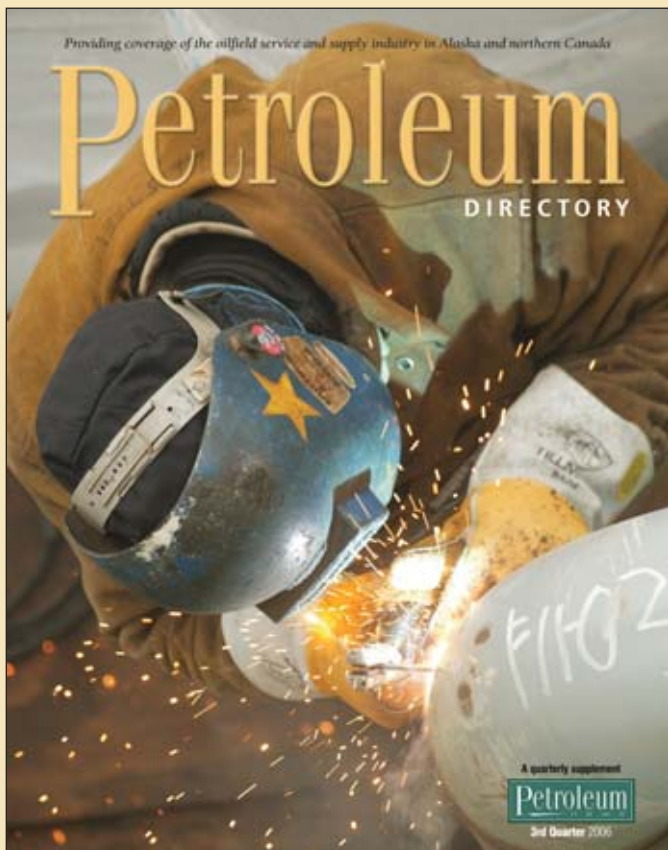




page 5 Change afoot in Alberta: royalties get tweaking, new directions

Latest Petroleum Directory inside



The third quarter 2006 Petroleum Directory contains contact information for active oilfield service and supply companies doing business in Alaska and northern Canada plus 46 articles, profiles and news briefs. Among others, feature stories include Traversing the Northwest Passage (page 8), Bill Stamps hard at work in Calgary for Core Energy (page 11), and Property on the block in ANWR (page 14).

Canadian aboriginals set stage to bid on major oil sands leases

Canadian aboriginals are on the move in the oil patch, taking a first step toward a possible joint venture with their U.S. counterparts to develop an oil sands project and gaining a seat on the National Energy Board.

A First Nations economic development conference in Edmonton this fall could see the groundwork laid for an aboriginal enterprise to bid on major oil sands leases.

Conference Chairman Dale Swampy, chief executive officer of the Samson Cree First Nations Corp. in Alberta, said U.S. tribes are looking for ways to invest their profits from casinos and are showing interest in oil and gas opportunities.

He said the focus of the Oct. 24-27 conference, which expects 750 attendees this year and 3,000 in 2007, will be on forming major partnerships and learning from those who have succeeded in economic ventures.

"We want to be a major part of it too, but it's going to take a large investment."

—Dale Swampy, CEO, Samson Cree First Nations Corp.

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BREAKING NEWS

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12 Agrium's coal facility moves forward: Blue Sky coal gasification project to create blueprint for bankable commercial deal

NATURAL GAS

Costs pose threat

Minister uneasy about new Mac numbers; warns gas line can't bear more delays

By GARY PARK
For Petroleum News

Two obstacles keep growing for the Mackenzie Gas Project, but the one that most disturbs Northwest Territories cabinet minister Brendan Bell is the rising costs.

He candidly admits he is "not looking forward" to a time this fall when project operator Imperial Oil lays out its updated budget.

That's when the common betting has the price tag jumping from C\$7.5 billion to somewhere close to C\$10 billion, which puts the venture on the borderline.

Tom Ebbert, an analyst at Tristone Capital, figures the development of Mackenzie Delta gas is economic with crude oil at US\$60-\$70 a barrel and natural gas at US\$7-\$9 per million British thermal units.

Imperial Vice President Randy Broiles, announcing a new evaluation of the cost projections in June, said the soaring cost of labor and materials forced the partners to take a second look at their budget.

Imperial has yet to establish a breakeven point or say when the new esti-

see **MAC COSTS** page 16



"The project can't withstand any more delays. This (the panel delay) has got to be it." —Brendan Bell, NWT minister of industry, tourism and investment

NATURAL GAS

AGPA aims for early start

Econ One: Without 3-year head start, economic value of LNG project can evaporate

By KRISTEN NELSON
Petroleum News

Is the Alaska Gasline Port Authority project economic compared to a highway project?

The Alaska Legislature asked Econ One Research to do an analysis of the liquefied natural gas project and Aug. 24 and 25 in Fairbanks the Senate Special Committee on Natural Gas Development heard the results.

Tony Finizza told legislators that while a 4.3 billion-cubic-foot-a-day natural gas highway project has a higher netback than LNG delivered to the West Coast, if the port authority can get gas to market three years before the highway line the lower netback for LNG is more than offset by the net pres-



Steve Porter, deputy commissioner of the Alaska Department of Revenue

ent value of monetizing gas early.

That advantage disappears if the LNG component is delayed, said Finizza, an Econ One consultant and chief economist for ARCO from 1975 to 1998.

Project description

The port authority, represented by its board chairman, Jim Whitaker, mayor of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, attorney Bill Walker and Radoslav Shipkoff of Greengate LLC, financial consultant to the port authority, told committee members it

proposes to build a big gas line from the North Slope to Delta Junction and a smaller line to Valdez. It would only move 1.2 bcf a day of gas for liquefaction

see **AGPA** page 14

NATURAL GAS

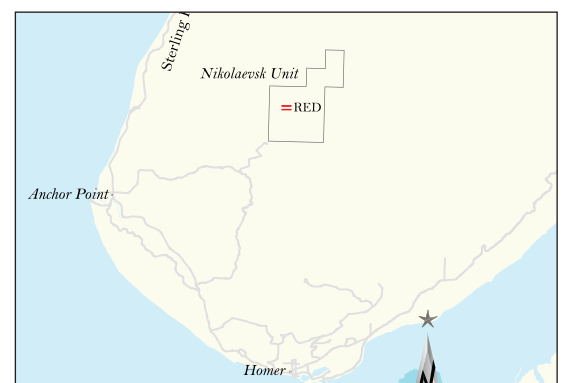
Homer gas line proposed

Enstar would carry gas from Chevron unit; infrastructure could encourage exploration

By ALAN BAILEY
Petroleum News

It seems that the question of supplying the city of Homer on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula with natural gas has been an on-again/off-again debate for several years. Government facilities, businesses and residents could all benefit from energy cost savings that gas could bring. But, although there are gas fields on the Kenai Peninsula, swinging the economics of developing a gas infrastructure to support the relatively small Homer population has proved elusive.

