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REFERENCE

SIGNATURE OF CANADA-UNITED STATES MARINE POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR THE BEAUFORT SEA

The Department of External Affairs and the Department of Transport announce jointly the signing of a new annex to the joint Canada-USA marine pollution contingency plan. The annex extends coverage of the plan, which was agreed to by Canada and the United States in 1974, to the waters off the Arctic coast of Canada and the United States in the Beaufort Sea. Previously, the plan applied to the boundary waters off the east and west coasts of Canada and the USA as well as the Great Lakes.

The objectives of the plan and annex are to develop systems for the discovery and reporting of a pollution incident in the Beaufort Sea and to provide the means to restrict the spread of oil and provide for its clean up and disposal. The costs of the response operations will be paid by the country under whose jurisdiction the spill occurred. The plan is designed so that equipment of one party can be employed to assist the other if circumstances warrant. The plan applies to all spills of oil and noxious substances in the Beaufort Sea whether the spill originates from drilling or shipping activities.