CLAIM SUMMARY / DETERMINATION FORM

: 10/22/2008 Date Claim Number : S05014-001

Claimant : ConocoPhillips Company

: Corporate (US) Type of Claimant Type of Claim : Removal Costs Claim Manager

Amount Requested : \$112,551.45

FACTS:

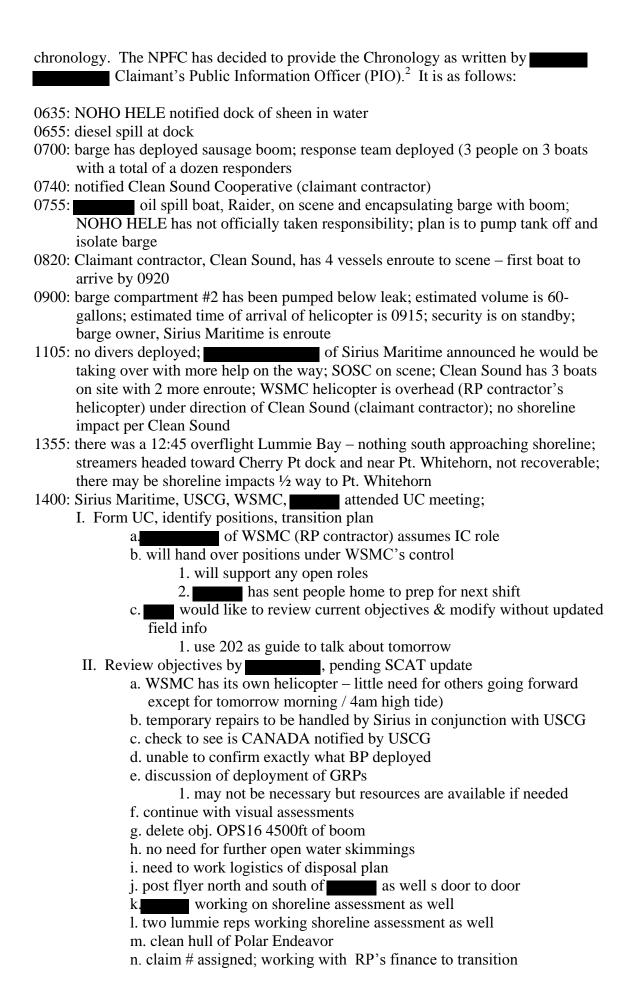
1. Oil Spill Incident: On Monday January 17, 2005 at approximately 2220, the tug boat NA HOKU approached the ConocoPhillips Refinery dock with the empty tank barge NOHO HELE under tow. The tug shortened tow, made up to the port side of the NOHO HELE and brought the starboard side of the barge to the pier at 2305. At 0045 on January 18, 2005, the barge began loading approximately 54,000 barrels of diesel. At approximately 0630, the cargo loading was stopped when diesel was discovered in the water. The diesel on the barge was then pumped back to the facility and inspection of the hull revealed a hole through which the diesel had leaked. The leak was stopped at approximately 0830. An investigation revealed that the tug's fendering system had punched a hole in the barge when the tug made up to it prior to approaching the dock. (Note that all times stated above are in Pacific Standard Time).

2. Description of actions performed as reported by the claimant: On January 18, 2005, the spill was reported at approximately 6:35am. The claimant notified the NRC via report # 747479. The claimant notified the USCG, the Washington Department of Ecology, and its respective response contractor, Clean Sound Cooperative. The leak from the NOHO HELE was stopped at approximately 9:15. Transfer of incident command to the Responsible Party, Sirius Maritime, was identified on the ICS 202 Objectives sheet as of 1300 hrs on January 18, 2005. Until the transfer took place, the claimant states various personnel, as well as the Clean Sound Cooperative crews (ConocoPhillips' contractor), worked diligently to contain and begin cleanup of the spill. The cleanup was handled by various Ferndale employees and contract personnel who were on site and available.

