

# Coming Down the Pipe



## News from the Joint Pipeline Office

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### Alyeska prepares for first planned summer shutdown of TAPS

This summer Alyeska Pipeline Services Company (APSC) will perform two planned shutdowns of the TAPS to perform important repairs. The first shutdown will take place on June 20-21. During the shutdown two pipe tees at Pump Station 3 will be removed. PS03 is one of three pump stations that are, at present, upgraded and operational as part of APSC's strategic reconfiguration (SR) of the TAPS. The "Tees" are T-shaped pipe segments that allowed APSC staff to divert crude oil between the original "legacy" pipe (including the manifold building) and reconfigured "new" pipe. Once removed, the "Tee" segments will be replaced with elbow pipes, permanently cutting off any circulation to the old legacy pipe.

Another significant project taking place at PS03 and scheduled for the June shutdown is



Photo above shows APSC workers working with the air skates to maneuver a wood prop for the M-2 valve replacement through an opening cut in the manifold building. Photo courtesy of Justin Selvik/JPO

the replacement of the mainline (M2) valve. In order to replace the 65,000 lb valve, APSC personnel needed to cut a hole in the manifold building. The old valve will be removed with the use of an air skate. An air skate is essentially a platform or plates placed beneath a heavy object prior to moving. Air skates use compressed air to lift the platform so that an object can be moved.



One of two "Tee" joints to be removed during the June 20 shutdown. Photo courtesy of Justin Selvik/JPO

Ron Abernathy, the BLM Office Lead in the JPO's Fairbanks office, is responsible for coordinating with APSC in advance of planned shutdowns. During the shutdown Ron will be present at the Fairbanks Emergency Operations Center (FEOC). In addition to Ron a number of other JPO staff will monitor the shutdown from different locations. Doug Lalla, a geophysicist with BLM based out of Anchorage, will monitor the shutdown from APSC's operations and control center (OCC) in Anchorage.

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**Alyeska airboats provide greater response capacity in Alaska's inland waterways—by Bill Haese, JPO/ADEC**

Becky Spiegel and Bill Haese of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and Bonnie Friedman a contract employee with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) observed airboat training on the Salcha River and an equipment deployment on the Chatanika River on June 10 and 11, 2009.

The airboat training involved four brand new airboats purchased by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC). The boats are Air Rangers from American Airboat Corporation. The Air Rangers have many custom features giving them greater capability to operate in Alaskan waters in a response capacity. Boat operators receive hands-on training as part of a specialized training program adopted by APSC. Each boat is painted a unique color to facilitate identification both on the water and from the air and to make communications with onshore, airborne, or other passing responders more efficient.

The equipment deployment on the Chatanika River involved two task forces which used airboats, jet boats, land vehicles and 32 foot and 24 foot spill response trailers to mobilize, deploy boom, deploy a mega secure dam, and set up a decontamination site in response to a simulated 2000 gallon spill near Containment Site 7-20. The objective was to prevent oil from reaching the Chatanika River. The exercise was unique and challenging because it took place at a remote location which had never been used for training or drills in the past.



**Congress Proclaims June 10, 2009 as National Pipeline Safety Day**

On June 9, 2009 the U.S. Congress declared June 10 National Pipeline Safety Day. Resolutions to that effect were passed by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The House resolution, sponsored by U.S. Representative Rick Larsen (Washington), marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the June 10, 2009 explosion of a hazardous liquid pipeline in Bellingham, WA that took three lives and caused millions of dollars in damages. In response to the tragedy Congress passed the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 and the Pipeline Inspection, Protections, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006.

Additional information regarding these resolutions is available online:

Congressman Larsen's press release on House Resolution 484 is available at:

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/wa02\\_larsen/OpEd\\_061009.shtml](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/wa02_larsen/OpEd_061009.shtml)

Senators Pat Murray & Maria Cantwell Press Release on the Senate Resolution is available at:

<http://murray.senate.gov/news.cfm?id=314189>

**Shutdown (continued from pg. 1)**

BLM engineers Tom Finger and John Governale will be on site at PS03. Also at PS03 from the JPO will be Justin Selvik. Justin works in the compliance section of the state pipeline coordinator's office within the JPO. Justin will observe activities at the station and is working closely with Louis Kozisek, a state engineer employed with the JPO.

