

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: APSC PS 9, Crude Oil Release to Secondary Containment

SITREP #: 4

SPILL NUMBER: 10309914501

LEDGER CODE: 14287160

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: 10:30 AM on May 25, 2010

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 3:30 PM on May 28, 2010

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: 12:00 PM on June 1, 2010

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: Alaska North Slope Crude. Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC) has estimated between 208,950 gallons (4,975 barrels) and 212, 520 gallons (5,060 barrels) of oil were released to secondary containment. The estimate is based on visual observations of pooled oil on the surface and on assumptions about the volume and porosity of gravel above the liner that the oil has saturated. Recovered oil will be measured directly to obtain a more precise determination of the volume spilled.

LOCATION: Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) Pump Station 9, Tank 190. Pump Station 9 sits just off the Richardson Highway, eight miles south of Delta Junction and approximately 110 miles southeast of Fairbanks.

CAUSE OF SPILL: During a scheduled shut-down of the pump station, APSC switched the station's power supply from the electrical grid to an uninterrupted power source (UPS) battery. The UPS control circuit failed to close a valve, allowing oil to flow from the TAPS line into Tank 190 and then out the tank's vents into the lined secondary containment.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Alyeska Pipeline Service Company

RESPONSE ACTION: At 3:30 pm on Thursday, May 27th, APSC began pumping oil from the secondary containment drainage pipe into tank trailers. Filled trailers, currently stored at the pump station, will be hauled to the TAPS terminal in Valdez, where recovered oil will be re-injected into the pipeline. As of 6:00 this morning, an estimated 42,000 gallons (1,000 barrels) of oil had been recovered to tank trailers. The pool of oil on the surface of the containment area has been significantly reduced, though the bulk of the spilled oil remains embedded in the gravel covering the containment liner. Prior to re-injection into the TAPS line, the oil will be pumped through a filter and metering system to determine the volume of recovered oil.

The initial draw-down of Tank 190 using the pump-around skid continued until 4:00 this morning, taking the oil level down a total of 3 feet to a gauged height of 29 feet. The volume of oil returned to the TAPS line from the tank was approximately 321,000 gallons (7,643 barrels).

The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued a Corrective Action Order on Thursday identifying actions required to restart the pipeline. APSC worked with USDOT personnel on- and off-site to address the order and obtain approval to resume TAPS operation.

Preparations to return Pump Station 9 to service included verifying operation of fire safety systems, checking station control systems and power supplies, proving operation of overpressure relief systems, removing the pump-around-skid, and confirming that no crude oil leaks were present. Field work was completed and USDOT restart approval granted by just after 1:00 PM today. APSC's Operational Control Center in Anchorage then assumed control of the pump station and began the process of restarting the TAPS line (ongoing at the time of this report).

With the TAPS line operating, the oil remaining in Tank 190 can be pumped into the line using the tank's booster pump. The pump station will be manned round-the-clock to monitor the tank draw-down and ensure that the pump station continues to function properly.

On May 26, the Unified Command approved a waste management plan for this incident. APSC has begun constructing three bermed and lined waste staging areas, or "cells", at the pump station for temporary storage of contaminated gravel from the containment area and oily solid wastes and garbage generated by the response. Hazardous wastes will ultimately be disposed of at an EPA-permitted treatment, storage, and disposal facility.

APSC has activated the Stevens Village and Rampart Village Response Teams (VRTs). The VRTs are expected to arrive at the pump station this weekend to start digging a collection trench and sump in the gravel within the containment area to help maximize oil recovery. Crews will use water to flush oil from the gravel into the sump for recovery. The teams will also help remove contaminated gravel from the containment area once free oil recovery is complete.

APSC has assembled a team to conduct an integrity inspection of Tank 190 once it has been emptied. ADEC and Joint Pipeline Office regulators will review the inspection report to determine whether the tank is fit for continued service.

Two ADEC responders are at Pump Station 9 to monitor the field response. Additional ADEC staff are overseeing the response from Fairbanks and Anchorage. Representatives of the State Fire Marshall's office and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources visited the pump station on May 27.

SOURCE CONTROL: APSC personnel closed the Tank 190 valve manually and stopped the flow of oil into the tank. The oil level in the tank has fallen to where oil is no longer escaping into containment.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: There have been no reports of oil outside of secondary containment. No impacts to wildlife have been observed.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Finish collecting free oil from the secondary containment; restore normal operation of the TAPS line; empty Tank190 and prepare it for an integrity inspection; remove contaminated gravel from the containment area; and continue investigating the cause of the incident.

WEATHER: Today and tomorrow: mostly sunny, light winds, afternoon thunderstorms, high 80°F, low 50°F.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: John Baldrige, APSC
F.O.S.C.: N/A (EPA determined it did not have jurisdiction in this incident)
S.O.S.C.: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC
Field S.O.S.C.: John Ebel, ADEC