The claimant contends that the first and primary concern they had was to minimize any hazard. Individuals were immediately mobilized in the area to deploy boom to contain the spill as quickly as possible, to begin cleaning up the fuel from the water, and to assess potential impacts to the local environment. Containment boom was used to prevent fuel from escaping; absorbent material was used to collect fuel from the water's surface. Search for and tracking of the diesel was handled by helicopter and from the shore.

In summary, the claimant reports that the efforts associated with this incident involved 103 people, 2500 feet of boom, three oil skimmers, nine work boats and three helicopters. The claimant has provided several ICS forms generated by different people who articulate details of the incident from the author of the ICS Form's perspective therefore not every ICS form provides the same detail or fact set with respect to

letter dated October 18, 2005 to & Associates, Inc.



² See, Exhibit B of claimant submission,

- o. get JIC's communication plan, USCG agreed to talking points only no press release
- III. Where to go from here per
 - a. drop skimming
 - b. complete in-progress obj. and stand down
 - 1. clean up is done
 - 2. org. should not completely stand down yet, per a. no more logistics support from needed
 - 3. NRC will handle remaining boom (2 boats) containment around dock and barge
 - c. WSMC has other off site assistance
 - d. maintain planning & ops
 - e. extend operational period under WSMC until noon tomorrow
 - f. field ops continue until further notice -1500 adjourn note * barge to discharge at 1700
- 3. Description of actions performed as reported by Sirius Maritime (RP): On January 18, 2005 at approximately 0630 the oil spill occurred at the ConocoPhillips Ferndale Refinery. The Sirius Maritime tank barge, NOHO HELE, was loading cargo at the Ferndale Refinery. During the transfer, the person-in-charge from Sirius Maritime discovered the spill and immediately stopped all loading. Sirius made notifications to the NRC via report #747487, the RP also notified the USCG who was the Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC), Washington Department of Ecology who was the State On Scene Coordinator (SOSC), and their contractor of record, Washington State Maritime Cooperative (WSMC).

By 0700, Sirius Maritime (RP) and the crew of its attending tug, the NA HOKU, were well into the response effort. Sirius Maritime promptly notified ConocoPhillips that the response would be fully handled by them (including WSMC, Global Diving & Salvage and other contractors). Sirius Maritime states they informed Conoco that their participation was not necessary. The Sirius Maritime crew and contractors deployed boom and absorbent pads to contain and retrieve the spilled fuel. They inspected the barge and determined the source of the leak. Within two hours from onset, at approximately 0830, the source had been found and the leak stopped. By approximately 1900, all recoverable amounts of oil had been retrieved by the Sirius Maritime crew and contractors. At 2030, response resources were demobilized and at 2250, the barge departed from the facility.

Sirius Maritime's chronology of the incident is as follows³:

<u>1/18/05</u>

0640: tankerman called out the Master and crew of the attending tug

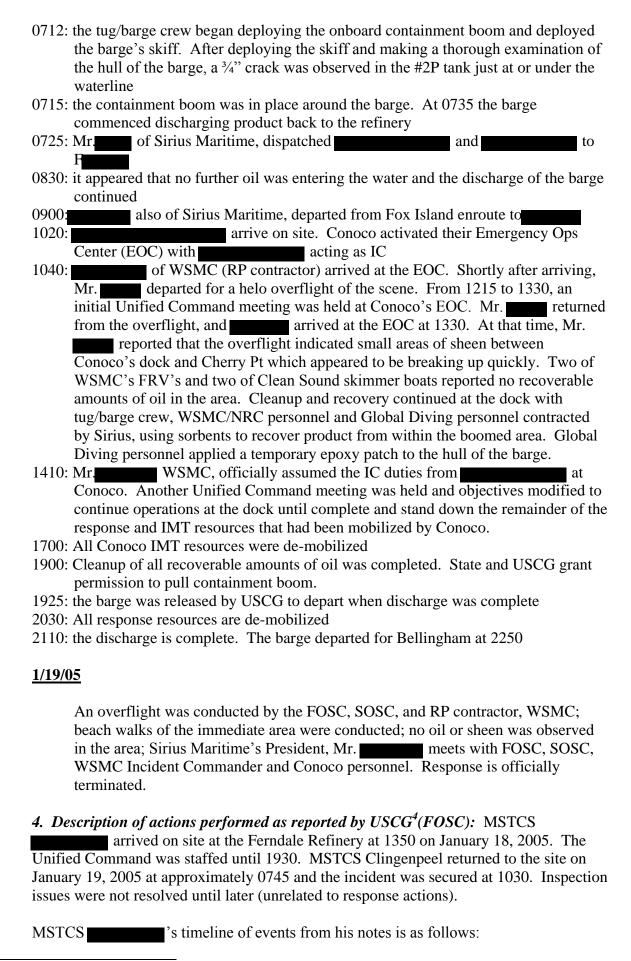
0648: the terminal shutdown loading ops; source of the oil could still not be determined

