



# Coming Down the Pipe

## News from the Joint Pipeline Office

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### Fish On! Quick action by ADF&G and Alyeska corrects fish passage at Isabel Creek and identifies summer repair project at Haggard Creek

On May 27 and 28 JPO's ADF&G liaison Dennis Gnath and Alyeska personnel conducted several site inspections of cross-channel structures in fish-bearing streams between Fairbanks and Glennallen. On that trip they discovered that fish passage was blocked at a low-water crossing on Isabel Creek, located at pipeline milepost (PLMP) 606.38. As the accompanying photos show, the blockage was identified and repaired by Alyeska within a few days. At PLMP 642.47 the travelers discovered that extensive ice blockage, developed over the winter, created overflow and erosion problems to the drive lane near Haggard Creek. The drive lane is used by Alyeska personnel for maintenance. Previously a new 8-foot diameter culvert had been installed to restore safe and reliable access to the above-ground section of TAPS, immediately south of the creek. Alyeska personnel are expected to repair the site this summer.

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(Upper right) Isabel Creek as it appeared during the inspection. (Below) Isabel Creek after Alyeska personnel repaired the fish passage. Images courtesy of Dennis Gnath, ADF&G.



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### JPO Safety Inspector conducts site inspection at Pump Station 8 in advance of installation of a pig launcher

On May 24 the ADOLWD liaison to the JPO, Ray Elleven, conducted a safety inspection at PS08, 40 miles south of Fairbanks. PS08 is a ramped down installation but is seeing a considerable amount of activity this year in preparation for the installation of a PIG launcher. The PIG launcher will allow Alyeska personnel to launch "smart" pigs – mechanical devices that are propelled down the 48" TAPS by crude oil. These PIGS are used to detect defects and possible corrosion in the pipe and to measure pipeline curvature. **(continued on pg. 2)**

## Pig Launcher (con't. from pg. 1)

The launcher will be installed within a segment of the pipe that ran through the station's manifold building. The provided picture shows Alyeska personnel removing the manifold building. Ray timed his trip to observe and monitor the safety conditions at the work site.

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**Picture on right:** Crane removes the old manifold building in preparation for the installation of a pig launcher at PS08. Photo courtesy of Ray Elleven.



Alyeska recon teams conduct pipeline reconnaissance on the TAPS near the GRB. Photo courtesy of Bill Haese, DEC/JPO

## JPO Staff Monitors Successful Response Exercise at Glennallen Response Base (GRB)

JPO Oil Spill Prevention and Contingency Team members Bill Haese and Bonnie Friedman recently concluded a successful trip to the Glennallen Response Base to observe a pipeline reconnaissance exercise to evaluate compliance with the Alyeska's oil spill contingency plan (C-Plan). The exercise took place on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Haese is a DEC Environmental Program Specialist and Friedman is a contractor with the BLM.

The trip provided Haese and Friedman with the opportunity to evaluate changes made to the 45-foot oil spill response trailer and complete required orientation for credentialing and obtaining access to the GRB and Pump Station 12.

The scenario for the exercise involved Alyeska's Operations and Control Center (OCC) in Anchorage notifying the GRB staff of a line imbalance and loss of pressure. During the exercise Haese and Friedman were able to observe as Alyeska personnel, working in concert, deployed reconnaissance teams to search the effected area of the TAPS to identify the "source" for the line imbalance. A "suspected leak site" was identified at remote gate valve (RGV) 113. Once the problem area was identified, additional responders converged on the site. A review of site specific response actions was conducted by the on scene responders as well as managers at the Glennallen Response Base. Haese and Friedman noted that the teams were well prepared and responded in an effective manner. In addition, the recon teams were able to identify other items for follow up actions, including repairs to a low-water crossing.

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## Public Notice of Material Sales

A Public Notice of Material Sales for six applications from Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC) was published on May 29, 2009 in the Anchorage Daily News, Fairbanks Daily News Miner. The applications are for purchasing gravel from the following sites in the amounts stated: OMS 53-2 – 10,000 cy; OMS 65-1M - 2,500 cy; OMS 66-1R – 5,000 cy; OMS 71-0 – 5,000 cy; 71-8 – 4,000 cy; and 76-2.1 - 15,000 cy. The notice may be viewed on the ADNR website at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/pubnotfrm.htm> under Public Notices, Notice of Material Sales, dated 05/29/2009.

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

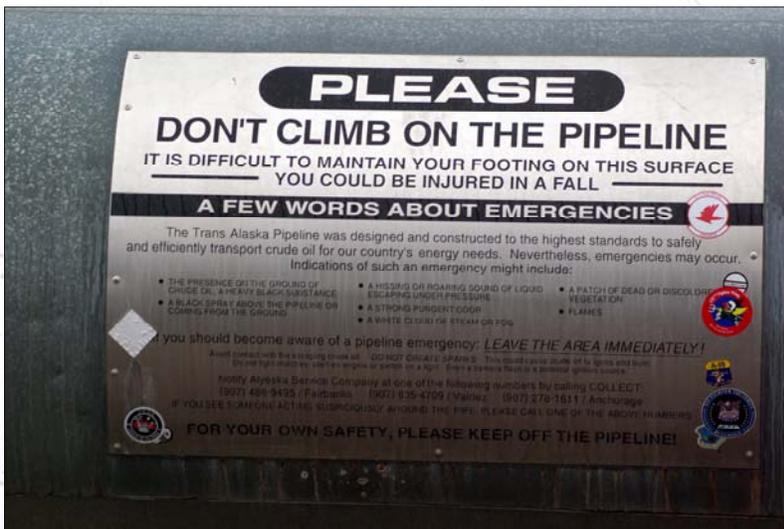
A Public Notice of Material Sales for two applications from APSC was published on June 3, 2009 in the Anchorage Daily News and Valdez Star. This Notice is being published to advertise the correct amount of material applied for in OMS 7-1M which is 40,000 cy, and 9,000 cy from OMS 3-1.1. The notice may be viewed on the ADNR website at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/pub-notfrm.htm> under Public Notices, Notice of Material Sales, dated 06/03/2009.

Any comments, objections, or expressions of interest concerning these proposed actions must be received in writing by the SPCO by 4:30 p.m. July 2, 2009. If no significant changes are required to the Preliminary Finding and Decision, it will be issued as the Final Decision after July 3, 2009 and the material sale contracts will be issued to the applicant.

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## JPO Welcomes OCC Deputy Federal Coordinator to the JPO Office

This June the newly announced Deputy Federal Coordinator for the Office of the Federal Coordinator (OFC), Vice Admiral Thomas Barrett, USCG (Ret.), will have an office at the JPO. The OFC was established by Congress in 2004 to assist with the "marketization" of Alaska's abundant North Slope natural gas supplies. Admiral Barrett joins Environmental Engineer Christa Gunn as part of Alaska's OFC field office. He previously resided in Alaska for 14 years, including serving as the Coast Guard Commander from 1999 to 2002. Admiral Barrett previously served as the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Transportation, serving as DOT's chief operating officer. In his new position Admiral Barrett will work closely with the Federal Coordinator, Drue Pearce, to direct the activities and authorities vested in the OFC and to manage the Alaska field office. Welcome Admiral Barrett!



Words of wisdom: located on Steese Hwy, outside of Fairbanks.



## 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*