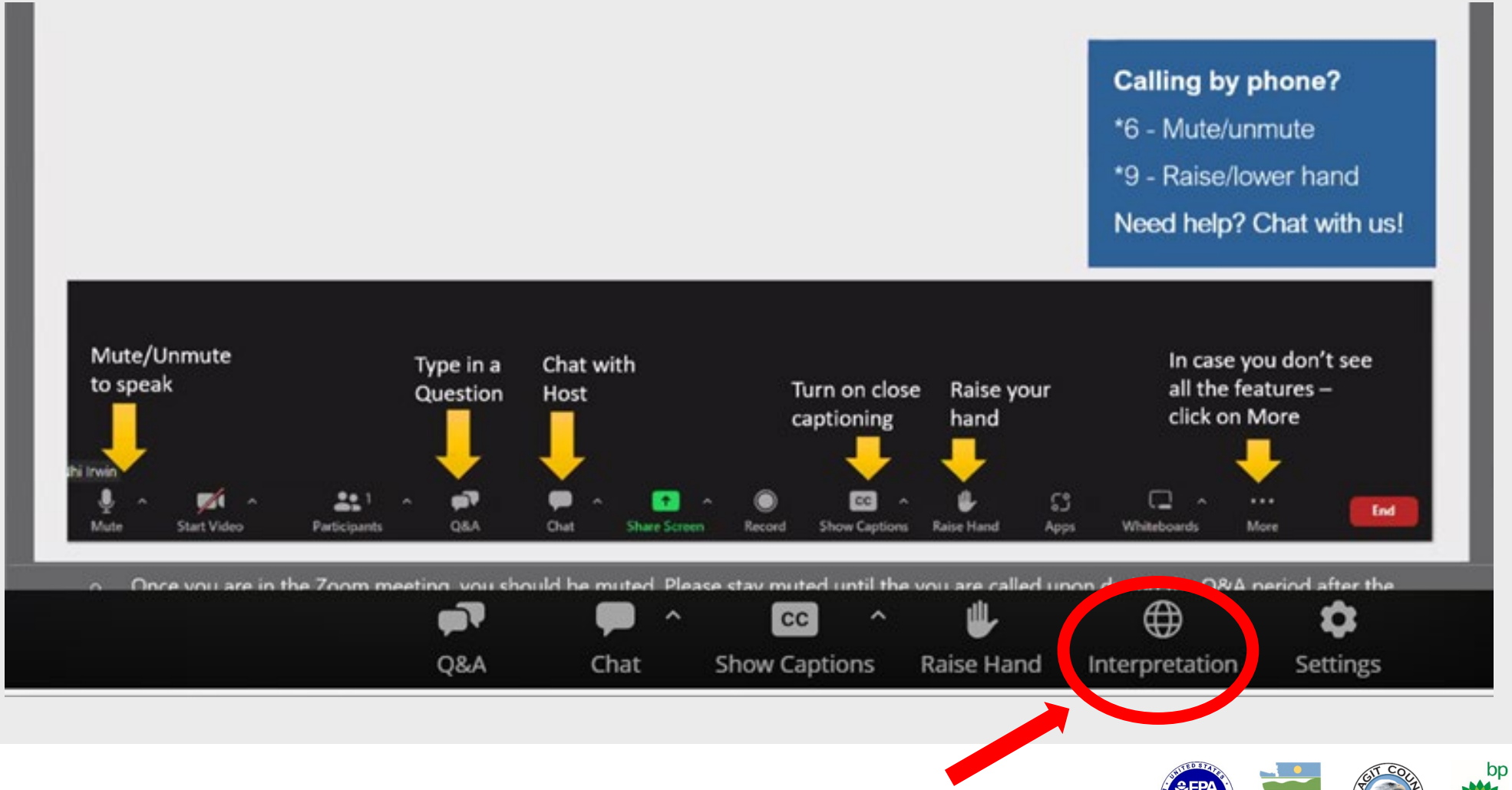
Community meeting

Olympic Pipeline Gasoline Spill, Conway, WA

February 7, 2024
Conway, WA

Translation assistance



Navigation and accessibility

Calling by phone?

