



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 # 4

SPILL NUMBER: 12399904601

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

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 3:00 PM on February 17, 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. The mud that was released is a mixture of minerals (primarily barium sulfate) and water. Drilling mud is used to lubricate the drill, control formation pressure, and remove cuttings from the bore. No oil has been spilled.

INCIDENT LOCATION: Qugruk #2 Pad, on the Colville River Delta, approximately 18 miles northeast of Nuiqsut, Alaska (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, which extends 75 feet from the rig, onto the ice pad and adjacent snow-covered tundra. Additional mud was pumped into the borehole in an attempt to kill the well, but that mud was also blown out.

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

RESPONSE ACTION: The well control team, comprised of personnel from Wild Well Control Inc., Repsol and the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC), continues to assess safety issues and the condition of rig equipment. AOGCC is responsible for state oversight of the well control operation. Work crews have started rigging scaffolding, tarps and heaters to thaw rig equipment, but the amount of time that will be required to restore necessary function is not known. The ambient temperature at the site today was reported to be -18°F. Three WWC personnel and an AOGCC inspector are on-site to provide technical consultation and oversight.

During a flight over the spill site late yesterday, observers acquired Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) video imagery that can be used to make a rough estimate of the spill size. ADEC personnel estimate from the imagery that the off-pad area affected by drilling mud and water is at least three acres. Another overflight departed Deadhorse at around 11:30 AM today with an ADEC responder and North Slope Borough Representative on board. Information they collected on that overflight is currently being analyzed.

Four ADEC spill responders and two facility inspectors are currently based at the forward command post at Palm Pad, a staging pad approximately 26 miles east of the Qugruk #2 pad by ice road.

SOURCE CONTROL: The well ceased flowing at about 9:00 PM last night, February 16. No well control operations have been undertaken thus far. Air monitoring shows no accumulation of methane gas around the rig.

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 give cleanup personnel approximately 24 hours notice in advance of completion of the well control operation. Plans are in place for delineating and cleaning up the spill, and necessary personnel crews and equipment are on standby. A reduced incident management team will continue to monitor the operation from Anchorage and two ADEC responders will remain at Palm Pad until cleanup operations are imminent, at which time additional staff will be recalled. A wildlife hazing crew is expected to arrive on-site today to keep wildlife out of the spill area and scout for polar bear dens while well control work continues.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Jeremy Michels, O'Brien's Response Management
 F.O.S.C.: Matt Carr, EPA
 S.O.S.C.: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC
 L.O.S.C.: Gordon Brower, North Slope Borough
 Field SOSC: Wes Ghormley, ADEC

WEATHER: Today: Cloudy; high temperature -5 to 0°F; east wind 10 mph.

Tonight: Cloudy; low -15°F; east wind 10 mph.

Saturday: Cloudy; high -5°F; east wind 15 mph.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: 2:00 PM on February 18, 2012

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 and includes: governor's office, Senator Begich's office, SECC, 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			
Nabors Drilling	Denny Smith	email			
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 in Fairbanks		Fax	North Slope only	456-0233	451-7146
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



Location of Qugruk #2 drilling pad (map courtesy of Repsol)