

Russia declares emergency after Arctic oil spill

President Vladimir Putin of Russia has declared a state of emergency in a region in northern Siberia after a huge oil **spill** turned a river **crimson** and threatened to **inflict** significant damage to the Arctic environment.

spill 溢出; 溅出

crimson 深红色

inflict 造成; 使遭受

More than 20, 000 tons of **diesel** leaked into the Ambarnaya River near the city of Norilsk last Friday, after a fuel tank collapsed at a power plant. Norilsk Nickel, which owns the plant, said in a statement that **thawing permafrost** had caused one of the tank's **pillars** to collapse. The oil leaked more than 7 miles from the site.

diesel 柴油

thaw 融化; 解冻

permafrost 永冻层

pillar 柱子; 支撑

The accident is one of the biggest oil spills in modern Russian history, Aleksei Knizhnikov of the environmentalist group WWF Russia said.

Putin said he had been angered that he had learned of the spill only on Sunday, and, after declaring the state of emergency on Wednesday, denounced company officials in a videoconference that was broadcast live.

"Why did government agencies only find out about this two days after the fact?" Putin said. "Are we going to learn about emergency situations from social media?"

Putin said he would ask investigators to look into the spill to make a clear assessment of how officials reacted to the accident.

Norilsk Nickel, along with the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry, dispatched hundreds of personnel to clean up the mess. So far, Norilsk Nickel said, they had managed to gather up only around 340 tons of the oil.

"The incident led to catastrophic consequences, and we will be seeing the *repercussions* for years to come,"Sergey Verkhovets, coordinator of Arctic projects for WWF Russia, said in a statement."We are talking about dead fish, polluted plumage of birds and poisoned animals."

repercussion 反响; 后果