

20000 tons fuel leak near Norilsk mines in arctic Russia

Sentinel-2 MSI acquired on 14 May 2020 at 06:16:29 UTC
Sentinel-2 MSI acquired on 18 May 2020 at 05:56:39 UTC
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[3D Layerstack](#)

Fig. 1 - S2 (21.05.2020) - State of emergency has been declared in Norilsk after 20 000 tons of diesel leaked into Arctic river system. [2D view](#) [3D view](#)

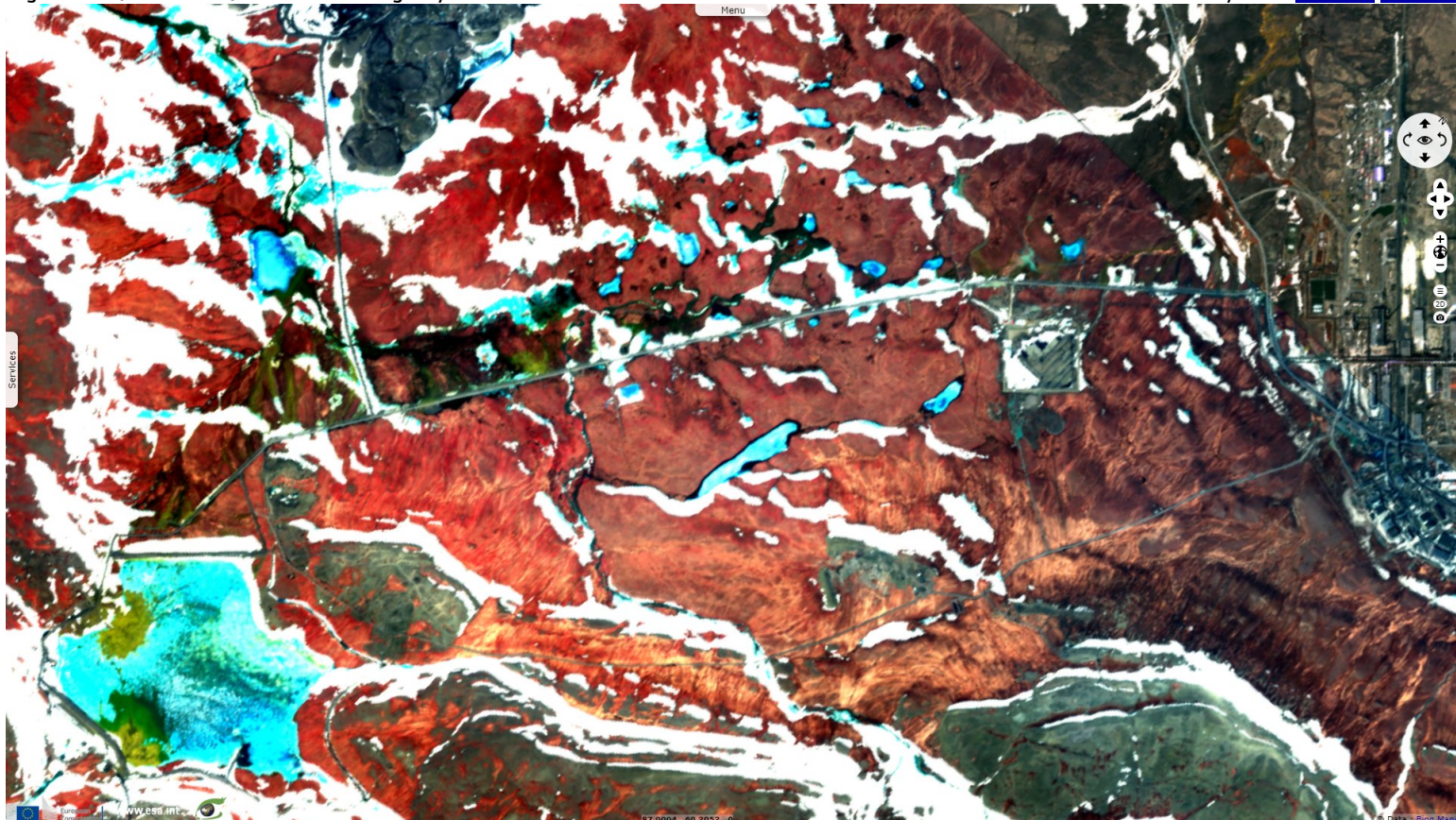


Fig. 2 - S2 (31.05.2020) - A diesel reservoir collapsed at a nickel power station outside the northern Siberian city of Norilsk. [3D view](#) [3D animation](#)

