

**September 2, 2006**

## **Latitude 49 G&M Compactor Oil Spill**

On 9-1-06 we had the compactor dumped by Blaine/Bay Refuse. The morning of 9-2-06, we found we had a hydraulic oil leak on the quick disconnect to the compactor. We had a minor oil spill on the concrete and ground. David and I removed the fitting that was leaking, cleaned it and reinstalled it with no leak. We thought it may have been some dirt that caused the leak. We got some Enviro/Clean from Pacific Builders, Blaine to clean up the spill. This product worked very good, as no oil trace was left on the concrete pad. The dirt and material from the concrete pad were disposed of and the compactor was put back in service with no leaks.

This was a small spill and we were lucky this time. We do not need to allow any oil to get into the retention pond nor into Birch Bay, as this would a very costly environmental loss and we would be held responsible. Cleanup was completed on 9-3-06.

On 9-18-06 I met the driver for Blaine/Bay Refuse at the compactor. I told him of the oil leak and asked if he cycled the compactor after he hooked it up? He said no one had told him to but he would if we wanted. I told him to cycle it and be sure there were no leaks before he leaves. I also asked if he would work with us if we should put an oil spill containment boom in front of the compactor. He assured me he would.

We then disconnected the Hydraulic hoses from the compactor and found a small piece of the seal inside the fitting. We removed the seal/o'ring and found it to be damaged. I then shut the compactor down until we could find this o'ring. I called Norwest Hydraulics and they said they had all kinds of o'rings. I went there and found they did not have this one. I then called Galbreath Co. and they told me the fitting was a Norman Co. fitting and I could get one from them. I then called the Norman Co. and explained what we needed and he gave me a 4 week delivery date. I got the part number and the cost of \$5.80 for the o'ring. I then called Blankenship Service Co and asked if they had the o'ring and they said they would call me back.

I then took the o'ring to the compactor and installed the damaged one back into the fitting. I turned on the compactor and it cycled without leaking. We then left the compactor on manual operation. David and I watched it each time it cycled until it was fixed.

On 9-20-06 I called Blankenship Service again and again told him what we needed. He was ready to come here to fix the compactor. I told him no that all we needed was the \$5.80 part. He then said they had had problems getting Norman parts and gave me a Parker Co part number and said he could ship it up for \$45.65 plus tax and shipping. I told him thank you and hung up.

I then called Industrial Supply Co. in Bellingham gave him the Parker part number and he said he had one on the shelf. He quoted a price of \$32.22 plus tax. We bought the part on 9-22-06 and David and I installed it on 9-23. While we were installing the new quick disconnect, we found the inside where the Hydraulic arms are to be full of trash. The area was cleaned and disposed of and the compactor was put back on auto service at 9:30 AM on 9-23-06.

**WE NEED TO COME UP WITH A FIX TO PROTECT OUR RETENTION POND FROM AN OIL SPILL**

Charlie