



Alyeska
Pipeline
Service
Company



US
Environmental
Protection
Agency



AK
Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Unified Command: Pump Station 1 Booster Pump Piping Incident

Incident Name: Pump Station 1 Booster Pump Piping Incident

Source: Joint Information Center

Contact: Contact: Mark MacIntyre, JIC PIO, 206-369-7999

Website: dec.alaska.gov/spar/ps1

FACT SHEET NUMBER: 4
Jan. 11, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.
(New information underlined)

Fact Sheet 4:

Current status:

- There are no injuries or known harm to the environment or wildlife due to this incident.
- Field crews and support personnel are aggressively working to restart the pipeline.
- Safely returning the pipeline to service, while protecting people and the environment, is the primary goal of Unified Command. The Unified Command is comprised of federal, state and Alyeska representatives.
- Fabrication of the 24-inch bypass line has begun in Fairbanks. It is being fabricated in pieces; as each piece is completed, it is being flown to Pump Station 1.
- Cold conditions and lowering crude oil temperatures within the pipeline are a serious concern.
 - There are technical risks associated with a prolonged cold-weather shutdown.
 - Waiting to restart the pipeline until the bypass line is in place increases the chance of ice formation and wax build-up within the pipeline.
 - There are currently two cleaning pigs in the pipeline. One is located between mileposts 419 and 420 and could potentially disable critical pump station equipment due to increased ice and wax accumulation if left in place too long.
 - If wax or ice buildup led to damages to TAPS this could shut down the pipeline for a more extended period of time and effect other North Slope facilities.
- Unified Command is awaiting regulatory approval on a plan to briefly restart the pipeline for an interim period to increase temperatures in tanks and the pipeline, and reduce the potential for freezing or cold crude conditions.
 - This would move the cleaning pig to a location where it won't risk pump station equipment. Crews at Pump Station 8 could trap the pig between two valves in the mainline and route crude oil around using bypass piping.
 - This will help prevent reaching capacity of the Pump Station 1 tanks, which would halt production.

- This temporary startup would be a prudent and necessary measure to manage the potential risks associated with an extended cold-weather shutdown.
- Crews at Pump Station 1 are installing an 800-gallon containment vault for oil recovery from the leak site in the booster pump building basement. There are vacuum trucks on site to remove oil from the containment vault as it accumulates.
- Through visual observation, it has been confirmed that there is no oil outside the building on the gravel pad.
- The drain field below the piping where the leak occurred has three vertical corrugated metal pipes acting as drain field sumps that are used to observe and collect liquid from the drain field. Through monitoring so far, there is no evidence that there is oil below the gravel pad. Those vertical pipes will be monitored hourly during the interim startup.
- This would be an interim startup only. The line would shut down again while the bypass piping is installed at Pump Station 1.
- There are currently about 450 people responding to the incident, including more than 200 people at Pump Station 1.
- Responders are organized into 24 active task forces working directly on the response's primary objectives:
 - Continue to recover oil from and clean up the booster pump building;
 - Determine whether oil escaped into the ground;
 - Isolate and bypass the compromised booster pump piping section;
 - Continue to make preparations for both a standard and a cold restart of the TAPS line.
- The current estimated volume from the Pump Station 1 leak is 29 barrels (1,200 gallons).

Background:

- Crude oil discovered in the Booster Pump Room basement at Pump Station 1 at 8:16 a.m. Jan. 8, 2011.
- The leak source appears to be from a below-ground pipe that leads to the basement of the booster pump building. The pipe is encased in concrete. Oil flowed in the small space between the walls of the pipe and the concrete, through the wall of the building into the basement.
- The Operations Control Center shut down the pipeline at 8:50 a.m.
- Alyeska activated response teams in Fairbanks and Anchorage; Fairbanks Emergency Operations Center was manned at 9:30 a.m.
- Alyeska, State and Federal officers have combined to operate a Joint Information Center.
- Pump Station 1 booster pumps are isolated.

Incident response objectives:

- Ensure safety of personnel and facilities
- Complete initial cleanup
- Begin assessment of the surrounding area for environmental impacts
- Finalize the repair plan
- Continue effective stakeholder communications
- Continue to work toward restoring service
- Continue progressive implementation of the cold restart plan

Weather at Pump Station 1:

- Temp: 10 degrees
- Overcast
- Winds: 12 mph from east
- Visibility: 10 miles

END - #4