



NEWS RELEASE

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RESPONSE CONTINUES AT THE DALLES DAM TRANSFORMER LEAK

PORTLAND, ORE. – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Washington Department of Ecology emergency response teams continue containing and cleaning up about 3,250 gallons of light mineral-type oil that leaked from a spare transformer at The Dalles Lock and Dam on the Columbia River near The Dalles, Ore.

A small amount of oil has spilled into the Columbia River. Aircraft and boat crews are searching the river to determine if any oil has escaped the immediate area of the dam. So far, none has been detected. Environmental cleanup crews are also working to prevent oil that is leaking into the dam's ice and trash sluiceway from reaching the Columbia River.

Crews are removing contaminated soil from around the containment facility where the spare transformers are stored. Crews are also conducting tests of the surrounding area to determine how far the oil may have spread underground, and developing long-term plans to detect and remove it.

An investigation is underway to determine why the oil containment systems surrounding the transformers failed

The Corps, EPA and Ecology have formed a unified incident management team to oversee the containment and cleanup effort.

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