

Coming Down the Pipe



News from the Joint Pipeline Office

2 July 2009

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JPO Staff Observes TAPS Shutdown

Over the weekend of June 20-21 Alyeska Pipeline Services Company (APSC) successfully concluded the first of two planned shutdowns of the TAPS to perform important repairs. During the shutdown two pipe tees at Pump Station 3 were removed and the original "legacy" pipe was isolated. This was a significant landmark for APSC as the recently concluded shutdown puts the company on the home stretch for completing Strategic Reconfiguration (SR) of the TAPS (PS01 will be the last pump station to undergo SR).

Justin Selvik, a Natural Resource Specialist with the JPO/



Photos: **(top)** installation of suction elbow (isolates "legacy" pipe); **(upper left)** Alyeska workers practice moving M2 valve model on air skates through opening of manifold building at PS03; **(bottom left)** displayed cleaning pig located at TAPS viewing facility north of Fairbanks.

SPCO was at PS03 for the shut down, He said, "This was a timed event but I did not get a sense of urgency in how APSC's staff performed during the shutdown. The planning and preparation was very thorough, especially with the M2 valve work." One of the major goals of the shutdown was to replace the 65,000 lb M2 valve. The valve is used to bypass the mainline when maintenance and inspection pigs come through. JPO/BLM engineers John Governale and Tom Finger also monitored this event. They observed that the new pipe segments, like the suction elbow (SEE photo above), were nearly perfect fits and that Alyeska deserves credit for its planning and for conducting the smoothest shutdown they remember observing.

APSC prepared for the valve replacement by cutting an opening in the manifold building to access the valve and conduct practice exercises for removing the old valve through the use of 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.

Further south, Ron Abernathy, Office Lead for the JPO's Fairbanks office, monitored the shutdown from the Fairbanks Emergency Operations Center (FEOC). Shawn Swanson and Reid Olson, from the same office, were onsite for the shutdown at Pump Station 8. They monitored valve stem and seal replacement work in the manifold building. The valve work was done in preparation for installation of a pig launcher at the station, which will take place during the July 2009 shutdown.



Image shows one of deployment areas for the MegaSecur dam during spill exercise. The dam is designed as a quick response tool to impede flow of oil or oily water and to "pond" the flow for skimming or diversion into a containment area or structure. Photo taken by Bill Haese/JPO.

Valdez Drill

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC) conducted a major drill at the Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT) on June 25, 2009. The drill was based on a land response scenario to a spill of 1200 barrels of oil. The drill tested initial response actions, containment actions, decontamination setup, and integration of VMT operations personnel into response efforts. Specific tactics included construction of and pumping through of a temporary pipeline, placement of a MegaSecur dam, and settlement pond booming. The drill was observed and evaluated by Ron Doyel and Bill Haese from the JPO.

WSLCA Summer Meeting July 19-23 in Anchorage

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust will host the annual summer meeting of the Western State's Land Commissioner's Association (WSLCA) in Anchorage this July 19-23, 2009. The member states in this prestigious organization manage millions of acres of state and school trust lands throughout the western United States and Alaska. Trust lands are managed for the benefit of public schools and revenues are produced by sound, careful natural resource development. Oil & Gas, mining and minerals development, alternative energy options, hunting and fishing and other recreational opportunities are assets used to produce revenue that is channeled to the respective state's public school fund accounts. Wind, hydrokinetic, and solar energy technologies are rapidly expanding components of a growing portfolio of alternative energy projects in many western states.

The July event will take place at The Hotel Captain Cook, in downtown Anchorage. Among the delegates will be five land commissioners from New Mexico, Texas, Washington, South Dakota, and Arkansas. Additional information on this event, including the agenda, is available online at: <http://midnightsun2009.com/>.

For additional information please contact Rick Thompson (269-9559) or Clark Cox (269-8565).

News from the SPCO/Right-of-Way Section

The State Pipeline Coordinator's Office issued Land Use Permit LAS 27228 to Alyeska Pipeline Service Company to repair a guide bank and bridge abutments on the Tsaina River at TAPS Access Road 7 APL-2. The permit runs from June 17, 2009 to June 16, 2010.

The SPCO issued five Land Use Permits to APSC to store mineral material and non-hazardous materials in the following active OMS sites: LAS 27192 - OMS 35-1.2; LAS 27193 - OMS 49-3; LAS 27194 - OMS 75-1R; OMS 27195 - OMS 70-0.0; and LAS 27196 - OMS 63-4.

The Amendment to Stipulation 3.2.1.1 of the RIGHT-OF-WAY LEASE FOR THE TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE, ADL 63574 was executed June 16, 2009. This amendment modifies the language of Stipulation 3.2.1.1 under the authority of AS 38.35.015 to add "UL-142 Steel Aboveground Tanks for Flammable and Combustible Liquids."



JPO Management Team

STATE TEAM MEMBERS

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DNR Liaison

Ron Doyel (ADEC)

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Ray Elleven (ADOL/WD)

DOL Liaison

Dennis Gnath (ADF&G)

ADF&G Liaison

John Reeves (ADOT&PF)

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John Cawthon (ADPS/SFMO)

ADPS/SFMO Liaison

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