



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



Repsol Q2 Pad Gas and Mud Release

SITREP # 21

SPILL NUMBER: 12399904601

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: Repsol reported the incident to ADEC at 10:29 a.m. on February 15, 2012.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 3:30 p.m. on March 13, 2012

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: Repsol estimates that approximately 42,000 gallons (1,000 barrels) of fresh-water-based drilling mud have been released to the ice drilling pad and adjacent snow-covered tundra. An unknown amount of gas has been released. Drilling mud is used to lubricate the drill, control formation pressure, and remove cuttings from the bore. No oil was spilled during the release event.

INCIDENT LOCATION: Qugruk #2 pad (Q2 pad), on the Colville River Delta, approximately 18 miles northeast of Nuiqsut and approximately 150 miles southeast of Barrow (70° 27' 19" N, 150° 44' 52" W).

CAUSE OF SPILL: Repsol contractor Nabors Drilling was drilling an exploratory well when the drill penetrated a shallow gas pocket at a depth of 2,523 feet, resulting in a gas kick. The gas kick drove drilling mud out of the well and through the gas diverter onto the ice pad and adjacent snow-covered tundra. The gas diverter is a pipe that extends approximately 75 feet from the drilling rig toward the south edge of the pad. Additional mud was pumped into the well in an attempt to control it, but that mud was also forced out by the gas.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Repsol E&P USA

RESPONSE ACTION: Since the previous Sitrep (20), a coiled tubing unit cleared out a blockage inside the drill pipe. With the blockage removed, a wireline diagnostic well logging was made. The well logging indicated the presence of two obstructions, called bridges, in the well annulus (the space between the drill pipe and the formation). Last night, the well control crew attempted to move the drill pipe to clear the bridges and establish circulation between the inside of the drill pipe and the annulus. The attempt failed and they were unable to circulate fluid through the well.

Repsol has made the decision to plug and abandon (P&A) the well, thereby achieving well control. Repsol is finalizing the well control plan for review and approval by the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC). Upon approval of the well control plan by AOGCC, Repsol will begin the well control operation.

Repsol reports that a total of 2,093 barrels (87,906 gallons) of liquids have been manifested and shipped offsite. Liquids collected may include drilling mud, water and solids from the well, and condensed water from the steam used to thaw and clean the rig. A total of 2,299 cubic yards of solid waste (frozen drilling mud and downhole materials) have been manifested and shipped offsite.

SOURCE CONTROL: The well ceased flowing at about 9:00 p.m. on February 16. Finalization of the well-control plan is underway and will be approved by AOGCC prior to initialization of the well control operation.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Snow-covered tundra and ice pad. Drilling mud can affect tundra plants by changing soil pH and salinity. Brackish water produced by the well may also increase soil salinity.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Cleanup cannot safely begin until the well is under control. The well-control team will provide cleanup personnel approximately 24-hours notice in advance of completion of the well-control operation. Plans are in place for sampling the drilling mud and delineating and cleaning up the spill. ADEC will continue to monitor the site delineation and cleanup operations.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Jeremy Michels, O'Brien's Response Management

S.O.S.C.: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC

F.O.S.C.: Matt Carr, EPA

L.O.S.C.: Gordon Brower, North Slope Borough

Field SOS: Wes Ghormley, ADEC

WEATHER FORECAST: Tonight: Mostly cloudy; patchy fog; lows around -35°F; northeast winds around 10 mph.
Tomorrow: Mostly sunny; patchy fog; highs -30 to -25°F; northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT SITUATION REPORT: As the situation warrants.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Ty Keltner, Public Information Officer, ADEC (907) 465-5009

Photographs and other spill information will be available for viewing at:

<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm>

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: This situation report was distributed to the agencies listed on the standard distribution list, which includes the governor's office, Senator Begich's office, the State Emergency Operations Center, and the federal agencies DOI, NMFS, and USFWS. This situation report was also distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders:

AGENCY / STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
Repsol	Jan Sieving	email	jan.sieving@repsol.com		
Nabors Drilling	Denny Smith	email	denny.smith@nabors.com		
AOGCC		Fax			276-7542
ADNR	Melissa Head/ Brian Jackson/ Sean Willison	Fax	melissa.head@alaska.gov brian.jackson@alaska.gov sean.willison@alaska.gov	451-2719/ 451-2732/ 451-2724	451-2751 or 659-2965
ADNR Div of Oil & Gas	Bill Barron		bill.barron@alaska.gov		
ADF&G	Jack Winters Todd Nichols	Fax	jack.winters@alaska.gov todd.nichols@alaska.gov	459-7285 or 459-7279	459-7303
EPA	Matt Carr/Robert Whittier	Fax	Carr.matthew@epa.gov or whittier.robert@epa.gov	271-5083 or 271-3247	271-6340
Attorney General Office	Cam Leonard/ Steve Mulder	Fax	Cam.leonard@alaska.gov Steve.mulder@alaska.gov	451-2811 or 269-5100	451-2985/ 278-7022
Governor's Office (Fairbanks)	Parnell/Treadwell	Fax	Sean.parnell@alaska.gov Mead.treadwell@alaska.gov	451-2920	451-2858
Lt. Governor's Office (Juneau)	Parnell/Treadwell	Fax	Sean.parnell@alaska.gov Mead.treadwell@alaska.gov		465-5400
Senator Murkowski's Washington DC Office	Chief of Staff	Fax	North Slope only	(202) 224-6665	(202) 224-5301
Senator Murkowski's Office		Fax	North Slope only	456-0233	451-7146

AGENCY / STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
in Fairbanks					
North Slope Borough	Charlotte Brower	Fax	Mayor	852-0200	852-0337
North Slope Borough	Rhoda Ahmaogak	Fax	Planning Director	852-0440	852-5991
Senate T/ Nome	Donnie Olson	Fax	Nome 5/16-1/09 Juneau 1/10-5/15	465-3707	465-4821
House 40/ Kotzebue	Reggie Joule	Fax	Kotzebue 5/16-1/09 Juneau 1/10-5/15	465-4833 or (800) 782-4833	465-4586



Coiled Tubing Unit 1 and Peak Crane at Repsol Q2 Pad during operations to clear the inside of the drill pipe (ADEC Photo)