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April 13, 2006

The Honorable Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

SUBJECT: Concealed newly ruptured lines at Prudhoe Bay

Dear Administrator Johnson:

Prudhoe Bay production operations suffered two new line ruptures last week. British Petroleum along with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), have for weeks provided one smoke screen after another surrounding the corrosion leak of the crude Transit Line. They jointly have made the absurd suggestion that the corrosion possibly could be from newly produced viscous oil traveling through the system a "Red Herring". They have yet to reveal the newly discovered existing leak from a hole in the same Transit Line at another recently excavated Caribou Crossing barely a mile away. It is apparently indeterminate just how long this second internal corrosion leak has existed so silence is the rule.

Secondly, the BP/ADEC Unified Command Center has not publicly revealed that last Thursday, April 6, the 6 inch R-19 Gas Line ruptured with a loud roar. External corrosion created a one and a half inch hole in the elevated line passing through the third level of the R-Pad Manifold Building. The rupture occurred just three feet beyond where the line exits the building. A Field Maintenance Technician was working inside the building near the rupture. Reportedly, it took twenty minutes to successfully shut-in and depressurize the gas line under 2000 PSI pressure. Meanwhile, the Manifold building was surrounded by a volatile gas cloud for at least thirty minutes. Sir, such a gas cloud near the facilities is the most feared situation for the workers. If a vehicle was driving by, a breaker shut inside (as was the case when Z Pad Manifold Building blew up from a similar gas line corrosion rupture go to [WWW.ANWRNEWS.COM](http://WWW.ANWRNEWS.COM) for photos), or there was a static spark near the gas, the Manifold building would have exploded into a blazing inferno, incinerating the technician.

Competent Federal oversight is desperately called for before Prudhoe suffers a disaster such as BP's deadly Texas City Refinery Explosion last year. Workers have warned of BP's cost cutting mismanaged Corrosion Inspection & Control (CIC) Division operations for years. As you are aware, I alerted the EPA Criminal Investigation Division last July

of corrupt practices by BP's CIC Division.

The circumstances require that EPA cease delegating environmental oversight, North of the Arctic Circle, to the politically driven ADEC and the cost cutting dictates of British Petroleum headquarters in London.

For the benefit of your staff, I suggest that they go to [WWW.ANWRNEWS.COM](http://WWW.ANWRNEWS.COM) and revisit

the circumstances surrounding the Z Pad near disaster, when a technician barely escaped with his life. (note that web site itself has been dormant for years). BP flat out lied about the circumstances in that instance. The Control Room operator radioed a field technician to drive over and check out a gas line problem inside the Z Pad Manifold building. As he reached the entrance he heard the hissing sound of escaping gas. He retreated to his truck and radioed to "shut it down" and ducked as the building exploded. Yet BP reported to the media that no one was at the site as this "mysterious" explosion enveloped the building caused by gas from a "corroded" ruptured gas line.

At the opening page of [www.anwrnews.com](http://www.anwrnews.com) click on START, Report #1 and at this new page scroll down and click on "Before and After Images". Then click to expand the photos. Next scroll down and click on ADN Article 11/03/98 and note that "no one was at the site of the blast" said the BP Spokesman. (A bald faced lie!) Then scroll down and click on "A Narrow Escape".

Should your staff Google the Texas City Refinery Explosion, they will learn that there is a systemic deficiency in BP's Safety Culture at Prudhoe as at Texas City Refinery. Hopefully you can effect corrective action at Prudhoe to henceforth protect the environment and the safety of the workers.

Sincerely,

Charles Hamel  
Behalf Concerned BP Technicians

cc: Governor Frank Murkowski  
Congressman John Dingell  
Congressman George Miller  
Commissioner Kurt Fredricksson, ADEC