In what it describes as "thinking out of the box," Enstar Natural Gas Co. has proposed leveraging a known gas pool that Unocal (now part of Chevron) discovered in 2004 in the Nikolaevsk unit, approximately 14 miles southeast of Ninilchik on the Peninsula. The Unocal discovery came from drilling



two wells from the Red pad in the Nikolaevsk unit.

Enstar would build a high-pressure gas transmission line north from the Red pad to the southern end of the Kenai Kachemak pipeline, and due south from

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A weekly oil & gas newspaper based in Anchorage, Alaska

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Alaska - Mackenzie Rig Report

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

Alaska Rig Status

North Slope - Onshore

Doyon Drilling			
Dreco 1250 UE	14 (SCR/TD)	XPad - X-27	BP
Sky Top Brewster NE-12	15 (SCR/TD)	Kuparuk 1J-102	ConocoPhillips
Dreco 1000 UE	16 (SCR)	Workover D-3A	BP
Dreco D2000 UEBD	19 (SCR/TD)	Alpine CD4-320	ConocoPhillips
OIME 2000	141 (SCR/TD)	Kuparuk 1J-137	ConocoPhillips
TSM 7000	Arctic Fox #1	Stacked in Yard	Pioneer Natural Resources

Kuukpik	5	In OTI yard Anchorage, being modified for Slope work	ConocoPhillips
----------------	---	--	----------------

Nabors Alaska Drilling			
Trans-ocean rig	CDR-1 (CT)	Stacked, Prudhoe Bay	Available
Dreco 1000 UE	2-ES	Rig maintenance	BP
Mid-Continental U36A	3-S	2C-09	ConocoPhillips
Oilwell 700 E	4-ES (SCR)	Milne Point C-14	BP
Dreco 1000 UE	7-ES (SCR/TD)	Z-19Ai	BPP
Dreco 1000 UE	9-ES (SCR/TD)	L-204	BP
Oilwell 2000 Hercules	14-E (SCR)	Stacked at Cape Simpson	FEX
Oilwell 2000 Hercules	16-E (SCR/TD)	Under contract for drilling at Gwydyr Bay	Brooks Range Petroleum
Oilwell 2000	17-E (SCR/TD)	Stacked, Point McIntyre	Available
Emsco Electro-hoist -2	18-E (SCR)	Stacked, Deadhorse	Available
OIME 1000	19-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
OIME 2000	245-E	Stacked, Kuparuk	Available
Emsco Electro-hoist Canrig 1050E	27-E (SCR-TD)	DS 15-39A	BP

Nordic Calista Services			
Superior 700 UE	1 (SCR/CTD)	Prudhoe Bay C-06b	BP
Superior 700 UE	2 (SCR/CTD)	Prudhoe Bay L5-16	BP
Ideco 900	3 (SCR/TD)	Prudhoe G-21	BP

North Slope - Offshore

Nabors Alaska Drilling			
Oilwell 2000	33-E	Moving	BP

Cook Inlet Basin - Onshore

Aurora Well Service			
Franks 300 Srs. Explorer III	AWS 1	Workover Moquawkie #1	Aurora Gas

Marathon Oil Co. (Inlet Drilling Alaska labor contractor)			
Taylor	Glacier 1	Cannery Loop #12	Marathon

Nabors Alaska Drilling			
National 110 UE	160 (SCR)	Stacked, Kenai	Available
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	Stacked in Kenai	Available

Cook Inlet Basin - Offshore

Unocal (Nabors Alaska Drilling labor contractor)			
Not Available			

XTO Energy			
National 1320	A	Platform A no drilling or workovers at present	XTO
National 110	C (TD)	Idle	XTO

Mackenzie Rig Status

Canadian Beaufort Sea

Seatankers (AKITA Equitak labor contract)			
SSDC CANMAR Island Rig #2	SDC	Set down at Roland Bay	Devon ARL Corp.

Mackenzie Delta-Onshore

AKITA Equitak			
Dreco 1250 UE	62 (SCR/TD)	Stacked in Tuktoyaktuk, NT	EnCana

Yukon Territories Rig Status

Northwest Territories

Ensign Resources Svc. Grp.			
Jackknife Double	55	Racked in Ft. Nelson	

AKITA/Kaska			
National 80UE	58	Stacked in Fort Liard, NT (to drill in BC)	Suncor

The Alaska - Mackenzie Rig Report is sponsored by:



The Alaska - Mackenzie Rig Report as of August 31, 2006.
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 Alan Bailey



JUDY PATRICK

Baker Hughes North America rotary rig counts*

	Aug. 25	Aug. 18	Year Ago
US	1,756	1,762	1,444
Canada	489	471	509
Gulf	97	94	96

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

PIPELINES & DOWNSTREAM

AOGCC to evaluate Prudhoe pipe changes

The Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission is going to evaluate BP Exploration (Alaska)'s plan to reroute Prudhoe Bay unit eastern operating area production and has tentatively scheduled a hearing for Sept. 26.

The commission said it will evaluate the potential impact of BP's plans on pools within the Badami, Endicott and Prudhoe Bay fields, and may prescribe rules on commingling of production and on production measuring equipment.

At issue are new piping connections BP plans to install to reroute production in the Prudhoe Bay unit from two eastern operating flow stations via the Endicott sales line and to Pump Station No. 1 on the trans-Alaska pipeline and one EOA flow station via the Lisburne pipeline. The commission said BP has also proposed connecting the crude oil topping unit to the Endicott sales line and to construct new facilities at Pump Station 1. The proposed work includes new piping connections to reroute production from Flow Station 1, Flow Station 2 and Flow Station 3 to Pump Station 1. The commission said BP also proposes to connect the crude oil topping unit to the Endicott sales line to enable resumption of diesel fuel production, and to have Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. construct new facilities at Pump Station 1 to handle pigging solids from EOA and western operating area lines.

Production from the Prudhoe Bay EOA was shut-in Aug. 6 after BP found oil staining on transit line insulation and a small leak from a transit line while investigating indications of corrosion in the transit line obtained from a smart pig run.

—PETROLEUM NEWS

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NATURAL GAS

Gas line negotiations to include lawmakers

Governor: Special session of Alaska Legislature could begin Sept. 19, depends on poll of legislators by leadership

By KRISTEN NELSON

Petroleum News

Alaska Gov. Frank Murkowski said Aug. 30 that he will call a special session of the Legislature for Sept. 19, subject to indication from legislative leadership that such a session to work on the gas line fiscal contract would be productive.

He said the administration met with House leadership, including Speaker John Harris and Majority Leader John Coghill and representatives of the producers Aug. 29. The producers agreed that the best way to proceed was to involve members of the Legislature selected by the leadership in the negotiations with the producers over issues in the contract that need to be resolved.

