



## **UNIFIED COMMAND AND JOINT INFORMATION CENTER ESTABLISHED FOR MILNE POINT PRODUCED FLUID RELEASE**

ANCHORAGE, AK, March 1, 2015 – Spill response personnel are actively responding to a spill of produced fluids at the Milne Point Unit Tract 14 approximately 25 miles northwest of Deadhorse.

At approximately 8 a.m., Saturday, February 28, a Hilcorp field crew identified a breach in a ten-inch diameter production flow line of Tract 14 within the Milne Point Unit. Hilcorp personnel immediately activated its spill response plan and activated the Alaska Clean Seas spill response team. The source is currently controlled and a 15-foot section of the flow line was isolated and evacuated to prevent further release. Production was shut-in from 4 adjacent pads. An estimated 93 barrels (3,906 gallons) of liquids have been recovered including produced fluids, snow, and ice in the impacted area.

The source of the leak was determined to be approximately a quarter-inch hole in the flow line. The hole has been plugged. Preliminary assessment estimates the affected area to be approximately 0.9 acres including the local pad and surrounding tundra. Initial clean-up efforts were halted due to severe blizzard-like conditions. The cause of the breach, amount of fluid released and other details are still being determined.

A bypass line was installed to re-establish flow within the line thus eliminating the risk of freeze-up and further protecting the environment from additional spills. Wells from Tract 14 are currently flowing through that line at normal levels.

Weather conditions continue to improve in the area. Crews are working to clear roadways so that additional clean-up equipment and response personnel can access the site. Vacuum trucks and heavy equipment will be used in the clean-up effort.

A Unified Command and Joint Information Center has been established in response to the Milne Point Tract 14 Produced Fluid Spill. Representatives from the State of Alaska, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the North Slope Borough and Hilcorp Alaska, LLC are working cooperatively to manage the spill response. The primary objective of the Unified Command is to ensure the safety of all responders and personnel on scene, minimize impacts to the environment and contain and clean-up the spill. Updates regarding the response efforts will be provided as new information becomes available.

Updates will be provided via the Unified Command Website at:

[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum\\_fy15/150228301/150228301\\_index.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum_fy15/150228301/150228301_index.htm)

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