

Ever wonder how the Joint Pipeline Office agencies work in partnership to oversee the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS)? Periodically, this newsletter will feature JPO people, teams, and agencies at work, highlighting their achievements and contributions to the JPO's oversight mission and goals.

on the job: Region 10 Meet the JPO Spill Team

Ask Mike Wrabetz what he believes contributes to the close working relationship the JPO Oil Spill Team has developed and he will tell you that members of the team see a bigger picture that exists outside of their individual agencies.

The team, comprised of staff from three separate government organizations, shares mission tasks. Working within the authority framework vested in their individual agencies allows the team to develop a more complete picture of the issues. "Almost always we're able to achieve a consensus," Wrabetz mused, "each agency has unique requirements; together we have the authorities to assure that nothing slips through the cracks."

That's no small achievement, considering that the self-directed team consists of only four members—Wrabetz, Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Becky Lewis, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC); Carl Lautenberger, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and Bonnie Friedman, a BLM contractor who previously worked on the team as an ADEC employee. The team's primary task is to review and approve oil discharge and contingency planning documents for TransAlaska Pipeline System (TAPS) and the Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT), and to assure that Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (Alyeska) is in compliance with both of those contingency plans. Each agency's job is a little different from the other, although there is some overlap.



Focused on details during the 0530 pre-exercise briefing, Wrabetz and Lewis prepare to evaluate a recent Alyeska Pipeline exercise.

The EPA, whose authority includes CFR 40, has jurisdiction over TAPS, VMT, and the North Slope. BLM's authorization lies in the TAPP Act and the Mineral Leasing Act that authorized the Federal Grant of Right-of-Way for TAPS which includes Stipulations 2.13, 2.14, and 3.11.The stipulations establish both broad and specific requirements related to the oversight of oil spill reporting, prevention, response, and contaminant cleanup. ADEC's authority comes from the State of Alaska Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Control statutes and regulations. ADEC representatives in the JPO apply those statutes and regulations to the TAPS pipeline and the VMT. EPA works with the BLM and ADEC to administer regulatory programs, including the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Oil Pollution programs.

To assure a more thorough, complementary, and cooperative oversight, the team makes it a point to familiarize themselves with one another's authorizing documents. The EPA, BLM, and ADEC work together for the purpose of coordination and cooperation. "We work really well together, have deep respect for each other, and realize that each agency has different guiding documents, so we're not stepping on toes," Lewis commented, "We know that we're on the same team—on the same side. Not one of us could be as effective without the other."

JPO Employees *On the move*...

Farewells. . . Retired: Stan Bronczyk (BLM) and Dave Perez (ADNR). Moving to New Opportunities: Patricia Perry (BLM), Anita Hartman (ADEC), and Dan Rice (ADNR). Welcomes. . . Laura Chase (ADNR) JPO Public Information Officer III, Dennis Hinnah (US DOT) JPO Liaison, Jodi Plikat (ADNR-ACMP) JPO Liaison, Keven Kleweno (ADNR) Technical Engineer, and Diann Rasmussen (BLM) Realty Specialist. Promotions. . . Debbie Whetham (ADNR) Natural Resource Technician III and Britt Arnesen (ADNR) Natural Resource Specialist III. Honors. . . Louis Kozisek (ADNR), Engineering Manager, is invited to participate on the 2008 ASME International Pipeline Conference Technical Committee as the International Track Leader for the Standards & Regulations. Kozisek also served as Track Leader during the 2004 and 2006 ASME Conferences.



Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS)

Strategic Reconfiguration (SR) Project Update:

Pump Station 09 (PS 09) Strategic Reconfiguration:

PS 09 has been operating with the new SR equipment since February and there are no significant equipment issues.

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (Alyeska) has placed the PS 09 Legacy system in cold standby where it will remain available as back-up this winter.

Pump Station 03 (PS 03) Strategic Reconfiguration:

Forward flow of oil at PS 03 is anticipated to begin December 10th at 8:00 a.m. Lessons Learned from PS 09 Strategic Reconfiguration have been extremely beneficial during the construction at PS 03.

As a result of the State's Amended Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) Alyeska has provided the JPO with additional information related to recent welding and vibration issues.

Between April 11 and November 11, 2007, approximately 22 State and Federal staff members have made 46 visits to PS 03 to perform monitoring and inspection activities.

Pump Station 04 (PS 04) Strategic Reconfiguration:

After completing work at PS 03, crews will move to PS 04 to commence strategic reconfiguration pre-planning for activities scheduled to begin in the March to April, 2008 time frame.

