



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



## Kuparuk Pad 1B Hard Line Leak

**SITREP # 2**

**SPILL #:** 14399934901

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION:** 12:00 p.m. on December 17, 2014

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc. (CPAI)

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** Kuparuk River Unit, Drill Site 1B

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** A release from a two inch hard line (temporary metal piping) union running between the ball mill injection facility and the injection well was discovered at 4:00 a.m. and was called in to CPAI Security at 6:09 a.m. on December 15, 2014. CPAI reported the spill to ADEC at 9:22 a.m.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** CPAI reported that 85 barrels (3,570 gallons) of a drilling mud, brine, and diesel mixture were released.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** During normal operations, a gasket along a two inch hard line on Pad 1B failed and released a mixture of drilling mud, brine, and diesel to the gravel pad and a closed reserve pit. An area of approximately 3,000-4,000 square feet was impacted by the release.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** The ball mill injection facility was shut down, and the hard line was isolated to stop the release. The failed gasket was identified and repaired. The line was inspected to ensure there were no additional leaks.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** Approximately half of the drilling mud, brine, and diesel mixture spilled to a gravel pad, and the other half spilled to the closed reserve pit. The spilled material froze and is not spreading. Alaska Clean Seas (ACS) responded to the release and delineated the spill area. **The electrical cable tray has been de-energized, allowing cleanup operations to continue. The electrical cable tray only provided power to the injection well and will not impact well production. The injection well will remain offline until cleanup work is complete.**

The closed reserve pit is covered with snow and ice, which has been assessed to determine if it can support heavy equipment operations. Results indicate ice is thick enough to support personnel and skid steer operations, but loaders will not be used on the reserve pit's ice. **A snow ramp has been constructed to allow access to the pit. Skid steers with trimmers are being used to recover contaminated material for disposal. A total of 150 cubic yards of contaminated material have now been removed from the reserve pit (60 cubic yards on December 15 and 90 cubic yards on December 16). Recovered material is being transported to Drill Site 1H for subsequent disposal. Cleanup operations continue.**

ADEC has one responder on site to oversee cleanup operations.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** The snow covered gravel pad and a closed reserve pit were impacted. Piping and other infrastructure along the gravel pad and reserve pit have also been impacted by the release. There have been no reports of impacted wildlife.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Continue using heavy equipment and skid steer loader to remove material in the open areas and use hand tools to recover material near piping and infrastructure

ADEC will continue to monitor response actions and review CPAI's sampling plan when completed.

Due to cold temperatures with heavy winds, temperatures are a concern. Conditions will be monitored to ensure worker safety.

**WEATHER:** Today: Overcast with a high of -3°F and low of -11°F; wind from the east-northeast at 20mph. Wind chill factor is -27°F. Tomorrow: Overcast with a high of -8°F and low of -13°F; wind expected.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Ty Maxey, CPAI  
SOSC: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC  
FOSC: Matt Carr, EPA  
LOSC: Gordon Brower, North Slope Borough  
Field SOSC: Paul Lhotka, ADEC

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION:** As conditions warrant

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ashley Adamczak (907)451-2124

[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum\\_fy15/141215301/141215301\\_index.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum_fy15/141215301/141215301_index.htm)



ACS removing contaminated snow from the reserve pit, December 16, 2014. (Photo by Paul Lhotka/ADEC)

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:** This situation report was distributed to the agencies listed on the standard distribution list, which includes the governor’s office, Senator Sullivan’s office, State Emergency Operations Center, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other state agencies. This situation report was also distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders:

**NORTH SLOPE (Prudhoe Bay, Deadhorse, Point Hope, Point Lay, Wainwright, Barrow, Atqasuk, Nuiqsut, Kaktovik, Anaktuvuk Pass)**

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Senate T- Nome	Donny Olson	Email	<a href="mailto:Senator.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov">Senator.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov</a>	465-3707	
House 40- Nuiqsut	Benjamin Nageak	Fax	Kotzebue 5/16-1/09 Juneau 1/10-5/15	465-4833 or (800) 782-4833	465-2827
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US EPA	Bob Whittier	Fax/Email	<a href="mailto:Whittier.robert@epa.gov">Whittier.robert@epa.gov</a>	271-3616	271-3424
Attorney General Office	Steve Mulder	Email	<a href="mailto:Steve.mulder@alaska.gov">Steve.mulder@alaska.gov</a>	451-2811 or 269-5100	
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