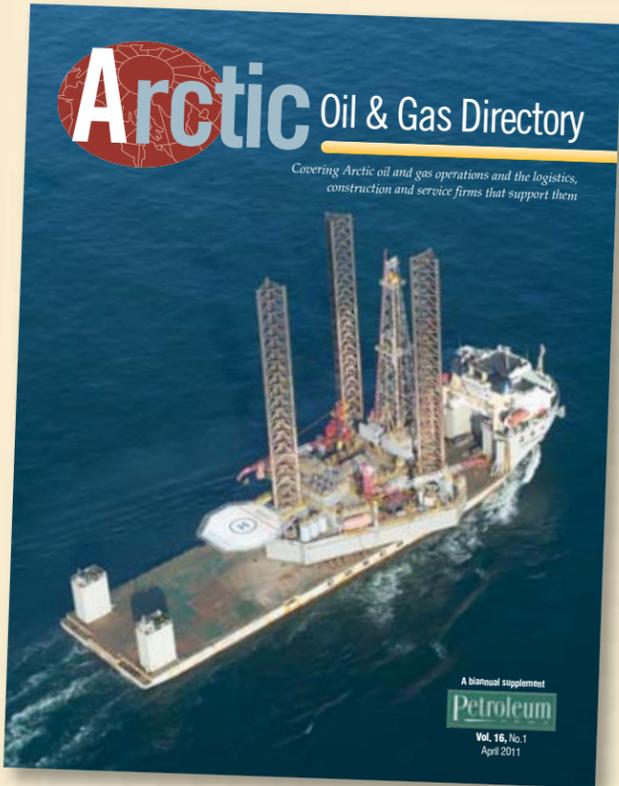




page 4 Rep. Bill Stoltze: Concern about economy drives Finance co-chair

Latest Arctic Directory released



Twice a year Petroleum News publishes the Arctic Oil & Gas Directory magazine, the latest of which is enclosed. It is distributed in Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Norway and Russia.

\$549M for CPAI as high prices in 1Q help offset production decline

With higher commodity prices offsetting continued production declines, ConocoPhillips earned \$549 million in Alaska in the first quarter of the year, up 6 percent from 2010.

Companywide, ConocoPhillips earned \$3.02 billion in the first quarter, up from \$2.1 billion in the first quarter of 2010. In the Lower 48, the company earned \$314 million during the first quarter, up from \$240 million earned during the same period last year.

The Houston major produced 214,000 barrels of liquids per day in Alaska during the quarter, down 13 percent from 247,000 bpd produced in the first quarter of 2010, and 67 million cubic feet per day of gas, down from 94 million cubic feet per day last year.

The company said maintenance, including a four-day shut-

see CONOCO EARNINGS page 18

Petroleum News publisher turns oil scout for new insider report

Anchorage-based PNA, which publishes the weekly Alaska oil and gas newspaper Petroleum News and a news bulletin service for breaking news between weekly papers, has introduced an insider news service called PN's Forward Visibility Alaska.

Produced by PN publisher and executive editor Kay Cashman, Forward Visibility combines insider and public information from numerous sources to help predict what's going to happen in the months and years ahead in various sectors of Alaska's oil and gas industry.



KAY CASHMAN

"What I do is similar to what an oil patch scout does. The difference is, I have a lot of confidential sources who are not accessible to company reps; plus at Petroleum News we regularly pick

see FORWARD VISIBILITY page 18

EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

Heavy oil starts

BP puts test horizontal well into operation in the Ugnu at Milne Point

By ALAN BAILEY
Petroleum News

Following a lengthy delay after the completion of a \$100 million heavy oil test facility on Alaska's North Slope, BP has now put a heavy oil test well into operation — at 6 a.m. on April 22 a change in torque in the well's down-hole pump finally signaled the flow of oil through the well, something of an historic event for the North Slope oil industry, Eric West, manager of BP's Alaska renewal team, told Petroleum News April 27. For a couple of days the well had been producing brine, injected into the oil reservoir during the drilling of

see HEAVY OIL page 10



Heavy oil produced from a BP test well at Milne Point S pad in 2008. The oil is too viscous to flow up a well unaided.

ALAN BAILEY

EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

Exxon's Thomson warning

Permit delay 'will directly impact' start-up of Alaska North Slope gas project

By WESLEY LOY
For Petroleum News

ExxonMobil is suggesting its Point Thomson project on Alaska's eastern North Slope might not make its projected start-up date due to further delays in securing a federal wetlands permit.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is the lead agency reviewing ExxonMobil's project, is now running a year behind on its original estimate for concluding an environmental impact statement and rendering a permit decision.

ExxonMobil had pledged to construct facilities and begin production from Point Thomson by year-end 2014. But that timeline now looks questionable.

"ExxonMobil can confirm that the revised schedule for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Corps has attributed the schedule slips to such factors as completing certain studies, weighing input on the EIS from other agencies, and considering ExxonMobil's project design changes.

Record of Decision for the Point Thomson Project Environmental Impact Statement will directly impact timing of project site work and ultimately start-up," company spokeswoman Margaret Ross said in an April 21 e-mail to Petroleum News.

Decision delayed to August 2012

This would appear to be the first time

see EXXON WARNING page 19

NATURAL GAS

Korea eyes Arctic gas

Execs from Korea Gas visit NWT to investigate prospects of LNG shipments to Asia

By GARY PARK
For Petroleum News

Korea Gas, the world's largest importer of LNG, is quietly scouting the Canadian Arctic amid speculation that the state-owned company has plans other than shipping natural gas by pipeline to southern North American markets.

Chad Yeng, general manager of Kogas Canada, told the Globe and Mail that if the proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline gets sidelined his company is open to the possibility of converting the gas to liquefied natural gas for shipment to Asian markets.

Kogas has already taken a minor stake in one Arctic venture, paying C\$20 million upfront for a 20 percent stake in a Mackenzie Delta gas field owned

by MGM Energy and committing to another C\$10 million if the resources are either commercialized under the Mackenzie Gas Project or some other venture.

As well, Kogas is participating in a joint venture with Encana, agreeing to invest US\$1.1 billion over five years to develop gas reserves in northeastern British Columbia.

It is also studying the possible construction of an LNG export terminal on the British Columbia coast in partnership with Royal Dutch Shell and Japan's Mitsubishi.

Visit earlier this year

The Arctic LNG scheme has so far reportedly

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North America's source for oil and gas news

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Primary, secondary production from offshore expected to yield 10 million barrels; onshore core area will add another 58 million

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Weak economic recovery, low gas prices, force sidelining of aggressive production goals, restoring liquids to portfolio, JV hunt



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Unit would take in ARCO Stinson No. 1 discovery well; Donkel plans to drill new exploration well or re-enter Stinson by August 2015

NATURAL GAS

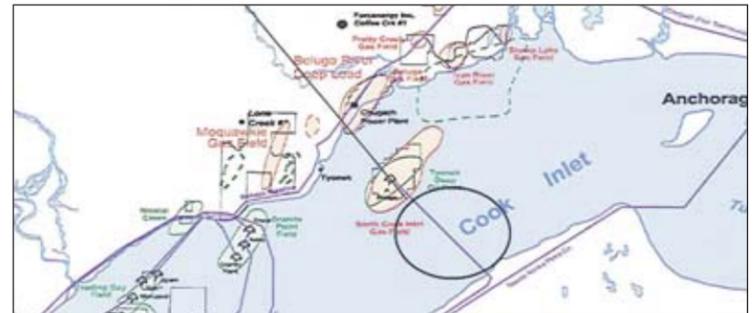
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Fairbanks, North Pole, Delta Junction, Valdez concerned about military consumption, population, total benefits, construction costs

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Janus Methanol chairman suggests converting gas to methanol on the Slope and converting the methanol to gasoline in Valdez



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Twin Tyonek subsea pipelines in Alaska's Cook Inlet need repairs and protection from erosion; work will involve divers, sand bags

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Alaska - Mackenzie Rig Report

Rig Owner/Rig Type Rig No. Rig Location/Activity Operator or Status

Alaska Rig Status

North Slope - Onshore

Doyon Drilling			
Dreco 1250 UE	14 (SCR/TD)	Prudhoe Bay Rig Maintenance	BP
Sky Top Brewster NE-12	15 (SCR/TD)	Kuparuk 2L-322	ConocoPhillips
Dreco 1000 UE	16 (SCR/TD)	Prudhoe Bay MPF-10/OH	BP
Dreco D2000 UEBD	19 (SCR/TD)	Alpine CD3-128	ConocoPhillips
AC Mobile	25	Prudhoe Bay K-10C	BP
OIME 2000	141 (SCR/TD)	Alpine 2K-08a	ConocoPhillips
TSM 7000	Arctic Wolf #2	In Nisku, AB	Available

Nabors Alaska Drilling			
Trans-ocean rig	CDR-1 (CT)	Stacked, Prudhoe Bay	Available
AC Coil Hybrid	CDR-2	Kuparuk 2k-19A	ConocoPhillips
Dreco 1000 UE	2-ES	Prudhoe Bay Stacked out	Available
Mid-Continental U36A	3-S	Prudhoe Bay Stacked out	Available
Oilwell 700 E	4-ES (SCR)	Milne Point MPF-65	BP
Dreco 1000 UE	7-ES (SCR/TD)	Prudhoe Bay DS 13-09	BP
Dreco 1000 UE	9-ES (SCR/TD)	Has been released by Brooks Range Petroleum	Available
Oilwell 2000 Hercules	14-E (SCR)	Prudhoe Bay Stacked out	Available
Oilwell 2000 Hercules	16-E (SCR/TD)	Prudhoe Bay Stacked out	Available
Oilwell 2000	17-E (SCR/TD)	Prudhoe Bay Stacked out	Available
Emsco Electro-hoist -2	18-E (SCR)	Stacked, Deadhorse	Available
Emsco Electro-hoist Varco TDS3	22-E (SCR/TD)	Stacked, Milne Point	Available
Emsco Electro-hoist	28-E (SCR)	Stacked, Deadhorse	Available
Emsco Electro-hoist Canrig 1050E	27-E (SCR-TD)	Stacked at Point Thompson	Available
Academy AC electric Canrig	105-E (SCR/TD)	Stacked at Deadhorse	Available
Academy AC electric Heli-Rig	106-E (SCR/TD)	Stacked at Deadhorse	Available
OIME 2000	245-E	Oliktok Point OP 10-09	ENI

Nordic Calista Services			
Superior 700 UE	1 (SCR/CTD)	Prudhoe Bay Drill Site 6-2	BP
Superior 700 UE	2 (SCR/CTD)	Prudhoe Bay Well Drill Site 2-12C	BP
Ideco 900	3 (SCR/TD)	Kuparuk Well Ignik Sikumi #1	ConocoPhillips

North Slope - Offshore

BP (rig built & being assembled by Parker)			
Top drive, supersized	Liberty rig	Endicott SDI for Liberty oil field	BP

Nabors Alaska Drilling			
OIME 1000	19-E (SCR)	Oooguruk ODSN-19E	Pioneer Natural Resources
Oilwell 2000	33-E	Prudhoe Bay Stacked out	Available

Cook Inlet Basin - Onshore

Aurora Well Service			
Franks 300 Srs. Explorer III	AWS 1	Stacked out on the west side of Cook Inlet near Tyonek	Available

Cook Inlet Energy			
Atlas Copco RD20 34		Undergoing winterization at W. McArthur River Unit	Cook Inlet Energy

Doyon Drilling			
TSM 7000	Arctic Fox #1	Beluga Stacked	Available

Marathon Oil Co. (Inlet Drilling Alaska labor contractor)			
Taylor	Glacier 1	Kenai Loop #1	Buccaneer Alaska

Nabors Alaska Drilling			
Continental Emsco E3000	273	Stacked, Kenai	Available
Franks	26	Stacked	Available
IDECO 2100 E	429E (SCR)	Stacked, removed from Osprey platform	Available
Rigmaster 850	129	Kenai Stacked out	Available

Rowan Companies			
AC Electric	68AC (SCR/TD)	Demobilizing and prepping to ship to Lower 48	Pioneer Natural Resources

Kuukpik			
	5	Demobilized from LEA #1 back to Kenai, prepare for Barrow mobilization	Linc Energy

Cook Inlet Basin - Offshore

Chevron (Nabors Alaska Drilling labor contract)			
	428	M-11 Steelhead Platform	Chevron

XTO Energy			
National 1320	A	Coil tubing cleanout planned off Platform A in the near future	XTO
National 110	C (TD)	Idle	XTO

Mackenzie Rig Status

Canadian Beaufort Sea

SDC Drilling Inc.			
SSDC CANMAR Island Rig #2	SDC	Set down at Roland Bay	Available

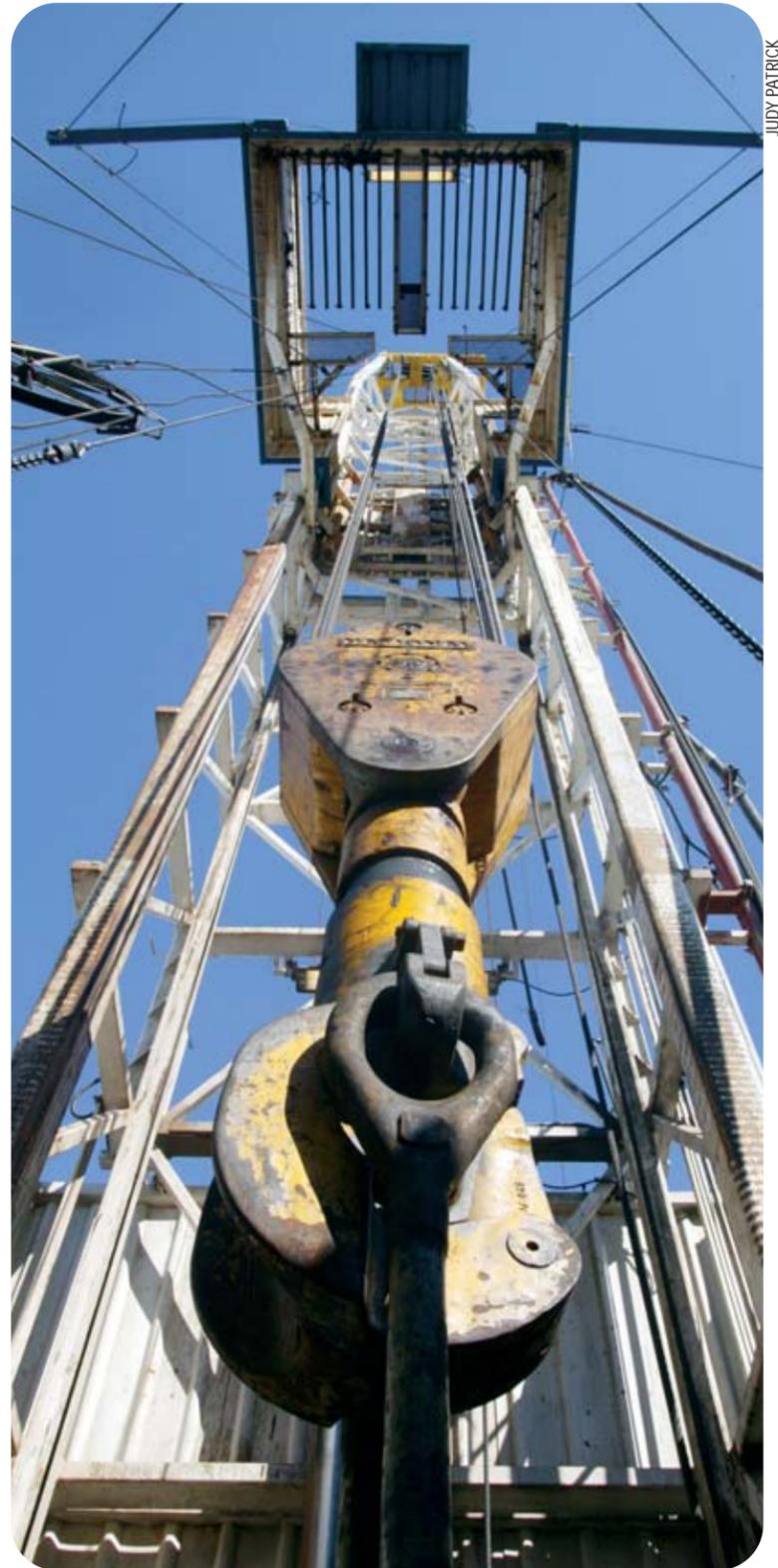
Central Mackenzie Valley

Akita/SAHTU			
Oilwell 500	51	Has left the NWT	MGM Energy Corp.

The Alaska - Mackenzie Rig Report as of April 28, 2011.
Active drilling companies only listed.

TD = rigs equipped with top drive units WO = workover operations
CT = coiled tubing operation SCR = electric rig

This rig report was prepared by Marti Reeve



JUDY PATRICK

Baker Hughes North America rotary rig counts*

	April 21	April 15	Year Ago
US	1,800	1,772	1,482
Canada	143	167	110
Gulf	27	26	52

Highest/Lowest		
US/Highest	4530	December 1981
US/Lowest	488	April 1999
Canada/Highest	558	January 2000
Canada/Lowest	29	April 1992

*Issued by Baker Hughes since 1944

The Alaska - Mackenzie Rig Report
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GOVERNMENT

Concerns about the economy drive Stoltze

Co-chair of House Finance says reduced flow in pipeline, workers losing jobs, companies leaving state, speak to need for tax change

By STEVE QUINN
For Petroleum News

Resource development costs money — be it oil, natural gas, or hydro — and any policy decision comes before the finance committees.

On the House of Representatives side, some of the state's heartier energy issues the last eight years have landed squarely before Rep. Bill Stoltze.

First elected in 2002, Stoltze has spent his entire tenure with the House serving on the finance committee.

He sat on the committee when the Legislature passed the Petroleum Production Tax, PPT, in 2006 under Frank Murkowski's administration.

He served as vice chair a year later when the Legislature rewrote the tax as former Gov. Sarah Palin's Alaska's

Clear and Equitable Share, ACES.

Now in his second term as co-chair for the finance committee, Stoltze oversaw hearings for House Bill 110, the governor's oil tax bill.

Stoltze held meetings almost twice daily, even taking the show on the road to Anchorage where leaders from Native corporations, among others, weighed in.

The bill passed the House but is stalled in the Senate, where it has produced some rancor between leading members of the House and Senate over differences about what, if any, changes should be made.

Stoltze, a Republican from Chugiak



REP. BILL STOLTZE

who has also spent 20 years as a legislative aide, sat down with Petroleum News to discuss the hearings and the progress on resource development during this session.

Petroleum News: The tax issue seems to have been at the forefront since 2005 when PPT was first passed and hasn't really died down since. What's your take on that?

Stoltze: I think it was outmoded and out of whack from what our current environment was during the Murkowski administration. None of these debates have been easy politically and they are all politically charged.

But where I'm at right now is probably more important than where we've been. I support the ACES revision.

I don't care how many people you trot in from the Department of Labor and how many studies you present or how many people say the oil industry is going huckly buckly.

It's kind of simplistic, but as my friend Lee Jordan, who ran the (Alaska) Star for 30 plus years, says, you can read all the crime statistics you want and hear how good things are, but when your reporter is murdered in your front parking lot as his was ...

You can have (Labor Commissioner) Click Bishop come and say our economy is rosy, but when I'm watching my neighbors out of work, seeing lack of production and watching companies send their equipment, their apparatus and their employees to North Dakota just to stay alive, you can read all the stats you want, but it seems counter intuitive to what's really going on.

Petroleum News: What went wrong with ACES? I know some folks believe it was a pile on.

Stoltze: It was a pile on. I'm one of the people who voted for it. I thought we were going to be looking at it as a starting point for negotiating (long-term) fiscal terms for a (large-diameter) gas line. I'll plead abject naïveté on that. I had better hopes for the process. It did get out of control. That's one I would take back. That's why I worked so hard on HB 110. I took that responsibility very seriously. It's not a slavish devotion. There are all kinds of pejorative, negative comments that have nothing to do with this. It's about a concern over Alaska's economy. I've seen the reactions some of my colleagues say, that we are trying to enrich the fat cats. It's not about that.

Petroleum News: What was your philosophy on collecting testimony? You went as far as taking hearings to Anchorage to hear from Native corporations.

Stoltze: They are a big sector of our

economy. There were accusations that I was doing a one-sided show. I didn't know what the ANCSA corporations were going to testify to.

I thought it was relevant to have a big sector of our business economy, our largest land owners, an economic engine of our state, to have a participation on an issue that is about Alaska's economy.

We had an open invitation for folks to testify. We had a lot of people from the industry testify. We didn't have a hand-picked list. I know there was a lot of eye rolling by the House Democrats, that it was rigged deal and one-sided.

What's the other side? Who is against Alaska's economy?

If this was a drug bill, would I feel compelled to bring people who are drug dealers or maybe drug habituating prostitutes to tell the other side why you had to have legal drugs?

The folks who came out and testified in Anchorage, they were big numbers of oilfield support folks. There was great concern about our economy, small business people. They are the ones who feel the pinch first when things are cut back or when things aren't happening.

Petroleum News: You also gave the minority's consultant Rick Harper a lot of time one afternoon.

Stoltze: It was way beyond what we had scheduled; we went as long as he needed to go. I asked the House Minority, Les (Gara) and David (Guttenberg, another committee member) is there was anybody you want to bring forward to testify, I want to include them. They said can we get a consultant? Well, I wasn't hiring any consultants. There are certainly a lot of people with strong opinions; there was a repeated invitation.

I was trying to have a real fair process. I wanted to provide a fair forum for the issues that were laid out. You'll notice I didn't debate that much in the process. I had some opinions.

Did I get into the minutiae as much, no. I just tried to be the referee of a fair process.

Petroleum News: What else did you learn?

Stoltze: During the hearings, Admiral (Tom) Barrett's testimony (on behalf of Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.) was very sobering. Trying to guess what the physics of the pipeline are and what the stress points are, well if you are flying an airplane you don't want to know how far you can go and still turn back. You want to have a lot of safety factors in there. That's how I feel about the oil industry. I don't want to find out how far we can push them. One of my col-

see STOLTZE Q&A page 15

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Encana beats a retreat

Weak economic recovery, low gas prices, force sidelining of aggressive production goals, restoring liquids to portfolio, JV hunt

By GARY PARK
For Petroleum News

A year of grumbling and sniping by analysts and investors at Encana's high-risk strategy of doubling its per-share output by 2015 culminated April 19 when North America's second largest natural gas producer took a sharp course correction.

Chief Executive Officer Randy Eresman reluctantly conceded that raising the company's volumes to about 6 billion cubic feet per day was no longer feasible amid a grim outlook for gas prices in a market saturated with shale gas and a sluggish economic recovery.

The mood turned sour at Encana's annual meeting later that day when a shareholder challenged Eresman's compensation of \$10.2 million in 2010, noting that Brian Ferguson, chief executive officer of Cenovus Energy, the pure oil sands player spun off from Encana in late 2009, pocketed just over half that amount.

Encana Chairman David O'Brien was left to make the case for the defense, arguing that Cenovus is simply a Canadian company, while Encana has more than 50 percent of its assets in the United States.

"So we compete on a North American basis and that's a big change over the last several years," he said. "And one of our challenges ... is to compete with the best and brightest in the U.S. So we have to peg our compensation to what we describe as the 50th percentile across North America."

Whatever the merits of O'Brien's logic or the fact that holders of more than 90 percent of Encana shares endorsed the compensation policies, the exchange was an uncomfortable moment for a company accustomed to collecting plaudits.

Signs of trouble building

The signs of trouble have been building over the past 18 months, forcing Encana to retreat from its production goal.

Eresman insisted the target stands. It's just the timetable that has moved, although he wouldn't say by how much.

When the plan was unveiled a year ago, Encana expected gas to trade at \$6-\$7 per thousand cubic feet on the New York Mercantile Exchange over the long-term. It is currently stuck around \$4.

The per-share doubling of volumes was predicated on total production rising by 14.4 percent a year over the five years. That has now been adjusted to 10 percent, undercutting Eresman's insistence that Encana's

industry-leading technologies and strategies resulted in lower operating costs than most analysts realized and that commodity prices would bounce back.

Instead, he now admits that a "full North American economic recovery did not occur as quickly as we expected and natural gas prices retreated further at a time when it was clear natural gas supply was growing rapidly."

The result has been a "major impact on Encana's near-term ability to generate cash flow (which in turn) has impacted our program economics and long-term development planning" — the same factors that hang menacingly over smaller gas-weighted companies and proposals for develop Arctic gas in Alaska and the Northwest Territories.

Full scramble mode

The company is now in full scramble mode to find ways to accelerate development of its vast holdings, with contingent resources estimated at 56.5 trillion cubic feet, 7.5 million net acres and 23,000 drilling locations, by attracting third-party offshore investors, opening export routes to Asia and promoting gas as a transportation fuel in North America. Most surprising of all, it is turning the clock back to its days as a combined oil and gas producer.

Its first-quarter earnings were a dismal \$78 million compared with \$1.5 billion a year earlier and cash flow was down 19 percent, despite a 4 percent increase in production to 3.34 billion cubic feet equivalent per day.

The early signs of discontent surfaced late last year when RBC Dominion Securities analyst Greg Parady recommended Encana should formally abandon its high-growth ambitions.

He said Encana should "return to a very successful game plan whereby it delivered an annual return of approximately 10 percent, consisting of a combination of single-digit production growth, dividend yield, and share buybacks as its free cash flow allowed."

Parady said RBC's neutral stance towards Encana "has everything to do with a natural gas market that is likely to be structurally oversupplied for the next few years. Even in the absence of gas price risk, high-growth rate strategies tend to raise execution risk



RANDY ERESMAN

and are often not rewarded by the market as a result."

Goldman Sachs urged investors to sell their shares and Macquarie Capital Markets forecast shareholders would be hard-pressed "warming up to (Encana's) market strategy" if they saw profitability being squeezed.

More time and money into liquids

Faced with oil prices heading in one direction and gas prices going the other way Encana has opted to put more time and money into crude oil and natural gas liquids, although it faces a long haul, given that liquids currently account for only 23,000 barrels per day, or 4 percent of its production.

However, it plans to transfer \$1 billion, or about 21 percent of its 2011 capital budget, into liquids and is committed to "significantly increasing our liquids weighting over the next five years," drawing on 1.7 million acres of liquids-rich lands in British Columbia, Alberta, Colorado and Michigan.

Laura Lau, an energy and resources fund manager at Sentry Select Capital in Toronto, said the diversification shows the risk Encana took in unloading oil assets and "putting all its eggs in one basket." She said Encana has also been slow to follow its peers in exploiting the byproducts of gas production.

Encana has also hired RBC Capital Markets and Jefferies & Co. to seek joint-venture and divestiture deals for selected assets in British Columbia's Horn River and Greater Sierra land as it steps up its efforts to divest unconventional shale gas holdings

by attracting Asian capital.

JV, farm-out deals

Movement on that front would model joint-venture and farm-out deals already negotiated with PetroChina and Korea Gas to develop its British Columbia and Alberta properties, which hinge on regulatory and corporate approval for the Apache-operated Kitimat LNG project, which could eventually export 1.4 billion cubic feet per day to Asia, with Encana as a 30 percent partner.

The PetroChina joint venture, which would see the stated-owned producer pay C\$5.4 billion to develop 50 percent of Encana's Cutbank Ridge assets, is waiting for a verdict by Canada's foreign investment review agency.

Confident that the Canadian government will ratify the Chinese offer, Eresman said that if all of PetroChina's investment was "reinvested in share purchases, there's a big chunk of growth right there."

To open new markets in North America, Encana is also making some headway in expanding the use of LNG and CNG as a transportation fuel.

It is introducing mobile LNG fueling stations for 150 of its fleet vehicles by the end of 2011 and for 200 heavy-duty trucks operated by California-based Heckmann Water Resources and also plans to build five plants over the next two years to produce LNG. ●

Contact Gary Park through publisher@petroleumnews.com

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• NATURAL GAS

Mayors question in-state gas line route

Fairbanks, North Pole, Delta Junction, Valdez concerned about military consumption, population, total benefits, construction costs

By KRISTEN NELSON
Petroleum News

Interior and Eastern Alaska mayors told Alaska Gov. Sean Parnell in an April 15 letter that they are concerned about route selection for the proposed in-state gas pipeline.

