructed to limit further product from going into the Bell-Irving River. Containment boom was placed along the river's edge, downslope of the spill site, to capture trace amounts of product that were observed to be entering the river. The responsible party will continue to monitor the boom and confirm the effectiveness of containment on a daily basis.

An environmental consultant, hired by the responsible party, took preliminary water samples upriver from the site, at the site and down river from the site, near the Bell-Irving/Hwy 37 N bridge location. Contaminated soil is being collected and stored off-site and remediation plans are being developed.

July 28, 2017 - 9:45 AM, The Northwest Fuels tanker was carrying a total shipment of 47,399 liters of diesel, split between the truck (20,309 liters) and a pup trailer (27,090 liters). The truck tanks were not compromised, but it appears that three out of four of the compartments in the pup trailer were compromised. Work is underway to determine the total quantity spilled from the pup trailer. All fuel remaining in the truck has been pumped off and recovery work is underway to remove the truck. The next priority is to pump the remaining fuel out of the damaged pup and remove it.

July 27, 2017 - Bell-Irving River – at approximately 14:50, Nisga'a Lisims Government has had a report of a single fuel tanker truck transporting Diesel has crashed on Highway 37 near the Bell-Irving River. The river is approximately 200 feet downhill from the spill location. Initial reports from the responsible party estimate 6,000 litres of diesel have released from the tanker. The highway is not blocked and there are no reported injuries.

For any further media inquiries, please contact the following:
Media relations at the Ministry of Environment at 250-953-3834, or follow the link to website:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/spills-environmental-emergencies/spill-incidents/northwest-fuels-bell-irving-fuel-spill>

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