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North
Slope
Borough

Prudhoe Bay GC2 Spill Incident Joint Information Center (JIC)

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NEWS RELEASE—March 7, 2006

UPDATE 5: ¼ inch hole found in line, crude source under control

Anchorage, AK— Work crews found and isolated the hole in the Gathering Center 2 (GC2) line and work continues to develop a permanent repair. In addition, work crews are developing a plan to clear the line of all remaining oil if it becomes necessary.

The hole is located approximately 16'8" inside the caribou crossing and sits at the bottom of the line. The hole is approximately ¼ inch in diameter. Work crews have isolated the crude source and a temporary patch is in place. Early indications point to internal corrosion as the cause of the breach; however, an in-depth investigation is underway to determine the exact cause.

Response workers continue removal and excavation work on the 34" crude oil transit line. The source of release was discovered early Sunday morning following snow removal around the culvert in the caribou crossing, located about one mile from GC-2

As of 11:00 a.m. this morning, response crews recovered approximately 1,335 barrels of total liquids. During the first 36 hours, crews collected approximately 501 barrels of oil, after separating from water. Work progresses with caution and care to ensure worker safety and to prevent worsening the spill. The Unified Command, comprised of representatives from BP Alaska, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the North Slope Borough and the Department of Environmental Conservation continue to focus efforts on oil recovery and clean up.

Finally, the investigation team is on site and working with regulatory agencies to collect data and help determine the cause of the release.

Photos of the response effort, fact sheets, diagrams and maps are available on the Unified Command website at www.dec.state.ak.us. (Click on the Quick Link “GC-2 Oil Transit Line Spill”.) In addition, information is available on the BP Exploration response website at <http://www.piersystem.com/go/site/1112>. Interested parties can submit questions via this site.

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