

Hibernia response continues

Date: August 19, 2019

Time: 3:30 p.m. (Newfoundland time)

St. John's, Newfoundland: Hibernia Management and Development Company Ltd. (HMDC) is continuing response efforts regarding a release of oil and water from the Hibernia platform's drains system on August 17.

HMDC's incident response plan has been activated, and a number of vessels and aircraft are responding. A fixed wing surveillance flight was carried out this morning. Another surveillance flight will take place this afternoon. There are currently four support vessels in the field. Three vessels are in the field using mechanical dispersion and one vessel is using a single vessel side sweep (SVSS) system. Two sheen tracking buoys have been deployed. Satellite imagery is also being used to identify surface oil to support the response.

Independent third-party wildlife observers are observing via helicopter, fixed-wing aircraft and vessels. Personnel trained in water sampling have also been deployed.

HMDC confirms that the platform experienced a temporary loss of power on the evening of August 17 which shut down the compressed air system. With the unavailability of the compressed air system, air pressure declined and resulted in the deluge firefighting system releasing water. This water was collected in the platform's drains and drains tank. The excess water caused the drains tank to overflow onto the gravity base structure releasing water and oil to the ocean.

There was no fire on the platform. All platform personnel are safe. Power was restored on the platform on August 17. Production remains shut down.

HMDC has notified the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board, the Canadian Coast Guard, Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Eastern Canada Response Corporation and other stakeholders.

An investigation is ongoing. More information will be released when it becomes available.

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