

POL Contamination, Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline

MEMO TO FILE

NPAVK

23 May 58

LLH/301/bh

1. A conference was held in the office of Colonel Keener, Quartermaster, USARAL, on 23 May 1958 to discuss the findings, conclusions and recommendations by the joint District-USARAL inspection team which visited the areas contaminated by spilled fuel earlier this month. Present at the conference were:

Colonel Keener - Quartermaster
Lt Colonel Schmidt - Quartermaster POL Officer
Colonel Hasenan, Alaska District
Dick Smith - Fire Prevention Engineer, USARAL
Lt Colonel Schwartz - Executive, Engineer Section, USARAL
Wardie King - Safety Branch, Alaska District
John Spangler - Construction Division, Alaska District

2. I informed Colonel Keener that the inspection trip had indicated four specific areas in which contamination by spilled petroleum products was causing both hazardous conditions and considerable local discontent and comment. All four of these locations are between Station 24 and the general area of the Donjek River. Two of the areas which have contaminated lakes used for fur trapping were definitely caused by operations of APPS personnel in their endeavors to de-ice the Pipeline. Fuel-saturated vegetation in the ~~four~~ ^{two} areas was caused by contractor operations in de-icing the line. Contamination in one location near Swede Johnson Creek was caused by unknown persons, either APPS or District.

3. The inspection group visited Whitehorse and discussed the condition with Commissioner Collins and with representatives of Fish & Wildlife, Forestry, Police and other territorial agencies. It was the opinion of all of these Canadian representatives that the contamination was not of significant importance and did not constitute a serious hazard to wild life or fire. However, it was Commissioner Collins' opinion, due to official reports necessarily forwarded to Ottawa, plus the outspoken discontent of many citizens along the highway, that it is desirable that some additional demonstration of effort to remove the contamination be undertaken. The question of the use of foam or dry powder was discussed and rejected by the group, but Commissioner Collins suggested that if the U. S. forces could furnish a fire truck and/or fire-fighting equipment for use by Canadian forces, such a gesture would be of benefit.

4. After discussion of the above facts and related matters from the inspection trip, I suggested to Colonel Keener that USARAL furnish some sort of fire-fighting vehicle. Colonel Schwartz proposed furnishing forest fire individual equipment, such as axes, rakes, shovels, etc., and expressed the opinion that these would be of great usefulness in fighting fire. Colonel Keener stated that it was his opinion Commissioner Collins was not so concerned with fire-fighting as he was with fighting adverse criticism from local citizens and from Ottawa authorities.

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5. Colonel Keener stated that USARAL would provide whatever equipment was available in stock, preferably a tank-pumper truck, and would supplement this with additional individual equipment as available. It was agreed that all such equipment should be stationed at Pump Station 2B, and that APPS personnel would make the equipment available to Canadian authorities as required.

6. Mr. King told Colonel Keener that Commissioner Collins was most anxious to receive a letter from U. S. authorities outlining work already accomplished to remove contaminating fuels, plus the steps now being taken to supplement this earlier action. Colonel Keener requested that we furnish his office copies of the trip report to be prepared by Mr. King, and instructed Lt Colonel Schmidt to prepare a letter to Commissioner Collins based on this trip report outlining the information Commissioner Collins desires. It was agreed that two copies of the trip report would be furnished USARAL Quartermaster and that the report would be completed by close of business 24 May.

cc Safety Br
Const Div

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