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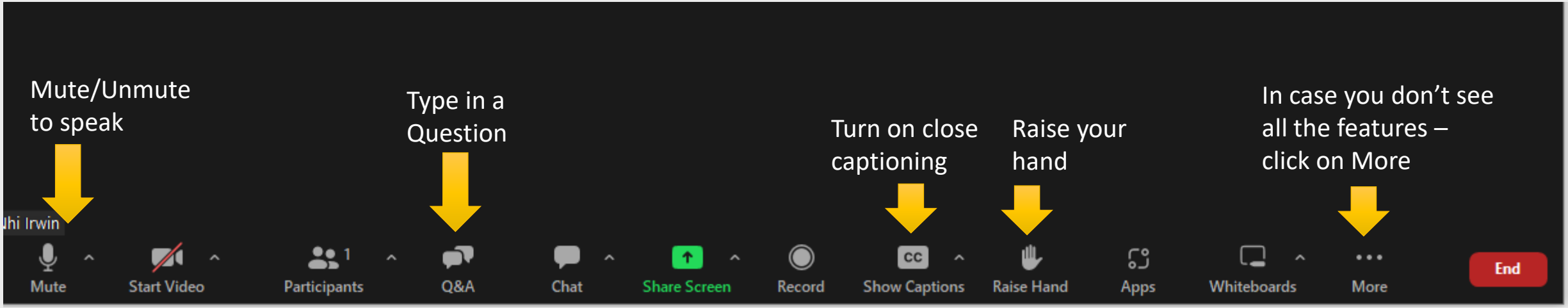


Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Introductions & Opening Remarks**
- **Presentations**
  - Incident overview
  - Response operations
  - Environmental & wildlife protection
- **Q&A**
- **Closing Remarks**

Acknowledgments

Spill response is a group effort

Public entities

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); US Fish & Wildlife; Environmental Protection Agency; Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife; Dike District 3; Washington Department of Ecology; Skagit County; Conway Fire Department; Skagit County Department of Emergency Management; Skagit County Public Health; Conway School District

Tribal partners

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community; Lummi Nation; Nooksack Indian Tribe; Muckleshoot Indian Tribe; Samish Indian Nation; Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe; Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians; Suquamish Tribe; Tulalip Tribes; Upper Skagit Indian Tribe

Introductions – Subject Matter Experts

Alison Meyers, Laura Hayes, Lisa Howes – Environmental

James Ochoa – Operations

Travis Washburn & Chris Battaglia – Wildlife

Geoff Baran – Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Doug Nilsen – Finance Section Chief / Claims process

Chris Ruhl & Alvaro Rodriguez – Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

Dennis Ritter & Scott Rukke – Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)

Introductions – Unified Command

Monica Tonel
Federal On-Scene Coordinator
Environmental Protection Agency

David Byers
State On-Scene Coordinator
Dept of Ecology

Joan Cromley
Local On-Scene Coordinator
Skagit Dept of Emergency Management

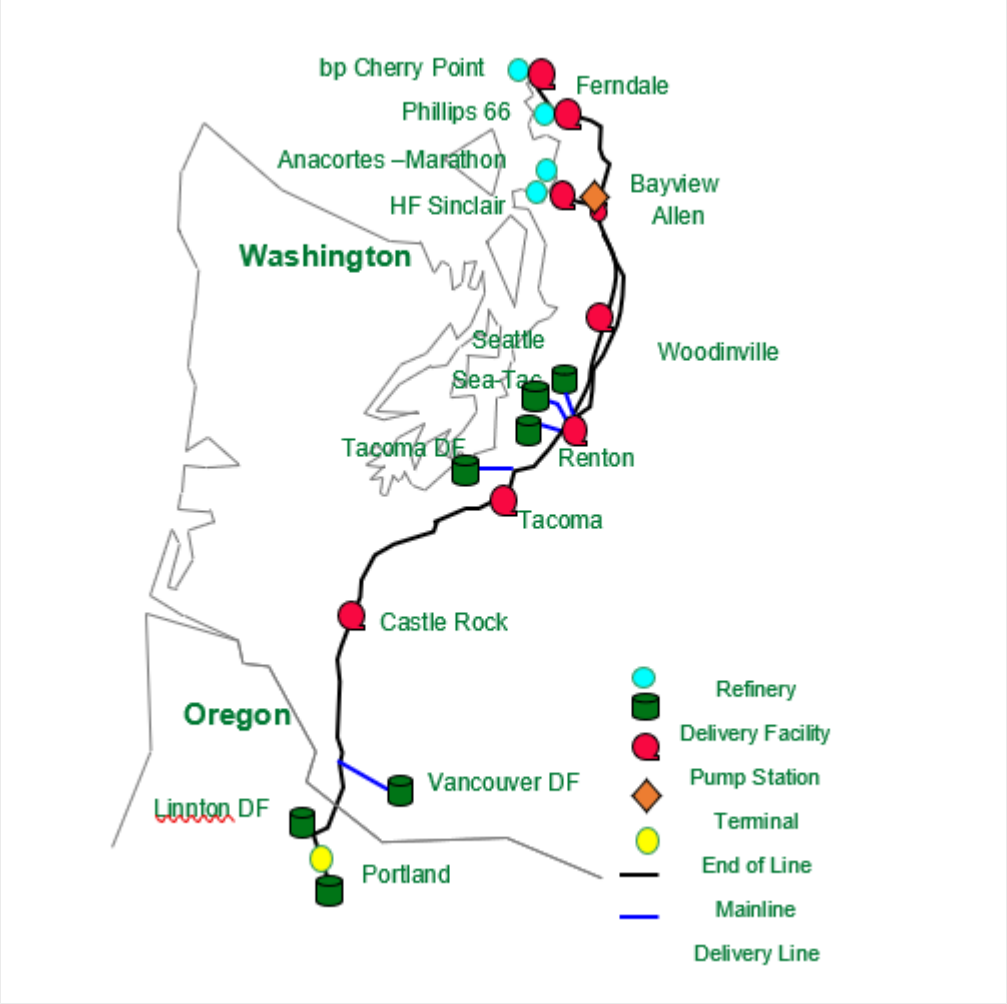
Keri Cleary
Tribal On-Scene Coordinator
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Terry Zimmerman
Responsible Party Incident Commander
bp/Olympic Pipe Line Company

