

pipeline oversight activities

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 Nicoletto 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 5-day 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.

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 non-objection, and permits from July through September, 2007, including issuance of six material sale contracts, four land use permits, an access road right-of-way, 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-of-way.

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/SPCOAnnualReportFY07.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.