The Legislature identified items that it needs to have resolved in the contract, including fiscal certainty, project labor agreements and dispute resolution. The governor said the producers indicated these items are negotiable and that they are willing to pursue them.

The Legislature has already met in two special sessions this summer.

House and Senate could not agree on

The governor said the producers have said they will not accept a contract if the reserves tax passes — if the contract is signed before the election, however, it contains provisions which effectively nullify the gas reserves tax.

revisions to the state's production severance tax in the regular session or the first special session. The second special session ended with agreement on a new production tax, but no agreement on amendments to the Alaska Stranded Gas Development Act necessary for the administration to move ahead on the fiscal contract the administration has negotiated with North Slope producers BP, ConocoPhillips and ExxonMobil.

Murkowski said members of the House and Senate are being polled by leadership on the merits of a special session and if there is favorable response the special session would be called for Tuesday, Sept. 19.

Legislators would be selected by leadership to be part of the negotiating team

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EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

Revised Deep Panuke plan unveiled

New England natural gas consumers could have access to a new supply source in 2010 now that EnCana has filed revised plans for its Deep Panuke project offshore Nova Scotia.

That follows a June announcement by EnCana that it has reached an agreement with the Nova Scotia government on fiscal terms.

After more than three years of rethinking, the Canadian independent has unveiled a proposal to produce 300 million cubic feet per day from almost 1 trillion cubic feet of reserves, down from its previous goal of 400 million. New reserve numbers will be made public later this year.

It is not known at this stage how much the original budget of C\$1.1 billion will be affected by several changes, including:

- Subsea wells and tiebacks instead of platform wells.
- Leasing a single jack-up rig for a mobile offshore production unit rather than construction of three fixed platforms which EnCana would have owned.
- A tripling of polluted water to be discharged into the ocean.

In reducing the gas export capacity, EnCana has prolonged the expected operating life to 13 years from 11.5 years, improving the overall economics of Deep Panuke.

The company is now weighing two options bringing the gas onshore: Building its own undersea pipeline to tie in with the Maritimes & Northeast pipeline, which carries gas to New England from the nearby Sable field or building a subsea pipeline to interconnect with the Sable pipeline at an offshore point.

EnCana hopes earlier development work submitted to regulators will accelerate the approval process, allowing it to make a final go-ahead decision in late 2007.

It is also seeking a streamlined process, noting it has prior environmental approvals.

However, the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board has promised full public input, although the Ecology Action Center in Halifax said it will boycott any review, saying it is disenchanted with the government "green light" attitude toward the offshore industry.

The board is still inviting the public to say what it would like to address in the environmental assessment.

—GARY PARK



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• GOVERNMENT

Stirrings of change in Alberta

Government slipping in polls as Klein's departure nears; royalties get a tweaking; new directions sought to reap more from energy resources

By GARY PARK

For Petroleum News

Alberta is entering one of those rare moments in its history, when political change occurs.

For almost three quarters of a century, the province has been governed by only two political parties — Social Credit from 1935 to 1971 and the Conservatives ever since — and six premiers (one of whom lasted a mere two years).

But, now that Ralph Klein, under pressure from within his own party, has agreed to step aside in December after 12 years at the helm, there's an unusual whiff of something new in the air.

And the Conservatives, accustomed to landslide victories in provincial elections, are more on edge than they ever have been.

The polls suggest their popularity is eroding, although they still hold a comfortable margin over their Liberal and New Democratic rivals.

Both the government and those campaigning to replace Klein are paying close attention to any negative sounds emanating from voters.

Petroleum industry fodder for debate

Not surprisingly, given the enormous role oil and gas plays in the economic life of Alberta, the petroleum industry is commanding the most attention and providing endless fodder for debate.

Consider just these issues: The staggering pace of development accompanied by a growing clamor for a moratorium on oil sands projects; the impact on land, water and air; whether Albertans are being cheated out of their fair share of royalties; the need to develop a longer-term answer to training and retaining skilled workers; and the government's often-expressed determination to capture more from the value chain.

Energy Minister Greg Melchin has shown some of the first stirrings of action, by tweaking some royalty programs and taking a "first step" to encourage public debate on what is labeled an Integrated Energy Vision in a 16-page document released Aug. 25.

By late in September he may have scrapped a handful of drilling incentives and royalty tax credits worth almost C\$500 million a year to the industry.

Royalty system a minefield

But neither he nor anyone in government seems ready yet to tackle the largest, most controversial issue of oil sands royalties.

The cuts that have been made, valued at C\$186 million a year, come a year after government-appointed Auditor General Fred Dunn challenged the validity of putting millions of dollars in the pockets of companies enjoying unprecedented cash flows.

The phasing out or scaling back of obsolete incentives was taken in stride by the industry, which concedes it was fully consulted and expected the changes.

Gary Leach, executive director of the Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada, representing 450 companies, said his members "understand the government wants to adjust programs that were put in place at a time of low oil prices."

The industry also seems resigned to losing access to another C\$300 million in tax credits, which would be another big hit for small producers.

But, for now, everyone is tip-toeing around the minefield that could be triggered if the government bows to pressure and starts a public review of the entire royalty system, including the oil sands, where producers pay 1 percent of gross revenues until the capital costs have been paid off, then 25 percent of net revenues.

Although the regime was implemented during days when \$20 per barrel oil made headlines, both Melchin and the industry have warned that tampering with what exists could drive investors away.

They scorn a study commissioned by three think-tanks which compared Alberta's average royalties of US\$4.30 per barrel against Norway's US\$14.10 and Alaska's US\$11.60.

Province wants more petrochemical investment

The energy vision paper, while sweeping in its scope and lacking hard specifics, is built around Melchin's oft-repeated theme of capturing more of the energy sector's "value-added" products within Alberta.

To that end, he said the province is open to offering incentives to those who will invest in upgraders and refineries to bolster the petrochemical sector.

The overall objective is an "integrated approach to energy development, efficiency and conservation" so that Alberta can "help the industry reach its full potential and provide enhanced long-term economic benefits and value-added jobs for Albertans."

It's not that the government had a drastic change in mind, although it hopes to move the industry beyond the physical integration of oil and gas resources covering commodity production processes, proximity and byproducts, Melchin told a news conference August 25.

He said the vision extends to "broader factors like labor, capital, environmental protection and management, as well as other

requirements that are necessary to obtain all of the benefits inherent in developing Alberta's energy resources. Partnering of the public and private sectors of our economy will be critical to future energy development," Melchin said.

Currently, the industry accounts for 72 percent of Alberta's C\$80 billion in annual merchandise exports, produced C\$14.3 billion in royalties last year and provides direct and indirect jobs for 300,000.

Standalone projects no longer make sense

But it no longer makes sense for the province to develop its natural resources through a "series of standalone projects," he said.

