

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, ALASKA
Office of the Engineer
APO 949, Seattle, Washington

DRAFT SMITH/kat/23 May 1956

ARAEN-U

SUBJECT: Inspection of POL Contaminated Areas in Yukon Territory

MEMO TO: Colonel Harper

1. The undersigned, in company with Mr. Wardie King, Chief of the Safety Branch, and Mr. J. A. Spangler, Technical-Mechanical Engineer, both of the Alaska District Engineer office, made an inspection of POL contaminated areas in Yukon Territory caused by APPS de-icing program.

2. Personnel contacted:

F. H. Collins, Esq.	Commissioner of Yukon Territory
Inspector Richard Steinhaur	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Mr Armstrong	Federal Engineer
Mr Kjar	Game Director, Yukon Territory
Mr. G. M. Wilson	Forest Engineer
Mr J. A. Langevin	Park Warden, Department of Northern Affairs in National Resources

3. The inspection party was met at the border by Mr. Langevin, and contaminated areas were inspected. The areas which have caused most concern to Canadian officials are at Mile Posts 1158, 1151, 1146.1, 1142.9, 1119.4, and 1111 on the Alaska Highway.

4. Contamination was caused by loss of fuel onto the ground as the line was cut by District Engineer contractor and APPS personnel to purge the line of ice. This method of purging was a necessary emergency measure and the action was known to Canadian officials.

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5. Corrective measures in the form of removal of pools of fuel by pumping into tankers and burning in a pit have been accomplished. An approximate 37,200 gallons of highly flammable fuel has been disposed of in this manner. Affected areas along the highway have been posted.

6. The fire hazard has been reduced to a light hazard by the removal of fuel and by evaporation of the lighter, more volatile fuels.

7. Effect upon wild life and fish is not considered serious with the possible exception of Mile Post 1112.9 and 1111 where the muskrat population may be affected. This cannot be determined until next winter when another count can be made.

8. All of the personnel referred to in paragraph 2 (except Mr. Langevin) were in conference in Commissioner Collins' office on 19 May and at that time all agreed that the fire hazard and the effect on fish and game (except muskrats) were of no great concern. It was stated that no claims against the United States Government by the Canadian Government or the Yukon Territory were being considered. It is believed that a similar condition in the ZI or our territories would not be so inexpensively disposed of.

9. Commissioner Collins requested that our Government provide an auxiliary piece of fire fighting equipment in the Yukon Territory to support the Canadian Forest Engineer.

10. In the interest of International relations, the undersigned believes that a mobile patrol of the affected area during the fire season, which is from 1 May to 1 October, would be extremely beneficial.

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11. No commitments of this headquarters were made by the undersigned and the personnel contacted were grateful that the inspection team made the trip to mutually discuss the problems.

RICHARD B. SMITH
Fire Prevention Engineer

1146.1 2 acres on road
1151.0 2 " " "
1120.5 40' x 900' off road 200' Check on live 3.3
(drained into Swede Johnson Tributaries
and may have section needing attention
in the drainage area)

Contact Mr. Wilson Whitehorse before making inspection