

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 01-2015**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER PROCLAIMING AN EMERGENCY TO EXIST IN THE
COUNTIES OF DAWSON AND RICHLAND ALONG THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER**

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2015, a change of pipeline pressure was detected in the Bridger Pipeline in an area near Glendive, Montana, and the Yellowstone River. The pipeline shut down due to the pressure change; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2015, a sheen was detected by pipeline officials just downstream from the suspected pipeline crossing as well as further downstream which indicates a release of petroleum products into the river; and

WHEREAS, the Yellowstone River is frozen in this location which impacts the normal response tactics of private, local, state and federal responders; and

WHEREAS, the Bridger Pipeline Company has been identified as the responsible party for this release. The Company reports that up to 300 barrels of crude oil may have been released and has immediately responded with crews to the area; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana has taken an active role in the oversight of this hazardous materials response in coordination with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Military Affairs. The State has committed all available resources and taken all possible actions to respond, mitigate and alleviate the situation; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation of an emergency authorizes the Governor under Section 10-3-311, MCA, to expend funds from the general fund to meet contingencies and needs arising from these conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor under the Constitution of the State of Montana and Title 10, Chapter 3, MCA, and under other applicable statutes, do hereby declare an emergency to exist in Dawson and Richland Counties and the imminent threat of disaster exists.

This Order is effective January 17, 2015.



GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana, this 6th day of January, 2015.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Bullock', is written over a horizontal line.

STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Linda McCulloch', is written over a horizontal line.

LINDA McCULLOCH, Secretary of State