

# Anadarko pays \$1M for Wyo oil spills

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Anadarko Petroleum has agreed to pay more than \$1 million in penalties and spend another \$8 million in environmental remediation and spill prevention measures for oil spills in Johnson, Natrona and Park counties in Wyoming.

The Environmental Protection Agency announced the settlement agreement Thursday.

"We are pleased that Anadarko and its partners will make significant investments in monitoring and control measures that will ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act and minimize the likelihood and severity of future spills," Carol Rushin, EPA's acting regional administrator in Denver, said in a prepared statement.

The bulk of the oil spill violations occurred in the Salt Creek field, spanning Natrona and Johnson counties. Anadarko and subsidiaries Howell Corp. and Howell Petroleum Corp. discharged "harmful quantities of oil" on more than 35 occasions between January 2003 and October 2008, according to the EPA.

The EPA alleged that more than 31,300 barrels of oily water and crude oil were released during the spills, which "resulted in the pollutants being discharged into the tributaries or drainages of Silver Tip Creek and Salt Creek which, respectively, are tributaries to the Clarks Fork and Powder Rivers."

Reached for comment, Anadarko Petroleum spokesman John Christiansen said the company has worked hard to improve the environmental performance of the 100-year-old Salt Creek oilfield since it acquired the property in 2002. Since then, Anadarko has launched a massive CO2 injection, enhanced oil recovery operation there.

"We knew when we acquired the Salt Creek field we'd have to improve the environmental performance of it," Christiansen said. "We entered into cooperative negotiations with the United States to make this thing right."

The consent decree between Anadarko and the EPA requires the company to implement a multi-phased integrity and mitigation plan for inspection, monitoring, testing, data collection and failure analysis activities, according to the EPA.

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