

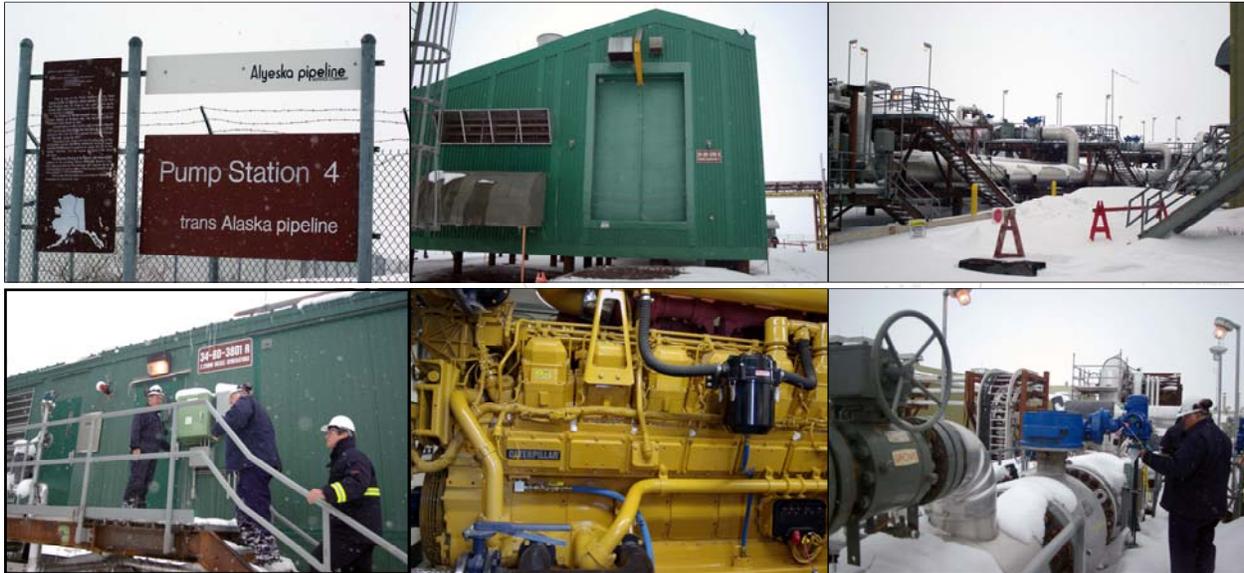


# Coming Down the Pipe

## News from the Joint Pipeline Office

22 May 2009

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Top Row (L-R) Pump Station 4 entry signage | 13 MW Siemens Cyclone Turbogenerator Skid | Manifold Piping heading to Manifold Building | Bottom Row (L-R) Diesel generator building | 2.25 MW Caterpillar Diesel Generator | JPO/Dept. of Labor Liaison Ray Elleven conducting a safety inspection of PS04 prior to forward flow—Images taken by JPO Information Officer Mark Morones (May 12, 2009)

### Forward Flow at PS04: APSC's latest milestone in TAPS Strategic Reconfiguration

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC) reached another milestone on the road to upgrading the TAPS when forward flow of crude oil took place at Pump Station Four (PS04) at 11:15 a.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2009. PS04, located north of the Brooks Range, is the third of four pump stations to achieve forward flow under APSC's Strategic Reconfiguration (SR) project. SR is an effort by APSC to modernize and resize equipment for pumping oil down the 800-mile pipeline.

Pump stations 3, 4 and 9 have all been reconfigured with electric motors to drive their mainline pumps. Previously the pumps were powered by jet turbines. Construction materials and equipment are being transported north from PS04 to PS01 to complete SR work on PS01. A fifth station, PS05, located south of the Atigun Pass, will function as a maintenance and response base. Its primary purpose is to serve as a pressure relief station.

The SR project is the largest physical upgrade to the TAPS since the line became operational in

1977. Forward flow for PS09 (located near Delta Junction) began in February 2007. PS03 achieved forward flow in December 2008.

