

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 #: 12

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: 10:00 AM, March 8, 2006.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: 10:00 AM, March 9, 2006

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: Crude oil. The volume is unknown at this time. The volume estimation survey is under way. The measurements are nearly complete, and will be subsequently verified by data analysis. A spill volume estimate is likely to be available by Thursday, March 9, 2006.

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

CAUSE OF SPILL: A quarter inch hole in the pipeline due to possible internal corrosion. The source is an aboveground 34 inch diameter crude oil transit pipeline. The leak is from a small hole in the pipe discovered under the caribou crossing. A fact-finding investigation is being conducted with a team including BPXA and State of Alaska representatives.

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

RESPONSE ACTION: Inclement weather conditions (wind chill to 52° below zero) may hamper field activities today.

The spill is contained by natural and man-made snow berms. Certain berms are being reinforced with ice by the addition of water. Snow and frozen conditions facilitate cleanup on the tundra and minimize damage from people, equipment, and oil contamination. Approximately 1,383 bbls (58,086 gallons) of oil/water have been recovered as of 7:00 AM on March 8, 2006.

Currently the primary recovery tactic is to use vacuum trucks to pick up pooled oil. A heavy oil pump is being used on the inlet of each vacuum hose to assist in moving the oil. Small "Bobcat" style front end loaders are being used to remove contaminated snow from the spill area as well.

All waste is being handled according to the approved waste handling plan. Recovered fluids in the vacuum trucks continue to be transported to Flow Station 2 (FS-2) and offloaded into a 10,000 barrel (bbl) tank. Soils in the caribou crossing area are being tested for contamination and will be handled appropriately. Contaminated snow and ice are being stockpiled at the CC-2A facility. A snow melter will be installed at CC-2A, and melted fluids will be taken to the FS-2 tank.

A total of 60 spill responders, 30 for the day shift and 30 for the night shift, are involved in the field-cleanup operation. BPXA has completed construction of a 400 foot by 400 foot ice pad on the south side of the spill area as well as an ice road and pad to allow access to and staging at the north side of the spill area.

Workers have erected a temporary structure over the exposed pipe in the caribou crossing. This will allow heating so that further testing of the pipe can be completed. There is currently no estimate on when the permanent repair to the line will be completed.

The spill area adjacent to the pipeline has been delineated. It was calculated that at most 1.93 acres of tundra and frozen lake surface may have been impacted. Snow fences are being installed around the site as a contingency to protect against heavy winds. Heavy winds are not anticipated in the near future.

The BPXA Incident Management Team (IMT) at the Prudhoe Bay Operations Center (PBOC) and the Business Support Team (BST) in Anchorage continue to operate. ADEC has a staff liaison coordinating with the BST. Agency Public Information Officers are staffing the Joint Information Center in Anchorage. Five ADEC staff members are in Prudhoe Bay participating in the IMT and in the field operations.

SOURCE CONTROL: The release has stopped as of March 2, 2006 after the damaged pipeline was blocked at each end and depressured. GC-2 has been shut down. BPXA has provided freeze protection to wells connected to GC-2. The source of the spill has been located and workers have applied a temporary patch on March 7, 2006. Work continues to implement a permanent repair.

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 potential impacts to the lake.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Additional response actions include determining the volume spilled and cause of the spill. Plans to repair the pipeline and resume GC-2 facility operations are being developed now that the source has been identified.

Contaminated snow and ice will be melted and combined with the other recovered fluids at the FS-2 facility.

WEATHER: Mostly cloudy, chance of snow, highs 10°F to 15° below zero, west winds to 10 to 15 MPH with wind chill to 52° below zero.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander:	Gregg Alexander (BPXA)
FOSC:	Matt Carr (EPA)
S.O.S.C:	Leslie Pearson (ADEC)
L.O.S.C.	Waska Williams (NSB)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: 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.

Agency/Organization	Name	Sent via	Additional Info	Telephone	FAX
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	Breck Tostevin	email			
Attorney General Office	Cam Leonard	Fax		451-2811/451-2914	451-2985
Assistant Attorney General	Dan Cheyette	Fax		269-6345	269-7939
Legislature					
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
Other Agencies:					
North Slope Borough	Edward Sagaan Itta	Fax	Mayor	852-0200	852-0337
North Slope Borough	Johnny Aiken	Fax	Planning Director	852-0440	852-5991