0700: the tug master contacted Sirius Maritime's QI and informed him of situation; the QI began notifications to WSMC, USCG as FOSC, and Washington Department of Ecology as SOSC

0705: the tug crew began deploying sorbent boom in the vicinity of the #2P cargo tank where there appeared to be a concentration of oil

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³ See. Sirius Maritime's Memorandum dated March 16, 2005



⁴ See, typed statement (undated) from MSTCS A.S. (NPFC)

- 0635: leak reported in barge NOHO HELE
- 0640-0730: Notifications were made
- 0700-0730: Spill Response Team activated
- 0747: Personnel in field, at the dock report a hole in #2 compartment and still leaking
- 0915: leak stopped, cargo transferred back to facility
- 1040: ConocoPhillips and Clean Sound Cooperative deploy boom
- 1500: RP representation in the Unified Command shifts from Conoco to Sirius
- 1930: Secure Command Post

<u>1/19/05</u>

- 0730: Reopen Command Post
- 1030: Secure Incident response activities

In addition to the above provided Chronology from MSTCS to the NPFC is also the USCG's Polrep 1 and Final which shows the following timeline⁵:

1/18/05

- 0715: MSO received report from NRC of a discharge of diesel at the ConocoPhillips Refinery in Ferndale, WA
- 0745: Pollution Investigators depart MSO
- 0945: Pollution Investigators arrive on scene and are briefed. While taking on diesel, the person in charge of the NOHO HELE noticed a sheen in the water. ConocoPhillips conducted an initial response and placed boom around the barge and the Polar Endeavor. The barge immediately started transferring fuel back to the refinery. As the barge's hull rose above the water line, the person in charge noticed a hole. Geographic Response Plans NPS-12 and NPS-13 implemented and being maintained.
- 1000: Overflight conducted, observed minimal sheen and no shoreline impact.
- 1030: Pollution Investigators board the barge. Observed the damage to the hull of the NOHO HELE and informed the RP that all of the fuel on the barge had to be off loaded and the clean up complete before the barge could depart.
- 1200: USCG, WADOE, RP set up unified command. ConocoPhillips transferred responsibility of the clean up to Sirius Maritime.
- 1230: Pollution Investigators conduct overflight and observe minimal sheen and no shoreline impact.
- 1345: MSO Chief arrives on scene and takes over duties as FOSCR.
- 1400: Overflight conducted no sheen outside boom or shoreline impact observed.
- 1530: Pollution Investigators depart scene.
- 1800: Pulled GRPS NPS-12 and NPS-13 due to lack of oil and worsening weather conditions.
- 2200: T/B NOHO HELE departs ConocoPhillips Refinery enroute to Pier 3, Bellingham, WA. Unable to moor due to weather.

1/19/05

0830: Overflight conducted, no sheen or shoreline impact visible.

0945: SCAT teams deploy

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⁵ See, USCG Polrep 1 and Final

1030: SCAT teams find no shoreline impact and secures.

1130: T/B NOHO HELE moors to Pier 3, Bellingham, WA for further repairs.

CASE CLOSED

5. Description of actions performed as reported by $WADOE^6(SOSC)$: WADOE personnel arrived on site at the Ferndale Refinery on January 18, 2005 and filled positions within the ICS, and undertook initial investigative actions.

