

PREASSESSMENT SCREENING OIL SPILL REPORT FORM

ERTS# 727657

Date of Incident: 12/26/2023

Potential Liable Party: Inland Empire Paper Company

Product Spilled: Lube Oil/Motor Oil

Spill Source: (Commercial/Industrial Facility)

Oil Spill Size Estimate: 1500 Gallons

Water Body Affected: Spokane River

Ecology Region: ERO

County: Spokane

Nearest City: Spokane

Location of Spill: 8415 E South Riverway Ave

Cause: Mechanical Failure

Ecology Responder: Patrick Brown

Incident Summary: On December 26, 2023, Ecology received multiple reports of a continuous unknown sheen observed on the Spokane River in the vicinity of North Argonne Road with no obvious source. GrayMar and the Department of Ecology responded to investigate and commence containment and cleanup actions, placing hard and soft boom at Upriver Dam, the Spokane Falls Dam, and 9 Mile Dam. An analysis of samples determined that the sheen was a lube oil. No sheen was observed upstream from Inland Empire Paper Company and an investigation into the facility resulted in the discovery of a faulty heat exchanger as the source. After being identified as the responsible party, Inland Empire hired GeoEngineers to assist in cleanup. At this time, an estimated 926 gallons of product has been recovered with possibly 1,500 gallons released in total. GrayMar and Ecology continue to monitor absorbents and boom, which has now been removed downriver from Upriver Dam. WDFW is working with local tribes to determine whether the spill was the cause of multiple fish mortality incidents below Long Lake Dam, where a light sheen had been recorded.