

Don
for review
J.B. Fitzgerald

TO: A 2

DATE: 22, May, 1968

FROM: Game Branch

SUBJECT: Pollution of Dezadeash Lake from
U.S. Army Pipeline

may start
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The following is a summarization of the facts that have been gathered concerning a leak in the U.S. Army Oil line at approximately Mile 129 on the Haines Road.

Apparently the leak was first detected on Friday afternoon, May 17th, when a drop in pressure indicated a break between Mile 1026 and Mile 94 on the line.

Actual figures on the leakage have not been given to this department but it is rumoured that 2000 barrels were lost.

Officials were notified in Anchorage on Friday evening but we do not believe work was commenced until Monday, May 20th when a ditch-digger and crew began to uncover the line which is underground for about seven miles in this area.

Fisheries, forestry and game officials have inspected the area and on Tuesday afternoon when the operation was observed a couple of test holes revealed the pipe in an apparent advanced state of deterioration.

The actual leak (or one of the leaks) is at Mile 129 but it appears that the oil is seeping into the lake for a distance of at least one and one half miles with the spring run-off.

In some areas on the shore line the oil film is one inch deep and is being contained by the drifting packs of needle ice which are acting like a natural boom, but in the advent of a westerly wind these packs will move out and the film will cover a very extensive area of the lake.

We have recovered a few dead waterfowl and fish and there are a number of ducks and geese resting on the lake at present on their way north.

We feel that immediate action should be taken to take advantage of the natural holding powers of ice action and temperature and hope sincerely that the oil absorbing property of the new material they are presently using in Alaska will be put into use here to prevent any further spread.

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, has been advised of this situation by Dr. Pearson, C.W.S., Whitehorse.

This matter will be kept under surveillance by this Branch in conjunction with Federal Fisheries and further reports will be submitted.

J.B. Fitzgerald
J. B. Fitzgerald,
Director of Game.

ENVIRONMENT CANADA
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SERVICE
JUN 26 1974
WHITEHORSE, Y. T.

Note: No mention of type of oil spilled.
JD