It's time for a new direction that goes beyond the mere extraction of raw resources.

The government has already given an indication of its thinking by backing a recent study exploring a possible C\$9 billion 450,000 barrel-per-day upgrader, refinery and petrochemical complex.

The early findings suggest that undertaking is technically feasible, but the costs of labor and materials are too high to make the venture economic.

But Melchin said he is not ruling out financial incentives for companies willing to make major investments in Alberta.

"I'm not certain what form it would take," he said. "This government isn't going to invest in companies for instance."

The pressure on the government to inter-

vene is building as Imperial Oil, EnCana and Husky Energy contemplate shelving plans for an upgrader in Alberta and turning instead to other options in the United States or overseas.

Projects on the table right now carry a price tag of about C\$10 billion and that spending could easily rise to C\$25 billion if more planned capacity comes on stream. It's not an opportunity the government wants to see slip through its fingers.

Against that background, Melchin said it "would be healthy if the leadership candidates (seeking Klein's job) and the public wanted to get into more of the debate about the future of an energy vision for the province."

Front runners endorse public review

Acknowledging the public concern over whether Albertans are getting their fair share from royalties, most of the front runners in the campaign have endorsed a public review of the current regime.

Without entering that debate, Melchin, in his energy vision, said only that the province has "the opportunity and the responsibility to make the most of our energy inheritance."

He was not concerned about trying to set long-term policy directions ahead of Alberta choosing a new premier, saying he has never thought of the discussion paper as a "static document ... if we can find a better way and a better idea to add to this, we would engage that. As to what the future

see **CHANGE** page 6



Alberta Energy Minister Greg Melchin



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E&P

Husky Energy has something to bark about

Husky Energy has extended its record for getting major projects finished on time and on budget.

In fact, its first oil sands project ended up under budget, a rare if not unprecedented achievement at a time when overruns in the 50 percent range produce little more than a resigned shrug.

The Tucker operation in the Cold Lake area of northeastern Alberta beat its construction target of C\$500 million, Chief Executive Officer John Lau announced, and is now on track to produce its first oil in November.

Peak production is expected to exceed 30,000 barrels per day within two years of start-up and Husky is counting on extracting 350 million barrels of bitumen over a 35-year lifespan.

Tucker has the added advantage of having ready access to Husky's Cold Lake pipeline system and its heavy oil upgrader at Lloydminster.

But the challenges are not over. Bringing steam-injection projects on stream, then up to full capacity has tripped up experienced operators such as Petro-Canada, Suncor Energy and EnCana.

But Husky is confident enough to push ahead with its Sunrise oil sands project that is designed for staged construction to a peak 200,000 bpd over 40 years as it draws down a 3.2 billion barrel resource. The Tucker success comes on the heels of Husky's hopes of receiving regulatory approval to raise output at its White Rose project offshore Newfoundland to 125,000 bpd, up 25 percent from its authorized level.

The 72.5 percent operator of White Rose, Husky said the field is currently pumping 110,000 bpd since the introduction of a fifth well in late June and expects to add a sixth well before the end of 2006.

—GARY PARK

● LAND & LEASING

Interior plans NPR-A, OCS sales

North Slope Natives, environmental groups have concerns, Burton says: mitigation measures for NPR-A sale will be stringent

By KRISTEN NELSON

Petroleum News

Efficient use of energy, diversity of sources and increasing production of hydrocarbons are how Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior Johnnie Burton describes three major things that need to be done as part of a national energy policy.

Diversity of sources includes development of renewable resources — particularly geothermal and wind.

Burton told Petroleum News Aug. 21 in Anchorage that the Bureau of Land Management has done a lot with geothermal development and, more recently, with wind. A wind farm being developed in Idaho will generate about 200 megawatts of electricity when fully developed, she said, enough to take care of about 50,000 homes, and Minerals Management Service, responsible for offshore renewable energy, has received applications for offshore wind.

Alaska has a role to play in the increasing production of hydrocarbons, she said.

In her current role Burton, who is MMS director, also has oversight of BLM and the Office of Surface Mining. BLM and MMS are the big federal onshore and offshore land managers in Alaska, both with active oil and gas leasing programs.

"Alaska has been a difficult province to work in because of the weather and the lack of infrastructure," Burton said, but she noted that over the last couple of years MMS has been "contacted a lot by industry and they are really interested in coming in, developing OCS Alaska."

MMS has just announced its upcoming five-year plan for the outer continental shelf (see sidebar) and there will be Chukchi offerings, as well as the traditional Beaufort Sea lease sales and possibly sales in a portion of the north Aleutian basin.

"I look at the next couple of years as being really key years for development of OCS and when you look onshore Alaska, the NPR-A is very, very important." A sale in the eastern National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska will be held in September and Burton said that although there has been a lot of litigation over that sale "and people think we're going to back off: we're not." The work BLM did has been supported in the courts, she said, noting that the upcoming sale, with some 80 different stip-



"I look at the next couple of years as being really key years for development of OCS and when you look onshore Alaska, the NPR-A is very, very important." —Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior Johnnie Burton

MMS has just announced its upcoming five-year plan for the outer continental shelf (see sidebar) and there will be Chukchi offerings, as well as the traditional Beaufort Sea lease sales and possibly sales in a portion of the north Aleutian basin.

ulations, will be the most stringent sale BLM has held.

There are concerns, she said, but "we know there's some oil there and industry is interested."

A lot of interest expected

There is also interest in the upcoming Alaska OCS sales.

"There is no doubt that there will be a lot of interest from some of the major players. And we're hoping some of the not-so majors, but we know for sure that some of the majors have great interest in all those areas so we hope it pans out," Burton said.

The sales have also sparked environmental concerns, and concerns from North Slope Natives.

North Slope Borough Mayor Edward Itta came to Washington, D.C., to meet with Burton right after he was elected. "And he expressed a real concern about the Chukchi and wanted to make sure we did an EIS." Burton said she assured the mayor that there would be an environmental impact statement, and said the Anchorage MMS office has been extremely busy with the EIS for the Chukchi and a programmatic EIS for the full five-year multiple Alaska OCS sales.

Burton said she also met with Itta in Anchorage earlier in August, and said his concern is "not just the environmental impact, although that's the big thing."

"It's the impact on his people's lifestyle, on his people's culture, so the concerns are much broader than just having a rig in the Beaufort Sea. It has to do with the people that are coming up to the North Slope, the lifestyle that is developing on the North Slope, all the societal impacts that it has."

Burton said Itta "really does not like offshore drilling" but realizes it is probably coming whether he likes it or not "so his request is for us to please work with him, keep him informed" and consult with him. "There could be some give and take on how we design things and we will try to the utmost of our ability to do just that," she said.