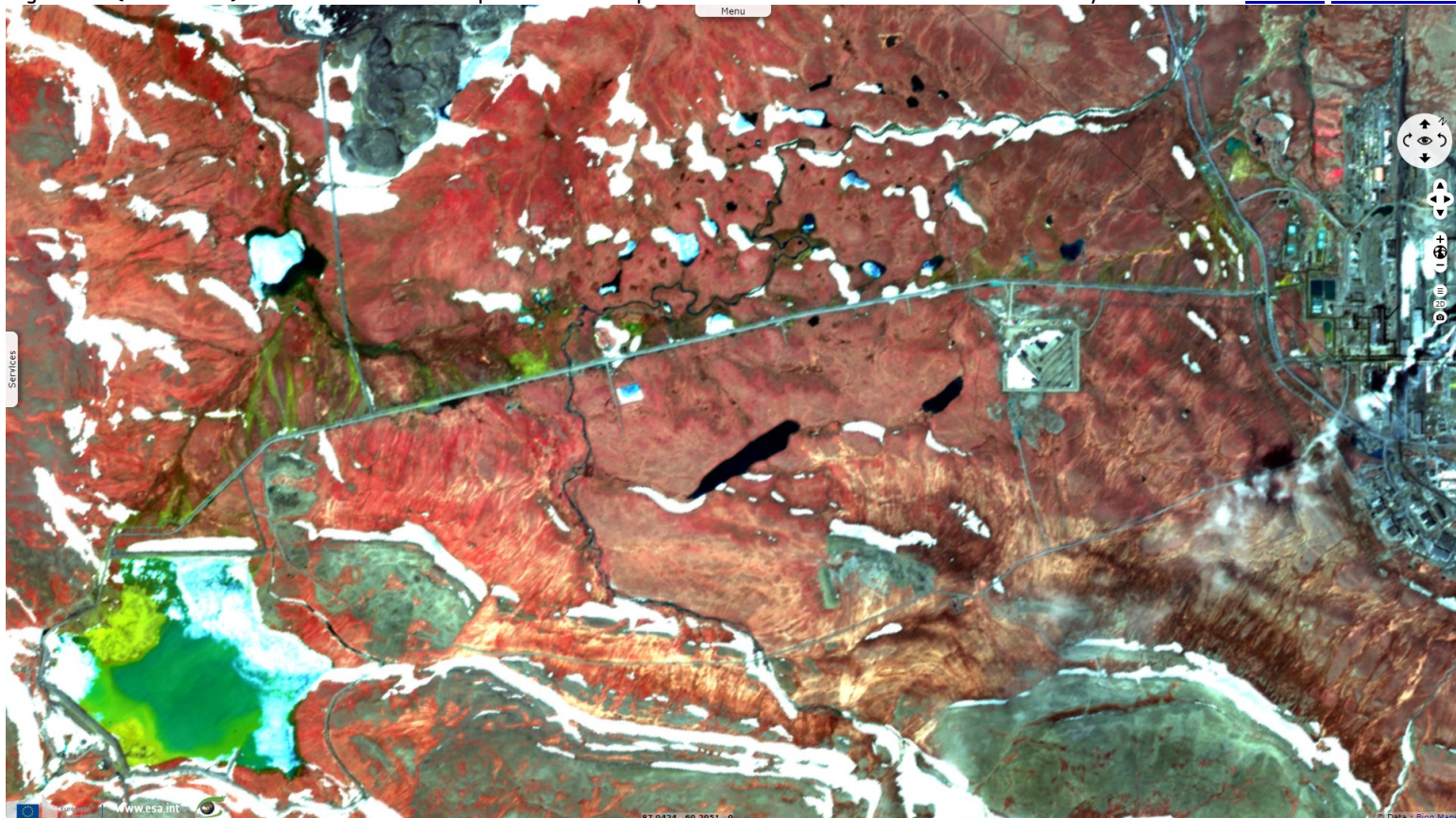


Fig. 3 - Bing Map basemap in true colours.