JPO staff has actively monitored the entire SR process, focusing most recently on activities at PS04. BLM engineers Tom Finger and John Governale conducted onsite surveillances at the station and were on location when forward flow commenced. Doug Lalla, a geophysicist with JPO/BLM, monitored forward flow start up from APSC's Operations Control Center (OCC) in Anchorage. The State Fire Marshall's office, TAPS Fire Safety Specialist, the Department of Labor Safety Liaison, the DOL State Electrical Inspector and SPCO Staff also monitored work as PS04.

APSC personnel enjoyed a significant advantage going into Thursday's event. They were able to rely on lessons learned from previous SR work at PS09 and PS03 to effectively carry out the numerous critical tasks involved with forward flow start up. JPO's onsite engineers observed key tasks, including functional tests on the mainline pumps

and the turbine generators. They also observed the final critical steps leading to forward flow as APSC personnel concluded physical work at PS04 while coordinating with their co-workers at the OCC as their automation controllers downloaded and tested the software that will control day-to-day operations at the newly reconfigured pump station. When all these steps were taken the 36" discharge valve was hand opened at 9:21 a.m. The valve was completely open at 10:06 a.m. and forward flow was officially achieved at 11:15 a.m.

On the left: APSC personnel opening up the 36" discharge pipe as a prelude to forward flow. Picture taken on May 21, 2009—provide by BLM engineer John Governale.



### Badami Weir Update

This winter BP completed upgrade work to the Badami Weir. The weir was constructed to maintain water elevation levels in an adjacent lake and wetlands to preserve high value habitat following construction work on the Badami pipeline, near the east channel of the Sagavanirktok (Sag) River. 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 included 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. According to BP spokesperson Steve Rinehart, "Much of the Badami weir project was accomplished this winter. The concrete Jersey barriers -- the "wings" you see in the picture extending out both side from the weir (SEE pictures on RIGHT ) -- were installed in place of the temporary dikes. Overburden was stockpiled at the site, also plainly visible in the picture. After it thaws this summer the overburden will be redistributed, seeded and fertilized according to the rehabilitation plan."



Pictures taken by Sandra Pierce, Natural Resource Specialist Lease Compliance Section, DNR/SPCO with the JPO.

The Joint Pipeline Office (JPO) is an umbrella organization of state and federal agencies responsible for regulation and oversight of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), and other non-infield oil and gas pipelines in Alaska.

### Public Notice of Material Sales

A Public Notice of Material Sales for two applications from Alyeska Pipeline Service Company was published on May 20, 2009 in the Anchorage Daily News, Fairbanks Daily News Miner, and the Valdez Star. The applications are for purchasing 9,000 cy of material from OMS 3.1.1 and 5,000 cy of material from OMS 7-1M. The notice may be viewed on the ADNR website at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/pubnotfrm.htm> under Public Notices, Material Sale Applications, dated 05/20/2009.

Any comments, objections, or expressions of interest concerning these proposed actions must be received in writing by the SPCO by 4:30 p.m. June 19, 2009. If no significant changes are required to the Preliminary Finding and Decision, it will be issued as the Final Decision after June 22, 2009 and the material sale contracts will be issued to the applicant.

### On the Move

Welcome to Bob Fisk. Bob Fisk is leaving the Alaska State Office, Division of Resources, and will be heading to the BLM Alaska – Office of Pipeline Monitoring (BLM-OPM). Bob has been an integral part of Alaska's energy and minerals programs for many years. As a Physical Scientist at the Joint Pipeline Office, Bob will have the opportunity to utilize his expertise in geology and arctic engineering within permafrost regions in Alaska. Bob is replacing Joe Dygas, who recently retired from the JPO. Bob will begin at BLM-OPM on May 24th. Welcome to Steve Gieryic. Steve recently completed his first year at UAA and is working on obtaining a degree in petroleum engineering. Steve will be working with Joe Correa, who heads up BLMs Technical and Design Review team at the JPO.

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Breakup on the Yukon River, immediately north of Pump Station 6 of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. (photo taken by Mark Morones on Tuesday, May 12, 2009)



### 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*