

Kuparuk River Field

North Slope, Alaska



Field Facts

Operator	ConocoPhillips	
Ownership	ConocoPhillips	55.3%
	BP Exploration	39.2%
	ChevronTexaco	4.9%
	ExxonMobil	0.6%
Average Daily Production	~54,000 barrels of oil per day (average daily net production, 2012)	
Peak Production	322,000 bopd (1992)	
Average Oil Gravity	24° API Oil Gravity	
Start Up	December 1981	
Field area	170,000 acres	
Original oil in place (gross)	6 billion barrels, second largest oil field in North America	

Basic Facts

The Kuparuk River Field (“Kuparuk”) is about 40 miles west of Prudhoe Bay, and was discovered in 1969. Production began in 1981 and increased to a record rate of 322,000 barrels per day in 1992. Kuparuk reached a milestone in July 2005 when cumulative production reached 2 billion barrels.

Drill pads were reduced from 65-acre pads (the original Prudhoe Bay design) to about 11-acre drill sites at Kuparuk. More than 1,150 wells have been drilled with more development wells in coiled tube drilling sidetracks planned. Kuparuk has three Central Processing Facilities (CPF), a Seawater Treatment Plant (STP), plus 47 drill sites.

Tarn, Tabasco, West Sak and Meltwater pools share production facilities with Kuparuk. In November of 2002, Drill Site 3S (Palm) came on line as an extension of Kuparuk.

ConocoPhillips and its co-venturers at Kuparuk have invested billions of dollars to develop Kuparuk and implement programs to optimize oil recovery since its start up.

Kuparuk production is currently enhanced through the use of peripheral and infill drilling, water injection, alternating water and gas injection (IWAG) as well as water alternating miscible gas injection (MWAG). Some 200 MMscf/d of gas is re-injected into the Kuparuk, Tarn and Meltwater pools and some 650,000 barrels of water are injected into Kuparuk and the satellite pools every day.

In May 2009, the CDR2-AC purpose-built coiled tubing drilling (CTD) rig successfully initiated operations at Kuparuk to increase oil recovery. Since startup, the rig has delivered impressive performance and is allowing ConocoPhillips to more economically deliver millions of barrels of oil reserves.

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