The letter — from Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins, Fairbanks Mayor Jerry Cleworth, North Pole Mayor Doug Isaacson, Delta Junction Mayor Mary Leith, Valdez Mayor Dave Cobb and Jim Dodson, president and CEO of the Fairbanks Economic Development Corp. — said “the total impacts to society, which include both the direct and indirect costs and benefits,” are not being addressed in the state’s study of the proposed project.

In revision 1 of its plan of development, dated March 2011, the Alaska Gasline Development Corp., which is developing a proposal for an in-state gas pipeline due to the Legislature July 1, said alternatives to the route down the Parks Highway were considered, including the Richardson Highway route and spur line routing options from a main line, one along the Parks Highway and one along the Richardson Highway.

The Richardson route was not selected because it is longer, AGDC said, and House Bill 369 passed by the Legislature in 2010 required selection of an economically feasible route that makes natural gas available to residents at the lowest possible costs.

“The alternatives and routing modes discussed in this section were considered but not carried forward as the proposed action because they did not optimize the number of users, minimize pipeline length, minimize engineering constraints and costs, and minimize opportunities that could adversely affect the environment,” AGDC said.

The reasons listed by AGDC are those contained in HB 369 requirements for route analysis and selection: economically feasible; makes natural gas available at the lowest possible cost; allows for connecting lines to provide gas along the route; uses state land and existing state highway and railroad rights of way to maximum extent possible; and uses existing highway and railroad bridges, gravel sources and other facilities and resources to maximum extent possible.

Lack of transparency

In the April 15 letter the officials said they are grateful for the work being done on an in-state gas pipeline, but “concerned about the transparency of the process, the potential for the State to limit public review of the route choices in the future, the validity of the figures used to justify the selection of the Parks Highway route, and the failure to include potential economic benefits in the route selection process.”

The alternatives analysis issued in September 2009 found the Parks Highway route to be the least expensive to build, but “fails to address any of the

social benefits along either route,” officials said in the letter, adding that they believe there may be population and gas demand errors in the estimates for the Richardson Highway route.

The letter said demand along the Parks Highway was overestimated due to the inclusion of Clear Air Force Base.

“It is our understanding that Clear Air Force base is unable to utilize gas provided by a natural gas pipeline for strategic security purposes,” the letter said.

The officials said they are also concerned that demand along the Richardson Highway is understated, “primarily as a result of the exclusion of military bases and other potential gas consumers located southeast of Fairbanks.”

There are discrepancies between communities that would be included on both routes, primarily through inclusion of locations under the lateral component of the Parks Highway that would not be serviced by the lateral pipeline, including Fort Wainwright, Eielson Air Force base, the Flint Hills refinery and the city of North Pole, along with Golden Valley Electric Association generation facilities.

The letter said it is unlikely for security reasons that Eielson and Wainwright would convert their coal-fired power plants to gas, but they could potentially use natural gas for energy needs not connected to their steam-heat distribution system. Fort Greeley, farther down the Richardson Highway, does not have coal-fired power so would potentially be interested in using natural gas with diesel, their existing fuel, as a backup.

“If this is true, then the residential, industrial, and military consumers on the Richardson route would be significantly greater than currently estimated,” the letter said.

The letter also said that 2010 census data suggests the Richardson route contains some 7,878 more consumers than the Parks route.

Geotechnical issues

“We also believe that the geotechnical issues and potential impacts to human life along the Parks Highway are not being given the full weight they should receive,” the letter said.

It cites a synopsis of some of those issues by Paul Metz, professor of geological engineering at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, which says the Parks Highway route crosses the Denali fault system at two locations while the Richardson Highway route crosses only the main strand of the Denali fault.

Metz said the main strand of the Denali fault crosses the Parks Highway near Cantwell where “there is adequate area to locate a high pressure pipeline

away from the buildings and structures in the area.”

However, where the Hines Creek strand of the Denali fault crosses the Parks Highway near the entrance to Denali National Park and Preserve, “there is limited area to build a fault crossing structure for a pipeline away from the populated areas along the highway that would be resistant to a major earthquake,” the Metz synopsis said.

He also said that a major earthquake along the Hines Creek strand fault could cause “large scale and deep seated landslides” in the 12-mile area from Garner Station on the Alaska Railroad through the visitor facilities near the entrance to Denali. Metz said “existing landslides have deformed the Alaska Railroad tunnels at Garner and Moody stations, the Parks Highway and the highway bridges across the Nenana River as well as the tributary creeks to the Nenana River from the Garner station to the park entrance,” and have deformed foundations of recently constructed buildings in Nenana Canyon.

“A failure of natural gas pipeline buried in these large landslides in the canyon would be a major hazard to life and property,” Metz said.

In the area where the Richardson Highway route crosses the main strand of the Denali fault near Black Rapids Glacier, the trans-Alaska oil pipeline withstood a magnitude 7.9 earthquake in 2002, Metz said.

“The natural gas pipeline crossing of the fault could be designed in a similar fashion and located far enough from the oil pipeline such that a catastrophic failure of either one would not impact the other structure,” he said.

Two smaller active fault structures are crossed by the Richardson Highway route, the Donnelly Dome and McGinnis Glacier faults, but in an area where the fault crossings are distant from occupied structures, and Metz said those crossings “do not pose any major hazard to life and property.”

Mineral potential

The letter also says a comparative evaluation of mineral resources along each route is necessary, and said Metz “has indicated that the potential to utilize natural gas to extract resources that are currently stranded along both routes could create major economic benefits for communities located along the routes.”

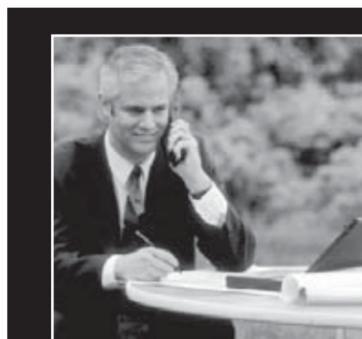
Metz estimated the value of mineral deposits along the Parks Highway route at \$14.6 billion compared to an estimated value of \$20.2 billion along the Richardson Highway.

see MAYORS LETTER page 7

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Susitna hydro bill goes to governor

Legislature gives AEA the authority to move ahead with a project to build a major hydroelectric dam at Watana on the Susitna River

By ALAN BAILEY
Petroleum News

The final vote did not come until the April special session of the state Legislature, but a bill authorizing the Alaska Energy Authority to move ahead with a major hydroelectric power plant at Watana on the Susitna River is now on its way to the governor's desk for signature.

"This is a great move forward for us," said Rep. Lance Pruitt on April 20 when reflecting on the general support for the legislation, in the final seconds before a unanimous House vote to pass the bill.

The legislation gives AEA the authority to acquire and construct power projects, as well as to maintain and operate projects, as at present. And the legislation specifically grants AEA the power to acquire a Susitna River project, "by construction, purchase, gift or lease," with AEA being able to acquire land for the project by eminent domain, if necessary. However, AEA must submit to the Legislature an annual report summarizing the status of the project.

Presumably in the interests of broadening the scope of the legislation beyond power supplies for the Alaska Railbelt, the legislation approves loans from the Power Project Fund for two hydroelectric projects, provided AEA approves the projects: \$11 million for the Reynolds Creek project near Hydaburg in Southeast Alaska and \$5 million for the Humpback Creek project near Cordova.

Move to hydropower

In November AEA recommended the construction of a large hydroelectric dam on the Susitna River, in remote territory on the south side of the Alaska Range, about 184 river miles upstream of the river's mouth, as a means of meeting a

continued from page 6

MAYORS LETTER

"While the potential value of resources along each route is substantial, it seems that the final decision regarding the route of the in-state gasline has been solely based on the estimated costs of the project," the letter said. "In terms of a correct economic assessment of the project, this is a very limited approach that does not give appropriate weight to the direct and indirect economic and social benefits associated with potential development along each route."

Questions

The officials told the governor they would like to see several questions and concerns addressed:

- The certainty of the military consuming natural gas along each route;
- Whether population estimates used in analyses of the project are the most current available;
- Whether there will be a consideration of the total benefits of each route in the decision-making process; and
- Whether construction costs will be updated to include line construction costs in or around Denali, and whether costs addressing geotechnical issues will be made public. ●

Contact Kristen Nelson
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On the Web



See previous Petroleum News coverage:

"Susitna hydro moving on; AEA needs authority to pursue project," in April 3, 2011, issue at www.petroleumnews.com/pnads/61765669.shtml

"Bill offered to boost huge Alaska dam," in Jan. 23, 2011, issue at www.petroleumnews.com/pnads/407354813.shtml

"Study favors Susitna hydro," in Dec. 5, 2010, issue at www.petroleumnews.com/pnads/582111607.shtml

state objective to generate half of the state's power from renewable sources by 2025, and to diversify power generation in the Alaska Railbelt away from the use of the natural gas fueled power stations that dominate power generation on the Railbelt grid.

The proposed Watana dam and power plant is a scaled down version of a Susitna hydropower concept that was investigated in the 1980s but which ran aground in the face of declining oil prices. The now-resurrected proposal would, AEA has estimated, cost about \$4.5 billion and meet about half of the Railbelt's power needs.

The high cost and lengthy project

The proposed Watana dam and power plant is a scaled down version of a Susitna hydropower concept that was investigated in the 1980s but which ran aground in the face of declining oil prices. The now-resurrected proposal would, AEA has estimated, cost about \$4.5 billion and meet about half of the Railbelt's power needs.

timeframe drive a need for state funding assistance, with the successful Bradley Lake hydropower system on the Kenai Peninsula providing a potential financing model. Bradley Lake, completed in 1991, was funded 50 percent through bonds and 50 percent by the state, with the state subsequently receiving revenue from the sale of power from the facility after the retirement of the bonds. AEA owns Bradley Lake, while Railbelt utilities manage the facility.

AEA needs authority

But when the AEA board of directors was merged with the board of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority in 1993, AEA lost its authority to establish a development project like Bradley Lake, thus creating a practical problem with progressing the Susitna project. The new legislation, passed on April 20, will restore that authority, thus enabling AEA to take actions such as applying for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permit for the Susitna power system.

However, the original version of the

bill, introduced by Gov. Sean Parnell in January, envisaged re-establishing AEA as a more independent agency, somewhat more distinct from AIDEA, with AEA having its own employees, having a subsidiary corporation for the Susitna hydropower project and having a new Alaska Railbelt energy fund for holding money for on-going project work. Lawmakers removed those provisions from the bill, although they have made a change to the quorum requirements for the AEA board. They have also removed a provision that would have enabled AEA to establish its own regulations, separate from the state regulations, for the procurement of goods and services.

Widespread support

With a general sense that hydropower should become an increasingly important pillar of future Alaska energy supplies, the bill, as passed, enjoys widespread support among legislators.

"I will gladly push the green button on this one," said Rep. Craig Johnson prior

see HYDRO BILL page 8



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• EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

Pioneer adding Torok pool at Oooguruk

Primary, secondary production from offshore expected to yield 10 million barrels; onshore core area will add another 58 million

By KRISTEN NELSON
Petroleum News

Pioneer Natural Resources Alaska is permitting development of Torok, the shallow oil formation at its Oooguruk development offshore Alaska's North Slope.

Pioneer brought Oooguruk into production in June 2008 and puts gross production potential at 120 million to 150 million barrels from the Kuparuk and Nuiqsut formations.

Now the company is moving to add another one-half to one-third more production potential, with an initial 68 million barrels of primary and secondary recovery from the shallower Torok formation. Torok will be produced both from the existing Oooguruk offshore drill site and from proposed onshore drill sites in the Colville River Delta.

Pioneer, the Oooguruk operator, holds a 70 percent working interest in the field; Eni Petroleum US LLC holds the remain-

On the Web



See previous Petroleum News coverage:

"Pioneer applies to add leases to Oooguruk for onshore Nuna project," in April 24, 2011, issue at www.petroleumnews.com/pnads/496348185.shtml

"Pioneer applies for Torok pool rules," in March 6, 2011, issue at www.petroleumnews.com/pnads/608186949.shtml

ing 30 percent.

Pioneer is applying to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for unit expansion and for a Torok participating area.

Pioneer is also applying to the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission for rules to operate the Torok pool.

Torok long known

Torok was discovered at the Colville 1

Conceptual engineering for facility design is slated for this year, followed by final design and long lead purchases in 2013, the beginning of onshore drill site construction in 2014 and first onshore production in 2015.

well in 1965, and was also identified in exploration wells drilled in the 1980s and 1990s, Mike Morgan, Pioneer Natural Resources Alaska reservoir engineering technical advisor, told the commission at an April 26 hearing. The Torok sand has been identified in more than 20 wells. The Oooguruk Torok is 200 to 250 feet thick and is composed of thinly bedded alternating sands and shales, with half-inch to six-inch beds common.

When Pioneer drilled the Ivik, Oooguruk and Natchiq exploration wells in 2003, the company was looking for all three horizons — Kuparuk, Nuiqsut and Torok.

Torok is a lower Cretaceous turbidite, Morgan said, with local analogs at Tarn, Meltwater and Nanuq.

A well drilled from the Oooguruk production island last year, the ODST-45A, tested the Torok at more than 1,000 barrels per day and has produced some 170,000 barrels to date, Morgan said.

A 1986 exploration well, the Colville Delta 3, has the lowest known Torok oil at 5,150 feet true vertical depth.

Pioneer is proposing that the Oooguruk-Torok oil pool be defined as the accumulation correlating to the 4,991-5,272 foot measured depth interval in the ARCO Kalubik No. 1 well.

Morgan said that preliminary data from ODST-45A well studies indicate that the oil has an API gravity of 24 degrees.

Large prospective area

The Torok core development area is in the southwestern area of the existing Oooguruk unit, extending southward into the area proposed for unit expansion.

The core area is some 8,000 acres. One thousand acres can be developed from the offshore drill site, with an estimated 50 million barrels of original oil in place; 10 million barrels are expected to be recoverable at a combined primary and secondary recovery rate of 20 percent.

The onshore core area, some 7,000 acres, has an estimated 290 million barrels of OOIP, and at a 20 percent recovery rate is expected to produce 58 million barrels.

Rates of recovery are expected to average 4,000 to 9,000 barrels per day.

Torok will be developed with 25 horizontal wells. Water and gas (when available) will be used for secondary recovery.

Phased development has begun with the pilot project from the offshore drilling island; work from the onshore Nuna drill site is the next step.

The total Torok prospective area, as defined by 3-D seismic, is some 23,000 acres with an estimated 690 million barrels of OOIP.

AOGCC Commissioner Cathy Foerster noted that the Torok prospective area appeared to extend into the drill site 3-S area in the Kuparuk River unit and asked if there had been any discussions with ConocoPhillips about development of that area.

Dale Hoffman, Pioneer's senior staff landman for Alaska, said there had been just preliminary conversations.

Facilities

Facilities for Torok development would include one or two onshore drill sites, Nuna 1 and 2, on the Colville River Delta; roads connected to drill site 3-S in the Kuparuk River unit; a small pig-launching and receiving pad; and flowlines to existing infrastructure at the Oooguruk tie-in pad.

Phased development for Torok includes the T45A test from Oooguruk Island, a 3,800-foot lateral, and a three-well pilot to be drilled in 2010-12.

Onshore drill site permitting includes 2010-11 field studies; 2011 permitting and regulatory applications; and 2011-12 permitting and regulatory approvals.

Conceptual engineering for facility design is slated for this year, followed by final design and long lead purchases in 2013, the beginning of onshore drill site construction in 2014 and first onshore production in 2015.

Onshore development drilling will begin in 2012-13 with predevelopment wells and testing, followed by development drilling beginning in 2014. ●

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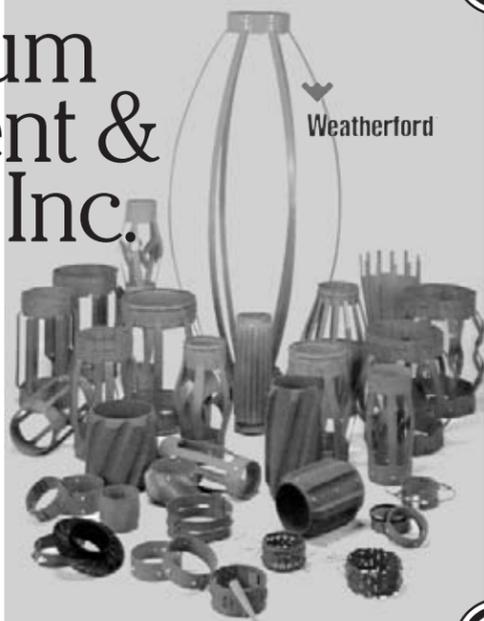
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continued from page 7

HYDRO BILL

to the April 20 vote. Johnson commented that some lawmakers who had been in the Legislature in the 1980s now regret not having moved ahead with a Susitna hydropower project at that time.

Rep. Les Gara expressed caution about the many project unknowns that remain, including some of the project economics and the potential impacts on salmon fisheries.

"We don't know whether the costs will pan out. We don't know whether the cost benefit analysis will work. ... Right now we don't know how expensive energy will be from this project," Gara said.

However, Gara said that he gained some comfort from the fact that the Legislature retains control over the purse strings for the project, thus giving the

Legislature ultimate control over whether the project goes ahead.

Impacts to be investigated

Some legislators commented that AEA has committed to meet with communities impacted by the project and that, especially with FERC involvement, government agencies would fully investigate the potential environmental impacts of the hydropower system.

And a dam on the Susitna River could help control river flooding, a perennial, expensive problem in the Susitna Valley in the spring, said Rep. Mark Neuman.

"We've got a lot of opportunities in the state but we need energy to make those opportunities happen," Neuman said. "Let's let the (environmental permitting) process work." ●

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• PIPELINES & DOWNSTREAM

ConocoPhillips to safeguard gas lines

Twin Tyonek subsea pipelines in Alaska's Cook Inlet need repairs and protection from erosion; work will involve divers, sand bags

By WESLEY LOY
For Petroleum News

ConocoPhillips is preparing to inspect, repair and fortify its twin Tyonek subsea natural gas pipelines in Alaska's Cook Inlet.

The company laid out its plans in an April 12 packet to regulators in the state Department of Natural Resources.

The 10-inch pipelines connect the Tyonek production platform to a shore-based, 16-inch gas line that feeds the Kenai liquefied natural gas plant.

The inlet is known for its turbulent tides, and erosion has become a threat to the pipelines on the sea floor, ConocoPhillips said.

In fact, the south Tyonek line was "taken out of service last summer due to concerns of the effects of erosion," the company said.

Eddy effect

The Tyonek platform, installed in 1968, produces natural gas from the North Cook Inlet unit.

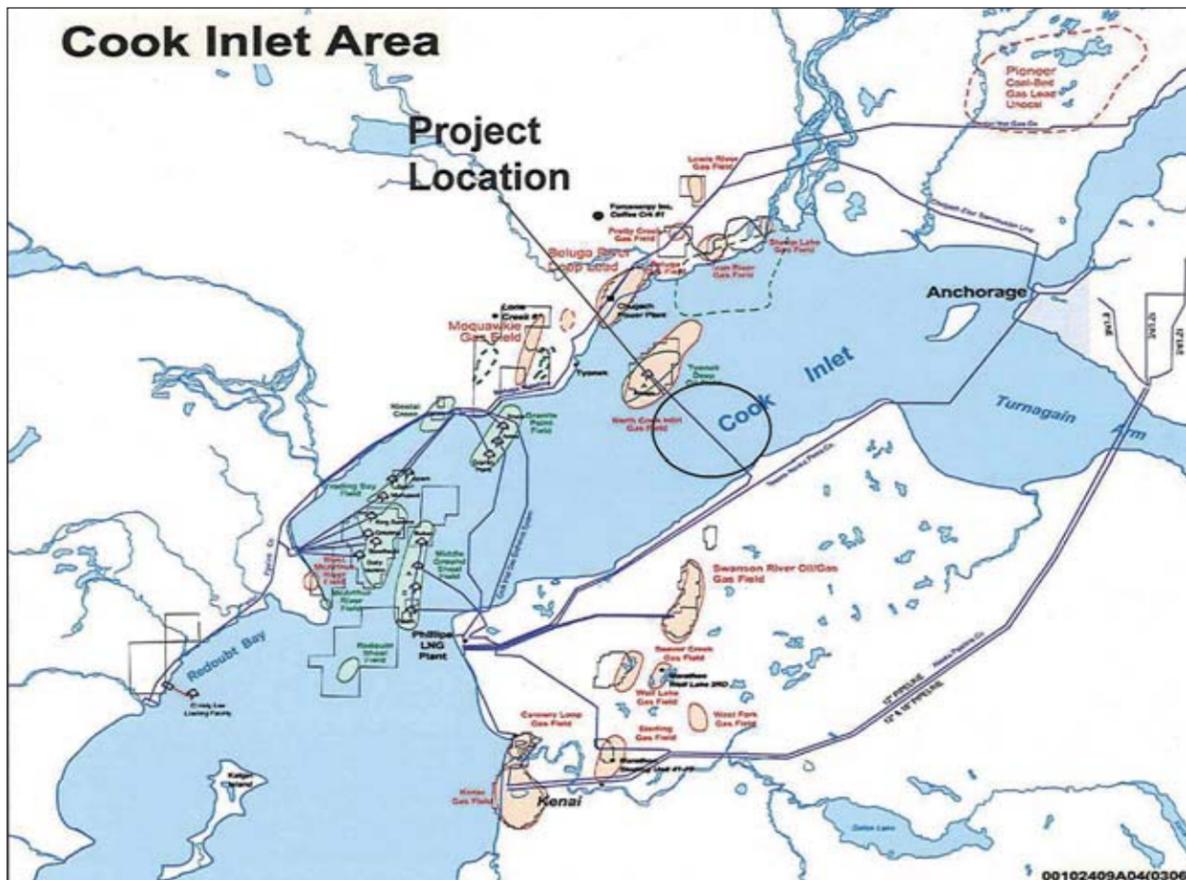
ConocoPhillips said it plans to work on the subsea gas pipelines between May 1 and Oct. 31.

The work will be performed from boats and involves sending down divers and placing sand bags to protect the lines, the company said.

The initial focus will be the north Tyonek line.

"The purpose of this project is to ensure that the North Tyonek Subsea Pipeline can continue to operate safely by using divers to inspect the pipeline, place sand bags, and make any repairs as needed," a project description said.

The sand bags will be placed in such a way as to disrupt the "eddy effect" believed to be causing external erosion on exposed areas of the pipelines, ConocoPhillips said.



COURTESY CONOCOPHILLIPS

Time permitting, the company also aims to inspect, repair and sand bag the south Tyonek line.

"These inspections and sand bagging are expected to be a yearly occurrence and will be planned for the life of the field," the project description added.

Weld joints vulnerable

An inspection of the Tyonek pipelines using a tool

known as a smart pig found "areas of potential erosion damage on those portions of the pipeline where the pipeline sections are welded together," the project description said. "Weld joints are not concrete coated, as the rest of the pipeline is, and are covered with a protective synthetic coating. The erosion damage is believed to be caused by an eddy forming between the 2

see TYONEK PIPELINES page 13



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continued from page 1

HEAVY OIL

the well, but the torque change indicated that oil had finally reached the well bore, West said.

West said that since the morning of April 22 the well has been producing oil at a rate of 350 barrels per day and that the test facility had delivered more than 1,000 barrels of heavy oil to the Milne Point processing facility since the oil started flowing.

"But what pleases us so much is that there has been no upset to the well," West said. "It has produced steadily at that rate."

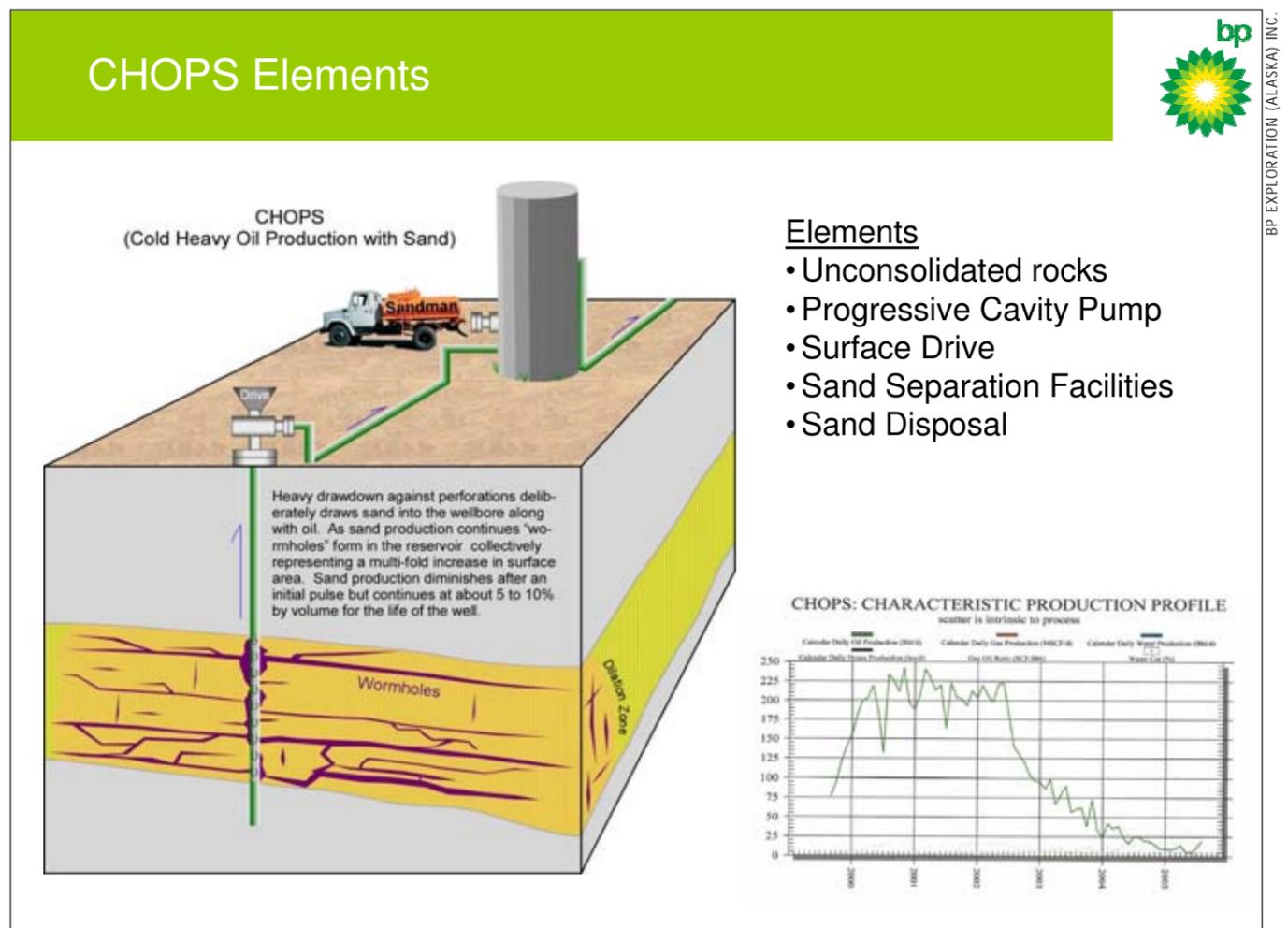
And the well is only producing small amounts of sand, with sand coming up the well in quantities ranging from trace amounts to about 2 percent by volume, he said.

BP is carrying out its testing of heavy oil production from the relatively shallow sands of the Ugnu formation, to ferret out the production characteristics of the resource, with an objective of determining whether commercial-scale heavy oil production on the North Slope will be feasible both from a technical and from an economic perspective, Erik Hulm, heavy oil appraisal team leader for BP Alaska, explained to the Alaska Geological Society on April 22. Companies have been producing heavy oil elsewhere, in Canada and Venezuela for example, but no one knows whether production will prove practical in the challenging Alaska Arctic environment, Hulm said.

