



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
Division of Spill Prevention and Response  
Prevention Preparedness and Response Program  
**SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)**



**CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED**

**BPXA Flow Station 1 Drill Site 2 Well 3 Release**

**SITREP #: 2**

**SPILL #: 17399910401**

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 2:00 P.M. ON APRIL 15, 2017**

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): BP EXPLORATION ALASKA, INC. (BPXA)**

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** BPXA Drill Site 2 (DS2) pad, Well 3 in the Greater Prudhoe Bay area approximately 5 miles from the Deadhorse Airport (Lat/Long: 70.268653, -148.78641).

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** Unknown.

**HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED:** BPXA employees discovered the uncontrolled gas release from the top of a well house at approximately 7:30 a.m. on April 14, 2017. The crude spray from the top of the well house was confirmed at approximately 8:15 a.m. BPXA reported the spill to ADEC via the Fairbanks spill reporting line at 8:45 a.m. on April 14, 2017.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** The well is currently venting gas, which caused a spray of crude to impact the well pad. **A Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) overflight shows that the crude spray plume did not leave the pad, however, the situation is not safe yet for responders to access the area and confirm that there have been no impacts to adjacent tundra. No volume estimate for crude spray released is available at this time.**

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The cause of the release is unknown at this time. ADEC is coordinating with BPXA and the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC) to investigate the cause of the release. **Well 3 is an oil and gas production well.**

**SOURCE CONTROL:** Source control has not yet been established. **Two leaks have been identified on the well, one near the top and one further down the well assembly. The top leak was misting oil in conjunction with releasing natural gas; the activation of the surface safety valve has stopped the release from that point. The bottom leak has been reduced, but is currently leaking gas as well as some minor amount of crude oil.**

**RESPONSE ACTION:** **ADEC has mobilized three response personnel to the BPXA Command Post located on the North Slope. BPXA has established their Tier II Incident Management Team (IMT). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) response personnel have also mobilized to the scene. Responders attempted to bring the well under control last night, however, this operation was unsuccessful due to damage on a well pressure gauge. Responders have determined that the well has "jacked up," or risen, approximately 3 – 4 feet; this vertical movement of the well caused the pressure gauge to break off and prevented operations from pumping into the well to kill it. Continuous air monitoring has been established inside the wellhouse, and the situation remained stable overnight. Responders are not able to safely assess the impacted area until the well has been controlled.**

**RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED:** ADEC has received notification that crude has impacted the DS2 gravel pad. Responders have not been able to safely access the area and determine if there are impacts to the snow-covered tundra adjacent to DS2. The total area that has been impacted is unknown at this time. There are no reports of any impacts to wildlife.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** BPXA has formed a Unified Command (UC) with ADEC, EPA, and the North Slope Borough. BPXA continues to work with ADEC, EPA, NSB, and AOGCC to formulate a plan to plug and repair the well. Once well control has been achieved, BPXA will work with their Oil Spill Response Organization, Alaska Clean Seas (ACS), to delineate the impacted area. Cleanup plans will be developed through the Incident Command System and with guidance from the UC.

**WEATHER:** Today: Sunny and windy; high 12F, low 3F; winds from the east at 25 – 35 mph with gusts up to 38 mph; 30% chance of snow. Tomorrow: Sunny and windy; high 14F, low 3F; winds from the east at 25 to 35 mph; 10% chance of snow. Winter Weather Advisory in effect until 6AM AKDT Sunday April 16, 2017, for winds gusting up to 40 mph and blowing snow, reducing visibility and potential whiteout conditions.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Andy Burden, BPXA  
SOSC: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC  
FOSC-R: Nick Knowles, EPA  
LOSC: Brower Frantz, NSB

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION:** 2:00 p.m. April 16, 2017

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Candice Bressler, PIO, ADEC (907) 465-5009

[[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sum\\_fy17/170414301/170414301\\_index.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sum_fy17/170414301/170414301_index.htm)]

