



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 #: 5

SPILL #: 17399910401

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 0900 A.M. ON APRIL 20, 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 an uncontrolled gas and oil 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 no longer venting gas, which caused an initial spray of crude oil that impacted the well pad. Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) overflights on April 14, 2017, **and April 18, 2017, appear to show** the crude spray plume did not leave the pad. The impacted area is limited to the reserve pit of the gravel pad. No volume estimate for the crude spray released is available at this time. **The impacted area appears to be less than 1.5 acres.**

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: **The well was secured at 2:30 pm on April 19, 2017, by installing a mechanical plug in the well.** The well was killed on April 17, 2017, by pumping in potassium chloride (salt water), offsetting upward pressure.

RESPONSE ACTION: ADEC has **three** response personnel at the BPXA Command Post located on the North Slope. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) response personnel **demobilized from the North Slope on April 18, 2017.** 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. The well has since settled 11 inches, and there has been no change in movement of the well head. Continuous air monitoring has been established inside the well house. Responders from the well control contractor, Boots and Coots, were able to safely enter the well house and place a plug in the damaged aboveground piping (riser) coming off the well head. The plugging of the

damaged aboveground piping allowed for responders to pump a methanol and potassium chloride (salt water) solution into the well which killed it. A plan to place the mechanical plug was approved, and site crew members were able to successfully install the plug that secured the well. Cleanup plans for the spill site have also been approved. Safety and site access plans were developed, allowing cleanup responders to access the spill site and complete delineation work. ADEC and the North Slope Borough (NSB) are in agreement with the delineated impacted area.

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: ADEC received notification on April 14, 2017, that crude has impacted the DS2 gravel pad. The total impacted area size is estimated to be less than 1.5 acres on the gravel pad, and it has been confirmed that the snow-covered tundra adjacent to the gravel pad was not impacted. 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. All personnel were removed from the drill pad. No evacuations have been ordered.

Future Plans and Recommendations: BPXA has formed a Unified Command (UC) with ADEC, EPA, and NSB. Cleanup plans will continue to be implemented, as developed through the Incident Management Team (IMT) with guidance from the UC. The UC has stood down, and the response will transfer to a project phase that will continue to be monitored by ADEC and NSB.

WEATHER: Today: Cloudy with freezing fog; high 12F, low -2F; 2% chance of snow; winds are from the west at 7mph changing to 5-7mph from the north-northeast throughout the day. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny and clear; high 12F, low 0F; 0-2% chance of snow; winds from the east at 11-15mph.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Shawn Croghan, BPXA
SOSC: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC
FOSC: Richard Franklin, EPA
LOSC: Brower Frantz, NSB
Field SOSC: Jessica Starsman, ADEC

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: TO BE DETERMINED

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

http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sum_fy17/170414301/170414301_index.htm



Image taken on April 18, 2017, showing Drill Site 2 Well 3 well house and the adjacent reserve pit with an area of light crude spray. [Photo: Jade Gamble, ADEC]

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.