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Coming Down the Pipe

News from the Joint Pipeline Office

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Klutina River ROW Equipment Deployment Drill

On Saturday, August 30 representatives from the Joint Pipeline Office monitored an equipment deployment drill on the Klutina River. This exercise followed a successful effort by Alyeska's Source Control and Repair Team on August 25 that simulated a slow leak of the TAPS beneath the river.

The deployment was intended to respond to a hypothetical report of oil in the Klutina River. The objective of the exercise was to test the ability of personnel from the Glennallen Response Base (GRB) to deploy to the scene of the hypothetical spill and prepare a containment response.

The August 30 deployment took place at the mouth of the Klutina River where it enters the Copper River. Responders used a boom vane and air boat to deploy boom around a small island at the confluence of the two rivers. The deployment drill took around 10 hours and according to Rhonda Williams, an Operations & Maintenance Specialist with JPO/BLM, the exercise went well.

On August 25 representatives from the Joint Pipeline Office monitored a successful spill drill conducted by Alyeska at the Klutina River, near the community of Copper Center. Drill responders

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Air boat used to assist in deployment of containment boom at confluence of Klutina and Copper Rivers. Image courtesy of Rhonda Williams, JPO/BLM

TAPS Lease Amendment Approved for Dietrich River Guidebank Extension

The legal description of the TAPS Lease was amended September 8, 2009, to include land located below the ordinary high water mark of the Dietrich River, 38 miles north of Coldfoot, Alaska, and 50 miles south of Pump Station 4 at pipeline milepost 2008. DNR Commissioner Tom Irwin signed the amendment and a Commissioner's Decision confirming that the proposed guidebank extension and the amendment serve to protect the pipeline and state resources. The

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Helicopter is one of several response vehicles used by Alyeska during spill drills. Image courtesy of Rhonda Williams, JPO/BLM

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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.

U. S. Coast Guard to hold inaugural Alaska oil spill awareness seminar in Valdez on September 29, 2009

Commander Darryl Verfaillie, Captain of the Port for Prince William Sound, will host the first ever Alaska Oil Spill Awareness Seminar at the Valdez Civic Center on September 29, 2009. The seminar is designed as part of an outreach effort to provide key leaders, community stakeholders, industry representatives and journalists with an advanced understanding of oil spill response activities. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Valdez will partner with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Alyeska's Ship Escort Response Vessel System, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, Spiltec, SeaRiver Maritime, CHADUX, Tesoro, and the Law Office of Kevin Beauchamp Smith to present and discuss various topics, including: oil chemistry, multi-agency cooperative plans, control and containment, response/recovery options and protection of sensitive areas. This seminar is designed as part of an outreach effort to provide key leaders, community stakeholders, industry representatives and journalists with an advanced understanding of oil spill response activities. MSU Valdez intends to make this an annual event to advance the education and understanding of oil spill response and prevention activities. For more information, please contact Lieutenant Matthew York at 907-835-7214 or by e-mail at:

matthew.d.york@uscg.mil

DOLWD Electrical Inspector Calls on PS08 and Petro Star Metering

In August Dan O'Barr, a state electrical engineer with the Department of Labor and member of the JPO, traveled to PS08 and to the Petro Star Metering building at the Valdez Marine Terminal to inspect electrical work that is part of two Alyeska work projects.



Petro Star metering bldg. Image taken by Dan O'Barr, ADOLWD/JPO

Alyeska recently removed the manifold building and installed a new pig launcher at PS08. Part of the modifications to this station called for a new power system. The old system was designed and powered to handle the station's pumps. PS08 no longer pumps oil.

The Petro Star Refinery, owned by a subsidiary of ASRC, was damaged in a fire last winter. The refinery is expected to be operational in October. Petro Star metering measures oil removed from an off-take point on the TAPS near the Valdez terminal. Alyeska is making upgrades to the metering building to correct deficiencies and complete installation hook ups. The DOLWD electrical inspector conducts electrical inspections of new construction and modification of existing electrical systems and consults with JPO staff and Alyeska on electrical issues.

Dan determined that there were no violations during his inspections at either PS08 or the Petro Star metering building.



Containment boom is anchored and deployed during Klutina equipment deployment drill. Image courtesy of Rhonda Williams, JPO/BLM

Klutina drill (con't. from pg. 1)

were faced with the scenario of deploying equipment to deal with a hypothetical leak in the 48-inch Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) pipeline – below the river bed. The earlier drill called for deploying personnel, temporary pipe and water bladders to the spill site. In the event of a real leak the remote valves on either side of the river crossing would have been shut down. Water would then have been pumped into the upstream gate valve. Water introduced into the isolated segment of the pipeline would displace oil in the line to eliminate or substantially dilute oil leaking from the pipeline.

Becky Spiegel and Bill Haese, with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and Mike Wrabetz, Rhonda Williams and Bonnie Friedman, with the Bureau of Land Management, represented the JPO on the August 25 drill. Rhonda Williams also attended the August 30 deployment drill.



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Dietrich River lease amendment (con't. from pg. 1)

above ground pipe in this area is protected by a rip rap guidebank approximately 800 feet long that was installed in 1985. Progressive erosion upstream of the guidebank raised concerns about pipeline integrity. The river is currently about 90 feet from the pipeline centerline. This project will extend the existing guidebank approximately 300 feet upstream to protect the pipeline. A gravel core and Class III rip rap will be keyed into the bank on the upstream end. The state lands involved are located within Township 33 North, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska.

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Crews from Glennallen Response Base laying out containment boom during equipment deployment drill on the Klutina River on Aug. 30, 2009. Image from Rhonda Williams/BLM



JPO Management Team

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Mike Thompson (DNR/SPCO)
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FEDERAL TEAM MEMBERS

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Jeffrey Walker (DOI/MMS)
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USACE Liaison

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