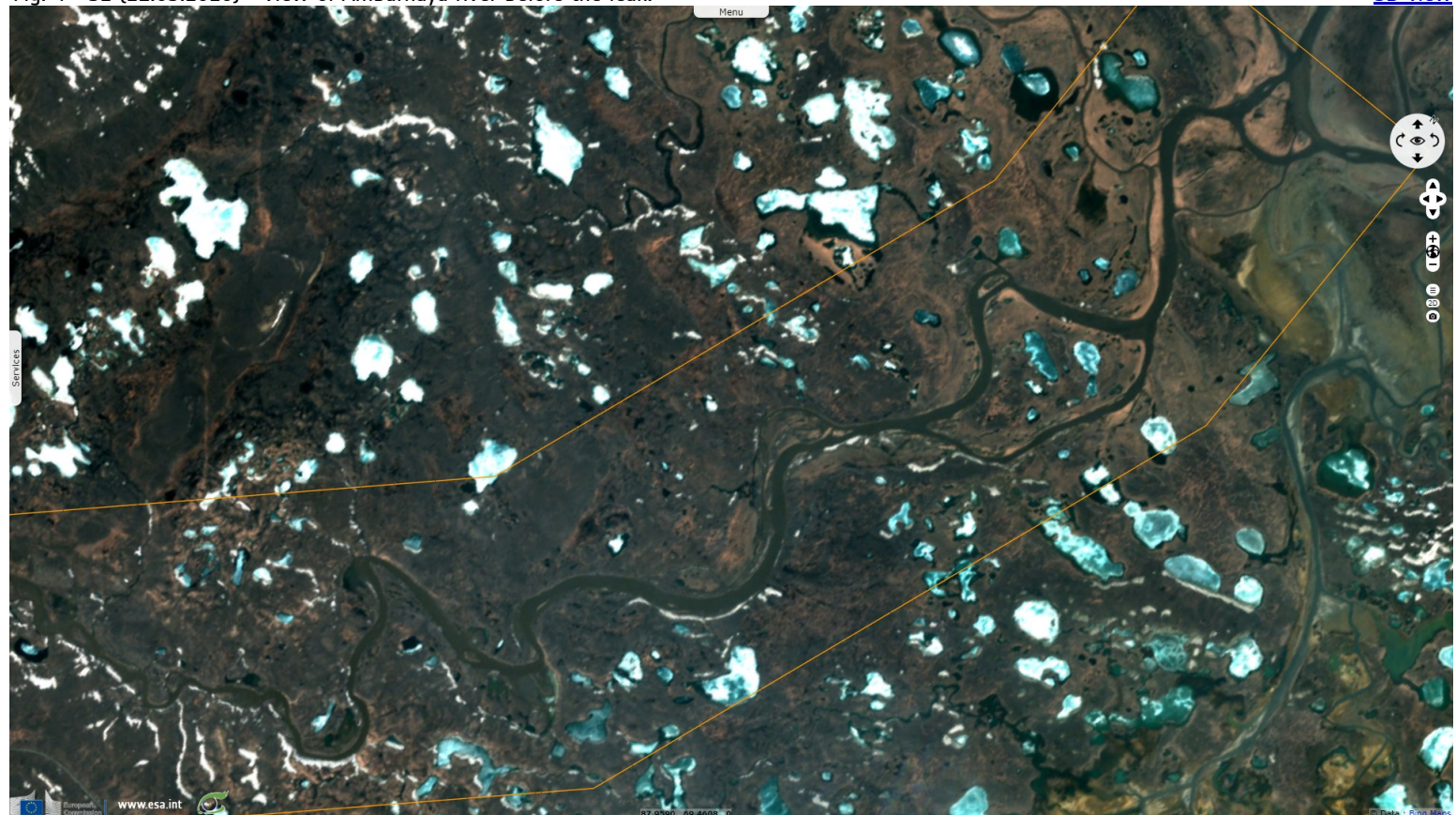
[3D view](#)



For 18 years, possibly longer, areas downstream of the fuel tank (leading to the Kayerkan district of Norilsk at north-east and to its coal mine at north-west) show in red, contrasting with the surrounding landscape.

Fig. 4 - S2 (21.05.2020) - View of Ambarnaya river before the leak.

[3D view](#)



Norilsk was founded at the end of the 1920s, it is the world's northernmost city with more than 100 000 inhabitants. With temporary inhabitants included, its population reaches 220 000. The nickel deposits of Norilsk-Talnakh are the largest-known nickel-copper-palladium deposits in the world. The smelting of the nickel ore is directly responsible for severe pollution, which generally comes in the form of acid rain and smog. By some estimates, one percent of global sulfur dioxide emission comes from Norilsk's nickel mines.

Fig. 5 - S2 (31.05.2020) - The river turned green and red due to this massive leak.

[3D view](#) [3D animation](#)



15 000 tons of fuel have been released into Ambarnaya river and 6 000 tons into the soil. It will take decades for the river to recover - Source: [Siberian Times](#).

*The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Space Agency or the European Union.
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