JPO Fire Safety Liaison Kelly Nicolello evaluated Alyeska Pipeline's Fire Brigade training and performance at Texas A&M Industrial Fire School October 28 through November 2, 2007.

Other Oversight Activities

JPO Liaison Ray Elleven (DOLWD) completed a quarterly worksite safety inspection of PS 03 SR at the end of September. Elleven issued a satisfactory surveillance and is currently conducting an assessment, of the PS 03 SR safety programming; no recordable injuries have been documented at PS 03 in 2007.

BLM Electrical Engineer Tom Finger and ADNR Engineer Louis Kozisek were observers for the 5day TAPS PS 03 Pre-startup Health, Safety, and Environment Review. In addition to Finger and Kozisek, the review team included representatives from British Petroleum (BP), APSC, Conoco Phillips, and ExxonMobil. Finger and Kozisek will communicate their observations in a written document separate from the Group's final report.

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US DOT JPO Liaison Dennis Hinnah has been working with Dr. John Jy-An Wang of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory on previously identified vibration issues at PS 09. To mitigate the vibration in the pump module, APSC has increased the stiffness and damping system in the pump module structure. Any further action will be approved based on the recommendations in Dr. Wang's report.

During the months of September and October JPO Liaison Dennis Gnath (ADFG-OHMP) issued 3 Fish Habitat Permits to Alyeska Pipeline for Low Water Crossing Reconstruction, Water Withdrawal, and Overflow Channel Flood Repair.

Gnath also monitored and/or coordinated twelve project activities and/or proposals that had the potential to adversely affect fish resources, populations, or their habitats. During October, Gnath drafted 57 written reports of surveillances done during his field visits this past summer.

The BLM Right-of-Way (ROW) Section is preparing the 2008 land use rental billing notices for the TAGS & ANGST grants of ROW and current temporary use permits; the TAPS billing notices were completed on 11/30/07. The new BLM realty specialist has begun working on case file management for BLM TAPS cases, mainly backlogs of document filing and updating the lands data base, ALIS, for the 2007 BLM land use authorizations.

On-site field inspection surveillance reports for the mineral material sites on federal lands along TAPS were completed in September, as were field inspections and surveillance reports for expired temporary use permits to close BLM case file records.

Other Alaska Pipeline Systems

State Pipeline Coordinator's Office (SPCO) Oversight of: Kenai Kachemak, Nikiski Alaska, Alpine, Kuparuk, Oliktok, Badami, Endicott, Northstar, Milne Point, and Nuiqsut Natural Gas Pipelines, and Kuparuk Extension.

The ADNR State Pipeline Coordinator's Office ROW Section processed 15 authorizations, letters of nonobjection, and permits from July through September, 2007. including issuance of six material sale contracts, four land use permits, an access road right-ofway, and a temporary water use permit to support maintenance activities along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. Other letters and authorizations issued this quarter pertained to the Alpine, Badami, Endicott, Kuparuk, Milne Point, and Oliktok pipeline rights-ofway.

The State Pipeline Coordinator's Lease Compliance team completed 145 surveillance reports during FY 07. During the first quarter of FY08, the team completed 14 surveillances. With slightly more than a month left in the 2nd quarter, team members have completed (27) surveillances of the Kenai Kachemak Pipeline, Kuparuk Pipeline Extension, Badami Pipelines, Milne Point Oil Pipeline, and Northstar Pipelines.

JPO Liaison Dennis Hinnah (US DOT) and SPCO Compliance team member Britt Arnesen coordinated a multi-agency site visit of Nikiski Alaska pipeline's Fish Creek crossing on October 4, 2007.



Arnesen and Hinnah observe the Nikiski Alaska pipeline crossing at Fish Creek in October.

Other News

The State Pipeline Coordinator's Office FY 2007 Lease Compliance Monitoring Report is now available online at the JPO website: http://www.jpo.doi.gov/SPCO/SPCO Annual Report FY07.pdf

On October 16, State Pipeline Coordinator Mike Thompson established a Lease Compliance Section that combined five existing staff members working on TAPS and non-TAPS pipelines. The team is responsible for all SPCO Jurisdictional pipelines, including the TAPS. All positions are located in Anchorage.

The Joint Pipeline Public Affairs Office wishes to thank the following members of the media for their inquiries during the month of October:

KCHU Radio, Valdez; Alaska Journal of Commerce; Petroleum News; Energy Intelligence; Fairbanks Daily News-Miner; and, the Wall Street Journal.