Scott Neuhauser
Deputy Incident Commander
bp

Olympic Pipe Line Company

- **400-mile pipeline system**, laid in 299-mile pipeline corridor
- Transports **gasoline, diesel and jet fuel** from NW refineries to markets in Seattle, Tacoma, Portland
- **Joint venture company**, operated by bp Pipelines North America, Inc. (bp)



Incident description

- **Discharge of gasoline was reported early morning, Dec. 10, 2023**
  - Location: MP 46, block valve site in Conway, along SR 534
- **The discharge was secured Sunday evening**
- **Approximately 21,168 gallons of gasoline were determined to have been discharged**
  - Approximately 5,297 remained inside the vault and were recovered
  - Approximately 15,871 gallons entered the environment
  - 8,324 gallons have been recovered

Incident description

- The vault is situated at the top of a **small hill above Hill Ditch**
- The vault was **partially filled with stormwater** at the time of the discharge
- The **gasoline/stormwater mixture flowed out of the vault**, through the field, toward a forested streambank along Hill Ditch
- **Notifications** were made to agencies, response was activated, and resources were deployed to the site
- **Containment and absorbent boom** set in Hill Ditch according to pre-identified Geographic Response Plans and Olympic's Oil Spill Response Plan
- **Vacuum truck** arrived and recovered gasoline from the vault

Cleanup phases

Emergency Response

- Cleaning up the spilled gasoline while minimizing environmental harm and ensuring the safety of the community and response workers
- Led by a unified command

Restoration

- Assess soil and groundwater for contamination (oversight by Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program)
- Develop and implement plan for cleanup of any residual contamination and long-term monitoring
- Restore and replant spill impact area

Investigation

- Determine the underlying causes of the spill
- Conducted separately from emergency response
- Separate investigations by Washington State Utilities & Transportation Commission/Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Ecology, bp

Cleanup and response actions so far

- **Deployed containment boom** at strategic locations in Hill Ditch between the spill site and the Skagit River floodgate
- Placed boom across the **inlets to the Fisher Slough Nature Conservancy Preserve** as a precautionary measure
- **Deployed surface skimmers, vac trucks and Sorbent boom along Hill Ditch north and south of SR 534** to recover any gasoline floating on the water
- Shoreline assessment teams **surveyed 4.5 miles of shoreline** along Hill Ditch

Cleanup and response actions so far

- **Excavation of impacted soils**
- Removed approx. **4,293 cubic yards** of impacted soil to date

Cleanup and response actions so far

- **Removed 289 trees from the forested area** along the east bank upstream of SR 534

Clean up actions in progress

- Installing a temporary sheet pile wall along the eastern bank of Hill Ditch to protect the creek
- Removal of remaining impacted soil and sediment on site
- Replacement of removed soil and reconstruction of the streambank

Protecting Hill Ditch during cleanup

- **Fish exclusion** – nets will be placed in Hill Ditch north of the SR 534 bridge to exclude fish from the area during installation and removal of the sheet pile wall
- **Sediment control** – silt curtains will be placed in the ditch to help prevent silt from flowing downstream during wall installation and soil excavation.
- **Boom** will be deployed at the SR 534 bridge and other downstream locations to catch any liberated gasoline pockets

Environmental response

- Ecology leads oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response work in Washington.
- We work with state, local, and federal partners, Tribes, and industry.
- Planning and practice for spills helps protect public health and minimize impacts to resources.

