ANCHORAGE, Alaska – BP Exploration (Alaska), Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the North Slope Borough have formed a Unified Command to respond to a spill on the North Slope of Alaska. The release is from an 18-inch above ground flow line, which normally carries a combination of oil, water and natural gas from drill pad L-3 to the Lisburne Processing Center. This line was not in operation at the time of the release.

The Unified Command is finalizing a cleanup plan but has already begun to clean up the outer portion of the spill. The release was discovered at approximately 3:05 a.m., Nov. 29, 2009 during a routine inspection by BP Exploration personnel.

No one was injured by the release. A visual inspection today (Nov. 30) indicated the leak may have stopped or slowed to a very small rate. The volume of the spill has not been determined. It is estimated the affected area covers approximately three-fourth of an acre, of that more than half is oil-misted snow and the rest is impacted by an oil and water mix.

Environmental impacts to the area appear to be limited by cold weather, adjacent gravel road and natural barriers, which prevented the release from affecting a larger area.

The precise cause of the spill has not been determined and is under investigation.

For more information see the Unified Command web site at: http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum_fy10/091129301/091129301_index.htm