Burton said Interior has also told the companies to be sure to keep the borough and villages informed, and she said that Shell has told her that they have met with the mayor and his staff and the villages.

The North Slope Natives are "never going to be very happy with what activity will happen there" because of concerns that it will lead to the destruction of their lifestyle. "But I think as long as we keep them well informed ahead of time of what is planned, we take into account their particular concerns and try

see SALES page 15

continued from page 5

CHANGE

will hold, we can't guarantee any of those outcomes."

With his focus on the value-added aspects of the industry, he laid out six "inter-related innovation challenges" the govern-

ment hopes will figure in the upcoming discussions:

- More economically and environmentally sustainable methods of extracting oil and gas.
- Developing technologies to create a more diversified mix of fuels and other higher-valued products from bitumen and

heavy oil.

- More efficient upgrading to lower capital and operating costs and reduce the environmental impact.
- Using coal and other feedstocks, including waste from oil sands, to produce steam, hydrogen, synthetic gas and chemicals.

- Reducing greenhouse gas and other emissions by capturing, transporting and storing carbon dioxide for use in enhanced oil recovery.

- Putting a greater effort into alternative and renewable energy technologies, such as hydrogen fuel cells, geothermal and bio-energy. ●

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● EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

Blackbeard casts doubt on ultra-deep

Wildcat hits higher than expected pressure, falls short of 32,000-38,000 foot target on Gulf's OCS

By RAY TYSON

For Petroleum News

Blackbeard West No. 1, perhaps the world's most closely watched exploration well because of its extremely deep target, fell well short of its goal and cast at least some doubt over the future of "ultra-deep" drilling for natural gas on the Gulf of Mexico's outer continental shelf.

Blackbeard partner Newfield Exploration said drilling on the ExxonMobil-operated wildcat was halted at 30,067 feet, short of its primary targets down to around 32,000 to 38,000 feet. The well was spud in February 2005 and was expected to take a year or longer to drill.

"The well failed to reach its primary targets because of higher than expected pressure," Newfield said Aug. 16. "The operator is preparing to temporarily abandon the well."

Well believed to have cost \$110 million

Newfield said it invested about \$25 million (net) to date in the drilling of the Blackbeard West No. 1 well. The prospect covers multiple blocks in the South Timbalier and Ship Shoal areas offshore Louisiana. The well is believed to have cost around \$110 million, which would rank Blackbeard West among the most expensive exploration wells yet drilled in the Gulf of Mexico.

Rowan, which actually drilled Blackbeard using its Tarzan-class Scooter Yeargain jack-up rig, had expected drilling revenues from the Blackbeard contract to range from \$28 million to as much as \$35 million, depending upon rig time. However, the company also warned that drilling costs could escalate far beyond \$35 million should equipment problems develop down hole where pressures and temperatures below 25,000 feet were expected to be extreme. Bottom hole temperatures were expected to range from 400 to 600 degrees.

The Blackbeard West well is on South Timbalier block 168 in 70 feet of water, in an area known as Treasure Island. Newfield said the well encountered only a thin gas bearing sand below 30,000 feet. The Blackbeard West structure was believed to be so large it could easily house 1-to 5 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves.

"Although disappointed that we were unable to test our primary objectives, we have learned a great deal about drilling ultra-deep wells," said David Trice, Newfield's chief executive officer. "This has been a challenging well to test a true frontier play."

Newfield will continue to invest in play

Despite falling short of its goal, Newfield said it was "sufficiently encouraged to continue investing in this play. We intend to use the information gathered from this well to investigate if a well can be designed which will allow us to safely test this prospect in the future."

Bill Provine, Rowan's vice president of investor relations, told industry analysts in March 2005 that Blackbeard West operator ExxonMobil wanted to drill four more wells at Treasure Island, even if Blackbeard West came up dry. "Even if the first three wells are dry, they're still going to drill the fourth well," he said. Exxon declined to comment on Provine's statement.

However, Newfield's Trice said in May



The Scooter Yeargain jack-up rig

2005 that Newfield was discussing with third parties the possibility of drilling more "ultra-deep" wildcat wells on prospects located near Blackbeard West, including

Blackbeard East. Trice did not name the parties involved in the discussions. However, his comments at least partially

see **BLACKBEARD** page 8

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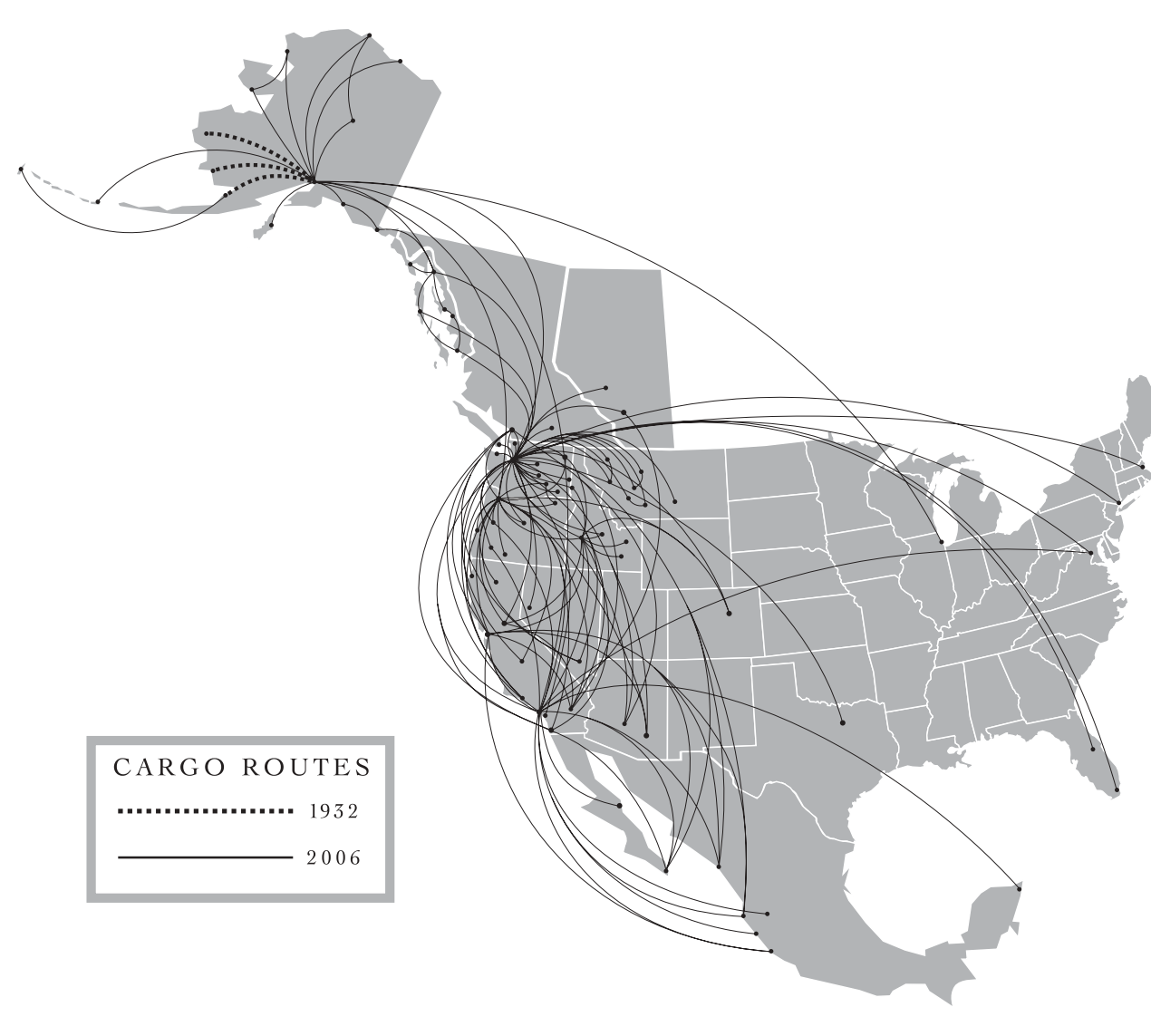
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● PIPELINES & DOWNSTREAM

