

Pitts Carillon (2017)

Location: Picton Bay, Prince Edward County, Ontario

Case number: 120-740-C1

The Incident

On March 24, 2017, the spud barge *Pitts Carillon* sank alongside the Picton Terminals Dock in Picton Bay, Prince Edward County, spilling approximately 50 litres of oil. The barge had been chartered in support of the work to establish a wind farm at nearby Amherst Island.

The barge was equipped with a 4,000-litre capacity diesel tank and a small machinery space to house a generator and a hydraulic power pack, all for the functioning of onboard machinery.

The Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) responded to the incident on March 24, 2017 with oil response efforts led by the Eastern Canada Response Corporation (ECRC) and salvage efforts led by McKeil Marine, who raised the vessel on Saturday April 1, 2017. The *Pitts Carillon* was towed from the site on April 3, 2017.

The Municipal Emergency Control Group for Prince Edward County was activated on the day of the sinking to monitor the situation, as the primary concern was the town's water supply. By March 28, 2017, an oil sheen had moved further south into Picton Bay and entered the local water treatment plant's Intake Protection Zone that afternoon. The treatment plant had since the sinking remained in operation under contingency plans, which entailed manual control and constant monitoring of the raw water sampling line.

On March 28, 2017, the Picton mayor declared an emergency, asking residents to reduce water use. On March 29, a fuel odour was detected at the raw water sampling line. Since the plant was not capable of removing oil contaminants, that source was shut down and the water system was shifted to use reserve water from other reservoirs. Further arrangements were made to shuttle in treated water by tanker truck. A boil water advisory was issued the same day.

Advice sought by the plant indicated that the media contained within its four water filters should be replaced with activated carbon to safely mitigate any hydrocarbon contamination risks. This was done. The shuttling of treated water ended April 6, 2017 and the boil water advisory was lifted shortly thereafter. The process of resupplying treated water through the distribution system with additional system sample collection and testing continued until April 11. When test results were clear, normal monitoring resumed and the water emergency was lifted.

Measures taken by the Administrator

In June 2018, counsel for the Administrator sent a demand letter to the shipowner in order to obtain security. The shipowner commenced a limitation action and the Administrator was served in July 2018.

The Claim

On May 8, 2018, Prince Edward County filed a claim with the Administrator for costs, expenses, and interest in the amount of \$597,396.70, pursuant the *Marine Liability Act*.

The Administrator determined that the claim was admissible under Part 7 of the Act.

Assessment and Offer

During the assessment, the Administrator's office made requests to Prince Edward County for additional information and documentation, which was provided.

As of March 31, 2019, the claim remained under assessment.

Status

The file remains open.

Related Files

Pitts Carillon (2017), case number: 120-740-C1-1 (same incident, different claimant).