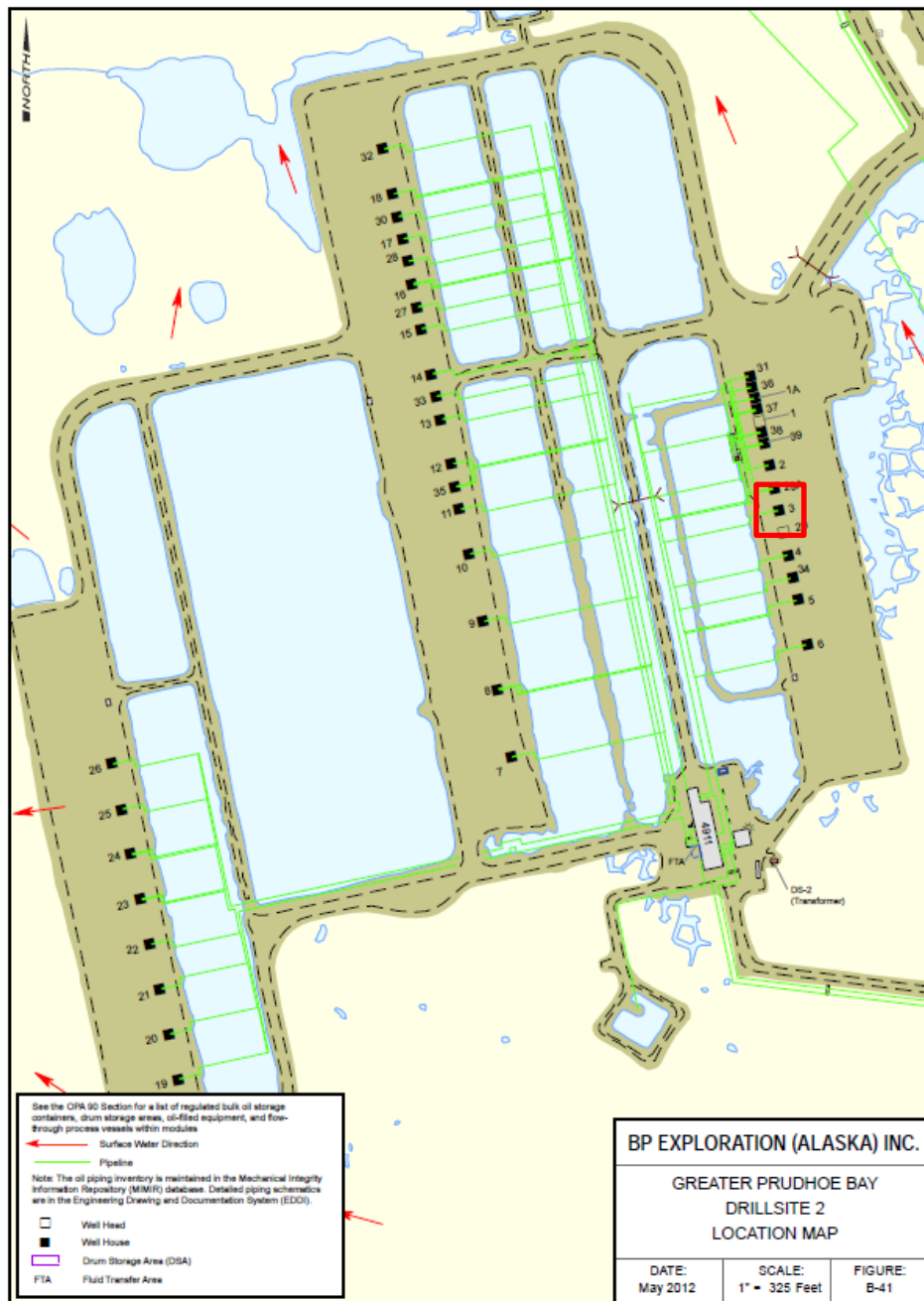


Diagram of Drill Site 2 from BPXA’s Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan. Well 3 (incident location) marked with red box.

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:**

Please refer to the first sitrep, distributed on April 14, 2017, for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first sitrep can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.