

BP Prudhoe Bay/Texas City Refinery Explosion

On March 2, 2006, an oil leak was discovered by BP from a major transmission line that connects the Western part of the Prudhoe Bay field in Alaska with the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline (TAPS). Over the next several months, what started as a single spill ended in the discovery of widespread corrosion in BP's pipelines and the discovery of an additional oil spill. The Committee's investigation into the failures of BP's Alaska operations began shortly after the Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Safety Administration issued its March 15, 2006, Corrective Action Order, that directed BP to "smart pig" (a term used to describe any of the series of "pig" devices used for internal inspection of a pipeline to detect bends, dents and other reductions; corrosion and other forms of damage) a number of key oil transit lines. Two criminal investigations pertaining to Prudhoe Bay are underway. Additionally, the Department of Justice announced on October 25, 2007, a \$50 million Clean Air Act penalty against BP for failing to maintain safe operations of the Texas City refinery and another \$303 million for price fixing in the propane markets. The Committee continues to monitor BP Operations.

Letters

March 12, 2008

Letter to Attorney General Mukasey in regard to the plea agreement reached with British Petroleum (BP)

April 3, 2008 response »

June 20, 2007

Letter to BP America, Inc. Chairman and CEO Malone in regard to additional questions for the record from the May 16, 2007 Prudhoe Bay hearing

July 6, 2007 response »

June 20, 2007

Letter to Department of Transportation Acting Assistant Administrator Gerard in regard to additional questions for the record from the May 16, 2007 Prudhoe Bay hearing

Aug. 31, 2007 response »

June 20, 2007

Letter to Alaska Department of Natural Resources Coordinator Slemons in regard to additional questions for the record from the May 16, 2007 Prudhoe Bay hearing

July 6, 2007 response »

June 5, 2007 response »

June 20, 2007

Letter to OSHA Director Fairfax in regard to additional questions for the record from the May 16, 2007 Prudhoe Bay hearing

Aug. 3, 2007 response »

June 20, 2007

Letter to U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board Chair and CEO Merritt in regard to additional questions

for the record from the May 16, 2007 Prudhoe Bay hearing

Jan. 19, 2007 U.S. Chemical Safety letter »

May 2, 2007

Letter to BP America Chairman and President Malone in regard to BP's request of hearing postponement

April 30, 2007

Letter to BP America Chairman and President Malone in regard to the the severe cost-cutting atmosphere and the shutdown at Prudhoe Bay

May 14, 2007 response »

News Releases

"Dingell, Stupak Respond to BP Price-Fixing Settlement" -- October 24, 2007

"BP Withheld Key Documents from Committee; Thursday Hearing Postponed to May 1" -- May 2, 2007

"CSB, Baker Commission Reports Confirm BP Cost-Cutting Jeopardized Worker Safety; Dingell to Hold Hearings on BP Lessons Learned Following Prudhoe Bay Spill, Field Shut Down, Recent Reports" -- March 20, 2007

Hearing Materials

May 16, 2007

2006 Prudhoe Bay Shutdown: Will Recent Regulatory Changes and BP Management Reforms Prevent Future Failures?
(Witness List & Testimony)

Statements

May 16, 2007

Chairman Stupak at the hearing entitled "2006 Prudhoe Bay Shutdown: Will Recent Regulatory Changes and BP Management Reforms Prevent Future Failures?"

Other Documents

- Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Inspections, June 28, 2007
- Duties of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development

{mos_ri:inv_bp}