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

9/11/2025

Background

Ecology's Spills Program is a comprehensive program for preventing, preparing for, 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 as outlined in an interagency agreement with the Utilities and Transportation Commission. Ecology approves contingency plans for five years.

Drills/Readiness Exercises: Ecology evaluates oil spill drills for pipelines 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 of this cycle, the 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 at NWAC Exercise Schedule.

Geographic Response Planning: Geographic Response Plans (GRP) contain pre-identified response strategies to protect sensitive natural, cultural, and economic resources at risk from an oil spill. Ecology develops GRPs for the water bodies near pipelines or other regulated facilities. These geographic response plans are referenced in industry contingency plans, and can be viewed at Geographic Response Plans.

July 1, 2025 Update

Scott Zimmerman retired from Ecology after 32 years of State Service. We are currently recruiting for the pipeline planner position, first review of applications is September 15th.

Job Posting: https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/ecology/jobs/5062624/oil-pipeline-preparedness-planner-environmental-planner-3

Please direct any pipeline contingency plan related questions to Spill's Planning Unit Supervisor, Darcy Bird (darcy.bird@ecy.wa.gov; 360-480-2084), until we can fill his position.

Pipeline Oil Spill Contingency Plan and Drill Updates

Andeavor Logistics Northwest Products System (Marathon)

The Northwest Products System contingency plan covers the Andeavor Logistics pipeline from the Oregon border near Pasco to Spokane. The plan received 5-year approval on February 29, 2024. The

most recent plan update was a company-initiated change to remove the Idaho facilities from the NWPS plan. This update does not affect Washington facilities and was approved on May 14, 2025.

2025 Drills:

- 07/10/2025: Equipment Deployment, Pasco
- 10/08/2025: Equipment Deployment, GRP, Spokane
- 07/10/2025: Tabletop Drill, Pasco

Spills in 2025: 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 Pipeline. The plan received a 5-year approval on June 9, 2021. The most recent plan update was an annual update submitted on June 2, 2025, and included a change to the Spill Management Team roster and updated Initial Response and Containment actions. The update was approved on June 5, 2025.

2025 Drills:

- 04/22/2025: Equipment Deployment, Renton
- 07/22/2025: Equipment Deployment
- 04/23/2025: Tabletop Drill, Renton

Spills in 2025: None

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. Their plan received a 5-year approval in September 2023. The most recent plan update, submitted on July 16, 2024, was an annual update which included spill management team changes, new primary response contractor certificate, minor change to a tank volume, and administrative changes to the plan. This annual update was approved on August 16, 2024.

2025 Drills:

- 05/14/2025: Equipment Deployment and Tabletop, Renton
- 05/15/2025: Equipment Deployment, Tacoma
- 06/24/2025: Tabletop Drill, Moses Lake
- 06/25/2025: Equipment Deployment, Moses Lake
- 06/26/2025: Equipment Deployment, Spokane
- 09/23/2025: Worst Case Tabletop Drill, Tacoma

Spills in 2025: None

SeaPort Sound Terminal, LLC (TransMontaigne)

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 February 14, 2022. The most recent plan update was a company initiated update with a

new binding agreement signator and approved on August 7th, 2025. Ecology is currently working with SeaPort to pre-review their plan ahead of their plan's expiration date in April 2026.

2025 Drills:

- 01/22/2025: Response Credit/Equipment Deployment
- 07/23/2025: Equipment Deployment
- 05/14/2025: Worst Case Tabletop Drill

Spills in 2025: 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 4,903-foot long, 6-inch diameter pipelines connecting to the Marathon/Andeavor Pasco Terminal. After a thorough review process, which included a 30-day public comment period, their plan was re-approved for a new 5-year period beginning on December 31, 2024. The most recent plan update consisted of minor technical fixes to their Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP) and was approved on February 20, 2025. Ecology is working with Tidewater to update their plan with up-to-date on-water storage capacity and accurate contract information after a Coast Guard inspection of their storage barges on the Columbia River.

2025 Drills:

- 07/31/2025: Equipment Deployment, Pasco
- 09/10/2025: Equipment Deployment, Vancouver
- 07/31/2025: Tabletop Drill, Pasco
- 09/10/2025: Tabletop Drill, Vancouver

Spills in 2025: 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 three of the four northern refineries. The most recent plan update was an annual update submitted on December 12, 2024, which included updated plan templates and policies, and a new binding agreement. This annual update was approved on January 2, 2025.

2025 Drills:

- 05/08/2025: Equipment Deployment, GRP, Sumas
- 09/18/2025: Equipment Deployment, GRP
- 11/05/2025: Tabletop Drill, Laurel Station

Spills in 2025: 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. Their plan received 5-year approval on

October 4, 2021. The most recent plan update included changes to the Spill Management Team, and was submitted to Ecology on September 9th, 2025.

2025 Drills:

- 05/29/2025: Equipment Deployment, Tacoma
- 07/17/2025: Equipment Deployment, Tacoma
- 09/11/2025: Worst Case Tabletop Drill

Spills in 2025: None

Worst-Case Tabletop Drills in 2025:

- SeaPort Sound Terminal 5/14/25
- US Oil/McChord Pipeline 9/11/25
- Phillips 66 Integrated Contingency Plan 9/23/25

Rule Updates

None at present.

Ecology's pipeline contingency plan rule (WAC 173-182) includes a requirement for Ecology to evaluate our rules every 5 years, using a process called the "Best Achievable Protection (BAP)" cycle. Ecology elected to develop workgroups, rather than holding a conference, for this cycle.

As part of the 2025 BAP process, Ecology administered a survey to identify priority areas for improving oil spill preparedness. Based on survey responses, four key focus areas were selected and assigned to dedicated workgroups for further evaluation: (1) non-floating oils, (2) Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Techniques, (3) Southern Resident Killer Whale deterrence, and (4) Uncrewed Aerial Surveillance. This document summarizes each workgroup's discussions and presents their recommendations for strengthening Washington's oil spill preparedness system.

Ecology encourages the public to comment on the recommendations made by the four workgroups during our Best Achievable Protections 2025 cycle. Review the recommendations here: https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/sppr/preparedness/2025-BestAchievableProtections-Summary.PDF

Geographic Response Plan Updates

Comprehensive Updates

The following GRP's are presently undergoing full updates, and will affect pipeline contingency plans:

- Middle Columbia River – McNary Pool – Published July 1, 2025
- Nisqually River
- South Puget Sound
- Stillaguamish River
- Skagit River

Interim Updates

Interim updates to Geographic Response Plans are published every quarter, as needed. Ecology publishes a blog summarizing the quarter's interim updates on www.oilspills101.wa.gov under "recent

posts". The most recent interim updates were published in July 2025 and can be viewed here: https://oilspills101.wa.gov/grp-quarterly-newsletter-june-2025/

Comments on any GRP can be submitted to GRPs@ecy.wa.gov to be considered for an interim update.

This concludes Ecology's update.