



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



## Repsol Q2 Pad Gas and Mud Release

**SITREP # 2**

**SPILL NUMBER:** 12399904601

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** Repsol reported the incident to ADEC at 10:29 AM on February 15, 2012.

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 7:30 PM on February 15, 2012

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** Repsol estimates that approximately 42,000 gallons (1,000 barrels) [*update from Sitrep 1*] of fresh-water-based drilling mud have been released to the gravel pad and adjacent snow-covered tundra. An unknown amount of gas has been released.

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** Qugruk #2 Pad, on the Colville River Delta, approximately 18 miles northeast of Nuiqsut, Alaska (70.2719° N, 150.4451° W)

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** Repsol contractor Nabors Drilling was drilling an exploratory well when the drill penetrated a shallow gas pocket at a depth of 2,600 feet, resulting in a gas kick. The gas kick drove drilling mud used to lubricate and cool the drill out of the hole, onto the gravel pad and adjacent snow-covered tundra. Additional mud was pumped into the borehole in an attempt to kill the well, but that mud was also blown out.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Repsol E&P USA

**RESPONSE ACTION:** All personnel evacuated from the pad due to safety concerns with the methane gas. A Unified Command incorporating Repsol, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and ADEC, has assembled in Anchorage to manage the incident. The O'Briens Group is representing Repsol on the incident management team. Repsol has hired Wild Well Control Inc. of Houston, Texas, to assist with controlling the well, and their crew is expected to arrive on-site by 7:00 AM tomorrow. Repsol is coordinating well control efforts with the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Four ADEC responders are en route to the site to evaluate the incident and response.

At 5:30 PM today, Repsol reported that the flow of gas from the well appeared to have nearly stopped, and gas levels near the pad were falling to safe levels.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** The methane gas is running through the drilling rig's gas diverter, which directs gas away from the rig. Drilling mud is no longer flowing from the well. The well is currently not under control.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** Snow-covered tundra and gravel pad.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Specific tactics to control the well will be developed once the Wild Well Control crew is on-site and has assessed the situation. Once the well is under control, Alaska Clean Seas, a North Slope spill response co-op, will begin to clean up the drilling mud.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Jeremy Michaels, O'Briens Group

F.O.S.C.: Matt Carr, EPA

S.O.S.C.: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC

Field SOSC: Wes Ghormley, ADEC

**WEATHER:** Today: Mostly cloudy with areas of low fog, some isolated snow flurries, temperatures to -14°F, east winds around 10 mph.

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** 12:00 PM on February 16, 2012

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Wes Ghormley, ADEC (907) 451-2164 or (907) 322-0569  
Ty Keltner, PIO, ADEC (907) 465-5009

Photographs and other spill information will be available for viewing at:

<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm>

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:** This situation report was distributed to the agencies listed on the standard distribution list and includes: governor's office, Senator Begich's office, SECC, DOI, NMFS, and USFWS. This situation report was also distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders:

AGENCY / STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
AOGCC		Fax			276-7542
ADNR	Gary Schultz/ Melissa Head/ Sean Willison	Fax	<a href="mailto:Gary.schultz@alaska.gov">Gary.schultz@alaska.gov</a> <a href="mailto:melissa.head@alaska.gov">melissa.head@alaska.gov</a> <a href="mailto:sean.willison@alaska.gov">sean.willison@alaska.gov</a>	451-2732/ 451-2719/ 451-2724	451-2751 or 659-2965
ADF&G	Al Ott/Jack Winters	Fax	<a href="mailto:al.ott@alaska.gov">al.ott@alaska.gov</a> <a href="mailto:jack.winters@alaska.gov">jack.winters@alaska.gov</a>	459-7285 or 459-7279	459-7303
EPA	Matt Carr/Robert Whittier	Fax	<a href="mailto:Carr.matthew@epa.gov">Carr.matthew@epa.gov</a> or <a href="mailto:whittier.robert@epa.gov">whittier.robert@epa.gov</a>	271-5083 or 271-3247	271-6340
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Lt. Governor's Office (Juneau)	Parnell/Treadwell	Fax	<a href="mailto:Sean.parnell@alaska.gov">Sean.parnell@alaska.gov</a> <a href="mailto:Mead.treadwell@alaska.gov">Mead.treadwell@alaska.gov</a>		465-5400
Senator Murkowski's Washington DC Office	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
North Slope Borough	Charlotte Brower	Fax	Mayor	852-0200	852-0337
North Slope Borough	Rhoda Ahmaogak	Fax	Planning Director <a href="mailto:Susana.montana@north-slope.org">Susana.montana@north-slope.org</a>	852-0440	852-5991
Senate T/ Nome	Donnie Olson	Fax	Nome 5/16-1/09 Juneau 1/10-5/15	465-3707	465-4821
House 40/ Kotzebue	Reggie Joule	Fax	Kotzebue 5/16-1/09 Juneau 1/10-5/15	465-4833 or (800) 782-4833	465-4586