WADOE's chronology as referenced in their Investigative Findings report dated 8 June 2005^7 is as follows:

1/17/05

- 2220: The tug boat NA HOKU approached the ConocoPhillips refinery dock with the empty tank barge NOHO HELE under tow. The NA HOKU shortened up the tow and then made up to the NOHO HELE's port side.
- 2305: The first line from the NOHO HELE was on the dock.
- 2320: The NOHO HELE was made all fast at the ConocoPhillips dock.

1/18/05

- 0010: The Declaration of Inspection (DOI) was completed and signed by barge Person in Charge (PIC) and terminal PIC.
- 0045: ConocoPhillips commenced loading 54,000 barrels of diesel to the barge. The cargo plan was to load the barge to the load marks and transport the diesel to Tacoma.
- 0045-0630: The cargo transfer procedures were going according to the tankerman's plan.
- 0700: The tug master contacted Sirius Maritime QI and informed him of the situation. The Sirius Maritime QI began notifications to Washington State Maritime Cooperative (WSMC), the U.S.Coast Guard, their OSRO, and the Washington State Emergency Management Division.
- 0710: The tug crew began deploying sorbent boom in the vicinity of #2P cargo tank where there appeared to be a concentration of oil.
- 0712: The tug/barge crew began deploying the onboard containment boom with the barge's response skiff. The skiff was used to inspect the barge hull to try to discover the source of the leak. A 3/4" crack was discovered in the hull at the waterline between frame 11 and 12, about 71/2 feet below the main deck on the port side in the #2P cargo tank.
- 0730: Additional boom was deployed in the water and absorbent pads used to retrieve spilled diesel.
- 0735: The barge began pumping diesel back to the facility.
- 0830: The leak was stopped.
- 1900: Cleanup of all amounts of oil determined recoverable was completed.
- 2110: The barge discharge was complete.
- 2250: The barge departed for Bellingham and repairs.
- 6. The Claim: On December 28, 2007 ConocoPhillips (COP) submitted a removal cost claim to the National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC), for reimbursement of their uncompensated removal costs in the amount of \$112,551.45 for the services and

⁶ See, Investigation Findings dated 8 June 2005 as reported by Washington Department of Ecology (WADOE) ⁷ id

materials they state they provided in response to the NOHO HELE oil spill at their refinery dock from January 18, 2005 through January 19, 2005. The invoices, which are the subject of this claim, were sent by the claimant to Sirius Maritime. Sirius Maritime has denied payment to the claimant as they state the services provided were excessive and unnecessary. This claim consists of proof of presentment, copies of the invoicing, disposal manifests, CG MISLE case information, NRC report, ICS Forms, and news articles, press releases and information statements. The review of the actual cost invoicing and dailies focused on: (1) whether the actions taken were compensable "removal actions" under OPA and the claims regulations at 33 CFR 136 (e.g., actions to prevent, minimize, mitigate the effects of the incident); (2) whether the costs were incurred as a result of these actions; (3) whether the actions taken were consistent with the NCP or directed by the FOSC, and (4) whether the costs were adequately documented.

APPLICABLE LAW:

Under OPA 90, at 33 USC § 2702(a), responsible parties are liable for removal costs and damages resulting from the discharge of oil into navigable waters and adjoining shorelines, as described in Section 2702(b) of OPA 90. A responsible party's liability will include "removal costs incurred by any person for acts taken by the person which are consistent with the National Contingency Plan". 33 USC § 2702(b)(1)(B).

"Oil" is defined in relevant part, at 33 USC § 2701(23), to mean "oil of any kind or in any form, including petroleum, fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse, and oil mixed with wastes other than dredged spoil".

The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF), which is administered by the NPFC, is available, pursuant to 33 USC §§ 2712(a)(4) and 2713 and the OSLTF claims adjudication regulations at 33 CFR Part 136, to pay claims for uncompensated removal costs that are determined to be consistent with the National Contingency Plan and uncompensated damages. Removal costs are defined as "the costs of removal that are incurred after a discharge of oil has occurred or, in any case in which there is a substantial threat of a discharge of oil, the costs to prevent, minimize, or mitigate oil pollution from an incident".