Compressor fixed at Prudhoe Bay

By **MARY PEMBERTON**
Associated Press Writer

Partial production has been restored to the Prudhoe Bay oil field after operator BP fixed a compressor that went down Aug. 23, a company spokesman said Aug. 28.

Production at the country's largest oil field — already cut in half because of problems found in corroded transit pipes — was further reduced Aug. 23 when a mechanical problem was discovered in a compressor at one of the field's gathering stations.

The company fixed the compressor and production was restored Aug. 27, said BP Exploration (Alaska) spokesman Steve Rinehart.

The compressor that failed handles natural gas that is produced with the oil and water during the processing of crude. Only the western side of Prudhoe is producing oil following the shutdown of the eastern half earlier in August.

After the compressor problem arose, production fell from 200,000 barrels a day to 110,000 barrels. Prudhoe had been producing about 400,000 barrels a day of oil — about half of all North Slope production — when workers Aug. 6 discovered a leak in a transit line on the eastern side of the field. BP, which plans to replace 16 miles of corroded Prudhoe transit pipes, shut down the eastern side of the field but has managed to keep the western side

open.

It was the second leak found in a transit line (feeder pipelines), which transport oil to the trans-Alaska pipeline. In March, a leak in a corroded transit line pipe resulted in a spill of up to 267,000 gallons of crude — the largest spill ever on the North Slope. A bypass was put on that line to keep it operating.

BP expects to resume the removal of insulation from a western side pipeline the week of Aug. 28, Rinehart said. That work was temporarily halted Aug. 23 when BP became aware that workers possibly were being exposed to materials that contain between 5 and 10 percent asbestos.

The asbestos issue arose as the transit line was being stripped of insulation to better examine it for corrosion.

Rinehart said workers are being trained on how to safely handle the material.

Daren Beaudou, a BP Exploration (Alaska) spokesman, said the material containing asbestos has not been found on pipes in the eastern half of the field, where different materials and different application methods were used when the lines were installed in the late 1970s.

For many years, ARCO operated the eastern side of Prudhoe and BP operated the western side. The two operating areas were consolidated under BP in 2000. ●

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BLACKBEARD

confirmed Provine's comments related to Exxon and future wells.

Industry waiting on sidelines

Trice also said in May 2005 that companies interested in participating in future ultra-deep drilling on the Gulf's continental shelf were waiting on the sidelines until drilling results from Blackbeard West were released.

"The industry basically is like a bunch of birds on a wire watching the Blackbeard

well go down," Trice said. "I think people want to see how long does it take, how much does it cost, and did you find anything."

Australia's BHP Billiton, another Newfield partner, also was said to be committed to drill an ultra-deep well on a nearby Treasure Bay lease.

Shell is believed to be the first major oil company to drill below 25,000 feet on the Gulf's continental shelf, an arbitrary line that separates deep from the ultra-deep. The Shark well, drilled to a depth of around 26,000 feet, turned out to be a dry hole. Several other ultra-deep exploratory wells have been drilled on

the shelf with mixed results, but none to the extreme depths initially planned for Blackbeard West.

Newfield holds a 23 percent interest in the Blackbeard West well. ExxonMobil has a 25 percent stake in the well, followed by BP with a 20 percent stake, Petrobras America with a 20 percent interest, Dominion Exploration & Production with a 7 percent interest and BHP Billiton Petroleum (Deepwater) Inc. with a 5 percent interest. The Blackbeard West Prospect is subject to a 1.25 percent overriding royalty interest held by the Treasure Island Royalty Trust. ●



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• PIPELINES & DOWNSTREAM

Kinder Morgan gets rough ride in B.C.

Simpw First Nation asks for six months to assess impact; Burnaby City Council members question plan to add storage tank

By GARY PARK

For Petroleum News

The Canadian units of Kinder Morgan are taking a buffeting from affected aboriginals and residents as they seek regulatory approval for plans to expand their crude oil pipeline system from Alberta to the British Columbia coast and U.S. Pacific Northwest.

The Simpww First Nation of central British Columbia wants Canada's National Energy Board to delay its verdict on the Terasen Pipelines (Trans Mountain) proposal by six months.

Now members of the Burnaby City Council in the Greater Vancouver region are stalling a proposal to expand the capacity of a tank farm in their jurisdiction.

The so-called TMX-2 expansion plan involves a C\$400 million addition of about 40 miles of pipeline to hike capacity of the Trans Mountain line by 40,000 barrels per day to 300,000 bpd by November 2008, then move to 400,000 bpd.

It is a crucial link in the rapid increase in Western Canadian crude to 3.65 million bpd by 2010 from 2.22 million bpd in 2004 as part of the anticipated growth in oil sands production.

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers and producers Imperial Oil, Shell Canada, ConocoPhillips Canada, Chevron Canada and Nexen told the National Energy Board it is of crucial importance because of current apportionment on the line and the expected surge in demand for space.

Simpw First Nation wants six months to assess

But the Simpww community said it was not aware of its rights until it hired legal help in July.

It claims "procedural fairness" requires that it receive six months to assess and respond to the impact of the project on its traditional land.

Those assertions were challenged by

Terasen lawyer David Holgate who told the board the Simpww participated in a two-year consultation process and a parallel special program designed specifically for aboriginal input.

He said the "project is not just needed, it is needed without delay."

Nick Schultz, a lawyer for CAPP, said the Simpww was engaging in an "unreasonable attempt" to stop the application moving towards an orderly conclusion.

He said six months' of lost time would cause a "huge economic cost to our country and it is the producers who stand on the front lines."

