

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: Agrium Plant #1 Ammonia Release

SITREP #: 1 and Final

SPILL NUMBER: 04239906001

LEDGER CODE: None

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: 6:45 PM, February 29, 2004. The spill was reported to DEC by AST at 7:04 PM on February 29, 2004.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 12:00 PM on March 1, 2004

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: None, this is the final report.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: Anhydrous Ammonia. An unknown amount of ammonia vapors released over a period of time that did not exceed twenty minutes.

LOCATION: Ammonia Plant #1, Agrium Kenai Nitrogen Operations Facility, Kenai, Alaska

CAUSE OF SPILL: Pump seal failure. It is suspected that a pump seal was not properly "seated" when the pump was re-started. Plant # 1 was being restarted after an extended shutdown.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Agrium U.S. Inc.

RESPONSE ACTION: The release was characterized as a "puff release" with duration of no more than twenty minutes. Agrium personnel shut down the pump and switched over to a spare. The Nikiski Fire Department was notified and they responded. Winds were from the northeast carrying the vapors towards Cook Inlet. Air monitoring conducted by Agrium indicated that there was no impact outside the Agrium facility. No ammonia could be detected more than 400 feet downwind. Two Agrium employees were exposed to ammonia vapors and transported to Central Peninsula General Hospital. The employees were kept in the hospital overnight for observation and released this morning.

SOURCE CONTROL: The malfunctioning pump was shut down.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: No ammonia vapors were detected outside the Agrium facility.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Agrium will conduct an investigation of the accident and pump failure and provide an estimate of the amount of ammonia that was released.

WEATHER: Overcast, light snow, winds NNE at 6 mph. Temperature 32° F.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander:	Agrium U.S. Inc.
F.O.S.C.:	Matt Carr (U.S. EPA)
S.O.S.C.:	Gary Folley (ADEC)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Folley; 262-5210, ext. 234

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

AGENCY	NAME	Sent Via		Telephone	Facsimile
ADF&G	Mark Fink	Email		267-2338	267-2464
ADPS	State Troopers	Fax		428-7200	428-7204
U.S. EPA	Matt Carr/Carl Lautenberger	Fax		271-5083	271-3424
U.S. Coast Guard	MSO Anchorage	Fax		271-6700	271-6751
U.S. Coast Guard	MSD Kenai	Fax		283-3292	283-5085
OTHER	NAME	Sent Via	Session/Interim	Telephone	Facsimile
C.I. RCAC	M. Munger (munger@circac.org)	Fax&Email		283-7222	283-6102
Cook Inlet Keeper	Bob Shavelson(bob@inletkeeper.org)	Fax&Email		235-4068	235-4069
Kenai Pen. Borough	OEM	Fax		262-4910	262-8603
House34/Nikiski	Mike Chenault	Fax	Kenai 5/16 - 1/09 Juneau 1/10 - 5/15	283-7223 465-3779	283-7184 465-2833
House33/Kenai	Kelly Wolf	Fax	Kenai 5/16-1/09 Juneau 1/10 - 5/15	283-2030 465-2693	283-3075 465-3835
SenateQ/Kenai	Thomas Wagoner	Fax	Kenai 5/16 - 1/09 Juneau 1/10 - 5/15	283-2030 465-2828	283-3075 465-4779