

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** Eni Rock Flour #2 Drilling Mud Spill    **SITREP #:** 2

**SPILL NUMBER:** 07399900401

**LEDGER CODE:** 14164460

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** Eni Petroleum discovered the spill at 11:30 AM, January 4, 2007, and reported the spill to ADEC at 12:00 PM, January 4, 2007.

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 12:00 PM, Monday January 8, 2007.

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

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** Eni estimates 75 barrels (3,150 gallons) of water based drilling mud. These fluids are from the upper portion of the well that was above any oil bearing formations. As such, no oil would be present in the fluids.

**LOCATION:** Rock Flour Well #2. The Rock Flour Prospect is located approximately 4 miles south of the Milne Point Road and Spine Road intersection, west of Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The drilling mud fluids were placed in an ice bermed area where they would freeze and then be hauled to the grind and inject facility at Prudhoe Bay for disposal. Although the ambient air temperature was about 40°F below, the fluids were sufficiently warm to melt a sidewall on the ice berm and spill onto the snow covered tundra adjacent to the ice pad.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Eni Petroleum

**RESPONSE ACTION:** The cleanup plan that was submitted to the Department for review was approved on Friday January 5, 2007. According to the two ADEC responders on site, cleanup of the spill is progressing slowly. The slow response is primarily due to both cold temperatures and slow mobilization of equipment and personnel. The response has also been hampered a lack of an agreement between Eni and BPXA for the acquisition of hot water and the use of BPXA's disposal facilities.

There are two containment cells at the Rock Flour #2 location. These cells are adjacent to one another and separated by an ice berm. The cell in which the spill occurred is considerably smaller than the other cell. On the evening of January 6, 2007, a trac-hoe arrived on site and started excavating the drilling mud from the containment cell to reduce pressure on the cell wall that had previously failed. Due to the extreme cold temperatures, responders assumed that all the mud, when spilled, had frozen in place. However this turned out to be incorrect. It became apparent that much of the mud below the surface was wet. Once the wet mud had been exposed, it froze quickly. The mud will continue to be thinly spread in the containment area and allowed to freeze. This operation will allow for easier removal by the on-site front end loader.

An estimated area of 8' x 8' on the tundra has been cleared of snow, ice, and mud using heavy equipment and hand tools. Mechanical cleanup operations have ceased due to minor damage observed to the tundra. Four cleanup workers are currently on-site, and an additional 4 workers have been requested and are expected to arrive on-site this morning. A warm water flush is still being considered as a cleanup option to remove the mud in between the tundra tussocks, but cold temperatures may not immediately allow for this.

The spill has not affected the drilling operations and the drilling continues on schedule. The mud that is being generated as a result of continued operations is being transported via vacuum truck to the front end loader. The loader spreads out the mud thinly in the larger of the two containment cells. This facilitates easier removal of the mud and mitigates any melting potential of the containment walls.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** No additional fluids are being added to the containment area.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** Ice pad and snow covered tundra. DEC responders observed some minor damage to the tundra as a result of the cleanup efforts from the heavy equipment. Hand tools are now being utilized to alleviate any further damage. No impacts to wildlife have been reported.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Continued cleanup of the mud spill. Eni Petroleum will draft and submit to the Department a disposal plan and sampling plan.

**WEATHER:** Mostly clouds -26° F, winds 14 mph WSW, chill at -51° F

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Bill Penrose, Fairweather  
 F.O.S.C. : Carl Lautenberger, EPA  
 S.O.S.C. : Ed Meggert, ADEC  
 Field S.O.S.C.: Tom DeRuyter and Wes Ghormley, ADEC

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amanda Stark, ADEC, 451-2175

Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at: <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm>

## AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

This sitrep has been distributed via email to the Governor’s office, Senator Stevens’ office, ADF&G, ADNR, SECC, USEPA, USDOJ, NMFS, USFWS, USFS and NOAA in addition to the following.

STATE AGENCY	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFO	TELEPHONE	FAX
ADNR	Leon Lynch/ Gary Schultz/ Larry Byrne	Fax		451-2724/ 451-2732	451-2751 or 659-2965
ADNR (Habitat)	Al Ott/Jack Winters	Fax		459-7285 or 459- 7279	456-3091
ADF&G	Todd Nichols	Fax		459-7363	456-2259
AOGCC		Fax			276-7542
EPA	Matt Carr/Carl Lautenberger	Fax		271-5083 or 257- 1342	271-3424
Attorney General Office	Cam Leonard	Fax		451-2811/451- 2914	451-2985
<b>Legislature</b>					
Governor’s Office (Fairbanks)	Palin/Parnell	Fax		451-2920	451-2858
Legislator (Senate D)	Joe Thomas (D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-2327	465-5241
Legislator (Senate E)	Gary Wilken (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3709	465-4714
Legislator (Senate F)	Gene Therriault (R)	Fax	North Pole	465-4797 or (800) 860-4797	465-3884
Legislator (House 7)	Michael “Mike” Kelly (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-4976 or (800) 465-4976	465-3883
Legislator (House 8)	David Guttenberg(D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-4457 or (800) 928-4457	465-3519

Legislator (House 9)	Scott Kawasaki (D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3466 or (866) 465-3466	465-2937
Legislator (House 10)	Jay Ramras (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3004 or (877) 465-3004	465-2070
Legislator (House 11)	John Coghill, Jr. (R)	Fax	North Pole	465-3719 or (877) 465-3719	465-3258
<b>Local Government:</b>					
Fairbanks North Star Borough	Jim Whitaker	Fax	Mayor	459-1304	459-1102
<b>Other Agencies:</b>					
North Slope Borough	Edward Sagaan Itta	Fax	Mayor	852-0200	852-0337
North Slope Borough	Johnny Aiken	Fax	Planning Director	852-0440	852-5991