The board reserved its decision, without giving any indication when it might rule.

Terasen Pipelines — part of the British Columbia operation acquired by Kinder Morgan last year for C\$6.9 billion — has access to towers, which separate the crude into various petroleum fractions, with capacity of 633,000 bpd in Washington State's Puget Sound area and 2.1 million bpd of crude tower capacity in Washington, Oregon, Alaska and California.

In its submission to the National Energy Board, Terasen said the demand for Canadian crude is likely to grow in Washington as Alaska North Slope supplies decline.

City Council questions crude storage tank

Meanwhile, Burnaby City Council is taking a fresh look at Terasen's plans for a 220,000 barrel crude storage tank at the Burnaby Mountain tank farm. Councilor Nick Volkow, one of four members of the nine-member council to raise concerns, said he was more concerned about the proposal coming from Kinder Morgan than he would have been had it come from Terasen before it was acquired.

"Kinder Morgan has a sorry (environmental) record when it comes to operating in its home base of Texas, so I'm prepared to give this application a lot more scrutiny," he said.

Councilor Pietro Calendino said he was "totally against" the plan because the neighborhood around the tank farm has changed so much in the past 50 years.

Kinder Morgan has said it will comply with all regulations.

The terminal, which opened in 1953, has 13 storage tanks with total capacity of 1.7 million barrels.

In addition to the storage tank planned for 2009, the company said it may apply to add five more tanks in the next few years. ●



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continued from page 4

SESSION

based on committee chairmanship or areas of expertise, he said.

Reserves initiative an issue

The governor lost a primary election bid Aug. 22.

He said that if a contract isn't passed and signed before the general election, and the gas reserves tax initiative tax is passed, negotiations will turn into litigation and "we're stuck for two years."

The Legislature cannot repeal, or substantially amend, an initiative for two years after it is passed, according to an opinion the governor obtained from Attorney General David Márquez.

The governor said the producers have said they will not accept a contract if the reserves tax passes — if the contract is signed before the election, however, it contains provisions which effectively nullify the gas reserves tax.

Murkowski said the reserves tax, which taxes gas at Prudhoe Bay and Point Thomson, would add \$8 billion to \$10 billion to the cost of a gas projects. ●

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continued from page 1

HOMER

the Red pad to Homer, to bring gas from the Red well to Homer and connect the Southcentral Alaska natural gas grid to the southern Kenai Peninsula.

Curtis Thayer and Charley Hernandez presented Enstar's idea to Homer's city council on Aug. 14. And Thayer has explained the company's concept to Petroleum News.

"It's very preliminary, very early on, but it appears it could be a win-win situation," Thayer said.

A previous proposal for a gas supply for Homer had involved a 2003 contract between Enstar and NorthStar Energy Group. That proposal involved the supply of gas from NorthStar's North Fork unit through pipelines to be built between North Fork and Anchor Point and between Anchor Point and Homer (see sidebar). But in July NorthStar informed Enstar that NorthStar can no longer fulfill the contract.

The development costs for the transmission line would be recovered from the tariffs for shipping gas through the lines. But, by connecting the line into the Southcentral gas grid, Enstar expects to be able to spread those costs across its whole customer base, rather than just across the new Homer customers — the new line would benefit all Southcentral gas users by opening up new sources of gas, Thayer said.

Secure gas supply

Enstar still wants to supply gas into the Homer market but the company requires a secure supply of gas for that market, Thayer said. He said Enstar has held informal talks with Chevron Corp. about the potential to use the Red well gas.

"They indicated that they had a (gas) discovery at Red well," Thayer said. "They hadn't really proved it up or tested it because they didn't have infrastructure there to get the gas the market. ... It clearly was a way to solve Homer's problem with getting natural gas and at the same time developing a new area in the Cook Inlet to supply gas into the Southcentral grid if commercial quantities of gas are found."

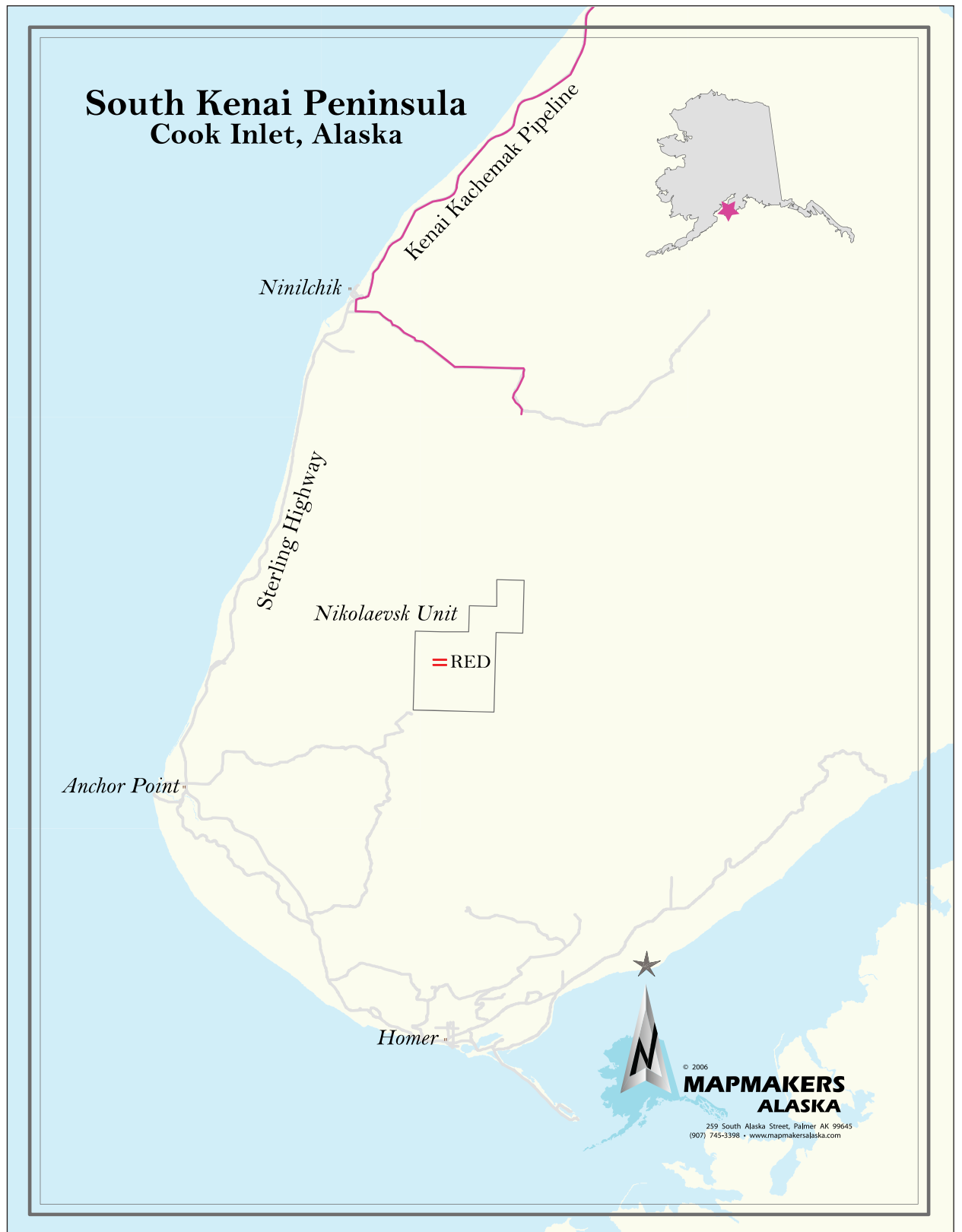
Preliminary estimates indicate that the transmission line north and south from the Red pad would take about four years to complete, at a cost of \$16 million.