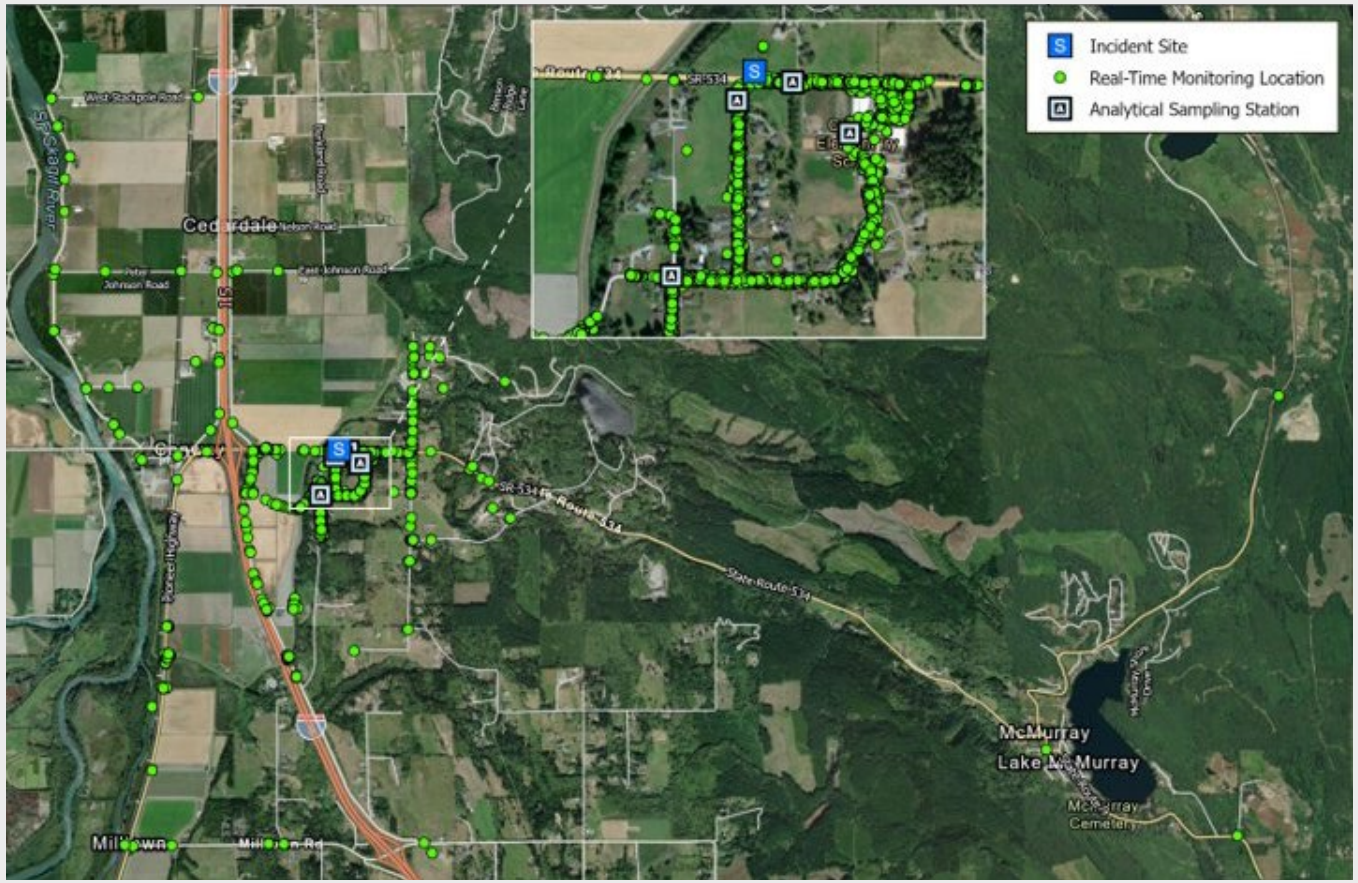
Environmental response

- **Protecting human health and the environment** has been a key incident objective of the spill response since the incident occurred.
- Unified Command has been sampling air quality, water quality, and soils and sediment since the beginning of the incident.
- Environmental impacts **have mostly been limited to the immediate area of the spill**.

