



Coming Down the Pipe

News from the Joint Pipeline Office

13 March 2009 411 W. 4th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501 | 907-257-1338 | fax 907-272-0690 | Contact: Mark Morones, Information Officer | mmorones@jpo.doi.gov

Pump Station 1

On January 15, 2009 there was a flaring/venting incident at PS1's storage-relief tanks. BPXA was using natural gas to propel a cleaning pig through the 34" Eastern Operating Area Transit Line as part of cleaning/decommissioning process for that line. The pig got stuck resulting in a gas surge. The mainline pumps shutdown and gas-entrained oil was diverted to the storage/relief tanks at PS1. A portion of the gas was flared but excess gas was released into the atmosphere through the tank vents. The incident had the potential to shut down TAPS for a significant period of time. Fortunately this did not occur. BPXA and Alyeska have recently completed reports to identify the cause of this event and to implement new procedures to ensure that similar events will not take place. Several engineers and agency liaisons from the JPO went to PS1 to inspect the station and to speak with Alyeska and BPXA employees. Internally several participating agencies within the JPO are reviewing the information we have obtained from both companies and are in the process of determining appropriate follow up.

On February 24 Mike Thompson and Allison Iversen of PSIO sent follow up letters to both BPXA and Alyeska requesting additional briefing and a status update for timelines from both companies to implement internal procedural changes being put in place as a result of the January 15 incident. Separate briefings with both companies are scheduled with DNR Commissioner Irwin on Friday, March 13.

COE/ANGDA Public Meetings

Beginning February 24, public meetings took place in Glen Allen, Delta, Fairbanks, Wasilla and Anchorage. The ANGDA is working on a project to construct an in-state natural gas line connecting Fairbanks to the Beluga power plant, west of Anchorage. The Army Corp of Engineers is the lead agency for the EIS. BLM is a cooperating agency and will do the NEPA review and issue the ROW. Jerry Brossia has been participating in these meetings for BLM.

ADF&G Issues Fish Habitat Permits Along Sagavanirktok River

During the month of February, ADF&G issued five Fish Habitat Permits in response to applications submitted by APSC. The permits pertained to boat ramp maintenance

JPO Members

United States

Dept. of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management, (BLM)
DOI Minerals Management Service, (MMS),
DOT Dept. of Transportation/Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, (DOT/PHMSA)
Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA)
Dept. of Homeland Security/U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
Dept. of Homeland Security/Transportation Security Administration, (TSA)
Dept. of Defense/Army Corps of Engineers, (COE)

Alaska

Dept. of Natural Resources, (DNR)
Dept. of Environmental Conservation, (DEC)
Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development (ADOLWD),
Dept. of Fish & Game, (ADF&G)
Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities, (ADOT&PF),
Dept. of Public Safety, (ADPS).

and repair and winter stream crossings along the Sagavanirktok River. The ADF&G Liaison attended the EC09 IECA Environmental Connection Conference and Expo in Reno, NV. The liaison attended technical training sessions geared around new erosion control techniques needed to comply with changes in EPA's requirement for controlling storm water runoff on disturbed sites from five to one acres.

PS4 Inspection

Members of the JPO's Technical and Design Review engineering team conducted a functional check out at PS4 last week. Functional checks are an important prerequisite for commissioning PS4 as part of Alyeska's strategic reconfiguration of the TAPS. PS4 has a tentative start-up later this year. The planning process has begun for PS1.

JPO Comings, Goings

Carl Lautenberger, the EPA liaison to the JPO announced that he is taking a new position with the EPA's Region 10 Office in Anchorage. *Matt Carr* will take Carl's place as the new EPA liaison. *Christa Gunn* is an Environmental Engineer and member of the Office of the Federal Coordinator (OFC) for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects. Christa's office is in the JPO. The OFC was established by Congress in 2004 to assist with "marketization" of abundant North Slope Alaska natural gas supplies in the United States. *Melissa Richie* will be leaving the JPO at the end of the month to take on new challenges as an Administrative Officer I with the Land Records Information Section (LRIS) within DNR. *April Andrews* will take over the position vacated by Brenda Muller next week.

Making the "Cut" in Valdez

February and March were busy for JPO Operations & Maintenance Specialist Rhonda Williams. This St. Paddy's Day Rhonda will literally show why she is a "cut above the rest" as she sheds her locks to raise money to benefit kid's cancer research as part of the St. Baldrick's Day Event. Rhonda will donate her hair to Locks of Love to benefit patients who have lost their hair while undergoing cancer treatment. For more information go to: www.stbaldricks.org/events/event_info.php?EventKey=2009-38#.



Rhonda, a volunteer EMT, also participated on Saturday, Feb. 28 in "The Splash" - an event co-sponsored by the Alaska State Firefighters Association, Port Valdez Chapter and the ASFA Valdez Marine Terminal Chapter. The event pairs up fire fighters, EMTs and Coast Guard personnel who jumped in the Valdez Harbor. This year they raised over \$8000 for their smoke detector program, college scholarships and for an eye glasses program. Way to go Rhonda!



The End Caribou leaving the highway south of Delta Junction (Feb. 2009) photo taken by Mark Morones