But the potential prize is huge, he said.

Billions of barrels

Of the 70 billion or so barrels of oil so far discovered in the central North Slope, only about 40 billion barrels consist of



In a cold heavy oil production with sand, or CHOPS, technique for producing heavy oil, an augur-like down-hole pump sucks a mixture of sand and oil to the surface, leaving a series of wormholes in the underground sand reservoir.

conventional light oil that readily flows up a well bore and through a pipeline. The remaining 30 billion barrels are relatively viscous, thus requiring specialized production techniques, Hulm said.

Within the thicker grades of oil, BP distinguishes between what it calls viscous oil, with a consistency of syrup, and heavy oil, with a consistency of honey or molasses. On the North Slope, BP and ConocoPhillips have in recent years start-

ed to produce viscous oil from the sands of the Schrader Bluff/West Sak formation, using horizontal wells and water-flood techniques. But no one has yet attempted to tap into the estimated 12 billion to 18 billion barrels of heavy oil in the shallower Ugnu formation — heavy oil is generally too viscous to flow unaided through a pipe.

Being quite depleted in hydrogen relative to light oil and also being difficult to

flow, heavy oil is less valuable than light oil. On the other hand, with high oil prices and with North Slope light oil production declining, companies are moving across the oil viscosity spectrum, seeking new commercial opportunities with more difficult resources. And, with BP hoping to use North Slope light oil to dilute the heavy oil for pipeline transportation, the

see HEAVY OIL page 14

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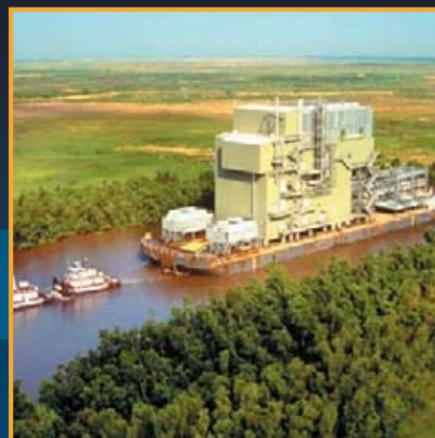
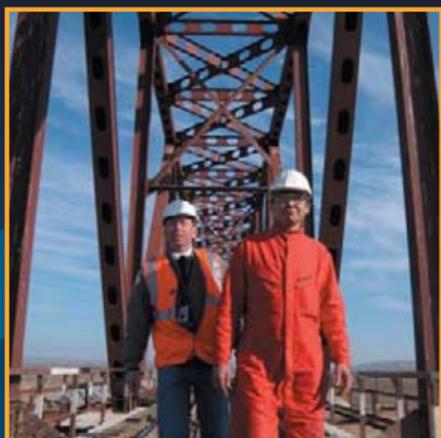
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NATURAL GAS

May 10 forum on gas and Alaska's future

A second public forum put on by the Office of Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects will be held May 10 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the University of Anchorage Fine Arts Building Recital Hall.

The topic of this forum will be Alaska's economic future, with and without a large gas line.

Panelists will include Federal Coordinator Larry Persily; Scott Goldsmith, professor of economics, Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage; Brian Rogers, chancellor, University of Alaska Fairbanks; and Bill Van Dyke, a petroleum engineer with Petrotechnical Resources Alaska.

"Alaska's economy is overwhelmingly dependent on oil, and if Alaska is going to maintain a healthy economy years into the future it needs more oil and it also needs a gas line," said Persily. "Without billions of dollars in new investment, the longevity of the oil line is in serious question. A gas line would improve Alaska's chances of attracting those investment dollars if explorers can profit from both oil and gas."

The forum will be streamed live at the Federal Coordinator's website, www.arcticgas.gov.

The forum is open to the public, and there will be time for questions after the presentations. Seating will be limited, though overflow space will be available.

Fairbanks, Juneau access

The forum can also be watched live in Fairbanks at the University of Alaska Museum of the North auditorium; in Juneau at the Butrovich Room at the Capitol; and via web stream at the Legislative Information Offices in Wasilla and Kenai.

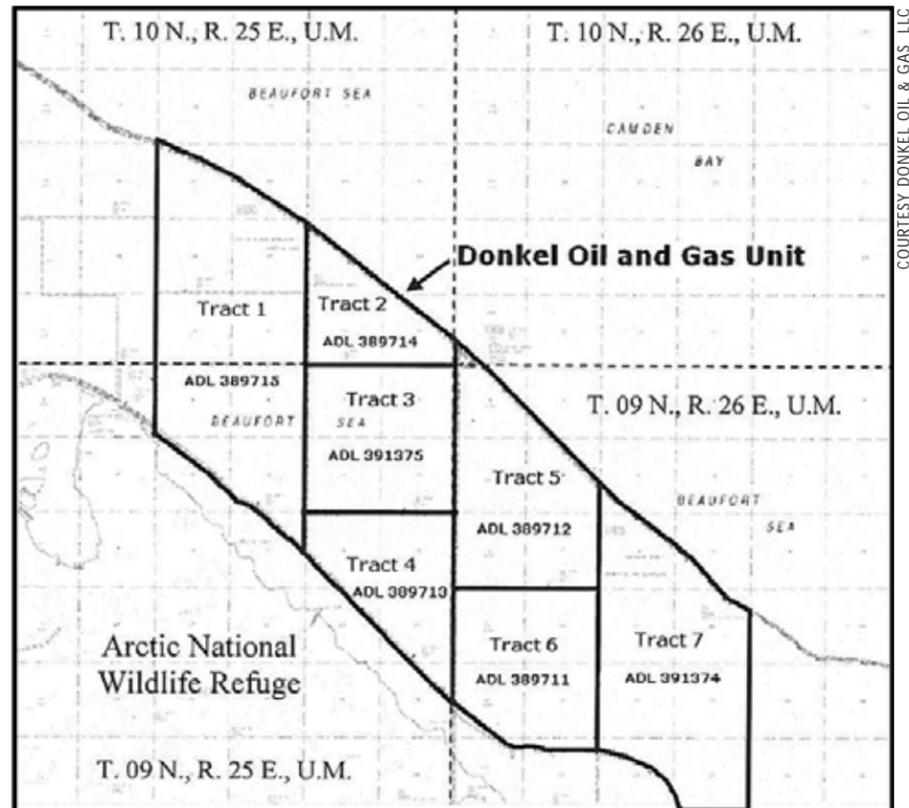
360 North, the Alaska statewide public TV channel that carries Gavel-to-Gavel coverage of the Legislature, will rebroadcast the forum at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. May 13; 1 p.m. May 15; and 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. May 16.

Forum information, including complete biographies of the panelists, supplemental materials about state oil and gas economics, directions to the forum sites, access to the live stream of the forum, and a link to electronically submit questions for the panelists during the forum can be found on the Federal Coordinator's website, www.arcticgas.gov.

Congress established the Office of Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects in 2004 to expedite and coordinate federal permitting for a pipeline to deliver natural gas from Alaska's North Slope to U.S. markets.

—PETROLEUM NEWS

The topic of this forum will be Alaska's economic future, with and without a large gas line.



COURTESY DONKEL OIL & GAS LLC

• LAND & LEASING

Donkel proposes new unit off ANWR coast

Unit would take in ARCO Stinson No. 1 discovery well; Donkel plans to drill new exploration well or re-enter Stinson by August 2015

By WESLEY LOY
For Petroleum News

Some leases expire soon

Donkel and Cade are longtime players in Alaska oil and gas lease sales and land deals. Donkel Oil & Gas is based in Daytona Beach, Fla.

The seven leases Donkel is proposing for the DOG unit are ADL 389711, ADL 389712, ADL 389713, ADL 389714, ADL 389715, ADL 391374 and ADL 391375.

Altogether, the leases cover 21,354 acres.

Donkel owns a 25 percent working interest in all the leases, with Cade holding 75 percent, says the unit application paperwork the Alaska Division of Oil and Gas received on April 14.

The lease that includes the now plugged and abandoned Stinson well is ADL 391375, which has an expiration date of Aug. 31, 2016, according to documentation Donkel submitted with the unit application.

Five other leases in the proposed DOG unit will expire much sooner — on May

see NEW UNIT page 13

Donkel Oil & Gas LLC has applied to Alaska officials for approval of a new unit in state waters offshore the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

It would be called the Donkel Oil & Gas unit, or DOG unit for short.

Along with the unit application, Donkel also submitted an initial plan of exploration that includes the possibility of drilling a new exploratory well by the end of August 2015.

The new unit would encompass seven Beaufort Sea lease tracts, including one that takes in the Stinson No. 1 exploratory well that ARCO Alaska completed in 1990. Although the 16,156-foot well made a discovery, ARCO successor Phillips determined the reserves were insufficient to justify a standalone development and the acreage was dropped.

Donkel Oil & Gas managing partner Daniel K. Donkel and a partner, Samuel H. Cade, picked up the Stinson site in an October 2008 state lease sale.

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• NATURAL GAS

Another option for North Slope gas?

Janus Methanol chairman suggests converting gas to methanol on the Slope and converting the methanol to gasoline in Valdez

By **ALAN BAILEY**
Petroleum News

With an increasing air of pessimism around the prospects for a pipeline to export natural gas from Alaska's North Slope, there is interest in finding alternative ways of monetizing the vast quantities of gas currently stranded in Arctic Alaska.

On April 15 Deo van Wijk, chairman of Swiss company Janus Methanol AG, talked to the state House Resources Committee about one of those alternative possibilities, the use of North Slope natural gas to synthetically produce gasoline for export from Valdez. The gasoline production would involve two stages: the production of methanol from natural gas on the North Slope and the production of gasoline from the methanol in Valdez. The methanol produced on the slope would be blended with crude oil for transportation through the trans-Alaska oil

pipeline to Valdez, where it would be distilled back out of the oil for processing into gasoline.

TAPS antifreeze

In addition to providing a market outlet for North Slope gas, this proposal would boost the volumes of fluid flowing down the trans-Alaska pipeline and, with methanol being an excellent antifreeze, would help prevent problems with ice formation in the line, van Wijk said.

And, rather than being some far-fetched piece of science fiction, the processes involved are already in commercial operation in several parts of the world, van Wijk said. Economies of scale require gas supplies of at least 640 million cubic feet per day, he said.

The complete two-stage process of manufacturing gasoline from natural gas is an alternative to the perhaps more familiar gas-to-liquids, or GTL, process, in which natural gas is converted to a

fluid closely similar to diesel fuel. But GTL produces wax as a side product, with the wax potentially causing problems with pipeline clogging, van Wijk said.

Exxon originally developed the process for converting methanol to gasoline, known as MTG, and successfully constructed an MTG plant in New Zealand in the 1980s, van Wijk said.

However, falling oil prices in the 1990s rendered that plant uneconomic, he said.

Some years later the Chinese resurrected the process to produce gasoline from methanol generated from coal, van Wijk said.

Improved technology

Over a number of years Janus
see METHANOL TO GASOLINE page 17

continued from page 12

NEW UNIT

31 — in which case the acreage would return to the state.

The leases would stay alive, however, if the state approves the new unit.

Four-year plan of exploration

Grouping leases together as a unit is meant to promote efficient exploration and production, minimizing facilities and protecting the rights of all parties of interest including the state.

Kevin Banks, the state's oil and gas director and the key decision maker on unit applications, has told Petroleum News the state isn't inclined to approve new units without strong work commitments.

The DOG unit application, signed by Dan Donkel, is bullish on the area's prospectivity.

"Technology (primarily drilling technology, well log analysis, and seismic

acquisition and processing) has evolved greatly since the Stinson #1," Donkel writes. "Donkel will be utilizing advanced technology in its DOG Unit exploration. With new seismic data and improved well log analysis tools, Donkel believes it has a greater ability to identify and refine potential oil exploration prospects within the DOG Unit formations."

Donkel's company website notes the leasehold is "centered over the southeasterly plunging nose" of the highly productive Barrow Arch, and neighbors the large but still undeveloped Point Thomson oil and gas discovery.

Donkel is proposing a four-year initial plan of exploration.

The plan calls for performing a 3-D geophysical exploration program by May 30, 2013.

By Aug. 31, 2015, Donkel pledges to drill an exploration well or re-enter the Stinson No. 1 well. ●

Contact Wesley Loy
at wloy@petroleumnews.com

GOVERNMENT

BOEMRE to hire leadership for new bureau

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement announced April 27 that it is beginning a search to fill two senior leadership positions for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, one of the two new bureaus being created as part of the reorganization of the former Minerals Management Service.

The positions to be filled are the regional directors for the Pacific and Alaska region offices, in Camarillo, Calif., and Anchorage, Alaska, respectively.

"The people occupying these senior positions will have the responsibility for managing and directing all regulatory and enforcement programs related to safe and environmentally sound offshore energy development," said BOEMRE Director Michael Bromwich. "We are looking for capable leaders and experienced managers who are committed to ensuring the highest level of safety and environmental standards."

The individuals selected will be responsible for the overall safety and environmental enforcement programs for the Pacific and Alaska regions as well as overseeing the work of BSEE employees assigned to their region.

The process of filling senior positions is being launched now to ensure a smooth transition from BOEMRE to the two new bureaus, BSEE and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. The new bureaus will begin operations at the beginning of the next fiscal year, Oct. 1.

To find out how to apply for these positions and to learn more about other career opportunities in BOEMRE, go to: www.boemre.gov/jobs.

—PETROLEUM NEWS



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continued from page 9

TYONEK PIPELINES

pipelines."

On the north pipeline, inspections are planned at 15 locations.

"If external erosion damage is encountered a sleeve will be placed over the area and clamped on to ensure the integrity of the pipeline," the project description said.

It continued: "At each inspection area, sand bags will be placed around and on top of the weld joints to disrupt the formation of an eddy. Additionally, 124 sand bag locations are planned, which will help prevent further pipeline external erosion of the weld joints on the pipeline. The South Pipeline is often adjacent to the North Pipeline, so when the North Pipeline is sand bagged, the South Pipeline will also be sand bagged in the same area."

Inspections are planned for 98 locations on the south line, ConocoPhillips said. ●

Contact Wesley Loy
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HEAVY OIL

company wants to see if it can achieve success in heavy oil production before light oil production rates decline to a point where it becomes impractical to ship the heavy oil to market — refining the heavy oil into a less viscous fluid on the North Slope for export by pipeline would be prohibitively expensive, Hulm said.

Two methods

For its test production, located on S pad in the Milne Point field, BP is using two techniques, both involving the pumping of oil into a heated tank at the surface, where sand is separated from the oil for disposal through the Prudhoe Bay grind-and-inject facility. The Ugnu sands, rather than being a conventional solid rock, are unconsolidated.

The first technique, called cold heavy oil production with sand, or CHOPS, involves drilling a vertical well through the Ugnu reservoir and then using what is called a progressive cavity pump, a down-hole pump with an auger-like rotor spinning at high speed, to draw the sand-oil mixture into the well and up the well bore. Small holes, known as wormholes, propagate from the well, out through the reservoir sand, increasing the exposed surface area of sand from which oil can be sucked and providing channels for the oil to flow into the well.

A rod passing down the well bore from the surface turns the pump's rotor.

In 2008 BP successfully demonstrated the extraction of some oil from the Ugnu using a single CHOPS well, as a precursor to investing in the heavy oil test facility that it has since built.

The second technique involves the

For its test production, located on S pad in the Milne Point field, BP is using two techniques, both involving the pumping of oil into a heated tank at the surface, where sand is separated from the oil for disposal through the Prudhoe Bay grind-and-inject facility.

drilling of a horizontal well through the reservoir, with slots in the steel well liner creating a large area of contact with the reservoir, allowing oil to enter the well, as in a conventional oil field. A progressive cavity pump located downhole, in the area where the well bore steepens from the horizontal en route to the surface, will push the thick oil up the well. The pump will also draw down the pressure in the horizontal section of the well thus reducing the reservoir pressure — the drop in reservoir pressure should cause gas to effervesce from the oil and drive the oil towards the well, West explained.

Geologic investigation

Hulm explained that BP had arrived at the location and design of its heavy oil test after an exhaustive investigation of the geology of the Ugnu and an evaluation of various heavy oil production techniques.

Quite a lot of information about the Ugnu can be gleaned from the various wells that have passed through this formation en route to drilling targets in the established oil reservoirs deeper below the North Slope, Hulm said. Rock cores pulled from some of these wells provide evidence about the detailed nature of the Ugnu deposits, while well log data enable the extrapolation of rock information to wells from which well cores were not

On the Web

See previous Petroleum News coverage:

"BP starting heavy oil facility to test production feasibility," in March 20, 2011, issue at www.petroleumnews.com/pnads/294537150.shtml

"BP's heavy oil test facility ready," in March 14, 2010, issue at www.petroleumnews.com/pnads/739867547.shtml

"So far, so good," in March 4, 2007, issue at www.petroleumnews.com/pnads/318651245.shtml

obtained. And seismic data provides a regional picture of the geometry and extent of the Ugnu formation.

Piecing together data from these various sources, geologists have determined that the Ugnu sands commonly fill what must have been meandering river channels within ancient river delta systems during the late Cretaceous and early Tertiary. The most promising looking oil reservoir units consist of multiple sand-filled river channels, stacked together to form large sand bodies in the subsurface.

The entire formation slopes west to east, lying about 2,000 feet below the surface on the western side of the central North Slope and being 5,000 feet deep to the east. Many geologic faults cut through the strata, breaking the reservoir into a multiplicity of compartments but also trapping oil in the sand bodies by juxtaposing the sand against more impervious rocks.

The heavy oil in the Ugnu has formed as a result of bacteria eating the originally formed light oil. And, with the bacteria becoming increasingly active at lower temperatures, the oil at the relatively cold, shallow western end of the Ugnu is heavier and thicker than the oil at the deeper and less cold eastern end, Hulm said.

Choice of technique

That variation in depth and oil type from one part of the Ugnu to another has a critical impact on the choice of technique used to extract oil from the Ugnu sands.

Hulm described a hierarchy of heavy oil extraction techniques, some of which have a multiyear track record of successful use and some of which are more hypothetical in nature. Methods that have seen success in some parts of the world can be broadly categorized as mining, hot extraction and cold extraction.

The direct mining of heavy oil deposits can be eliminated as a possibility for heavy oil production on the North Slope, in part because of the depth of the Ugnu sands and in part because of unacceptable environmental impacts, Hulm said. Hot extraction, typically involving the injection of steam into the underground sand to reduce the oil viscosity, has been used with success in Canada and is a possible candidate for North Slope use. Both CHOPS and the use of horizontal wells are examples of cold oil extraction techniques and both have track records of success in some places.

But the best technique to use in a par-

ticular situation depends on the particular combination of oil and rock properties that a would-be heavy oil producer is dealing with, Hulm said.

"It's actually the rock and fluid properties that dictate which of these methods is going to work," he said.

For its North Slope heavy oil production test, BP determined that cold techniques — CHOPS and horizontal wells — would be most appropriate. These techniques seemed suitable for the reservoir depths, sand qualities and oil viscosities within the North Slope units where BP is operator, Hulm explained. And the use of cold techniques would avoid some engineering challenges potentially associated with pumping hot steam through well pipes in the North Slope permafrost, he said.

However, it is likely that a hot, steam-driven technique would be more appropriate in the shallower and heavier oil deposits, more toward the western end of the Ugnu, he said.

Risk assessment

Using the results of its geologic analysis, BP developed a set of maps depicting the relative risks to successful cold heavy oil production at different places, using parameters such as the rock porosity, sand thickness and oil quality. The maps led BP to the selection of the Milne Point S-pad as a suitable test location. The location sits over stacked, Ugnu channel sands and is within reaching distance of several reservoir zones and a couple of faulted reservoir compartments, Hulm said.

And BP sees the possibility of 7 billion barrels of oil in place in reservoir areas earmarked as candidates for cold production. If cold extraction works the recovery factor would likely be around 10 percent, but could approach 20 percent, Hulm said.

As a proof of concept exercise, BP is trying out two horizontal wells and two CHOPS wells in an initial test phase, West said. It will take about a week to draw down the pressure in the horizontal well that has gone into production, after which the heavy oil team will monitor the well for a week before starting up the first CHOPS well, he said.

But extracting heavy oil from a reservoir below 2,000 feet of permafrost in the Arctic represents a move outside the envelope of industry experience of using cold heavy oil extraction techniques, Hulm said. And the production characteristics of the Ugnu reservoir and oil are unknown. Moreover, the use of surface-driven rods to spin the progressive cavity pumps at the bottoms of wells necessarily deviated far from the vertical in the North Slope's drilling-footprint-conscious environment will present some particular technical challenges.

Depending on the test results, BP could determine that some other production technique is required, Hulm said. However, at some time in the future heavy oil production will hopefully deliver a substantial new resource to market and bring a new source of revenue to Alaska, he said. ●

Contact Alan Bailey
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continued from page 4
STOLTZE Q&A

leagues on the finance committee said, 'I want to take them to the last nickel and pull back.' I'm not sure we have that option. I don't think that's a realistic stress point to push. That might be a nice populist appeal, but I don't think it's economically realistic. It doesn't recognize the realistic points of business and economics.

Petroleum News: How do you separate populist appeal, which is what drove ACES, from policy?

Stoltze: It's tough. There are people who are my supporters who have questioned my position on this. There have been accusations that I've sold out. I didn't get into this line of work for money. It's the worst economic decision I've made. I do have legacy responsibilities. What I do and what I leave behind weighs heavily on me. You always have to look at what the popular public opinion is. But popular public opinion doesn't fuel our economy.

Petroleum News: Let's switch gears to a gas pipeline. What concerns do you have about the prospects of a large-diameter pipeline coming together and moving forward?

Stoltze: I'm worried. I was a no-vote on the AGIA licensing, but the Legislature has approved this process and we have to be very careful about how we try to get out of this. The state has contractual obligations to uphold and they have to defend those. Whether it's the right or the wrong process, it's real tough to make a political decision and

"You don't have to love the oil industry any more than the insurance industry but you've got to recognize they are an important part of our economy. They make decisions based on economics."

—Rep. Bill Stoltze, R-Chugiak

redirect the AGIA process, but I'm not real optimistic about it. I would love it to work, but I just don't see it.

Petroleum News: What's missing to make it work?

Stoltze: The change of economics, the availability of shale gas, the abundance of other gas, the lower prices worldwide. What price were we talking about when Murkowski's plan was being debated (between \$7 and \$8 per thousand cubic feet), but now it barely covers tariff. Then it gets into populism and political rhetoric with people saying we need to do the big line through the AGIA process. We get into this political rhetoric that the grudges and vendettas drive so much. There is an anti oil populism. You don't have to love the oil industry any more than the insurance industry but you've got to recognize they are an important part of our economy. They make decisions based on economics.

Petroleum News: What kind of work would you like to see done during the interim?

Stoltze: Well we are working on an in-state gas line. I support (House Speaker) Mike Chenault's efforts. I'm concerned about the gas supply in Southcentral, especially people in my legislative district and my colleagues' legislative districts in the valley who are at the end of the sup-

ply line.

Petroleum News: What about hydro, and the advances the Legislature made toward funding projects like Susitna this session?

Stoltze: I've got to give a lot of credit to the Ratepayers group for putting in a ton of work working with Sen. McGuire's office and (Reps. Energy Committee co-chairs) Lance Pruitt and Neal (Foster's) office. Lance was very mature with this. He brought in Sen. (Joe) Thomas for hearings and invited him to testify on the governor's bill. That doesn't happen very often around here: inviting others regardless of who gets credit. He didn't care about the limelight; he cared about the issue. He recognized this is not a partisan issue. Lance viewed this as one of the critical issues; let's gets as many people together respective of party or where they are sitting on the bicameral process.

Petroleum News: Does this debate remind you the PPT debate?

Stoltze: Not at all. In some ways it's a lot more orderly process, at least on the House side. I don't know that there has been any kind of process on the Senate side. I'm not sure how (Labor) Commissioner Bishop adds to the debate.

Petroleum News: Back to oil tax. It's not on the special session call, so what would you like to see done during the interim?

Stoltze: This latest thing about doing a labor study, that doesn't impress the heck out of me. You don't need to listen to a weather report to find out what it is if you just look out the window to see it's raining or snowing. Anybody who watches our economy can see that it's not as

This latest thing about doing a labor study, that doesn't impress the heck out of me. You don't need to listen to a weather report to find out what it is if you just look out the window to see it's raining or snowing. Anybody who watches our economy can see that it's not as robust.

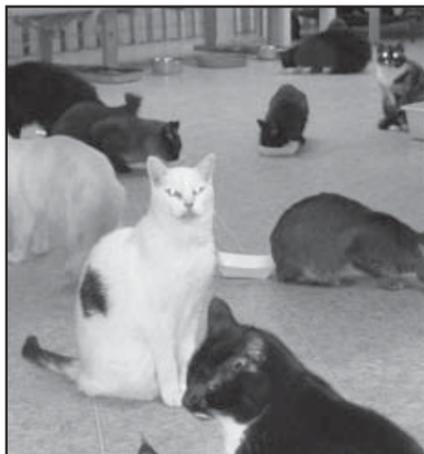
—Rep. Bill Stoltze, R-Chugiak

robust.

It's not an inherent trust or love for industry on my part. They are an important part of our economy; they provide the jobs in our communities.

I don't think they make decisions based on malice. Politicians make decisions based on malice and grudges. The industry makes purely business decisions. For us to act otherwise ...

I would like us to take into account what's not happening in the oil industry. A lot of these investment decisions need to be made sooner rather than later. This is an issue where the longer we wait, the worse off we are. ●



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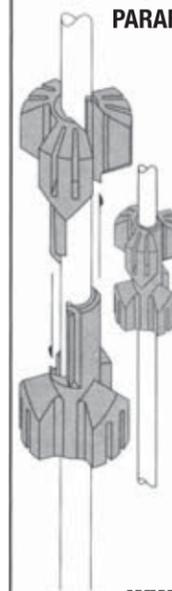
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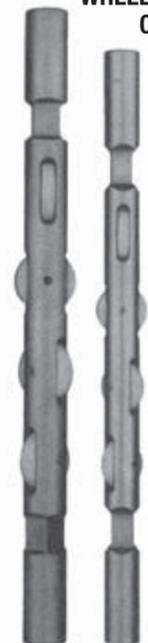
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Speakers highlighted for local AAPG-SPE conference

The Western Region, Society of Petroleum Engineers, and the Pacific Section, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, have announced key speakers for the joint convention being held in Anchorage, Alaska, from May 7-11, 2011, at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel.

Opening ceremony speakers on May 8 will include Kevin Banks, director of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas since 2007; Janet L. Weiss, sub-surface vice president for BP Alaska, appointed in October 2010; David G. Rensink, president of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and past president of AIPG, Texas Section, Houston Geological Society; and keynote speaker, Fran Ulmer, chancellor, University of Alaska Anchorage. In addition to serving as UAA's Chancellor, Ulmer was appointed by President Barack Obama in June 2010 to the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling and will be discussing what implications the spill had on Alaska.

E. Lance Cole, operations manager, Petroleum Technology Transfer Council since 1996 will be speaking at the SPE Awards luncheon on May 10th.

The conference will highlight technologies and issues affecting oil and gas fields in the Western North American Region.

Crowley fleet to add 500 new containers in 2011

Crowley Maritime Corp. said April 18 that its liner services group is adding 500 new containers to its already robust equipment fleet in order to better serve the growing needs of its customers in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean and throughout Central America. Once the new containers are received, the company's equipment fleet will include over 46,000 pieces.

The new containers meet and exceed all new and amended ISO Standards for freight container door security applications. Not only is all door hardware secured to the doors with special round-headed huckbolts, each of the four handle locations are designed to accept high-security seals with an additional seal location that will allow the right-side



COURTESY CROWLEY

see OIL PATCH BITS page 17

Companies involved in Alaska and northern Canada's oil and gas industry

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All of the companies listed above advertise on a regular basis with Petroleum News

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METHANOL TO GASOLINE

Methanol engineers have improved the methanol generation part of the process, eliminating the need for some processing modules that were part of early plant designs and dramatically reducing production costs, while increasing production output and opening up the possibility of large-scale methanol production at reasonable cost, he said.