Under 33 USC §2713(b)(2) and 33 CFR 136.103(d) no claim against the OSLTF may be approved or certified for payment during the pendency of an action by the claimant in court to recover the same costs that are the subject of the claim. See also, 33 USC §2713(c) and 33 CFR 136.103(c)(2) [claimant election].

33 U.S.C. §2713(d) provides that "If a claim is presented in accordance with this section, including a claim for interim, short-term damages representing less than the full amount of damages to which the claimant ultimately may be entitled, and full and adequate compensation is unavailable, a claim for the uncompensated damages and removal costs may be presented to the Fund."

Under 33 CFR 136.105(a) and 136.105(e)(6), the claimant bears the burden of providing to the NPFC, all evidence, information, and documentation deemed necessary by the Director, NPFC, to support the claim.

Under 33 CFR 136.105(b) each claim must be in writing, for a sum certain for each category of uncompensated damages or removal costs resulting from an incident. In addition, under 33 CFR 136, the claimant bears the burden to prove the removal actions were reasonable in response to the scope of the oil spill incident, and the NPFC has the authority and responsibility to perform a reasonableness determination. Specifically, under 33 CFR 136.203, "a claimant must establish -

- (a) That the actions taken were necessary to prevent, minimize, or mitigate the effects of the incident;
- (b) That the removal costs were incurred as a result of these actions;
- (c) That the actions taken were determined by the FOSC to be consistent with the National Contingency Plan or were directed by the FOSC."

Under 33 CFR 136.205 "the amount of compensation allowable is the total of uncompensated *reasonable* removal costs of actions taken that were determined by the FOSC to be consistent with the National Contingency Plan or were directed by the FOSC. Except in exceptional circumstances, removal *activities* for which costs are being claimed must have been coordinated with the FOSC." [Emphasis added].

DETERMINATION OF LOSS:

A. Overview:

- 1. The FOSC generated Polrep 1 and Final regarding the incident highlights and the FOSCR has provided an undated written statement to the NPFC. See, Enclosures 4 & 5.
- 2. The incident involved the discharge of "oil" as defined in OPA 90, 33 U.S.C. § 2701(23), to navigable waters.
- 3. In accordance with 33 CFR § 136.105(e)(12), the claimant has certified no suit has been filed in court for the claimed uncompensated removal costs.
- 4. The claim was submitted on time.
- 5. The NPFC Claims Manager has thoroughly reviewed all documentation submitted with the claim and determined that some of the removal costs presented were for actions in accordance with the NCP and that the costs for these actions were indeed reasonable and allowable under OPA and 33 CFR § 136.205 and directed by the FOSC.

B. Analysis:

NPFC CA reviewed the actual cost invoices and dailies to confirm that the claimant had incurred all costs claimed. The review focused on: (1) whether the actions taken were compensable "removal actions" under OPA and the claims regulations at 33 CFR 136 (e.g., actions to prevent, minimize, mitigate the effects of the incident); (2) whether the costs were incurred as a result of these actions; (3) whether the actions taken were determined by the FOSC, to be consistent with the NCP or directed by the FOSC, and (4) whether the costs were adequately documented and reasonable.

On that basis, the Claims Manager hereby determines that the claimant did in fact incur \$35,878.24 of uncompensated removal costs and that that amount is properly payable by the

OSLTF as full compensation for the reimbursable removal costs incurred by the claimant and submitted to the NPFC under claim# S05014-001. The claimant states that all costs claimed are for uncompensated removal costs incurred by the claimant for this incident for the time period of, January 18, 2005 through January 19, 2005. The claimant represents that all costs paid by the claimant are compensable removal costs, payable by the OSLTF as presented by the claimant.