(Shoreline assessment team in Hill Ditch)

Air quality

- **Four real-time air quality monitoring stations remain in place** – one at the school and three in the neighborhood.
- **Four continuous air collection canisters throughout the community** collect analytical air quality data 24 hours a day.
- **A mobile unit continues to conduct community air monitoring throughout the area.** Mobile units have been deployed as far as five miles from the site of the spill.



(Sampling locations of real-time air monitoring, Dec. 11 to Feb. 1)

Air quality

(Real-time air monitor at Conway School.)

- **Testing of community air samples for gasoline-related pollutants have shown no concerns for public health.**
- One detection occurred at a continuous station, which was at the Conway School. It was caused by diesel fumes from an idling truck on school property, unrelated to spill response vehicles.
- No other detections at either continuous or mobile stations.

Water quality

We routinely test water to ensure:

- It's safe for wildlife, people, pets, and livestock.
- Boom strategies remain effective.

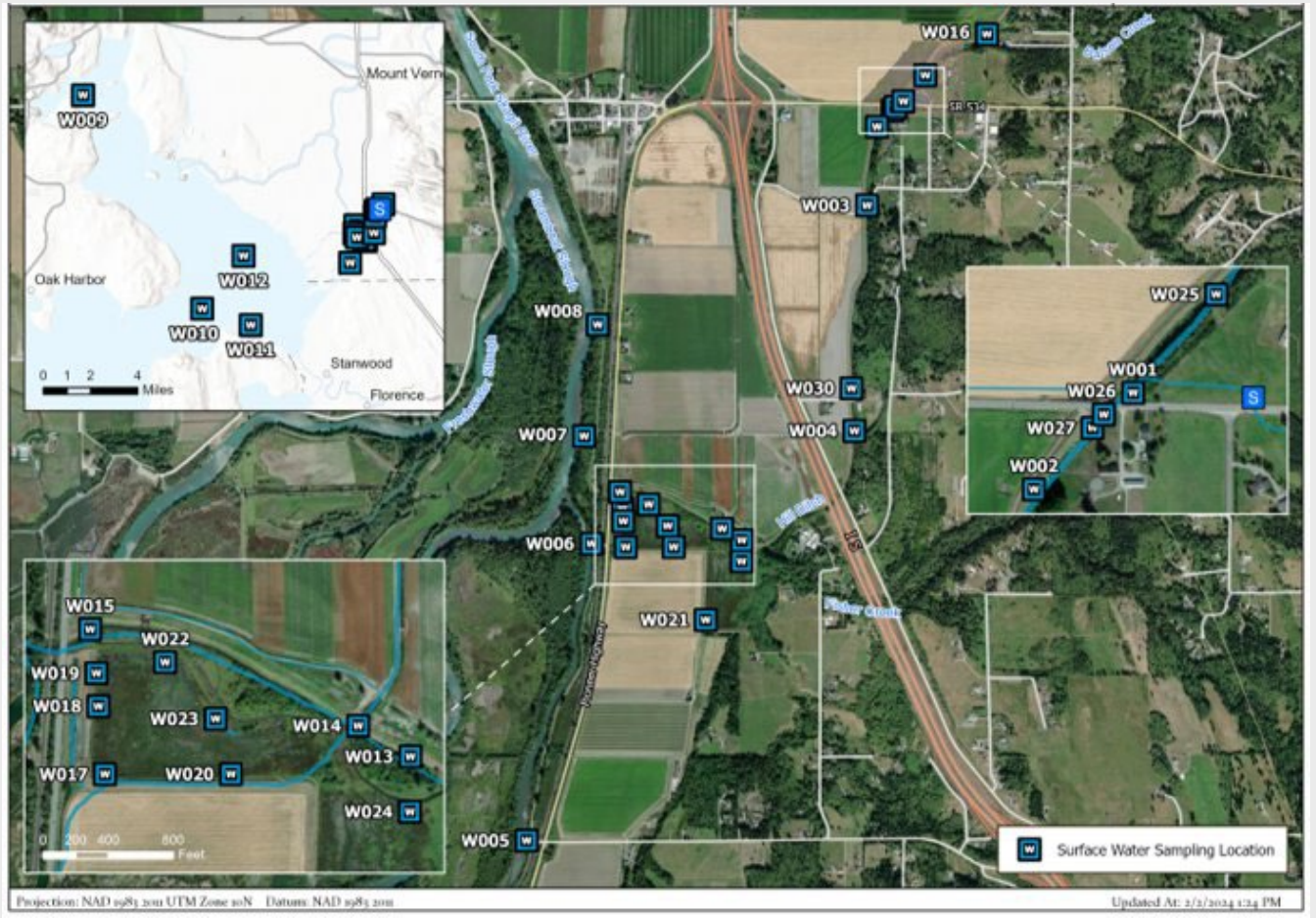
Sampling has confirmed the success of efforts to contain and clean up the gasoline:

