



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1100
Tel. No. (632) 929-6626 to 29; VOIP Trunkline (632) 755-3300/755-3330
Website: www.denr.gov.ph

TASK FORCE MT. PRINCESS EMPRESS OIL SPILL INCIDENT

SITUATIONAL REPORT NO. 1

1 March 2023

Sources: Philippine Coast Guard, Office of Civil Defense, DENR EMB (incl. MIMAROPA and Region VI), DENR BMB, PENROs and CENROs

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

On 28 February 2023, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported that MT Princess Empress, an oil tanker, carrying more or less 800,000 liters of industrial oil, sank off along the coast of Tablas Strait in Balingwan Point, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro. The vessel came from Bataan and on its way to Iloilo when it encountered engine trouble due to overheating; until it drifted towards the coast of Balingawan Point and eventually submerged.

II. EFFECTS

Diesel spillage from the fuel tank of MT Princess was observed to reach around six (6) kilometers long and four (4) kilometers wide. However, there is no official report yet regarding spillage from the cargo of industrial oil¹.

No reported environmental effects as of the moment.

III. ACTIONS TAKEN BY DENR

DENR Central Office

- On February 28, 2023, Press Statement has been released based on initial coordination with PCG.
- On March 1, 2023, at around 8:30 AM, the DENR Secretary, together with Key Officials from the Central Office, Regional Office MIMAROPA, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) and Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) met with Oriental Mindoro Governor Bonz Dolor and Naujan Municipality Mayor Henry Joel Teves via videoteleconferencing. In the said meeting, the DENR Secretary highlighted the need to prioritize marine and biodiversity resources, and prevent the spillage to reach the protected areas.

¹ Based on report from PCG during the Oriental Mindoro PDRRMC 1st Quarter Council Meeting, March 1, 2023

- On 1 March, 2023, at around 1:00 PM, the DENR Key Officials joined the 1st Quarter Council Meeting of Oriental Mindoro PDRRMC. During the said meeting, DENR raised the following:
 - Although leaked diesel is expected to disseminate, it will take around 2 to 5 days to evaporate based on weather and sea conditions. Nevertheless, it still poses as threat to marine organisms and birds if they come into contact with the slick.
 - Republic Act No. 9275 or the Clean water Air Act shall serve as among the legal bases should there be a need to charge administrative or criminal liabilities to concerned parties.
 - The following are the projected environmental conditions based on the radius of spillage:
 - 5 kilometer radius of spillage = no expected environmental damage
 - 15 kilometer radius of spillage = damage to corals and sea grass, among others
 - 20 kilometer radius of spillage = intersect and damage to land mass
- The DENR organized the Task Force Naujan Oil Spill with Usec Marilou Erni as the Task Force Commander. The Task Force shall work closely with the PCG and the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro for all incident management requirements.

DENR MIMAROPA and PENRO Oriental Mindoro

- In coordination with Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the PCG, DENR MIMAROPA and PENRO Oriental Mindoro commenced preliminary investigation and water sampling to determine the extent and possible effects of the oil spill to the water bodies of the province.
- Three (3) Municipalities of Oriental Mindoro, including certain protected areas, have been identified as sampling stations, which may be potentially affected by the spill:

Municipality of Naujan	Municipality of Pola	Municipality of Pinamalayan
1. Estrella Beach Bay 2. Naujan Public 3. Santa Cruz 4. Kalinisan 5. Antipolo 6. Pitugo Beach 7. Papangkil Beach 8. Buloc – Buloc (Montemayor Cove) Marine Protected Area 9. Montemayor 10. Masaguing Fish Sanctuary 11. Tujod Fish Sanctuary	1. Polacay Beach 2. Calima	Banilad

IV. WAYS AHEAD

1. DENR Task Force Naujan Oil to:
 - a. Conduct stocktaking of existing capacities and resources in anticipation of the worst-case 20 kilometers of spillage

- b. Organize a team from the DENR National Level to undertake site visit and assessment
 - c. Establish linkage with the Incident Management Structure of PCG and Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro
2. DENR MIMAROPA and PENRO Oriental Mindoro to:
- a. Continue to work with BFAR and PCG for the completion of the water sampling and testing.
 - b. Extend sampling in other locations (specifically within the Province of Marinduque) that could potentially be affected by the oil spill.
