

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 -- 3:00PM

At approximately 0315 on Thursday July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009, a barge being pushed by Tidewater Barge Line's tug "The Chief" went aground while navigating in the Columbia River channel on an uncharted sand bar at mile 169, below the Hood River Bridge. The tug had in tow a loaded petroleum barge, a loaded container barge carrying containerized solid waste and two additional empty barges.

Tidewater response personnel and governmental authorities were promptly contacted and mobilized to the site. Tidewater and Coast Guard personnel inspected the double-hull of the barge. There is no indication of any damage to the hull of the barge from this incident. There has been no release of any cargo and no impact to the environment. There were no injuries as a result of the incident.

Tidewater Barge Lines is working with state and federal agencies, including the US Coast Guard, US Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and Washington Department of Ecology to develop a plan to free the barge from its current location.

The Coast Guard will establish a security zone around the boat and barge to ensure public safety during the re-float operations. The public is requested to remain a safe distance from the vessel

The next press release will be at 6:00PM.

Contact:

Holly Robinson, Tidewater Public Information Officer  
360-980-0714

###

*Cont Resol WA SOSC 09/09/09 1522 <sup>hrs</sup>*

*Allyatt RPIC 9/9/09*

*Go Wad SOSC 09/09/09*