

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**  
**Division of Spill Prevention and Response**  
**Prevention and Emergency Response Program**

**SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** GC-2 Oil Transit Line Release

**SITREP #:** 7

**SPILL NUMBER:** 06399906101

**LEDGER CODE:** 14163060

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The spill was first discovered by BPXA operators at 5:45 AM, March 2, 2006. The spill was reported to ADEC by the State Troopers at 6:15 AM, March 2, 2006.

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 4:00 PM, March 4, 2006.

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** 10:00 AM, March 5, 2006

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** Crude oil. The volume is unknown at this time. Volume estimates will not be made until there is sufficient information available.

**LOCATION:** A transit line between Gathering Center 2 (GC-2) and GC -1, Western Operating Unit, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** Yet to be determined. The source is an aboveground 34 inch diameter crude oil transit pipeline. The location of the pipeline failure has not been identified and workers continue to search for the leak. If the leak is not discovered by stripping the insulation and exposing the pipe, workers will use mechanical and alternative technology means to pinpoint the location of the release point. Some contingency plans are being developed and others are in place to pinpoint the location of the leak (including excavation of the caribou crossing). Caution and care are being taken in an effort to prevent worsening the spill.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** BP Exploration Alaska (BPXA)

**RESPONSE ACTION:** Incident response priorities and objectives are to

- Ensure all personnel are safe
- Identify the source of the leak
- Repair the pipeline
- Investigate the cause of the spill
- Protect wells from freezing
- Continue containment of the spill and recovery of spilled oil
- Implement a plan to restart the pipeline

The spill is contained by natural and man-made snow berms. Certain berms are being reinforced with ice by the addition of water. Snow and frozen conditions allow for working on the tundra and minimize damage from people, equipment, and oil contamination. Approximately 625 bbl (26,250 gallons) of oil/water have been recovered as of 3:00 PM on March 4, 2006. Extreme cold temperatures had limited the response because transfer of fluids by hose became difficult. Recent warmer temperatures, as well as improved recovery tactics, have improved oil recovery.

Site workers are setting up two specialized pumps that aid in the movement of extremely viscous liquids. Frostbite is a concern and BPXA is swapping crews frequently and is providing warm up shacks for workers. A total of 60 spill responders, 30 for the day shift and 30 for the night shift, are working in the field-cleanup efforts. BPXA continues construction of a 400 foot by 400 foot ice pad and an ice road to improve site access and to stage response equipment.

The Unified Command has approved, or received approval for:

- Disposal of waste fluids
- Construction of an ice pad and ice roads
- Tundra travel
- Health and Safety Plan
- Current operational period Incident Action Plan

Freeze protection of approximately 230 wells and associated flow lines is about 95% complete.

All recovered oil in the vacuum trucks continues to be transported to Flow Station 2 (FS-2) and offloaded into a 10,000 barrel (bbl) tank.

The spill area adjacent to the pipeline has been mostly delineated. It was calculated that 1.93 acres of tundra and frozen lake surface may have been impacted. Snow removal along and under the pipeline is continuing. Additional oil maybe found in these areas. An over-flight to monitor the spill site was completed today at approximately 10:00 AM.

The BPXA Incident Management Team (IMT) at the Prudhoe Bay Operations Center (PBOC) and the Business Support Team (BST) in Anchorage continue to operate. ADEC has a staff liaison coordinating with the BST. Agency Public Information Officers have arrived at the Joint Information Center in Anchorage. Eight staff members for ADEC are in Prudhoe Bay participating in the IMT and in the field operations.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** The release has stopped as of March 2, 2006 after the damaged pipeline was blocked at each end and depressured. GC-2 has been shut down. BPXA is providing freeze protection to wells connected to GC-2. Workers continue to peel insulation from the pipeline to identify the source of the spill. A plan is under development to clear the line of all remaining oil if it becomes necessary.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** Snow-covered tundra. Field responders have confirmed that oil has reached the edge of a nearby lake. Field evaluation of the lake conditions indicate that, 50-100 yards beyond the leading edge of the oil is land-fast ice, which will help to minimize impacts to the lake.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Additional response actions include determining the volume spilled and cause of the spill. Plans to repair the pipeline and resume pumping operations will be implemented after the source has been identified.

**WEATHER:** Partly cloudy, lows 10°F below zero, calm winds.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander:	Gregg Alexander, Flow Station 1 Area Manager (BPXA)
FOSC:	Matt Carr (EPA)
S.O.S.C.:	Leslie Pearson (ADEC)
L.O.S.C.:	Gordon Brower

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lynda Giguere (907) 321-5491.

Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at the following Unified Command website:  
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/gc2>

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST**

This sitrep has been distributed via email to the Governor’s office, Senator Stevens’ office, ADF&G, ADNR, SECC, USEPA, USDOJ, NMFS, USFWS, USFS and NOAA in addition to the following.

<b>Agency/Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Sent via</b>	<b>Additional Info</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>FAX</b>
ADNR	Larry Byrne/Leon Lynch/ Gary Schultz	Fax		451-2724/ 451-2732	451-2751
ADNR (Habitat)	Al Ott/Jack Winters	Fax		459-7285 or 459-7279	456-3091
ADF&G	Todd Nichols	Fax		459-7363	456-2259
USEPA	Matt Carr/ Carl Lautenberger	Fax		271-5083 or 257-1342	271-3424
AOGCC		Fax			276-7542
Attorney General Office	Cam Leonard/ Mary Lundquist	Fax		451-2811/451-2914	451-2985
Assistant Attorney General	Dan Cheyette	Fax		269-6345	269-7939
<b>Legislature</b>					
Senator Murkowski’s Washington DC Office	Chief of Staff	Fax	North Slope only	(202) 224-6665	(202) 224-5301
Senator Murkowski’s Office in Fairbanks		Fax	North Slope only	456-0233	451-7146
Legislator (Senate C)	Albert Kookesh (D)	Fax	Angoon	465-3473 or (888) 288-3473	465-2827
Legislator (Senate D)	Ralph Seekins (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-2327	465-5241
Legislator (Senate E)	Gary Wilken (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3709	465-4714
Legislator (Senate F)	Gene Therriault (R)	Fax	North Pole	465-4797 or (800) 860-4797	465-3884
Legislator (Senate T)	Donnie Olson (D)	Fax	Nome	465-3707	465-4821
Legislator (House 6)	Woodie Salmon (D)	Fax	Beaver	465-4527 or (800) 491-4527	465-2197
Legislator (House 7)	Michael “Mike” Kelly (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-4976 or (800) 465-4976	465-3883
Legislator (House 8)	David Guttenberg (D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-4457 or (800) 928-4457	465-3519
Legislator (House 9)	Jim Holm (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3466 or (866) 465-3466	465-2937
Legislator (House 10)	Jay Ramras (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3004 or (877) 465-3004	465-2070
Legislator (House 11)	John Coghill, Jr. (R)	Fax	North Pole	465-3719 or (877) 465-3719	465-3258
Legislator (House 39)	Richard Foster (D)	Fax	Nome	465-3789 or (800) 478-3789	465-3242
Legislator (House 40)	Reggie Joule (D)	Fax	Kotzebue	465-4833 or (800) 782-4833	465-4586
<b>Other Agencies:</b>					