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Diesel spill cleanup ongoing north of Goldendale

SPOKANE – Soil cleanup is ongoing today at the site of a semi truck accident where approximately 250 gallons of diesel fuel and engine oil spilled onto the river bank and into the Little Klickitat River along Highway 97.

The spill occurred at approximately 1 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012.

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is on the scene again today where a contractor is using a backhoe to excavate soil that has been contaminated with the diesel and oil.

A unified command with the Washington Department of Transportation, the Yakama Nation, and Ecology, is coordinating the response and making cleanup decisions.

The truck, owned by New Legend Trucking, overturned onto the riverbank, causing the spill. New Legend hired the National Response Corp. (NRC) to conduct the cleanup work. NRC is removing soil and collecting diesel and oil in absorbent boom and pads placed at the water's edge. Soil will be hauled to a special disposal facility where it is treated and disposed.

The truck, the truck's trailer and its contents, were pulled up and hauled off on Tuesday, giving cleanup crews better access to the soil.

Once cleanup is done, NRC will start work to restore the streamline and the riverbank to their natural state.

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Ecology Spills Program: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/spills.html

New Legend cleanup website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/incidents/NewLegend-KlickitatSpill/NewLegend-LittleKlickitat.html>

Ecology homepage: www.ecy.wa.gov/