



# Coming Down the Pipe

## News from the Joint Pipeline Office

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### Fire Suppression/PS01 Storage Tanks

On April 22, 2009 the JPO Authorized Officer, Jerry Brossia, the State Pipeline Coordinator and representatives from the Alaska State Fire Marshall Office, Department of Labor Safety & Workforce Development and the Department of Environmental Conservation submitted a letter to Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC) President & CEO, Kevin Hostler, urging APSC to install a fire/foam suppression system at Pump Station 01. This letter was submitted at the request of the Alaska State Fire Marshall's Office, to protect the crude oil storage tanks at PS01 and in response to an incident that took place on January 15, 2009 at the pump station resulting in flaring and the release of gas from those tanks. The incident had the potential for injury, loss of life and significant damage to the facility.

The April 22 letter notes that in 2007 APSC contracted with Hughes Associates to develop preliminary engineering plans for a fire suppression system for the storage tanks at PS01. JPO staff have received verbal confirmation (letter to follow) from APSC that the engineering for this project will be completed in 2009. Site upgrades to the pad will take place in 2010 and the fire suppression system will be installed and operational in 2011.



Storage/relief tank at pump station 1—photo courtesy of Ray Elleven

### PHMSA Posts Report on Mechanical Damage in Pipelines

The Pipeline and Hazardous Safety Administration (PHMSA) has released a Mechanical Damage Study that consolidates collective knowledge on the many aspects of mechanical damage "in natural gas and hazardous liquid steel pipelines, with particular focus on transmission pipelines." This report is one of six technical reports that PHMSA has posted on its website to serve as a resource for evaluating operators' integrity management (IT) programs. These reports are available online at: <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/gasimp/TechReports.htm>.

### TAPS Land Use Permit Issued (SPCO)

The SPCO issued land use permit LAS 27125 for 0.23 acres near PLMP 792.5 to Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC) for the purpose of excavating around the buried TAPS pipeline to investigate the integrity of the pipe, repair the pipe, if needed, and re-coat the pipe as part of the APSC 2009 mainline integrity investigations. The permit area is located within Section 29, Township 9 South, Range 5 West, Copper River Meridian, AK.

### Public Workshops: Alaska Risk Assessment (ARA) of Oil & Gas Infrastructure

*Public Workshop* - Anchorage . . . 10 AM to 4 PM, May 5, 2009  
Z.J. Loussac Library, 2nd Floor Public Conference Room  
3600 Denali Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

The risk assessment contractors will present a comprehensive briefing on the proposed risk assessment methodology. This briefing will include a walk through of the methods with examples of how it will apply to specific facilities. There will also be a discussion about how comments received from the public were used to shape the methodology. After questions and answers, participants will be asked to participate in a facilitated discussion

intended to identify issues and concerns associated with the proposed methodology. This workshop is targeted for people with a high interest in the project that are willing to take the time to read and understand the proposed methodology report. In order to make the workshop as productive as possible, participants are asked to download and read the "Proposed Risk Assessment Methodology" report before the workshop.

The State believes that there might be residents living outside Anchorage that wish to attend this daylong workshop and are willing to invest the time to understand the methodology and give constructive input. Alaska residents meeting this description, can submit a written request for travel assistance to the State Project Manager, Ira Rosen at [ira.rosen@alaska.gov](mailto:ira.rosen@alaska.gov). Travel requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the intent of getting a broad participation in terms of interests and regions.

### Public Meetings

Additional public meetings will be held in four other regions of the State where oil and gas infrastructure exists. These meetings will be structured to allow public members to drop-in and learn more about the ARA project. People can come and go anytime that fits their schedule, between 4 and 7:30 PM. The risk assessment contractors will give a short briefing on the proposed risk assessment methodology at 4:30 PM and then again at 6:30 PM. The presentation will include discussion about how comments received from the public were used to shape the methodology. The contractors will be available to answer questions. Throughout the time of the meeting, members of the public will be able to give their input on the project through recorded testimony. There will also be assis-

tance available for those interested in developing written comments.

