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North
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Borough

Prudhoe Bay GC2 Spill Incident Joint Information Center (JIC)

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UPDATE 4: UC develops plan to estimate spill volume and excavation begins

Anchorage, AK— The Unified Command (UC) is implementing a plan to help accurately estimate the amount of oil spilled from the Gathering Center 2 (GC2) transit line leak. The volume estimate protocol is available for review on the UC website.

“We will determine volume estimates in a scientific and systematic fashion,” said Leslie Pearson, the State on Scene Coordinator. Three methods will be employed to come up with an accurate estimate. These include: site sampling, which includes probing the spill area and determining oil thickness; volume accounting of recovered material, which includes calculating the amount of oil that remains after water removal; and engineering calculations based on oil flow rate, hole size and length of time of the spill.

Response workers continue removal and excavation work on the 34” crude oil transit line. The source of release was discovered early Sunday morning following snow removal around the culvert in the caribou crossing, located about one mile from GC-2.

As of 11:00 a.m. this morning, response crews recovered approximately 1260 barrels of total liquids. During the first 36 hours, crews collected approximately 501 barrels of oil, after separating from water. Work progresses with caution and care to ensure worker safety and to prevent worsening the spill. The Unified Command, comprised of representatives from BP Alaska, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the North Slope Borough and the

Department of Environmental Conservation continue to focus efforts on oil recovery and clean up.

Finally, an investigation team member from BP's Houston office is traveling to Prudhoe Bay to work with regulatory agencies to begin collecting data and help determine the cause of the release.

Photos of the response effort, fact sheets, diagrams and maps are available on the Unified Command website at www.dec.state.ak.us. (Click on the Quick Link "GC-2 Oil Transit Line Spill".) In addition, information is available on the BP Exploration response website at <http://www.piersystem.com/go/site/1112>. Interested parties can submit questions via this site.

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