

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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Belle Fourche Pipeline Spill Information Updated

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has issued an update on an oil spill resulting from a pipeline leak in Billings County. The pipeline is a buried 6-inch gathering line operated by Belle Fourche Pipeline. The spill discovered Monday, Dec. 5, is located approximately 16 miles northwest of Belfield.

An estimated 4,200 barrels of oil have leaked from the pipeline. Of that amount, 3,100 barrels of oil flowed into Ash Coulee Creek. Approximately 5.4 miles of the creek have been impacted. Due to potentially unstable soil conditions at the point of release, the cause of the incident is not yet known. The section of pipeline where the leak occurred has been isolated, and the spill has been contained.

Belle Fourche Pipeline is working with a remediation contractor that specializes in cold water oil cleanup. As of Sunday, Dec. 11, 878 barrels of oil had been recovered from the site.

Personnel from the NDDoH have been at the site since Dec. 5. NDDoH personnel will continue to monitor the investigation and cleanup.

View downloadable high-resolution photos of the site at
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/145935260@N04/albums/72157677768444415>.

For more information, contact Bill Suess, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.5216.

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