

MEMORANDUM

DECEMBER 7, 2021

RE: RESULTS OF CULTURAL RESOURCES MONITORING

PROJECT: SITKA OIL SPILL-ODCS

PURCHASE ORDER: 0107941

PRIME CONTRACT: 68HE0720D005/**TASK ORDER:** 68HE0722F0013

PROJECT SITE: SITKA, AK

PERFORMED AND SUBMITTED BY:

Anne Elise Pollnow, Archaeologist
Sea Level Consulting, LLC.
Sitka, Alaska

Summary:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) contacted Weston Solutions, Inc. to trace the source of oil contamination at the Sitka Sound Science Center located at 834 Lincoln Street in Sitka, Alaska (57.0501N, -135.3231W, Datum: WGS84). To locate contamination, Weston Solutions proposed to excavated small underground test units.

The project area is within and adjacent the Sheldon Jackson School National Historic Landmark (NHL), recorded in the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey database as SIT-00026. The landmark is comprised of the seventeen contributing properties (buildings) and one grassy two-acre area known as the Quadrangle. While located within the school's landmark campus boundaries, the Stratton Library is a non-contributing property to the NHL. However, prior to its 1974 construction, the site was the location of the school's chapel, as seen in historic drawings dating to 1884. Included among the contributing properties is the Sage Building (SIT-00224), a Gothic-style, rectangular-shaped, two-story reinforced concrete structure built in 1929. Housed in the Sage Building is the Sitka Sound Science Center, a marine educational facility that manages a small aquarium and an adjoining salmon hatchery.

In the fall of 2021, reports of oil contamination at the outfall location of the hatchery were reported to the U.S. Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Weston Solutions, Inc. was solicited to locate the source of the contamination. In-turn, due to the presence of significant cultural resources within and surrounding the identified contamination, the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office requested for an archaeological monitor to be present during ground disturbing activities. Western Solutions contracted to Sea Level Consulting of Sitka to provide archaeological monitoring services during oil contamination investigations.

On December 2nd and 3rd, 2021, archaeologist Anne Elise Pollnow of Sea Level Consulting performed monitoring during excavation activity performed by Hanson Marine of Sitka as directed by the Western Solutions crew in cooperation with the EPA.



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On December 2nd, two test units were excavated in the parking lot on the west side of the Stratton Library of the Sheldon Jackson School National Historic Landmark Campus. The site is directly across the one-lane, two-way street from the Sage Building/Sitka Sound Science Center and hatchery. On December 3rd, crews moved testing operations in front of and east of the Stratton Library facing Lincoln Street. Attached are the daily logs for the details of activities and finds during the archaeological monitoring.

Results: Although crews encountered cultural material while excavating, including old utility and drainage piping, none were noted as significant or associated with known cultural resources in the immediate area. No significant cultural resources or human remains were uncovered during the archaeological monitoring of ground disturbing activities.

Attached: Daily Monitoring Logs

Signed:

Anne Elise Pollnow, Archaeologist
Sea Level Consulting, LLC.

Daily Archaeological Monitoring Log SSSC Monitoring

Project	SSSC Oil Spill
ID	196662
Survey Date	12/02/2021
User	Anne Elise Pollnow

Administration

Project Site Monitored	SSSC Oil Spill, Sitka, Alaska
Project Number	0107941
Contractor Observing	Hanson Marine Company, Excavators contracted to Weston Solution, Inc.
Arrival Time:	01:15 PM
Departure Time:	12:32 PM
Weather	Fresh snow, about 3"

Construction Activities

Condition of Project Site	Approximately 1" of snow over gravel, mostly dry to water table at ~4' feet below the surface.
Project Activities Being Conducted	Excavation to locate oil contamination source using a small 75 trackhoe excavator.
Excavation Depth	0--4 feet

Cultural Resources

Known Cultural Resources (AHRIS)	SIT-00026, SIT-00224
Resource Types	Site, NHL
Property Type	Buildings, Landscape
Was a known site disturbed?	No
Was an Inadvertent Discovery made?	No
Was a Culturally Modified Tree identified?	No

Observations and Data Collection

Latitude/Longitude	57.05006502,-135.32313326
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Latitude	57.05006502
Longitude	-135.32313326
Datum	WGS84
Accuracy	4.21 m

Soil Type (s) D-1 gravel over shot rock to bedrock.

