Alaska DEC

N E W S R E L E A S E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cleanup at GC-2 spill site nears completion

April 3, 2006--Cleanup operations at the GC-2 spill site are nearly complete with all free flowing oil, contaminated snow, and contaminated vegetation having been trimmed or removed from the main area of the spill.

"Given the tough working conditions early in this response, we're pleased with the progress that's been made over the past 4-weeks," said Ed Meggert, State-On Scene Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

As of today, the cleanup efforts have collected a total of 63,546 gallons of free flowing oil, 8,166 cubic yards of oil contaminated snow and soil, and 375 cubic yards of contaminated gravel. Three snow melting machines are currently being used to melt the contaminated snow collected from the site. The melting process is anticipated to be complete in three weeks. A final spill volume will be determined after completion of the snow melting operation.

A tundra restoration plan is being drafted for the Department of Environmental Conservation's review and approval. The plan is expected to cover backfilling of the site to prevent thermal damage to the permafrost as well as re-vegetation and long term monitoring to verify that the site rehabilitation is successful.

"The goal is to have the restoration plan implemented and completed prior to spring breakup in early May," Meggert said.

BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. restarted Gathering Center No. 2 (GC-2) Sunday evening and is utilizing a 24-inch bypass line to slowly return production from the GC-2 operating area over the coming weeks.

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

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