

Olympic Pipeline Gasoline Spill in Conway, WA

Response and cleanup

What cleanup has happened so far?

Incident site

- Deployed vac trucks for recovery of water and gasoline from the surface of the impacted agricultural field and the pipeline vault.
- Excavated interceptor trenches to capture and recover gasoline moving toward Hill Ditch.
- Flushed the impacted agricultural field with water to reduce the amount of gasoline trapped in the soil of the field and move it into the interceptor trenches.
- Conducted community air monitoring.

Hill Ditch

- Deployed containment boom at strategic locations in Hill Ditch between the spill site and the Skagit River floodgate. This included boom placed across the inlets to the Nature Conservancy's Fisher Slough Preserve as a precautionary measure. No hydrocarbons were detected at that location; the precautionary boom was removed in late January.
- Deployed surface skimmers and vac trucks along Hill Ditch north and south of SR 534 to recover gasoline floating on the water.
- Conducted assessments along 4.5+ miles of shoreline and identified 1500 feet requiring treatment, such as removal of gasoline with absorbent pads. Initial treatment of all identified shoreline locations downstream of SR 534 was completed by January 2.

Tree removal

- An arborist surveyed and cataloged the trees prior to removal.
- Removed 289 trees from the impacted area along the east bank, upstream of SR 534, to allow for removal of underlying contaminated soil.

Excavation:

- Removed approximately 4,293 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the field and previously forested area near Hill Ditch.
- Transported impacted soil to permitted waste disposal facilities located in Oregon.

What are the next steps of the cleanup?

The remaining impacted soil and sediment are in the previously forested area near Hill Ditch. To protect the creek as the cleanup is completed, crews will install a temporary wall of steel sheet piling to isolate the eastern bank of Hill Ditch. This will allow response crews to dig out impacted soil and sediment and replace it with clean soil. Once this is complete, the wall and crane will be removed, and final restoration will begin, including remaining backfilling of the excavated area and revegetation of the shoreline and field.

Sheet piling wall

- The temporary wall is being built with interlocking steel sheet pilings, which will be driven into the ground along approximately 220 feet of the eastern shoreline of Hill Ditch just north of SR 534.



- The wall is being installed with a vibratory pile driving system mounted on a 200-ton crane. Residents may notice some elevated construction noise during installation of the sheet pilings.
- A temporary closure of SR 534 is expected during removal of the crane and wall.

Final excavation

- Total area and depth of impacted soil removal has yet to be determined, as crews conduct continuous soil and sediment sampling during excavation.
- Clean fill material will be brought in to replace impacted sediment and soil removed from the site and the streambank of Hill Ditch will be reconstructed along its original grade.

How are you protecting Hill Ditch during wall installation and removal?

Crews will use a variety of mitigation strategies to protect wildlife in Hill Ditch, the Hill Ditch dike, and surrounding structures in the immediate area.

Vibration and noise monitoring

While impacts to Hill Ditch dike and nearby structures are not expected, structural engineers have inspected all potentially impacted areas, including the SR 534 bridge, the dike on the opposite side of Hill Ditch from the spill site, and nearby buildings, and have developed a vibration monitoring plan to alert crews of any potential issues. Noise monitoring will be conducted to ensure noise levels remain within regulatory levels. Sheet pile installation will take place during daylight hours only.

Fish exclusion

Nets placed in Hill Ditch north of the SR 534 bridge will exclude fish from the area during the installation and removal of the sheet piling wall.

Sediment control

Turbidity curtains placed in Hill Ditch north of the SR 534 bridge and south of the wall location will help prevent silt from flowing downstream during wall installation and soil excavation. During sheet pile installation, turbidity monitoring will be conducted to ensure sediment controls remain effective.

Boom placement

Boom will continue to be deployed at the SR 534 bridge and other locations downstream during wall installation to catch any gasoline which may enter Hill Ditch prior to the wall being completed. The boom will remain in place as a precautionary measure until the excavation of contaminated soils is complete and the wall has been removed.

Ongoing monitoring

- Crews will continue to monitor for sheen and gasoline products in Hill Ditch.
- No gasoline has been detected downstream of SR 534 since December 22, 2023.
- The Unified Command asks members of the community and public to continue reporting sheens in Hill Ditch by emailing Liaison@ecy.wa.gov.
- Sampling of water, air, soil, sediment, and nearby wells will continue throughout the response.
- Shoreline assessment teams will survey Hill Ditch shorelines after the sheet pile wall is installed.

What does final restoration of the site look like?

Following the removal of the sheet piling wall, teams will restore the riparian area and agricultural field in consultation with the landowner to determine final revegetation plans.

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program will oversee any remaining remediation to ensure compliance with environmental regulations.