But with world demand for methanol being quite low, the best use for the huge volumes of methanol that can now be produced is to feed the methanol into the MTG process, van Wijk said. Gasoline produced from methanol contains relatively low volumes of benzene and no sulfur, while the process for generating the gasoline only produces gasoline and water he said.

Van Wijk said that his company is interested in the possibility of natural gas to gasoline production in Alaska and that he has done some rough estimates of the economics of doing this in the state. Assuming that construction costs in Alaska would be double the cost elsewhere in the U.S., the construction cost of a complete system that could produce about 63,000 barrels per day of gasoline would come in at about \$5.2 billion, van Wijk said. With labor costs for operating the plant perhaps averaging \$150,000 per person and taking into account all costs,

including the return on investment in the plant and depreciation of the plant, gasoline could be delivered for shipment from Valdez at a price in the range of \$2.65 to \$2.85 per gallon, including a \$1.45 margin, he said.

“If you compare that with today’s wholesale prices in excess of \$3 per gallon you still have more margin,” van Wijk said.

450,000 barrels?

Those figures relate to an operation that would only consume a portion of the gas available from the North Slope. Were the entire 4.5 billion cubic feet per day of North Slope gas, currently envisaged flowing down a North Slope pipeline, instead be converted into gasoline, that would result in a gasoline production rate of 450,000 barrels per day from a massive plant that would likely take 15 to 18 years to complete, he said.

Van Wijk said that the natural gas to gasoline process is economically viable on a worldwide basis and that countries with natural gas resources can now produce gasoline. The United States has the potential to reduce its massive oil imports to zero in 10 to 15 years, he said.

“This is so simple, so revolutionary, that this can change the future of this country, not only of Alaska but of the United States of America,” Wijk said. ●

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OIL PATCH BITS

door to be locked to the door frame. The doors feature heavy-duty plates at the top and the bottom, with the bottom plate designed to accept an additional security device. New features this year are the addition of a heavy-duty plate on the inside of the left door and cast-door handles with anti-theft design features. The combination of these security enhancements and upgrades deters and prevents unauthorized access to containers and loaded cargo. Shipment integrity, from point of origin to delivery, is a premier requirement for customers and government anti-terrorism programs.

Since 2003, Crowley has invested close to \$240 million dollars to modernize its equipment fleet by nearly 24,000 units.

Save the date for upcoming Calista Golf Classic

Calista Corp. said April 14 that it cordially invites you to attend the 12th Annual Calista Heritage Foundation Golf Classic — June 22, 2011 — at the Moose Run Creek Course.

Calista encourages those who haven’t already signed up to join in the golf classic for a fun event at a top-rated course, all for a worthy cause. Tournament activity begins with a shotgun start at 7 a.m.

Field a team or become a sponsor. There are a limited number of team sponsorships available and many other donation levels for this well attended event. The registration deadline is June 15.

The Calista Heritage Foundation awards scholarships to Alaska Native students from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region enabling these young people to study engineering, business, aviation, medical and biological study programs, and to serve society with the skills they are acquiring.

Visit www.calistacorp.com/scholarships/golf_classic_tournament.html or call 907-279-5516 ext. 307 to sign up.

Editor’s note: All of these news items — some in expanded form — will appear in the next Arctic Oil & Gas Directory, a full color magazine that serves as a marketing tool for Petroleum News’ contracted advertisers. The next edition will be released in September.

continued from page 1

KOREA GAS

involved a visit earlier this year to Inuvik on the Mackenzie Delta by Kogas executives, including Chief Executive Officer Kangsoo Choo.

The Delta gas reserves backing the Mackenzie Gas Project are almost 6 trillion cubic feet, while the onshore and offshore Delta region has potential resources of up to 26 tcf.

But many observers feel that the longer the regulatory and corporate decision-making process drags on, the less likely it is that the MGP will proceed against a flood of gas from North American shale sources.

However, the emergence of plans to export LNG from Canada to Asia has suddenly presented an alternative to producers faced with a surplus of gas from northern British Columbia and Alberta.

Kitimat seeks NEB approval

The Kitimat LNG project, a partnership of Apache, Encana and EOG Resources, is seeking National Energy Board approval for a project that could ultimately handle 1.4 billion cubic feet per day of gas; a joint venture by the Haisla First Nation and LNG Partners plans to process 125 million cubic feet per day; and the Shell-led consortium is examining the feasibility of a third scheme.

Yang said Kogas is exploring the possibility of building an LNG port, possibly at Tuktoyaktuk on the Beaufort Sea, reviving preliminary studies conducted in the 1970s, followed in 1980 when PetroCanada, then a state-owned company, and others floated the idea of an Arctic pilot project to ship LNG to southern North American markets.

In 2004, the Canadian Energy Research Institute concluded that High Arctic gas could be developed using LNG, compressed natural gas or gas-to-liquids, which it estimated could generate a 15 percent minimum rate of return from 10.2 tcf of gas-in-place on Melville Island.

Then in 2007 PetroCanada (before it was taken over by Suncor Energy) started exploring ways to develop its estimated High Arctic resources of 12 tcf.

It established a small team to examine

the feasibility of LNG shipments, while acknowledging the challenges of procuring gas in such a harsh climate and sensitive environment. But the results of that work were never made public.

Although there is agreement among naval experts that LNG tankers could operate in Arctic waters, the costs would be daunting, with cost estimates for hull-reinforced Polar class tankers ranging around C\$700 million.

Largely bypassed in this discussion is whether Canada should even allow its gas resources to be exported to Asia.

Hal Kvisle, former chief executive officer of TransCanada, said Arctic gas should first be available for Canadian use, then for North American consumption under the North American Free Trade Agreement. ●

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CONOCO EARNINGS

down of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline in January because of a leak at Pump Station 1, contributed to those declines.

ConocoPhillips produced 150,000 bpd of liquids in the Lower 48 during the first quarter of the year, slightly less than the 156,000 bpd produced during the same period last year. The company produced 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas in the Lower 48 during the first quarter, down from 1.8 billion cubic feet produced during the same period last year.

\$95.56 for Alaska oil

ConocoPhillips reported an average sales price of \$95.56 per barrel for its Alaska oil in the first quarter, up from \$77.25 per barrel during the same period last year. Natural gas prices, however, fell to \$3.93 per thousand cubic feet from \$4.33 year-over-year. (BP reported an average sales price of \$103.22 per barrel for its Alaska oil in the first quarter, up from \$79.14 in 2010, but does not break out other quarterly financial data for Alaska.)

The first quarter figures come after the regular session of the Alaska Legislature was adjourned without passing a revision to the production tax system proposed by Gov. Sean Parnell. The Legislature is now in special session, but a production tax change is not on the list of bills being considered.

"Alaska's got a very progressive tax regime now and it's getting to be a relatively high tax cost area for us," Jeff Sheets, chief financial officer for ConocoPhillips, told analysts during a conference call on April 27. "We think there would be opportunity for increased investment in Alaska that is adversely impacted by the tax regime up there. So we'll continue to work with the relevant people in the government there to

try to influence things. We're hopeful, but it's hard to speculate on what the impact might be."

Kenai: supply or demand?

ConocoPhillips' sales from the liquefied natural gas export facility on the Kenai Peninsula declined to 20 million cubic feet per day in the first quarter of 2011, down considerably from the 56 million cubic feet per day sold during the first quarter of 2010.

ConocoPhillips and co-owner Marathon planned to mothball the facility in April, but recently announced four additional shipments to Japan and China through August.

"If we do prolong it, it's just for a short period of time," Sheets said.

Sheets blamed declining Cook Inlet supplies for the decision to shut down the plant.

"Obviously there would be a market for that gas if we could produce it," he said.

When the company pursued its extension of its export license last year, though, it asked only for more time to ship pre-existing volumes already deemed excess to local needs.

In February, Dan Clark, ConocoPhillips' manager of Cook Inlet assets, told Petroleum News that both supply and demand problems factored into the decision to close the plant, but said ConocoPhillips would not have sought an extension without enough supplies.

ConocoPhillips reported \$8 million in exploration charges in Alaska during the first quarter of the year, compared to \$7 million during the same period last year. The company also reported \$136 million in depletion, depreciation and amortization in Alaska during the first quarter of 2011, down from \$152 million during the same period in 2010.

—ERIC LIDJI

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continued from page 1

FORWARD VISIBILITY

up information from court documents, presentations, and public project and permit filings. I take that information and look for trends," Cashman said.

Oil companies looking at Alaska

"I also look for companies that are taking a serious look at Alaska — or appear to be a good fit for the state — and include information on them in Forward Visibility."

That's something, Cashman said, Petroleum News already does, but not as thoroughly.

"We're investing 40 hours of my time each week on just Forward Visibility, which means I'm able to follow a lot more leads. So if I turn up something on Forward Visibility's time, Forward Visibility subscribers see it first."

Recipients restricted to industry

Unlike Petroleum News, which is accessible to everyone, Forward Visibility reports are only available to people who work in the oil and gas industry.

"Most of our own employees don't receive them, because some of the information is sensitive and only shared with me because it's going to an industry-only audience," Cashman said.

"That means no government, associations, no media, and no financial analysts — all of which disseminate information."

Cashman clears all contacts made by PN associate publisher, Amy Cornell, formerly Amy Spittler.

"Amy Cornell, who is not a sales person, makes all contacts with potential subscribers to Forward Visibility versus having our circulation sales reps do it. Amy also checks out people who contact us before she submits them for my approval."

Sinopec is Conoco's new Chukchi partner

When asked to describe the sensitive information in the Forward Visibility reports, Cashman laughed and said, "If I tell you, I'll have to kill you. Seriously, one piece of information that Forward Visibility reported Jan. 27 was that Sinopec was ConocoPhillips' new partner in the Chukchi Sea. Conoco said Jan. 27 that it had a new partner, but would not release the name of the company. We reported Dec. 3 on the farm-in deal, saying it was an Asian company."

That type of information is included in Forward Visibility, she said, but "the bigger picture stuff, such as what's about to happen on the eastern North Slope and listing the major ENS players, that's more in line with our mission statement. Or how many exploration wells will be drilled next winter, and who's drilling them."

Almost all except sensitive info gets in PN

Does some of the information eventually get reported in Petroleum News? And when does that happen?

"Absolutely it does; generally when PN would normally report on it, which is almost always before any other publication," she said. "But some of the more sensitive information won't be released for months, or years, if ever."

Cashman said some of the stories she stumbles on do not fit Forward Visibility's mission, which is to "puzzle out" out what the future will bring.

"Forward Visibility readers want to know, before anyone else, where exploration and development are going to take place in Alaska, and who's going to do it, while it's still in the conceptual or early planning stage. That's hard to find out, but those are the leads we're able to chase because Forward Visibility has a bigger budget due to its higher service price."

PN'S FORWARD VISIBILITY ALASKA

Remember: PN's Forward Visibility Alaska is for industry eyes only because of the sensitivity of some of its contents. Not media. Not government (who would be obligated to share it). Not associations. Not financial analysts.

If you are reading this you have a paid subscription to Forward Visibility. These reports should not be forwarded within your company or to individuals outside your company. Please contact Amy Cornell, acornell@petroleumnews.com, if you need to update your subscription.

This issue: Donkel applies for unit offshore ANWR, plans to drill in 2015. Point Thomson EIS now full year behind. Plus links to latest FV Project Detail reports at bottom.

Donkel applies for unit offshore ANWR, plans to drill in 2015

Daniel K. Donkel, manager, of Donkel Oil & Gas LLC, recently filed a unit application with the State of Alaska for the former Slinson prospect north of ANWR, committing to drill a well in the proposed offshore unit in 2015.

Offshore the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's 1002 area, the discovery well, Slinson No. 1, was completed by ARCO Alaska in 1990, the result kept confidential until ConocoPhillips surrendered the lease in 2008.

Donkel has named the proposed 21,354-acre unit "Donkel Oil & Gas unit," possibly the first unit to be named after its operator.

Donkel's work commitment to the state includes a 3-D seismic survey over the unit's seven leases by the end of August 2013. Five of those leases are set to expire at the end of May, which will happen if Alaska's Division of Oil and Gas does not approve the new unit.

The 2015 well was described in the unit application as an "exploration well within the unit, or a directional well with a surface location outside the unit but with a bottomhole location within the unit, or the reentry of the Slinson No. 1 well, core owned by Samuel Cade.

As of March 8, 2011, Daniel K. Donkel was actively seeking partners/investors/buyers for the leases, which are 75 per-

cent owned by Samuel Cade.

In a mid-2010 Donkel press release, former Division of Oil and Gas geologist Don Brizzolara was quoted as saying, "It would seem very reasonable that from 1 to 4 trillion cubic feet of gas are present with an average of around 2 trillion cubic feet. The combined oil reserves of the Slinson field may range from 200 to 800 million barrels of oil." (See updated Slinson prospect report, its link at the bottom of this FV report, for more about recoverable reserves.)

An examination of 2-D seismic turned up a "very large anticlinal feature" on the Barrow Arch ... the structure is some 18 miles long," per a geologist working for Donkel. [Video on YouTube](#)

Point Thomson EIS now a full year behind

Per last week's Point Thomson FV report, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has again stretched out its schedule for finishing an environmental impact statement and issuing a record of decision for ExxonMobil's Point Thomson natural gas cycling development on Alaska's North Slope.

The new target date for publication of the record of decision is Aug. 2, 2012, a schedule the Corps provided to Petroleum News stows.

The previous target date, and a full year beyond the original goal of August 2011, was March 15 2012.



AMY CORNELL



Laptops for Foster Kids

Do you have an extra laptop you'd be willing to part with? No, I'm not adding to my own stockpile of consumer electronics or trying to strike it rich on the pawn shop circuit. Rep. Les Gara is working with Facing Foster Care Alaska to collect laptops for foster youth. Laptops are a critical tool for foster youth to keep up with schoolwork and stay connected with family and friends while they are moved to different homes and schools.

If you are interested in donating a laptop, please make sure it is fully functional and meets the following standards:

- Is in excellent working order;
- Is no more than 4 years old;
- Has a word processing program;
- Does not need any repairs.

For more information, or to donate a laptop, please contact either Rep. Gara's office at (907) 465-2647, or Amanda Metivier at Facing Foster Care Alaska at (907) 230-8237.



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see FORWARD VISIBILITY page 19

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EXXON WARNING

ExxonMobil has wavered on its target for first production from Point Thomson.

ExxonMobil is operator at Point Thomson, located along the Beaufort Sea coast just west of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Other major stakeholders include BP, Chevron and ConocoPhillips.

ExxonMobil is planning a development to cycle natural gas and collect condensate from the high-pressure field.

The company is aiming to produce 10,000 barrels of condensate per day, sending it through a planned 22-mile pipeline that would link up with the existing Badami pipeline to the west. Ultimately, the liquid would go down the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

ExxonMobil already has drilled two wells at Point Thomson for the project.

But before it can build a production base to process the gas and gather the condensate, it needs the wetlands permit from the Army Corps.

After receiving ExxonMobil's permit application, the Corps began work on the EIS at the end of 2009. Originally, the Corps projected a record of decision in August 2011.

But a series of schedule extensions, the latest coming on April 19, has pushed out the decision date to August 2012, a full year beyond the original estimate.

The Corps has attributed the schedule slips to such factors as completing certain studies, weighing input on the EIS from other agencies, and considering ExxonMobil's project design changes.

"ExxonMobil has worked collaboratively with the Corps to fully support the EIS process with timely submission of technical information," the e-mail from ExxonMobil's Ross said. "We will contin-

ue to work with the Corps, and the cooperating state and federal agencies, to seek EIS schedule improvement opportunities while maintaining the quality of the process."

Important court date nears

Point Thomson is a hugely important but contentious issue for the state and industry.

The field is believed to be extremely rich in natural gas as well as petroleum liquids, and development of those resources would mean taxes and royalties for the state and good work for oil field contractors.

But Point Thomson has yet to produce anything, despite having been discovered more than three decades ago.

Tired of the slow progress toward development, the state in recent years has taken action to break up the Point Thomson unit and invalidate leases on the state acreage.

ExxonMobil and the other oil companies are fighting to preserve the unit, and the matter currently stands before the Alaska Supreme Court.

Lawyers for the state and ExxonMobil have been trying to hammer out a settlement, which has kept the case on hold for several months. But the high court has signaled a limited appetite for waiting much longer, and has set a May 5 deadline for the two sides to either show a deal is near or get on with the proceedings.

Thus, we could learn much by that date on Point Thomson's fate.

"ExxonMobil remains committed to finalizing settlement of Point Thomson Unit issues with the State and continuing with timely, cost effective and prudent resource development," the company said. ●

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FORWARD VISIBILITY

Cashman said.

"But some leads I immediately turn over to Petroleum News because they're not a fit for Forward Visibility. And there are times I use news in Petroleum News or its news bulletin service for our internal project detail reports," which is something else Forward Visibility recipients have access to.

Project detail reports under construction

Intelligence on almost every oil and gas prospect and unit in northern Alaska and the Cook Inlet basin is currently being compiled by Cashman and her staff.

"Whether the latest news is reported in Petroleum News or in Forward Visibility, it will land up in our project detail reports that will be available to Forward Visibility subscribers," she said.

Cashman got the idea for the project detail reports when she looked at Alaska project reports from an online service that markets reports for several oil and gas provinces, including Alaska.

"Most of the information was at least a year old, and some much older than that. I knew we could do a better job," she said.

Who reads it?

When asked what type of individual or company signs up for Forward Visibility, Cornell said, "We have subscribers from drilling, oil, seismic, construction, equipment and transportation companies, as well as oil companies, investors and lease speculators."

Forward Visibility has received only positive reviews from its readers, she said.

"Companies are always asking whether their competitors receive it. I don't disclose names, but we're getting more and more queries about Forward Visibility — from people we've not approached — so the word is getting out."

"The second most common question after, 'are my competitors receiving it,'" Cornell said, is "What's the main difference between Forward Visibility and Petroleum News or PN's News Bulletin Service?"

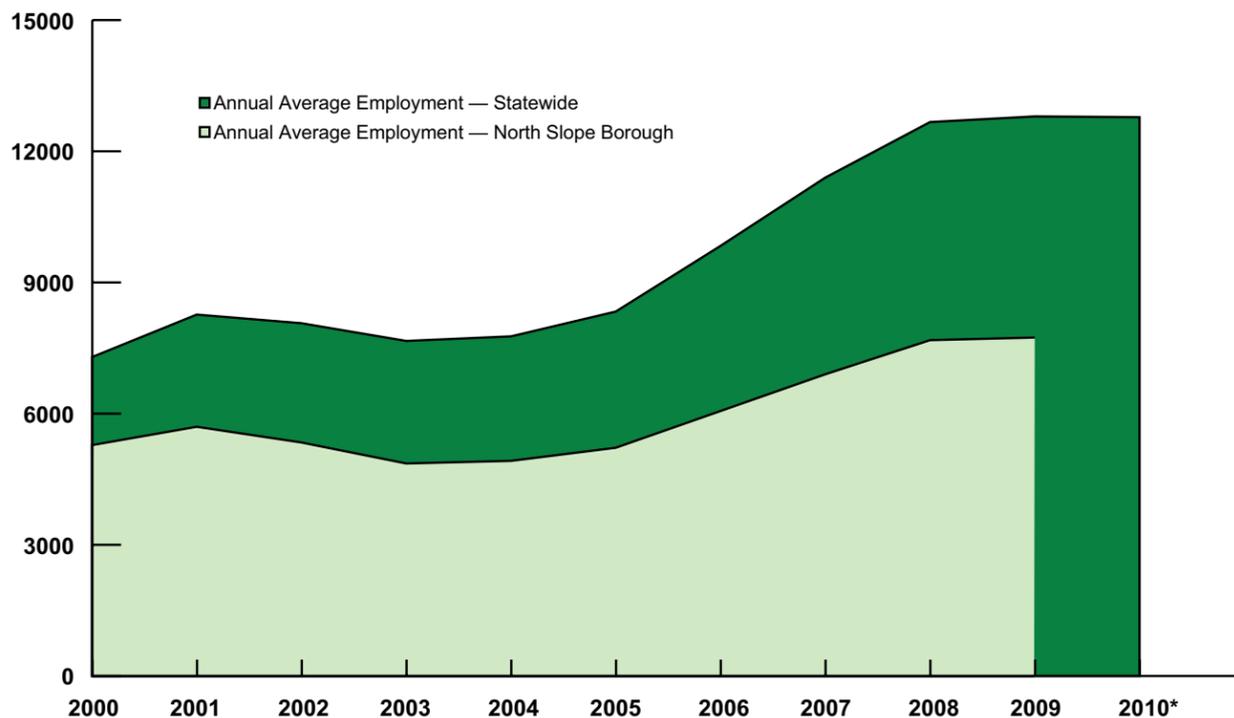
"Kay writes for all three, but in Forward Visibility she puts together all the pieces and gives readers a glimpse of the probable future; something they can use in planning. There are no guarantees she is right, but her information is solid, confirmed by three sources, and she has an excellent track record predicting the future — and for backing winners," Cornell said.

"One piece of insightful information can be worth millions in the oil business."

—PETROLEUM NEWS

Alaska Statistics

Alaska Oil Industry Employment Statewide and North Slope Borough 2000-2010*

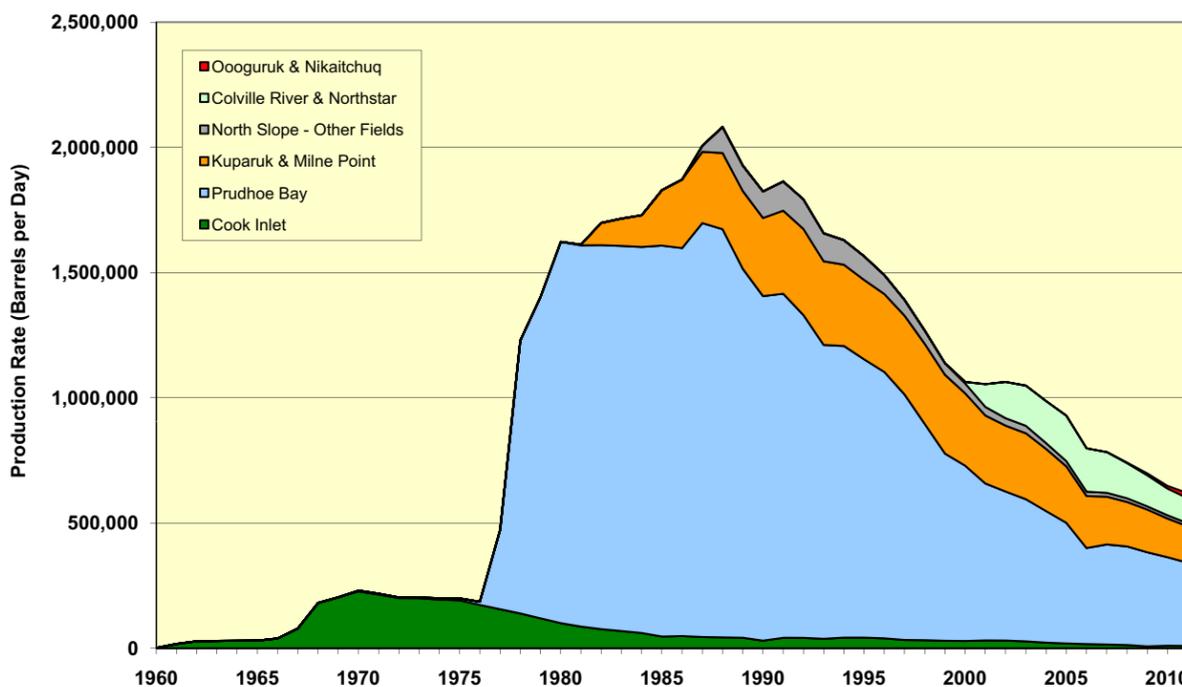


*Preliminary

2010 annual average employment numbers for the North Slope Borough were not available as of the publish date for this chart

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Alaska's Average Daily Oil and NGL Production Rate 1960 - 2010



Petroleum News will be reproducing this standalone chart from the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission on a regular basis because of the interest in the decline in Alaska's oil production.

Congratulations

Congratulations Armstrong on start of North Fork!

Armstrong is now Alaska's newest producer.

The Denver-based independent began delivering natural gas from its North Fork unit into the Enstar Natural Gas system on March 31, according to Enstar spokesman John Sims.

The onshore unit, located in the southern Kenai Peninsula some 10 miles north of Homer, is now the southernmost producing field in Alaska. North Fork is connected to the Southcentral transmission grid through two new pipelines completed this year.



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Cover photo: The jack-up drilling rig Spartan 151 rides aboard the heavy lift vessel Kang Sheng Kou after departing Freeport, Texas, on her 15,000-mile voyage to Anchorage.

Photo courtesy Spartan Offshore Drilling LLC

Banks: Still vast resources in Alaska

North Slope source rock play draws \$8 million from Great Bear; Cook Inlet basin attracts investment dollars from Armstrong, Apache

By KEVIN BANKS

Director, State of Alaska's Division of Oil and Gas

For all the talk about peak oil and Alaska's aging fields, there is plenty of evidence that Alaska still holds vast and potentially profitable undeveloped oil and gas resources. Industry is still actively acquiring rights to develop our lands, and new players are still entering Alaska with new ideas and technology in their back pockets.

Last year in this publication we predicted a great year for leasing in Alaska and, sure enough, that prediction came true. Great Bear Petroleum starred in the North Slope areawide sale, bidding more than \$8 million for 500,000 acres of land. Great Bear's bids were based on a source rock reservoir oil play concept not yet tried in Alaska, but which has led to a major resurgence of oil production elsewhere in the U.S. The era of "easy" oil may be drawing to a close, but if commercially successful, the resource play concept may lead to major development of unconventional oil resources on the North Slope.



KEVIN BANKS

New Cook Inlet investment

Cook Inlet continues to attract new industry investment after more than 50 years of industry activity. For example, on the Kenai Peninsula, Armstrong this winter constructed a 7-mile gas pipeline between North Fork and Anchor Point. The pipeline is expected to be ready for operation in February, with first gas sales from the field expected in March. Apache Corp., a world-recognized leader in deploying cutting-edge technology to breathe new life into mature basins, acquired nearly 250,000 acres in the second half of 2010 alone. Apache's immediate exploration plans call for testing 2-D seismic acquisition parameters in preparation for continuous, year-round 3-D seismic acquisition across much of the Cook Inlet basin. Cook Inlet Energy has restarted for oil wells to bring the West McArthur River unit back into production. The company is in the process of permitting three Stingray prospect exploration wells for this winter in the West Foreland area onshore, targeting Beluga Formation gas.

On the east side of Cook Inlet, Buccaneer is permitting three wells on private land for their Kenai Loop project and Nordaq energy has spudded their Shadura 1 well on CIRI land west of Swanson River to test Beluga and Tyonek prospects.

And north of Anchorage, Linc Energy has acquired 117,000 acres of previously leased state acreage and announced a gas discovery at their LEA 1 well.

Division wants responsible development

We want to see responsible resource developers succeed in Alaska, because when industry is successful, so are we.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources' Division of Oil

and Gas manages the state's oil and gas resources with a staff of 95 technical experts with hundreds of years of combined industry experience. The Division works in asset teams, consisting of diverse groups of professionals using their unique and complementary areas of expertise to manage the wide array of functions assigned to each team.

The Division's mission is to "manage lands for oil, gas, and geothermal exploration and development in a fair and transparent manner to maximize prudent use of resources for the greatest benefit of all Alaskans." This means not only maximizing the economic and physical recovery of resources and achieving the best economic benefits of oil and gas resource development. We strive to maximize competition among explorers and developers. We are also called on to make maximum use of Alaska's human resources, as well as inspect and control the use of lands under our jurisdiction.

