

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** GC-2 Oil Transit Line Release

**SITREP #:** 5

**SPILL NUMBER:** 06399906101

**LEDGER CODE:** 14163060

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The spill was first discovered by BPXA operators at 5:45 AM, March 2, 2006. The spill was reported to ADEC by the State Troopers at 6:15 AM, March 2, 2006.

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 4:00 PM, March 3, 2006.

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** 10:00 AM, March 4, 2006

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** Crude oil. The volume is unknown at this time. Volume estimates will not be made until there is sufficient information available.

**LOCATION:** A transit line between Gathering Center 2 (GC-2) and GC -1, Western Operating Unit, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** Yet to be determined. The source is an aboveground 34 inch diameter crude oil transit pipeline. The location of the pipeline failure has not been identified and workers continue to remove insulation to determine the cause. If the leak is not discovered by stripping the insulation and exposing the pipe, workers will use mechanical equipment or air bags to lift the pipeline to inspect the underside of the pipeline at the support saddles. If that proves unsuccessful, BPXA will begin excavation of the buried pipe at the adjacent caribou crossing area to determine whether that area is the location of the spill.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** BP Exploration Alaska (BPXA)

**RESPONSE ACTION:** Incident response priorities and objectives are to

- Ensure all personnel are safe
- Identify the source of the leak
- Repair the pipeline
- Investigate the cause of the spill
- Protect wells from freezing
- Continue containment of the spill and recovery of spilled oil
- Implement a plan to restart the pipeline

The spill is contained by natural and man-made snow berms. Snow and frozen conditions allow for working on the tundra and minimizing damage from people, equipment, and oil contamination. Two vacuum trucks are currently on-site recovering oil. Space limitations at the recovery site prevent additional vacuum trucks from assisting with removal of the heaviest concentrations of oil. 492 barrels (20,664 gallons) of oil/water have been recovered as of 12:30 PM today. 69 spill responders are working in the field for today's day-shift. 40 additional responders are scheduled to arrive this afternoon to assist with the day and night shifts. Extreme cold is limiting response as fluids are freezing inside the hoses to the vacuum trucks. Frostbite is a concern and BPXA is swapping crews frequently and is providing warm up shacks for workers.

BPXA continues construction of a 400 foot by 400 foot ice pad and ice roads to improve site access and stage response equipment.

The Unified Command has approved, or received approval for:

- Disposal of waste fluids
- Construction of an ice pad and ice roads
- Tundra travel
- Health and Safety Plan

Freeze protection of approximately 230 wells is ongoing.

All recovered oil in the vacuum trucks continues to be transported to Flow Station 2 (FS-2) and offloaded into a 10,000 barrel (bbl) tank.

Surveillance teams continue ground surveys to identify the extent of the spill. Today's ground surveys indicate no visual evidence of additional movement of the spilled oil. Based upon the previous reconnaissance data provided by the Forward Looking Infra-Red (FLIR) overflight, BPXA plans to remove snow from within a 3-5 acre area to determine the extent of the spill. FLIR technology uses an infrared detection system to identify oil heat signatures and assist in delineating the spill area.

The BPXA Incident Management Team (IMT) at the Prudhoe Bay Operations Center (PBOC) and Business Support Team (BST) in Anchorage continue to be activated. ADEC has a staff liaison person coordinating with the BST. Agency Public Information Officers have arrived at the Joint Information Center in Anchorage at 3:00 today. ADEC has three staff in Prudhoe Bay with four additional staff scheduled to arrive today. ADEC is participating in the IMT and in the field.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** GC-2 has been shut down. The damaged pipeline has been blocked at each end and depressured. The release has stopped. BPXA is providing freeze protection to wells connected to GC-2. Workers continue to peel insulation from the pipeline to identify the source of the spill.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** Snow covered tundra. Field responders have confirmed that oil has reached the edge of a nearby lake. Field evaluation of the lake conditions indicate that 50-100 yards beyond the leading edge of the oil is land-fast ice, which will help to minimize impacts to the lake. Efforts to de-inventory the line of oil are ongoing.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Additional response actions include determining the volume spilled and cause of the spill. Plans to repair the pipeline and resume pumping operations will be implemented after the source has been identified.

**WEATHER:** Partly cloudy, lows 18°F below to 20°F below zero, east winds 15 to 20 mph, wind chill to 50 below.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander:	Greg Alexander, Flow Station 1 Area Manager (BPXA)
FOSC:	Matt Carr (EPA)
S.O.S.C:	Leslie Pearson (ADEC)
L.O.S.C.	Gordon Brower

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ed Meggert (907) 451-2124, Lynda Giguere (907) 321-5491.

Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at the following Unified Command website:  
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/gc2>

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST**

This sitrep has been distributed via email to the Governor’s office, Senator Stevens’ office, ADF&G, ADNR, SECC, USEPA, USDOJ, NMFS, USFWS, USFS and NOAA in addition to the following.

<b>Agency/Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Sent via</b>	<b>Additional Info</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>FAX</b>
ADNR	Larry Byrne/Leon Lynch/ Gary Schultz	Fax		451-2724/ 451-2732	451-2751
ADNR (Habitat)	Al Ott/Jack Winters	Fax		459-7285 or 459-7279	456-3091
ADF&G	Todd Nichols	Fax		459-7363	456-2259
USEPA	Matt Carr/ Carl Lautenberger	Fax		271-5083 or 257-1342	271-3424
AOGCC		Fax			276-7542
Attorney General Office	Cam Leonard/ Mary Lundquist	Fax		451-2811/451-2914	451-2985
Assistant Attorney General	Dan Cheyette	Fax		269-6345	269-7939
<b>Legislature</b>					
Senator Murkowski’s Washington DC Office	Chief of Staff	Fax	North Slope only	(202) 224-6665	(202) 224-5301
Senator Murkowski’s Office in Fairbanks		Fax	North Slope only	456-0233	451-7146
Legislator (Senate C)	Albert Kookesh (D)	Fax	Angoon	465-3473 or (888) 288-3473	465-2827
Legislator (Senate D)	Ralph Seekins (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-2327	465-5241
Legislator (Senate E)	Gary Wilken (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3709	465-4714
Legislator (Senate F)	Gene Therriault (R)	Fax	North Pole	465-4797 or (800) 860-4797	465-3884
Legislator (Senate T)	Donnie Olson (D)	Fax	Nome	465-3707	465-4821
Legislator (House 6)	Woodie Salmon (D)	Fax	Beaver	465-4527 or (800) 491-4527	465-2197
Legislator (House 7)	Michael “Mike” Kelly (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-4976 or (800) 465-4976	465-3883
Legislator (House 8)	David Guttenberg (D)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-4457 or (800) 928-4457	465-3519
Legislator (House 9)	Jim Holm (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3466 or (866) 465-3466	465-2937
Legislator (House 10)	Jay Ramras (R)	Fax	Fairbanks	465-3004 or (877) 465-3004	465-2070
Legislator (House 11)	John Coghill, Jr. (R)	Fax	North Pole	465-3719 or (877) 465-3719	465-3258
Legislator (House 39)	Richard Foster (D)	Fax	Nome	465-3789 or (800) 478-3789	465-3242
Legislator (House 40)	Reggie Joule (D)	Fax	Kotzebue	465-4833 or (800) 782-4833	465-4586
<b>Other Agencies:</b>					
North Slope Borough	Edward Sagaan Itta	Fax	Mayor	852-0200	852-0337