Press Update
Unified Command LPC-LO3 Pipeline Spill
Joint Information Center
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Source of pipeline leak identified

Cleanup of the spilled oil and water mix continues near BP’s Lisburne Processing Center on Alaska’s North Slope. A visual inspection of the pipe on Monday Dec. 7 identified a rupture as the source of the leak.

According to cleanup officials, the rupture is approximately 24 inches lengthwise, located on the bottom of the pipe. The rupture is consistent with an overpressure scenario, linked to ice plugs forming inside the pipe. However separate investigations by BP and the State of Alaska into the cause are ongoing.

The pipeline was not in operation at the time of the spill. The pipe is no longer leaking, and cleanup of the estimated 46,000 gallons (1,095 barrels) of released material is underway.

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