The Resource Evaluation section is just one example of the highly qualified staff we're proud to call ours. Our team of petroleum geoscientists and engineers works in both regulatory and research capacities, and has the experience and integrity to work with potential industry investors, providing technical briefings and sharing their knowledge and interpretations of non-confidential data.

Throughout the Division are individuals with experience in oil and gas trading and marketing, marine transportation, land law, conservation, accounting, audit, resource management and economics. This staff is assembled to support any responsible company that shares our mission.

At last count, our staff had over 300 years of combined professional experience, with over 170 years of combined previous experience working for petroleum companies.

Annual lease sales held

The Division of Oil and Gas strives to provide the predictability we know our industry partners need. That is why we hold annual lease sales for all available tracts in five areas with known petroleum potential — our Areawide Lease Sales. The lease sales are held in May (for the Alaska Peninsula and Cook Inlet) and October (for the Beaufort Sea, North Slope, and North Slope Foothills).

When our lease sales take place, the environmental challenges of potential oil and gas development have already been considered. For each of these areas, a Best Interest Finding is developed every 10 years, and reviewed annually to ensure that the proposed leasing is, in fact, in the best interest of the state taking into account the input from regional and local stakeholders. In the Finding, the Division provides measures to mitigate any reasonably expected negative impact. The past two years of lease sales on the North Slope successfully leased over a million acres.

The Division also issues exploration licenses to allow for exploration in parts of Alaska not encompassed by annual areawide lease sales. The Division accepts exploration license applications

Continued on page 8

Alpha Seismic Compressors: Air source solutions for offshore seismic applications

Providing offshore seismic compressor rentals for Alaska, Arctic, GOM, North Sea, W Africa

Q. What do you most want people to know about your company?

A. Alpha Seismic Compressors LLC specializes in long term rentals, sales and service of high pressure, high volume customized air compressors. We build compressors for marine seismic data acquisition, geophysical contractors, marine seismic vessel owners, private and national oil companies, industrial, safety and breathing air, testing laboratories, academic and research institutions, government and municipal entities, and other markets requiring robust, continuous duty reliability in harsh and demanding environments. We provide high pressure air source solutions.

Q. Where is your company located?

A. Our corporate headquarters is located in Portland, Ore. Our compressor fleet operations are located in Houston, Texas. We contract with Lloyd's of London Agents and Sub-Agents worldwide to represent our interests as needed.

Q. What year was the company founded and by whom?

A. Alpha Seismic Compressors LLC was founded in 2010. Owners Steven Reese, Kenneth Guenther and Frederick Pfaffle decided there was favorable synergy in combining our high pressure compressor knowledge, assets and management experience into one company to offer high pressure air source solutions internationally.

Q. What is the company's primary business sector?

A. Demanding markets requiring robust, high pressure air source solutions. These business sectors include marine seismic data acquisition, geophysical contractors, marine seismic vessel owners, safety and breathing air, testing laboratories, academic and research institutions, government and municipal entities, private and national oil companies and service providers, and other specialized industrial and commercial applications.

Q. Are there important projects the company is currently a part of or has done recently?

A. We recently completed a successful, long term rental in the Gulf of Mexico equipping a vessel for continuous marine seismic data acquisition over a nine month period. Currently we are negotiating and preparing for seismic projects in Alaska, the East Siberian Sea, the Arctic Ocean region, the Gulf of Mexico, the North Sea, West Africa and other locations. We have also recently provided



Fred Pfaffle, Alpha Seismic Compressors, Managing Director, provided information for this company profile

**ALPHA
SEISMIC
COMPRESSORS**



ASC Seismic Compressors operating on the M/V Vardholm in the Gulf of Mexico.

compressors for testing facilities, industrial, and breathing air and safety applications. Our compressors are being used for marine seismic data acquisition projects, to test jet engine valves, service breathing air and safety applications, and other specialized industrial and commercial applications.

Q. How many employees does your company have?

A. Through affiliated corporate arrangements based on ongoing projects we have a staff of approximately 20 available to us.

Q. Describe the equipment your company might use and are there any new purchases planned?

A. We are currently have and are building specialized compressors using Hamworthy, Greenfield, CompAir, Bauer, John Deere and other equipment. We are also looking at additional buildouts utilizing Sullair, Hurricane and Caterpillar equipment. We try to have short lead times to accommodate special needs and are always looking for robust and reliable equipment. When we complete our build-out in March we will have state of the art compressors capable of being delivered virtually anywhere in the world by land, air or sea.



Q. Is your company expanding any of its operations or locations?

A. Alpha Seismic Compressors LLC has its corporate headquarters in Portland, Ore., and fleet operations in Houston, Texas, where we offer international shipments to virtually any location the U.S. government allows. We are currently planning for a presence in Alaska by early spring. We have international representation on an as needed basis with Lloyd's of London Agents and Sub-Agents. We have the ability to do remote installation and re-

Continued on page 8

continued from page 7

ALPHA SEISMIC COMPRESSORS

pairs internationally.

Q. Is the company changing any of its services?

A. We are in an expansion mode and always looking for new markets to offer our equipment for long term rental and sale.

Q. What is your company's main strength or its edge over the competition?

A. Alpha Seismic Compressors LLC has commercially desirable, state of the art equipment. We pride ourselves as an aggressive growing company. We have deep field experience and a committed management team.

Q. What new markets, clients or projects did your company attract in the last year?

A. We are significantly involved in providing high pressure air compressors offering air source solutions to a wide range of markets. Within the past year we have done business or negotiated with several publicly traded and private entities. These include geophysical contractors, marine seismic vessel owners, safety and breathing air providers, testing laboratories and other markets requiring robust and reliable high pressure compressors.

Q. What is the most challenging job the company has undertaken?

A. We consider each and every one of jobs as a serious challenge. We strive to give special attention to tailoring and customizing available equipment to meet each of our customer's demands.

Q. What are the biggest obstacles to completing work the company undertakes?

A. Meeting timetables to accommodate each and every one of our client's requirements.

Q. What do you see as your company's biggest challenge in the next five years?

A. Keeping up with demand.

Q. Does your company have an anniversary or other landmark event coming up?

A. In March we intend to celebrate completion of a substantial state of the art upgrade to our fleet.

Q. What is the average length of time employee's work for



COURTESY ALPHA SEISMIC COMPRESSORS

Alpha Seismic Compressors markets our compressors anywhere the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security approves.

the company?

A. We are a relatively new entity but each member of our team has many years of corporate and/or solid field experience.

Q. What is your company's safety record? What steps does the company take to ensure a safe work environment?

A. We are very sensitive to providing safe and reliable state of the art equipment to our customers. Our equipment is frequently used in harsh and demanding environments where robust, safe and continuous duty reliability is a must. We know problems can happen. One of our principles is to respond as quickly as possible to solve problems before they have a chance to become bigger problems. Our field experience includes seismic vessel installations, breathing air applications, biological agent testing laboratories, commercial jet engine maintenance, among others. We don't want equipment going out in the field that isn't safe and reliable.

Q. Has your company received any awards or recognition?

A. We are proud, supporting members of the International Association of Geophysical Contractors.

Q. Has your company been involved in any community projects or charities events?

A. In October we were very pleased to be one of the sponsors of the IAGC Sporting Clay Tournament held annually in Houston, Texas.

Q. Does your company have a website?

A. www.AlphaSeismicCompressors.com.

We are very proud to advertise in Petroleum News, the IAGC, RigZone, Tradequip, OffShore Magazine and WorldOil to name a few.

continued from page 6

BANKS

every year during the month of April. When a license application is received, the Division starts its fact-finding process to determine whether awarding the exploration license is in the best interest of the state. A preliminary Best Interest Finding, subject to a public comment period and due consideration of those com-

ments, is followed by a Final Finding of the Director, determining whether the license should be awarded.

Learn more about the Alaska Division of Oil and Gas from our website: www.dog.dnr.state.ak.us/oil/

Or contact us at our offices in Anchorage: 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suites 800 & 1100; Anchorage, Alaska 99504. Phone: 907-269-8800

Note: Preliminary numbers for October 2010 lease sale for Beaufort Sea, North Slope, and North Slope Foothills included.



COURTESY ERA HELICOPTERS

With more than 60 years experience, Era an established leader in the helicopter industry

Throughout its history Era has been providing safe operations in many challenging conditions

Q. What do you most want people to know about your company?

A. Era Helicopters has been in business for 63 years, starting in Alaska and expanding to Louisiana and now internationally!

Q. Where is your company located?

A. Corporate headquarters are in Lake Charles, La., and the Alaska office is located in Anchorage.

Q. What year was the company founded and by whom?

A. 1948 by Carl E. Brady

Q. What is the company's primary business sector?

A. Oil and gas support, aircraft leasing, air medical

Q. Are there important projects the company is currently a part of or has done recently?

A. Era recently supported Shell with the docking of the Kulluk in Dutch Harbor. We also participated in the gas pipeline survey work this last summer for the Alaska Gas Pipeline Project.

Q. How many employees does your company have?

A. 900 plus.



Q. Describe the equipment your company might use and are there any new purchases planned?

A. Era operates one of the most advanced new helicopters on the market, the Agusta AW139. This 12 passenger helicopter is equipped with state of the art technology and handles the extreme cold weather of Alaska expertly. We also have a large fleet of AS350B2 helicopters that are used not only for utility jobs but are our premier flight-seeing aircraft. Era operates several BH212s and a BH412 which continue to hold their place in the Alaska market.

Q. Is your company expanding any of its operations or locations?

A. Era is well placed around the state with bases covering the far north in Deadhorse down to the southeast in Juneau. We have six bases total which give us optimal state coverage.

Q. Is the company changing any of its services?

A. Era continually works to be the best helicopter company in Alaska. We are very diverse in our operations and remain open to new ideas.

Q. What is your company's main strength or its edge over the competition?

Continued on next page



COURTESY ERA HELICOPTERS

continued from page 10

ERA HELICOPTERS

A. Era's strength is our ability to stay on top of the technological market in helicopter operations. Era is the first civil helicopter company to take Flight Operational Quality Assurance (FOQA) technology, a program used by the airline industry to routinely obtain and analyze data recorded in flight, into its fleet. Era is also one of the first companies to introduce Health and Usage Monitoring Systems (HUMS) into its fleet.

Q. What new markets, clients or projects did your company attract in the last year?

A. Era has continued to expand in the oil and gas industry, flying for the Alaska Gas Pipeline Project and Shell Oil Company.

Q. What is the most challenging job the company has undertaken?

A. Flare tip fittings via long line in the North Sea.

Q. What are the biggest obstacles to completing work the company undertakes?

A. For Era, one of our biggest obstacles can be weather.

Q. What do you see as your company's biggest challenge in the next five years?

A. Keeping up with customer demands as well as a continuing advanced safety culture.

Q. What is the average length of time employee's work for the company?

A. Eight to 10 years

Q. What is your company's safety record? What steps does the company take to ensure a safe work environment?

A. Era has an excellent safety record. We have in place Safety Management Systems (SMS), Quality Assurance and Health and Safety (H&S) programs.

Q. Has your company received any awards or recognition?

A. Igor I. Sikorsky Award for Humanitarian Service in 2005 from HAI

U.S. Coast Guard Hurricane Katrina/Rita Response 2005 for 246 Days and 2430.6 Safe flight hours

BP Exploration 1990 Logistics Safety Award

Q. Has your company been involved in any community projects or charities events?

A. Anchorage Chamber, EVA Foundation and Local Charitable Contributions through donations and flight support.

Q. Does your company have a website?

A. www.erahelicopters.com

Totem Equipment & Supply number one for construction heater trailers

For more than 50 years Totem's knowledgeable staff has been serving Alaska

Q. What do you most want people to know about your company?

A. We are problem solvers, offering the newest innovations available in the markets we serve.

Q. Where is your company located?

A. We have three branches, two in Anchorage, Alaska, and one in Wasilla, Alaska.

Q. What year was the company founded and by whom?

A. Totem Equipment & Supply was opened in Anchorage in 1961 and was founded by President and CEO Cliff Huston along with wife and business partner Allie Huston. Today, we continue under a management team headed by Vice President Mike Huston. We are proud to claim a second-generation success story with the third generation now also on board.

Q. What is the company's primary business sector?

A. Sales, service, rentals and fabrication.

Q. Are there important projects the company is currently a part of or has done recently?

A. We are currently negotiating several large fabrication projects and a large heater trailer order to Sakhalin Island, Russia, was recently completed.

Q. How many employees does your company have?

A. We have 20 employees.



Q. Describe the equipment your company might use and are there any new purchases planned?

A. The innovative thinking at Totem has given birth to a full fabrication facility, manufacturer of the famous Totem 10 self-contained heater trailers. These units are manufactured right here in Alaska and have been popular internationally since the 1970s. New products include fully contained pressure washer trailers, dump trailers, light tower trailers and much more, with spring season inventory on its way.

Q. What types of products do you produce in your fabrication shop?

A. Our fabrication shop is the birthplace of our famous Totem 10 heater trailers and is world famous for its innovation and quality. We also fabricate other items such as pressure washer trailers and water tanks. Our products have been accepted with rave reviews from Russia to Iraq and from the North Slope of Alaska to Korea.

Q. Do you have any new equipment that has become available in recent months?



COURTESY TOTEM EQUIPMENT



COURTESY TOTEM EQUIPMENT

A. We introduced the new 5CDLT heater trailer in February; it's the only true combination indirect fired heater and fully extendable light tower. The 500,000 Btu heater trailer has a 100 percent fuel containment, 28 hour fuel tank, removable and extendable light tower, with four 1,000 watt halide lights and generator. Additional features include highway towing capabilities, DOT light package, interior light, leveling jacks for all four corners and forklift pockets.

Q. Does your company also offer service or support for its equipment?

A. At Totem, we always service what we sell. We can locate those hard to find parts for your equipment. We are your factory authorized source for parts and service for over 100 of the top lines in the industry. Our motto is "if we can't find it, it can't be found".

Continued on next page

continued from page 12

TOTEM EQUIPMENT

Q. Is your company expanding any of its operations or locations?

A. We are becoming more active in the designing and building our products.

Q. Is the company changing any of its services?

A. Totem Equipment continues to put emphasis on problem solving and providing a value to its customers.

Q. What is your company's main strength or its edge over the competition?

A. Consistency and knowledge of the Alaska market and its special challenges.

Q. What new markets, clients or projects did your company attract in the last year?

A. Doing business with the new independent oil companies, developing the first heater light tower that is self contained.

Q. What is the most challenging job the company has undertaken?

A. Selling equipment to the Korean Air Force.

Q. What are the biggest obstacles to completing work the company undertakes?

A. Retaining goal oriented and motivated employees.

Q. What do you see as your company's biggest challenge in the next five years?

A. Incorporating the government regulated health care and meeting deadlines in the oil fields due to those regulations.

Q. Does your company have an anniversary or other landmark event coming up?

A. We will be celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2011.

Q. What is the average length of time employee's work for the company?

A. On average our employees are with us for 15 years.

Q. What is your company's safety record? What steps does the company take to ensure a safe work environment?

A. Extremely good, we have regular safety meetings and a work environment with a culture of safety.

Q. Has your company been involved in any community projects or charities events?

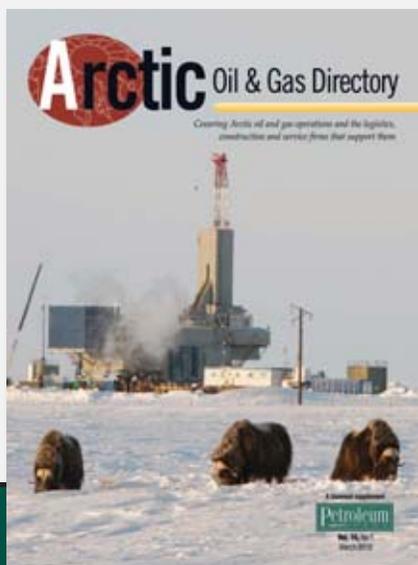
A. We are a Ducks Unlimited sponsor, Youth Football sponsor and always donate needed equipment to any school athletic event.

Q. Does your company have a website?

A. www.toteminc.com

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Qualified Petroleum News advertisers have full access to all the benefits included in this biannual magazine, which used to be called the Petroleum Directory but was recently changed to Arctic Oil & Gas Directory to reflect its content and worldwide distribution. Those benefits include the following:



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Steeply dipping panel of Cretaceous pebble shale unit, GRZ, and Hue Shale at Hue Creek in ANWR. Rusty brown and orange weathering is characteristic of tuffaceous intervals in this succession. Stratigraphic younging direction is to the right. View to west.

P.L. DECKER, 2005

Alaska Shale: Why the state sees hope in source rocks

State petroleum geologist tells lawmakers that North Slope source rocks resemble some of the hottest shale plays in North America

By ERIC LIDJI
For Petroleum News

The State of Alaska is “cautiously optimistic” about oil development from source rocks.

“Optimistic” because the geology of the Alaska North Slope resembles the hot Eagle Ford shale formation in South Texas, and Great Bear Petroleum’s leases are “well positioned” to develop that geology, a Division of Oil and Gas petroleum geologist recently told state lawmakers. “Cautiously” because developing source rocks is an entirely new concept in Alaska that will require a lot of equipment, crews and water, and some trial and error.

“If these production pilots and exploration success do occur then full-scale development, if it were to occur, could be quite a

■ Petroleum News reprint • March 30, 2011

whirlwind,” Paul Decker said on Feb. 23. “But, you know, things remain to be seen. But at this point I think we’re cautiously optimistic.” The play Great Bear is proposing to develop at its new 537,500-acre North Slope lease position is so new for Alaska that it doesn’t even have an agreed upon name, but Decker is calling it “source-reservoired oil,” meaning that the source rock is also the reservoir, because the rocks are so tight that they hold onto the oil they generate like a traditional geologic trap.

What makes for good rocks?

The North Slope is home to three “prolific” source rock inter-

Continued on page 17

ON THE JOB: CROWLEY ALASKA

Crowley's Prince William Sound class tug Nanuq safely escorts the tanker Polar Discovery from the Valdez Marine Terminal through Prince William Sound to the Gulf of Alaska.



ALEX DEMARBAN

JUDY PATRICK



Crowley's Kotzebue tank farm facility provides storage for over 6 million gallons of petroleum products used to supply the people of Kotzebue and the villages of the Kotzebue Sound Region.

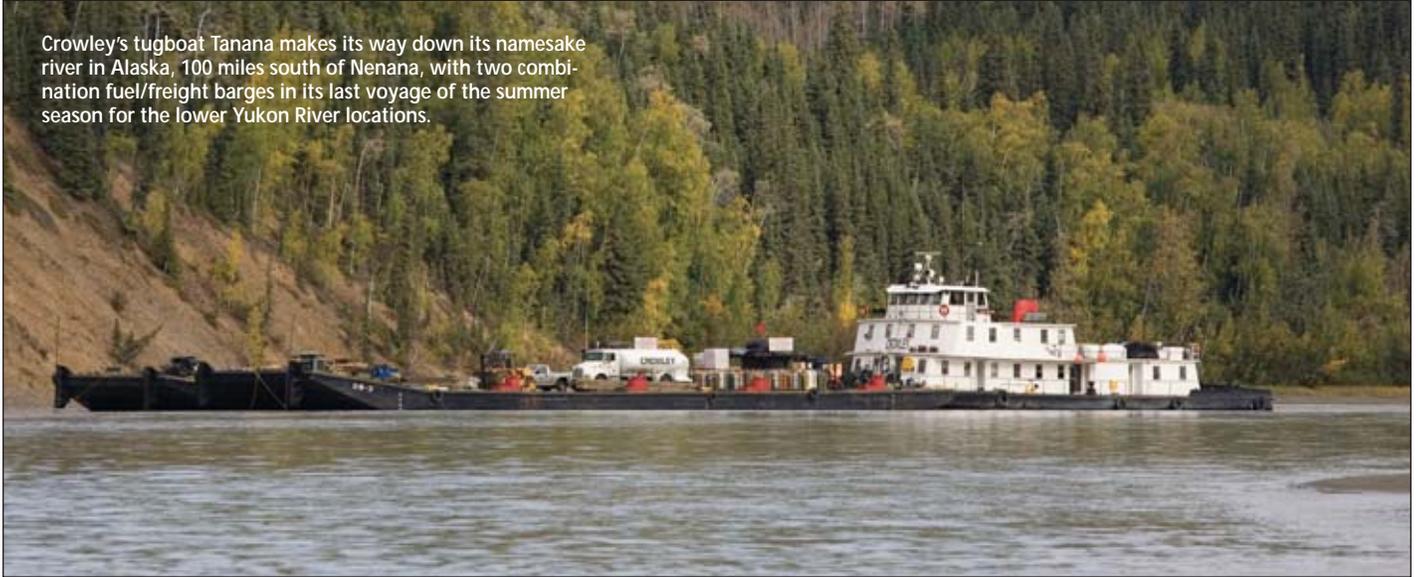
A Crowley CATCO all-terrain vehicle transports cargo across the frozen Alaska tundra to support remote drilling operations on the North Slope.



JUDY PATRICK

JUDY PATRICK

Crowley's tugboat Tanana makes its way down its namesake river in Alaska, 100 miles south of Nenana, with two combination fuel/freight barges in its last voyage of the summer season for the lower Yukon River locations.



JUDY PATRICK



Two of Crowley's high-deck strength barges, 455-3 and Marty J, towed by tugs Warrior and Commander, transported processing and utility modules to Point Oliktok in Kuparuk, Alaska. The modules and components, each weighing nearly 4,000 tons, will support Eni's development of the Nikaitchuq oil field.

COURTESY CROWLEY



Crowley tug Vigilant assists Crowley ATB Gulf Reliance/650-2 at the Tesoro Refinery in Kenai, Alaska.

JUDY PATRICK

Repsol sees nice alternative in Alaska

Compared to the Repsol's other assets, the North Slope is stable, oil-rich and low risk, which is why the company plans to spend big

By ERIC LIDJI
For Petroleum News

The recent activity of Repsol YPF sheds light on four phrases in the Spanish major's press release announcing its North Slope lease acquisition, clues about what Alaska means to the global company: "oil-rich," "low exploratory risk," "OECD" and "boosted."

"The North Slope of Alaska is an especially promising area for Repsol as it has already shown to be oil-rich and carries low exploratory risk. This acreage also helps increase the company's presence in OECD countries," the company wrote in March 7 release, adding, "Repsol has significantly boosted its onshore and offshore exploration activities in the last five years, resulting in some of the world's largest oil and gas discoveries."

■ Petroleum News reprint • March 13, 2011

Repsol traces its lineage to a state-owned petroleum industry monopoly created before the Spanish Civil War and reorganized often in the following decades. Repsol became a private company in the late 1980s and gradually expanded internationally, buying the Argentinean company YPF in 1999 and establishing a vast Latin American portfolio.

In the past decade, Repsol made liquefied natural gas a major segment of its portfolio, while expanding in North and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Russia and Africa.

With some 40,000 employees working in more than 30 countries, Repsol is currently one of the 10 largest private oil companies in the world. The company earned €4.7 billion of income in 2010 (around \$6.5 billion) up from €1.5 billion in 2009 (around \$2 billion).

'Oil-rich' and 'low-exploratory risk'

By saying that the North Slope "has already shown to be oil-rich and carries low exploratory risk," Repsol placed Alaska apart from its LNG and challenging oil plays.

Because Repsol is the third largest LNG company in the world, its portfolio is tilted toward natural gas. In 2009, the company reported total reserves of 2 billion barrels of oil equivalent, some 890 million barrels came of oil and 6.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Those LNG assets are strategically located. In the Atlantic Ocean, the company owns import terminals in Spain and eastern Canada, and an export terminal in Trinidad and Tobago. In the Pacific Ocean, the company owns an export terminal in Peru.

With talk of LNG surpluses in the Atlantic in recent years, though, Repsol might see its Alaska acquisition as a relatively easy way to boost crude oil reserves and production. Its new lease position in Alaska is both prospective and close to existing infrastructure.

Repsol's oil portfolio includes exploration and production from many challenging, but prolific basins, like the deepwater Gulf of Mexico and the Santos basin off Brazil.

Repsol is arriving in Alaska the way several other larger players have in the past: by partnering with Armstrong Resources on

acreage already proven up to some degree.

The White Hills region is onshore, close to the trans-Alaska oil pipeline and recently explored. Chevron drilled five shallow wells across the large play in 2008 and 2009. Chevron never released well results, but the State of Alaska believes the region is both oil and gas prone. Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission well logs released last year suggest Chevron was targeting oil and natural gas prospects in the Brookian formation.

Although North Slope natural gas is currently stranded because of the lack of transportation options, and the Alaska export market for LNG is jeopardized by the upcoming closing of the export terminal on the Kenai Peninsula, Repsol's focus on global LNG and long-dormant rumors that it considered building a North Slope gas pipeline suggest that the company might be interested in gas resources as well as oil resources.

Repsol's other state leases sit north of the nearshore Oooguruk unit, where Pioneer Natural Resources continues to expand operations, resource estimates and production rates.

By saying its new acreage "also helps increase the company's presence in OECD countries," Repsol was acknowledging Alaska's stability on the international stage.

Repsol's decade-long focus on Latin America and North Africa brought it tremendous reserves and production, but it also placed the company at increased political risk.

In early 2008, Repsol laid out a four-year strategic plan that included "selective growth through large new projects in OECD countries." Specifically, Repsol set a goal to have at least 55 percent of its assets located in OECD countries by 2012. While the company currently maintains upstream operations in Canada, the Gulf of Mexico, Norway, Australia and its native Spain, it also operates in Algeria, Venezuela and Kazakhstan.

Repsol recently planned to invest \$10 billion in an Iranian natural gas venture, but pulled out last June amid international efforts to sanction the regime over nuclear issues.

In February, Repsol suspended Libyan operations following unrest in the North African country, cutting its 300,000-barrel per day output nearly in half, to around 160,000 bpd.

Repsol is placing its Alaska acquisition in the context of its other North American operations, particularly its recent exploration and production from the Gulf of Mexico.

The company included its Gulf of Mexico operations among five upstream projects in its strategic plan, alongside ventures in Brazil, Libya, Algeria and Peru.

The company already holds acreage offshore Alaska, including a minority stake in federal leases in the Beaufort Sea and wholly owned federal leases in the Chukchi Sea.

Boosted exploration activities

By saying it "has significantly boosted its onshore and offshore exploration activities in the last five years" and by announcing a \$768 million budget for Alaska, Repsol is suggesting that it plans to bring its aggressive exploration attitude up to the

Continued on next page

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REPSOL

North Slope.

After years of partnerships and acquisitions, Repsol began focusing on explo-

ration starting in the middle of the last decade. That strategy appears to have paid off. Since 2008, Repsol has made 35 discoveries on four continents, including 20 that it operates.

In 2009 and 2010, the company an-

nounced 15 discoveries, including four in the offshore Santos basin of Brazil, the Buckskin and Shenzi prospects in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico and discoveries in North Africa, South America and off the coast of Spain.

continued from page 13

ALASKA SHALE

vals that are candidates for development: the Shublik, the Kingak and the GRZ/Hue shale system, from deepest to shallowest. These source rocks exist some 8,000 to 13,000 feet underground.

The factors that make source rocks good candidates for development include the organic chemistry — the ingredients for making oil, elements like carbon and hydrogen — and the thermal maturity — the underground heat needed to turn those elements into oil.

For source rocks to become the “kitchen” where oil and gas gets “cooked,” they must be deep enough for the heat of the earth to reach the proper temperatures. Shallow rocks are too cool, or “immature,” and won’t generate oil and gas for ages, but in the hotter depths below those immature rocks are usually an “oil window” and a deeper “gas window.”

The tectonic history is also important, because natural fracturing can make recovery easier and needs to be well understood in order to design, drill, and complete the wells most effectively.

Clues in Texas and N. Dakota

Trying to analyze the source rocks on the North Slope, the most comparable basins are the Eagle Ford shale in Texas and the Bakken shale in North Dakota. On average, North Slope source rocks aren’t as organically rich as the Bakken or the best parts of the Eagle Ford, but they are generally thicker. The Shublik rocks appear to be brittle like the Eagle Ford and the Bakken, but typical Shublik-sourced oil is somewhat heavier. The Kingak and GRZ/Hue appear to be less brittle than the Eagle Ford and Bakken, but are known to generate somewhat lighter oil than the Shublik.