Observations and Findings Hanson Marine crews began excavating the first test unit in the Stratton Library parking lot located across the street from the Sitka Sound Science Center at 834 Lincoln St., where contamination was identified in the hatchery spillway. Unit one maximum excavation depth is 5 feet length x 3 feet wide to 3 feet deep. Crew encountered an abandoned utility pipe just below the surface. Weston crew sampled exposed ground water at the bottom of the unit. No sign of oil contamination and no cultural resources uncovered.

The crew moved to a second test unit location ~26 feet and 36° NE of the the first test unit and ~40 feet from the back of the Stratton Library building. The water table was exposed at 15 inches below the surface where the Weston crew took water samples. Completed excavation at approximately 2 feet below the surface where hit shot rock and possibly bedrock was encountered. No evidence of contamination and no cultural resources encountered.

Weston crew ceased test excavations at 3:05pm.

Photograph (s)



S 179°. Commencing excavation of units in the Statton Library Parking Lot.



Overview of exposed utility pipe just below the surface.



SE 57°. Removal of small likely abandoned utility pipe.



Overview of ground water at 15" below the surface.



Overview of more exposed abandoned utility conduit.



E 103°. Refilling excavated area



Overview of second location and ground water at 15" below the surface.



Overview of completed excavation to 2'.

Contact Information

Cultural Monitor

Anne Elise Pollnow

Cultural Monitor Signature

Daily Archaeological Monitoring Log SSSC Monitoring

Project	SSSC Oil Spill
ID	197261
Survey Date	12/03/2021
User	Anne Elise Pollnow

Administration

Project Site Monitored	SSSC Oil Spill, Sitka, Alaska
Project Number	0107941
Contractor Observing	Hanson Marine Company, Excavators contracted to Weston Solution, Inc.
Arrival Time:	10:02 AM
Departure Time:	12:32 PM
Weather	Another 6" of snow but sunny in the morning

Construction Activities

Condition of Project Site	Approximately 1" of snow over gravel, mostly dry to water table at ~6 feet below the surface.
Project Activities Being Conducted	Excavation to locate oil contamination source using a small 75 trackhoe excavator.
Excavation Depth	0--7 feet

Cultural Resources

Known Cultural Resources (AHRs)	SIT-00026, SIT-00224
Resource Types	Site, NHL
Property Type	Buildings, Landscape
Was a known site disturbed?	No
Was an Inadvertent Discovery made?	No
Was a Culturally Modified Tree identified?	No

Observations and Data Collection

Latitude/Longitude	57.05035931,-135.32326335
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Latitude	57.05035931
Longitude	-135.32326335
Datum	WGS84
Accuracy	3.54 m

Soil Type (s)	Storm drain and beach gravels used as fill surrounding pipes in the unit test.
Observations and Findings	<p>The Hanson Marine crew began in front of the Stratton Library adjacent Lincoln St. locating a storm drain by hand and shovel.</p> <p>They then moved approximately 30 feet to the north to excavate a second unit. At ~2 feet below the surface was uncovered an abandoned corrugated metal culvert pipe. At 4 feet below the surface was uncovered fragments of ductal iron pipe. Water began to seep into the unit at 6 feet below the surface. At 7 feet below the surface a larger piece of the ductal iron or concrete pipe was exposed. Soil material seems to be beach fill around piping.</p> <p>After sampling ground water and without the appearance of significant oil contamination, crew decided to call it for the day. They feel they know the source near the building and will have to develop a greater plan to excavate this area.</p> <p>No cultural resources other than old piping uncovered.</p>



NE 38. Removal of storm drain cover.



SW 210°. Overview of excavation.



Overview of unit to 6 feet b.s.



Close up of unit excavation. Snow was placed where the iron/ concrete pipe was removed.



Pipe removed from the unit. Operator noted the pipe to be ductal iron, but also looks to be concrete.



Overview of unit at 7 feet below the surface.



S 168°. Soil profile.



Crew sampling ground water.



E 92°. Overview of unit location in front of the Stratton Library.

Contact Information

Cultural Monitor Anne Elise Pollnow

Cultural Monitor Signature

Anne E. Pollnow

Contact Information

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