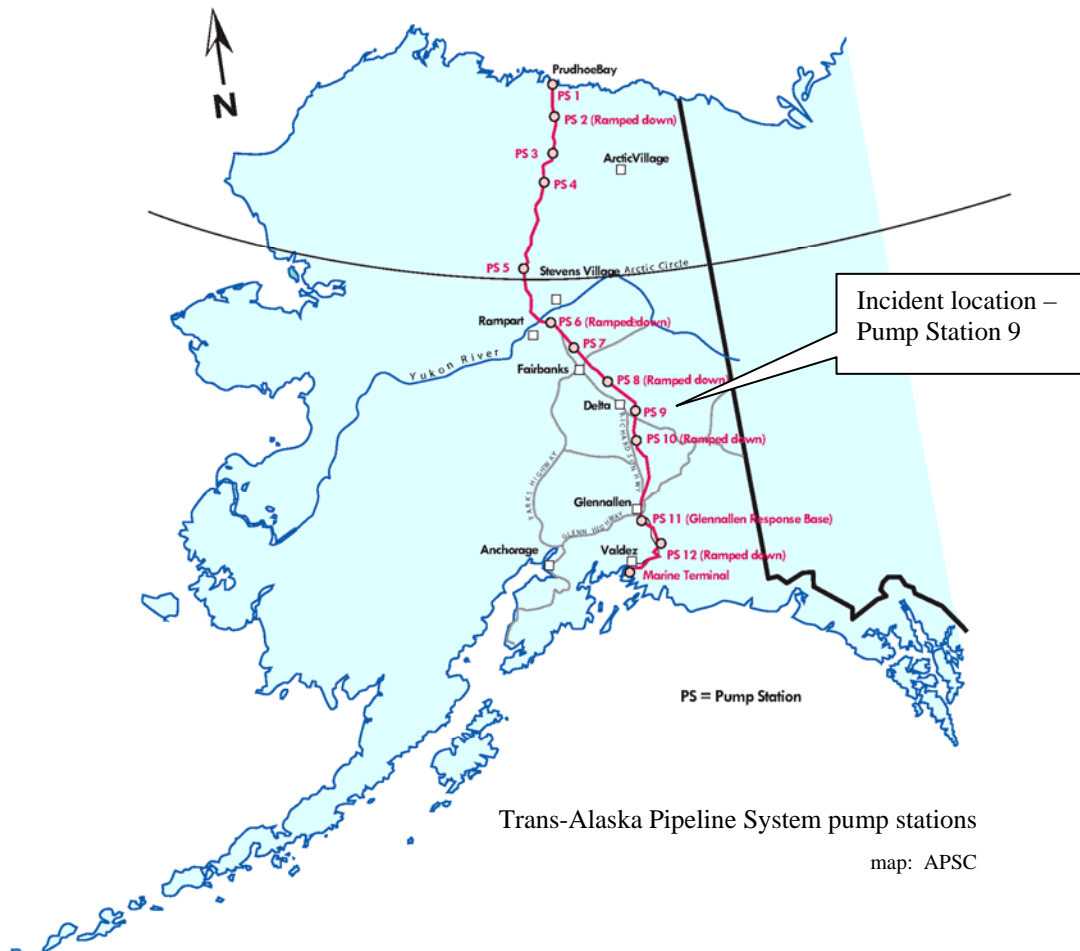
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom DeRuyter, 451-2145

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

This sitrep has been distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders. The situation report was also distributed to the various agency staff listed on the standard distribution list. The receiving agencies listed in the standard distribution list includes: Governor's office, Senator Begich's office, ADF&G, ADNRR, SECC, EPA, DOI, NMFS, and USFWS.

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFO	TELEPHONE	FAX
Alaska State Troopers	Fairbanks	Fax		451-5100 or (800) 478-9300	451-5165
Alaska State Troopers	Delta Junction	Fax		895-4800	895-4026
ADF&G (Habitat)	Al Ott/Jack Winters	Fax		459-7285 or 459- 7279	459-7303
EPA	Matt Carr/Robert Whittier	Fax		271-5083 or 271- 3247	271-6340
Attorney General Office	Cam Leonard/ Steve Mulder	Fax		451-2811/451- 2914	451-2985/ 278-7022

Fairbanks North Star Borough-HAZMAT	David Gibbs	Fax		450-6585	459-1119
Governor's Office (Fairbanks)	Parnell/Campbell	Fax		451-2920	451-2858
Lt. Governor's Office (Juneau)	Parnell/Campbell	Fax			465-5400
Legislator (Senate C)	Albert Kookesh (D)	Fax	Angoon	465-3473 or (888) 288-3473	465-2827/452-3401
Legislator (Senate D)	Joe Thomas (D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-2327	465-5241 or 456-8163
Legislator (Senate E)	Joe Paskvan (D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3709	465-4714
Legislator (Senate F)	John Coghill, Jr. (R)	Fax	North Pole	465-4797 or (800) 860-4797	465-3884
Legislator (House 6)	Woodie Salmon (D)	Fax	Beaver	465-4527 or (800) 491-4527	465-2197
Legislator (House 7)	Michael "Mike" Kelly (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-4976 or (800) 465-4976	465-3883 or 452-6096
Legislator (House 8)	David Guttenberg(D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-4457 or (800) 928-4457	465-3519 or 456-2490
Legislator (House 9)	Scott Kawasaki (D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3466 or (866) 465-3466	465-2937 or 451-9293
Legislator (House 10)	Jay Ramras (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3004 or (877) 465-3004	465-2070
Legislator (House 11)	Tammie Wilson. (R)	Fax	North Pole	465-3719 or (877) 465-3719	465-3258 or 488-4271
Legislator (House 12)	John Harris (R)	Fax	Valdez	269-0129	269-0128
Tanana Chiefs Conference	Jerry Isaac	Fax	President	452-8251 x 3433	459-3989





APSC crew pumping oil from the containment drainage pipe on May 27. (APSC photo)



Surface of the containment area on May 28 after 36,000 gallons of oil had been drained. (APSC photo)