

**Incident Name: Pump Station 1 Booster Pump Piping Incident**

**Source:** Joint Information Center

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

**Website:** [www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/ps1](http://www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/ps1)

**FACT SHEET NUMBER: 5**  
**Jan. 12, 2011, at 4 p.m.**  
*(New information underlined)*

- There are no injuries or known harm to the environment or wildlife due to this incident.
- The Unified Command's primary goal is to safely return the pipeline to service, while protecting people and the environment. The Unified Command is comprised of federal, state and Alyeska representatives.

**Timeline of restart:**

- Approval to restart the pipeline was given at 5:20 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 11.
- The pipeline was restarted at 9:03 p.m. on Jan. 11.
- An 800-gallon containment vault for oil recovery was constructed and placed at the site of the leak in Pump Station 1's booster pump building basement. The vacuum trucks on site are removing oil from the containment vault as it accumulates.
- At 10 p.m. on Jan. 11, the 5 percent producer proration was lifted; producers were allowed to return to normal production.

**Current status:**

- No oil has been discovered outside the building.
- 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.
  - The vertical pipes will be monitored hourly during the interim operations period.
- There are currently more than 500 people responding to the incident, including more than 250 people at Pump Station 1.
  - Specialized teams are working around the clock on the response's primary objectives:
    - Execute the interim startup plan;
    - 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.
- Vacuum trucks have removed roughly 55 barrels (2,310 gallons) from the containment vault since 8 p.m. on Jan. 11.
- The current startup of TAPS is a temporary startup and one part of a multi-part plan to return to normal operations.
  - The line will shut down again while the bypass piping is installed at Pump Station 1.
- A plan is in place to capture a cleaning pig that was located between Mileposts 419 and 420 during the shutdown.
  - Crews plan to trap the pig at Pump Station 8 between two valves in the main line and route crude oil around using bypass piping.
  - The pig is estimated to arrive at Pump Station 8 on Jan. 13.

- Crews are monitoring the progress of the pig as it travels the line.
- Fabrication of the 24-inch diameter bypass line continues in Fairbanks.
- The pipeline is scheduled to be shut down again this weekend for about 36 hours to install the bypass piping and make repairs at Pump Station 1.

**Weather at Pump Station 1 (updated at 1:37 p.m.):**

- Temp: -9 degrees F
- Scattered Clouds
- Winds: 4 mph from the east northeast
- Visibility: 10 miles

**Background:**

- Crude oil discovered in the booster pump basement at Pump Station 1 at 8:16 a.m. Jan. 8.
- 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 staffed at 9:30 a.m.
- 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 affect other North Slope facilities.
- Alyeska, state and federal officers have combined to operate a Joint Information Center.

*NOTE: All times are Alaska Standard Time*

The Unified Command consists of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

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