

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention and Emergency Response Program

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Z-Pad Produced Water Release

SITREP #: 1

SPILL NUMBER: 04399933901

LEDGER CODE: 14101260

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: 10:30 AM, December 4, 2004. The spill was reported to ADEC by the State Troopers at 10:35 AM.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 12:30 PM, December 6, 2004

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: As the situation warrants

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: BP Exploration Alaska (BPXA) estimates that 350 barrels (bbl-14,700 gallons) of produced water was released from a leaking flange on a twelve inch produced water line. Initial estimates were based upon the volume observed on the ground, and did not take melted snow or pond water into account. To date 580 bbls (24,360 gallons) of produced water, melted snow and fresh water have been removed. Laboratory analyses are being conducted to quantify the amount of produced water in the recovered 24,360 gallons.

LOCATION: Z-Pad, Western Operating Unit, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

CAUSE OF SPILL: An o-ring on a flange failed. The flange is one of two that connect a ball valve in the twelve inch produced water line.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): BPXA

RESPONSE ACTION: The Spill Response Team (SRT) was mobilized to the site immediately. Two immediate tasks were identified: replacing the o-ring and clean up of the released material. An ADEC Responder is on site overseeing the situation.

The produced water line can not be shut down for long periods of time without becoming frozen. Replacing the o-ring is a high priority at this time. Scaffolding has been constructed for valve removal and o-ring replacement is currently under way.

Liquid material has been removed from the release area using two 300 bbl (12,600gallon) vacuum trucks. A total of 580 bbl (24,360gallons) have currently been taken to Gathering Center 2 (GC-2) for reuse. Further delineation is also occurring at this time. ADEC and ADNR has given tundra travel approval to the PRP, to use a Kubota tractor, a bobcat, and snow machines on the tundra. A snow berm is being created around the spill area.

Laboratory samples have been taken from each vacuum truck, as well as from GC-1 (raw produced water), and sub-ice pond water in four locations. A background sample of sub-ice pond water is also being taken from a pristine pond for comparison.

SOURCE CONTROL: The produced water line was shut down and the pressure dropped to cause the leak to cease. The o-ring is being replaced currently, and the line will be returned to operational as soon as possible.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: The release occurred above the toe of Z-pad. Produced water quickly ran off the pad onto the tundra. Summer maps indicate that there is a small, shallow pond along that edge of the pad. It is unknown if the released material melted through the pond ice at this time. Laboratory samples have been taken to confirm that the pond water is unaffected. The preliminary delineation of the spill indicates that approximately a thousand square feet of pond ice and tundra are affected. A more definitive delineation is under way at this time.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Warm water flushing has been selected as a tactic to remove the remaining produced water and contaminated snow and ice. A snow berm is being created which will be iced over to prevent flushed liquids from migrating. Contaminated snow and ice, as well as frozen produced water will be taken to GC-2.

WEATHER: The current temperature is -23 °F with winds southwest at 10 mph.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Bruce Robinson (BPXA)
S.O.S.C: Ed Meggert (ADEC)
Field S.O.S.C: Toivo Luick (ADEC)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Ed Meggert, ADEC, 451-2124.

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

This sitrep has been distributed via email to the Governor's office, ADF&G, ADNR, SECC, USEPA, USDOL, NMFS, USFWS, and USFS in addition to the following.

Agency/Organization	Name	Sent via	Additional Info	Telephone	FAX
AOGCC		Fax			276-7542
Attorney General Office	Cam Leonard/ Mary Lundquist	Fax		451-2811/451-2914	451-2985
Legislature					
Senator Murkowski's Washington DC Office	Justin Stiefel, Chief of Staff	Fax	North Slope only	(202) 224-6665	(202) 224-5301
Senator Murkowski's Office in Fairbanks		Fax	North Slope only	456-0233	451-7146
Legislator (Senate T)	Donnie Olson (D)	Fax	Nome	465-3707	465-4821
Legislator (House 40)	Reggie Joule (D)	Fax	Kotzebue	465-4833 or (800) 782-4833	465-4586
Other Agencies:					
North Slope Borough		Fax	Mayor	852-0200	852-0337
BP Exploration Inc	Gary Lillo	Fax		564-5722	564-5180