



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 #: 3

SPILL #: 17399910401

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 2:00 P.M. ON APRIL 16, 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 **an initial spray of crude oil that impacted** the well pad. **However it is not currently spraying crude oil.** 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, **and it is not actively leaking at this time.** The bottom leak has been reduced, but is currently leaking gas.

RESPONSE ACTION: ADEC has mobilized three response personnel to the BPXA Command Post located on the North Slope. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) response personnel have also mobilized to the scene. Responders attempted to bring the well under control **on April 14**, however, this operation was unsuccessful due to damage on a well pressure gauge. Responders determined that the well **had** "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. **Last night, responders were able to safely enter the wellhouse and connect hoses to the valves that allow bleeding-off of pressure from the well's inner and outer annulus (space around the well's**

subsurface piping). It has been determined that the well has settled 11 inches and there was no change in movement of the well head overnight. Well pressure was monitored throughout the night and periodically excess pressure was bled off to keep it within a safe range. 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. The community of Nuiqsut, approximately 50 miles west of DS2, has been notified of the incident and is receiving situation updates via these situation reports. The extent of evacuations in relation to this response has not gone further than the evacuation of personnel from DS2 pad.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: BPXA has formed a Unified Command (UC) with ADEC, EPA, and the North Slope Borough. BPXA is putting together a plan for plugging the well's top leak that resulted from the damaged pressure gauge; this plan needs to be implemented before well killing operations can take place. BPXA is developing a well killing plan for approval. Personnel from Boots and Coots, a well control company, are arriving on-site today to assist in development of plans and operations for killing 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: Windy, becoming mostly sunny later; high 14F, low 4F; east winds at 25 – 35 mph with gusts up to 28 mph; 30% chance of snow. Tomorrow: Sunny and windy; high 20F, low 3F; east winds at 25 to 35 mph; 10% chance of snow. Winter Weather Advisory in effect until 4PM AKDT Sunday April 16, 2017, for winds gusting up to 40 mph and blowing snow, reducing visibility to one half mile or less at times, and potential whiteout conditions.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Andy Burden, BPXA
SOSC: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC
FOSC: Richard Franklin, EPA
LOSC: Brower Frantz, NSB

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: 2:00 p.m. April 17, 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]



FLIR image from the incident location, taken during an overflight on April 14, 2017. Well 2 and the extent of crude misting is visible on the snow within the red-lined area. [Photo: BPXA]

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.