



Coming Down the Pipe

News from the Joint Pipeline Office

10 April 2009

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Adherence to Procedures and Good Decision Making Curtailed Loading of Oil Tanker

Recent media articles reported that on March 24th the U.S. Coast Guard barred the tanker S/R BAYTOWN from taking on a load of crude oil at the Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT). Crewmembers of the tanker discovered two cracks, under five inches in length. One of the fractures was on the deck (which is also the top of a tank). The BAYTOWN made satisfactory repair to the fracture. The temporary repairs were approved by both American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) and the attending Coast Guard Marine Inspector. At that point the BAYTOWN was prohibited from loading cargo in that tank only. In order to gain approval for loading the remainder of the vessel, the company needed to provide a load plan. A load plan shows locations and cargo amounts to be loaded throughout the ship, as well as compression/tension calculations to establish operating parameters under specific wind/weather criteria. Coast Guard Commander Darryl Verfaillie notes from his conversations that the vessel's operator, SeaRiver Maritime, Inc., that SeaRiver "chose to go above and beyond established safety parameters by deciding to forgo cargo operations and depart the port in a ballasted (or non-loaded) condition." At that point, the BAYTOWN headed to Port Angeles for permanent repairs. "Coming, as it did during a time that many people in Alaska are reflecting on the 20th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, this particular event illustrates that the system, with respect to safety and environmental response, is working as designed," said Verfaillie. "In this case, adherence to well-established procedures combined with good decision-making by all the participants, resulted in a positive outcome."

Application to Amend TAPS Lease - Dietrich River (DNR/SPCR – Right-Of-Way Section)

The SPCO issued public notice of an application from Alyeska to amend the Right-of-Way Lease for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) to add approximately 0.40 acres of state land. The lands proposed for addition lie along the east bank of the Dietrich River, at pipeline milepost (PLMP) 200.8, within Section 2, Township 33 North, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska. The application proposes to install a guidebank extension with a tie-in to the existing guidebank. The guidebank extension is needed to prevent further erosion of the riverbank at this location where erosion has reduced the buffer between the river and the pipeline as narrow as 90 feet. In accordance with AS 38.35.200(a), a person will have standing to seek judicial review of a decision of the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources on this application only if: (1) the person is an applicant, competing applicant, or a person who has



Justin Selvik performs a surveillance at an integrity dig located at MP 653 along the TAPS. Selvik is a Natural Resource Specialist in the Lease Compliance section of the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office within the JPO. Photo courtesy of Ray Elleven

a direct financial interest affected by the lease; and (2) the person delivers a written objection to the application to the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office no later than 4:30 p.m. on June 8, 2009, which is 60 days from the date of initial publication of this notice.

Alaska Risk Assessment (ARA) of Oil & Gas Infrastructure: Phase I Stakeholder Input

The ARA is a three-year initiative evaluating the ability of Alaska's oil and gas infrastructure to operate safely for another generation. The state is actively soliciting input from individuals and groups with interests in existing Alaska oil and gas industry infrastructure on the "Proposed Risk Assessment Methodology." Public Comments are due by June 2, 2009.

The proposed methodology report is an extensive document, available online at:

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/SPAR/ipp/ara/index.htm>.

The methodology report is complex and will take time to read. To facilitate understanding and answer questions, public workshops will be held in Anchorage, Barrow, Fairbanks, Kenai, and Valdez. The workshops will be held in the month of May. Specific times, dates, and places are expected to be announced in early April. More specific details on the workshops can be found at:

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/SPAR/ipp/ara/public.htm>

How to Submit Comments: Comments are being compiled by Nuka Research and Planning Group. You can submit written comments in any of the following ways: (1)

Email your comments to: aracomments@nukaresearch.com (2) Fax your comments to: (615) 468-1436 or (3) mail your comments to: Nuka Research and Planning Group, ARA Comments, PO Box 175 Seldovia, AK 99663. Oral and written comments will also be received at the public workshops.

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SPCO Lease Compliance Section Completes Review of non-TAPS Annual Reports

The Lease Compliance Section has completed its review of all the active, non-TAPS common carrier pipelines. The State Pipeline Coordinator's office monitors lease compliance for seventeen existing pipelines, including TAPS. The remaining 16 lines are located on the North Slope and Cook Inlet. The annual reports relay information about and the status of pipeline-related activities for 2008. This information, in turn, is included as part of a comprehensive annual report prepared by the SPCO. The most recent annual report is located on the JPO website at: <http://www.jpo.doi.gov/index.htm>. The compliance section also uses the annual reports to plan surveillance activities for the remainder of the 2009 calendar year.

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Pipeline Safety: Workshop on New Pipeline Construction – webcast available (DOT/PHMSA)

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 current 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. Additional information on registration is available on the PHMSA Public Meetings and Documents website at: <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/MtgHome.mtg?mtg=58>

There will be a webcast of this event. The link, which will be open on April 23, is:

<http://clients.onlinevideoservice.com/ops>

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Welcome to JPO

Sandra M. Pierce is one of the new Natural Resource Specialist III in the Lease Compliance Section with the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office. Sandra is coming to us from the Division of Oil and Gas (DO&G) where she spent the last two years as a Cartographer II working on the Cook Inlet and Beaufort Sea Best Interest Findings and spearheading the integration of DO&G's spatial and non-spatial data for their web-mapping service (slated completion date June 2009). Before joining the State of Alaska, Sandra worked on the Magpie Forest Restoration Project in Pullman, WA and briefly as a Forester with Northwest Consultants in Moscow, ID. Sandra holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Washington State University and will complete her Masters in Engineering from the University of Alaska Anchorage December 2009.

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JPO Management Team

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Ray Elleven (ADOL/WD)

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