- Water samples from Hill Ditch temporarily showed elevated levels of gasoline-related pollutants in some locations.
- Continued sampling of Hill Ditch has shown no levels concerning to human health and safety since Dec. 22, 2023.

(Water sampling in Hill Ditch)

Water quality

- **Hundreds of samples** have been collected in Hill Ditch, Fisher Slough, Skagit River, and Skagit Bay.
- **No gasoline has traveled** past the Hill Ditch floodgate into the Skagit River.



(Surface water sampling locations)

Water quality

- A small amount of gasoline continues to enter Hill Ditch at the immediate site of the spill but is captured by boom either at the site or just downstream of the SR 534 bridge.
- Water quality sampling will continue through the end of the emergency response.

Other testing

- Domestic water well sampling results have shown no indication that the spill impacted these wells.
- Sample results of tissue from crab and bivalve shellfish in Skagit Bay are expected in February.

(Routine surface water sampling locations)

Soils and sediment sampling

- We are **sampling soils** in the immediate vicinity of the spill to determine the extent of contamination.
- We're often asked, how deep will we dig? As far as we have to.
- The goal is to remove all contaminated soil – we are digging up polluted soil and then sampling remaining soil for gasoline-related pollutants.
- We repeat this process until we reach clean soil.

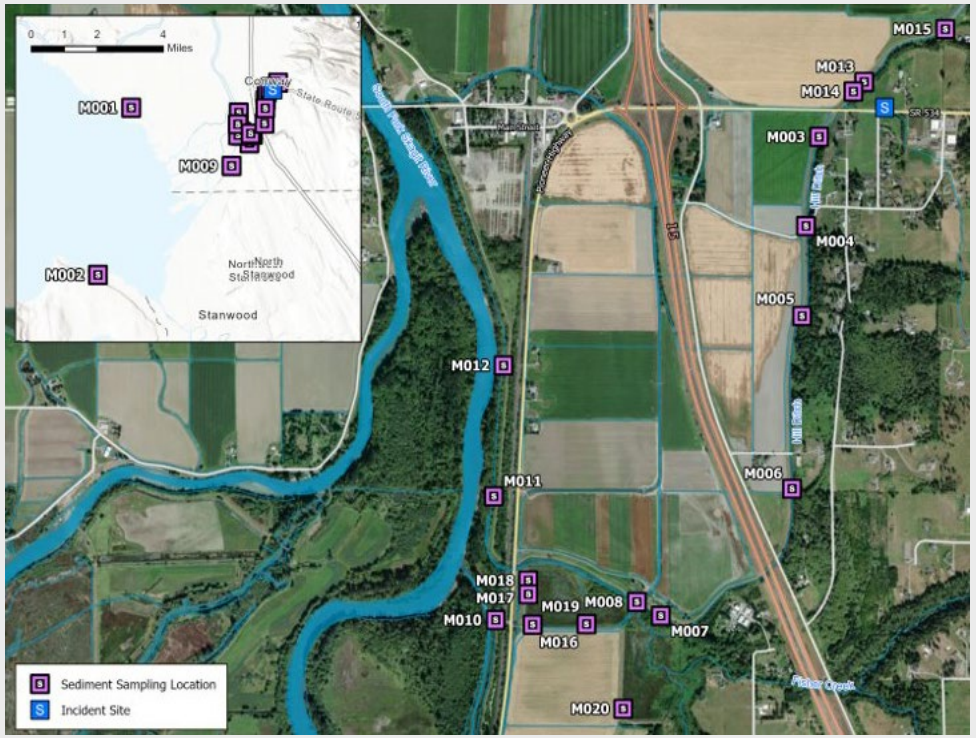
(Soil sampling)

Soils and sediment sampling

- Outside the immediate spill area, we are **sampling soils and sediments** to make sure that there is no trapped gasoline that could be released to water or pose contact risks to people and animals.