“We expect that the Eagle Ford is going to be a pretty good place to look to answer questions that we don’t yet know from direct evidence from our own source rock,” Decker said.

Does that mean Alaska is as prolific as

the Eagle Ford or the Bakken?

Decker said it’s still too soon to say, but noted that a U.S. Geological Survey assessment of the unconventional oil and gas resources in Arctic Alaska slated for release next year should shed some light on just how much oil is down there.

“We are very encouraged from what we know right now, but the proof is in the drilling,” Decker said.

Currently, only Great Bear Petroleum is looking to explore source rocks, but if it can successfully develop the resource it would likely create a rush on the North Slope. Great Bear President and COO Ed Duncan told lawmakers that he believes his leases alone could contain some 2 billion barrels of oil and 12 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The learning curve ahead

With unconventional oil plays, though, the trick is recovery.

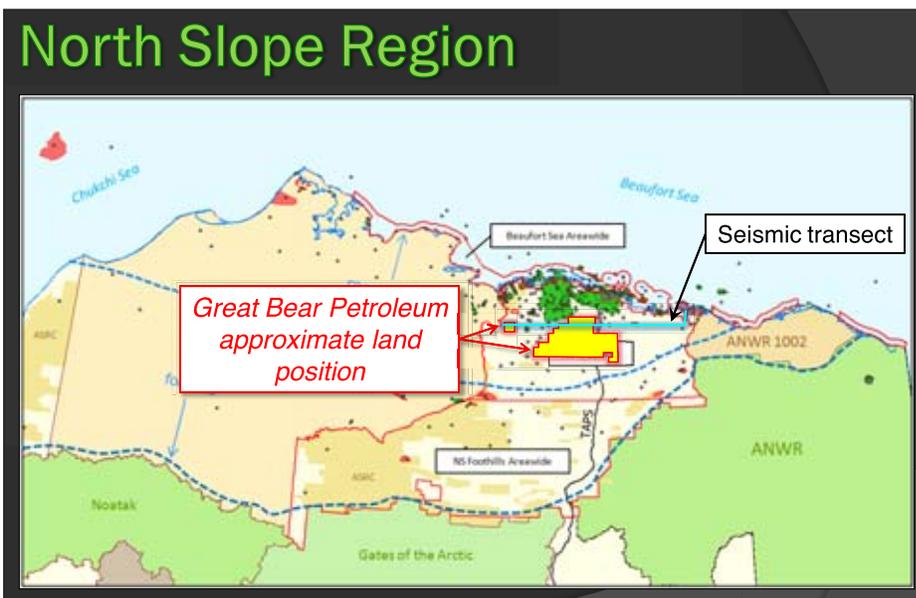
Unlike a conventional reservoir, there are no “dry holes” in source rocks because the rocks are saturated with oil or gas. The question is whether the oil can be recovered. Decker said success on the North Slope would depend on gathering enough good data about the source rocks to support a pilot project. “We are going to need

to get on that learning curve and lower the cost of drilling wells. It is partly learning. It’s partly just getting enough equipment up there I think. But we need to lower those costs,” he said.

A pilot project would help craft an Alaska model for development. Drillers in the Bakken shale typically drill from five-acre pads spaced every 640 acres. From each pad, one horizontal or multilateral well extends up to two miles in length. Spacing is much tighter in the Eagle Ford, between 125 and 140 acres per well, and would likely be tighter in Alaska, as well, with multiple horizontal wells drilled from each pad. Great Bear plans to use one-acre pads every 120 to 160 acres.

Because source rocks don’t yield their resources like conventional resources, drillers must fracture and stimulate the rocks with large amounts of water and sand. Production rates usually decline quickly over the first two years, but decline more slowly over the next decade or more.

Decker said Alaska needs more equipment, more crews, a sufficient water supply, transparent fracturing practices to guarantee that permafrost and drinking water supplies are adequately protected and new all-seasons roads to allow for year-round surface access.





Escopeta jack-up rig sails for Cook Inlet

By PETROLEUM NEWS

A jack-up rig is headed for Alaska for the first time in more than a decade.

The M.V. Kang Sheng Kou heavy lift vessel left Freeport, Texas, at around 6:50 p.m. on Friday, March 18, carrying the Spartan 151 jack-up rig to Cook Inlet on behalf of operator Escopeta Oil. As of press time, the last known location of the ship was somewhere in the Gulf of Mexico, on its way to round the tip of South America. "Yup. We're on our way," company President Danny Davis told Petroleum News.

■ Petroleum News reprint • March 27, 2011

Escopeta plans to use the rig to explore Kitchen Lights, a large offshore unit in the upper Cook Inlet that combines four distinct prospects and is thought to hold both oil and gas.

The Division of Oil and Gas put Kitchen Lights in default last year because Escopeta missed work commitments deadlines and Escopeta appealed the ruling. The two sides reached a settlement that required Escopeta to have a rig bound for Alaska by March 31 and drilling by Oct. 31. Escopeta expects the jack-up rig to arrive in Cook Inlet around May 8 and begin drilling shortly thereafter, once modifications and inspections are done.

Final inspections needed

Before Escopeta can drill, the company must still pass final inspection by the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. The company is having a 15,000-pound blowout preventer manufactured for the rig — the largest blowout equipment ever employed in Cook Inlet. It will be installed in Alaska.

Another outstanding issue is whether Escopeta will face delays related to the Jones Act, a federal law that requires ships moving between domestic ports to be built in the United States and manned by American crews. Because most of the available heavy lift vessels large enough to carry a jack-up rig are foreign-flagged ships, Escopeta got a Jones Act waiver in 2006, during an earlier attempt to bring a jack-up rig to Cook Inlet.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has not publicly said whether that waiver is still valid. If the waiver isn't accepted, it is uncertain what impact — timing or financial — it would have on Escopeta's program. U.S. Sen. Mark Begich, D-Alaska, recently petitioned the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to resolve some of those uncertainties.

A jack-up rig is a mobile offshore drilling unit that is well suited for relatively shallow waters, such as those in the upper Cook Inlet. Because companies have been unable to get a jack-up rig to Alaska since the 1990s, many choice prospects have gone undrilled.

Editors Note: The jack-up is under a two-year lease, with the option for an additional four years. Escopeta also has an option to purchase the rig, and intends to use it to drill both its own wells and those of other operators.

Once the rig arrives and passes inspection, Escopeta plans to use it to explore Kitchen Lights, a large offshore unit in the upper Cook Inlet with four distinct prospects — Corsair, Northren Lights, East Kitchen and Kitchen.

"We'll drill our first well at Corsair," Escopeta President Danny Davis told Petroleum News in February. "And then while we're evaluating the results from our well, we'll use it to drill another company's well."

PHOTO FEATURE: EXXONMOBIL OPEN



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Anchorage, AK 99501
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STEELFAB is the largest Alaskan-owned steel service center in the state. It provides pressure vessels, modules, special design items and raw steel products.

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2536 Commercial Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99501
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Fax: (907) 258-4623
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2720 Hurst Road
North Pole, AK 99705
Contact: Tom Zimmerman, President
Phone: (907) 488-2934
Fax: (907) 488-7856
E-mail:
tom.zimmerman@universalwelding.com
Website: www.universalwelding.net
"The Good Guys" characterizes our industry reputation, built on good natured, prompt and dependable service and the absolute best in welding, fabrication and erection work.

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Anchorage, AK 99518
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Phone: (907) 561-1188
Toll free: (800) 770-0969 (AK only)
Fax: (907) 561-2935
E-mail: j.pavlas@alaskasteel.com
Fairbanks Office:
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Contact: Dan Socha, branch mgr.
Phone: (907) 456-2719
Fax: (907) 451-0449
Kenai Office:
205 Trading Bay Rd.
Contact: Will Bolz, branch mgr.
Phone: (907) 283-3880
Fax: (907) 283-3759
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Contact: Jim Sawhill
E-mail: j.sawhill@lounsburyinc.com
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Phone: (907) 452-1711
Fax: (907) 456-5808
Email: mgreer@greerak.com
Other offices: Anchorage, AK; Lakewood, WA
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Greer Tank & Welding are the premier tank and welding specialists of Alaska and Washington. In business for over 57 years, they have a long history of providing an array of products and services for all contracting and custom fabrication needs – all from their highly trained and experienced staff.

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Phone: (907) 771-1090
Mike Stanford, Senior Manager North Slope
Mike.Stanford@gci.com
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American Marine Corp.

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 Fax: (907) 562-5426
 E-mail: Alaska@amarinecorp.com

Website: www.amarinecorp.com
American Marine Corporation specializes in marine construction, commercial diving, pipeline and platform inspection, repair and maintenance, underwater welding, dredging, vessel support, crew boat services and vessel inspection and repairs.

Global Diving & Salvage, Inc.

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 Phone: (907) 563-9060
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 Fax: (907) 563-9061
 E-mail: ddevilbiss@gdiving.com
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Global Diving & Salvage, Inc. has an Anchorage based office that completes diving, environmental, and emergency response work for a wide variety of clients ranging from local and federal agencies to international oil and gas companies. Services include commercial diving capabilities to 1,000ft, work & inspection class ROVs, installation, repair, and maintenance for deep water mooring systems, subsea pipelines, production platforms, and offshore exploration support.

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 Website: www.amarinecorp.com
American Marine Corporation specializes in marine construction, commercial diving, pipeline and platform inspection, repair and maintenance, underwater welding, dredging, vessel support, crew boat services and vessel inspection and repairs.

Global Diving & Salvage, Inc.

5304 Eielson St.
 Anchorage, AK 99518
 Contact: David Devilbiss, AK Regional Mgr
 Phone: (907) 563-9060
 Toll Free: 1.800.441.3483
 Fax: (907) 563-9061
 E-mail: ddevilbiss@gdiving.com
 Website: http://www.gdiving.com
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 Phone: (800) 478-0602
 Fax: (907) 258-6639
 Email: parts@kenworthalaska.com
 Email: sales@kenworthalaska.com
 Website: www.kenworthalaska.com
 Fairbanks office:
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Phone: (907) 776-5185 • Fax: (907) 776-8105
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Fax: (907) 456-5808
Email: mgreer@greerak.com
Other offices: Anchorage, AK; Lakewood, WA
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Website: http://www.bp.com

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Contact: Bill Brackin, Public & Government Affairs Manager
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Fax: (907) 564-3719
Email: Alaska.pga.staff@exxonmobil.com
Website: www.exxonmobil.com
ExxonMobil has been conducting business in Alaska for more than 50 years. Today, the company holds interests in various production facilities throughout the state.

Shell Exploration & Production

3601 C Street, Ste 1000
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Email: Alaska@shell.com
Website: www.Shell.us/alaska
Shell Alaska is preparing to explore offshore in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas for oil and gas that could help meet America's future energy needs.

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Contact: Vaughn O. Vennerberg, II
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Fax: (817) 870-0379
Other Office:
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Kenai, AK 99611
Contact: Scott Griffith, production superintendent
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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

ASRC Energy Services

ASRC Energy Services, a subsidiary of Arctic Slope Regional Corp., is a leading oil and gas service company headquartered in Anchorage, Alaska. With operations in Alaska and Louisiana, AES has nearly 4,000 employees and has emerged as one of Alaska's largest private employers, as well as the largest oilfield services employer in the state and has achieved its growth through diversification of service offerings based on the full field life cycle, improved efficiency and strengthened market position.

Sara Kasper

Sara Kasper is associate general counsel at ASRC Energy Services, providing legal and strategic counsel to AES management. Prior to joining AES, Kasper worked at WilmerHale in Washington, D.C., where she handled congressional investigations, regulatory compliance and enforcement matters, and government contract issues. Kasper holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a B.A. in Political Science from Messiah College.



SARA KASPER

Frank G. Weiss

Frank G. Weiss joined ASRC Energy Services in October 2010 as vice president and general manager of engineering, bringing more than 30 years of experience in engineering, construction coordination, project management and field operations in the oil and gas production, transportation, refining and product distribution industries. Weiss currently sits on the Advisory Board of UAF College of Engineering and Mines and UAA School of Engineering, Science and Project management program and holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Engineering from the University of Wyoming.



FRANK WEISS

Don Gray

Don Gray is a proud father, husband, and the director of health, safety, environmental, and training at ASRC Energy Services, appointed in October 2010. Gray is a certified Workers Compensation professional with a Bachelor's degree in Health Care Administration and an Associate degree in Applied Science Emergency Medical Services, completing programs at the University of Washington. He was appointed by the governor to serve on the Alaska Workers Compensation Board in 2007 representing management.



DON GRAY

Garness Engineering Group

Garness Engineering Group is an Alaska owned civil and environmental engineering firm that specializes in the design, inspection, operation and maintenance of water and wastewater treatment systems. The company's staff has more than 50 years of experience, providing packaged water and wastewater treatment systems to Alaska's mining and oilfield industries, ranging from the North Slope, to the Panhandle and to the end of the Aleutian Chain.

Jeffrey A. Garness

An Alaska resident since 1969, Jeffrey A. Garness attended the University of Alaska, where he earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree in Arctic engineering. Since starting his business in 1990, Garness Engineering Group has grown into one of Alaska's premier engineering firms. Garness is an avid hunter, fisherman, private pilot, football fan and MMA fan. He has been married to his wife Lisa for 30 years and has three adult children.



JEFFERY GARNESS

FORREST CRANE

John S. Goerner

John S. Goerner is Water Treatment IV and Water Distribution IV operator certified. To Goerner, water treatment is not just a career, but his life's passion. Prior to working for Garness, he spent 18 years with Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility. When not working, Goerner enjoys photography, astronomy, reading, travel, computers and the culinary arts. A defining moment in Goerner's life was the birth of his daughter LeAnn, who currently attends college in Florida.



JOHN GOERNER

FORREST CRANE

Team Industrial Services

Team Industrial Services is the largest specialized industrial services company in North America

through service leadership and innovation. The company's more than 3,500 trained, and experienced technicians provide mechanical, inspection and heat treating services and products for 7,000 customers worldwide. Team's integrated services include leak repair, hot tap, field machining, technical bolting, valve repair, field heat treating, NDE/NDT inspection, emissions control and much more.

Jane E. Griffel

Having moved to Alaska in 1984, Griffel has been with Team for more than 5 years. One of her most defining moments in life was shooting her first bull moose under less than desirable conditions, on the way home from work, wearing heels and a skirt: The moose was legal and she just decided to go for it! Married for 24 years, Griffel has three children that she enjoys watching and actively participating in sports across Alaska.



JANE GRIFFEL

Jeannette Diamond

Having been an owner and operator of her own business in a male dominated industry all her life, in a well drilling company that has been very successful, Diamond is in the process of selling the business that brought her to Team and is very excited to be a part of such a good company. Happily married, she and her husband have five boys and one girl between the two of them and are avid snowmachiners.



JEANNETTE DIAMOND

COMPANY NEWS *in brief*

ExxonMobil helps increase diversity in engineering

The ExxonMobil Foundation said Dec. 8 that it has provided a \$520,000 grant to the National Action Council for Minority Engineers Inc., a premier nonprofit focused on increasing the number of underrepresented students pursuing careers in engineering. Of the total grant, \$270,000 is part of an annual grant for organization support and scholarships, and \$250,000 will go toward NACME's Pre-Engineering Program and Academies of Engineering strategy. ExxonMobil Foundation, the primary philanthropic arm of the Exxon Mobil Corp. in the U.S., has been the largest corporate sponsor of NACME since the council's founding in 1974 and has provided the organization with more than \$10 million in support. "The ExxonMobil Foundation is focused on improving science, technology, engineering and math education, but we need quality partners such as NACME in order to have a greater impact," said Suzanne McCarron, president, ExxonMobil Foundation. "When you consider how few minorities there are among engineering ranks in America, it's imperative that we work together to find solutions to increase the opportunities and exposure for students with diverse backgrounds."

Schools partner with service stations for grants

ExxonMobil said Dec. 16 that its Educational Alliance Program has awarded \$1.8 million in grants this year to 2,400 schools to help enhance math and science education across the United States. This is the 11th consecutive year for the program, which has provided funds to schools in 41 states and the District of Columbia. Schools could partner with Exxon and Mobil branded service stations, the majority of which are independently owned and operated, to apply for Educational Alliance grants. In February, retailers began working with schools in their communities to fill out the applications jointly. In turn, each school determined how the funds could best be used to advance its math and science programs. Checks were distributed to the winning schools in the fall. ExxonMobil focuses on educational initiatives that encourage students to take an active interest in math, science and related careers; motivate students to learn and perform well in math and science; support the development of highly qualified math and science teachers and provide teachers with professional development opportunities in math and science.

Nalco Named top supplier to pulp and paper industry

Nalco, providing essential expertise for water, energy and air, said Dec. 15 that it has been named most preferred supplier of chemical programs for the pulp and paper industry according to a recently released 2010 Brand Awareness Preference Study by Paper360° magazine. More survey respondents from paper and paperboard manufacturers around the world identified Nalco as their

most preferred supplier among users of pulp and paper chemicals and in the category of water treatment. In addition, Nalco was the most preferred supplier in two specific subcategories, retention aids and pulp antifoams, and received high supplier preference scores for coating additives, microbiocides and sizing. There were more than 700 responses to the annual survey which was conducted for Paper360° magazine by Marietta, Ga.-based Litchfield Research, an independent research firm. Paper360° is the official publication of Technical Association for the Pulp and Paper Industry and Paper Industry Management Association. Nalco is the world's largest sustainability services company focused on industrial water, energy and air applications; delivering significant environmental, social and economic performance benefits to its customers.

Dr. Rob J. Routs joins AECOM's board of directors

AECOM Technology Corp., a leading provider of professional technical and management support services for government and commercial clients around the world, said Dec. 22 that Dr. Rob J. Routs, a former executive and board member of Royal Dutch Shell, has joined its Board of Directors. He will be a member of the AECOM Board's Audit, Nominating and Governance as well as its Planning, Finance and Investments committees. Highly regarded for his worldwide expertise in the energy sector, Routs spent his 37-year career at Royal Dutch Shell, retiring in 2008 as executive director of downstream operations and a member of its board. Today, he serves on a number of boards, including AEGON N.V., a publicly traded global insurance provider, and AP Moller Maersk, a public container shipping and oil & gas drilling company. "We are honored to welcome Dr. Routs to our Board of Directors," said AECOM President and Chief Executive Officer John M. Dionisio. "His extensive experience as a global business strategist and proven track record of driving top performance in the arena of mergers and acquisitions is a great fit for AECOM."

Crowley to fuel all Shell gas stations in Alaska

Crowley Maritime Corp. said Dec. 22 that its Alaska fuel sales and distribution enterprise has reached an agreement with Shell Oil Products US to add eight Shell-branded service stations in Anchorage and Eagle River to its wholesale network. Crowley will make wholesale purchases of Shell motor fuel and transport, distribute and sell the fuel to these independently owned and operated sites. With this addition, Crowley now serves dealers at all 17 Shell-branded service stations in Alaska, including three outlets owned and operated by Crowley. The agreement allows Shell and its dealers to leverage Crowley's state-wide transportation and distribution capabilities to safely and reliably supply quality Shell motor fuel for consumers in Alaska. Shell stations are located in Anchorage, Eagle River, Kenai and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Crowley also agreed to a multiyear Wholesale Marketer Agreement with Shell, which means that Crowley will help protect the Shell

brand by working with dealers on Shell marketing programs and ensuring they maintain stations and operations to the company's high standards. "As the only wholesale representative for Shell currently in Alaska, we welcome the opportunity to add these stations to our dealer network," said Bob Cox, vice president of Crowley's business development in Anchorage.

AECOM joint venture awarded U.S. Army contract

AECOM Technology Corp., a leading provider of professional technical and management support services for government and commercial clients around the world, said Jan. 10 that a joint venture with ANHAM that it manages, Afghanistan Integrated Support Services, was awarded a maintenance and capacity-building contract by the U.S. Army to support the Afghanistan National Army's Technical Equipment Maintenance Program. The new program supports the ongoing efforts of the U.S. Army in Afghanistan. The contract has a performance period of one base year with four option years and has a funded value of approximately US\$29.9 million with a potential value of US\$181.9 million, if all options are exercised. Under the new program, the joint venture team will provide maintenance services to Afghanistan National Army military vehicles and equipment; develop and train local nationals in vehicle maintenance operations; and enhance the skills of local nationals in areas of management, administration and leadership. The mission will be performed at eight equipment maintenance sites, and associated training will be conducted by advisory maintenance teams within 23 Afghan battalions throughout Afghanistan.

Nalco announces price increase

Nalco, providing essential expertise for water, energy and air, said Jan. 10 its Water and Process Services division is implementing a price increase for all water services industry segments, effective immediately or as contracts permit. Pricing for most Nalco programs will increase between 7 and 15 percent, depending on product mix. Price increases will vary by country and industry, driven by local cost increases and will supplement previously announced increases for the paper services segment which were effective Dec. 1 of last year. The need for these price increases is driven by the continued and significant escalation of energy and raw material costs, tightening availability of some raw materials and rising freight and personnel costs. Nalco sales engineers will contact individual customers to discuss the impact of these increases. "Price pressure and the availability of key raw materials in particular are making it necessary to appropriately increase prices to help offset these ongoing cost hikes," said David Flitman, senior executive vice president and president, Water and Process Services. "These increases will enable Nalco to continue to invest in research and development, manufacturing process improvements and the development of our people, which allows us to provide sustainable solutions and the value and service that our customers expect."

Crowley Names Ketra Anderson new director of SSQE

Crowley Maritime Corp. said Jan. 5 that it has named Ketra An-

derson director of safety, security, quality and environmental. She is domiciled in Crowley's Seattle, Wash., office, and will report to Cole Cosgrove, vice president of SSQE. In her new role, Anderson will ensure that the services Crowley provides to its customers conform to established procedures and requirements. She will be primarily responsible for Crowley's adherence to international and domestic quality standards while defining processes to prevent deficiencies and encourage continual improvement as they relate to four key elements: safety, security, quality and environment. Anderson will oversee Crowley's quality management system that provides the framework for the business units affected by those certifications. The management system includes annual internal vessel, facility and office audits; third-party verification audits; document control; and monthly measurements of key metrics. "Ketra has continually demonstrated her ability to manage and improve Crowley's quality process on-board our vessels as well as ashore," Cosgrove said. "Her strategic view and approach to our quality system and document control processes make her well deserving of the promotion."



KETRA ANDERSON

Alaska Railroad announces two project-related events

The Alaska Railroad said Jan. 14 that it invites the public to an open house 4:00-6:30 p.m. on Jan. 25, at the Alaska Railroad Depot, 1745 Johansen Expressway in Fairbanks. The venue provides an opportunity to review and comment on a proposed Program of Projects for 2011. The open house will showcase continuing and proposed capital improvement projects that are in various stages. Project managers will be on hand to explain projects that are located all along the railroad system from Seward to Fairbanks, with an emphasis on projects located in and around Fairbanks, Interior Alaska and system-wide. The Alaska Railroad also invites the public to a public scoping meeting from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 26, at the North Pole City Hall, 125 Snowman Lane. Presentations are scheduled for 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. The venue provides an opportunity to solicit input into a proposed project to reduce at-grade road and rail crossings along an 8-mile section of the Eielson Branch track that runs through North Pole. The purpose is to enhance public safety in downtown North Pole and improve railroad operating efficiency, while ensuring continued rail access to existing and future customers along this portion of the track.

Crowley's Otero VP of Latin America liner services

Crowley Maritime Corp. said Jan. 13 that Tony Otero has been named vice president of Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba liner services. He will remain domiciled in the company's Jacksonville office and report to John Hourihan, senior vice president and general manager of Latin America services. Otero's new role includes the addition of Cuba services to what had been the company's Dominican Republic and Haiti services. He now has responsibility for the coordination of the countries'



TONY OTERO

sales, marketing and operations activities; overseeing the development of policies and procedures; reviewing operating results; establishing annual revenue and capital and budgets; coordinating and negotiating contractor and service provider agreements and developing business relations. Otero will also implement Crowley's planned Ro/Ro service enhancements to the countries. As a bilingual, English-Spanish, communicator he is well suited to serve the needs of customers in the trades.

Global Diving & Salvage teams with JG Sport for cause

Global Diving & Salvage Inc. said Jan. 25 that it has teamed with JG Sport to raise money for Seattle Children's Hospital, Cardiac Care Unit by supporting Team Seattle, a race car group that is competing in this week's



Rolex 24 at Daytona endurance race as well as throughout the 2011 GRAND-AM series. John Graham, chief strategic officer of Global Diving & Salvage Inc. has had a long relationship with Children's, spanning more than 20 years. His first exposure to the magnificent work that Children's is capable of began with the birth of his son who was a patient there. It continued along through the years with several children of Global employees being treated at the facility. Recently, an employee's daughter even received a heart transplant performed by Dr. Gordon Cohen, chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, co-director, Heart Center and a motivator of Team Seattle. It is this intimate connection that has spurred Global's commitment to Team Seattle sponsoring the construction of Children's future Hybrid Surgery Suite. Team Seattle is a group of auto racing enthusiasts who over 14 years ago formed, with the objective of raising money for Children's through endurance racing at Rolex 24 at Daytona.

Global Diving & Salvage welcomes Juettner to Alaska

Global Diving & Salvage said Jan. 26 that it is pleased to announce the advancement of John Juettner to operations manager, Alaska Region. Juettner has been in the Alaska commercial diving industry for the past 17 years. He has been working in operational support and as a dive supervisor for the past 7 years. As operations manager, Juettner's responsibilities will include asset management, estimating, logistical support and project planning for the Alaska region. "The development of this new position in our region and more importantly, having John move into it will ensure that our customers receive the highest in customer service as well as the ability to utilize his background and knowledge in working in this challenging environment," said David DeVilbiss, Alaska regional manager, Global Diving & Salvage.



JOHN JUETTNER



COURTESY ALASKA STEEL

Alaska Steel's relationship with SSAB adds wear plate

Alaska Steel Co. said Jan. 13 that it has formalized its long standing relationship with SSAB and is now officially the Hardox wear plate distributor for the state. The versatile Hardox wear plate increases payload and service in tough environments with its combination of strength, hardness and toughness, standing up to extreme wear in any climate. For over 20 years, Alaska Steel and SSAB have worked together to provide Alaska with value added, high strength steel solutions. Formalizing the relationship between Alaska Steel and SSAB is pivotal in developing all lines of steel products in Alaska. Alaska Steel, a full line steel and aluminum distributor with a rebar fabrication division on site, is located on 7.5 acres in Anchorage, has three distributors in the state and branches in Kenai and Fairbanks. SSAB has locations in 45 countries worldwide and is a global leader in value added, high strength steel, offering products developed in close cooperation with its customers to reach a stronger, lighter and more sustainable world.

Sullivan to participate in 2011 ExxonMobil Open

The Alaskan Sled Dog & Racing Association said Jan. 26 that on Feb. 12 Mayor of Anchorage Dan Sullivan, along with several other municipal leaders, will convene at Tozier Track to participate in the inaugural "Top Dog" Charity Sled Dog Race. The event will be held as part of the ExxonMobil Open, which is one of the seasonal races organized by the Alaskan Sled Dog & Racing Association leading up to the Fur Rendezvous Open. The participant with the fastest time will designate a \$10,000 donation from ExxonMobil to the charity of their choice, along with bragging rights for the remainder of the year. Second place will designate a \$4,000 donation; third place will designate \$3,000; and the fourth and fifth places will designate \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively. The event is open to the public and activities start at 10 a.m. For more information visit the organization's website at: www.asdra.org.

