



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

MANAGER'S REPORT EXCERPTS ON STATUS UPDATES IN RESPONSE TO THE
POINT HIGGINS ELEMENTARY DIESEL OIL SPILL

January 20, 2026

Point Higgins Oil-Spill Clean-Up Update

Following a short reprieve, fuel oil has again surfaced (“daylighted”) into the containment pond at Point Higgins Elementary during recent heavy rain events and snowmelt. The North Tongass Volunteer Fire Department continues to remove and replace contaminated absorbent pads as needed.

NORTECH, the Borough’s environmental consultant and contractor, has submitted a preliminary design for the under-school ventilation system. Public Works staff have reviewed the design and provided comments, and revised plans are pending. Once the design is finalized and approved, materials will be ordered and a mechanical contractor will be secured for installation.

Ketchikan School District Maintenance staff have been tasked with monitoring and maintaining the temporary ventilation as of December 15.