

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** Eni Rock Flour #2 Drilling Mud Spill    **SITREP #:** 1

**SPILL NUMBER:** 07399900401

**LEDGER CODE:** 14164460

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** Eni Petroleum discovered the spill at 11:30 AM, January 4, 2007, and reported the spill to ADEC at 12:00 PM, January 4, 2007.

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 12:00 PM, January 5, 2007

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** 12:00 PM, January 8, 2007

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** Eni estimates 75 barrels (3,150 gallons) of water based drilling mud. These fluids are from the upper portion of the well that was above any oil bearing formations. As such, no oil would be present in the fluids.

Drilling mud is typically composed of predominantly seawater, ground up bentonite clay, heavy metals and a polymer. The polymer makes the mud thicker and heavier to assist in sealing the drilling hole. The mud lubricates the drill bit, carries cuttings to the surface and helps seal the side of the drill hole. Information from the drill rig indicates that the fluids were potassium chloride muds having a pH of 9.1, a weight of 9.4 pounds per gallon, a solids content of 5% and chlorides of 24,000 parts per million.

**LOCATION:** Rock Flour Well #2. The Rock Flour Prospect is located approximately four miles south of the Milne Point Road and Spine Road intersection, west of Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The spilled fluids were placed in an ice bermed area where they would freeze and then be hauled to the grind and inject facility at Prudhoe Bay for disposal. Although the ambient air temperature was about 40°F below zero, the fluids were warm enough to melt a sidewall on the ice berm and spill onto the snow covered tundra adjacent to the ice pad.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Eni Petroleum

**RESPONSE ACTION:** The warm drilling mud melted portions of the sidewall of the ice bermed drill mud pit. The fluids contaminated an area about 25 feet by 35 feet of ice pad and snow covered tundra and have frozen in place. Eni's current activities include collecting information on the drilling fluids including Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) information on the mud components. Eni is also mobilizing a remediation person to the location to direct the drilling mud cleanup efforts.

A cleanup plan has been developed and submitted to the ADEC for review. Cleanup options include the use of a small loader with a bucket or trimmer to remove frozen materials between the snow surface and surface of the tundra. Warm water would then be used to melt the frozen fluids in between the tundra tussocks while recovering those liquids with a super sucker (vacuum truck). The cleanup plan is being reviewed by ADEC, but has not yet been approved.

Two ADEC responders are traveling to the North Slope today to inspect the spill site.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** None at the time of the spill. No additional fluids are being added to the containment area.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** Ice pad and snow covered tundra. No impacts to wildlife have been reported.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** To approve and execute the cleanup plan. Eni will also draft and submit to the ADEC a disposal plan and sampling plan.

**WEATHER:** Mostly clouds -24° F, winds 9 mph WSW, chill at -44° F

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Bill Penrose, Fairweather  
 F.O.S.C. : Carl Lautenberger, EPA  
 S.O.S.C. : Ed Meggert, ADEC  
 Field S.O.S.C.: Tom DeRuyter and Wes Ghormley, ADEC

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amanda Stark, ADEC, 451-2175

Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at: <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm>

## 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.

STATE AGENCY	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFO	TELEPHONE	FAX
ADNR	Leon Lynch/ Gary Schultz/ Larry Byrne	Fax		451-2724/ 451-2732	451-2751 or 659-2965
ADNR (Habitat)	Al Ott/Jack Winters	Fax		459-7285 or 459-7279	456-3091
ADF&G	Todd Nichols	Fax		459-7363	456-2259
AOGCC		Fax			276-7542
EPA	Matt Carr/Carl Lautenberger	Fax		271-5083 or 257-1342	271-3424
Attorney General Office	Cam Leonard	Fax		451-2811/451-2914	451-2985
<b>Legislature</b>					
Governor’s Office (Fairbanks)	Palin/Parnell	Fax		451-2920	451-2858
Legislator (Senate D)	Joe Thomas (D)	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 (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)	Scott Kawasaki (D)	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
<b>Local Government:</b>					
Fairbanks North Star Borough	Jim Whitaker	Fax	Mayor	459-1304	459-1102
City of Fairbanks	Steve Thompson	Fax	Mayor	459-6793	459-6787
City of Fairbanks	Warren Cummings	Fax	Fire Chief	450-6500 x 6604	450-6666

<b>Other Agencies:</b>					
North Slope Borough	Edward Sagaan Itta	Fax	Mayor	852-0200	852-0337
North Slope Borough	Johnny Aiken	Fax	Planning Director	852-0440	852-5991