KENAI . . . . 4 PM to 7:30 PM, May 11, 2009 at the Challenger Learning Center, Aurora Room, 9711 Kenai Spur Highway, Kenai, Alaska 99611

VALDEZ . . . . 4 PM to 7:30 PM, May 12, 2009 at Valdez Civic & Convention Center, Conference Room, Valdez, Alaska

FAIRBANKS . . . . 4 PM to 7:30 PM, May 13, 2009 at UAF Wood Center, Room CD, 505 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

BARROW . . . . 4 PM to 7:30 PM, tbd, 2009, Location TBD

For more information on these meeting you may contact Amy Gilson at [amy@nukaresearch.com](mailto:amy@nukaresearch.com).

#### **CATS - PHMSA program creates community liaison to address pipeline concerns**

Bill Flanders is the Community Assistance and Technical Services (CATS) Program Manager in the Anchorage office of PHMSA. The purpose of the CATS Program is to advance public safety, environmental protection and pipeline reliability by facilitating clear communications among all pipeline stakeholders, including the public, the operators and government officials. CATS Program Staff are available to meet with pipeline safety stakeholders and provide information about the Office of Pipeline Safety programs. In addition to stakeholder awareness, the CATS Program focuses on excavation damage prevention, encroachment prevention and land use planning, and pipeline repair permit facilitation. The CATS position in Alaska was created to improve communications with stakeholders in Alaska.

Bill received a degree in mechanical engineering from Wichita State University. He has extensive background in pipeline construction, design, and operations. Prior to his five years with PHMSA as a pipeline inspector, he served as an engineering coordinator with the integrity group for Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. Bill also served as a design and project engineer for ARCO Pipeline Company. During construction of the TransAlaska Pipeline, Bill was a Project Engineer for Alyeska Pipeline Service Company on Pump Stations 9 and 10. Currently, Bill is serving on the ASME B31.4, Liquid Pipeline Code Committee.

#### **JPO Oil Spill Prevention and Contingency Team**

Perhaps the JPO's longest standing and continually active work team is the Oil Spill Prevention [and Contingency], Preparedness and Response Coordination Team for Trans Alaska Pipeline issues. With a founding charter developed over 14 years ago, this multi-agency team has focused its efforts to achieve the common goal of "preventing spills while ensuring a high level of industry and government spill response preparedness capability". The team closely coordinates in order to prevent duplication, promote increased efficiency and improve overall capability to meet this common goal.



(L-R) Bill Haese (DEC Environmental Program Specialist), Bonnie Friedman (BLM Contractor), Becky Spiegel (DEC Environmental Program Manager) and Mike Wrabetz (BLM Environmental Protection Specialist)

Primary agency members with individuals assigned to the JPO include the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (Becky Spiegel and Bill Haese), the US Bureau of Land Management (Mike Wrabetz and Bonnie Friedman), and the US Environmental Protection Agency (Matt Carr). Other agencies participate on an as needed basis.

A recent focus of the team has been to monitor the changes to oil spill prevention and contingency planning due to TAPS Strategic Reconfiguration. A series of unannounced call out drills initiated by the team has resulted in additional assigned personnel, training and detailed call out procedures to assure adequate numbers of responders.

In addition to TAPS preparedness, the team has also been focusing on improving agency preparedness. In particular, the team has begun an effort to improve the JPO's preparedness to respond to a variety of hazards through training and exercises. This is an ongoing effort to be continued this year with the team providing additional opportunities to train in the Incident Command System and participate in further exercises conducted by APSC.



### **JPO Management Team**

#### *STATE TEAM MEMBERS*

*Mike Thompson (DNR/SPCO)*

*State Pipeline Coordinator*

*DNR Liaison*

*Ron Doyel (ADEC)*

*DEC Liaison*

*Ray Elleven (ADOL/WD)*

*DOL Liaison*

*Dennis Gnath (ADF&G)*

*ADF&G Liaison*

*John Reeves (ADOT&PF)*

*ADOT&PF Liaison*

*John Cawthon (ADPS/SFMO)*

*ADPS/SFMO Liaison*

#### *FEDERAL TEAM MEMBERS*

*Jerry Brossia (DOI/BLM)*

*Authorized Officer*

*BLM Liaison*

*Jeffrey Walker (DOI/MMS)*

*DOI/MMS Liaison*

*Dennis Hinnah (DOT/PHMSA)*

*DOT/PHMSA Liaison*

*Matt Carr (EPA)*

*EPA Liaison*

*Capt. Mark Hamilton (USCG)*

*USCG Liaison*

*Michael Rabbe (USACE)*

*USACE Liaison*