- Because gasoline floats on water, the fuel being carried by the stream remained at the surface of the shoreline.

- Outside of the spill impact area, **shoreline sediment samples were below detection limits for petroleum hydrocarbons**, except for one site on one day.



(Sediment sampling locations)

Shoreline monitoring

Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) teams:

- Examined both shorelines of Hill Ditch for gasoline impacts.
- Surveyed surface water and assessed vegetation and debris that might have trapped gasoline.
- Went out by boat into Fisher Slough and the Skagit River to look for gasoline impacts.

SCAT team findings:

Teams determined that no gasoline traveled past the Hill Ditch floodgate into the Skagit River.

SCAT teams will go out again after the sheet pile wall is installed.

(SCAT team in Hill Ditch)

Biological sheens

- There are natural things in the environment that can create petroleum-like sheens:
  - Decomposition of organic material
  - Pollen films
  - Bacteria
  - Vegetation

- Regardless of cause, Unified Command asks members of the community and public to continue reporting sheens in Hill Ditch by emailing Liaison@ecy.wa.gov.

(Wetland bacterial sheen in Hill Ditch)

Wildlife

(Still image of mallard ducks from wildlife camera at Fisher Slough, Feb. 5, 2024.)

- Wildlife response led by **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**
- Support from **Focus Wildlife** (state-certified Wildlife Response Service Provider, based in Anacortes)
- Capabilities include wildlife monitoring, deterrence, rescue, and rehabilitation
- Responders conduct wildlife field observations and respond to any wildlife reports.
- Daily field surveys along Hill Ditch and intermittent surveys along Fisher Slough.

Field cameras

Cameras were placed along Hill Ditch and other locations to observe potential wildlife activity:

- At or near spill site
- Areas of suitable riparian habitat for wildlife
- The beaver lodge at end of Fisher Slough

(Still image from wildlife camera of beaver near beaver lodge in Fisher Slough, Jan. 26, 2024.)

Wildlife response

- Live traps exclude amphibians from the impact site.
- Wildlife tracks all impacts as they come in, including deaths from other causes (e.g., hunting).
- Several dead animals were collected in first week after incident.
- One beaver and two birds are believed to have died from the initial discharge.

(Wildlife specialist monitors amphibian traps on perimeter of excavation site)

Questions?

How to ask a question

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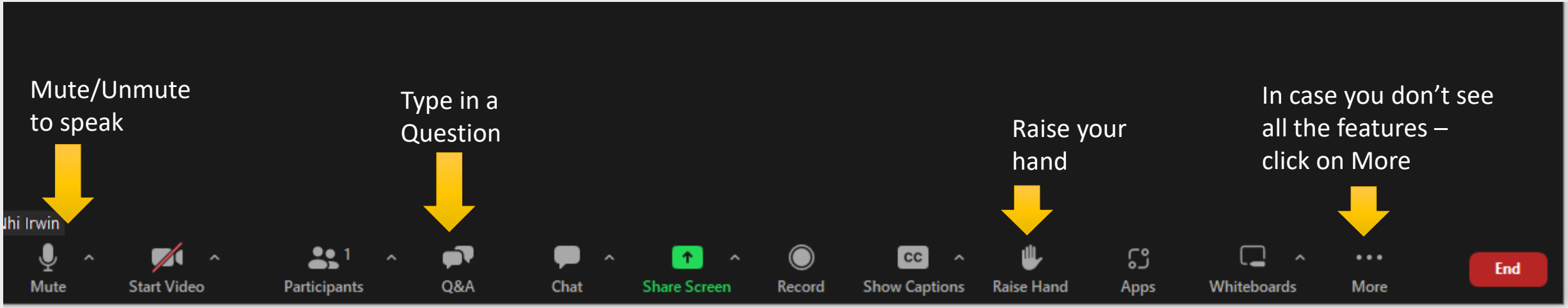

Thank you

More information and follow-up questions:

liaison@ecy.wa.gov

ecology.wa.gov/OlympicPipelineSpill