Brice family to be inducted into JAA hall of fame

Calista Corp. said that the Brice family was inducted into the 25th annual Junior Achievement of Alaska's Business Hall of Fame Jan. 27 at the Denaina Civic & Convention Center in Anchorage. The Brice family, founders of Brice Inc. in 1961 in Fairbanks became a wholly owned subsidiary of Calista Corp. in July 2010. Brice Co. was awarded numerous contracts during construction of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline in the 1970s. In 2009 they were named Contractor of the Year by Alaska Business monthly and named Regional Small Business of the Year in 2001 by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The Junior Achievement of Alaska honors leaders of Alaska businesses. Selection is made by peers based on commitment to Junior Achievement, direct and successful impact to Alaskan business, and a positive commitment to the Alaska business community. "The Brice family is honored and humbled with this recognition," said Brice President Sam Robert Brice. "Our work doesn't just represent our companies, but also our family."



SAM ROBERT BRICE

SLB has new multipole sonic-while-drilling service

Schlumberger said Feb. 3 that it has released the SonicScope 475 multipole sonic-while-drilling service. This new logging-while-drilling service provides multipole measurements to consistently and reliably deliver compressional and shear data in all environments. SonicScope 475 is the only service in the industry with a dedicated mode for acquiring Stoneley waveforms while drilling to ensure high-quality data before washouts can develop. SonicScope compressional and shear data, with the Stoneley wave acquisition, enable the assessment of rock mechanics and characterization of fractures. This is crucial especially in the North American shale plays for designing complex completions to optimize future production. In addition, a while-tripping mode provides multipass analysis and top-of-cement evaluation. In a 100-well field test campaign, the new service supplied high-quality multipole data comparable to wireline sonic reference logs, even in highly damaged and unstable formations. SonicScope 475 was run in shale plays for horizontal well evaluation for enhanced completion design and optimization. In deepwater wells, SonicScope has been run successfully to enhance real-time pore pressure monitoring, wellbore stability and seismic tie-in. For more information on SonicScope, visit www.slb.com/sonicscope.

ASRC announces Kinneveauk president and CEO of AES

ASRC Energy Services, a subsidiary of ASRC said Feb. 2 that it has named Jeff Kinneveauk its president and chief executive officer, succeeding Mark C. Nelson, who retired. Kinneveauk has worked full time for the Arctic Slope Regional Corp. family of companies since 1997, and began his relationship with an internship in 1995. Since 1999 Kinneveauk has served in a variety of management positions, most recently as senior vice



JEFF KINNEVEAUK



COURTESY TOTEM EQUIPMENT

Totem introduces the new 5CDLT heater trailer

Totem Equipment & Supply Inc., an Alaska-owned business, said Feb. 4 that it has added the Totem 5CDLT to its family of heater trailers. The Totem 5CDLT is the only true combination indirect fired heater and fully extendable light tower. The 500,000 BTU heater trailer has a 100 percent fuel containment, 28 hour fuel tank, removable and extendable light tower, with four 1,000 watt halide lights and generator. Additional features include highway towing capabilities, DOT light package, interior light, leveling jacks for all four corners and forklift pockets. Totem Equipment & Supply has made its mark in Alaska over its 50 year history, keeping thousands of workers and job sites warm with its heaters and supplying job sites statewide with critical equipment. For more information visit toteminc.com.

president of shareholder programs. He also held the position of senior vice president of operations and maintenance. "Jeff is an ideal choice to continue the prosperity of AES for years to come," said Rex Rock Sr., ASRC president. "He has worked tirelessly to learn every facet of the company by spending time in nearly every division." Kinneveauk was born in Point Hope, Alaska, and is an ASRC shareholder. He graduated from Anchorage's Bartlett High School and earned a physics degree with an emphasis in engineering from Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho.

ConocoPhillips teams with NEED for K-12 education

ConocoPhillips said Feb. 8 that it has partnered with the National Energy Education Development Project to host 26 energy education workshops for K-12 educators during this year. In order for the teachers to expand their students' energy knowledge the workshops will provide them with classroom materials emphasizing all forms of energy, energy efficiency and conservation, the company stated. The one-day educational workshop is expected to draw more than 1,000 educators to participate. The workshop will be held in 26 cities over the course of 2011. During the workshop participants will receive state-correlated curriculum guides and hands-on experiments which will help them to gain knowledge and resources to teach about energy in their classrooms, the company stated. ConocoPhillips and NEED began their partnership in 2008, and for more than three years they have provided training and resources to approximately 3,000 teachers, who in turn have reached more than 290,000 students with the education materials.

Yulista Holding welcomes Monica James to company

Yulista Holding LLC, a subsidiary of Calista Corp. said Feb. 15 that it welcomes Monica James as senior vice president of Business Strategy. James will be responsible for developing a growth strategy for the Yulista Holding companies to increase revenues and broaden revenue sources. James previously served as Alaska Aerospace Corp.'s vice president of Business Operations and Administration since May 2009. From July 2004 to April 2009, James was CFO for Alaska Aerospace. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting from University of Alaska. James currently serves on the Board of Directors for Girl Scouts of Alaska. "James' extensive knowledge of government contracting and corporate operations will be fully utilized and appreciated," said John J. Votgh, Yulista Holding president. "We believe James has the ability to look beyond the data to see hidden opportunities."



MONICA JAMES

Crowley relocates logistics office to San Pedro, Calif.

Crowley Maritime said Feb. 1 that it has relocated its Inglewood, Calif., logistics office to a larger facility in San Pedro, Calif. The new office is strategically located near the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and will continue to provide ocean, air freight and Customs brokerage services. The relocation is part of a larger company expansion along the U.S. West Coast to supply customers in the Far East and in Central and South America with Crowley's logistics services. The move also supports Crowley's expanding trucking, intermodal and logistics capabilities on the West Coast. "The relocation of this office was an ideal move for the company," said Crowley's Kip Douglass, director of North America transportation. "In addition to having a strong team, we now have a larger and more strategic presence on the West Coast to better serve our clients." The new Crowley address is 300 South Harbor Blvd., San

Pedro, CA, 90731. The office phone number has also been changed to (310) 732-6510.

Calista announces acquisition of Yukon Equipment

Calista Corp said Aug. 3 that it has completed the purchase of Yukon Equipment Inc. Founded in 1945, Yukon Equipment is the oldest Alaskan-owned heavy equipment dealer in the state and specializes in new and used construction equipment, sales, repairs, rentals, parts and service. Yukon Equipment Inc. has headquarters in Anchorage and a branch office in Fairbanks, and provides equipment for residential, commercial, roads and bridges, utility and government construction. This acquisition adds to the construction capacity of Calista's subsidiaries of Brice Inc. and Tunista Construction Inc. and Yukon gains access to Calista's resources. "We are happy to partner with such a well-established organization and believe this relationship will benefit our clients and Calista's shareholders," said Morry Hollowell, Yukon Equipment president. "The Calista-Yukon connection is a natural one which will lower clients costs and improve overall services; as well as provide additional job opportunities and a new revenue stream for Calista Shareholders," said Matthew Nicolai, Calista president and CEO.

UIC Subsidiary UMIAQ expands its services

Ukpeagvik Iñupiat Corp. said Aug. 9 that its subsidiary UMIAQ has merged with sister company LCMF. The combination of the companies' professional services business lines offers clients a comprehensive package for their architecture, engineering, surveying and consulting needs. UMIAQ provides services to clients across Alaska focusing on the resource development industries and rural community development projects. LCMF has been rebranded as UMIAQ and the Anchorage offices of both firms have been combined at UIC's 6700 Arctic Spur Road location. Richard Reich, P.E., has been named general manager of UMIAQ and Amanda Henry will serve as operations manager. Steve Chronic, P.E., will oversee the design division which will consist of architecture, engineering and surveying and Edith Vorderstrasse will manage the consulting division which will provide regulatory, community relations and GIS services. "Combining our companies expertise allows us to build upon each other's experience and offers our clients expanded capabilities for their professional services needs," said UMIAQ General Manager Richard Reich. Visit www.ukpik.com/umiaq.htm to learn more.

ExxonMobil brings 'The Dream Tour' to Boy Scouts

ExxonMobil said Aug. 3 that along with its foundation, former astronaut Dr. Bernard A. Harris Jr. gave Boy Scouts and their scout masters a first-hand experience with the wonders of science, technology, engineering and math at the National Scout Jamboree, in Fort A.P. Hill, Va. The Dream Tour, presented by ExxonMobil, featured Harris, ExxonMobil engineers and high-tech, high-energy performances, all focused on encouraging scouts to pursue careers in

math and science. Boys from across the country joined Harris, a former scout himself, for the two-hour program where they also earned a unique patch that was designed for the event. "When I was growing up, I dreamed of traveling in space. Education and being a scout enabled my dream, and now I encourage these scouts to follow their dreams by pursuing careers in math and science," said Harris. "America's students have incredible opportunities. The DreamTour is one way to open their eyes to the limitless possibilities they have, as long as math and science education is part of the equation."

Nabors announces Superior Well Services merger

Nabors Industries Ltd. said Aug. 9 that it has entered into a definitive merger agreement with Superior Well Services Inc., whereby Nabors will acquire Superior.

The agreement contemplates that Nabors will commence a tender offer for all outstanding shares of Superior common stock at \$22.12 per share in cash in accordance with the merger agreement. The transaction is valued at approximately \$900 million. "For some time now, we have evaluated integrating more service offerings into our business, particularly internationally. Although we expect this acquisition by itself to be significantly accretive to 2011 results, our major motivator was the opportunity to leverage this well respected franchise into a global force utilizing our extensive international footprint and resources," said Gene Isenberg, Nabors chairman and CEO. "Superior Well Services possesses one of the newest fleets in the industry with over 430,000 hydraulic fracturing horsepower. This high quality fleet is operated by a very capable, well managed organization that can quickly become a substantial unit of Nabors. This transaction also provides good value to the Superior Well Services stockholders as the offer price represents an attractive premium to the 30-day average closing stock price."

Global Diving & Salvage welcomes Ferguson to team

Global Diving & Salvage said Aug. 5 that it would like to welcome John Ferguson, business development manager, to its Offshore Support Division. Ferguson has more than 17 years of experience in the offshore and international oil and gas industry. He will be using his expertise to prepare for opening a Houston office as the general manager. His current responsibilities include expanding Global's commercial diving, ROV and environmental services within the Gulf of Mexico region and evaluating international market potential. Ferguson's training includes dive school at The Ocean Corp. in Houston and the U.S. Marine Corps in the 1st battalion 4th Marines in Desert Storm. He is the developer and chairman of the Injured Warriors Campaign to raise money and awareness for injured veterans. Additionally, his personal accomplishments include traveling overseas for the Rotary Club teaching young entrepreneurs the art of small business ownership and being nominated for the Small Business Man of the Year award in Kansas.



JOHN FERGUSON



COURTESY CMI

CMI holds annual customer appreciation barbecue

Construction Machinery Inc. held its annual customer appreciation barbecue on Aug. 19. The annual event, gives customers a chance to enjoy good food, this year provided by Sea Galley, and to preview equipment and speak with representatives from Volvo, Ingersoll Rand, Atlas Copco, Link-Belt, Skyjack, Doosan, Gorman-Rupp, Metso, and Hitachi, in a relaxed environment. In addition, the CMI sales staff was on hand to answer any additional questions. For more information visit www.cmiak.com.

Crowley recognized for clean air commitment

Crowley Maritime Corp. said Aug. 5 that its efforts to significantly reduce carbon emissions at the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach were recognized during the third annual San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan Air Quality luncheon. The Clean Air Award recognizes companies who make great strides to reduce pollutant emissions at both ports. Committee members from the ports, as well as representatives from several governmental agencies reviewed all nominations, before choosing Crowley for its Significant Early Action to Reduce Emissions Award. "Crowley is committed to environmental stewardship in all the communities it serves. Over the past several years, the company has been involved in several emissions and energy-saving initiatives in this region, including the installation of shore-side power and four tug engine repowers," said Bill Metcalf, Crowley's director of engineering. "Those initiatives will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 486,180 pounds, particulate matter emissions by 3.24 tons and mono-nitrogen oxides by 109.52 tons this year alone."

Crowley announces promotion of Evans and Otero

Crowley Maritime Corp said Aug. 19 that it is pleased to an-

nounce the promotion of Eric Evans and Tony Otero each to the role of vice president, finance and planning, supporting several different business groups within its holding company, Crowley Holdings Inc.

“Tony and Eric were promoted to their positions based on their successful leadership and performance within the financial and planning areas of multiple business units,” said Tom Crowley, chairman, president and CEO of Crowley Maritime Corp. “We are pleased to recognize them in this way and fully expect continued excellence in their new roles.”

In his new position Eric Evans will support Crowley’s technical services, petroleum services, Alaska petroleum distribution and marine contract services business groups. His responsibilities include accounting, contract administration, budgeting, forecasting, analysis, and strategic planning.

In his new role Tony Otero will support Crowley’s liner and logistics business units. He will be responsible for leading the finance and accounting functions and strategic business planning of the Latin America, Puerto Rico and Caribbean, and logistics business units.

ExxonMobil lubricants supplier to Camping World

ExxonMobil said Aug. 26 that under agreement it will supply Mobil Delvac 130 Super and Mobil Delvac 1 ESP for diesel engines, as well as Mobil 1 and Mobil Clean products for gasoline engines, to Camping World’s more than 75 locations nationwide. The company will also supply Camping World with Mobil-branded coolants, greases and automatic transmission fluids for both gasoline and diesel engines, which will also be available at all the retailer’s locations. “As the leading industry supplier of RVs and RV supplies, we are committed to bringing our customers new and efficient ways to enhance their RV and outdoor experience by offering products and services that best fit their needs at the best value,” said Marcus Lemonis, chairman and CEO, Camping World. “We’ve chosen to exclusively offer Mobil products because of their reputation for exceptional quality, performance and reliability.” For more information visit www.exxonmobil.com.

Schlumberger Water Services Launches Diver-DCX

Schlumberger said Aug. 25 that its water-centric group, Schlumberger Water Services, released a new component in the Diver Suite of groundwater monitoring systems that expands the communication format of diver dataloggers. The Direct Communication eXchanger integrates diver dataloggers into SDI-12 compatible telemetry systems for effective, real-time monitoring of municipal water supplies, industrial and contaminated sites and water levels and quality at mine sites. Diver-DCX features a built-in pressure sensor for automatically compensating water levels to the effects of atmospheric pressure, reducing the need for manual post-processing. The robust compact housing is water-resistant and is powered by an external source. This allows for flexible installation inside the well casing, translating to long-term, reliable operations. Diver-DCX is CE certified and is compliant with the SDI-12 standard for environmental data acquisition. Schlumberger Water Services operates

globally and specializes in the development, management and environmental protection of water resources. Leveraging experience and proprietary subsurface characterization technologies, it offers mining, power, oil and gas, and public sector clients the decision-making framework for addressing short and long-term water challenges. For more information visit www.water.slb.com.

Rain for Rent pump expansion now includes DV-325c

Rain for Rent said Aug. 23 that its expanding line of self-priming pumps now includes the DV-325c 12-inch centrifugal pump, specifically designed for efficient bypass pumping. The DV-325c has flows up to 8,500 GPM, suction lift up to 28 feet and maximum head of 220 feet. It also has the best solids handling capabilities in the industry for any 12-inch pump, up to 4.74 inches. Silence the concerns of residents and business people near your next project with the sound attenuated enclosure, which reduces operation noise to as low as 72 decibels at 23 feet. The efficient DV-325c offers high-flow pumping at a low cost. The 350 horsepower Tier 3 engine burns 13.0 gallons per hour at 1,800 RPM and comes standard with a durable galvanized skid to reduce maintenance expense. This pump is also available with an electric drive option. For more information visit www.rainforrent.com.



Crowley opens customs bonded warehouse in Panama

Crowley Holdings Inc., a holding company of the 118-year-old Crowley Maritime Corp., said Sept. 3 that its distribution center network in Panama, also known as Trailmovil SA, has opened a new customs bonded warehouse facility to provide the Panamanian market with storage and cargo handling, focusing on proper treatment and security. The facility marks the return of Crowley to the warehousing service sector in Panama after a three-year hiatus. Crowley’s new facility has a container yard and warehouse management for loose, less-than-container-load and full-container-load cargo handling. The 1,300-square-meter covered warehouse area is protected by video surveillance and a fire-control system. The warehouse offers inventory control, sorting and repackaging of goods, tagging, customs brokerage services, customs under Act 6, forklifts, storage transit, and customized services. The 5,200-square-meter container yard is also under video surveillance and employs the use of security officers. The yard offers storage of rental equipment, carriers with generators for dry or refrigerated cargo, forklifts, lighting, and carriers for special projects and oversized cargo. For more information visit www.crowley.com.

Acuren acquires tank inspection firm Extech LLC

Acuren Inspection Inc. said Aug. 31 that it has acquired Extech

LLC, a leading provider of corrosion control services and water tank inspections to municipalities, petrochemical and power generation industries throughout North America. Acuren is the largest provider of nondestructive testing, inspection and engineering services in North America. Extech provides inspection of water tanks and petroleum product storage tanks and is a pioneer in the use of robotic inspection equipment. Both companies serve major corporations in the petrochemical, refinery, pipeline, pulp and paper, power generation, pharmaceutical, aerospace and automotive industries. "We are very excited to make Extech part of our Acuren organization. Extech is a highly respected inspection firm with a combination of highly trained staff and specialized capital equipment," said Peter Scannell, president of Rockwood Service Corp. "Extech brings a unique service that is entirely complementary to the needs of Acuren's clients and the skills of Acuren's personnel." Extech will operate under the Acuren brand, and all employees of Extech will continue in their current positions. Acuren and Extech are part of the Rockwood Service Corp., a leader in inspection and testing, operating in more than 20 countries with more than 100 offices throughout the world.

GCI Industrial sets 1 million-hour safety milestone

GCI Industrial Telecom, a division of GCI, said Sept. 10 that it recently achieved a team goal of 1 million hours since its last lost time accident. With current operations in Prudhoe Bay, Anchorage, Houston and New Orleans, this equates to more than eight years of safe operations for the team, in some of the world's harshest environments. "Safety is a critical part of our industrial business. This achievement is something we are very proud of as a team. It takes a total team effort to get here, and we're not done yet. We ask our staff and subcontractors to take the theories of a safe work place home with them to share those practices with their families," said Russ Doig, vice president of GCI Industrial Telecom. "It's a safety mindset that we have created and one that we can be proud of." For more information visit www.gci-industrialtelecom.com.

Alaska Railroad selects Aadnesen new president and CEO

The Alaska Railroad Corp. said Sept. 10 that its Board of Directors has voted unanimously to hire Christopher Aadnesen as the railroad's new president and CEO. Aadnesen is scheduled to start later in September. "Mr. Aadnesen has the extensive railroad experience we are looking for in our next chief executive," said John Binkley, board chairman. "He has proven leadership within the railroad industry, with nearly four decades of strategic management performance that demonstrate insightful business planning, as well as excellent labor relations, government and public communication skills. We are impressed with his knowledge of the industry issues that we face today and in the foreseeable future. With Chris Aadnesen's leadership, we are ready to focus on the basics of railroading." Currently a resident of Georgetown, Texas, Aadnesen's most recent chief executive experience was three years as CEO of Estonian Railways, where he successfully focused on profitability, safety performance, real estate assets, and increased freight and passenger service operations.

Storer joins AES team; Lincoln receives promotion

Geri Storer joined ASRC Energy Services July 19 as vice president and chief of staff. She will assist with the day-to-day functions of the president's office. Born and raised in Barrow, Storer started her career with Arctic Slope Regional Corp. in 1989 as a management trainee. She is the graduate of Harvard Business School and has an extensive background in the oil and gas sector. Butch Lincoln was promoted to the position of vice president, operations, Petrochem, in Vallejo, Calif., a subsidiary of the AES team. Lincoln will report directly to Art Lewis, president of Petrochem. He has been with the ASRC family of companies for 10 years and is a key member of the AES management team. In addition to developing business plans for service line expansions, acquisitions and capital investments, he has overseen commercial terms during contract negotiations and renewals. Lincoln holds a BBA in accounting, a BBA in finance, and an MBA from Duke University. His strong grasp of the financial and commercial aspects of business operations will be a tremendous benefit to Petrochem.



GERI STORER



BUTCH LINCOLN

TOTE first sailed into Anchorage 35 years ago

Thirty-five years ago this week, the S.S. Great Land rounded Fire Island and steamed into the port of Anchorage, beginning a new era in ocean transportation for Alaska's Railbelt region. Totem Ocean Trailer Express Inc said Sept. 16. The new ship belonging to TOTE, a subsidiary of Sun Shipbuilding of Philadelphia, Pa., was built to support the growth and economic activity driven by the trans-Alaska pipeline system project, bringing with it the idea of roll-on and roll-off loading and discharging to the Alaska liner market and serving the unique transportation requirements for the massive amounts of construction equipment, consumables and supplies for tens of thousands of workers involved in the pipeline project. Today, TOTE focuses on providing the same service it did 35 years ago, reliability, competitive, on-time ocean freight carriage, with the benefit of today's advanced technology, such as internet tracking and email communications. To mark this milestone, TOTE's employees threw and impromptu 35th birthday party at its offices in Anchorage and Tacoma.

Schlumberger new downhole reservoir testing system

Schlumberger announced Sept. 21 at the 2010 SPE Annual Technology Conference and Exhibition the release of the Quartet high-performance downhole reservoir testing system. This complete downhole testing system allows operators to isolate, control, measure and sample all in a single run. "Now operators can test more safely and efficiently for an altogether better reservoir test," said Devan Raj, marketing and technology manager, Schlumberger Testing Services. "The deep-reading, high-resolution pressure measure-

ments and representative reservoir fluid samples help operators prove reservoir potential and reach a better basis for their decisions." The Quartet downhole assembly is one-fourth the length of conventional configurations. The system offers a range of advantages, including 35 percent lower tool operating pressure, 90 percent less nitrogen, 50 percent fewer seals and 60 percent fewer connections. In addition, drill collars and slips joints are eliminated from the downhole string. The Quartet system consists of four technologies engineered specifically for reservoir testing: CERTIS high-integrity reservoir test isolation system, IRDV intelligent remote dual valve, CQG crystal quartz gauge and SCAR inline independent reservoir fluid sampling. For more information visit www.slb.com.

APICC announces membership meeting and conference

APICC said its 2011 annual membership meeting and conference is Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites at 600 East Benson Blvd in Midtown Anchorage. A reception will immediately follow at the same location. This 2011 meeting and conference, "Think Global — Hire Local," will feature some of Alaska's premier workforce training programs. Meeting space is limited, so plan on registering early; cost is \$25 and covers refreshments, lunch, and the reception hors d'oeuvres. Rooms are available for those wishing to stay in the same location. To book a room with Embassy Suites, please call 907-332-7200. For registration and more information visit www.apicc.org.

Crowley awards scholarships to two academy cadets

Crowley Maritime Corp. said Sept. 24 that two cadets in the deck officer program at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City, Mich., were recently awarded Thomas B. Crowley Sr. Memorial scholarships. Bruce Beeker and Christopher Hyzy received the scholarships for the 2010-11 academic year. Both cadets were awarded scholarships based on their academic record and interest in the towing industry. Beeker, from Traverse City, received a bachelor's degree in telecommunications from Indiana University at Bloomington. He worked in law enforcement for 13 years before enrolling at GLMA and is scheduled to graduate in 2012 and then enter the towing industry. Hyzy, a native of Sycamore, Ill., has a bachelor's degree in aviation management from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He has operations management experience and plans to pursue a career in tug and barge handling. Over the years, Crowley Chairman, President and CEO Tom Crowley Jr., has continued to give scholarship dollars to deserving students at the maritime academies and other select institutions in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Central America in the name of his father Thomas B. Crowley Sr., who guided the company to extraordinary heights before passing away in 1994.

CMI now offers Atlas Copco's Secoroc PARD system

Construction Machinery Inc., a distributor of Atlas Copco Secoroc, now provides the latest innovation in rotary drilling, the Seco-



COURTESY AADE

AADE presents three local charities with checks

The American Association of Drilling Engineers Alaska chapter presented three local charities with checks totaling \$9,000 at its Sept. 16 monthly meeting. The AADE celebrated another successful Fin, Feather, Fur, Food Festival on May 21; the proceeds of the event brought in an astounding \$23,342, monies which are divided to help support local charities, AADE engineering educational initiatives such as the Knowledge Box and AADE's scholarship fund. The three local charities each receiving a \$3,000 check were the Kid's Kitchen, Downtown Soup Kitchen and Bean's Café. "I would like to give thanks to AADE and SPE for what you have done for all the organizations that are here today," said Ken Miller, director of development, Bean's Café. The AADE, a nonprofit volunteer organization, was founded in New Orleans in 1978 and comprises an affiliation of nine independent chapters, including Alaska, with more than 5,000 members and governed by an AADE National Board.

roc PARD system, designed to boost rotary drilling performance by combining the best of DTH and rotary drilling technology. The new Secoroc PARD system combines a unique, high frequency, low impact DTH hammer and a specially designed tricone drill bit that's mounted onto a standard rotary drill rig and drill string. The result is a combination of percussive power and rotational force that provides significant increases in the rate of penetration. In fact, case studies show ROP increases up to 50 percent. The Secoroc PARD hammer is designed to operate on pressures from 50 to 110 psi, which is low compared to standard DTH hammers. Optimal air flow is achieved with the unique Secoroc PARD parallel air flow system, which distributes the air proportionately between the hammer and the tricone drill bit. The Secoroc PARD tricone bits can withstand the additional stresses and strains and still retain the same service lives of standard tricone bits, adding up to more holes drilled per shift and lower total drilling costs. For more information visit www.cmiak.com

M-I Swaco new inhibitive drilling fluid system

M-I Swaco, a Schlumberger company, said Oct. 1 that it recently acquired Idrabel Italia, an environmental technologies company

based in Italy. The company specializes in production tank cleaning and petroleum sludge treatment as well as oil recovery and volatile organic compound control for the petroleum and petrochemical industries, focusing specifically on solving critical problems related to hydrocarbon recovery from tank sludge while preventing toxic gas emissions. The traditional approach to cleaning accumulated sludge from oil storage tanks used in refineries, terminals and tank farms imposes many challenges including HSE risks, high volumes of waste and prolonged tank shutdown time. The Idrabel system allows for recovery of more than 95 percent of hydrocarbons present in the sludge while minimizing the volume of waste to be treated or disposed of. The automated system also provides significant benefits reducing the exposure and risk associated with tank entry and waste handling. The acquisition allows M-I Swaco to integrate its environmental solutions technology offerings to the downstream petroleum industry, creating additional opportunities to serve this sector. Idrabel Italia's offices in Savona, Italy, will continue operating with the current structure and customer service quality but will now be part of a larger organization that will enhance its global coverage and support.

Crowley to operate double-hulled barges in Alaska

Crowley Maritime Corp. said Sept. 30 that it plans to construct two double-hulled, combination deck cargo and tank barges for service in Western Alaska. The vessels, fittingly named DBL 165-1 and DBL 165-2, are scheduled to be delivered in April and May of 2011, and will be home ported in Nome, Alaska. The double-hull barges will be used for shallow draft operations and beach landings for the delivery of fuel and cargo to the remote communities of Western Alaska. The hull was rigorously designed for use in Western Alaska, with the highest priority given for the safety of the personnel and the environment. Adding to the double-hull feature, the barges will be fitted with Tier II pumps and generators, electric winches and deck machinery to lessen the potential of hydraulic oil spills. The vessels are classed by the American Bureau of Shipping and certified by the U.S. Coast Guard for the carriage of Grade A petroleum products. "The delivery and deployment of these barges gives Crowley the opportunity to better serve the Alaska market with the enhanced design features that are built into these vessels," said Craig Tornga, VP of Crowley's Alaska operations. "This exemplifies our commitment to moving petroleum and petroleum products efficiently and safely."

UIC Announces George Snodgrass new HSET director

Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corp. said Sept. 29 that George Snodgrass has been named its HSET director. Snodgrass has more than 30 years of professional experience in the oil and gas and petrochemical industries. Prior to joining UIC, he provided consulting services to TOTAL E&P Alaska as their Anchorage-based HSE manager, as well as assisted the U.S. Air Force, Kerr-McGee, ConocoPhillips and BP Exploration Alaska with engineering and HSE support. He has bachelor's degrees in chemical



GEORGE SNODGRASS

engineering and biology from California State University and Christopher Newport University, respectively. UIC is the village corporation for Barrow, Alaska. With more than 1,900 employees, UIC consistently ranks among the top 10 Alaskan-owned businesses in Alaska Business Monthly's annual Top 49ers. UIC provides services to clients in a range of industry sectors nationwide, including design and regulatory consulting, construction and engineering, marine operations, and government contracting.

GCI Industrial Telecom joins forces with Rigstar

GCI Industrial Telecom, a division of GCI, said Oct. 11 that it has entered a joint venture agreement with Rigstar Communications Inc. to meet the growing needs of both companies in the energy support sector of western Canada and the northern United States. The venture, a comprehensive business unit, provides support and integrated communication services to a number of businesses in the energy sector. "A partnership with Rigstar makes sense," said Russ Doig, VP, GCI Industrial Telecom. "They are telecommunication and safety professionals and bring a strong Canadian presence, industry knowledge and expansive network infrastructure to our partnership. Combined, Rigstar's expertise and GCI's proven project and engineering resources give both companies the ability to service larger customer engagements. We are growing our business by leveraging our industrial knowledge and clientele with proven partners in different regions around the world. We're positioning ourselves for continued expansion with careful steps forward," Doig said.

Calista board appoints Guy president & CEO



ANDREW GUY

Calista Corp. said Oct. 11 that the ANCSA regional corporation for the Yukon and Kuskokwim Delta region board of directors appointed Andrew Guy as president and CEO of Calista during a special meeting held Oct. 10, 2010. "Andrew Guy is an outstanding choice for this position and we look forward to working with him. Andrew has our complete confidence to take Calista forward," said Arthur Heckman, chairman of the board of directors. Guy is a 1985 graduate of University of Alaska Fairbanks in Business Administration, a 1995 graduate of the University of Colorado Law School and a member of the Alaska Bar Association. He is a Shareholder of Calista and Napaskiak Inc. At the same meeting, the board acted to terminate the employment contract of Matthew Nicolai. Nicolai had been president and CEO of Calista Corp. since 1994. The second largest of the original 13 Native corporations, Calista was established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 and represents more than 13,000 shareholders.

ConocoPhillips and BP fund award to Tidal Echoes

ConocoPhillips along with BP awarded Assistant Professor of English Emily Wall \$5,000 from its fund at the University of Alaska Foundation to support the publication of Tidal Echoes, the annual

UAS literary and arts journal. Primary support for the journal comes from the Chancellor's Fund. "This extra money will allow us to do some extra things with the journal for the next few years," said Wall, of the UA Foundation award. Tidal Echoes accepts work from full-time residents of Southeast Alaska, reserving a portion of each issue for contributions from UAS students. The next issue of Tidal Echoes will have its official launch on April 2, 2011.

Global Diving & Salvage welcomes Gowdy

Global Diving & Salvage said Oct. 18 that it has hired Renee Gowdy as its lead estimator. In this position, Gowdy will be responsible for developing estimates and proposal production within Global's Marine Construction division for federal, state, local and civil customers as well as other key markets. She joins the department with an extensive educational and professional background in the estimating and preconstruction development process, bringing to Global significant expertise in preparing submittals for projects in commercial, municipal and government markets and database management. She was previously employed by General Construction and Kiewit Bridge and Marine. "Renee's addition to the Marine Construction Division not only strengthens our abilities to estimate work within the division, but will also allow us to expand business development and customer services in this dynamic market," said Mike Langen, manager of Global Diving & Salvage's Construction Division.



RENEE GOWDY

Fox new VP of strategic initiatives and marketing

Crowley Maritime Corp. said Oct. 4 that it has named Carl R. Fox vice president of strategic initiatives and marketing for the liner and logistics business units. In his role, Fox is responsible for formulating strategic market and trade lane reviews for potential growth of Crowley's liner business, and developing and overseeing its vessel and infrastructure replacement programs. He will also assist logistics to identify market segment growth opportunities. This position will ultimately help to better align customers' needs with Crowley's wide array of services by targeting the best solutions for the many different challenges they face. Identifying service gaps — places where Crowley can do more for its customers — is of special importance. "Crowley is pleased to have Carl onboard to help us hone the marketing and strategic initiatives for liner and logistics — and to help us develop a thorough asset replacement program," said Chairman, President and CEO Tom Crowley. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, and we look forward to what he will add to the company."



CARL FOX

ASRC acquires Mission Solutions Engineering

ASRC Federal Holding Co., a subsidiary of Alaska-based Arctic Slope Regional Corp., said Oct. 15 that it has acquired Mission Solutions Engineering. MSE is a full-service systems and software engi-

neering provider with expertise in engineering complex and large-scale systems and incorporating open source technology and is headquartered in Crystal City, Va., with operations in Moorestown, N.J. MSE has more than 500 employees supporting defense customers such as the Missile Defense Agency and U.S. Navy and will function as a subsidiary of ASRC Federal, gaining the support of ASRC Federal's shared services operations to help continue to meet the needs of current customers and help posture for continued growth. "MSE brings a reputation for excellence and employees who have a passion for delivering solutions to customers to help them meet mission requirements" said Carl Werner, ASRC Federal president and CEO. "MSE is an excellent fit in terms of company culture, leadership and high ethical standards. The acquisition of MSE continues to help diversify the capabilities and market presence within our family of companies."

Crowley selected 2009 NOAA award winner for VOS

Crowley Maritime Corp. said Oct. 13 that it has been selected as a 2009 Company Award Winner for the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Weather Service's Voluntary Observing Ship program. The selection was based on Crowley's 38 vessels providing 15,798 highly accurate and timely weather observations for the U.S. VOS program in 2009. Particularly impressive was Crowley's Resolve, a pusher tug residing in Alaska waters, whose crewmembers alone made 1,738 observations last year, ranking her 14th-highest reporting vessel in the entire program. The VOS program, which was established in 1853, relies on volunteer crewmembers on nearly 1,000 ships around the world to monitor the weather at their locations and submit the observations to national meteorological services. This data is used to create marine weather forecasts and is archived for future use by climatologists and other scientists. "Crowley is proud of our history with the program and we are committed to continuing to support it," said Ed Burdorf, manager of marine operations for Crowley. "We see the impact it has each day on our own vessel operations, and we are very appreciative of this recognition."



ED BURDORF

COURTESY CROWLEY

Johnson named Doyon Emerald president, general manager

Troy Johnson has been named the new president and general manager of Emerald Consulting Group LLC, dba Doyon Emerald. Doyon Emerald is a specialized engineering and professional services firm with offices in Anchorage, Alaska and Alexandria, Va. Of Aleut decent, Johnson most recently held the position of CEO of the Aleut Corp. He is a registered professional engineer and brings



TROY JOHNSON

with him more than 20 years of experience in technical and commercial engineering consultation work. "We look forward to Troy's management of Doyon Emerald," said Norman L. Phillips Jr., president and CEO of Doyon Ltd. "His strong and diverse engineering and leadership background will benefit the growth of the firm." Bettina Chastain, the founder of the firm and prior president and general manager, will remain with the company as a senior technical consultant. Headquartered in Fairbanks, Alaska, Doyon is one of the regional Native corporations set up under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 and is one of the top 10 Alaskan-owned businesses in the state and is the largest private land owner in Alaska.

Nabors expands board, appoints Yearwood as director

Nabors Industries, parent of Nabors Alaska Drilling, said Oct. 29 that it is expanding the number of its board members from seven to eight, appointing John Yearwood to fill the eighth position. Yearwood, whose term will be through the company's 2012 annual general meeting, was also appointed to the board's Governance and Nominating, Technical and Safety, and Risk Oversight committees, serving as chairman of the latter. Yearwood currently serves on the board of directors of NFR Energy and Sheridan Production Partners. Until recently, he served as the chief executive officer, president and chief operating officer of Smith International. He successfully negotiated and completed the sale of Smith to Schlumberger in August. Before joining Smith, Yearwood spent 27 years with Schlumberger in numerous positions throughout Latin America, Europe, North Africa and North America.

NAC resumes service to St. Paul island community

Northern Air Cargo said Oct. 28 that it will introduce jet service between Anchorage and the Pribilof Island community of St. Paul beginning Thursday, Nov. 18. This will not be a first for NAC. The company offered service to St. Paul for many years but discontinued service in 2002 due to market conditions. "The Northern Air Cargo family is thrilled to be returning to St. Paul," said David Karp, NAC's president and CEO. "The community has been asking for a resumption of NAC service for years, and we've finally been able to find a model that works for both the company and the community." The company's Boeing 737-200 freighter is scheduled to touch down on St. Paul on Mondays and Thursdays, allowing the residents of St. Paul to transport larger items by air, thus providing more options for the community to shop in Anchorage and the rest of Alaska.

ASRC leads Chambers of Commerce top 49ers list

Arctic Slope Regional Corp. said it is proud to once again be recognized by the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, Alaska Business Monthly and other business leaders as the top Alaska-owned and operated company. This is the 16th consecutive year that ASRC has been No. 1 on the "Top 49ers" list, based on the prior year's gross



UIC thanks all involved in Stryker recovery effort

The Ukpheagvik Iñupiat Corp. said Oct. 5 that it wishes to express its gratitude to all entities involved in the recovery effort of the MV Stryker. On Sept. 14, the Stryker became grounded in the Beaufort Sea roughly three miles from shore. The vessel was successfully refloated and moved to Oliktok Point on Sept. 21. The operation was conducted in a manner that resulted in the safety of all vessel crew and response personnel. Throughout the recovery operation, all response personnel were focused on ensuring the safety of response personnel, controlling sources of potential releases, protecting the area's wildlife and environment and successfully salvaging the Stryker. UIC extends a heartfelt thanks to Alaska Clean Seas, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, BP Alaska, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Crowley Marine Services, Eni, Global Diving and Salvage, GBR Welding, Ice Services, Kuparuk Tool, North Slope Borough, The O'Brien's Group, Peak Alaska, Pioneer Natural Resources and the U.S. Coast Guard.

revenue. "Our continued financial stability is a direct result of our diversity, and the dedication of ASRC's employees," said Rex Allen Rock Sr., president and CEO of Arctic Slope Regional Corp. "I'm most proud that these revenue numbers allow us to better the lives of our approximately 11,000 shareholders, both directly in terms of dividends, but also indirectly — in the way of investments in community projects and educational opportunities. I congratulate the many other successful businesses on the list as well." In 2009, ASRC's revenues came in at \$1.95 billion; its principal activities include energy services, petroleum refining and marketing, engineering and construction, government services, resources development, commercial lending and tourism.

Air Liquide to participate in power plant storage

Air Liquide Process & Construction Inc., part of the Air Liquide Engineering & Construction organization, said Oct. 7 that it has been named by the U.S. Department of Energy to participate in the

development of FutureGen 2.0 — the world's first full scale oxy-combustion power plant incorporating carbon capture and storage. The recent agreement between DOE and Ameren Energy Resources Co. LLC is part of a commitment by DOE to award \$1 billion to the U.S. federal funding for the clean coal power project, which includes sub-awards to Air Liquide and its technology partner Babcock & Wilcox Power Generation Group Inc. Carbon capture and storage is critical to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and making clean energy a reality. This project represents the first full-scale production initiative for clean coal energy using oxy-combustion technology and CCS. The project is designed to capture and store approximately 1.3 million tons of carbon each year, 90 percent of the plants carbon emissions. Air Liquide, the world leader in gases for industry, health and environment and has been investing in oxy-combustion technology for more than a decade.

WesternGeco acquiring dual coil shooting survey

WesternGeco, a business segment of Schlumberger, said Oct. 14 that it has begun the acquisition of the Revolution multichannel survey. Revolution marks the first time that Dual Coil Shooting multivessel full-azimuth acquisition has been performed commercially in the industry worldwide. Located in the East Breaks and Garden Banks areas of the Western Gulf of Mexico, the Revolution multichannel survey will provide full-azimuth coverage for more than 130 outer continental shelf blocks. "We are encouraged by the initial images derived from Revolution, our first Dual Coil survey. The ultra long offsets combined with full-azimuth illumination enables significant imaging uplift in the Gulf of Mexico's complex subsalt structures," said Thomas Scoulios, North America region manager, WesternGeco. "We are pleased with the commitments from multiple underwriters who are helping to direct this project's success." Building on multi- and wide-azimuth techniques, the FAZ Dual Coil Shooting is a new, advanced method of acquiring ultra long offset marine seismic data using four vessels following a circular path. This acquisition provides better target illumination in challenging environments by enabling greater azimuthal coverage and a higher signal-to-noise ratio. Dual Coil Shooting technology is possible due to the capabilities of the Q-Marine point-receiver seismic system. WesternGeco will apply the latest seismic data processing techniques to this survey, including true-azimuth 3-D Generalized Surface Multiple Prediction and anisotropic reverse time migration.

Solstice Advertising names Moss account coordinator

Solstice Advertising, an Anchorage-based full-service advertising agency, said Nov. 11 that it recently underwent a significant expansion and is pleased to announce Breann Moss as its in-house account coordinator. As the go-to person at Solstice, Moss is responsible for making sure day-to-day operations run smoothly. She manages numerous projects for multiple staff members simultaneously, and is relied upon for her independence, dependability and ingenuity. In addition to her concurrent position with the Alaska Aces, Moss has provided public relations, receptionist and executive assistant skills to a variety of employers in Alaska,



BREANN MOSS



COURTESY CROWLEY

Tom Crowley receives Vincent T. Hirsch award

Crowley Maritime Corp. said Oct. 28 that its Chairman, President and CEO Tom Crowley Jr. was awarded the Vincent T. Hirsch Maritime award for outstanding leadership from the U.S. Navy League. Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby, USN commander, Military Sealift Command, presented the award at the Sea Services Award luncheon during the League's 2010 national convention, which was held in downtown Jacksonville. The Vincent T. Hirsch Maritime Award is named for a patron of the Merchant Marine and past national president of the Navy League. This award is presented to an individual in private or public life whose efforts and or achievements have contributed substantially to an increased public awareness of the vital role of a privately owned U.S.-flag merchant fleet, both to the United States defense establishment and to the nation's economic well-being.

Pennsylvania and Colorado. Moss holds a BS in mass communications with an emphasis on public relations from Mansfield University in Pennsylvania. Moss keeps up on public relations trends and incorporates them into the Solstice environment.

Crowley transforms refrigerated container fleet

Crowley Maritime Corp. said Oct. 26 that when its liner services group takes delivery of 355 new 40-foot-high cube refrigerated containers later this year, it will mark an important milestone on the path to world-class environmental stewardship: conversion of nearly a quarter of its refrigerated fleet to Carrier Transcold PrimeLINE units, the industry's most energy-efficient container refrigeration units. "The PrimeLINE unit offers improved efficiencies and reduced power consumption, which reduces our emissions and impact on the environment," said John Azzo, Crowley's director of strategic procurement. The latest 40-foot-high cube refrigerated containers are also Crowley's first to use sustainable polyurethane technology foam, a highly efficient insulator with substantially lower global warming potential than conventional insulation. A leading ocean cargo carrier within its service region, Crowley dedi-

cates most of its refrigerated containers to perishable produce trade, although the unit's high performance at the lowest temperatures will also serve in the delivery of frozen foods such as ice cream. With the recent order for 355 PrimeLINE units, Crowley will have a total of 755 of the industry leading digital scroll units in its growing fleet of 3,250 refrigerated containers.

Iditarod announces Donlin as sponsor of 2011 race

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race said Nov. 16 that Donlin Creek LLC is a Principal Partner sponsor of the 2011 Last Great Race, contributing \$285,000 to the historic event. Donlin and Iditarod representatives were present at the Resource Development Council's conference to officially announce their joint efforts in support of this cherished Alaska tradition. A sponsorship ceremony was held Nov. 17 in the Donlin Creek booth in the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center. "Donlin Creek is proud and honored to now be part of the Iditarod family with this contribution to the historic race," said Doug Nicholson, general manager of Donlin Creek LLC. Both mining and mushing have been historically tied throughout Alaska's heritage. On the first Saturday of March every year, teams from all walks of life begin the 1,049 mile trek to Nome on the Iditarod Trail and will pass through some of Alaska's most scenic panoramas along the Kuskokwim River.

Solstice names O'Toole account tech, receptionist

Solstice Advertising, an Anchorage-based full-service advertising agency, said Nov. 11 it recently underwent a significant expansion and is pleased to announce the addition of Elizabeth O'Toole as accounting tech and receptionist. O'Toole holds a BA in business management with an emphasis in accounting from Charter College in Anchorage. She is also a Level 3 certified tax advisor with years of experience preparing tax documents for H&R Block. Though she loves working with numbers, she also has a strong desire to work with people, which makes her a perfect fit at Solstice, where she will be juggling numbers and customer relations every day.



ELIZABETH O'TOOLE

SeaLife Center announces new board members

The Alaska SeaLife Center recently announced the election and appointments of its 2010-11 board of directors. The executive committee consists of: chair, Todd Allen, Koniag Inc.; vice chair, Stephen Grabacki, Graystar Pacific Seafood Ltd.; secretary, Willard Dunham, mayor of the city of Seward; and treasurer, Tom Tougas, Alaska Coach Tours. Returning board members include: Michael Castellini, University of Alaska designee; Dr. Pat Pitney, University of Alaska designee; Phillip Oates, city of Seward Designee; Don Bauermeister, Burke & Bauermeister P.L.L.C.; and Kevin Brown, BP Exploration Alaska. In addition, ASLC announced six new board members: Maggie Kelly of Royal Celebrity Tours; William Muldoon, ConocoPhillips Alaska; Dona Eidam, University of Alaska; Lela Klingert, Alaska Commercial Fisheries & Agriculture Bank; Jason Brune, Resource Devel-



COURTESY TTT ENVIRONMENTAL

TTT selected SBA Region X Subcontractor of the year

TTT Environmental has been selected by the U.S. Small Business Administration as the 2010 Region X Subcontractor of the Year. Each year since 1963, the President has issued a proclamation calling for the celebration of Small Business Week, recognizing outstanding small business owners for their personal successes and contributions to our nation. Founded in 2002 by Deborah Tompkins, TTT Environmental, a woman-owned small business, specializes in environmental instrument rentals, sales, services and sampling supplies. Nominated by prime contractor Jacobs Engineering, TTT's combination of service, willingness to meet unusual project needs while maintaining competitive pricing, has made it a preferred subcontractor for field equipment rentals and field supply purchases. TTT's capabilities in environmental remediation projects located in the remote regions of Alaska have made it an integral part of the success of Jacobs Engineering. TTT Environmental prides itself in offering a combination of services, the ability to mobilize quickly and deploy fully functional field equipment and instruments to remote job sites. For more information visit www.tttenviro.com.

opment Council; and Julie Bonney, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank. "With these new board members seated, the Alaska SeaLife Center is actively expanding its partnership with Alaskan industry and communities. Over the next year, the Center will continue to expand its research and education programs to address key issues facing Alaska's seas. The need to have board members with diverse backgrounds and from different industries who bring new ideas and concepts is important to our continued success," said Todd Allen, board chair, Alaska SeaLife Center. For more information visit www.alaskasealife.org.

Ballas, Cameron join Solstice Advertising team

Solstice Advertising, an Anchorage-based full-service advertising agency, said Nov. 11 that during a recent expansion it has named Teeka Ballas as staff copywriter and Walter Cameron its new Web developer technician. Prior to joining Solstice, Ballas spent 10 years freelance writing and reporting for a variety of industries and outlets around the world. Her most recent undertaking has been as co-

founder and content editor of F Magazine, an Anchorage-based arts, music and culture publication. Additionally, she is a recurring host for Hometown, Alaska, on Alaska Public Radio. Her work can be found in numerous statewide and national media outlets, including Alaska Newspapers, Fodor's Alaska, 90.3 KNBA, Anchorage and First Alaskans Magazine. With a command of grammar and a flare for style, Ballas holds awards from Alaska Press Club, Alaska Professional Communicators, The National Federation of Women in Press and others. Her formal education began at a small college in Texas and was finalized with a bachelor's degree in journalism from UAA. Cameron brings to his new position his previous experience as the laser technician and webmaster with the Great Alaska Bowl Co., where he redesigned the new online store. His responsibilities included photography, copywriting, traffic management, client contact and project management. He also worked with the Alaska Volcano Observatory as the Web and data specialist, combining his passion for standards and usability with his formal education in geology; picking up additional skills including videography and the creation of outreach materials for scientists. With his abundant knowledge in all things pertinent to an advertising agency, Cameron is a valuable asset to the newly expanded team-atmosphere at Solstice.



TEEKA BALLAS



WALTER CAMERON

Castro, LeKites join Solstice Advertising team

Solstice Advertising, an Anchorage-based full-service advertising agency, said that under its recent significant expansion it has named Jennifer Castro staff copywriter and Michelle LeKites account executive. Castro joins the Solstice team from KTUU, Channel 2 in Anchorage, where she produced the 5 p.m. newscast and was responsible for all aspects of the live, daily televised program. In her new position with Solstice, she brings her ability to work in a fast-paced environment, while maintaining an astute attention to detail. Castro holds a degree in broadcast journalism from the University of Idaho. As a marketing consultant and small business owner, LeKites brings a wealth of knowledge in project management and a desire to help lead a team approach to client satisfaction to her position at Solstice. She has both a penchant for detail and the ability to see the big picture. LeKites holds a B.A. from Grand Valley State University, Mich., and an MBA in Marketing from the University of Alaska Anchorage.



JENNIFER CASTRO



MICHELLE LEKITES

Global Diving & Salvage opens new office in Houston

Global Diving & Salvage Inc., a Seattle, Wash.-based diving and marine services company, said Dec. 1 that it has opened a new facility in northeast Houston, Texas. The property has 2,000 square feet of office space and another 20,000 square feet of warehouse capac-



COURTESY ALASKA RAILROAD

AKRR sets annual print sale and signing event

The Alaska Railroad said Nov. 17 that it will release its 2011 annual prints and posters during two public sale-and-signing events in December, each featuring artist Douglas Girard who will be on hand to sign the prints and posters. Both events will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the first one at the Anchorage Historic Depot, Saturday Dec. 4 and the second at the Fairbanks Depot Saturday Dec. 18. Entitled Northbound Over the Matanuska Bridge, the artwork depicts a freight train crossing the rail bridge over the Matanuska River. Girard says he was inspired by a scene that he passes almost daily during the commute from his home in Palmer to work as a graphic artist in Anchorage. The 2011 Alaska Railroad print costs \$55, posters cost \$30 and pins cost \$5. Following the signing events, prints, posters and pins will remain on sale at the Anchorage Historic Depot and the Fairbanks Depot, and may also be purchased online via the Alaska Railroad Gift Shop website at www.AlaskaRailroadGiftShop.com/.

ity on 2.5 acres. This new regional office will allow Global Diving & Salvage to support their existing and future offshore energy clients in the Gulf of Mexico. "The new facility provides us the ability to maintain personnel and equipment in the local area," said Bruce Humberstone, manager of Global Diving & Salvage's Gulf of Mexico Region. "This allows us to better serve our existing customers as well enables us to respond more timely to emergent opportunities." For more information visit www.gdiving.com.

Calista Corp. announces special elder distribution

Calista Corp. said Dec 14 that its board of directors has approved a special distribution for elder shareholders in the amount of \$300. Checks were mailed Dec. 15. "Elders carry additional financial burdens, particularly in this economy," said Art Heckman, Calista Corp. chairman of the board. "We must support our Elders when

possible since their wisdom of the past holds a key to the future." An elders' benefit program was approved at the 2007 Calista annual shareholders meeting. Approximately 62 percent of shareholders present or by proxy voted in favor of a program to honor and financially benefit Calista Elders. To qualify, individuals must be at least 65 years of age as of Dec. 3, 2010, be an original Calista shareholder, and currently living. The checks will automatically be mailed to all qualifying shareholders. This unique distribution is made entirely from Calista's capital account, also known as the Alaska Native Fund.

Crowley awards marine academy cadets scholarships

Crowley Maritime Corp. said Dec. 8 that it continues to reward exemplary students at maritime schools around the country presenting Thomas B. Crowley Sr. Memorial Scholarships to four deserving midshipmen from the United States Merchant Marine Academy



COURTESY CROWLEY

at the Containerization and Intermodal Institute's Connie Awards dinner in Newark, N.J. USMMA cadets Christina Becker, David Irish, Lesley Walz and Gregory Otto were recognized with Crowley scholarships for their strong academic records, leadership capacity and financial need. Sarah Cross, Crowley's marine recruiter, presented the scholarships at the yearly dinner attended by hundreds of maritime and transportation professionals. Crowley scholarships are part of Crowley's lengthy and ongoing commitment to education. Over the years, Crowley Chairman, President and CEO Tom Crowley Jr., has directed the company to present scholarship dollars to deserving students at the maritime academies and other select institutions in the United States, Caribbean and Central America in the name of his father Thomas B. Crowley Sr., who guided the company to extraordinary heights before passing away in 1994.

EOR projects boost recovery of oil and gas fields

Schlumberger said Dec. 10 that it has made a multiyear research technology cooperation agreement focusing on improving the recovery factor of oil and gas reservoirs and extending the life of existing oil and natural gas fields. The combination of Schlumberger formation evaluation and reservoir characterization knowledge with the subsurface laboratory and reservoir expertise of Shell will result in the development of better tools and methods to obtain improved field data, better and more efficient numerical models, and enhanced field development methods. The research collaboration is an expansion of the joint work on several fronts that Shell and Schlumberger already conduct together, and it will initially focus on two specific projects: reservoir surveillance for enhanced oil recovery projects, and digital rock for detailed numerical modeling of

reservoir rocks. The key target of the cooperation is to shorten development cycles, increase production and enhance ultimate oil and gas recovery. As part of this joint cooperation agreement, Schlumberger and Shell research scientists will work closely together in several research facilities in the U.S., UK, Russia, Oman and the Netherlands.

Crowley expands terminal complex at Port Everglades

Crowley Maritime said Dec. 15 that it is expanding its Port Everglades with a new 10-year terminal lease that calls for additional acreage and increased container guarantees. The Broward County Commission, the governing board for Port Everglades, has approved the new lease. The terms of the new lease call for increasing Crowley's terminal from 68.2 to 80 acres. Guaranteed container moves will begin at 110,000 in 2011, increase to 112,000 in 2012, and increase by 1,000 annually thereafter on each Jan. 1 through 2020. Under the new agreement Crowley's first-year guarantee represents nearly 96 percent of their FY10 container volumes. Crowley operates the largest container terminal in Port Everglades and the company's economic impact through the Port could increase by 9 percent over the remaining term of this agreement, based on the increase in guaranteed volumes alone. The economic impact resulting from Crowley's activity at Port Everglades is estimated to support 31,983 jobs and generate personal income of \$1.1 billion, plus state and local taxes of approximately \$80.1 million. These impact estimates are based on the Port Everglades Economic Impacts Model developed by Martin Associates as part of the 2006 Port Everglades Master and Vision Plan.

Arctic Catering promotes McIntosh to general manager

Arctic Catering Inc. said Dec. 21 that it has promoted Terry McIntosh to general manager. "Terry's sixteen years of experience with Arctic Catering Inc., the past fourteen years as the operations manager, has prepared Terry well for his new role as General Manager. Terry's wide knowledge of remote camp catering and the culinary field has allowed him to approach challenges and present solutions on emergent issues flawlessly," said Randy MacMillan, vice president of Arctic Catering. In his new role as general manager, McIntosh will progressively take responsibility for both Lower 48 and Alaska operations. He will have a more active role in the contracting process for the Lower 48, streamlining processes and providing overall communication of operational strategies, in addition to providing leadership and development of new business opportunities. Additionally, Ean Aucoin has been promoted to field operations manager, Alaska region. Aucoin will be responsible for all aspects of Arctic Catering's Alaska operations including planning and coordination of camp mobilizations, startup and closeout, ensuring efficiencies and adherence to company policies and procedures. His new role coordinates logistics and provides support to camp managers and field personnel.



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