In the Interior, Shawn Swanson and Reid Olson, from the Fairbanks office, will be onsite for the shutdown at Pump Station 8. Shawn and Reid will monitor valve stem and seal replacements in the manifold building. These valves are being worked in preparation for installation of a pig launcher at the station, which will take place during the July 2009 shutdown.

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(T) APSC Air Ranger boat; (Bottom L) boom deployed on Chatanika River; (Bottom R) Red Air Ranger boat—photos courtesy of Bill Haese, JPO/ADEC

## Out in the Field – the Lease Compliance Team within DNR’s State Pipeline Coordinator’s office begins a busy summer

The lease compliance section of the state pipeline coordinator’s office performs oversight for all SPCO jurisdictional pipeline rights-of-way (ROW) leases under state statutes AS 38.35 (The Right-of-Way Leasing Act). In addition to the TAPS, the compliance team monitors common carrier pipelines on the North Slope and Kenai Peninsula. In early June Ann Wright performed a surveillance on the Nikiski Alaska Pipeline (operated by Tesoro). Ann flew the majority of the ROW, which extends from the Kenai Peninsula to Anchorage. She drove segments of the road accessible portion of the ROW to view crossings at Daniel’s Creek and the Swanson River, as well as inspecting mainline valve two. In early June Justin Selvik observed activities in preparation for the planned shutdown of the TAPS. He will be onsite at PS03 on June 20-21 for the shutdown to monitor the isolation of the legacy equipment from the pipeline and tank farm. PS03 was the second of two pump stations undergoing strategic reconfiguration to modernize mainline pumps along the TAPS. Sandra Pierce monitored in line inspections (ILIs) on the Alpine pipelines, operated by ConocoPhillips. (ILI’s involve running a detection pig to check for defects and anomalies within a pipeline). Sandra also observed a pipeline replacement project on the Kuparuk Extension line and participated in a helicopter over flight to the Badami Weir to observe the performance of recent work to repair the weir structure, conducted by BP.



*Mainline 2 valve, Tesoro’s Nikiski Pipeline—photo courtesy of Ann Wright, JPO/SPCO*

## JPO’s fire marshal liaison to extend annual safety inspections to additional common carrier pipelines

John Cawthon is the state liaison to the JPO representing the Department of Public Safety, State Fire Marshal’s office. Every year John conducts annual fire, life and safety inspections, pursuant to the requirements of the international fire code, of the TAPS facilities as well as common carrier pipelines located on the North Slope and the Kenai Peninsula. Specifically John’s inspections cover facilities at Endicott, Badami, Alpine, Milne Point, and three pipelines in Kuparuk (which includes the Kuparuk, Kuparuk Extension and Oliktok Pipelines) on the North Slope. In addition he performs inspections on the Nikiski Alaska Pipeline, operated by Tesoro, and the Kenai Kachemak Pipeline, operated by Marathon Pipe Line. Starting this summer Cawthon’s annual inspection trips will increase significantly. John will conduct summer inspections at Kuparuk and on the Nuiqsut natural gas pipeline. During the fall he will inspect the Kenai Kachemak line before heading back to the slope to conduct a building inspection for the new Liberty facility.

## JPO bids farewell to departing Roy Bobbitt

Roy Bobbitt, an operations and maintenance specialist with BLM and valued member of the JPO team, based out of Valdez, left the JPO this week to assume duties with the Minerals Management Service (MMS) in Camareo, California, where he will conduct regulatory compliance work on offshore drilling platforms. Roy previously worked in that office before coming to the JPO. Roy was with the BLM/JPO for 6 and 1/2 years. While at BLM Roy monitored portions of the TAPS traversing federal ROW land. He also spent considerable time at the Valdez Marine Terminal. During his time in Alaska Roy was involved in several projects including the tank inspections, refurbishing of the berths, communications site inspections, PS 12 demobilization, CKV 192 replacement and many more projects. Roy also helped out the Glennallen Field office with the inspection of AT&Ts fiber optic installation from Glennallen to 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*