



# Coming Down the Pipe

## News from the Joint Pipeline Office

27 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



The Badami Weir was installed on the West bank of the East Channel of the Sagavanirktok River to control erosion. The pipeline crossing location intersected a natural drainage channel of the wetland system visible in the upper left quadrant of the photo. The sandbar in the river (bottom right) was created by the erosion of the backfilled trench the summer after pipeline construction in 2000. Flow is left to right. The weir, installed in 2002, also maintains water levels in the wetlands, protecting sensitive *Arctophila fulva* habitat.

### Badami Pipelines

The State Pipeline Coordinator's Office (SPCO) authorized proposed maintenance engineering work to make permanent modifications to the existing weir near the Sag River pipeline crossing. The scope of work includes removing two temporary dikes and hundreds of temporary gravel bags installed in April 2007; installing two permanent dikes that are approximately 63 feet long, comprised of pre-cast concrete Jersey barriers; and hauling, stockpiling, and spreading overburden material to cover approximately 5,200 square feet of bare ground to assist with site re-vegetation. A project schedule was received March 16th indicating site preparation work will begin March 27th.

### Amendment of TAPS Lease Stipulation 3.2.1.1

The SPCO issued public notice of an analysis of an amendment application and proposed decision to modify stipulation 3.2.1.1 of the right-of-way lease for TAPS to add UL-142 tanks to the list of standards under this stipulation. UL-142 tanks were introduced along TAPS at the beginning of Alyeska's pipeline strategic reconfiguration project to store diesel fuel. The SPCO granted a two-year waiver for use of these tanks on state land and within that time period, Alyeska could apply for a lease amendment to allow continued use of the tanks. The public comment period ends April 3, 2009.

### Pipeline Safety: Workshop on New Pipeline Construction

On April 23, 2009, PHMSA will conduct a workshop on new pipeline construction at the Omni Fort Worth Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas. The workshop will be co-sponsored by the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and the Canadian National Energy Board (NEB) on new pipeline construction in established rights-of-way to allow stakeholders of the pipeline safety community to learn about and discuss these construction issues and cur-

### 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).

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rent practices used to resolve issues and ensure pipeline safety. PHMSA developed this workshop in collaboration with our State partners, FERC, and NEB to inform the public, alert the industry, review lessons learned from inspections, and to improve new pipeline construction practices prior to the 2009 construction season. The workshop is expected to cover: (1) quality, control & inspection; (2) welding; (3) coating; (4) materials; and (5) best practices. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Komiskey at (202) 288-1818, or by e-mail at [elizabeth.komiskey@dot.gov](mailto:elizabeth.komiskey@dot.gov).

### JPO Call-Out Exercise

On March 19, 2009 the JPO Oil Spill Response Team initiated two, unannounced call-out exercises held for the TAPS Pipeline Initial Response Teams (IRTS) and Reconnaissance Teams at the Fairbanks and Glennallen Response Bases. The objectives of these exercises were to determine whether APSC could muster

IRTs and reconnaissance teams, pursuant to the TAPS Pipeline Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan (C-plan), in a reasonable time, and with sufficient numbers of trained response personnel. The two teams were lead by ADEC and BLM staff. The results of these exercises are under review but initial results looked good. A final evaluation will be made pending on ongoing review of training records.

#### **OFC**

Recently the JPO welcomed Christa Gunn to its office. Christa 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 Public Law 108-324. It is an independent agency in the Executive Branch, pursuant to the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act (ANGPA) of 2004. The OFC is responsible for coordinating all Federal activities for an Alaska natural gas transportation project (Project), including joint surveillance and monitoring with the State of Alaska during construction and for one year following the completion of the Project.

The five main functions of the OFC are to: (1) coordinate the expeditious discharge of all activities by all Federal agencies with respect to an Alaska natural gas transportation project; (2) ensure compliance of a project with ANGPA and the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act (ANGTA); (3) ensure that implementation or enforcement actions do not exceed the limitations established in ANGPA; (4) enter into a joint surveillance and monitoring agreement with the State of Alaska for the purpose of monitoring the construction of the Project; and (5) provide a liaison function to ensure adequate communication with Congress, the State of Alaska, and U.S Federal Government agencies, and Canadian agencies.

The Obama administration recognizes the need for an Alaska natural gas pipeline. The President recognizes that the pipeline can increase America's energy security, create jobs, and help bring clean natural gas to domestic U.S. markets.

#### **Integrity Digs:**

PHMSA was invited to monitor two planned digs on mainline refrigeration (MLR) unit segments located at MP 648.13 (MLR 1) and MP 653.13 (MLR2) of the TAPS north of Glenallen. An earlier PIG inspection run noted potential anomalies at these locations. During routine evaluation and site characterization, Alyeska's hazmat contractor discovered asbestos associated with the existing pipe coating. DEC had been following these digs to coordinate potential water discharge issues with the JPO. Asbestos abatement issues remain a separate issue for the solid waste management section of DEC.

#### **On the Move**

Justin Selvik has joined the Joint Pipeline Office. Justin works in the Lease Compliance Section as a Natural Resource Specialist. Justin received a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. He moved to Alaska in 2001 and started with the Department of Natural Resources in 2002. Most recently Justin has been working on easements for the Southcentral Regional Office of the Division of Mining, Land, and Water. April Andrews started work on Monday. April took over as JPO Admin Section Co-Leader for Brenda Muller. Melissa Richie's last day at the JPO was March 26.

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## **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*