During the adjudication process, the NPFC contacted the Washington State Department of Ecology (WADOE) who fulfilled the role of the State On Scene Coordinator (SOSC) for this incident. At the NPFC's request, the SOSC provided a complete copy of their case file associated with this incident including but not limited to, photographs, investigations reports, and statements from interviews, RP Investigative Report, news articles, copies of the barge logbook, copy of Department's Enforcement action, and copies of internal memorandum, just to name a few.

The NPFC also contacted the FOSCR, MSTC Clingenpeel and obtained a written statement regarding the incident and response actions as well as the NPFC notified the RP, Sirius Maritime, and received a response regarding the justification on why they denied paying the claimant's costs. Based on the variances of information from all parties involved, the NPFC determined to pay the following costs based on validation by either the FOSC, the SOSC or both, who were monitoring the response:

Conoco Materials – The NPFC has determined that \$6,086.25 for sorbent boom has been substantiated by the records of both the FOSC and SOSC and is therefore determined OPA compensable. All other costs billed under the heading of Conoco Materials have been determined to be either unsubstantiated or excessive in nature. (See, Enclosure 1 – spreadsheet of costs for a line by line itemization of costs).

Clean Sound Cooperative – The NPFC has determined that \$21,197.21 is OPA compensable. The FOSC, the SOSC, and the RP records have validated the presence of this contractor during response actions. All costs denied are denied as unsubstantiated or non-OPA compensable removal costs. (See, Enclosure 1 – spreadsheet of costs for a line by line itemization of costs).

Other Contract Labor – The NPFC has denied all costs under this category as unsubstantiated. Neither the FOSC nor the SOSC has validated the work billed by these vendors as reasonable, necessary or directed by the FOSC. It is important to note that costs associated with media relations are not OPA compensable removal costs and are therefore denied in their entirety. (See, Enclosure 1 – spreadsheet of costs for a line by line itemization of costs).

Puget Sound Security – The NPFC has determined the cost associated with security because of the presence of non-ConocoPhillips employees during spill response is a reasonable and necessary expense and therefore determined OPA compensable. (See, Enclosure 1 – spreadsheet of costs for a line by line itemization of costs).

Misc. Equipment Rental – The NPFC has determined that light towers, tanks for disposal, and portable toilets are reasonable and necessary expenses associated with response. Based on the documentation provided, these costs do not appear on any other billing provided to the NPFC therefore these costs are not considered duplicative and are deemed OPA

compensable. (See, Enclosure 1 – spreadsheet of costs for a line by line itemization of costs).

ConocoPhillips Labor – The NPFC has determined that the claimant has failed to meet its burden in providing the following: (1) appropriate hourly rates for each employee; (2) a detailed description by name along with the work being performed hourly by each Conoco employee; (3) failure to provide justification for over 421 man hours billed. When the NPFC requested the hourly wage information by person, the claimant failed to produce sufficient information to substantiate rates paid, work performed, and no justification for the excessive number of billets charged on such a small response. It is important to note that while Sirius Maritime did not officially take control of the Incident Command until after 1pm on January 18, 2005, the records and accounts by ALL parties demonstrate that the RP was proactive from the moment of notification until the response ended. (See, Enclosure 1 – spreadsheet of costs for a line by line itemization of costs).

Puget Sound Pilots – The NPFC has determined that \$6,196.24 is OPA compensable removal costs as determined by the FOSC. The downtime associated with the Polar Endeavor is not a removal cost and the claimant has failed to meet their burden for these costs as a loss of profits and earning capacity. (See, Enclosure 1 – spreadsheet of costs for a line by line itemization of costs).

C. Determined Amount:

The NPFC hereby determines that the OSLTF will pay \$35,878.24 as full compensation for the reimbursable removal costs incurred by the Claimant and submitted to the NPFC under claim # S05014-001. All costs determined compensable are for charges paid for by the Claimant for removal actions as that term is defined in OPA and, are compensable removal costs, payable by the OSLTF as presented by the Claimant.

AMOUNT: \$35,878.24

Claim Supervisor:
Date of Supervisor's review:
Supervisor Action:
Supervisor's Comments: