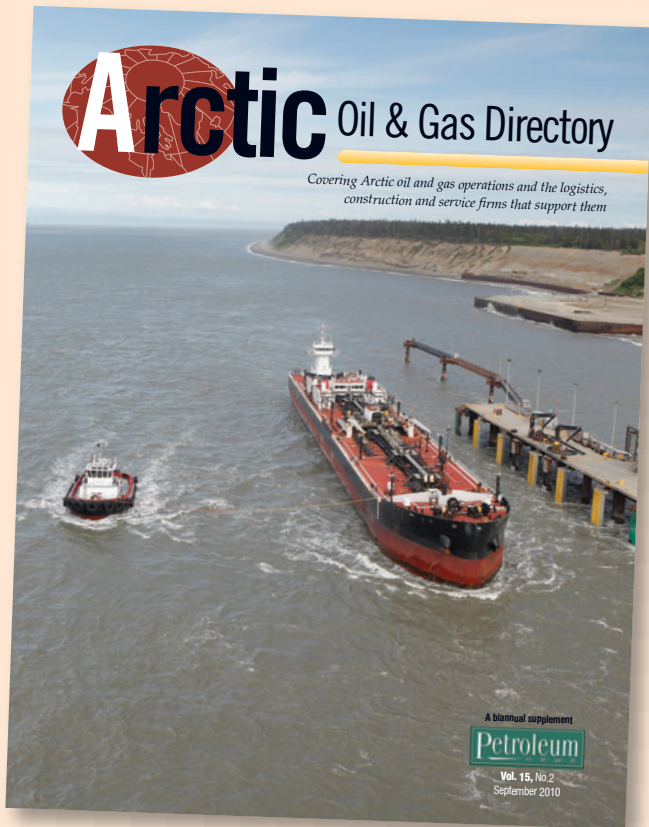




page 8 Shell's Voser: Arctic gas will be developed, probably 'quite long term'

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. Articles include the best of PN's Arctic technology coverage, as well as news from oilfield transportation, service and supply firms.

Is 'non-firm' competitive? DNR asks RCA to approve contract

Did Enstar accidentally create competition in the Cook Inlet basin?

The natural gas utility for Southcentral Alaska recently signed a gas supply contract with ConocoPhillips for peaking volumes, or natural gas available when local demand spikes on extremely cold days. Because the contract is non-firm, ConocoPhillips isn't required to provide the gas unless it has volumes available that it wants to sell.

ConocoPhillips isn't alone. Enstar has been unable to secure any firm commitments for peaking gas, and the ConocoPhillips contract is the fifth non-firm peaking contract in Enstar's portfolio.

That's a mixed bag. The contracts give Enstar five lines of

see **CONTRACT** page 18

Alaska history jumps off page in Hurst's graphic novel; Miller's book examines value of Alaska oil

SARAH HURST, FORMER EDITOR of North of 60 Mining News and, more recently, author of Petroleum News' Arctic Neighbors, has just released a 148-page graphic novel about the modern history of Alaska; specifically the major events and people who shaped the state's history.

Publisher Greatland Graphics describes "A Native Lad: Benny Benson Tells Alaska's Story" on Amazon.com as "history jumping off the page."

Written for older children and adults, Alaska-based Greatland says "this is no gentle history. There are winners



see **INSIDER** page 19

LAND & LEASING

Thomson settlement?

Lawyers slow Supreme Court appeal, seek resolution of high-stakes case

By **WESLEY LOY**

For Petroleum News

The legal conflict over the rich Point Thomson field on Alaska's North Slope has seemed quiet for months.

But that hardly means nothing is happening.

In fact, the case could be on its way to ending soon as lawyers for the state and for major oil companies including field operator ExxonMobil try to hammer out a resolution.

The lawyers recently won permission from the Alaska Supreme Court to postpone the filing of certain heavy legal briefs to make more time for what are described as "settlement talks."

The fight for control of Point Thomson is a heavy-weight contest pitting the state against four giants:

Because Point Thomson holds about a quarter of all the known gas reserves on the North Slope, it figures to play an important role in a natural gas pipeline project — an economic development dream the state has long pursued.

ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron and ConocoPhillips.

The state and the companies have been at odds since 2005, when the Alaska Department of Natural Resources began taking steps to break up the Point Thomson unit and invalidate leases on the state-owned land. State officials contended that

see **POINT THOMSON** page 18

GOVERNMENT

State takes DOI to court

Parnell says Arctic OCS drilling moratorium is illegal and unjustified

By **ALAN BAILEY**

For Petroleum News

Alaska Gov. Sean Parnell said Sept. 9 that the State of Alaska has filed a lawsuit against Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to overturn a federal moratorium on offshore drilling on the Alaska outer continental shelf.

This is a question of the federal government illegally shutting down Alaska OCS development and Alaska jobs, Parnell said.

"Development of Alaska's OCS resources is of critical importance to Alaska's future and the economic and security interests of the United States," he said. "We are taking this action to ensure that



SEAN PARNELL

the federal government abides by applicable federal law, including its legal responsibility to make the OCS available for expeditious and orderly development."

Confusion

Interior imposed a six-month deepwater OCS drilling moratorium on the Gulf of Mexico in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon disaster, but there has been considerable confusion regarding whether that moratorium applies to the Alaska OCS, especially since Interior had refused to allow Shell to proceed with a planned 2010 drilling program in

see **LAWSUIT** page 20

NATURAL GAS

Mackenzie gasline in a bog

Governments of Canada, Northwest Territories, at odds with Joint Review Panel

By **GARY PARK**

For Petroleum News

The endless bureaucratic and political quagmire continues to hold the Mackenzie Gas Project in its grip, causing yet another uncertain delay in the release of final recommendations by Canada's National Energy Board.

This time it's a squabble between the Canadian government and the Joint Review Panel appointed by the government to conduct the environmental and socio-economic review of the proposed C\$16.2 billion project.

The NEB had been scheduled to make a crucial decision in September, but that long-promised goal has been shunted aside because the JRP is refusing to discuss its recommendations with the federal

The NEB had been scheduled to make a crucial decision in September, but that long-promised goal has been shunted aside because the JRP is refusing to discuss its recommendations with the federal government in secrecy.

government in secrecy.

JRP Chairman Robert Hornal said holding the so-called "consult to modify" talks behind closed doors would be a "fundamental breach of the basic principles that the panel's review is to be open and transparent and that the panel is to be accountable to the public at large and in particular the parties to

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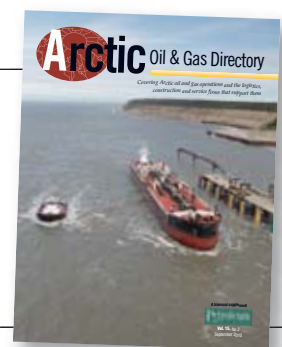


8 Arctic gas trails shale revolution

Peter Voser, CEO of Royal Dutch Shell, says Arctic gas now 'quite long term', as frontier occupies place on distant horizon

Latest Arctic Oil & Gas Directory enclosed

Articles include the best of PN's Arctic technology coverage, as well as news from oilfield transportation, service and supply firms.



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INCORPORATED

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 W-19BL1	BP
Sky Top Brewster NE-12	15 (SCR/TD)	Stacked Doyon Yard	Available
Dreco 1000 UE	16 (SCR/TD)	Prudhoe Bay B-04/01	BP
Dreco D2000 UEBD	19 (SCR/TD)	Alpine CD4-25	ConocoPhillips
OIME 2000	141 (SCR/TD)	Prudhoe Bay DS 13-37	BP
TSM 7000	Arctic Wolf #2	Stacked at Prudhoe Bay	FEX/Available

Nabors Alaska Drilling

Trans-ocean rig	CDR-1 (CT)	Stacked, Prudhoe Bay	Available
AC Coil Hybrid	CDR-2	Kuparuk Maintenance	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 MPK-33	BP
Dreco 1000 UE	7-ES (SCR/TD)	Prudhoe Bay S-41A	BP
Dreco 1000 UE	9-ES (SCR/TD)	Rig Stacked	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)	Point Thompson PTU-15	ExxonMobil
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	Kuparuk OPO5-06	ENI

Nordic Calista Services

Superior 700 UE	1 (SCR/CTD)	Prudhoe Bay Drill Site C	BP
		Conducting Rig Maintenance	
Superior 700 UE	2 (SCR/CTD)	Prudhoe Bay Well Drill Site 13-21	BP
Ideco 900	3 (SCR/TD)	Kuparuk Well 2A-01	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-17	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	Workover at three mile creek 2 prior to frac	Aurora Gas
------------------------------	-------	--	------------

Doyon Drilling

TSM 7000	Arctic Fox #1	Beluga Stacked	Available
----------	---------------	----------------	-----------

Marathon Oil Co. (Inlet Drilling Alaska labor contractor)

Taylor	Glacier 1	North Fork Unit #14-25	Armstrong Cook Inlet LLC
--------	-----------	------------------------	--------------------------

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)	Stacked Kenai, Cosmopolitan	Pioneer Natural Resources
-------------	---------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------

Kuukpik

	5	committed to drilling LEA #1 well in early October	Linc Energy
--	---	--	-------------

Cook Inlet Basin - Offshore

Chevron (Nabors Alaska Drilling labor contract)

	428	M-29 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
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Central Mackenzie Valley

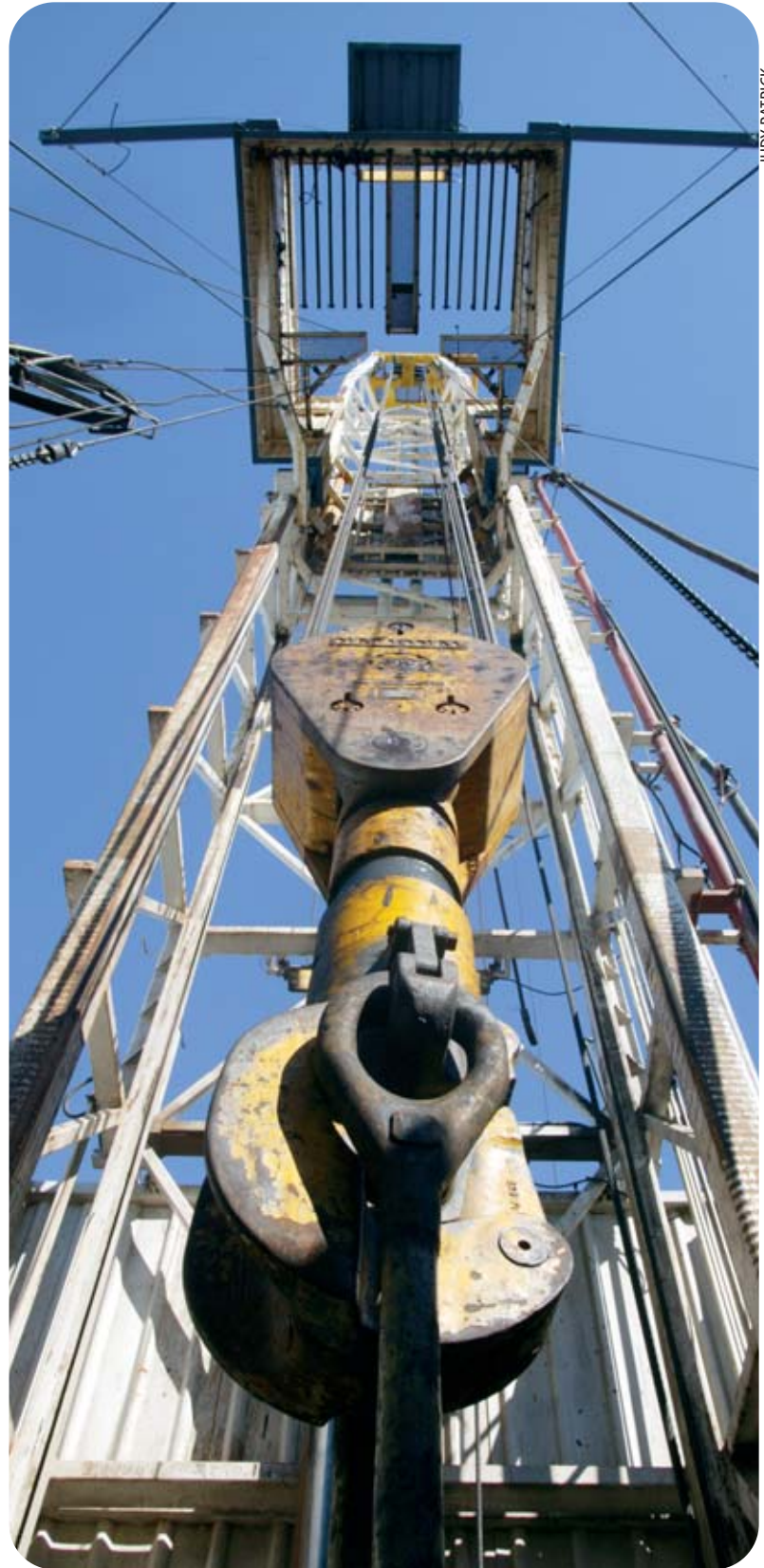
Akita/SAHTU

Oilwell 500	51	Racked in Norman Wells, NT	Available
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The Alaska - Mackenzie Rig Report as of September 16, 2010.
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*

	Sept. 10	Sept. 3	Year Ago
US	1,654	1,653	999
Canada	383	388	206
Gulf	21	20	32

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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● NATURAL GAS

NGSC sees itself as a keystone

ANGDA-backed Natural Gas Supply Co. hopes to play many roles in the Cook Inlet energy market, could announce deal soon

By ERIC LIDJI

For Petroleum News

Government and industry generated many ideas this year for fixing what ails the Cook Inlet energy market, but one hasn't gotten much attention: the Natural Gas Supply Co.

The Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority formed the cooperative in 2009 as a vehicle for nonprofit utilities in the state to join forces when buying fuel and services.

The Natural Gas Supply Co. remains a name on a piece of paper, but its six members could enter their first business arrangement soon, according to Tony Izzo, hired by ANGDA to facilitate the cooperative. Izzo said the Natural Gas Supply Co. is "advancing on a number of options," but can't announce anything yet. "We are not

just talking about opportunities," he said. "The due diligence is being performed on some opportunities."

The Natural Gas Supply Co. is a cooperative that currently has six members: Chugach Electric Association, Municipal Light & Power, Golden Valley Electric Association, Matanuska Electric Association, Homer Electric Association and ANGDA.

Whether the cooperative announces a business arrangement any time soon, it certainly has numerous roles to play in the maturing Cook Inlet energy market, where utilities are being urged to collaborate and new producers are entering the market.



TONY IZZO

As Izzo describes it, the Natural Gas Supply Co. could be a keystone in the region.

Izzo said the cooperative would not compete with the Greater Railbelt Energy and Transmission Company. Promoted by both the Palin and Parnell administrations and debated extensively by the Legislature, GRETC would combine the generation and transmission assets of the six Railbelt utilities to guide future spending on infrastructure.

The Natural Gas Supply Co. allows those same companies to pool their needs. "It's all service related, not asset related," Izzo said.

Izzo said the cooperative also wouldn't eat into the business of storage facilities proposed for Cook Inlet. He believes it would actually make life easier for those storage operators by creating a "one-stop shop" to sell natural gas back into the market.

Valley Electric Association, the Fairbanks utility that makes most of its power from diesel and coal, but could see cost savings from gas.

The cooperative could still be beneficial to power producers like Municipal Light & Power and Chugach, though, because joining with smaller players might let those utilities negotiate larger fuel purchases at better rates than individual utilities could get alone.

As a cooperative, the Natural Gas Supply Co. is a nonprofit, which is why Enstar Natural Gas, a private utility and the largest natural gas user in the state, isn't a member.

If the Alaska Gasline Port Authority successfully acquires Fairbanks Natural Gas and makes the utility a nonprofit, it could join the cooperative. Izzo said that the Natural Gas Supply Co. could also partner with Enstar or military installations on fuel purchases.

Izzo also believes the cooperative could simplify regulatory approval by increasing the amount of weight behind each contract. However, since the Natural Gas Supply Co. would not be a certificated utility, each utility would still need to bring contracts to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska separately. Izzo doesn't believe that will create complications, since utilities will use the cooperative to lower gas costs.

"There is potential for a number of different upsides in this thing," Izzo said.

Supplies still needed

Of course, all that requires large supplies of natural gas to become available.

They won't be available in the Cook Inlet basin in the future without more drilling, but would be abundant if natural gas from the North Slope is made available to the Southcentral market. ANGDA announced plans to bid in the open seasons planned for two pipeline projects this year, but is prohibited from discussing the details of that any bids it makes.

That said, for months before the open season, ANGDA talked about becoming an "aggregator" that helped small gas users join together to have more weight in the market. ●

Contact Eric Lidji
at ericlidji@mac.com

Making all players big player

The Natural Gas Supply Co. could make Alaska utilities more like those in the Lower 48.

It's not a coincidence that the first utilities to join up — Homer Electric Association and Matanuska Electric Association — are also the largest utilities in the Railbelt that do not generate their own power. Both companies currently buy electricity from Chugach Electric Association, although both also plan to start generating their own power by 2015.

"That's a near-term issue. So gas supply for them is a high priority," Izzo said.

The Natural Gas Supply Co. gives smaller electric utilities the ability to buy fuel, instead of power. Because the Railbelt electricity grid is integrated from Homer to Delta Junction, those producers could sell fuel to any power plant that offers the best deal.

That benefit is common in the Lower 48, where most utilities aren't vertically integrated like the municipal utilities and cooperatives in Alaska, and often shuffle fuel and power around a region in search of cost savings from day to day. "You can leverage the benefits of being a larger player as a utility without having to be a larger player," Izzo said.

That could also be a benefit for Golden




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● GOVERNMENT

Pelosi digs into Canada's oil sands

House Speaker hears from both sides in oil sands debate; leaves Alberta premier in 'buoyant' mood and ready to work with US

By GARY PARK

For Petroleum News

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, whose San Francisco congressional district is the heart of California's support for low-carbon fuel standards and opposition to imports of crude from the Alberta oil sands, arrived in Canada Sept. 8 with a delegation that included Massachusetts Congressman Ed Markey, chairman of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, and one of the most outspoken critics of "dirty oil," whose poster child in North America is the oil sands.



NANCY PELOSI

Not exactly the makings of a warm and friendly group for a dinner meeting with, among others, Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach, Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall and federal Environment Minister Jim Prentice — all of them solid backers of Canada's petroleum industry, including the oil sands.

The three-hour session lasted far longer than scheduled and the Canadian leaders emerged in an upbeat mood.



ED STELMACH

"Boy, after today, I'm excited," said the normally inhibited Stelmach, who found Pelosi was receptive to getting "both sides of the story."

The participants even went as far as exploring the possibility of establishing a benchmark for carbon emissions from the oil sands, with Alberta agreeing to provide regular updates on environmental improvements in the oil sands to correct "misinformation."

"In order to get that certainty, both countries have to get together to work on the targets," Stelmach told the Globe and Mail. "Saskatchewan and Alberta said we'll meet those targets and exceed them."

He said in a statement that, although development of the oil sands has its challenges, he impressed on Pelosi that "Alberta is taking the necessary steps to balance energy security with environmental responsibility and economic growth."

Foreign oil doesn't include Canada

What buoyed Stelmach was the assurance he received from the U.S. power brokers, including Pelosi's pledge that the U.S. drive to eliminate its dependence on foreign oil does "does not mean Canada."

"She does not consider Canada to be foreign oil and I think that's the reason why she asked a number of questions with respect to our ability to supply (U.S. markets)," he said.

He emerged from the discussion with the "very strong opinion" that Pelosi has no desire to halt oil sands expansion.

However, in case she did harbor any such notions, Stelmach issued a mild warning.

He said Alberta is hopeful of expanding its oil sands exports beyond the U.S. to Asia.

"I just said, 'Look, there are new trade markets developing,'" in driving home his point that Canada and the U.S. have every reason to maintain a "good trade relationship."

U.S. trade link important

There's no doubting the importance of that trade link to Alberta, whose energy exports to the U.S. in 2008 were valued at C\$79.5 billion, or 72 percent of its total exports from all industries.

Wall, whose province shipped C\$6.4 billion in conventional oil to the U.S. last year, said the meeting "went very well."

He told Pelosi he hoped the U.S. would recognize the importance of procuring petroleum from a close friend and neighbor that is committed to environmental improvements.

"Who would (the U.S.) rather deal with ... with a country that is prepared to make investments in the name of the environment, or with others that are less interested?" Wall said.

Bruce Carlson, executive director of the Canada School of Energy and Environment

see SANDS DEBATE page 7

Red faces all round

Just ask the bosses of Suncor Energy and Enbridge about timing being everything.

There they were, putting the best spin on their environmental records for the benefit of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi at about the same time they were having to deal with a dose of bad news on the same front.

Suncor got word it had been charged by the Alberta government with leaking dirty water into the Athabasca River and providing misleading information to the government about runoff at its Voyageur upgrader construction site, where work on the 200,000 barrels per day facility was halted last year while Suncor searched for a partner.

The nine charges, which each carry a maximum fine of C\$500,000, were hotly contested by a Suncor spokesman who said the company believed it was operating within regulations and had nothing to report. He said there was no bitumen in the

see RED FACES page 7



RICK GEORGE



PAT DANIEL

JUDY PATRICK

"For someone new to the state or for a company that does not already have a large production base ... credits for capital investment and the credit for net operating losses are very advantageous."

Savant Resources, 2009



- The State of Alaska pays up to 40% of exploration costs
- Tax increases and decreases with oil prices and level of investment: The more you invest, the less tax you pay
- Lower taxes for Cook Inlet and in-state gas use
- Credit for capital investments, plus a 25% credit for net losses

Alaska is successfully encouraging investment from companies that are new to the state, with the number of petroleum companies doing business in the state almost doubling between 2006 and 2008.

Legacy producers on the North Slope are investing in their own assets, leaving room for new players, as evidenced by Pioneer's Ooguruk (production started in 2008) and ENI's Nikaichuq (expected to start production in 2010).

The past two years of lease sales on the North Slope successfully leased a total of 1,276,207 acres, all to smaller companies.

"[T]he state has been a good partner for new explorers."

(Brooks Petroleum Corporation, 2008)

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• ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Fire Island wind farm needs contracts

Nearly \$44M in federal money for CIRI project expires this year; utilities concerned about cost; CIRI says cost flat over time

By ELIZABETH BLUEMINK

Anchorage Daily News

With nearly \$44 million in federal money available to help build a Fire Island wind farm set to expire this year, electric companies are still weighing whether to buy the wind power — a vital step before the \$162 million project can happen.

Chugach Electric Association, the Railbelt's largest power company, is the giant at the negotiating table. But two other major power utilities are in talks, too.

Anchorage-based Cook Inlet Region Inc., which wants to develop the wind farm, said it hopes to sign power-purchase agreements with at least one electric utility. CIRI needs to have deals to sell the farm's power to win the \$43.8 million in federal grant available as well as obtain the rest of the money needed to build the project.

Getting the utilities on board hasn't been easy, however. The Chugach board of directors weighed in recently. The board voted 6-1 on a motion reminding its staff that the clock is ticking on the grant and telling them to negotiate with CIRI to see if a fair deal can be reached.

CIRI says its project would supply nearly 4 percent of the Railbelt's electricity, bring a relatively low-cost, clean-energy project to the region and help reduce the regional electrical grid's reliance on turbines fueled by Cook Inlet natural gas, which is in tight supply.

Not a simple sell

The project is not a simple sell to the electric companies for several reasons.

For one, the power generated from Fire Island turbines, which could start producing as early as 2012, would cost several pennies per kilowatt hour more than gas-fueled electricity, according to CIRI's calculations. But CIRI says its rates will be flat over time, while gas rates are expected to rise above the wind rates within a few years.

Chugach Electric staff are worried about its cost to retool

equipment so that wind power can enter Chugach's aging power grid, something they're now studying. Further, Chugach staff are studying how to protect the reliability of its power supply when winds dramatically fluctuate.

CIRI has a cost estimate for integrating wind into the grid, but Chugach staff have not accepted it and are doing their own. A "better estimate" should be available within weeks, according to Chugach spokesman Phil Steyer.

Anchorage city officials are also noncommittal about Fire Island. "I'm just not sure yet whether they have hit the price point where it's economical for ML&P to purchase power," Anchorage Mayor Dan Sullivan said about the city-owned Municipal Light & Power utility.

"This is a big decision for us, my board, the Assembly and the Regulatory Commission of Alaska," said ML&P general manager Jim Posey.

"My board has to consider it, the Assembly has to consider it and the mayor signs (off) on it. I'm moving as fast as I can," he said.

The Native firm said more than \$6 million has been spent on the project so far and it plans to spend another \$3 million this year. CIRI won't seek additional financing to build until it signs up electric companies and gets regulatory approval.

Loss of subsidy a concern

CIRI says it has presented price terms to Chugach, ML&P and Fairbanks-based Golden Valley Electric Association and is involved in discussions with all three.

But ML&P board member Charles Wohlforth, a supporter of the Fire Island project, said he is worried that the Anchorage utilities — including his own — will dicker over the project until the federal funding disappears and that, without this subsidy, the project could be in serious trouble.

"There hasn't been a can-do attitude to get it done. If the mayor wants this project to happen, he can make it happen. He can get the people in the room to get (a) contract. If he doesn't want it to happen, it's very easy to stall and make objections," Wohlforth said.

Sullivan said Sept. 8 he's relying on the ML&P staff to evaluate the project's viability.

"The key will be the cost of the kilowatt hour to the residents of Anchorage," he said.

Posey said, "It's a matter of how much data is available and how comfortable we are with the data."

RCA rate approval required

Chugach staff declined to discuss how their negotiations with CIRI are going, citing a confidentiality agreement they signed with CIRI.

The chairman of the utility's board, Jim Nordlund, said he thinks the Chugach staff is working diligently.

But, "The timing is critical, to be candid," he said. The federal grant appears to be a one-shot deal, he said.

Wohlforth said he thinks the CIRI wind proposal poses some cultural challenges for the Railbelt utilities.

"They have never dealt with an independent power producer," he said.

In Anchorage, "They have been comfortable with the way they've always done it," negotiating long-term contracts with the major Cook Inlet natural gas producers, he said.

If they sign a deal with CIRI, the utilities — not CIRI — will determine what to charge their customers for the wind power. The Regulatory Commission of Alaska will have to approve those rates.

Posey wants the project costs to be brought down because he fears it might be too expensive for ML&P customers in Anchorage, who generally pay less for electricity than Chugach customers in the city.

But CIRI says the project is about as cheap as it can get right now. The company points out that the project's installed cost per kilowatt hour would be cheaper than at least four wind projects in Washington state and Oregon, for example. The company also predicts the project will add "only a few pennies per day" to Railbelt utility customer bills.

However, both those cost estimates are contingent on CIRI receiving the \$43.8 million federal grant. ●



PHOTOS WANTED

Petroleum News is putting together the history of ExxonMobil in Alaska, a period of time spanning more than 80 years. We're looking for photos, as well story ideas, although we'll definitely take one without the other. Right now we have quite a bit of information but very few photos to go with it. Please let us know if you have photos or information related to Exxon, Mobil, Humble or other companies now owned by ExxonMobil, including photos of people or things such as Ed Patton, JR Jackson, Dean Morgridge, Ken Fuller, Frank Larossi, Granite Point, Point MacIntyre, SS Manhattan, trans-Alaska oil pipeline, 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, Prudhoe Bay, Thetis Island, etc.

Contact Marti Reeve, Petroleum News' special publications director, at 907 440-2483 or by email at mreeve@petroleumnews.com.

continued from page 5

SANDS DEBATE

at the University of Calgary, said U.S. legislators must accept that the U.S. will rely on Canadian oil and natural gas for decades to come.

“To start posturing that they are not going to buy from Alberta and they’re going to buy from (Venezuelan President) Hugo Chavez just doesn’t make sense,” he said.

Pelosi: countries share much

Pelosi said in a statement that the discussion with the Canadian political leaders confirmed that the two countries “share a strong commitment to addressing climate change and energy security. We share much more than a border, and with respect to our energy future, we are in the same boat,” she said.

“Our discussion focused on more than the oil sands issue. We discussed the need for aggressive research and development on renewable energy and conservation technology.

“Our mutual clean energy goals will drive innovation and create millions of jobs on both sides of the border,” Pelosi said.

No Keystone endorsement

What the Canadians didn’t get from Pelosi was any endorsement of TransCanada’s proposed Keystone XL pipeline from the oil sands to U.S. Gulf Coast refineries — a project that is encountering stiff opposition from U.S. landowners and environmental activists as they draw strength from the Gulf of Mexico oil spill and Enbridge’s pipeline rupture in Michigan.

The addition of 700,000 barrels per day to the existing 590,000 bpd Keystone system needs a cross-border permit from the U.S. State Department before construction can start in early 2011.

Wall said there was “no specific signal on Keystone,” which is a vital link in current

plans for oil sands growth.

Gordon Giffin, a former U.S. ambassador to Canada and now a director of Canadian Natural Resources, said the apparently successful dinner might help counteract campaigns by environmentalists to persuade Washington to oppose oil sands development.

“The arguments that have been made in the U.S. are either misrepresenting facts, or flat out distorting facts,” he said, adding the discussions will “enhance the dialogue in the U.S., because the challenge is a lack of information. And the more informed she is, the better the debate is.”

Pelosi heard more viewpoints Sept. 9 in meetings with industry leaders, three Canadian environmental groups and leaders of First Nations communities.

Marlo Reynolds, executive director of the Alberta-based Pembina Institute, said his organization was “gravely concerned” by the refusal of provincial governments to impose hard caps on greenhouse gas emissions from oil sands operations and enforce limits from oil sands development on air quality, fresh water, wildlife and the boreal forest.

“We do not want to see Alberta get in the way of Canada achieving its new national (emissions reduction) target,” he said.

Raynolds said he was “absolutely impressed” with Pelosi’s conviction on moving the U.S. towards a cleaner energy future. “I wish we had the same (attitude) here in Canada,” he said.

“She spoke very eloquently about the moral imperative for action on climate change in terms of what we owe to future generations and she spoke clearly about God’s creation and the need to honor and respect that,” said Graham Sault, executive director of Climate Action Network Canada, an umbrella organization for environmental, church and labor groups. ●

Contact Gary Park through publisher@petroleumnews.com

continued from page 7

RED FACES

runoff.

A spokesman for Alberta Environment said the charges were laid after a two-year investigation, the details of which will be heard in court.

It’s the third time in two years that Suncor has faced environmental charges. It was fined C\$675,000 in April 2009 for failing to install pollution control equipment at its Firebag mine site and another C\$175,000 for failing to prevent inadequately treated wastewater from entering the Athabasca River from a camp site.

Meanwhile, Suncor Chief Executive Officer Rick George was making an impassioned case to Pelosi about his company’s progress in cleaning up its environmental practices.

“I am extremely proud, and made that point, of our whole track record of continuous improvement on the environmental front,” he said, describing the oil sands as “one of the most transforming industries in North America.”

Another leak for Enbridge

Already facing heat for its July pipeline rupture in Michigan, including a criminal probe by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Enbridge took yet another blow to its environmental record the same day its Chief Executive Officer Pat Daniel joined George in defending the record of Canadian energy companies and followed that with report of a further mishap.

Enbridge announced Sept. 9 it had shut down its 670,000 bpd Line 6A after a leak was discovered west of Chicago, just six weeks after shutting down its ruptured

190,000 bpd Line 6B in Michigan. The company said Sept. 13 it has completed cleanup work at Line 6A, estimating 6,100 barrels had been spilled and all but 50 barrels had been recovered.

Also on Sept. 13, Enbridge shut down Line 10, near Buffalo, N.Y., to investigate a “potential very small leak” in the 90-mile, 70,000 bpd system.

Heavy crude producers taking hit

Refinery sources said the latest incidents are likely to delay even further the restart of Line 6B, draining millions of dollars per day from the revenues of Alberta’s heavy crude producers.

Enbridge, apart from the challenge of delivering crude to its customers, said the Michigan pipeline break and cleanup will likely cost it C\$6.6 million after insurance recoveries, although that estimate does not allow for any fines and reflects only Enbridge’s 27 percent stake in U.S. affiliate Enbridge Energy Partners, which has estimated its costs could be as high as US\$45 million after insurance payments.

These events coincided with the Alberta government’s latest phase in its energy and oil sands marketing campaign, which includes electronic billboard ads in New York’s Times Square.

The government is paying C\$17,000 to run 10-second spots three times an hour until Oct. 15, delivering a message that: “A good neighbor lends you a cup of sugar. A great neighbor supplies you with 1.4 million barrels of oil per day.”

Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach said the objective is to protect and grow the province’s oil markets and defend its industries.

—GARY PARK

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● LAND & LEASING

Alberta Natives sign land lease deals

By GARY PARK

For Petroleum News

The Blood Tribe of southern Alberta, the largest landholder among Canada's First Nations, will collect a one-time payment of C\$50 million and a 25 percent working interest through two oil and gas agreements.

The deals signed with Murphy Oil and Bowood Energy cover five-year leases and could generate millions of dollars in revenues for the Blood community, said David Shade, general manager of Kainaiwa Resources, the Blood agency that negotiated the contracts.

He said the potential revenue could be "quite significant," extending well beyond the upfront bonuses if the exploration program succeeds.

Cash could be distributed

Cash from the working-interest option will remain with the Blood Tribe and could be distributed on a per-

capita basis or used to boost the tribe's economy by creating more jobs in the petroleum industry.

The Blood land already has 114 shallow producing wells with a number of companies. Because of new drilling technology, the next wells will be drilled much deeper.

The leaseholders will pay double the Alberta government royalty rate for the first year of any production, then equivalent rates for the rest of the terms.

The contracts also provide the tribe with employment, contractual and business opportunities on all of the operations.

Bowood said its agreement covers an interest in 60,640 contiguous acres in the emerging southern Alberta Bakken play "on a trend and highly prospective for Devonian-Mississippian oil potential and other prospective formations."

It said the majority of the lands include all petroleum and natural gas rights, with only a few shallow zone exclusions.

Bowood said the lease will add to its position in the Bakken fairway, where it will hold a 100 percent work-

ing interest in 104,000 net acres.

Conditions, including drilling

The leases require the company to make a total upfront payment of C\$14.13 million, pay an annual rent of C\$5 per hectare (2.471 acres) totaling C\$122,000 a year and drill one well to a minimum depth of about 3,300 feet in each of the first two years and two wells in each of the remaining three years.

Bowood has also filed a preliminary prospectus which it hopes will raise gross proceeds of C\$15 million-\$20 million.

Murphy said it will acquire 129,280 acres and is committed to drill 16 wells over five years.

Murphy Chief Executive Officer David Wood said the acquisition gives his company a fourth resource play in North America, in addition to acreage in Seal Lake, Montney and Eagle Ford, building on a land position in the Exshaw-Bakken play where the company is targeting oil prospects. ●

Contact Gary Park through publisher@petroleumnews.com

● NATURAL GAS

Arctic natural gas trails shale revolution

Peter Voser, CEO of Royal Dutch Shell, says Arctic gas now 'quite long term', as frontier occupies place on distant horizon

By GARY PARK

For Petroleum News

Development of Arctic natural gas should play a role as gas consumption outpaces the growth rate of oil, but the frontier region now occupies a place on the distant horizon, lagging behind the shale gas revolution, say executives of leading production and transportation companies.

Peter Voser, chief executive officer of Royal Dutch Shell, told a World Energy Congress in Montreal Sept. 13 that his multinational expects to more than triple its gas production in North America over the next few years and could exceed that target "depending on prices and markets."

He said gas has the "potential to alter the energy landscape for the world," but that prospect hangs on the availability of supplies and how market forces and government policies "will shape the demands of natural gas in the decades to come."

Voser said the "most important contribution will be to develop carbon markets that deliver robust carbon prices and stimulate investments in low-carbon technologies."

That could happen if regulators reduce emission allowances or introduce a minimum price for carbon dioxide and also consider emission performance stan-



PETER VOSER

With an 11.4 percent stake in the Mackenzie Gas Project, Shell is certain Arctic gas will be developed, "but you are most probably talking quite long term now."

— Royal Dutch Shell CEO Peter Voser

dards for power stations, he said.

Soon more gas than oil

He said Shell plans to spend up to C\$4 billion in the next few years to develop its Groundbirch property in northeastern British Columbia and the Marcellus properties in Pennsylvania acquired for US\$4.7 billion in a summer deal with East Resources.

"We will be more gas than oil by 2012," he said, forecasting that gas will rise from 48 percent of Shell's current production to 58 percent by 2020.

Voser expects gas prices will rise from their depressed levels to establish a better balance with oil and demand for gas will climb, notably within the power-generation sector, growing by 25 percent globally over the next decade, double the projected growth rate of oil, and by 50 percent over the next 20 years.

He does not expect environmental opposition to seriously impede the development of shale gas or other unconventional gas resources, even though he acknowledges energy development entails risks and "things sometimes can and do go wrong."

"But let's remember that energy is the lifeblood of

civilization," he said. "Whether we like it or not, producing energy and delivering it to billions of customers comes with certain risks."

Long term for Arctic gas

With an 11.4 percent stake in the Mackenzie Gas Project, Shell is certain Arctic gas will be developed, "but you are most probably talking quite long term now," Voser said.

He said North America is far ahead of the rest of the world in developing unconventional gas reserves, although there should eventually be significant growth in Australia, China, Europe and South Africa — a surge he expects will delay progress in the Arctic and the construction of pipelines from Alaska and the Mackenzie Delta.

In a separate interview, Russ Girling, the recently installed chief executive officer of TransCanada — a contender to build and operate either or both Arctic pipelines — predicted that an Alaska pipeline is likely to get built late this decade.

"When I look out at northern gas in Alaska and Mackenzie, those will become reality," he said.

For Alaska, he said producers still seem to favor a pipeline to Lower 48 markets as a better option than shipping LNG from Valdez, doubting that there is sufficient gas to tackle both projects. He said a decision between the two is likely to be made by the end of 2010. ●

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● FINANCE & ECONOMY

EIA: 4th quarter \$77 WTI, \$82 in 2011

Agency projects 82,000-bpd reduction in US crude oil production in 2011 resulting from six-month deepwater drilling moratorium

PETROLEUM NEWS

The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration is now projecting that the West Texas Intermediate crude oil spot price will average \$77 in the fourth quarter and \$82 in 2011, slightly down from its August forecast.

EIA said it based projections in its Sept. 8 short-term energy outlook on forecasted U.S. real gross domestic product growth of 2.8 percent this year and 2.3 percent in 2011, down from an August forecast of 3.1 percent and 2.7 percent. The agency also lowered its world oil-consumption-weighted real GDP growth rate for 2011 to 3.3 percent from 3.6 percent.

The Henry Hub natural gas spot price is projected to average \$4.54 per million British thermal units this year, a 60-cent increase from the 2009 average, but down 15 cents from the agency's August forecast. EIA expects the Henry Hub spot price to average \$4.76 per million Btu next year, down 22 cents from the August forecast.

World oil market view largely unchanged

EIA said its view of the world oil market remains unchanged for the third month in a row.

"Despite a slight reduction in forecast global demand growth and the drop in world oil prices in recent weeks, the projected gradual reduction in global oil inventories over the forecast period should lend support to firming oil prices," the agency said.

World oil consumption is projected to grow by 1.6 million barrels per day this year, with countries outside the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development representing most of the expected growth, particularly China, the Middle East countries and Brazil.

For 2011, projected global oil consumption growth is 1.4 million bpd, down slightly from the August forecast due to lower GDP forecast growth.

Non-OPEC supply up in 2010

EIA is projecting non-OPEC crude oil supply to increase by 700,000 bpd this year with growth mainly from the United States, Brazil and the former Soviet Union, but is projecting it to fall by 160,000 bpd in 2011, "primarily because of declining total North Sea production and lower supply originating in the former Soviet Union, particularly Russia."

The agency said this would be only the third time in the last 15 years that non-OPEC supplies failed to grow year-over-year, following non-OPEC production declines in 2005 and 2008 which EIA attributed primarily to supply disruptions in the Gulf of Mexico.

OPEC crude oil production is expected to rise slightly through 2011 to accommodate increasing world oil demand and maintain OPEC market objectives, EIA said, up 300,000 bpd this year and up 500,000 bpd in 2011.

The agency expects OPEC surplus capacity to remain near 5 million bpd compared to 4.3 million in 2009 and 1.5 million in 2008.

Liquid fuels consumption up

Liquid fuels consumption in the U.S. is projected to grow by 160,000 bpd, 0.8

percent, this year, and by 130,000 bpd, 0.7 percent, next year, with all major petroleum products showing consumption growth, EIA said, reversing a 2006-09 trend of falling consumption.

U.S. liquid fuels consumption declined year-over-year by 40,000 bpd in the first quarter, but increased by 440,000 bpd year-over-year in the second quarter, the agency said.

Gasoline consumption is projected to grow by 0.3 percent this year and distillate consumption by 2 percent. EIA said that in 2011, gasoline consumption is projected to grow by 0.8 percent and distillate consumption by 0.7 percent. Jet fuel consumption is projected to grow at an average annual rate of about 0.7 percent through 2011.

Supply and imports

U.S. crude oil production is expected to increase by 70,000 bpd in 2010, compared to an increase of 410,000 bpd in 2009.

EIA said forecast total domestic crude oil production rises by 10,000 bpd in 2011 to 5.44 million bpd, including a 120,000-bpd decline from the federal Gulf of Mexico and a 150,000-bpd increase in Lower 48 non-GOM production, and includes the agency's projection that there will be an average reduction in crude oil output of about 82,000 bpd in 2011 resulting from the current six-month deepwater drilling moratorium.

Liquid fuel imports — crude oil and refined products combined — fell from 57 percent to 51 percent of U.S. consumption between 2008 and 2009, and are pro-

jected to average 50 percent of total consumption in 2010 and 2011.

Increase in natural gas consumption

EIA said U.S. natural gas consumption is expected to increase 4 percent from 2009 levels to 65 billion cubic feet per day this year and remain relatively flat in 2011.

Power generation and industrial use accounted for the bulk of the projected consumption increase in 2010 compared to 2009.

In 2010, consumption of natural gas for electric power generation is projected to grow by nearly 1.3 bcf to 20.2 bcf, EIA said, surging because of a 23 percent increase in U.S. cooling degree days, resulting in an increase of 11 percent in natural gas consumption in the power generation sector over the last four months compared with the same period in 2009.

Natural gas consumption in the power sector is projected to fall by 0.4 bcf per day (2 percent) next year, because of an expected return to near-normal summer temperatures, the agency said.

Industrial sector natural gas use is also growing significantly, increasing by 6.4 percent from 16.8 bcf a day in 2009 to 17.9 bcf a day this year, but EIA said that growth is expected to slow to 1.2 percent in 2011 as the natural-gas-weighted industrial production index is projected to slow from 7 percent this year to 2.1 percent.

Natural gas production up this year

Total marketed natural gas production is projected to increase by 1.2 bcf (2.1 percent) to 61.2 bcf per day this year, but to decline gradually next year, falling by 1.2 bcf a day (1.9 percent) as relatively low prices depress drilling activity.

EIA forecasts gross pipeline imports of 9.2 bcf per day this year, up 1.3 percent from 2009. Liquefied natural gas imports are forecast to average 1.25 bcf per day this year and 1.32 bcf per day in 2011.

"Low U.S. prices have discouraged imports, and ample domestic natural gas production has reduced the need for large quantities of LNG despite significantly higher consumption," the agency said. ●



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● EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

Meyers says fiscal regime hurting AK

ConocoPhillips executive says that reduced government take would trigger a rebound in Alaska exploration drilling and land leasing

By ALAN BAILEY

Petroleum News

The continuing, steady decline of oil production from Alaska's North Slope may appear to signal the sunset of the North Slope oil industry, but with ample oil reserves remaining in established oil fields and the possibility of finding and developing new oil resources, the current situation could be turned into a sunrise, said Kevin Meyers, ConocoPhillips senior vice president for exploration and production, Americas, during a Sept. 8 speech to the World Trade Center Alaska about ConocoPhillips' global operations.

Meyers is no stranger to Alaska.

At the end of 1998 he became president of ARCO Alaska and remained at the helm of the company through 2004, by which time the company had become part of ConocoPhillips. And, reflecting on what has happened in Alaska in recent years, he said that in his view an unfriendly fiscal regime is hurting the industry and, ultimately, the state.



KEVIN MEYERS

Continuing decline

The oil industry did stem the drop-off in North Slope production for a couple of years around 2002, but since then the decline has continued apace, threatening the possibility of technical problems with low flow rates through the trans-Alaska oil pipeline within the next 10 to 15 years, Meyers said. And with the long lead time required to bring new North Slope oil resources on line, it is critical to move forward with new exploration and development as soon as possible, he said.

"The time to be drilling new wells is now," he said. "... This is our fiscal ticking time bomb we've got to do something about."

With a mutual interest in a successful oil industry, the state needs to work in partnership with industry, to promote oil development, he said.

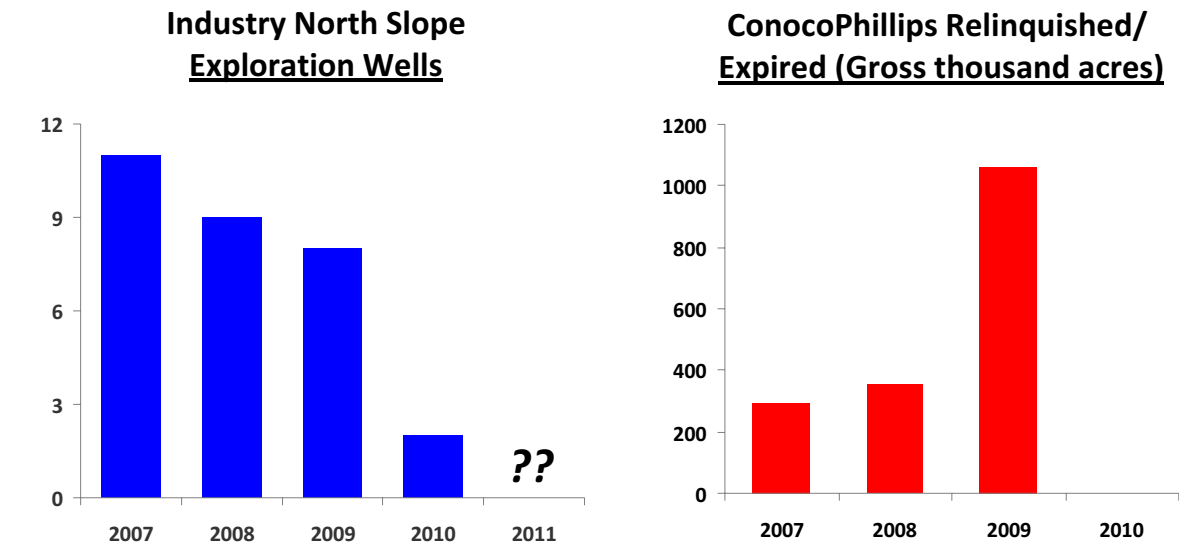
Meyers said that Alaska has seen three changes in fiscal regime in the past three to four years, with the current ACES oil production tax being highly progressive, meaning that the state takes an increasing proportion of the profits as oil prices rise.

"The problem with progressive taxes is that they leave you no upside," Meyers said. "If they leave you no money ... to invest then it's not going to prompt new investment."

The number of exploration wells drilled in northern

Exploration Activity Decline

ConocoPhillips



In the past three years the annual number of North Slope exploration wells has dropped while, at the same time, ConocoPhillips has relinquished significant lease acreage.

Alaska has been declining and ConocoPhillips has been relinquishing significant amounts of its leased exploration acreage, he said.

"Fundamentally we can't make the math work. We can't make the economics work," Meyers said.

Alberta comparison

Meyers compared Alaska with the Canadian province of Alberta, where he said "lease sales and development fell off the charts" following a government initiative for a major increase in the province's oil and gas royalties, as oil prices peaked in 2008 and then subsequently dropped. In 2009 the province rethought its fiscal policy, he said.

"It's probably one of the few fiscal regimes in the world that actually went back and responded to commodity prices," Meyers said. "... They substantially dropped their take and a funny thing happened. Lease sales are going up. Rig rates are going up. The number of rigs is twice what it was a year ago."

The North Slope oil producers have so far extracted less than half the oil that originally existed in the established oil fields, thus leaving perhaps 30 billion to 40 billion of already discovered resource to develop, Meyers said.

"All we've got to figure out is a way to make it eco-

nomie, how to develop it economically, and I think with the right kind of fiscal regime we could do that," he said.

And, presumably in part reflecting ConocoPhillips' current strategy of planning for future exploration in the Chukchi Sea while continuing to develop oil pools relatively close to existing North Slope infrastructure, Meyers said that he feels optimistic that people will find a way to ensure viable development of known North Slope resources as a bridge to the development of future oil discoveries on the Alaska outer continental shelf.

"I think we'll do the right thing and hopefully we'll get more barrels down the pipeline and we can bridge the gap until we have OCS discoveries," Meyers said.

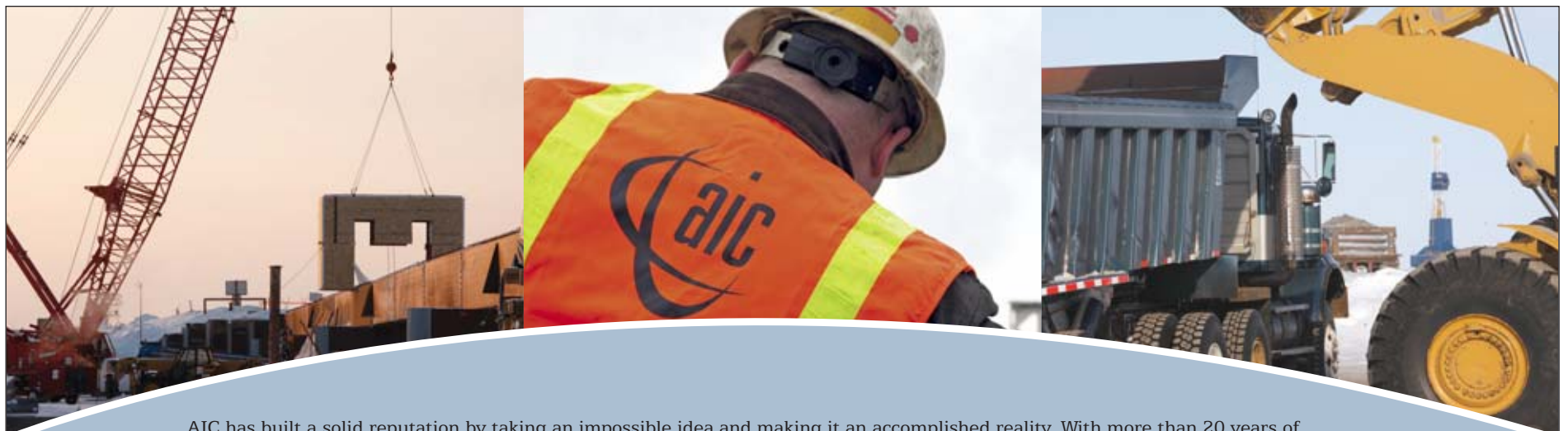
Global perspective

From a more global perspective, Alaska represents about 15 percent of ConocoPhillips' worldwide oil and gas production, Meyers said. The state also holds about 15 percent of the company's resource base.

Canada, the biggest supplier of foreign oil to the United States, also represents about 15 percent of ConocoPhillips' current production portfolio but seems set to become a major ConocoPhillips growth area, especially from the development of oil sands.

Australia is also a major growth region for the com-

see MEYERS page 11



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• FINANCE & ECONOMY

Alaska newcomers show serious ambitions

Cook Inlet Energy and Tennessee parent outline drilling and workover plans, but need capital; state cool to bonding break

By WESLEY LOY

For Petroleum News

A fledgling oil producer operating on the west side of Alaska's Cook Inlet has extensive development plans, but first the company faces the chore of raising the necessary capital.

That's the upshot of a quarterly report Miller Petroleum Inc. filed Sept. 13 with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Miller is a small, Tennessee-based company doing business under the name Miller Energy Resources. It's the parent company of Cook Inlet Energy LLC, based in Anchorage.

Miller and Cook Inlet Energy in late 2009 acquired a bargain collection of west Cook Inlet oil and gas properties facing abandonment to the state. The properties had belonged to Pacific Energy Resources Ltd., a California independent that underwent a bankruptcy liquidation.

The package of assets Miller and Cook Inlet Energy acquired included the West McArthur River oil field, the West Foreland natural gas field, the Osprey offshore platform and the Kustatan shoreside production facility.

Since the acquisition, Cook Inlet Energy managers have concentrated on working over idled wells in the West McArthur River field.

At last report, the company was producing about 1,100 barrels per day.



The Osprey platform in Cook Inlet

Investment plans

The Alaska acquisition has had a profound impact on Miller, which also operates in the Appalachian basin of Tennessee.

The company recently won listing on the Nasdaq stock exchange, and reported oil and gas revenue of nearly \$4.8 million for the three months ended July 31. That's 12 times the revenue the company had for the same period in 2009.

In its SEC filing, Miller said "we plan to drill five new wells in the next nine to 12 months."

At a New York investment conference on Sept. 13, Miller's chief executive, Scott

Boruff, said the company already had completed a \$4.6 million program to restore and enhance production from three West McArthur River wells. He outlined plans for further well workovers and drilling in the field at a cost of \$51.5 million.

Boruff also talked of placing a drilling rig atop the idle Osprey platform and working over wells to restore production at a capital cost of \$19.5 million, on a timetable extending to December 2011. Farther out, Miller has a \$182 million development program for the Redoubt and Sabre fields.

Capital challenges

But all of the Miller and Cook Inlet Energy plans apparently hinge on finding the money to pull them off, Miller disclosed in its SEC filing.

"We will need up to \$75 million to \$100 million to fund the balance of our expansion plans," Miller said. "We do not have any firm commitments for the additional capital we need to fully fund our operations and there are no assurances the capital will be available to us upon terms acceptable to us, if at all."

The company continued: "If we are not able to raise the capital as required, we will be unable to fully implement our expanded business model, and the State of Alaska could terminate the leases which comprise substantially all of our Cook Inlet Basin assets. We may also be required to reduce overhead until further capital is obtained."

Miller and Cook Inlet Energy also are lugging some heavy baggage that came with the Pacific Energy assets they acquired.

According to the SEC filing, Cook Inlet Energy "assumed all liabilities" related to any plugging, abandonment, decommissioning, removal or restoration associated with its wells on the west side of Cook Inlet and the Osprey platform.

"Under the terms of the purchase agreement for the Alaskan assets, these assumed liabilities include approximately \$10 mil-

see **NEWCOMERS** page 13

continued from page 10

MEYERS

pany, mainly through new LNG projects, Meyers said. As well as offshore natural gas in the region, ConocoPhillips has a substantial onshore position in coalbed methane — the company plans to export Australian coalbed methane to the Pacific Rim as LNG, he said. And, also on the Pacific Rim, ConocoPhillips is starting a major LNG project in Qatar.

On the other hand, the Lower 48 continues to be the company's largest production region, while the Norwegian and UK sectors of the North Sea also figure large in the company's portfolio.

Importance of Russia

With Russia vying with Saudi Arabia as the world's largest oil producer, ConocoPhillips has been an active player in the former communist country for several years. The company established a successful joint venture with Lukoil but sold its ownership position in Lukoil this year, Meyers said. Russia has become an especially challenging place for oil companies to do business in recent years — high oil prices have reduced Russia's need for foreign capital, while the Russian government has recognized oil and gas as strategic resources, he said.

Speaking from his own personal experience of working in Russia, Meyers said that with Russians being especially proud of their country and preferring to do business with other Russians, it is critically important for foreign business people to establish strong relationships with their Russian counterparts.

And Meyers countered views held by some in the West that Russia is not a democratic country.

"They are a democratic country," Meyers said. "They just have different pri-

orities and you've got to understand and respect that."

Rising energy demand

But what of overall global energy demand, and the place of oil and gas in meeting that demand?

"We're in a ... economic downturn right now. We believe that's not going to persist forever," Meyers said. "... We are going to see an increasing demand for hydrocarbons as the economy recovers."

At the same time, concerns about climate change could alter the supply and demand dynamics for natural gas, a fuel

that is recognized as a clean-burning hydrocarbon — in the Lower 48, new technologies for developing shale gas have dramatically increased the estimates of U.S. natural gas resources.

"Right now we have a lot of gas in the Lower 48 and the big question's how long is that surplus going to last and what the ultimate price curve will look like," Meyers said. "We think there's a strong demand ultimately in North America as well as the world for gas, but ... there's a lot of gas in shale out there and we're just beginning to tap the tip of the iceberg."

But the oil and gas industry in general

will remain a critical part of the world economy for decades to come, Meyers said.

"Frankly when you look at the world population and how it's growing, and how the Chinese and the Indians and the Brazilians and just about everybody else you can name that's a non-OECD country wants to emulate our lifestyle, you have a growing population and a growing per capita demand for fuel, for energy," Meyers said. "We need renewables. We need all carbon fuels. We need just about everything we can get our hands on." ●

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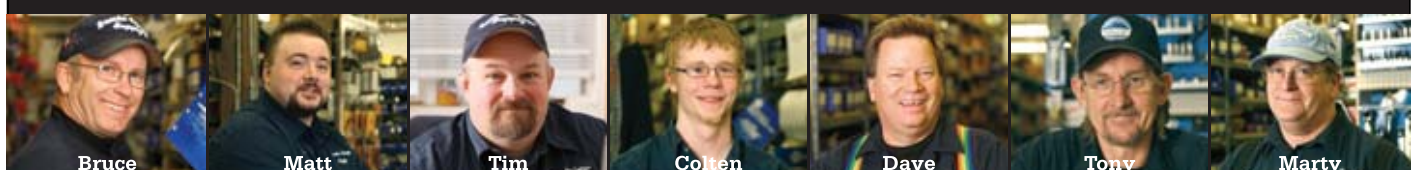
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EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION



Scientific research vessel Joides Resolution

Probing offshore gas deposits

Underwater observatories are being installed on the ocean floor off British Columbia to gain knowledge about the formation of gas deposits below the floor.

Marine scientists are currently installing the third observatory in a program that started in July and is covering an area about 45 miles to 120 miles off Vancouver Island.

It is designed to monitor changes in pressure associated with the seismically active setting and increase understanding of the gas deposits.

Expedition co-chief scientist Andy Fisher, from the University of California at Santa Cruz, told the Vancouver Sun that the experimental platforms are important because the ocean is the "largest aquifer on the planet. ... We know it's made up of many sections, but we have no idea how these parts connect or how they interact with one another."

The current expedition, operating under the name Juan de Fuca Ridge, is using the scientific research vessel Joides Resolution to drill boreholes to about 1,700 feet to install the observatories, which can collect samples and data to learn more about water pressures, temperatures, chemistry and microbiology within the rocks and sediments of the ocean crust.

The current expedition is scheduled to return to Victoria, B.C., on Sept. 19.

—GARY PARK

• ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

DOE funds to aid 2 hydrokinetic projects

PETROLEUM NEWS

U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, said Sept. 10 that the U.S. Department of Energy will provide aid for two marine hydrokinetic energy projects in Alaska as part of an effort to increase funding for ocean renewable energy developments.

Whitestone Power and Communications Co. of Delta Junction received \$142,000 to test an energy conversion device to permit waterwheels to survive in areas of high debris, sediment loads and extreme weather, including heavy ice conditions that have proven problematic for marine hydrokinetic devices in the past.

Anchorage-based Ocean Renewable Power Co. received \$240,000 for a testing program to combat abrasive effects on marine renewable devices in high sediment areas designed to help ORPC design hydrokinetic devices with components that will work better in areas of high levels of suspended sediments, such as glacial-fed streams. ORPC will do the work in partnership with the University of Alaska Anchorage.

"Given the high cost of diesel used to generate electricity in so many of our smaller communities, there is no state that has more to gain from the development of marine and hydrokinetic power devices than Alaska," Murkowski said. "We lead the

nation in hydro power potential, but we also have some of the toughest conditions in the world. Grants like the ones DOE awarded this week are key to developing turbines that can overcome the heavy debris and ice conditions found in most of Alaska's rivers."

Up to 1,250 terrawatts possible

Murkowski, the ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, in 2007 sponsored the Energy Independence and Security Act that authorized the funding of marine hydrokinetic power projects that DOE awarded. Murkowski authored the research and development section of that act.

DOE awarded \$37 million in funding nationwide for 27 projects, ranging from concept studies and component design research to prototype development and testing of ocean and marine hydrokinetic energy devices. All of the devices are designed to generate electricity from turbines powered by river and ocean currents, tides or wave movements.

Alaska is forecast by DOE to be able to one day produce up to 1,250 terrawatts of electricity a year from harnessing the power of Alaska's wave resources — more than 300 times the amount of electricity Alaskans currently use daily.

"These tests truly offer a lot of promise for helping industry be able to develop devices that can generate power at lower costs for our rural communities," said Murkowski, who has focused on promoting ocean, geothermal and hydroelectric renewable energy development during her time in the Senate. ●



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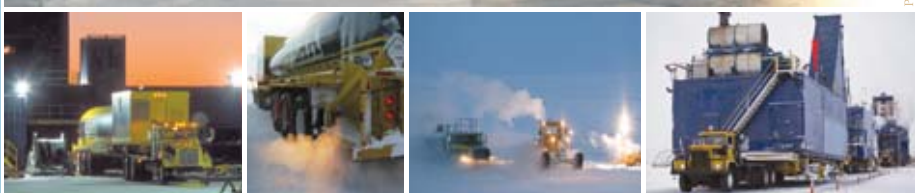
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• EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

Pioneer fined for unauthorized injection

By ELIZABETH BLUEMINK
Anchorage Daily News

Pioneer Natural Resources, the sole independent oil producer on the North Slope, paid a \$10,000 fine the week of Sept. 13 for injecting an unapproved chemical into its oil reservoir last May.

The violations involve glycol, which Pioneer was using as an anti-freeze fluid in a water supply line. Glycol is commonly injected into oil reservoirs on the North Slope but Pioneer had not sought or received permission to do so.

The glycol violations were initially

On the Web



See previous Petroleum News coverage:

"Pioneer completes Oooguruk evaluation," in June 6, 2010, issue at www.petroleumnews.com/pnads/530184319.shtml

reported by an employee whistleblower. Pioneer initially denied the allegations, but after concluding an internal investigation it told regulators that it had improperly injected roughly 45,000 gallons of a glycol-water

mixture into the reservoir. The injections happened on two days.

\$10,000 fine paid

The Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission sent a letter to Pioneer in late August proposing a \$10,000 fine.

Pioneer did not contest the fine and sent its payment to the state regulator the week of Sept. 13.

Pioneer said in a statement Sept. 15 that it reported the violations as soon as the company confirmed they had happened and it has received conditional approval from the commission to inject glycol in the

future.

The AOGCC is still investigating other allegations reported by the whistleblower, Mike Kelley, who quit his job at the company soon after making the accusations.

Among other accusations, Kelley claimed the company covered up spills, injured wildlife and created unsafe conditions for workers.

Kelley further alleged that the AOGCC neglected its duty to regulate the company. For that and other reasons, the commission hired an external investigator, Robert Shoaf, to handle the case. His report to the agency is expected next week. ●

• ENVIRONMENT & SAFETY

Work barge goes aground in Beaufort Sea

Stricken vessel Stryker, working for Pioneer Natural Resources, buckles with stern touching bottom; light sheen seen in ice-free seas

By WESLEY LOY
For Petroleum News

A self-propelled barge working for Pioneer Natural Resources Co. in the Beaufort Sea partially sank Sept. 14, prompting a considerable effort to prevent a fuel spill and save the vessel.

The vessel, named the Stryker, experienced a "structural failure" while traveling between Pioneer's Oooguruk oil production island and Oliktok Point to the east, the barge owner said. The area is about 40 miles west of Prudhoe Bay.

The vessel partially split, with the stern of the wheelhouse section drooping down and settling on bottom in 9 feet of water while the flatbed barge section at the bow remained afloat normally.

The barge belongs to Bowhead Transport Co., a subsidiary of Barrow-based Ukpėagvik Inupiat Corp. The Stryker was operating for Pioneer.

Based on photos of the scene, the Beaufort Sea appeared relatively calm, and was free of ice. Authorities said the temper-



COURTESY UIC

The vessel partially split, with the stern of the wheelhouse section drooping down and settling on bottom in 9 feet of water while the flatbed barge section at the bow remained afloat normally.

ature in the area was about 40 degrees.

The casualty occurred shortly before noon on Sept. 14. The vessel came to rest about three miles west of Oliktok Point. The barge appeared to be hauling a truck, some trailers and other gear.

All four crewmembers on the Stryker were able to get off the vessel safely, UIC

said.

The barge was carrying at least 1,600 gallons of diesel fuel, and a light sheen was spotted in the water following the grounding. But responders sealed fuel valves on the barge and the sheen dissipated, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

Bowhead, Pioneer, two Crowley Marine

tugs and the North Slope spill response contractor Alaska Clean Seas responded to the mishap. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation also was involved.

"Alaska Clean Seas in conjunction with Pioneer has responded with two bay boats, ocean boom, skimmers and tank storage for recovered fluids," UIC said. "The boom will be placed around the vessel and skimmers will be available to recover any fuel that may be released."

Additional boom was staged for deployment if necessary to protect sensitive shoreline areas, the Coast Guard said.

The plan was to lighten the fuel off the stricken barge and then mount an effort to save the craft.

"The safety of our response crews and the environment are our top priorities as we continue the response and coordination to salvage the Stryker," said Cmdr. Steven Pearson, chief of response for Coast Guard Sector Anchorage. ●

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NEWCOMERS

lion for the onshore assets and approximately \$40 million associated with a retirement liability for the Osprey platform, of which approximately \$6.6 million is presently on deposit in an escrow fund with the State of Alaska," Miller said.

The company added: "We are presently in discussion with the State of Alaska to reduce these amounts to levels we believe are more realistic."

Alaska's oil and gas director, Kevin Banks, told Petroleum News that it's fine for Miller and Cook Inlet Energy to ask for a break on the financial guarantees for decommissioning the oil and gas assets.

But that's not to say the operator will

win any concessions from the state, Banks said.

He noted that Cook Inlet Energy, with Miller's backing, won the assets in a competitive auction, and the state treated all bidders the same with respect to the bonding requirements that came with the properties.

State officials are obliged to make sure the properties, if abandoned again, don't

become a burden for taxpayers, he said.

"If Cook Inlet goes under right now, we're hosed," Banks said.

Maybe Miller and Cook Inlet Energy now feel they paid too much for the properties, he said, but the bonding arrangements "are quite fair." ●

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ASSOCIATIONS

IAEE, UAA host offshore drilling forum

The Anchorage chapter of the International Association of Energy Economics and the University of Alaska Anchorage are co-sponsoring a public forum on the future of offshore drilling in Alaska.

The free event will be Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. at UAA's Wendy Williamson Auditorium.

The forum focus will be on navigating the risk-reward spectrum and the purpose will be to present a variety of perspectives to the public and to conduct a deliberative discussion on benefits and risks of Arctic drilling within the contexts of: addressing oil spills in an ice environment; risk mitigation (prevention, paying for spill damages); and benefits of Alaska offshore development.

Panels include: David Ramseur, chief of staff to U.S. Sen. Mark Begich; North Slope Borough Mayor Edward Itta; Pete Slaiby, general manager, Shell Oil Alaska; and John Schoen, senior scientist, Alaska Audubon Society.

Michael Carey, host of Anchorage Edition and Running on KAKM public television and guest columnist for the Anchorage Daily News will moderate the forum. Panelists will take questions from the audience following their presentation.

Parking will be free in the lots east of the Wendy Williamson Auditorium and west of the Professional Services Building (formerly Building 'K'). For a campus map go to www.uaa.alaska.edu/map/.

—PETROLEUM NEWS

EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

US rig count increases by 1 to 1,654

The number of rigs actively exploring for oil and natural gas in the U.S. increased by one the week ending Sept. 10 to 1,654.

Houston-based drilling systems provider Baker Hughes Inc. said 980 rigs were exploring for natural gas and 663 for oil. Eleven were listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, the rig count stood at 999.

Of the major oil- and gas-producing states, Oklahoma gained six rigs, Alaska gained two and Colorado, North Dakota and Pennsylvania gained one apiece. Texas lost 11 rigs while New Mexico and Wyoming each lost one. Arkansas, California, Louisiana and West Virginia remained unchanged.

The rig tally peaked at 4,530 in 1981, during the height of the oil boom. The industry posted a record low of 488 in 1999.

—THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOVERNMENT

GOP joins with three Dems to save tax break

By KAY CASHMAN

Petroleum News

On Sept. 14, 39 Republicans in the U.S. Senate and three Democrats blocked a proposal that would have prevented the country's largest oil companies from taking a popular domestic manufacturing tax deduction.

The three Democrats that made blocking the proposal possible were senators Mark Begich of Alaska, Mary Landrieu of Louisiana and Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas.

According to a Sept. 14 report in the Houston Chronicle, the section 199 domestic manufacturing tax deduction allows companies to subtract qualified domestic production activities from their taxes, which "translates to a deduction of up to 6 percent of income from oil and natural gas production."

The measure would have prevented major integrated oil companies from taking the deduction. Industry advocates said the proposal unfairly singled them out. But the Chronicle quoted Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., as saying, "The last thing we should be doing is transferring public tax dollars to the pockets of BP and other major oil producers that continue to rake in exorbitant profits because of high prices at the pump."

The report said Stephen Comstock, tax manager for the American Petroleum Institute, commended the Senate for blocking a shortsighted measure that "would have

raised taxes and killed jobs."

Americans oppose tax increases

Based on a Wood Mackenzie analysis of production impacts from eliminating the manufacturing and intangible drilling cost tax deductions for the oil and natural gas industry, API calculated 58,800 jobs would be put at risk in 2011 and 165,000 in 2020. A separate study of the impacts of ending the manufacturing tax deduction and increasing taxes on the industry's foreign-earned income by Louisiana State University professor Joseph Mason concluded that 154,000 jobs could be lost in 2011.

The U.S. oil and natural gas industry is one of the nation's biggest taxpayers. According to the Energy Information Administration, the industry paid almost \$100 billion in federal income taxes in 2008 (latest available data). An API review of Compustat data shows that the oil and gas industry had an effective average tax rate of 48.4 percent in 2009 compared with 28.1 percent for the rest of S&P industrial companies.

A Harris Interactive poll commissioned by API and released Sept. 15 showed that by two-to-one Americans oppose new oil and gas taxes, primarily because they fear tax increases will kill jobs. ●

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FINANCE & ECONOMY

OPEC chief says oil prices 'comfortable'

The chief of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries suggests oil production will likely stay unchanged for some time as the group waits to see how the world economy recovers. Abdalla El-Badri says OPEC is "comfortable" with the current oil cost range, adding the Vienna-based group doesn't want to "rock the boat" as the world recovers from the global economic downturn.

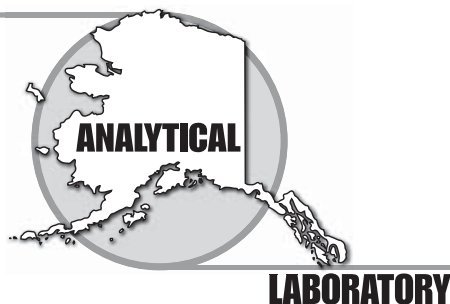
He also told reporters that OPEC doesn't want to see a "double dip recession" and that a change in quotas and prices this year depends on "circumstances."

El-Badri spoke at a news conference marking the 50th birthday of the oil producing bloc. He said in an interview in the pan-Arab daily Asharq al-Awsat that most significant challenges for OPEC in the coming years are protection of the environment, shifting market conditions and finding new sources of revenue. He said OPEC supported efforts to shift to alternate sources of energy for power generation and noted that the world needs to come to terms with the fact that oil will one day run out. But he says crude will continue to play a key role for years.

—THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



ALASKA



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Final Orion expansion OK granted by state

By KRISTEN NELSON
Petroleum News

The Alaska Division of Oil and Gas has issued a final approval of the first expansion of the Orion participating area in the Prudhoe Bay unit.

In a Sept. 13 decision, division Director Kevin Banks said Prudhoe Bay operator BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. requested final approval June 17 on behalf of itself and other working interest owners Chevron U.S.A., ConocoPhillips Alaska and ExxonMobil Alaska Production.

The Orion participating area expansion adds lease ADL 390067, some 1,000 acres, to the PA.

Expansion approval required that a well be spud within ADL 390067; that well was spudded Oct. 1, 2009, and completed Oct. 27, 2009.

The division said there was initially insufficient data to establish whether the acreage was capable of producing or contributing to production of hydrocarbons in paying quantities, so it deferred a decision on PA expansion until all data from the proposed L-223i well was submitted to the division.

One well in expansion area

In its June 17 request for final approval, BP said it had fulfilled drilling and data submittal commitments. The division said injector well L-223i is the only well in the proposed expansion area, and will support oil production from proposed hexa-lateral well L-203 which will be drilled to four Schrader Bluff sands, "capturing moveable hydrocarbons outside of the existing Orion PA."

The division approved the 2010 plan of development for PBU western satellites in November. Activity proposed for Orion included drilling the L-203 hexa-lateral producer; completing a production capacity expansion on the L pad to accommodate well L-203, completing installation of a continuous methanol injection system on L-pad to improve uptime on wells with hydrate problems and installing multiphase meters on the L and V pads.

Extension of Niakuk contraction

In a separate Sept. 13 action, the division agreed to a request from BP for an extension of the contraction date for the combined Niakuk participating area.

Combination of the Niakuk and West Niakuk participating areas into the combined Niakuk PA was approved in late 2007 contingent on drilling, testing and certification of a well penetrating the Kuparuk River sandstone within a specified area of lease ADL 34626 by Jan. 1, 2011.

The division said the contraction is administrative only and does not affect the Prudhoe Bay unit boundary or the expiration of ADL 34626, as a significant portion of the lease is within the Prudhoe Bay unit and is held by production.

BP requested that the well obligations and contraction date be extended to June 30, 2014, consistent with the date set for three other leases recently added to the Prudhoe Bay unit.

In a separate Sept. 13 action, the division agreed to a request from BP for an extension of the contraction date for the combined Niakuk participating area.

Banks said in extending the date that a common contraction date would allow the working interest owners to prioritize and schedule drilling from the seasonally constrained Niakuk pad to fulfill obligations on each of the leases. ●

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ENVIRONMENT & SAFETY

Arctic sea ice minimum at third-lowest

The National Snow and Ice Data Center said Sept. 15 that Arctic sea ice appeared to have reached its annual minimum extent on Sept. 10. That minimum was the third-lowest in the satellite record after 2007 and 2008.

The sea ice extent dropped to 1.84 million square miles on Sept. 10, the center said, the third-lowest recorded since 1979. The 2010 extent is 93,000 square miles more than 2008 and 240,000 square miles more than 2007.

The 1.84 million square miles recorded this year is 130,000 square miles below 2009, 753,000 square miles below the average minimum for 1979-2000, and 625,000 square miles below the 31-year 1979 to 2009 average minimum.

This is only the third time in the satellite record that ice extent has fallen below 1.93 million square miles and all three occurrences have been in the past four years, the center said. The 2009 minimum, 1.97 million square miles, was the fourth lowest in the satellite record.

The center said that because of the variability of sea ice at this time of year, it determines the minimum using a five-day running mean value. While there have been four days of gains in extent, it is possible that ice extent could fall slightly because of further melting or a contraction in the area of the pack due to the motion of the ice.

When all the data for September are in, the center will confirm the minimum ice extent for the season, and will issue a formal announcement at the beginning of October with a full analysis of the melt season.

The sea ice extent dropped to 1.84 million square miles on Sept. 10, the center said, the third-lowest recorded since 1979.

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Storer joins AES team; Lincoln receives promotion

Gerri 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.



GERI STORER



BUTCH LINCOLN

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.

cial aspects of business operations will be a tremendous benefit to Petrochem.

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 on Oct. 1.

see OIL PATCH BITS page 20

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

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A Our operation is based in Anchorage, Alaska, at 14th Beach Street.

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A It was founded in 1996 by Don Haglund and Jeff Hirsch. Our primary business is commercial diving.

Q What services does Offshore Divers perform?
A We provide commercial diving services in Alaska, including: hydrographic surveys, pile driving, pile extraction, and underwater construction.

Q How many employees does your company have?
A We have 15 employees.

Q Describe your general services.
A We provide commercial diving services in Alaska, including: hydrographic surveys, pile driving, pile extraction, and underwater construction.

Q What is your most recent project?
A We recently completed a pile driving project for a new offshore platform.

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A We see a bright future for commercial diving in Alaska, particularly in the offshore oil and gas industry.

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continued from page 1

MACKENZIE PROJECT

its review.”

Tensions simmering

Tensions between the JRP and the Canadian and Northwest Territories governments have been simmering over almost a year after the JRP issued a 700-page report containing 176 recommendations, all of which it said should be implemented if the MGP was to deliver significant economic benefits and avoid significant adverse environmental impacts.

The two governments produced an interim response earlier this year offering to accept, or accept the intent of 87 of the 115 panel recommendations they deemed to fall within their respective jurisdictions. That report became part of consultations over the summer with affected aboriginal groups.

France Pegeot, assistant deputy federal minister for

the MGP, in an Aug. 13 letter posted on the MGP website, requested that the governments' final response and that of the JRP be kept confidential during the "consent-to-modify" phase.

She told Hornal that "while we agree with and acknowledge the principles of openness and transparency during an environmental impact review, the public hearing phase of the process is now complete."

Hornal has insisted that the JRP will not review the government's draft response unless that document is made public.

He said the JRP believes that "any process between itself and the governments must not be confidential. Any documents exchanged between the governments and the panel must be available to the parties to the panel's review."

2018 earliest onstream date

Stephen Hazell, who represented the Sierra Club through the JRP process, credited the JRP with doing as

"sensational" job of work in examining the full range of implications of the MGP proceeding.

"The panel has been open in all of its dealings in support of its decision making over the past number of years," he told the Canadian Press news agency. "Why should this aspect of it be secret? It's really puzzling why the federal government is bound and determined to keep their interim decisions secret."

The MGP consortium, led by Imperial Oil, has indicated that, even assuming regulatory approval, a fiscal agreement with the federal government and corporate sanctioning, the MGP could not come onstream until late 2018, four years behind the target date set in 2007.

The partners said they hoped to be in able to decide by late 2013 whether to proceed, which would see work on facilities and sites start by mid-2014, but that timetable was contingent on NEB approval of the principal project along with significant progress on the fiscal talks by Sept. 1. ●

Contact Gary Park through publisher@petroleumnews.com

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CONTRACT

defense against demand spikes, but without a firm contract the utility isn't guaranteed to have supplies available.

There might be a silver lining, though, at least according to recent comments the Alaska Department of Natural Resources filed with the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. The RCA is currently reviewing the contract, which Enstar hopes to start using in 2011.

"Although this creates some supply uncertainty to consumers, it also offers the opportunity for the creation of a more dynamic and competitive Cook Inlet gas market," Kevin Banks, director of the Division of Oil and Gas, wrote to the RCA on Sept. 14.

Shopping for best price

As DNR sees it, Enstar can now shop for the best price among five contracts.

Historically, long-term contracts in the Cook Inlet basin kept supplies reliable and prices low, but made producers unwilling to

explore because new supplies wouldn't fit in the local market. With Enstar now free to choose — at least in situations where more than one company makes peak volumes available — producers have more incentives to explore.

For consumers to fully realize those benefits, Banks wrote, the structure of buying and selling Cook Inlet natural gas needs to change. DNR wants blind bidding, where only Enstar knows the price and volume bid by each producer, rather than the current system where much of that information is available to everyone.

"Historically, this has mattered little, as gas was sold under firm requirements and other contracts," Banks wrote. "However, as the Cook Inlet market matures and the promise of competition grows, these arrangements could blunt benefits that competition might otherwise offer."

Under the current system, DNR believes natural gas prices would "reflect what the highest-cost supplier requires, or the dominant supplier demands." With blind bidding, DNR believes prices would "reflect what (producers) require in compensation."

DNR believes this new structure would

more closely resemble nominations on the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, where only the RCA gets to review confidential bidding data.

"This would allow the (RCA) to ensure that bids are being awarded in a manner that ensures that consumers enjoy the lowest possible peak-load gas prices, while reducing opportunities for tacit (rather than directly-coordinated) collusion," Banks wrote.

Silver lining only a lining

If Enstar did create competition, it remains in its infancy.

Since the contract deadlock of 2008, the RCA has approved several firm supply contracts, proving that while production is declining, enough short-term volumes remain.

Enstar's inability to get firm peaking contracts, though, suggests that producers are nervous about deliverability, or how much natural gas can be called upon at any given time. Non-firm contracts give the producers wiggle room if that gas isn't available.

With the newly proposed contract, Enstar will be able to ask for supplies on peak days from four different companies: Marathon Oil under two contracts, Union Oil Company of California (a subsidiary of Chevron), Armstrong Cook Inlet and now ConocoPhillips. The Armstrong contract won't become effective until the North Fork unit comes online sometime in early 2011, possibly after the coldest months of the year.

Whether those companies will bid depends on how much gas is coming out of wells and how many other users in the region are also asking for additional gas. If none of those companies come through, Enstar can ask ConocoPhillips to divert gas bound for the Kenai liquefied natural gas export terminal, but only if the diversion won't harm the plant.

If that backstop doesn't come through, Enstar would be forced to enact emergency plans created by the regional utilities to scale back regional demand during a supply crunch.

—ERIC LIDJI

Contact Eric Lidji at ericlidji@mac.com

continued from page 1

POINT THOMSON

ExxonMobil and the other major leaseholders had failed after decades to develop the field.

The companies sued to try to preserve the unit, and the matter is now before the state Supreme Court, which on May 28 agreed to take DNR's appeal of an unfavorable lower court ruling.

Point Thomson is a hugely valuable asset, containing an estimated 8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas plus 200 million barrels of condensate. The oil companies simply cannot bear losing it.

Because Point Thomson holds about a quarter of all the known gas reserves on the North Slope, it figures to play an important role in a natural gas pipeline project — an economic development dream the state has long pursued.

To the extent the court battle places Point Thomson in limbo, gas pipeline proponents are hoping to see the litigation wrap up as soon as possible.

Breathing room

Curiously, though it was the state that sought the Supreme Court review — something ExxonMobil and the other oil companies opposed — lawyers for the state went to the high court on Aug. 19 and

asked for an extension of the deadline to file their opening brief.

Richard Todd, an assistant attorney general representing DNR, asked that the deadline be moved from Aug. 23 to Nov. 1.

In an affidavit, he explained that DNR wanted the extension "to facilitate ongoing settlement talks." Todd added that the extension "will enhance the chances of effecting settlement because the parties will be able to devote more time to settlement."

Todd and Mark Ashburn, a private attorney assisting DNR, further explained that the extension would free the two sides from "unnecessary expense." They said granting the extension would "promote the likelihood of the parties reaching a final resolution to this and other related matters, and will promote judicial economy."

The subject of the state's appeal is Superior Court Judge Sharon Gleason's Jan. 11 reversal of DNR Commissioner Tom Irwin's termination of the Point Thomson unit. The state believes Gleason got it wrong and wants the Supreme Court justices to reverse her.

Lawyers for ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron and ConocoPhillips agreed not to oppose a new deadline of Nov. 1 for the state to file its opening brief, provided the state agreed to give the oil companies until Feb. 9, 2011, to file their responding brief.

On Aug. 24, the Supreme Court granted the new timeline.

Development schedule

ExxonMobil badly wants a resolution to

the Point Thomson affair as it proceeds with a risky \$1.3 billion project in a field under a legal cloud.

To show impatient state officials that, yes, it would get on with development, ExxonMobil in early 2009 rallied the huge Nabors 27-E rig to the remote field, located along the Beaufort Sea coast some 60 miles east of Prudhoe Bay, and punched two wells.

The company aims to begin production of 10,000 barrels a day of gas condensate by year-end 2014.

ExxonMobil was able to do the drilling only with permission from Irwin, who reinstated two leases to accommodate the work.

The state has declared that the remaining 29 leases within the disputed Point Thomson unit have expired. But the oil companies are fighting to keep these leases alive.

Although state officials have talked of reclaiming Point Thomson land and leasing it again, DNR has no plans to offer such acreage in the upcoming North Slope and Beaufort Sea lease sales on Oct. 27, state Oil and Gas Director Kevin Banks told Petroleum News.

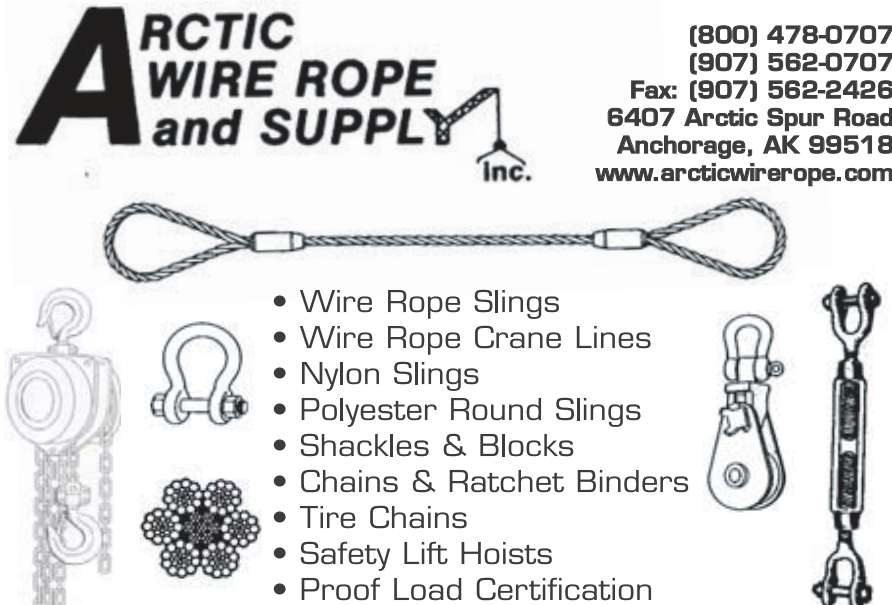
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is now preparing an environmental impact statement for the Point Thomson condensate project. And PTE Pipeline LLC, a Houston-based affiliate of ExxonMobil Pipeline Co., has applied to DNR for permission to lay a 22-mile pipeline to feed Point Thomson liquids into the existing North Slope pipeline network via the Badami pipeline. ●

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INSIDER

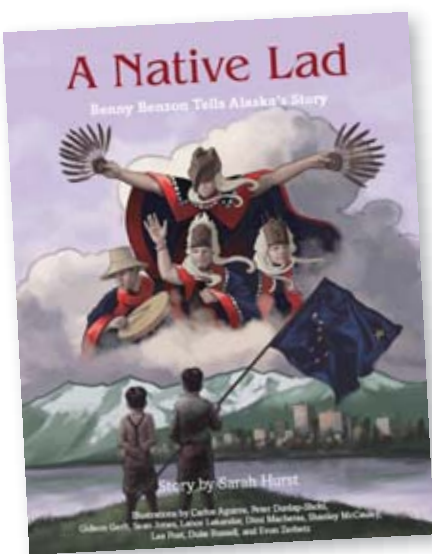
and losers and the result is not always fair. This is history the way it really happens.”

The novel features 16 scenes from different “big impact” episodes in Alaska history, including one on Tom Marshall and the selection of the Prudhoe Bay area as state land, followed by the Prudhoe Bay discovery and the 1969 oil lease sale.

Most of the historical figures in the novel have passed away, but Marshall, Charlie Edwardsen Jr., Emil Notti and Sarah Palin are still with us.

Why a graphic novel versus a traditional format?

According to the publisher, which publishes beautifully illustrated books for young children, including some by Shannon Cartwright, “a good comic can pack more concepts, more character development, more story per square



inch than words alone.”

According to Hurst the idea for a graphic novel of the play she had written came from a question she asked her husband: “When I asked my husband Jon if he would read the play about Alaska history I’d just finished writing, his reply was, ‘I’ll read it when it comes out as a comic book.’ Instead of snarling at him for being so dismissive, I started thinking about his suggestion. Graphic novels — as the slightly longer and more serious comic books are usually called — are all the rage these days. I immediately stole Jon’s idea and started working on a grant application (to the Alaska Humanities Forum) to turn my play into a graphic novel.”

The 16 scenes in the novel, which carries a price tag of \$19.99, are drawn by nine artists, making “A Native Lad: Benny Benson Tells Alaska’s Story” a showcase for comic talent in Alaska.

Their styles range from Lance Lekander’s cartoony technique, to Evon Zerbetz’s and Shanley McCauley’s very realistic renderings, and include the unique style of Peter Dunlap-Shohl, former editorial cartoonist for the Anchorage Daily News, who illustrated the Prudhoe Bay scene.

It’s a good read for pre-teens, teens and adults.

For more information go to these websites:

Graphic novel at Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/dcpGUH>

The play: <http://bit.ly/avfDwm>

Teacher/student guide:

<http://bit.ly/dpmLWj>

—KAY CASHMAN



SARAH HURST



COURTESY SARAH HURST

Miller’s book examines the value Alaska oil development for companies, stakeholders

ACCORDING TO JOHN M. MILLER, his new book, “The Last Alaskan Barrel: An Arctic Oil Bonanza that Never Was,” challenges universally held ideas about “Big Oil” profits in Alaska.

The book is a case study that calculates the profit from the largest petroleum development in North American history — i.e. Prudhoe Bay — and explores how it was shared by Alaska, the federal government and the oil companies.

Miller says he sought to determine whether the reward from development of Alaska oil over the past 50 years was worth the investment risk.

Despite billions in profits over the years, per a Sept. 14 press release from

Miller, his book shows “how the unexpected low oil prices, unforeseen high costs and creeping taxes associated with Alaska oil would have kept oil companies from getting involved if they could have foreseen the future,” getting at what he feels is the “real economic story of Alaska oil.”

Miller said his book “chronicles the exploration of the Arctic and the discovery of oil near Prudhoe Bay. While it was first

Miller says he sought to determine whether the reward from development of Alaska oil over the past 50 years was worth the investment risk.

believed that the area was swimming with cheap crude oil, a federal study, done just two months before production, contradicted this assumption. Over the next several decades, low oil prices, high development costs and tax increases all ended up generating much smaller profits from Alaskan oil than ever expected. Meant to be thought-provoking, The Last Alaskan Barrel studies the past of Alaskan oil and takes a glimpse at its future.”

About the author, per the press release: “Miller managed Alaskan projects for more than a decade, including the world’s largest natural gas facility. He led an international team through the first natural gas project in China and was managing director of an exploration company in Norway. During his career with a major oil and gas company, he handled long-range planning, business development and project management in the western United States, Norway, Japan, Korea, China and Indonesia. He was chairman of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Owners Committee, a board of directors that oversees the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in aerospace engineering and a Master of Science in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas. He lives in Anchorage, Alaska with his wife.”

The Last Alaskan Barrel is available for sale, among other places, at Amazon.com.

To contact Miller by email: jmm@thelastalaskanbarrel.com

To look at his website: www.thelastalaskanbarrel.com

—KAY CASHMAN

Contact Kay Cashman at publisher@petroleumnews.com



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continued from page 1

LAWSUIT

the Beaufort and Chukchi seas.

Parnell said that, because of this confusion, the state had not taken legal action previously. However, in a Sept. 3 press conference, at the end of a 48-hour Alaska visit, Salazar confirmed that he had imposed a drilling moratorium on the Arctic OCS, a clear statement that gave the state reason to file its lawsuit, Parnell said.

The basis of the state's legal claim is that Interior has illegally imposed a moratorium on Alaska by failing to consult with state officials over the drilling ban, by neglecting to consider the economic impacts of such a ban and by failing to issue a written decision explaining the basis for the moratorium. Parnell said that he had requested a meeting with Salazar to discuss the Arctic OCS during the secretary's recent Alaska visit, but that Salazar had declined the meeting invitation.

OCSLA violation

State Attorney General Dan Sullivan said that the Department of the Interior had violated the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act by not consulting with the state or notifying the state governor when imposing the moratorium. Interior was also in violation of the Administrative Procedures Act, Sullivan said.

"The APA requires agency actions like a moratorium to be supported by a record, a reasoned written opinion that has findings, that has analysis and that has a rational connection between the facts that the agency found and the actions and decisions the agency is making," Sullivan said. "The Department of the Interior didn't do

this at all with regard to the Arctic moratorium."

Parnell said that a major objective of filing the lawsuit now was to allow exploration drilling to proceed in the outer continental shelf of the Chukchi and Beaufort seas in 2011 — Interior has not specified any time limit for its Arctic drilling moratorium, he said.

The drilling moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico is set to expire in November and it would be a "very cruel irony" for Alaska to be illegally bootstrapped into the Gulf moratorium and then have the Alaska moratorium extended beyond the end date for the moratorium in the Gulf, Sullivan said.

Exploration plans approved

Even after the Deepwater Horizon disaster occurred in April, DOI was arguing alongside the state in the Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, successfully defending Shell's Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea exploration plans in the face of appeals against DOI approval of those plans, Sullivan said. And now, with a Louisiana court having placed an injunction against the Gulf moratorium, the state has a strong case in claiming that a moratorium imposed in the Arctic has no rational connection with events in the Gulf, he said.

"We believe the State of Alaska is fully justified in filing this lawsuit, given the actions of the Department of Interior and the importance of offshore development to Alaska," said Shell spokesman Curtis Smith in response to Parnell's announcement. "Unfortunately, our progress in Alaska has been severely compromised by unforeseen events that are not related to our specific program in the Alaska offshore. Our inability to drill is not only costly to Shell, but also to a state that is

working hard to create jobs and find new oil supplies for the trans-Alaska pipeline by promoting responsible offshore development."

Murkowski: federal overreach

"The Obama administration has repeatedly ignored not only the wishes of Alaska in wanting to develop its offshore resources, but also the law," said U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. "It's time for such federal overreach to end and allow responsible development of our resources to move forward."

"I agree with the governor's message that an overreaching ban does not reflect Alaska's unique conditions and fails to consider the impact on Alaska jobs and the Alaska economy," said U.S. Sen. Mark Begich, D-Alaska. "I will continue to work with the governor, the state and affected Alaskans to ensure a future for Alaska's oil and gas. ... The lack of consultation with Alaska in this process is an obvious oversight."

Imposed at end of May

The OCS drilling moratorium saga began at the end of May, when following a safety review in response to the unfolding situation in the Gulf of Mexico, Interior announced through public memoranda and a notice to lessees that it was suspending OCS drilling in the Gulf and Pacific regions for a period of six months in water depths greater than 500 feet.

The DOI announcements did not mention the Arctic. However, in a May 27 press release Salazar said that the federal administration was taking a cautious approach to oil and gas development in the Arctic and that it was postponing consideration of Shell's proposal to drill in the Arctic in the summer of 2010. Salazar has since confirmed that Interior notified Shell that it would not approve Shell's drilling permits for the 2010 drilling season.

The water depths where Shell plans to drill are substantially less than 500 feet.

A group of oil service companies appealed the Gulf of Mexico drilling moratorium in Louisiana District Court, and on June 22 the court imposed an injunction against the moratorium, saying that the court would likely find the moratorium to be "arbitrary and capricious." Interior appealed the injunction in the Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.

And during a June 23 hearing of the

U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, Salazar told Murkowski that "the moratorium that is in place does in fact apply to the Alaska wells."

New moratorium

On July 12 Interior announced that it was issuing a new drilling moratorium that would last at most until Nov. 30 and would apply to all drilling on the U.S. outer continental shelf involving the use of a floating drilling facility in conjunction with a subsea blowout preventer. Again, the moratorium made no mention of the Arctic, although the planned Shell drilling, to be carried out from a drilling vessel, would presumably have come within its scope.

In parallel with issuing the new moratorium, Interior filed a claim with the 5th Circuit court, saying that because the second moratorium replaced the initial moratorium, the appeal and injunction against the moratorium should now be ruled moot. The 5th Circuit court referred this claim back to Louisiana District Court and on Sept. 1 the district court judge found against Interior, saying that Interior cannot sidestep the injunction by issuing a new moratorium that "arguably fashions no substantial changes from the first moratorium."

The 5th Circuit court has yet to respond to the district court ruling.

Questions apply to Arctic

At his Sept. 3 press conference in Alaska Salazar said that the OCS drilling moratorium applies in Alaska because questions that the Deepwater Horizon disaster raised about workplace safety, oil spill containment capabilities and the feasibility of oil spill response plans apply as much to the Arctic as to the Gulf of Mexico. Drilling cannot take place in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas until the safety of that drilling can be assured, he said.

But Interior did not communicate with the state about this, Parnell said.

Interior's views need to be articulated in a written final decision that rationally connects those views with facts on the ground, Sullivan said.

"That is an undeniable legal requirement," he said. "It's Administrative Procedures Act 101 and they didn't do it." ●

Contact Alan Bailey
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OIL PATCH BITS

uled 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.

Arctic Oil & Gas Directory

Covering Arctic oil and gas operations and the logistics, construction and service firms that support them



A biannual supplement

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Companies involved in serving the Arctic oil and gas industry

A

Acuren USA
 AECOM Environment
 Air Liquide
 Alaska Air Cargo
 Alaska Analytical Laboratory
 Alaska Anvil
 Alaska Cover-All
 Alaska Division of Oil and Gas
 Alaska Dreams
 Alaska Frontier Constructors
 Alaska Interstate Construction (AIC)
 Alaska Marine Lines
 Alaska Railroad Corp.
 Alaska Rubber & Supply
 Alaska Steel Co.
 Alaska Telecom
 Alaska Tent & Tarp
 Alaska West Express
 Alaskan Energy Resources Inc.
 Alutiiq Oilfield Solutions
 American Marine
 Arctic Controls
 Arctic Foundations
 Arctic Slope Telephone Assoc. Co-op.
 Arctic Wire Rope & Supply
 ASRC Energy Services
 Avalon Development

B-F

Badger Productions
 Bald Mountain Air Service
 Brooks Range Supply
 Builders Choice Inc.
 Calista Corp.
 Canadian Mat Systems (Alaska)
 Canrig Drilling Technologies
 Carlile Transportation Services
 CGGVeritas U.S. Land
 CH2M HILL
 Chiulista Services
 Colville Inc.
 ConocoPhillips Alaska
 Construction Machinery Industrial
 Crowley Alaska
 Cruz Construction
 Delta Leasing
 Delta P Pump and Equipment
 Denali Industrial
 Dowland-Bach Corp.

Doyon Drilling
 Doyon LTD
 Doyon Universal Services
 EEIS Consulting Engineers
 Egli Air Haul
 Engineered Fire and Safety
 Era Alaska
 ERA Helicopters
 Expro Americas LLC
 ExxonMobil
 Fairweather LLC
 Flowline Alaska
 Fluor
 Friends of Pets

Garness Engineering Group
 GBR Equipment
 GCI Industrial Telecom
 Geokinetics, formerly PGS Onshore
 GES Inc.
 Global Land Services
 Global Diving & Salvage
 Guess & Rudd, PC
 Hawk Consultants
 Ice Services
 Inspirations
 Jackovich Industrial & Construction Supply
 Judy Patrick Photography
 Kenworth Alaska
 Last Frontier Air Ventures
 Lister Industries
 Lounsbury & Associates
 Lynden Air Cargo
 Lynden Air Freight
 Lynden Inc.
 Lynden International
 Lynden Logistics
 Lynden Transport
 Mapmakers of Alaska
 MAPPA Testlab
 Maritime Helicopters
 M-I Swaco
 MRO Sales

N-P

Nabors Alaska Drilling
 Nalco
 NANA WorleyParsons
 NASCO Industries Inc.

Nature Conservancy, The
 NEI Fluid Technology
 Nordic Calista
 North Slope Telecom
 Northern Air Cargo
 Northwest Technical Services
 Oil & Gas Supply
 Oilfield Improvements
 Opti Staffing Group
 PacWest Drilling Supply
 PDC Harris Group
 Peak Civil Technologies
 Peak Oilfield Service Co.
 PENCO
 Petroleum Equipment & Services
 PND Engineers Inc.
 PRA (Petrotechnical Resources of Alaska)
 Price Gregory International

Q-Z

QUADCO
 Rain for Rent
 Salt + Light Creative
 Schlumberger
 Seekins Ford
 STEELFAB
 Stoel Rives
 3M Alaska
 TA Structures
 Taiga Ventures
 The Local Pages
 Tire Distribution Systems (TDS)
 TOMCO Group of Companies
 Total Safety U.S. Inc.
 TOTE-Totem Ocean Trailer Express
 Totem Equipment & Supply
 TTT Environmental
 Tubular Solutions Alaska
 Udelhoven Oilfield Systems Services
 UMIAQ
 Unique Machine
 Univar USA
 Universal Welding
 URS Corp.
 Usibelli
 West-Mark Service Center
 Weston Solutions
 XTO Energy
 Yenney & Associates

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Cover photo: Crowley's tug Vigilant assists the articulated tug barge Gulf Reliance and barge 650-2 this summer during the barge's first docking at the Tesoro facility in Nikiski.
Photo by **Judy Patrick**

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Alaska's offshore is different

One of the biggest differences is the Arctic has shallow, not deep water

By TOM IRWIN

Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Oil and gas land owned by the State of Alaska—both onshore and offshore—is still open for development! With all the attention given to offshore drilling in the past year, it is important to realize the regional differences associated with offshore exploration and drilling. Alaska is, as so often the case, different. In some ways, the punishing Arctic climate is a challenge, but in other ways, it provides a distinct advantage to exploration and development compared to what is needed for deepwater offshore oil and gas plays.

There are a number of differences between drilling in Alaska's Beaufort and Chukchi Seas from drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. Some are environmental and operational, while others are attributed to differences in climate. There are also differences in the oversight and regulatory processes, as well as fundamental contrasts in the geology of the regions, all of which merit consideration while making policy decisions.



TOM IRWIN

Shallow water in Alaska's Arctic

Among the most important environmental factors are water depth, geology and the seasonality of drilling operations. Producing fields such as Endicott, Northstar and Oooguruk in the Beaufort Sea tap offshore reservoirs with extended-reach directional drilling from stable, man-made gravel islands; these are in many ways akin to onshore operations.

Beaufort Sea state waters and large parts of the federally managed Outer Continental Shelf, OCS, are very shallow, with water depths ranging approximately 0-65 feet (0-20 m). Nearly all the historically leased acreage in the Beaufort Sea OCS planning area lies in waters inboard of the 330 ft (100 m) depth contour and all current leases in the Chukchi Sea are in water on the order of 130-160 feet (40-50 m) deep. Contrast this with the deepwater setting of the Gulf of Mexico, where drilling regularly taps prospects beneath waters more than 5,000 feet (1500 m) deep.

The significance of this water depth difference cannot be overstated. Despite the cold ocean water temperatures, human dive teams are able to operate directly on the seafloor in many places in offshore Alaska, whereas highly specialized remotely operated vehicles are required to investigate and respond to incidents at the seabed in deepwater Gulf of Mexico operations.

Many Alaskan offshore operations are seasonal, whereas Gulf of Mexico operations continue year-round. Some Alaskan exploration prospects are better drilled in the winter from bottom-founded drilling caissons or man-made ice islands, both firmly anchored to the seabed throughout the drilling season. Other Alaskan prospects are drilled from floating drill ships or jack-up rigs in the open water of late summer. These drilling projects commonly include ice-breaker support vessels to manage floes of multi-year ice that may sometimes approach the drilling well and occasionally interrupt operations by forcing the rig to move off location. This is in

some ways analogous to the brief storm delays that affect offshore rigs in the Gulf of Mexico every year.

Special stipulations are strictly enforced in winter and summer operations in the Alaskan Arctic to minimize hazardous activities during the broken ice season, when spill cleanup would be the most challenging.

Geology differs significantly

Finally, the geology of Beaufort and Chukchi seas petroleum systems differs from those of the Gulf of Mexico in important ways. Much of the Gulf of Mexico is a region marked by rapid and recent deposition of alternating sands and muddy sediments that, with deep burial and compaction, lead to strongly over-pressured pore fluids. Deep drilling in such environments is especially difficult because the high drilling mud densities required to control overpressures can fracture the formation causing catastrophic losses of drilling fluids that can trigger a blowout. The geologic setting of the Alaskan offshore is very different, marked by less recent and less voluminous sedimentation, and dangerous overpressures are not believed to be widely present.

Although concerns regarding blowout prevention equipment are certainly justified, Alaska has a long and proud record of safe oil and gas drilling. In large part, this is because of a regulatory framework based on an extensive and specialized knowledge of the Alaska drilling environment and the proactive assistance provided by regulators to explorers and developers to manage risk.

Alaska's Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, AOGCC, exercises regulatory oversight of wells drilled in Alaskan state waters, including regulation, permitting, and inspection of wells and equipment. Originally a part of the state's Division of Oil and Gas, the AOGCC was separated out as its own independent quasi-judicial agency within the executive branch. This separation helped alleviate potential conflict between the state's revenue interests in achieving total ultimate recovery on state leases, with the equally important conservation interest of ensuring the most prudent oil field practices are routinely performed. This division of responsibilities on the state level was recently mirrored in the reorganization of the federal Minerals Management Service into two agencies.

Blowout prevention equipment

A substantial part of the state's oversight efforts are created to ensure that the blowout prevention equipment is never needed. All other aspects of drilling have been planned appropriately and in a way that functions optimally in the specific drilling environment.

The first line of prevention is drilling fluid. AOGCC's geologists review the state's database of geologic information to identify any potential strata penetrated by a suggested well where a potential flow could occur. The drilling procedure is then reviewed by an AOGCC engineer to ensure the planned drilling fluids are appropriate for the anticipated pressure.

The second line of prevention is well design. The state mandates appropriate pipe sizes and setting depths, as well as cement formulas and volumes, to provide a barrier to flow from rock for-

Continued on page 6

Alaska more pro-investment than ever

Cook Inlet has most investment-friendly tax, royalty regimes in US; benefits extend to other areas of state

By **KEVIN BANKS**

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

Thanks to actions by the Alaska Legislature this year, Alaskans can pay even less attention to reality-challenged statements such as "Alaska is closed for business" and "Southcentral Alaska is facing an inevitable shortage of natural gas."

We now have in Cook Inlet one of the most favorable tax and royalty environments in the United States—in fact, there is none better—and there's every reason to be confident that we can meet the energy needs of the region.

Up to \$25M in credits for first jack-up

For example, consider this whopper of an incentive: we're offering up to \$25 million in tax credits for exploration expenses associated with the first well drilled from a jack-up rig. It doesn't get much better than that.

And even if an operator isn't planning an offshore exploration operation or doesn't meet the criteria for receiving the 100 percent credit, there are other credits available, both in Cook Inlet and everywhere else in Alaska, of between 20 and 65 percent for all capital expenditures related to oil or gas exploration or development.

The Legislature also expanded the existing gas development tax credit, from 10 percent to 25 percent of costs of drilling and field development work in existing gas fields.

The state even offers special credits for "small" producers whose annual production is less than 100,000 barrels of oil equivalent.

In the Cook Inlet region there are additional incentives for natural gas exploration, nonconventional gas development, and gas storage projects.

And there is still a lot of gas to be found in Cook Inlet. A representative for Armstrong Oil and Gas, a company actively exploring in the Cook Inlet today, told a newspaper in 2009, "It is our opinion that the Cook Inlet is a vastly underexplored province and with good science there's a tremendous amount of gas yet to be found in the area."



KEVIN BANKS

In the past, the question of whether there was enough of a market to support increased development in the Cook Inlet kept exploration companies lukewarm about the prospects. But with changing times, the market is also changing. Utilities are signing up for shorter contracts with their usual suppliers, thereby opening up the market for new producers.

Anchorage, the state's largest city and home to almost half of the state's population, almost completely depends on Cook Inlet gas for home heating and electricity. When the requirements for firm energy supplies customers throughout the entire Southcentral region are added to the demand from Anchorage, the question whether there is a market for Cook Inlet gas is most definitely answered with a resounding yes.

The state has also been sensitive to the seasonal fluctuation in demand for natural gas in the area supplied by Cook Inlet and how those fluctuations have forced producers to adapt their production rate to the rate of demand.

In 2010, the Alaska Legislature passed legislation establishing tax credits and expedited leasing processes for natural gas storage facilities starting operations between December 31, 2010, and January 1, 2016.

Tax and royalty rates below all others

The Alaska Division of Oil and Gas is continuing to pave the way for solutions to current Cook Inlet deliverability concerns by working with industry on processing gas storage leases and exploring new storage possibilities. It is in the state's best interest, as it is in the producers', to create a predictable production climate for Cook Inlet gas producers, currently and in the future.

With a market hungry for more natural gas, and communities, there has never been a better time to explore for gas in Alaska's Cook Inlet.

Total tax and royalty rates are at or below every other major producing state

Cook Inlet oil has a 0 percent gross production tax and a 12.5 percent royalty rate

Cook Inlet gas is taxed at just 18 cents per Mcf, which at \$7.00/Mcf equals 2.6 percent.

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IRWIN

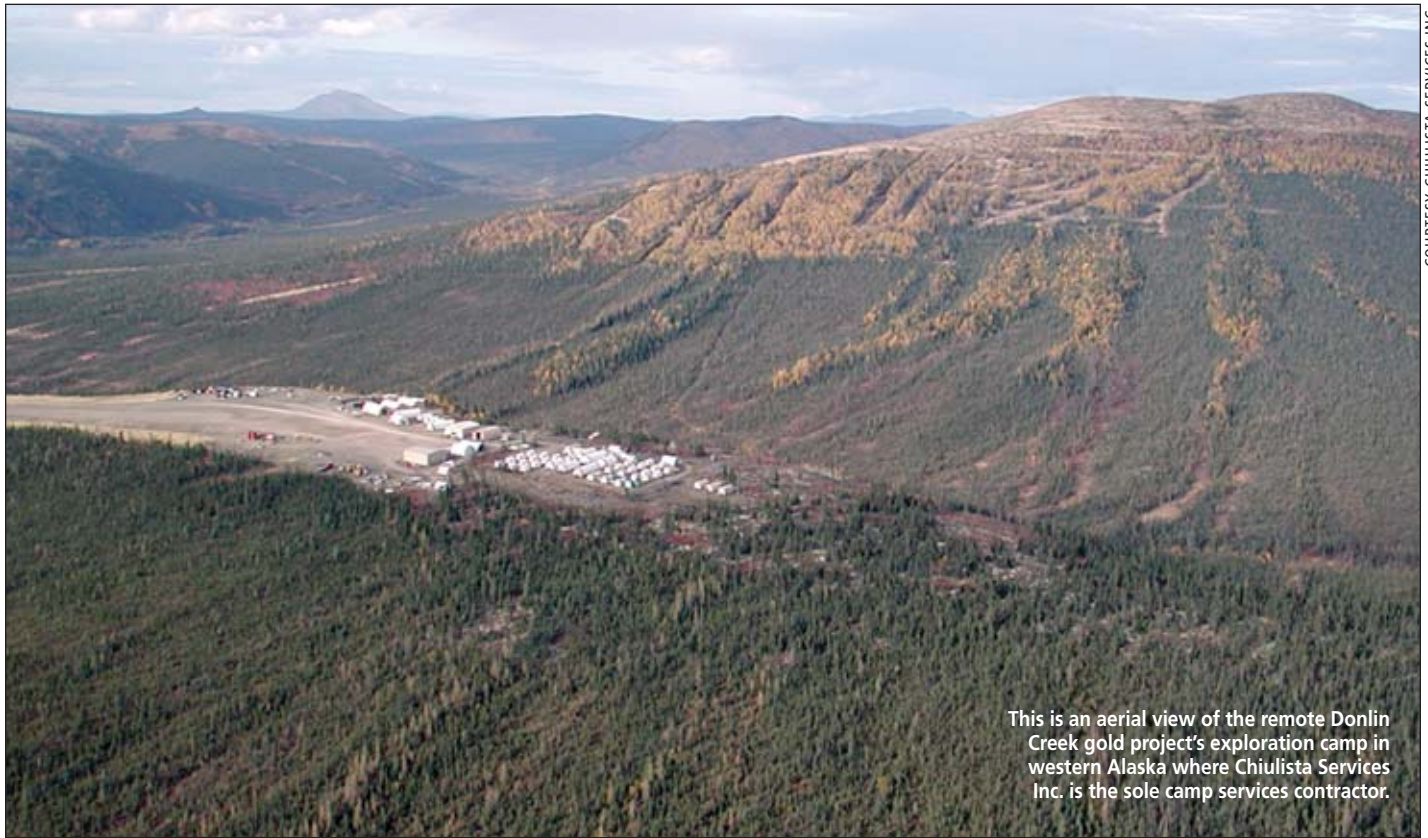
mations behind pipe.

Finally, AOGCC requires confirmation that good oil field practices will be followed throughout the operation before granting any drilling permit.

Rigs are inspected by an AOGCC inspector before being brought into service, and while in service, their blowout preventers and other safety equipment are tested every 14 days (every seven days for exploratory wells) to ensure proper performance. AOGCC inspectors personally witness about 25 percent of these tests. If a blowout preventer fails a test, drilling operations will be suspended until it passes.

Alaska holds tremendous resources. Our state is estimated to hold 18 percent of total U.S. oil reserves. At a production rate of 640,000 barrels per day, Alaska is currently responsible for 12.21 percent of U.S. oil production. Developing Alaska's resources is good for the state and for the United States. Oil production from the aging fields on the North Slope, which have provided our country with a steady stream of oil since 1977, is declining.

The offshore resources in Alaska's state waters are an important part of the country's energy future and are needed to stem the decline of domestic oil and gas production. As Alaskans, we rest assured that the expertise our agencies possess, and the regulatory framework this expertise has created, and continues to create, will be appropriate and sufficient for us to invite prudent operators to produce our hydrocarbon resources while protecting our other natural resources.



This is an aerial view of the remote Donlin Creek gold project's exploration camp in western Alaska where Chiulista Services Inc. is the sole camp services contractor.

COURTESY CHIULISTA SERVICES INC.

Donlin contractor maps new territory

Innovative Native shareholder-hire program builds effective work force for support services capable of growing with mine project

By ROSE RAGSDALE

For the Petroleum Directory

Chiulista Services Inc. is a support services contractor that offers its employees the best kind of job – one with a paycheck and a future.

The Alaska Native 8(a) contractor specializes in support services for mining, construction and federal projects and operations with full camp services, facility management, base operation support services, fuel management, logistics and staffing.

A subsidiary of Alaska Native regional corporation Calista Corp., Chiulista got its start in 1995 providing services to Placer Dome at Donlin Creek, then a small gold exploration project in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region.

"The remoteness of Alaska is hard to understand until you experience it," said Chiulista President Joe Obrochta. "It's not rural Alaska; it's remote Alaska. When we're out to Donlin Creek, it is like being in the service, pretty much like a deployment."

Obrochta served in the U.S. Army before entering the private sector.



JOE OBROCHTA

Growth and expertise

In 15 years, new opportunities have taken Chiulista to numerous challenging job sites, from Alaska's North Slope to Arizona's arid deserts, and from the riverbanks of western Alaska to the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

Today, the contractor has a proven record of delivering everything from catering to computer systems operations and from road construction to equipment and lab testing services.

But Chiulista's biggest accomplishment, so far, may well be at its first Alaska worksite. The contractor is emerging as one of modern mining's most successful employers of Alaska Natives.

This distinction did not come easily.

When the Calista subsidiary developed a shareholder-hire program in 1995 with Placer Dome, the venture went downhill fast. During the first year, Chiulista hired 152 people just to keep 48 full-time positions filled.

The contractor's overall employee turnover rate jumped to 318 percent, due mainly to enforcement of a strict alcohol and drug policy. About half of the new hires failed drug screenings and some 70 percent quit after only a short time on the job.

"Alcohol use was above industry standards when this all started under my predecessor, George Gardner," Obrochta said.

Continued on next page

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CHIULISTA

Persistence and communication

But Chiulista didn't give up.

Instead, the contractor helped Placer Dome establish a comprehensive, cross-cultural outreach program to identify and overcome roadblocks to developing a successful work force.

The effort paid off handsomely for Calista shareholders. After hiring a local program coordinator and conducting numerous community meetings, the team developed a new approach to hiring.

Changes included adding hard and fast penalties to the company's drug policy but allowing workers to re-apply for employment following a violation, provided they met certain milestones. Employees could hope to improve their performance and be supported by incentives to remain drug- and alcohol-free.

The company also shortened the number of 12-hour work shifts from 20 days on/10 days off to two weeks on/two weeks off. This change gave employees more time at home and time for traditional subsistence activities, along with a good monthly wage.

Offering cultural sensitivity training for both Native and non-Native employees and communal-style camp dining and recreation rooms were other important changes.

Chiulista also took the unusual step of hiring two shareholder coordinators to act as permanent liaisons between the workers and the mining company.

"Their primary responsibilities are to ensure that employees are successful and grow within their jobs," said Monique Henriksen, Chiulista's senior vice president of operations.

The shareholder coordinators also act as Chiulista's main point of contact for employees who need additional training, and they serve as job counselors, regularly meeting with workers in groups and individually to discuss problems, both professional and personal.

"Both coordinators have worked at the project for over nine years, and they have grown professionally, from starting as a general laborer and a driller's assistant," Henriksen said.

Upward mobility

The redesigned program then took raw recruits from local villages and gave them on-the-job training focused on improving and enhancing occupational skills.

"Every success we have had was the result of overcoming hurdles, and communication was one of our earliest challenges," said Henriksen.

Obrochta said the company found that some recruits had never before left their villages. "They didn't know about the importance of showing up on time. It is a learning curve," he said.

Since the majority of Chiulista's work force grew up in small villages and the Donlin Creek camp is a much bigger place with people from all over the world, it was very important to prepare the new workers to thrive in this bigger community, said Henriksen, who is a Calista shareholder who worked her way up



MONIQUE HENRIKSEN

the management ladder to senior VP in 2007.

"We are pleased to report that in 2005, the turnover rate dropped to a low of 10 percent," she said.

In 2008, Chiulista employed 172 employees at Donlin Creek, and enjoyed a substance abuse-related turnover rate of less than 5 percent and an overall turnover rate of less than 10 percent. Today, the contractor employs about 25 workers at the Donlin camp.

Chiulista also emphasizes workplace safety in its training regime, which contributes to building a professional work force. The contractor has logged more than 1 million manhours at Donlin Creek with zero lost-time incidents.

The firm also created an open learning environment that encourages employees to stretch in the workplace.

"What we have at Donlin Creek is an opportunity for people to try things," said Obrochta. "Sometimes it works out, and sometimes not.

"Where at some projects, people say, 'That's not possible.' At Donlin Creek, the folks say, 'Let's see if we can make it happen,'" he explained.

As a result, upward mobility is now the norm. In 1996, shareholder hire was a strong 70 percent, but shareholders filled one in 10 supervisory roles.

According to a report prepared by The McDowell Group in January 2009, about 86 percent of the 210 people who worked at Donlin Creek in 2008 were Calista shareholders, and nine out of 10 crew supervisors were Alaska Natives.

"We have seasoned workers that have been out there 13 or 14 years, and they may retire before the first ounce of gold is pulled out of the ground," said Obrochta.

Strong employee relations

"One of our best-kept secrets is employee and community relations – ensuring our employees are well-trained and continually develop," Henriksen said.

Obrochta attributed much of the success in maintaining positive momentum to Chiulista's managers. "They do a great job. They are voices for their villages, and ambassadors for the project, a communications conduit," he said.

Today, the Donlin Creek project – operated by Donlin Creek LLC, a 50-50 partnership between NovaGold Resources Inc. and Placer Dome successor, Barrick Gold Corp. – is in transition from primarily exploration to a development project with construction targeted to begin in 2012 and production in 2015.

During the construction phase, the need for skilled labor is expected to balloon to 1,500 to 2,000 jobs, and once in production, Donlin Creek likely will employ 600 to 800 people for 20 years.

As the sole contractor for camp services at the 30-million-ounce-plus gold mining project, Chiulista will face additional challenges as Donlin Creek matures. For example, a new gas pipeline study underway at the project required the contractor to recruit and specially train six new employees.

Obrochta envisions more such work in the future. "We will be working to provide the green work force from the villages for the construction phase of the mine. That's 500-650 people, plus all those that have worked and are still working on the project!" he added.

Said Henriksen, "We believe the shareholder hire program for Chiulista employees at the Donlin Creek site is a model for how best to work with indigenous people."

EFS an industry leader in the life safety and asset protection arena

With a reputation for quality, EFS provides full protection for fire, security needs

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

A. We are an important part of United Technologies Corporation (UTC) Global Fire Suppression Group. We provide Fire Protection Engineering and Project Management services as well as field commissioning services, annual maintenance, repairs and fire protection products.

Q. Where is your company located?

A. 3138 Commercial Drive, Anchorage, AK

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

A. 1986 by Larry Jesclard.

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

A. Oil and gas, mining, telecommunications and power generation.

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

A. ENI Petroleum's Nikaitchuq development on the North Slope, and providing fire and gas engineering support to a Solar Turbines project in South America. We are supporting Alyeska Pipeline Service Company with suppression system upgrades at several of their facilities and are providing engineering and equipment to BP Alaska's 501 receiver mod project. We are also working on projects that will utilize fine water mist fire suppression technology in place of gaseous agents.

Q. How many employees does your company have?

A. There are currently 18 employees at EFS.

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

A. We have added to our field service staff throughout 2010 and our new Service & Operations Manager, Ron Rheiner, brings a wealth of experience to our business with over 30 years of experience in the fire protection industry.

Q. Is the company changing any of its services?

A. We have added services this year that benefit our clients, including restaurant hood system cleaning; we are the only certified company in the state to offer this service.

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



Matt Atkins, Sales Manager, EFS, provided information for this company profile



COURTESY EFS

One of our Fire & Gas Control Systems – designed, built and commissioned by EFS and includes the Fire Protection Control panel, Power Supply, Battery Cabinet and Power Supply Monitor for BP Alaska's A-PAD Electrical Control Module.

A. Our ability to leverage the resources of UTC Fire & Security (UTCFS.) Our close relationship with our sister companies within UTCFS allows us to draw on the strengths of all the companies within the UTCFS group and provides significant value to our clients as we are addressing all of their fire protection needs under one brand - UTCFS.

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

A. We have secured contracts for our services in support of contracts outside of Alaska and the US. Our support of the Solar Turbine's project in South America has been a tremendous experience and allowed us to show that being based in Anchorage does not limit our ability to work on projects taking place around the world.

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

A. Oftentimes it's coordination of all the various groups at the work site that are impacted by the life safety systems we work on.

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

A. Managing our growth.

Q. What is the average length of time employees work for the company?

A. Seven years



Continued on page 11

Fairweather provides remote solutions, offering a diverse scope of premier services

With a proven reputation, Fairweather exceeds expectations in a consistently evolving oil and gas industry

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

A. With over 30 years providing support for the natural resources industry, we operate with integrity, holding ourselves to the highest of industry standards. Our experienced personnel bring unsurpassed value to all levels of project development.

Q. Where is your company located?

A. 9525 King Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99515

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

A. The company was founded in 1976 by Sherron Perry, providing aviation weather support services, followed by expediting services. Today, Fairweather offers a multitude of diversified services, with a staff of approximately 140.

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

A. Oil, gas, and mining support. We provide a diverse scope of services, specializing in remote medical support, HSE professionals, meteorological and oceanographic expertise, aviation weather support and airport equipment, and expediting.



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

A. We recently deployed buoys in the Chukchi Sea that measure and store copious amounts of meteorological and oceanographic data. Before the deployment of these buoys, little to no meteorological or oceanographic information was available for this area. In addition to our meteorological and oceanographic advances, we look forward to participating in the continuous evolution of Alaska's oil and gas industries, including future pipeline endeavors.

Q. What type of equipment might your company use?

A. Fairweather's Medical Division maintains a robust logistic capability utilizing state-of-the-art emergency medical equipment. Our aviation weather support lighting and instrumentation sets are designed for extreme Arctic operations.

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

A. Fairweather has recently completed phase 1 of construction on the Deadhorse Aviation Center. We anticipate lease space to be available in 2011.

Q. Is the company changing any of its services?

A. We are not currently changing our services. We are, how-



COURTESY FAIRWEATHER



Fairweather provides medical support to the most remote locations in Alaska.

COURTESY FAIRWEATHER



Remote Medical Clinic

COURTESY FAIRWEATHER

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EFS

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

A. We have gone nearly five years with an incident-free workplace. We actively engage our employees in Job Safety Analysis steps and perform Safety and Environmental Task Assessments at the start of every job every day. We partake in third-party safety auditing programs and continually work to improve the effectiveness of our safety program.

Q. Has your company received any awards or recognition?

A. We received awards from BP Alaska for our contributions to their Oil Transit Line Upgrade projects on the North Slope as well as outstanding sales awards from Detector Electronics, Siemens and Kidde-Fenwal.

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

A. We take part in the United Way's annual fundraising effort.

Q. Does your company have a website?

A. www.efs-fire.com and www.utc-fire.com

continued from page 10

FAIRWEATHER

ever, continually investing our time, energy and resources to maintain efficiency, meet growing operational demands and sustain our reputation as a proven industry provider.

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

A. Fairweather offers years of proven methodology with experienced personnel. Our organization's focus remains service orientated, while prioritizing a health and safety culture. We hire and retain the highest caliber professionals in their specialized fields.

Q. What is the most challenging obstacle the company has faced?

A. Fairweather's history includes many challenging projects, from exploration to operations facing the most austere conditions Alaska has to offer.

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

A. Heightened regulations for the oil, gas and mining industries and their impact on Alaska operations.

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

A. 2011 will mark our 35th year in business.

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

A. Fairweather maintains an excellent safety record through training, continuous quality improvement and participation in successful Behavior Based Safety Programs.

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

A. We consistently contribute to local charities and support community based projects and events. Additionally, a portion of our medications, medical equipment and medical supplies are donated to charities that support medically disadvantaged areas worldwide.

Q. Does your company have a website?

A. www.fairweather.com



Fairweather Anchorage Office – 9525 King St.

COURTESY FAIRWEATHER



Meteorological & Oceanographic Data Buoy

GCI proven to be the best choice for Alaska's remote communications

Skilled individuals and Arctic experience makes GCI a premier network provider

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

A. GCI's Industrial Telecom Group is an experienced team of approximately 60 telecommunication engineers, project managers and technicians that have extensive expertise in oil, gas and other industrial applications. We safely support the full life cycle of industrial projects with a primary focus on the oil and gas industry, bringing value to our relationships through communication, focus and integrity. We have also acted as the subject matter experts (SME) for many large engineering firms, bringing our Arctic communication experience to projects throughout Alaska, Wyoming, New Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico.



Rick Hansen, Director of GCI's Industrial Telecom Division provided the information for this company profile.

Q. Where is your company located?

A. GCI has offices in Anchorage and Deadhorse, Alaska. In December 2009 we opened an office in Houston, Texas.

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

A. GCI is an Alaska company founded in 1979 by our President, Ron Duncan. The Industrial Telecom team was formed in 1995 to manage the operations and maintenance of major operators on the North Slope.

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

A. GCI offers a wide variety of services including consumer and commercial wireless services, cable TV and cable modem internet. The Industrial Telecom team's focus is on professional services including telecommunication project engineering and project management. We also have the resources available to implement and maintain what we have designed and are a full life-cycle telecom shop.

Q. How many employees does your company have?

A. GCI has more than 1,600 employees and GCI Industrial Telecom has more than 60 employees, with approximately 20 permanent staff in Deadhorse and four are currently working out of our Houston office.

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

A. GCI owns and operates more than 5,500 miles of fiber optic cable (FOC) throughout Alaska that connects to the Lower 48 via two separate GCI owned and operated routes. We also have more than 250 satellite earth stations, providing serv-



GCI Industrial Telecom managed the engineering and construction of the 150-foot communication tower at 3H on the North Slope.

COURTESY GCI INDUSTRIAL TELECOM

ices to hundreds of communities throughout Alaska. GCI's wireless division is the fastest growing in Alaska and provides both CDMA and GSM connectivity in both the rural and urban communities throughout the state.

The Industrial Telecom team has rapid-deploy communication modules that can bring voice, data and video services to any remote location throughout the world quickly and safely. These self-contained units are tried and tested under the harshest environments. We own and operate a licensed wireless broadband service on the North Slope and have hundreds of wireless end points managed through this reliable, cost effective mobile wireless product.

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

A. Our Houston office currently has four employees and continues to grow with the increased demand for quality engineering and project management resources for the oil patch. We anticipate continued growth in the future.

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

A. A very important strength that GCI has is industrial knowledge of the oil and gas exploration and production business;



COURTESY GCI INDUSTRIAL TELECOM



GCI designed two-way communication modules ready for deployment for the Gulf of Mexico incident response

our experienced staff has deep roots in the oil patch. Our mission statement says it all “To provide customer driven, quality focused oil and gas communication expertise to industrial communication infrastructure projects and operations. We leverage our proven, safe practices and cost effective professional services into profitable results.”

Q. What is the average length of time employees work for the company?

A. GCI is such a great place to work for and we provide competitive incentives to retain our highly valued employees, so we have very low turnover. It is a truly collaborative work place with a strong focus on safety both at home and at work.

Q. What is your company’s safety record and what steps does GCI take to ensure a safe work environment?

A. Within the Industrial Telecom team of GCI our recordable incident rate is 0, and our last lost time accident was in 2002. We embrace the behavioral based safety process and have adopted the SafeStart Behavior Based Safety (BBS) program for our staff. At GCI we strongly believe that all work should be assessed for risk and as a result have adopted the task hazard analysis (THA) for risk identification and mitigation.

Q. Has your company received any awards or recognition?

A. In 2009, GCI was awarded the Outstanding Business Award by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Alaska, for our ongoing philanthropic efforts throughout Alaska.

Our group is active in community events, youth sports and



GCI technicians install and maintain the largest microwave (MW) network on the North Slope. GCI also owns and maintains substantial MW infrastructure throughout Alaska.

COURTESY GCI INDUSTRIAL TELECOM



Earth Station – Prudhoe Bay

COURTESY GCI INDUSTRIAL TELECOM

health and safety awareness. Annually, a large group of our employees participate in efforts like the United Way campaign.

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

A. GCI is a huge supporter of the American Red Cross of Alaska and the United Way, as well as many other nonprofits throughout Alaska. We are proud to be an Alaskan company.

Q. Does your company have a Web site?

A. Our Team’s website is www.GCI-Industrialtelecom.com and GCI can be found at www.gci.com

Scientists conduct polar ice research in the northern arctic at latitude 78 degrees North.



COURTESY MARITIME HELICOPTERS

Maritime Helicopters meets challenges of Alaska's unique flying conditions

Creating a safe environment for customers and crew is Maritime Helicopters' top priority

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

A. Maritime Helicopters has been in business in Alaska for 37 years. We are family owned and managed. We operate statewide from our hangar and offices at the Homer airport. We are an authorized Bell Helicopter Customer Service facility with Bell trained pilots and mechanics. We utilize Sat/Com to track and communicate with our helicopters and vessels at all times, creating a safe environment for our customers and crews.

Q. Where is your company located?

A. Our main office and hangar are located in Homer. We also have a base, hangar and staff in Kodiak.



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

A. Our helicopters are capable of covering many facets including the oil industry, mining, construction, surveying, environmental research, marine research, volcano monitoring, game capturing, state and federal agencies and local utilities.

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

A. Projects in which we have participated include one for scientists, flying from an icebreaker in the northern Arctic Ocean. Our research vessel, the 86-foot helicopter-equipped Maritime Maid, along with our Bell 407 are currently working in

Maritime Helicopters' Bell 407 performs shipboard operations on their own research vessel Maritime Maid in Southeast Alaska.



COURTESY MARITIME HELICOPTERS

tandem throughout Alaska's coastal waters. We are currently flying scientists to remote volcanoes in the Aleutian Islands and the Alaska Range, including Mount Okmok and Mount Redoubt, where they maintain seismic monitoring equipment.

Q. How many employees does your company have?

A. Our core staff is 14. Employee numbers vary depending on projects. We have employed up to 40 seasonally.

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

A. Our fleet includes Bell 206B3, Bell 206LIII and Bell 407 type aircraft and our 86-foot research vessel, the Maritime Maid.

The option is always open to purchase additional equipment.

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

A. We stay current with the needs of the industry. Our present goal is to maintain a well-trained staff of pilots and mechanics, and to operate in a safe and efficient manner. Depending on the industry and the economy, future expansion could be considered.

Q. Is the company changing any of its services?

A. Not at the present time. We want to focus on keeping our customers happy and maintaining a safe working environment.

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

A. We are a family-owned, private Alaskan company, allowing us great flexibility to react quickly to our customers' needs. Our helicopters work statewide, year round. We have an exceptionally clean operation, run to the highest standards. Our vessel, the Maritime Maid, equipped with a helipad, is able to travel to remote locations throughout coastal Alaska. The vessel sleeps 20. We provide meals, hot showers, laundry and a scientific lab aboard ship. The vessel carries enough fuel to be self-sustaining for extended periods.

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

A. Some new markets include exploration as well as utility projects.

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

A. Flying into the Aleutians to remote volcano sites is challenging, as well as working in the High Arctic.

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

A. The weather and logistics are two of the biggest obstacles we face in the Alaskan environment; however, 37 years of experience helps to mitigate these problems.

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

A. Remaining competitive is always a challenge, especially with the fluctuation of fuel prices and other rising costs. Our longevity testifies to our ability to retain customers and meet industry standards in a constantly changing social and economic arena.

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

A. This year marks our 37th year of business in Alaska.

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

A. 15 years.

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

A. Our company's safety record is excellent. We recently



were audited by Utilities and Aviation Specialists who gave us a very high rating. We are a "Preferred Vendor" for oil and gas production companies, requiring an annual safety audit. We have a Safety Management System and monthly safety meetings are held for all of our staff. All employees undergo annual training. Additionally, we conduct joint training with specific customers.

Q. Has your company received any awards or recognition?

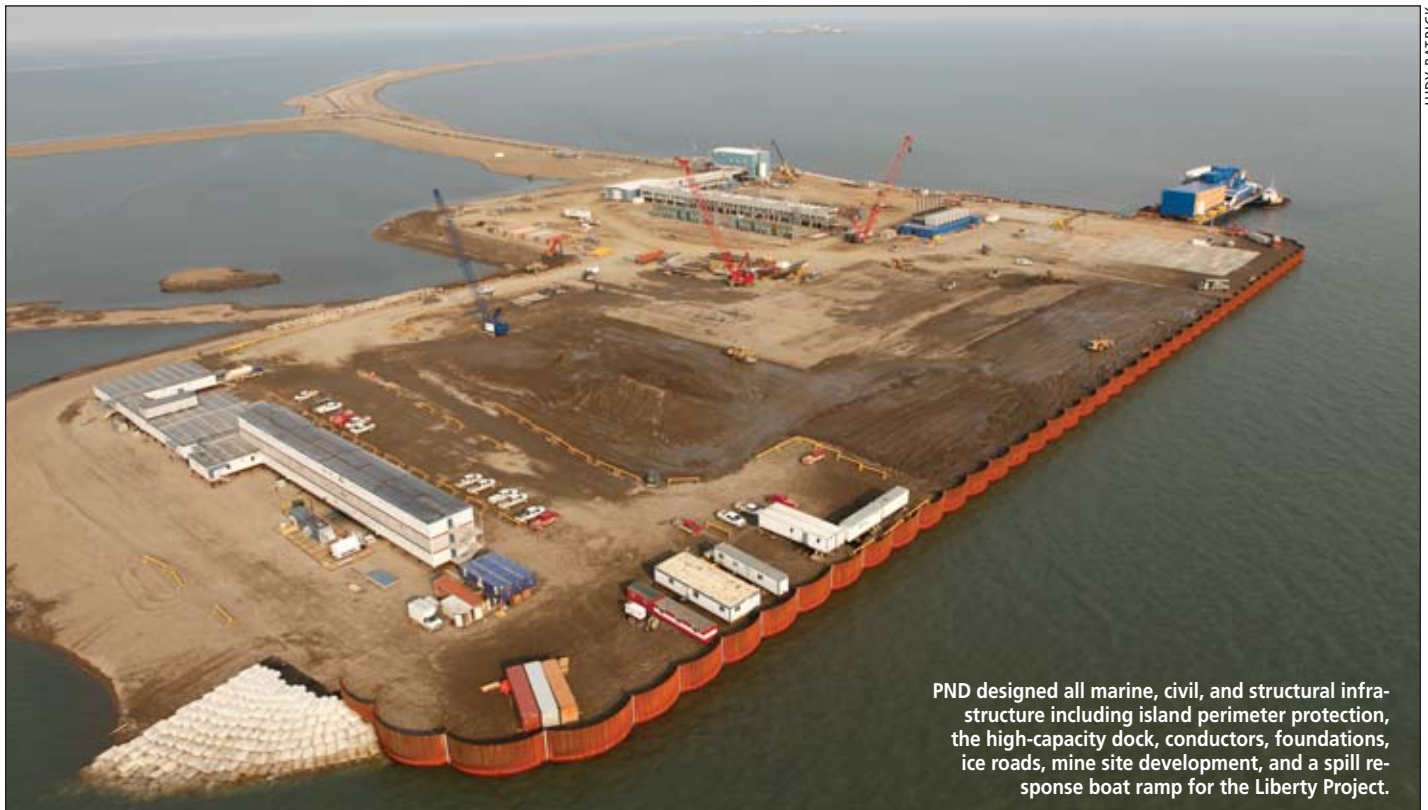
A. Yes, in 2009, the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce awarded our company the Bill Bivin Small Business of the Year Award. In 2000 we received the Homer Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Business of the Year award. The U.S. Forest Service recognized us with a plaque for 10 years of accident free flying from 1996 to 2006.

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

A. Yes, we contribute to numerous charities locally including Homer Animal Friends, Boys and Girls Club, Special Olympics-Team Homer and many other school related functions.

Q. Does your company have a website?

A. Yes, www.maritimehelicopters.com



PND designed all marine, civil, and structural infrastructure including island perimeter protection, the high-capacity dock, conductors, foundations, ice roads, mine site development, and a spill response boat ramp for the Liberty Project.

PND Engineers, efficient designs saving time and money for clients

Striving to provide innovative solutions in the Arctic sets PND apart from the rest

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

A. Clients look to PND for our innovation and out-of-the-box thinking. PND prides itself in being at the forefront of technology and we are known for our adaptability in developing unique solutions to engineering problems.

Q. Where is your company located?

A. PND's headquarters are located in Anchorage, Alaska, with branch offices in Juneau, Seattle, and Fort Collins, Colorado.

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

A. PND was founded in 1979 by Dennis Nottingham and Roy Peratrovich, as Peratrovich and Nottingham. It was incorporated in 1981 as Peratrovich, Nottingham & Drage Inc., and currently operates as PND Engineers Inc.

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

A. Though our primary sectors vary with the market, PND is traditionally involved in civil engineering support for resource de-

velopment and marine structures, buildings, site civil, hydrology, geotechnical and construction engineering. We also provide permitting assistance as required.

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

A. Some of our current and recent projects are the Point Thomson development project, Liberty, NPRA development, and Umm Qasr Piers 1 and 2 for the Iraqi Navy. PND recently designed the Carl E. Moses Harbor under a design-build contract with Pacific Pile & Marine for the City of Unalaska. This project will include construction of all inner-harbor infrastructure as well as the uplands facilities needed to support the new harbor.



Q. How many employees does your company have?

A. PND currently has 107 full-time employees throughout all offices.

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



JOHN PICKERING

A. The current economic situation makes expansion difficult. However, PND recently opened an office in Colorado prior to initiation of the recession.

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

A. PND's main strength is our pioneering spirit and can-do attitude. We are known for our innovative and cost-effective solutions, such as our patented OPEN CELL SHEET PILE® system used in successful projects all over Alaska, as well as nationally and internationally. The OPEN CELL bulkhead is an earth retaining structure used primarily in docks and similar structures such as bridge abutments, and performs very well under a variety of conditions such as high loads, deep water, soft soils, scour, ice, long-term settlement, minimal embedment, and in highly seismic areas. The OPEN CELL bulkhead system offers rapid construction, adaptability and high capacity, which translates into significant cost savings for our clients.

Q. What new markets, clients or projects did your company attract recently?

A. PND has recently expanded its market to include the Middle East, where we have performed coastal and hydrologic assessments, geotechnical evaluations, civil and structural design, and inspection services on port facility projects at Umm Qasr, Iraq. This work has involved the design of two dock facilities (Piers 1 and 2) through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Iraqi Ministry of Defense and the Coalition Force Command in Iraq, and has required close coordination with the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. contractors, and Iraqi engineers and contractors.



For the Sabine Pass LNG Terminal in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, PND designed the marine bulkhead for the dredged basin.

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

A. Recently PND was involved in a North Slope project in which we simultaneously conducted wave tank studies at Oregon State University and Texas A&M University and ice tank studies in Helsinki, Finland, and St. Johns, Newfoundland. All four studies were initiated and completed within a six-month time frame. During this time we were also engaged in the ongoing Umm Qasr project in the Middle East, so this also speaks to PND's ability to manage simultaneous projects within contrasting climates and cultures.

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

A. Increasingly, complying with permitting requirements and obtaining project permits presents a great obstacle for many projects.

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



COURTESY PND ENGINEERS

PND has provided oil field infrastructure design for more than 30 years, such as the Kuparuk River Bridge and OPEN CELL SHEET PILE® bulkhead.

A. Working with clients to help develop or adjust projects so that they are economically viable in the current economic client is likely the biggest challenge.

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

A. PND recently celebrated its 30-year anniversary in 2009.

Q. What is the average length of time employees work for the company?

A. The average length is 11 years, which is much longer than is typical for engineering companies. In this way PND maintains institutional knowledge regarding our client's projects and facilities.

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

A. For the past three years, PND has had zero recordable incidents. We promote a safe environment in all we do and make Safety First a priority in our day-to-day efforts.

Q. Has your company received any awards or recognition?

A. In 2010, PND has again ranked in ENR's Top 500 Design Firms and also earned the PDCA 2010 Project of the Year Award for Skagway Harbor Surge Control Breakwater. Over the years, PND has earned numerous project awards, including several for Anchorage's Tudor Crossing, most notably First Place in the Special Purpose Category of the National Steel Bridge Alliance/American Institute of Steel Construction competition. PND has also earned 28 Lincoln Arc Welding Awards for various projects.

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

A. PND supports many charitable organizations as well as the engineering profession through industry educational facilities. Examples from the past year include the Engineers Week Scholarship Fund, Society of Women Engineers, ASCE University of Alaska Student Chapter, Anchorage Citywide Cleanup, Special Olympics, Boy Scouts of America, Catholic Social Services, MathCounts, Anchorage Festival of Music and United Way, among others.

Q. Does your company have a website?

A. Yes, please visit www.pndengineers.com.

COURTESY PND ENGINEERS

The Geo Tiger II is a "gun boat" that tows two large skiffs equipped with compressed-air shotguns. The other two catamarans, or line boats, follow behind, laying cable.



COURTESY GEOKINETICS

Sitka marine launches new seismic boat

Geokinetics, which recently acquired PGS Onshore, takes delivery of 3 special-built catamarans this summer

By PETROLEUM NEWS

In mid-May, Allen Marine launched a unique catamaran that will be used by PGS Onshore, recently purchased by Geokinetics, for seismic-related work in the Beaufort Sea. It is the third such vessel the Houston-based Geokinetics has had the Sitka boat builder build, a contract that Allen Marine officials said was approaching \$4 million.

The seismic work was planned for the Canadian Beaufort Sea and managed by Geokinetics Canadian office. The Alaska office planned to send some of its people with Alaska Beaufort Sea experience to assist them. That PGS office is managed by Chuck Robinson and Larry Watt, who will remain in the same positions for Geokinetics.

The contract has kept about 30 skilled laborers extremely busy for more than 12 months.

On May 10 the third boat, the Geo Tiger II, underwent a brief sea trial at Allen Marine's Sawmill Creek Road headquarters.

A 64-foot aluminum boat with a split hull, the boat has to be disassembled and placed onto trucks for the long trip north.

"It's been a neat process, it's totally different from what we normally do," said Ken Baker, who managed the project for the Southeast Alaska boat building company.

Baker and Tom Scheidt, an Allen Marine vice president, watched

as the Geo Tiger II was dropped into the waters of Jamestown Bay by a Travelift and pulled to a nearby slip by another Allen boat.

Boat launches are old hat at Allen, and Baker pointed out that most of the workers did not venture outside the shop to see the catamaran's short voyage.

Anything but typical

But the catamarans Allen is building for Geokinetics are anything but typical.

Baker said Geokinetics wanted an entirely mobile fleet, and provided Allen with a design for boats that could be broken down into pieces that could fit on standard shipping trucks.

Baker said the boats Allen recently completed could be transported by truck, train, or even airplane.

"They need to be able to move them quickly to any place in the world," Baker said.

After the May 10 sea trials, the boat's generators were tested and the catamarans were scheduled to leave Sitka in early June. There were eventually barged to Skagway, then loaded onto a truck for the drive north to Canada's Beaufort Sea coast.

Due in Mackenzie Bay July 15

The boats were due in Mackenzie Bay July 15. Once there, a



The hull of each catamaran can be broken into three pieces. Each boat's wheelhouse can also be removed, and broken in two. Baker said each boat has about 4,000 connecting bolts and two generators.

COURTESY GEOKINETICS

team of eight to 10 Allen workers, overseen by Baker, put the boats back together.

"This is not going to be an IKEA assembly," Baker said this spring, noting he had to make sure the members of his team had passports and were allowed to travel to Canada.

When asked if the prospect of putting the boats back together was daunting, Baker laughed.

"It's a very large sequence to carry out," Baker said this spring, adding, "We know every aspect of these boats in detail. That's going to be an advantage."

Baker explained that the three boats will eventually work as part of a team. Each is equipped with two 600-horsepower motors, and the boats are designed to go 10 to 11 knots.

The Geo Tiger II is a "gun boat" that will tow two large skiffs equipped with "compressed-air shotguns." The other two catamarans, or line boats, will follow behind, laying cable.

In describing the seismic process, Baker said compressed air is fired at the sea bed, and the reverberations are captured by the cables, creating a map.

Geokinetics then sells the information to oil companies, which subsequently use it for oil and gas exploration.

Hull of each can be broken into three pieces

Officials from Geokinetics traveled to Sitka from Houston earlier this year to take a look at the vessels. At first, Geokinetics planned to handle the transport and reassembly of the boats. But the company decided it would be best to have the boat builders on hand to put them back together.

The hull of each catamaran can be broken into three pieces. Each boat's wheelhouse can also be removed, and broken in two. Baker said each boat has about 4,000 connecting bolts and two generators.

They're designed to work in remote areas, and each is equipped with plenty of spare parts.

Baker said that after the work in Canada is complete, the boats will be sent to the Gulf of Mexico or Australia.



COURTESY GEOKINETICS

Scheidt said the boats would have been perfect skimmers during the spill cleanup in the Gulf of Mexico.

Geokinetics officials were apparently pleased with what they saw during their trip, and Scheidt is optimistic that Allen will get more work from the company.

"We're pretty confident we'll be the boat builders," he said.

In February, Geokinetics purchased the onshore seismic data acquisition and multiclient data library business of PGS. The combination of the two companies makes Geokinetics the second largest provider of onshore seismic data acquisition services in the world in terms of crew count, and the largest based in the Western Hemisphere.

The acquisition, Geokinetics said, builds on its strengths in transition zone, ocean bottom cable and land vibroseis data acquisition and adds new operating areas including Alaska and Mexico, as well as certain new countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

—The Associated Press contributed to this article. Most of the information came from an article by Craig Giammona, published in the *Daily Sitka Sentinel*.



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Eni Nikaitchuq sealift 2010

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Photos clockwise from top: Midnight sunrise over the top of the first barge at Oliktok dock; shortening the heavy sea chain for the tow in shallow water; Scheuerle transporters being positioned to offload the module; aerial of the second barge's arrival on Aug. 14; and Crowley's tug, Avik, helping keep the barge, Marty J, in position.

Photos by
Judy Patrick

JIP publishes Arctic oil spill results

Research shows that cold and ice extends time window for responding; in-situ burning and dispersant use appear especially effective

By ALAN BAILEY
Petroleum News

The feasibility or otherwise of responding effectively to an oil spill in ice-infested waters has for several years been one of the core questions in the often contentious debate about whether or not oil and gas development should take place in the Arctic offshore.

And, working on the basis that knowledge and data are the keys to addressing Arctic oil spill concerns, a joint industry program coordinated by Norwegian research company SINTEF and begun in early 2006 has completed a series of research projects, establishing facts about the properties of spilled oil in icy water and the effectiveness of potential response techniques.

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Oil on water

The researchers were able to obtain permission from the Norwegian government to put actual crude oil into the sea in carefully controlled conditions, thus enabling the testing of oil behavior and cleanup effectiveness in ice conditions closely similar to those that might be encountered in an Arctic oil spill emergency. So, in addition to carrying out a variety of laboratory tests, the researchers were able to run some experiments in fjord ice at SINTEF's research facility at Svea in Svalbard, as well as carry out larger scale tests in sea ice in the Barents Sea.

The end results of the research include a dataset for the development of oil spill contingency plans; a web-based oil spill response guide for Arctic and ice-covered waters; and some new technologies for offshore Arctic cleanup.

And on March 14 in Anchorage, Alaska, members of the program team presented their findings to an audience of oil industry personnel, government officials and people from environmental organizations.

The Norwegian Research Council and oil companies Statoil, Shell, ConocoPhillips, Chevron, Agip KCO and Total sponsored the research, with numerous other entities contributing to the program, including the U.S. Minerals Management Service, Alaska Clean Seas, the Cordova-based Oil Spill Recovery Institute and the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Weathers slowly

A key finding from the research was that, although different types of crude oil would behave in different ways following an oil spill, in general oil breaks up and mixes with water much more slowly in Arctic conditions than would spilled oil in, say, temperate latitudes. At the same time, the presence of pack ice can provide a natural barrier to oil movement, thus acting as a system of natural booms that can prevent the oil from spreading over an excessively wide area.

The slow-weathering phenomenon, a consequence of relatively low water temperatures and low levels of wave action, would extend the time window during which some oil recovery techniques could be applied, thus giving responders more time to plan their ac-



A controlled burn of oil in ice conditions in the Barents Sea, using fire boom to corral the ice and oil, demonstrated the effective removal of almost all of the oil.

tions and move any necessary equipment to the response site. Weathering effects include the mixing of oil with seawater, the release of some oil components into the water column, and the general degradation of the oil.

A field test on one type of crude oil found that in heavy broken ice conditions the water content of the oil slowly grew to around 40 percent after more than three days on the water, while in open water the same crude attains a water content in excess of 70 percent within a just a few hours.

But the tests also showed wide variations in weathering rates, depending on the type of crude oil involved.

In-situ burning

The slow weathering of spilled oil in icy water would aid in the in-situ burning of oil, a technique thought to be particularly appropriate for oil spill response in the Arctic. Steve Potter, from oil spill consulting firm St. Ross Environmental Research and a member of the research team, told the Anchorage audience.

"For a lot of the spills that we might be concerned about in Arctic regions, we really think that in-situ burning is going to be a primary countermeasure," Potter said. "... It offers some significant advantages over mechanical containment and recovery in terms of the overall effectiveness of the technique, and also in terms of the logistics involved to mobilize an effective response."

And much work has already been done to determine the effectiveness of in-situ burning in Arctic conditions, Potter said.

As water mixes with oil during the weathering of the oil, the oil becomes increasingly difficult to burn. But field tests on one type of crude oil showed that although the degree of weathering did not markedly change the effectiveness of a burn once the burn had started, the time period during which it was feasible to ignite the oil increased from less than a day in open water to more than three days in the slow weathering environment of a 90 percent ice cover. However, the weathering characteristics specific to each particular oil are also critical in determining the time window for a burn, Potter said.

Thickness of the slick

The presence of sea ice also tends to limit the spreading of an oil slick on the water surface, thus increasing the slick thickness and re-

ducing evaporation rates, further extending the time period during which the oil can be ignited, Potter said.

“The key parameter for an effective burn is developing a good initial slick thickness,” he said.

In a test conducted in the Barents Sea, oil was ignited after weathering on the water for five days and the resulting burn proved 90 percent effective, he said.

To find a way of burning oil in situations where the sea-ice cover was insufficient to constrain the oil slick and maintain slick thickness, the research team tried the use of herding agents, chemicals that cause a slick to contract when added in small quantities.

In fact, by increasing the thickness and concentration of an oil slick, the use of chemical herders might prove beneficial in conjunction with other spill response techniques, such as the mechanical removal of the oil, Potter said.

Tests at Svalbard demonstrated that the application of a herding agent to oil that was spreading unconstrained near an ice floe enabled an estimated 90 percent of the oil to be burned from the water surface, with herders continuing to concentrate the oil while the burn progressed, Potter said.

Another technique for constraining and thickening an oil slick for burning is the use of fire boom, a special type of floating boom constructed from fire-proof material and sometimes water cooled. A fire-boom test involved towing a length of boom in a U configuration between two vessels, to gather some floating ice. About 1,000 gallons of oil was then discharged into the water around the gathered ice. A subsequent burn resulted in the removal of an estimated 98 percent of the oil, Potter said.

Dispersant application

The research team also found that the relatively slow weathering of oil in icy conditions expands the time window during which it would be possible to apply dispersant chemicals, as an alternative to removing or burning the oil.

Dispersants work somewhat like dish soap, enhancing the natural action of waves in the sea in breaking the oil into tiny droplets that drift into the upper 30 feet or so of the water column, with the size of the droplets making them especially susceptible to biological degradation, said SINTEF researcher Per Daling.

“The aim of using dispersant is to remove the spilled oil from the surface by transferring it and diluting it into the water column,” Daling said.

To tackle the issue of spraying dispersant onto oil in water around ice floes, the researchers successfully tested the use of maneuverable spray arms, deployed from a vessel and somewhat similar to the devices used to spray de-icing fluid onto aircraft wings. And, since in heavy ice conditions there is relatively little wave action to drive the dispersal of the oil, the testers used the prop wash or jet motors of response boats to agitate the water and hence thoroughly mix the water with the potion of oil and dispersant.

The result turned out to be a higher level of oil dispersion than would typically be achieved in open water using wave action rather than boat thrusters to break up the oil.

“The results from this JIP verified the potential for using dispersant in ice-covered areas and the results here form a good basis for further development of technology and also operational response strategies for using dispersants in high ice coverage,” Daling said.

Mechanical removal

The mechanical removal of oil from the water’s surface using devices known as skimmers is a very common oil spill response tech-

nique in open sea water. However, although the presence of sea ice could assist this technique by blocking oil movement and corralling the oil slick, the presence of ice in the water presents some significant challenges. In particular, the ice can obstruct or clog the skimmer mechanism.

People have evaluated skimmer designs for the segregation or deflection of ice during skimming operations. And conventional thinking, following a Canadian report in 1992, is that skimmers in which brushes lift oil from the water show the highest potential for successful use in sea-ice conditions, said Ivar Singaas, a member of the SINTEF research team. Skimmers that mop up oil using a form of absorbent rope are also effective in sea ice, he said.

For field testing in actual sea ice, the SINTEF researchers decided to try two existing skimmer models, each involving a brush skimmer design with rotating cylindrical drum brushes. Both skimmers proved quite effective in removing oil from ice-laden water, with one skimmer achieving higher recovery rates than the other. Overall skimming effectiveness is sensitive to the precise ice conditions and the type of oil being recovered, Singaas said.

The research team also tested an early prototype of a floating, self-propelled skimmer, designed to operate in undisturbed water at some distance from a support vessel. This skimmer showed good ice handling capabilities but is still under development.

“The mechanical recovery of oil spills in ice is possible,” Singaas said, in summarizing the research results. In the absence of small ice fragments or slush ice in the water, oil recovery rates may be similar to those achievable in open water, he said.

Oil detection

In addition to testing techniques for cleaning up spilled oil, the researchers in the SINTEF program tried the use of a wide variety of techniques to detect the oil that had been discharged into the environment for the testing. Oil detection will likely prove a critical component of any oil spill response in conditions where snow and ice are prevalent.

The team found that ground penetrating radar, using a small radar system slung below a helicopter, was particularly effective in locating oil trapped below ice and snow. Vessel-based marine radar systems would also appear to have some potential in detecting oil slicks in open drift ice.

Vessel-based, aircraft-based or hand-held infrared detection equipment seems to offer much promise for locating oil on water between ice floes, with infrared detection from aircraft overflying a spill area seeming to have the greatest potential.

However, trained dogs also proved remarkably adept at finding even quite small volumes of oil in snow and ice.

“The dogs proved very capable in being able to not only operate in pretty extreme conditions for quite a few days at a time, but also to really successfully define borders of oil spills and to actually pinpoint in many cases the boundaries of the hydrocarbon plume that they were smelling from a large distance,” said David Dickins of DF Dickins Associates.

The team also tested some satellite-based surveillance techniques, including synthetic aperture radar. These techniques would seem to have particular value in monitoring ice conditions, to provide information helpful in planning and managing a spill response project.

And a key lesson from the tests was that people need a variety of different oil detection techniques for use in a flexible way determined by the particular oil spill situation, Dickins said.

COMPANY NEWS *in brief*

UIC announces new chief financial officer

Ukpeavik Inupiat Corp. said Feb. 9 it has named Chris Morgan chief financial officer. UIC said Morgan has worked in accounting and finance in Alaska for more than 20 years, and has demonstrated expertise in financial reporting, external audit management, government contract compliance and board communication. His previous positions include vice president of finance for Harbor Enterprises, Alaska's largest independent petroleum marketing and distribution company; owner of A&F Solutions, a consulting company; and chief financial officer for Arctic Slope World Services, a subsidiary of Arctic Slope Regional Corp. UIC is the village corporation for Barrow, Alaska.



CHRIS MORGAN

With more than 1,500 employees, UIC is consistently ranked among the top 10 Alaskan-owned businesses by Alaska Business Monthly's annual Top 49ers. UIC provides services to clients in a range of industry sectors worldwide, including energy development, construction and engineering, marine operations and government contracting.

Crowley begins ocean class tug program

Crowley said Feb. 16 that it has signed a contract with Bollinger Shipyards to build two newly designed ocean-going tugboats, with options for additional vessels.

The 10,880-horsepower tugs are the beginning of a new-build program at Crowley to further enhance its ocean towing, salvage and offshore support capabilities. Crowley said the new tugs will be ideally suited to work with Crowley's new 455 series heavy lift deck barges, which measure 400 feet by 105 feet and offer increased stability for load up to 4,200 pounds per-square-foot.

Additionally, the tugs will be outfitted for, and capable of, rig moves, platform and floating production, storage and offloading unit tows, emergency response and firefighting.

The new tugs will be designated the Ocean Class, with the first two named Ocean Wave and Ocean Wind.

For more information visit www.crowley.com.



COURTESY CROWLEY

Rain for Rent's HH-150 superior fuel efficiency

Rain for Rent said Feb. 9 that its 6-inch HH-150 stainless steel Power Prime pump is specifically designed to produce high discharge heads for mining and dewatering projects. The company said that superior fuel efficiency enables this pump to move more gallons of water at a lower cost. The impellers and shaft are stainless steel for added durability in mine and quarry applications. The HH-150 can handle solids up to 1.5-inches in diameter, flow up to 2,250 GPM and head up to 320-feet.

Customers can combine this 6-inch pump with other Rain for Rent products for a complete system to solve their unique liquid-handling problems, the company said.

For over 75 years, and now through 60 locations, Rain for Rent has been providing turnkey liquid-handling solution with specialized pumps, tanks, pipe, filtration and automation.

For additional information, please visit www.rainforrent.com.



Schlumberger, Smith International agreement

Schlumberger said Feb. 21 that it and Smith International Inc. have unanimously, with its board of directors, approved a definitive merger agreement in which the companies combine in a stock-for-stock transaction. Under terms of the agreement, Smith shareholders will receive 0.6966 shares of Schlumberger in exchange for each Smith share. Based up on the undisturbed closing stock prices for both companies on Feb. 18, the agreement places a value of \$45.84 per Smith share, and represents a 37.5 percent premium. Upon closing, and reflecting the issuance of new Schlumberger shares, Smith stockholders collectively will own approximately 12.8 percent of Schlumberger's outstanding shares of common stock. Schlumberger expects to realize incremental pretax synergies, after integration costs, of approximately \$160 million in 2011 and \$320 million in 2012. Schlumberger expects the combination to be accretive to earnings per share in 2012. For more information visit www.slb.com.

Exxon makes 'Dream Tour' stop in Anchorage

ExxonMobil said Feb. 19 that former U.S. astronaut Bernard Harris will be giving students and teachers in Anchorage a first-hand experience with the wonders of science, technology, engineering and mathematics when "The Dream Tour, presented by ExxonMobil" makes its second stop of 2010 on March 3 at West Anchorage High School, speaking to 1,400 students from Begich, Central, Clark and Romig middle schools. The tour is



COURTESY EXXONMOBIL

designed to encourage today's middle school students to realize their potential and strive to acquire strong math and science skills. The program will include an interactive and inspirational program by Harris, a demonstration on space and engaging dialogue about achieving goals. "It is critical that American students are prepared with the problem-solving skills and tools to tackle challenges they may face in the future. Providing them with a strong foundation in math and science education is imperative,

and with The Dream Tour, I hope to inspire students to pursue studies and careers in these fields," said Dr. Harris. For more information visit www.daring2dream.org.

Carlile recognizes drivers for safety

Carlile Transportation said Feb. 22 that it recently recognized drivers for outstanding safety performance at its third annual driver safety awards banquets in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Tacoma. The newest members of the "million mile club," drivers who have logged more than 1 million safe driving miles without an incident, are: Dru Watson, Jack Jesse, Randy Eyth, Chuck Williams, John Slater, Troy Tennant, Leif Kjostad and Pete O'Neal. In Fairbanks, driver John Taylor was recognized for 3 million safe driving miles. They join 26 other members of Carlile's drivers with more than 1 million safe miles and represent more than 100 million safe driving miles from Alaska to Texas. In addition to the drivers, 83 employees from the yards, warehouses and shops were also recognized for 12 months of perfect safety performance. "Our goal is to be the best, safest transportation company in Alaska and throughout North America," said Harry McDonald, Carlile's CEO. "Safe highways start with safe drivers and we need to communicate our support for their performance and make sure the driving public knows that we have a team of safe drivers on the roads."

NMS recognized as a top minority-owned firm

NANA Management Services said Feb. 26 that it has once again been recognized as one of the top minority-owned businesses in the country. This is the second consecutive year that NMS has achieved this honor from Diversity Business.com in its annual "Top 500 Diversity Owned Businesses in the U.S." list. The award is based on the company's business performance, annual gross revenue and status as a minority-owned business. "NMS is honored to be counted as a top business in the country and the leading diversity owned business in Alaska," said Penny Cotton, vice president of marketing communications, NMS. "This award recognizes NMS' focused and continual efforts to attract and retain a diverse work force." DiversityBusiness.com provides its list of the top diversity-owned businesses as a resource of legitimate small businesses servicing the technology, manufacturing, food service and professional service sectors. The list is provided annually to large organizational buyers looking to do business with minority-owned companies.

Rain for Rent's HH-125c moves more water

Rain for Rent said Feb. 25 that its HH-125c 4-inch pump is specifically designed to produce high flow and high discharge head for various applications such as dewatering mines and quarries. The HH-125c also functions as a force main sewer bypass pump and handles solids to 3-inch diameter. Capable of flows to 1,525 GPM and 325-foot discharge head, this pump is ideal for high head applications. With superior hydraulic efficiency at 78 percent, this pump moves more water at a lower cost per gallon pumped. Mounted on a galvanized trailer or skid to protect against rust and corrosion, this equipment has a nearly mainte-



nance free surface. An electric motor driven option is also available. For more information visit www.rainforrent.com.

Exxon headquarters employees host students

ExxonMobil said Feb. 18 that more than 55 local girls participated in the company's annual "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day." The middle-school girls were given dowel sticks, index cards, marshmallows and rubber bands and challenged to build a catapult. The hope of the ExxonMobil employees at the company's headquarters in Irving, Texas, is that they will not only build a launcher, but also a desire to pursue a career in engineering. "Interest in math and science careers is not keeping pace with the need for engineers in the work force, and women are significantly underrepresented in related positions," said Truman Bell, senior program officer for ExxonMobil. "It's imperative that we capture young women's attention and curiosity when they are in middle school and show them the fun and excitement that a future in engineering can hold."

Exxon offers GPS gas station locator download

ExxonMobil said March 8 that it has introduced a new feature that will allow customers to download ExxonMobil service station locations to their GPS devices. This feature is downloadable from the ExxonMobil station locator Web site and is compatible with the leading consumer GPS devices, including Garmin, TomTom and Magellan. The site features easy to follow instructions along with a video tutorial. "This GPS download feature provides a fast and convenient way for our customers to locate Exxon and Mobil stations," said Ben Soraci, director, U.S. Retail Sales. Last spring ExxonMobil revamped its Web site to include Google mapping technology. For the first time ExxonMobil customers were able to produce turn-by-turn driving directions to Exxon and Mobil stations, as well as a range of useful consumer services such as repair shops, convenience stores and ATM locations. For more information visit www.exxonmobil.com.

Stoel Rives welcomes Tucker to Anchorage office

Stoel Rives LLP said March 3 that it was pleased to announce that S. Lane Tucker has joined as a partner in the firm's Anchorage office. Tucker will focus her practice on government contracting and construction law matters, including Contract Disputes Act, False Claims Act and bid protest litigation, dispute resolution, audit and compliance issues, and internal investigations. Tucker has more than 20 years of experience in federal government contracts, construction, white collar and health care litigation. She has handled to resolution hundreds of contract claims, bid protests and fraud investigations on a wide variety of matters and has extensive experience in construction disputes. For more information visit www.stoelrives.com



LANE TUCKER

Crowley doubles warehouse space in Florida

Crowley Maritime Corp. said March 4 that it has moved to a new 70,000-square-foot warehouse at JAXPORT's Dames Point location, minutes from the company's headquarters. With this

move, the company has doubled its north Florida warehouse space. This new location, at 3700 Port Jacksonville Parkway, has 20 dock doors, 30-foot clear-height ceilings and a 160-foot truck court that can be expanded to 200 feet. The U.S. Customs bonded warehouse is very close to the city's new TracPac container terminal and will allow Crowley to provide warehousing and distribution services to those shippers involved in the Asia trade. As the Panama Canal is expanded, volumes of freight coming to Jacksonville from Asia could potentially increase volumes to the warehouse and allow the logistics group to increase its breadth of service offerings. For more information visit www.crowley.com.

Hawk achieves 1 million hours worked safely

Hawk Consultants LLC said March 10 that it hit a milestone achievement of 1 million hours worked without injuries or lost-time accidents.

Hawk has worked in the Alaska oil patch since 1985 and has never had a lost-time accident. This achievement is a tribute to the quality and dedication of its employees. Working safely is an individual responsibility that is fostered and supported by the Hawk management team and its clients. The Hawk team strives to help each other get home safely each night.

Hawk is an Alaska-owned firm specializing in project management services supporting client organizations with people and resources to deliver projects safely, on time, on budget and without adverse environmental impact. For more information visit www.hawkpros.com.

NAC renews Red Dog Mine agreement with Teck

Northern Air Cargo said March 8 that it has renewed its agreement with Teck Alaska Inc. to provide air freight service to the Red Dog Mine. NAC has been providing this service to the mine for many years and will continue to provide vital support to the mine site.

The Red Dog Mine in northwest Alaska's NANA Region is inaccessible by road, so air freight plays a vital role in the mine's operation. "The mine is an important economic and employment engine in the region and we appreciate being able to be part of that," said David Carp, CEO and president of NAC. NAC will operate at least one scheduled flight per week directly from Anchorage to the Red Dog Mine with a Boeing 737-200 all cargo aircraft.

Northern Air Cargo is Alaska's largest all cargo airline offering scheduled and charter services throughout Alaska, the Lower 48 and North America.

Chamber recognizes women in business

Linda Leary, president of Carlile Transportation, Laurie Fagnani, president and owner of MSI Communications, Cindy Curtis, TOTE community relations, Hélène Elizabeth Harding, ConocoPhillips Alaska acting president and vice president of North Slope operations and development, Margaret Nelson, Calista senior vice president of corporate development, and Mary Patricia Quin, president of NANA Management Services LLC are among 14 women chosen by the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce to be inducted into the Anchorage ATHENA Society for 2010.

The women will be recognized for their professional excel-

lence, commitment to the community, and encouragement of the leadership potential of women during the Anchorage ATHENA Society luncheon, which will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. on April 5 at the Dena'ina Center.

Reservations are required and available online at www.anchoragechamber.org or by calling 907-272-2401.

ATHENA International is an organization dedicated to encouraging the potential of women as valued members and leaders of the business community. There are more than 200 members in the Anchorage chapter.

Schuerch named UIC's new in-house counsel

Ukpea vik Iñupiat Corp. said March 16 that it has named Tim Schuerch its in-house counsel. Schuerch will serve as the corporation's in-house attorney on a broad range of legal and regulatory matters. Schuerch earned his Juris Doctor from Southern Methodist University in 1998. He has worked in Alaska for Native corporations and tribal health organizations for more than 12 years, with previous positions as president and CEO of Kikiktagruk Iñupiat Corp. of Kotzebue; policy analyst for the Alaska Native Health Board; and general counsel for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.



TIM SCHUERCH

UIC is the village corporation for Barrow, Alaska. With more than 1,900 employees, UIC is consistently ranked among the top 10 Alaska-owned businesses by Alaska Business Monthly's annual Top 49ers. UIC provides services to clients in a range of industry sectors worldwide, including energy development, construction and engineering, marine operations, and government contracting.

Doyon board members elected at meeting

Doyon Ltd said March 19 that at the annual meeting of shareholders four individuals were selected to Doyon's 13-member board of directors. Elected were Miranda Wright, Teisha Simmons, Cheryl Northway-Silas and Josephine Malemute. Each seat is for a three-year term, ending in 2013. The newly elected board members join existing board members Gerald "Jerry" Carroll, Andrew Jimmie, Georgianna Lincoln, Victor Nicholas, Orie G. Williams, Walter "Willy" Carlo, Jennifer Fate, Michael R. Fleagle and Christopher Simon. All board members are Doyon shareholders. Following the annual meeting, the board met and elected officers. Elected as chair was Orie G. Williams; vice chair, Victor Nicholas; secretary, Michael R. Fleagle and treasurer, Miranda Wright. In addition to the board election, shareholders at the annual meeting also heard reports from the current board and management on Doyon's FY 2009 performance, current initiatives and corporate goals.

Sprague new marketing VP for Alaska Airlines

Alaska Airlines said March 19 that it will be realigning its marketing, sales and online commerce groups. Joe Sprague, a 10-year veteran at Alaska Airlines, has been named vice president of marketing. Sprague will be responsible for the carrier's overall marketing strategy as he oversees marketing communications, sales, reservations, food and beverage, customer care, the

Mileage Plan frequent flier program and Board Rooms. He will also retain responsibility for Alaska Air Cargo, a division he has led for the past two years. Sprague began his aviation career as a customer service agent at a commuter airline in Juneau, Alaska, and flew as a commercial pilot in the state. He joined Alaska Airlines in 2000 as a regional sales director, served as managing director of government affairs in Washington, D.C., and led the public affairs and in-flight divisions before moving to cargo.



JOE SPRAGUE

Railroad board lauds Gamble on selection

The Alaska Railroad Corp. said March 17 that on behalf of the Board of Directors, ARRC Board Chairman John Binkley congratulated President and CEO Patrick Gamble on his selection as the new University of Alaska president. "He is deserving of the trust that the university regents have placed in Pat's leadership, management and familiarity with Alaskan issues," said Binkley. "The Alaska Railroad has benefitted from Pat's executive experience and superb leadership. His guidance has been integral to the railroad's steady growth and success. He continued the momentum on an aggressive capital program, and in fact oversaw the railroad's first sale of revenue bonds as a means to accelerate infrastructure improvements," said Binkley. "We would like to thank Pat Gamble for nine years of service," said Binkley. "Pat will undoubtedly be an equally excellent asset to the university. We wish him well in his new position as he continues to serve the people of Alaska."



PATRICK GAMBLE

NAC signs maintenance agreement with OAI

Northern Air Cargo said March 29 that it recently signed an agreement with Omni Air International to provide maintenance for its aircraft at the Ted Stevens International Airport in Anchorage, Alaska. NAC will provide certified aircraft maintenance personnel and resources as well as ground services equipment and deicing services on an as-needed basis. "Anchorage is a prime stop for many trans-oceanic flights and we are very excited to be able to expand the services we provide to other carriers," said NAC spokeswoman Margot Wiegele. Northern Air Cargo is Alaska's largest all cargo airline offering scheduled and charter services throughout Alaska, the Lower 48 and North America.

Global Diving & Salvage opens new office

Global Diving & Salvage Inc. said March 30 that it is expanding operations in the San Francisco Bay area by opening an office in Richmond, Calif., to augment its existing Rio Vista office. The Richmond office will expand Global's existing diving services and offer additional environmental and waterfront services which include ship husbandry, preventative booming and fendering operations. The new location will shorten the response time for diving, ROV and salvage services by having personnel and equipment located in the Bay area. Kyle Watson, operations

manager, will be working hand in hand with Kevin Pehle, Global's Rio Vista office general manager, to ensure that the company's standard of excellence in performance, safety and customer service is delivered above expectations to existing clients throughout the California region. "We are excited about the opportunity to further serve our clients needs in the Bay Area, and to continue to provide safe, efficient marine services in Northern California," said Devon Grennan, president of Global Diving & Salvage, Inc. For more information visit www.gdiving.com.

Crowley names LaMoureaux VP of internal audit

Crowley Maritime Corp. said March 22 that to provide even greater emphasis on ethics and compliance within the company, it has promoted Arthur LaMoureaux to vice president of internal audit, ethics and compliance. He will remain domiciled in Jacksonville and report directly to Vice Chairman and Executive President Bill Pennella. "Given the size, scope and diversity of Crowley, we believe it is of the utmost importance to sharpen our focus even further on ethics and compliance," said Tom Crowley, chairman, president and CEO. "Arthur will be helping us expand our code of conduct, more clearly establish our confidential reporting structure, and coordinate even more training, education and communication on ethics and compliance." In addition to his internal audit responsibilities, LaMoureaux will be monitoring and reporting on the company's compliance and ethics program, providing guidance for the board of directors and senior management team, and working with the legal department on policies and procedures.



ARTHUR LAMOUREAUX

Opti celebrates 10 years of recruiting success

Opti Staffing Group said March 17 that it is celebrating its 10 year anniversary. Opti was founded 10 years ago by Mike Houston, VP sales and marketing; Avonly Lokan, president; and Ron Hansen, VP of operations, three individuals who saw a need for a different business model within the staffing and recruitment services sector. With six locations in four states, Opti provides a superior option to its customers and candidates alike, seeking to attract the best talent and fit for their organizations, and individuals who wish to advance their careers. Focusing on the staffing and recruitment of employees across a wide array of industries, Opti regularly assists candidates and companies in the areas of engineering, accounting and finance, sales and marketing, operations management and assistance, and skilled trades. For more information visit www.optistaffing.com.



COURTESY OPTISTAFFING

Exxon cardholder's sweepstakes opportunity

ExxonMobil said March 31 that Exxon and Mobil retailers and Citi are giving cardholders the chance to win a 2010 smart fortwo coupe each week through the ExxonMobil personal card "Win a smart fortwo Sweepstakes". From April 1 through June 30, a new winner will be drawn every week. In addition to the weekly car giveaways, consumers will also have the chance to win one of thousands of ExxonMobil gift cards during the three-month promotion. To enter, cardholders simply make a purchase with an ExxonMobil personal card at any participating Exxon or Mobil station. Each purchase qualifies as one entry. If customers don't have a card, they can enter by applying for a new account at sweepstakes.exxonmobilcard.com or calling 866-379-1010.

Schlumberger acquires Geoservices from Astorg

Schlumberger said March 24 that it has acquired Geoservices, a privately owned French oilfield services company specializing in mud logging, slickline and production surveillance operations. The total value of the transaction, including debt, is \$1,070 million. Geoservices, founded in 1958, employs approximately 5,000 people and is active in more than 50 countries worldwide. The company is the leading mud logging company, and has invested heavily in the development of new technology for exploration and appraisal well activities, particularly in the emerging deepwater market. "The addition of mud logging technology to the Schlumberger portfolio is an important step in the development of higher-performance drilling systems," said Andrew Gould, chairman and CEO, Schlumberger Ltd. "The combination of Schlumberger real-time downhole formation sampling measurements with Geoservices' drilling mud analysis will help customers better identify and react to drilling hazards, while the combination of mud logging with Schlumberger formation evaluation measurements will bring more complete understanding of rock lithology and fluid content."

Crowley notes passing of Molly Murphy Crowley

Crowley Maritime Corp. said March 24 that board member Molly Murphy Crowley died March 21 surrounded by her family at her Indian Wells, Calif., vacation home. Born Nov. 27, 1938, in Portland, Crowley was a past Portland, Ore., real estate mogul, philanthropist and competitive amateur golfer. She met her late husband, Thomas Crowley Sr., chairman, president and CEO of Crowley Maritime Corp., on a ski vacation in Switzerland. The two claimed it was love at first sight and they were married for many years prior to his death in 1994. She was a long time member of Crowley's board of directors and oversaw the growth of the 118-year old maritime and logistics services company into a nearly \$2 billion a year powerhouse. Her stepson, Tom Crowley Jr., is the chairman, president and CEO today.



MOLLY MURPHY CROWLEY

Rain for Rent Hoseguard for spill containment

Rain for Rent said March 30 that its latest innovation in pipe

and hose spill containment, the Hoseguard, is available to rent in 2-foot widths and in 10- and 20-foot lengths. The Hoseguard can be assembled to achieve any desired length or configuration, with custom widths available.

When used in conjunction with Rain for Rent's patented Spillguards and Hose Bridges, Hoseguards provide a total containment system that can be used with various applications including acids, caustics, and hydrocarbons. These spill containment systems can be used in refineries, power generation plants, oil fields, and environmentally sensitive worksites. Contact Rain for Rent for sales and rental enquiries at 800-742-7246 or visit www.rainforrent.com.



COURTESY RAIN FOR RENT

PCT completes extreme lifting project for BP

Peak Civil Technologies, a division of Peak Oilfield Service Co., said April 9 that it recently completed a concrete floor lift using structural polyurethane. This in itself is not news, since the process has been in use on Alaska's North Slope since 2002. However, lifting 5-foot thick concrete which has settled and bringing it back to level with this process had previously never been done. BP authorized PCT to re-level their Vibration Shop floor for work to begin in February 2010. The concrete floor to be lifted was a nominal 8 inches, yet had a crane pedestal which was designed to a thickness of 5-foot reinforced concrete. Complicating matters further, a 20-ton crane sat on the pedestal adding extreme weight to the lift. Having lifted concrete exceeding 3 feet in thickness in the past, the PCT crew was confident the lift and realignment would be successful. The hardest part was drilling through the 5-foot-thick monolith without hitting reinforcement steel. PCT provides floor and foundation re-leveling work throughout Alaska, along with other unique civil applications. For more information visit www.peakalaska.com.

UIC names Garbowicz as new director of quality

Ukpeavik Iñupiat Corp. said April 6 that Monique Garbowicz, PE, PMP, has been named its director of quality. Garbowicz will oversee the technical quality of all work products as well as lead the development and implementation of quality management tools, controls and processes for UIC. Garbowicz is a professional civil engineer and certified project management professional who has worked in Alaska for more than 11 years. Her previous positions include principal consultant for UMIAQ, a UIC subsidiary; program manager for ASRC Energy Services; and civil engineering manager for Arctic Slope Consulting Group. 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 indus-



MONIQUE GARBOWICZ

try sectors worldwide, including energy development, construction and engineering, marine operations, and government contracting.

ASRC Energy Services wins safety award

ASRC Energy Services said April 6 that its 624, 625 and 630 Operations Groups in Kuparuk received the 2010 Governor's Safety Award. The award is based on AES's performance and excellence in safety and health systems and corporate citizenship. In presenting the award, Alaska Department of Labor Commissioner Click Bishop stated that AES "has a high level of management commitment and employee involvement in the safety process." He also noted that AES has excellent hazard analysis and hazard reduction systems for managing safety in the North Slope environment. The annual Governor's Safety Health and Safety conference was held on March 23-25 at the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage. The AES HSET management group accepted the award on behalf of the operations groups. For more information visit www.asrc.com.



COURTESY ASRC ENERGY SERVICES

ExxonMobil grant boosts female engineers

ExxonMobil Foundation said April 16 that it contributed a \$1 million grant to Spellman College to provide scholarships to black women pursuing technology-related degrees. The Women in Science and Engineering Scholars program is the second contribution from the company to help facilitate the recruitment, retention and graduation of black females pursuing degrees in chemistry, physics, mathematics and computer science. "ExxonMobil has had a long-term commitment to science and mathematics education and supports educational initiatives to encourage the next generation of engineering scholars," said Gerald McElvy, president, ExxonMobil Foundation. "As our country continues to diversify and grow, our goal is to promote awareness of the many opportunities for those who hold engineering degrees and to provide the skills needed for students to be successful, especially for the underrepresented sector of women engineering professionals." Six students pursuing a major in one of the targeted physical science or mathematics disciplines will be selected annually as ExxonMobil Scholars. For more information visit www.exxonmobil.com.

UMIAQ names new community relations specialist

UMIAQ, a member of the Ukpeagvik Iñupiat Corp., said April 14 that Arlene Thomas has been named community relations specialist. Thomas has more than 11 years of community and infrastructure planning experience. She travels frequently to the North Slope to interface with community leaders and residents, introducing clients and their projects. Her former role as community planner for the North Slope Borough gives her a strong foundation and deep knowledge of issues as they pertain to local and regional government and oil and gas development in

Arctic Alaska. The UIC family of companies plays a key role in advancing resource development projects, specializing in regulatory planning, stakeholder relations, development engineering, response planning and operations, geospatial analysis, civil construction, logistics and full-service camps. UMIAQ offers a distinct advantage to its clients through its staff members' local knowledge and understanding of the political, cultural, land use, regulatory, and environmental conditions unique to the arctic and subarctic.



ARLENE THOMAS

Johnson wins both Iditarod awards from NAC

Northern Air Cargo said March 30 that for the first time ever, one musher won both prizes awarded at the Iditarod Musher Banquet in Nome. William "Middy" Johnson went home to Unalakleet with both awards. The Northern Air Cargo Herbie Nayokpuk Memorial Award is determined every year by the race checkers along the coast from Unalakleet to Nome, the area comprising Nayokpuk's Bering Straits Native Corp., and is awarded to



COURTESY NORTHERN AIR CARGO

the musher who most exemplifies the spirit that Nayokpuk brought to dog mushing and to the Iditarod. The checkers overwhelmingly chose Johnson for that honor this year. Johnson received a baleen trophy, a coat, and \$1,049. The NAC 4-Wheel Deal is a random drawing in which each musher who finishes the Iditarod has a chance to win a new Arctic Cat ATV provided by NAC and Eagle River Polaris Arctic Cat. Johnson was also the lucky musher to pull the winning key and NAC is shipping his new 4-wheeler from Nome to Unalakleet. NAC is a proud to continue as a major sponsor of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Schlumberger acquires GeothermEx

Schlumberger said April 27 that it has acquired GeothermEx Inc., a California-based global provider of expert geothermal consulting services. The acquired team operates as an integrated part of Schlumberger Geothermal Services, covering the full spectrum of resource exploration, development and production services. "Schlumberger has been providing technologies and services to the geothermal industry for many years," said Sanjaya Sood, vice president, Schlumberger Geothermal Services. "With the addition of GeothermEx our team is better equipped to offer innovative techniques to efficiently develop geothermal projects worldwide." Established in 1973, GeothermEx has developed numerous pioneering techniques for optimizing geothermal resources. Servicing hundreds of geothermal projects in more than 50 countries, GeothermEx specializes in geosciences, drilling, engineering, project development, reservoir management and economic analysis. Schlumberger is the world's leading supplier of technology, integrated project management and

information solutions to customers working in the oil and gas industry worldwide.

Middle school students become 'Energy Einsteins'

Alaska Resource Education, formerly AMEREE, said April 27 that 25 Central Middle School of Science students became the first "Energy Einstein's." Alaska Resource Education, in partnership with the Petroleum Club of Alaska, Baker Hughes and Shell Exploration and Production, presented the day-long Student Energy Education Day, exploring the fundamentals of energy by using Alaska Resource Education's standards-based K-12 curriculum.

Among the topics covered during this first "Energy Einstein's" program, students learned about the fundamentals of oil and gas production through presentations by Shell and Baker Hughes, including hands-on activities with drill bits, drilling muds and other components of the drilling process. They also learned about various career possibilities in the energy sector with an interview panel, and explored what middle and high school subjects are necessary to take advantage of those possibilities. The program will continue to grow during the 2011 school year with other sponsors and energy topics. Alaska Resource Education is a nonprofit organization in partnership with the State of Alaska Department of Education and private industry dedicated to ensuring Alaska's school age children learn about the role resources play in Alaska.

UMIAQ names Renk senior project manager

UMIAQ, a member of the Ukpeagvik Iñupiat Corp. said April 14 that Russell Renk, Ph.D., P.E., has been named senior project manager. Renk has a broad multidisciplinary background and more than 20 years of experience in construction, permitting, wastewater treatment and environmental remediation. He has worked with local, state, and federal entities to meet NEPA and other environmental and construction requirements. Throughout his career, he has worked with companies worldwide to develop energy resources including, coal, oil, oil sands, natural gas and geothermal reserves. Renk has published more than 30 reports and articles in civil and environmental engineering and holds two patents in the area of wastewater treatment. The UIC family of companies plays a key role in advancing resource development projects, specializing in regulatory planning, stakeholder relations, development engineering, response planning and operations, geospatial analysis, civil construction, and logistics and full-service camps. UMIAQ offers a distinct advantage to its clients through its staff members' local knowledge and understanding of the political, cultural, land use, regulatory, and environmental conditions unique to the arctic and subarctic.



RUSSELL RENK

Schlumberger introduces mobile ClearPhase

Schlumberger said May 3 that it has released its ClearPhase mobile testing discharge treatment. This new system, designed specifically for well testing, provides onsite discharge treatment and real-time monitoring with an auditable record of output

quality. "ClearPhase recovers residual oil to reduce oil-in-water concentration to less than 20 ppm and helps our clients get more out of their well test," said Shehryar Lodhi, marketing manager, Schlumberger Testing Services. "This unique treatment service gives operators the freedom to test in environmentally sensitive areas." ClearPhase handles water flow rates to 5,000 barrels per day, is rated for H₂S service and is qualified to 212 degrees F and 150 psi. For added safety, the self-contained pressurized system does not require gas venting while testing. If necessary, fluids can be redirected back into the system to meet the most stringent compliance requirements. For more information visit www.slb.com/ClearPhase.

ExxonMobil and employees donate \$36 million

ExxonMobil said April 22 that along with its employees it has made donations of more than \$36 million to a total of 911 educational institutions across the U.S. through the ExxonMobil Foundation's 2009 Educational Matching Gift Program. The ExxonMobil employees, retirees, surviving spouses and directors made more than 8,300 individual contributions totaling \$11 million to institutions of higher education across the U.S. The ExxonMobil Foundation matched those donations with more than \$25 million in unrestricted educational grants. The ExxonMobil Educational Matching Gift Program is one of the most generous of its kind in the U.S., matching donations made to affiliated higher education institutions by employees and retirees on a 3-to-1 basis, providing more than \$423 million since the program's inception in 1962. Individual donors may pledge up to \$7,500 per year to colleges or universities with which they are affiliated or to the American Indian College Fund, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and the United Negro College Fund. For more information visit www.exxonmobil.com/community.

TA Structures offers houseboat vacation

TA Structures, a division of Twin Anchors Marine and Twin Anchors Houseboat Vacations, said April 29 that it will be offering a free houseboat vacation to anyone purchasing a custom worksite accommodation. A free houseboat vacation is the new incentive to companies who require camps, dorms, kitchens, offices and well sites. TA provides an extensive list of amenities, practical working office and stylish living areas complete with all the comforts of home. TA is a true custom builder with no minimum orders required that delivers outstanding accommodation and exceptional value. Twin Anchors Houseboat Vacations has been providing memorable vacations on the beautiful Shuswap Lakes since 1977. The luxurious houseboats sleep 15 to 24 persons with all the comforts of home including a hot-tub Jacuzzi on the upper deck, private staterooms with flat screen televisions and spacious fully equipped kitchen galley to entertain. For more information visit www.tastructures.com.



COURTESY TA STRUCTURES

Crowley celebrates \$8.5M office renovation

Crowley Maritime Corp. said May 4 that corporation Chairman, President and CEO Tom Crowley along with elected area officials and business leaders gathered at the company's corporate headquarters in Jacksonville, Fla., to commemorate the completion of Crowley's office building renovation project as well as its United States Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver Award Designation.



COURTESY CROWLEY

The Crowley building is only the second building in Jacksonville to attain the LEED Silver award for commercial interiors. With a total renovation and construction budget of \$8.5 million, Crowley's goal was to convert the five-story, 110,000 square-foot office building into an open office environment that would promote environmental sustainability, enhance teamwork and collaboration and reflect the company's brand and culture. "We are very proud of our headquarters here in Jacksonville," Crowley said.

NMS in Juneau receives safety, health award

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development said May 6 that NMS has been approved in Juneau for the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program award as a result of outstanding employee safety and health programs. "As a company, we believe that safety is a journey, not a destination," said Mark Jimmerson, area manager of NMS. "We must continually find ways to advance our safety culture and always continue to make safety a priority." SHARP is a federal recognition program, administered by the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health section of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Standards of Safety Division. According to the press release, companies that partner with AKOSH and achieve SHARP status are likely to experience fewer workplace accidents and reduce workers' compensation insurance costs.

Teeter to head engineering group at AES

ASRC Energy Services said May 4 it is pleased to announce further growth to its engineering and construction division by welcoming industry expert Steve Teeter, P.E., MBA. Teeter will serve as the technical authority for the mechanical engineering group. He is a registered professional engineer with more than 34 years of design and engineering experience, which includes nine years on the Gulf Coast and 25 years working on projects and studies associated with North Slope oil fields. Teeter is highly experienced in applying ASME, API and other industry standards to a wide array of projects and performed numerous



STEVE TEETER

studies, stress analyses and specification-related efforts throughout his career. He was responsible for decisions, recommendations and designs encompassing major aspects of piping and mechanical equipment at all BP Exploration (Alaska) North Slope facilities when he worked for BP. Before joining AES, Teeter worked for NANA WorleyParsons. He has held various positions in the chemical and oil and gas industries encompassing areas such as design, maintenance and facility engineering and project management.

Schlumberger launches SeaConnect mini-VSAT

Schlumberger said May 13 that it has launched its revolutionary SeaConnect* VSAT service for the offshore industry. The new service is a world first, providing high-performance VSAT services using an innovative portable marine 60-cm C-band antenna and related technologies.

"With its high portability, mobility and small footprint, the SeaConnect service will enable connectivity to any type of offshore vessel or to any service company on a rig," said Paul Khayat, marketing manager, Schlumberger Global Connectivity Services. "This unique service has been engineered to meet the industry's needs while providing vessel owners and service companies freedom to have their own secure communications systems." SeaConnect is a high performance, dedicated and secure VSAT offering based on a fixed-fee unlimited data access. Schlumberger has successfully trailed the SeaConnect service for the last six months on a number of vessels operating in South East Asia. It is available now in South East Asia, and will expand to South Asia, Africa, and Latin America in the coming months. For more information visit www.slb.com.

Nalco has significant role in Gulf oil spill cleanup

As reported May 12 by the University of Delaware's online news source UDaily, Erik Frywald, who earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering at the University of Delaware in 1981, is chairman and CEO of Nalco, a company that is playing a significant role in the cleanup of the oil spill off the coast of Louisiana. On May 10 Nalco confirmed that the company is providing oil dispersants and support to BP and the responders dealing with the spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Frywald explained the technology in layman's terms as "a dispersant that breaks down oil into small enough particles that it becomes nutrition for the naturally occurring bacteria in the water." The technology was initially approved for application to the water's surface, but the product, a combination of surfactants and solvents, is now being tested for use directly on the wellhead. "That method has demonstrated to be effective, and we're waiting for approval on it," Frywald said. Given the magnitude of the problem in the Gulf, Nalco is rapidly ramping up production.

Crowley awards scholarships to four students

Crowley Maritime Corp. said May 17 that four students from very diverse backgrounds each got a chance to attend the Maritime Studies Program of Williams College of Mystic Seaport, thanks in part to Thomas B. Crowley Sr. scholarships.

The scholarships were awarded to Virginia Steiner, Morgan Wilson, Hannah Holland and Caroline Crowell during the 2009-2010 academic year. In the fall of 2009, Crowley expanded the



scholarship program with the Maritime Studies Program of Williams College and Mystic Seaport, increasing its donation from \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year for deserving and need-based students in the program. This has allowed four students, two in the fall and two in the spring semester, to take part in the program, instead of one student per semester. Over the years, Crowley Chairman, President and CEO, Tom Crowley Jr., has continued to give scholarships dollars to deserving students at the maritime academies and other select institutions in the U.S., Alaska and Puerto Rico in the name of his father Thomas B. Crowley Sr., who guided the company to extraordinary heights before passing away in 1994.

Since 1984, Crowley has provided more than half-a-million dollars in scholarship funding for approximately 190 students studying at maritime academies and other select institutions. The company has also donated more than \$2 million over the years to support other educational programs.

Schlumberger releases new Petrel software

Schlumberger said May 18 that it has released its Petrel 2010 software, which offers powerful new capabilities providing more comprehensive risk analysis for exploration workflows. "Until now, most of the effort in exploration workflows has focused on assessing trap and reservoir. This latest release of Petrel will enable our clients to improve their exploration success by providing tools to systematically analyze their risk associated with trap, reservoir, charge and seal," said Tony Bowman, president, Schlumberger Information Solutions. To more effectively define trap, Petrel 2010 adds the modeling-while-interpreting functionality to automatically create a structural framework while interpreting. This capability allows geoscientists to rapidly test structural uncertainty and pass a high integrity structural framework directly into the modeling realm. With Petrel 2010 the knowledge of the interpreter is preserved in modeling workflows, and interpreters and modelers can easily iterate to refine velocity and property models. Additional capabilities enabling improved reservoir characterization include enhanced geobody capabilities facilitating better definition of reservoir bodies, and enhanced seismic attribute analysis to better understand lithologies and fracture characterization. For more information visit www.slb.com

Air Liquide holds customer appreciation event

Air Liquide said May 24 that its annual spring welding and customer appreciation event at the Anchorage store at 6415 Arctic Blvd May 13 was a great success. The day long BBQ gave customers an opportunity to visit with factory representatives from Lincoln Electric, Miller Electric, Thermadyne, Stody, H & M, Jackson, Jancy, Norton Abrasives, ColdJet and 3M. Attendees were shown the latest in welding gear and equipment, as well as application and design improvements in filler metals and gases, and received information about oxygen and welding safety.

Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment. The company offers innovative solutions based on constantly enhanced technologies and produces air gases oxygen, nitrogen, argon, and rare gases, along with many other gases including hydrogen.



SUSAN CRANE

Crowley lauded for environmental stewardship

Crowley Maritime Corp. said May 21 that it has been recognized for its environmental stewardship by the Port of Seattle and the Seattle Propeller Club, which teamed to present the company with its runner up award for the Marine Environmental Business of the Year. The award ceremony took place at the 59th Annual Maritime Festival Luncheon aboard the cruise ship Carnival Spirit in Seattle.

The event, attended by more than 500 people from the regional maritime industry, marked the culmination of Seattle's annual Maritime Festival. "We are honored to receive this recognition for our past and ongoing environmental stewardship efforts. From our many vessel emission reduction projects to our recycling and green initiatives shore side, the effort to improve the environment is truly a Crowley companywide endeavor," said Scott Hogarth, Crowley general manager, ship and escort services.

Crowley's long history of environmental protection and stewardship includes the publication of a Crowley Safety in Towing Handbook in 1970, approximately 20 years before the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, which contains operational procedures to prevent spills that many years later became law.



COURTESY CROWLEY

Schlumberger launches new Ocean Store website

Schlumberger said May 19 that it has launched the Ocean Store, a website where users can browse, buy and download Petrel software plug-ins to extend their workflows. The plug-ins are developed by a diverse ecosystem of software companies and universities. "In the oil and gas industry today, with more complex reservoirs and intense competition for reserves, oil and gas companies have to differentiate like never before," said Tony Bowman, president, Schlumberger Information Systems. "The Ocean platform allows developers to rapidly innovate to solve these tough challenges, enabling oil and gas companies to deploy and use new technologies much faster. The store provides access to a growing set of capabilities that extend the already broad Petrel platform." For more information visit www.slb.com.

ExxonMobil, employees donate \$100K to fund

ExxonMobil said May 21 that it has donated more than

\$100,000 in support of the American Indian College Fund. The donation extends ExxonMobil's partnership with the fund dating back to 1988 and will provide scholarships, sponsorship and administrative support to the organization. Part of the grant will be used to continue the ExxonMobil Foundation Tribal College Scholarship Program, which offers funds for Native American students studying science, technology, engineering and math at tribal colleges. Another portion is provided through the ExxonMobil Educational Matching Gift Program, one of the most generous of its kind in the U.S. Through this program, ExxonMobil matches 3:1 the contributions of company employees, retirees, surviving spouses and directors.

For 20 years, ExxonMobil Tribal College Scholarship Program has provided financial assistance to American Indian students pursuing advanced degrees. Since 2003, ExxonMobil has assisted almost 250 American Indian students from more than 45 tribes in reaching their highest education goals. For more information visit www.exxonmobil.com.

ASRC Energy Services named a top design firm

ASRC Energy Services said that its engineering group has been ranked No. 175 on the 2009 Engineering News-Record Top 500 Design Firms list, bucking an industry-wide recession in the process with revenue growth of 10 percent. AES had total 2009 engineering revenue of \$62.1 million according to the list, making it one of only three Alaska companies to crack the top 200. That figure includes international revenue from AES Tri Ocean Engineering Ltd. "What we've done is matured as an organization," said Darcee Adam, engineering general manager, AES. "As we've matured we've grown and that's allowed us to build the confidence of our clients, build relationships, and that in turn lead to more work." The engineering group at AES has grown from a seven-person outfit in 2003 into a 200-plus-person operation in 2010. Acquired in 1985 by Arctic Slope Regional Corp., AES is a wholly owned subsidiary of Alaska's largest Native corporation, which is also one of the largest minority-owned businesses in the U.S.

Crowley, Gunderson Marine make \$10K donation

Crowley Maritime Corp said that it, along with Gunderson Marine, recently made a \$10,000 joint donation to the First Alaskans Institute to further advance education and cultural enrichment for Alaska Natives. Crowley Vice President Craig Tornga presented Willie Hensley, a noted author, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the First Alaskans Foundation and former manager of Federal Government Relations for Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., along with First Alaskans CEO Janie Leask, a Haida-Tsimshian and member of the Tsimshian Eagle Clan, with the check at a dinner commemorating the christening of Crowley's newest heavy-lift series barge in Portland, Ore. Gunderson, which built the barge, and Crowley, which owns the new vessel, decided that in lieu of gifts to each other for the successful completion of this project, they would instead donate the money to a deserving organization. Tornga said First Alaskans Institute was chosen because of their commitment to the Native Alaskan community. First Alaskans Institute helps Alaska Native people and their communities meet the social, economic and educational challenges of the future, while fostering positive relationships among all segments of our society through community engagement, information and research, collaboration and

leadership development.

Evans joins Anchorage office of Stoel Rives

Stoel Rives LLP said June 2 that John R. Evans has joined its Anchorage office as an associate in the Litigation group. Evans maintains a broad-based real estate and construction practice, principally on behalf of clients in the oil and gas industry. His practice encompasses the variety of issues faced by energy producers and transporters, including permitting, contract negotiation, dispute resolution and litigation. Before joining Stoel Rives, Evans was an associate at Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP in St. Louis, Mo. Stoel Rives is a business law firm providing corporate and litigation services to a wide range of clients throughout the U.S.



JOHN EVANS

Garness offers advanced wastewater treatment

Garness Engineering Group said July 12 that it is pleased to offer a revolutionary advanced treatment method, using open-cell foam technology to effectively treat wastewater to secondary standards. The heart of the Synergy system is the proven performance of the AeroCell open-cell foam cubes. Each system is designed and constructed with simplicity in mind. Electrical and moving parts are minimal and daily operational costs are significantly lower than more complex technologies — almost 80 percent lower than activated sludge of membrane technologies. Ease of operation and less maintenance allows increased economic benefits to the owner. The process does not require regular wasting of sludge and there are no complex chemical feed systems. Synergy systems are available in two standard modules that can treat from 2,500 to 5,000 gpd. Multiple modules can be used for larger flows. The insulated trailer enclosures are available on wheels or skids and are particularly well-suited for use in Alaska. For more information please call 907-337-6179.

Alaska Railroad to post board meetings online

The Alaska Railroad Corp said June 10 that public notice of its board of directors' meetings and land disposals, including leases and material sales, is migrating to the corporation's website at www.AlaskaRailroad.com/corporate. The change is effective immediately. A new rule change approved by the Board of Directors in May means most of ARRC legal advertising in newspapers will be replaced with online notices that are available to the public around the clock. As Internet access and use continue to rise, online notice is viewed as a preferred forum for reaching the public. The railroad expects to save thousands of dollars each year by advertising board meetings, land leases, gravel sales and similar activities on the railroad's website.

Exxon's 39th community summer jobs program

ExxonMobil said June 1 that it has kicked off its 39th year of the annual Community Summer Jobs Program. The program is one of ExxonMobil's signature community programs and helps 270 nonprofits across America employ college students for eight weeks each summer. The students receive a paid internship in-

roducing them to a wide variety of community service organizations and giving them hands-on experience related to their field of study. Selected nonprofit agencies receive much-needed support during peak summer months from students viewed as future community leaders. ExxonMobil has provided \$16.3 million to fund nearly 4,400 internships since the program was founded in 1971. In addition to their internships, students also participate in professional development activities and group services projects in their respective cities and are paid for all time spent in the program. For more information visit www.exxonmobil.com.

Rain for Rent low-profile pipeline road crossings

Rain for Rent said May 26 that its low-profile road crossings provide an excellent way to safely move water across busy streets, driveways, and highways without disrupting traffic or damaging roadways.

Galvanized to reduce corrosion and maintenance costs, the 12- to 20-foot long road crossings are highly durable and can handle flows up to 14,500



gallons per minute with less than 8 psi pressure loss. Available in 4- to 24-inch pipeline flows, pipeline road crossings can handle 3-inch compressible solids and single axle truck weights up to 20,000 pounds. DOT safety reflectors, safety flags, and pressure gauge ports provide increased safety measures. Gently angled ramp plates smooth the transition of driving on or off the road crossing. For more information visit www.rainforrent.com

Alliance posts result of annual golf tournament

The Alaska Support Industry Alliance said June 14 that it has posted the results of its annual Alliance Golf Tournament at Moose Run and the Calcutta that took place the evening prior at the Petroleum Club. The event is the fourth largest fundraising event for the Alliance and plays an important role in keeping the organization strong, as well as providing a great networking opportunity for those businesses that participate. For more information and posted results visit www.alaskaalliance.com.

Alaska Railroad adds 'Gravel Trains' to website

The Alaska Railroad said June 16 that to help drivers plan ahead to avoid delays at train-occupied crossings it has added a "Gravel Trains" page to its corporate website. The page includes information on road and rail crossing delays in Anchorage and Palmer along with alternate routes to avoid those delays. The section also includes background information about how and why gravel grains are scheduled, impact to specific road and rail crossings, and the economics of moving gravel. For more information visit www.alaskarailroad.com/corporate.

ASRC reveals North Slope Marketplace winners

Arctic Slope Regional Corp. said June 14 that it has selected the winners of the 2010 North Slope Marketplace, a competition for shareholders to compete for funding to start or expand North Slope based businesses. The competition, which took place from February to May, was designed to inspire new busi-

ness opportunities for North Slope communities, challenging shareholders to compete for funding ranging from \$17,000 to \$25,000 and was open to all ASRC shareholders. "We received a great response from the North Slope communities, and are pleased that entrepreneurship among ASRC shareholders is building momentum," said Roberta Quintavell, president and CEO of ASRC. "In addition to the financial award, winners are provided with support from business and financial mentors throughout the ASRC family of companies." ASRC is owned by and represents the business interests of the Arctic Slope Inupiat. Since opening enrollment in 1989 to Alaska Natives born after 1971, the corporation's shareholder base has nearly tripled, growing from the 3,700 original enrollees to 11,000 today.

Calista Golf Classic raises more than \$170,000

Calista Corp. said June 25 that its Golf Classic, a fundraiser to benefit the Calista Scholarship Fund, was held June 23 at the Moose Run Golf Creek Course on Fort Richardson, Alaska. One hundred and forty-four golfers participated in the half day event, raising more than \$170,000. The 18-hole golf tournament, organized by Calista Corp., is in its 11th year. In 2009, CSF awarded more than 200 scholarships to young people studying engineering, business, aviation, medicine, science and many vocational education fields preparing shareholders and descendants for economic self-sufficiency. The fund has awarded more than \$1.5 million for the pursuit of college degrees and vocational education since 1994. "Calista Corporation and the Calista Scholarship Fund extend many thanks to all of the sponsors, players and volunteers who made the day such a success," said June McAtee, Calista Scholarship Fund president.

GCI Industrial Telecom assists in gulf response

GCI Industrial Telecom, a division of GCI, said June 21 that it is assisting with the Gulf of Mexico incident response by providing engineering and RF licensing services as well as technical communication support. GCI currently has more than 15 employees engaged in the response in multiple locations throughout Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and Alabama. "This is a tragic event for all of us in the oil patch. Having been through the spill here in Alaska, we are lending our knowledge to the response teams and they are implementing some of our recommendations," said Rick Hansen, GCI Industrial Telecom director. "By partnering with local suppliers and contractors we are bringing value to the response effort and we are building new relationships. I am very proud of our team's flexibility and commitment to working safe. There is obviously still a large amount of work to do." GCI Industrial Telecom employs more than 60 professional telecommunications engineers, project managers and technicians throughout Alaska to support the communication needs for full life cycle of industrial operations. For more information visit www.gci-industrialtelecom.com.

Crowley completes tugs re-powering project

Crowley Maritime Corp. said June 16 it has reintroduced four re-powered Harbor Class tugs to its ship assist and tanker escort fleet in the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The tugs Admiral, Leader, Scout and Master each underwent an extensive re-powering as part of an emissions and air quality initiative program by the Port of Los Angeles. The project, launched in late

2006, focuses on re-powering the vessels' main engines and generators, and is part of a larger Port of Los Angeles emissions and air quality initiative, known as the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan. The plan requires all vessel operators in the area to upgrade their engines to



COURTESY CROWLEY

be Tier II emissions compliant by 2013. Crowley partnered with Bay Ship and Yacht Co. to handle the re-power project, which has resulted in a 3.24 ton reduction in particulate matter emissions and a 109.52 ton reduction in mono-nitrogen oxides per year, for all tugs combined. A \$4 million Port of Los Angeles Air Quality Mitigation Incentive grant largely funded the re-power project. For more information visit www.crowley.com.

Calista makes \$20K donation to senior center

Calista Corp. said June 29 that it was pleased to announce a donation of \$20,000 to the Bethel, Alaska, Eddie Hoffman Senior Center. The center serves elders in the Yukon Kuskokwim region of Southwestern Alaska and provides meals, activities and out services to more than 70 elders. "Calista Corporation is pleased to provide financial support to such a worthy organization," said Matthew Nicolai, Calista president and CEO. "Our Elders carry forth our Yup'ik, Cup'ik and Athabascan traditions. We look to them to exemplify our values of trust, humility, service above self and above all respect for self and others." 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. For more information visit www.calistacorp.com

Schlumberger touts new stimulation technique

Schlumberger said June 29 that it has released its HiWAY flow-channel hydraulic fracturing technique. This new technique maximizes production and hydrocarbon recovery through the creation of open flow channels within the propped fracture. HiWAY fundamentally changes the way fracture conductivity is generated. A unique combination of placement and completions techniques, fluid engineering and process control creates a complex network of stable channels within the fracture. The productivity of the fracture is decoupled from the actual permeability of the proppant used, so rather than flowing through the proppant pack, hydrocarbons flow through the highly conductive channels. The channels extend from the wellbore to the tip of the fracture, allowing for longer effective fracture half-lengths and better fluid and polymer recovery. These effects allow for maximized production and superior hydrocarbon recovery. HiWAY is available for hydraulic fracturing applications in competent rock for single and multilayer oil or gas wells. For more information visit www.slb.com.

Era announces launch of SAR service

Era Helicopters said June 30 that it had launched a Search and Rescue and Emergency Medical Services operation from its

base located in Fourchon, La. Together, Era and Priority 1 Air Rescue will offer FAA-approved, full-service SAR/EMS capability and turnkey solutions to offshore oil and gas companies located in the

Gulf of Mexico for a 24-hour SAR and advanced life support paramedic resource. "Anadarko will be our launch customer highlighting the importance of SAR/EMS capability in the Gulf of Mexico, and the foresight of Anadarko to participate in this undertaking. We believe our efforts will support our customers and improve the safety of the industries we support. Era Helicopters and P1PAR will offer the highest level of expertise of any SAR provider in the Gulf of Mexico," said Neill Osborne, Era president. Additional offshore industry companies can participate in this program through a subscription service offered by Era Helicopters.

The P1AR crews, including hoist system operators, rescue swimmers, and flight paramedics, will supplement Era's state-of-the-art SAR equipped AW139 helicopter dedicated to the new program. The AW139 has flight performance capabilities to execute deepwater maritime SAR/EMS operations at distances up to 200 nautical miles offshore. For more information visit www.erahelicopters.com.



COURTESY ERA HELICOPTERS

ASRC board announces new leadership

Arctic Slope Regional Corp. said its board of directors selected the following officers at a July 7 meeting: Jacob Adams, chairman; George Sielak, vice president; Rex Rock Sr., president; Patsy Aamodt, first vice president; George Kaleak Sr., second vice president; Raymond Paneak, third vice president; Crawford Patkotak, treasurer; Mary Ellen Ahmoagak, corporate secretary; and Barbara Morgan, assistant corporate secretary. Incoming Chairman Jacob Adams has served ASRC for more than 30 years, 20 years as its president, guiding the company from its modest beginnings to become Alaska's largest privately owned corporation. Rock is ASRC's first director from a village outside of Barrow to be elected as its president and replaces Roberta Quintavell, who successfully positioned the company to achieve the goals established through the five-year strategic plan. "I look forward to building upon the success created under leadership of Bobbi Quintavell," said Rock.

Two students at Webb named Crowley scholars

Crowley Maritime Corp said July 1 that two undergraduate students, Andrew Lachtman and Lidia Mouravieff, at the Webb Institute in Glen Cove, N.Y., were recently awarded Thomas B. Crowley Sr. Memorial scholarships for their community service and academic achievements. Retired U.S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Robert C. Olsen Jr., president of Webb Institute, presented Mouravieff and Lachtman with Crowley scholarships for the 2010-11 academic year. The Crowley Scholarship, which was established at Webb in 2008, is awarded to students who demonstrate leadership in academics and the community and have an interest in the maritime industry. "These are the most presti-

gious scholarships for Webb students because they are selected based on their demonstrated leadership abilities along with academic performance," said Olsen. "Furthermore, a committee of staff and faculty make the selections. I am particularly pleased about this gift from Crowley because it helps us emphasize the importance of leadership to our students in a very visible and important way." For more information visit www.crowley.com.



COURTESY CROWLEY

Kuukpik purchases rig, consolidates ownership

Kuukpik Corp. said July 19 that it has completed transactions for the purchase of Kuukpik Rig No. 5 from Saxon Energy Services Inc. and the purchase of the minority ownership of Kuukpik Drilling LLC from the corporation's partners. Kuukpik Drilling LLC is now wholly owned by Kuukpik Corp., with all ongoing and future operations continuing under the name Kuukpik Drilling LLC. Kuukpik Corp. is an Alaska Native village corporation established in 1973 under the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Kuukpik's business interests and activities consist primarily of oil and gas support services including drilling, catering, security, ice road and civil construction, infrastructure maintenance, seismic acquisition, engineering services and cargo transportation.

The corporation has significant land holdings in and around the Greater Colville River Delta and the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. Kuukpik Corp. maintains offices in both Nuiqsut and Anchorage, Alaska.

Guess & Rudd celebrates 50th anniversary

Guess & Rudd P.C. is celebrating its 50th year of practicing law in Alaska. With law offices located in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Guess & Rudd provides experienced legal representation throughout Alaska in practice areas that include natural resources law, administrative law, mining law, environmental law, real property law, commercial law, employment or labor matters, ANCSA law, insurance coverage disputes, insurance defense, personal injury, estate and probate law, product liability and aviation accidents. The firm was heavily involved in the legal issues surrounding the construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline system, and has had continued involvement in most of the major oil and gas and mining transactions in Alaska since then. Four of the current shareholders have over 100 years collective experience in practices focused on natural resources and environmental issues: Louis R. Veerman, pipeline and related issues; Jamie D. Linxwiler, oil and gas, mining and Native law; George R. Lyle, oil and gas and environmental; and Michael S. McLaughlin, oil and gas and regulatory issues. In addition



COURTESY GUESS & RUDD

tion the firm is ranked Band 1 by Chambers and Partners in environmental, natural resources and regulated industries categories. For more information visit www.guessrudd.com.

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Nalco to host 2 informative seminars in August

Nalco Co., in conjunction with Hach, Jaffa, and Delta P, will be hosting two information-packed seminars targeted to those involved in all aspects of boiler operation and steam generation, in Anchorage Aug. 24 at the Embassy Suites and in Fairbanks Aug. 26 at the Westmark Hotel. The focus will be on water treatment tools, inspection, and safety, which can positively impact production efficiency and profitability. Following introductory remarks, there will be breakout sessions covering: reverse osmosis, water chemistry testing, pump selection and maintenance, deaeration, boiler system construction and repair codes, ion exchange, boiler internal treatment steam and condensate systems, inspection and safety, and zero defect delivery. Each session will feature interactive discussions with participants and is approved for 0.6 CEU. Registration is \$50, including training materials, breakfast, lunch and refreshments. For more information contact Jaimie Farrell at 907-563-9866 or jfarrell@nalco.com; or to register online go to www.nalco.com, and click on news and events.

Hall named new Lounsbury & Associates surveyor

Lounsbury & Associates said July 22 that it welcomes James Hall, PLS, to its staff as project surveyor. Hall has 12 years of land surveying experience on a wide variety of projects — from solar, wind and natural resource development to construction surveys for highways and residential subdivisions. His experience includes projects throughout Nevada, Wyoming, New Mexico and Arizona. Hall began his education in Phoenix, Arizona and progressed with continuing education programs in the survey industry. Recently, he completed high-definition laser scanning of 46 bridges on I-215 in Las Vegas, Nev. His experience using laser scanning on forensic surveys, piping as-builts, topographic maps and more, is key to completing projects on time and under budget.

Founded in 1949, Lounsbury & Associates offers a range of surveying, engineering and planning services.



JAMES HALL

Maloney named CH2M HILL Alaska Area Manager

CH2M Hill, a global full-service consulting, design, construction, and operations firm, said July 27 that it has named Tom Maloney as Alaska area manager. In this role Maloney will be responsible for managing and developing client relationships in the energy, water, transportation, environmental, facilities and natural resources sectors. Maloney has been with CH2M HILL for 21 years, including serving as a senior project controller, corporate business manager, president of two operating companies, business development, and external affairs and government rela-



TOM MALONEY

tions manager for Alaska. Active in the community, Maloney is president for the Resource Development Council, vice chairman of the Municipality of Anchorage Investment Advisory Commission and board member of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce. Previously, he enjoyed multiple volunteer positions with Hilltop Ski Area, Junior Achievement, Habitat for Humanity and Anchorage Economic Development Corporation. CH2M HILL is one of the largest private employers in Alaska, with approximately 3,000 employees. In 2009, the firm was recognized as the Employer of the Year for Apprenticeship Training by the State of Alaska. The Anchorage office was opened in 1964.

Veerman in Who's Who for oil and gas industry

Louis R. Veerman of Guess & Rudd was recently listed in the International Who's Who of Business Lawyers for oil and gas. Veerman, whose main area of practice is pipeline and related issues, has been practicing law in Alaska since 1976.

Other recognitions he has received include, AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell; The Best Lawyers in America for energy law; Chambers USA — America's Leading Lawyers For Business, environment, natural resources, and regulated industries; and Super Lawyers for energy and natural resources.

Since 1996 Who's Who Legal has identified the foremost legal practitioners in multiple areas of business law. The site features more than 10,000 of the world's leading private practice lawyers from more than 100 national jurisdictions. Who's Who



LOUIS VEERMAN

Legal prides itself on its integrity, and says on its website that it is impossible to buy entry into the publication.

With law offices in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Guess & Rudd's extensive experience in natural resources law includes multi-party trials, complicated administrative and regulatory hearings and disputes, and lawsuits involving pollution and environmental issues. For more information visit www.guessrudd.com.

Lounsbury offers bear guard, hazing services

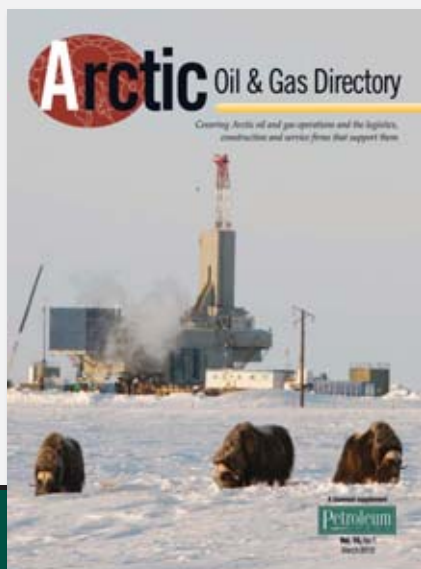
Lounsbury & Assoc. said July 29 that it has expanded its offerings to include professional bear guard and hazing services. Lounsbury has an experienced team of individuals with specialized training in U.S. Fish & Wildlife certified bear guard and hazing techniques. Team leader A.J. Rookus is also certified by the federal agency to provide individual training for bear hazing. In addition, all members of the team have extensive training for wildlife behavior, habitat, hazing techniques, firearms, safety and more. "Team members have had extensive formal and informal training regarding what to do when encountering the predators of the north — brown bears and polar bears," said Rookus. "Brown bears are generally a lot easier to deal with than polar bears. Polar bears are the top of the food chain so we treat them with an extra-special respect and wariness." As a part of his U.S. Fish & Wildlife training, Rookus also learned to depart the area after use of bear spray because it is likely to draw curious bears to the area investigating the new smell. For more information please contact Ken Ayers at 907-272-5451 or by e-mail at k.ayers@lounsburyinc.com.



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