

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 #: 9

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 5, 2006.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: 10:00 AM, March 6, 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 leak was discovered this morning at approximately 1:40 AM. The discovery was made after enough snow was removed around the culvert at the caribou crossing and a “gurgling” noise was detected by response crews. Workers nearby illuminated the area and observed oil “slowly dripping” from the pipeline. A distinct oil spray pattern was also noted on the inside of the culvert. Caution and care are being taken in to ensure safety of the workers and 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
- 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 facilitate cleanup on the tundra and minimize damage from people, equipment, and oil contamination. Approximately 1097 bbls (46,074 gallons) of oil/water have been recovered as of 2:25 PM on March 5, 2006.

Currently the primary recovery tactic is to use vacuum trucks to pick up pooled oil. A heavy oil pump is being used on the inlet of each vacuum hose to assist in moving the oil.

A total of 60 spill responders, 30 for the day shift and 30 for the night shift, are involved in the field-cleanup operation. BPXA has completed construction of a 400 foot by 400 foot ice pad which is now hardening in the cold weather. BPXA continues construction of an ice road and pad to improve site access and to stage response equipment on the north side of the spill area.

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 has been completed.

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

An excavator arrived at the spill site and is standing by to begin excavation of the caribou crossing. Workers estimate that an approximate 25 foot wide section of the caribou crossing will need to be removed to gain access for repairs.

The spill area adjacent to the pipeline has been delineated. It was calculated that at most 1.93 acres of tundra and frozen lake surface may have been impacted. Snow removal along and under the pipeline is continuing. Additional oil may be found in these areas.

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 are staffing 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 has provided freeze protection to wells connected to GC-2. The source of the spill has been located within a culvert at a caribou crossing. 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 potential 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 GC-2 facility operations are being developed now that the source has been identified.

WEATHER: Partly cloudy, lows 15°F below zero, northeast winds at 5 to 15 MPH.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander:	Gregg Alexander (BPXA)
FOSC:	Matt Carr (EPA)
S.O.S.C.:	Leslie Pearson (ADEC)
L.O.S.C.:	Gordon Brower (NSB)

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.

Agency/Organization	Name	Sent via	Additional Info	Telephone	FAX
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
Legislature					
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
Other Agencies:					
North Slope Borough	Edward Sagaan Itta	Fax	Mayor	852-0200	852-0337
North Slope Borough	Johnny Aiken	Fax	Planning Director	852-0440	852-5991