"The two longest parts of that (development plan) are the regulatory and permitting processes," Thayer said.

The development costs for the transmission line would be recovered from the tariffs for shipping gas through the lines. But, by connecting the line into the Southcentral gas grid, Enstar expects to be able to spread those costs across its whole customer base, rather than just across the new Homer customers — the new line would benefit all Southcentral gas users by opening up new sources of gas, Thayer said.

In parallel with building the gas transmission line, Enstar would build out a gas distribution network from Homer at an estimated cost of \$14 million, to eventually serve an estimated 3,000 customers in the Homer area.

"There's a build out in Homer that would probably take



Enstar proposes supplying gas to Homer from the Red pad in the Nikolaevsk unit. A gas transmission line would run due south to Homer from the unit, and north to connect with the Kenai Kachemak pipeline.

four years to six years," Thayer said. "You want your transmission line and your core center to hook up at about the same time."

Build outwards

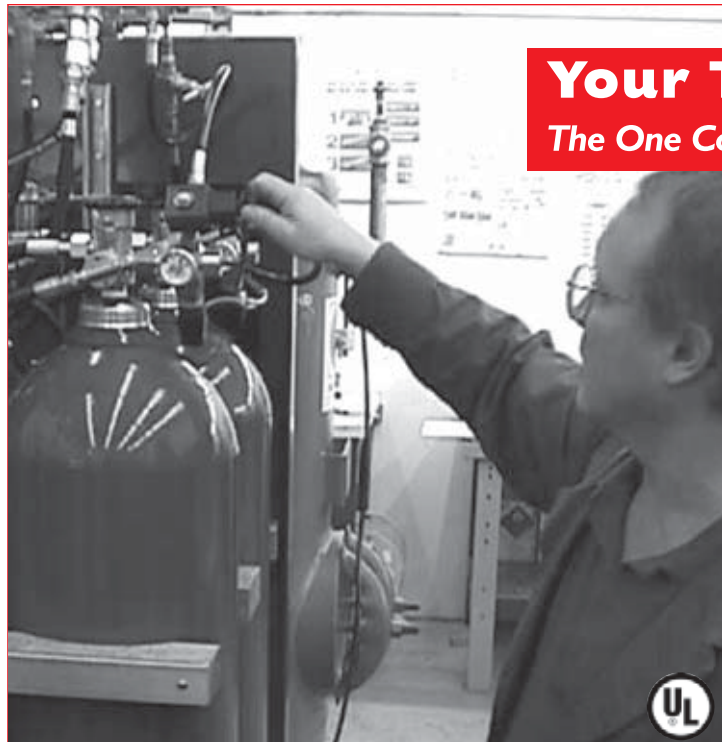
Construction of the Homer gas distribution network would start in the town center and progressively move outwards from that center, Thayer explained. Laying the network in the central part of Homer would be relatively expensive.

"One of the difficulties with Homer is that it is a mature market ... driveways are in, sidewalks are there, roads are paved," Thayer said.

In general, gas consumers have to pay for those parts of the gas distribution network that they need. However, government grants are possible to assist with the costs. And the build-out plan would probably target government buildings and other large public buildings first, Thayer explained. The use of natural gas could achieve especially large energy cost savings for these buildings and might attract some level of government funding from, for example, the state's Railbelt Energy Fund.

Once the basic natural gas infrastructure is in place for public buildings, homeowners and private businesses could connect into the system, Thayer said.

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NorthStar says can't provide gas

An earlier idea for supplying natural gas to Homer was focused on the North Fork unit, east of Anchor Point, where Standard Oil of California's North Fork 41-35 well struck gas in 1965 during a search for oil. Gas-Pro Alaska LLC acquired the North Fork unit from Unocal in 1996 and NorthStar Energy Group bought Gas-Pro in 2000.

In 2001 NorthStar tested the 41-35 well and reported a flow of 4 million cubic feet per day of natural gas from one interval at 8,500 feet.

In 2003 NorthStar and Enstar Natural Gas Co. signed a contract for the supply of natural gas to Homer from North Fork. The deal involved Alliance Energy, sister company to NorthStar, building a pipeline from North Fork to Anchor Point and Enstar building a pipeline from Anchor Point to Homer. However, both Enstar and the Regulatory Commission of Alaska required that pipeline construction be contingent on drilling a second North Fork well to raise proved reserves in the field from 12 billion cubic feet to 14.5 bcf, thus ensuring a 20-year gas supply for Homer.

In August 2004 Alliance announced that it would fully fund development of the North Fork unit, including "fast tracking" a pipeline north to connect the North Fork gas field with the Kenai Kachemak pipeline. Under a farmout agreement between Alliance and NorthStar, development of the North Fork field would include drilling a second well "as soon as January 2005," Barry Foote, vice president of Alliance Energy, told Petroleum News in 2004.

But that second well has never been drilled.

North Fork is a joint federal and State of Alaska unit. On March 8, 2006, the Bureau of Land Management, the federal agency that administers the unit, sent a letter to Gas-Pro stating that, if the second well on the unit is not drilled by Oct. 1, 2006, the unit would be terminated as from Oct. 1, 2005. The unit was originally due to expire in 2005, but BLM granted an extension contingent on a well workover being done and the second well being drilled. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources wrote to Gas-Pro March 9, saying that failure to drill the second well by Oct. 1, 2006, would result in termination of the unit on that date.

BLM has told Petroleum News that the federal leases associated with the unit can continue in existence for a period of up to two years from the date of termination of the unit. DNR says that the state leases terminate on the date of termination of the unit.

In July NorthStar wrote to Enstar, saying that it could not fulfill the gas supply contract for Homer, Enstar has said.

—ALAN BAILEY

Editor's note: Petroleum News has asked for a comment from Alliance and Northstar, so more information is possible in subsequent editions of PN.

EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

Central Mac drilling to wait for seismic data

International Frontier Resources has postponed until 2008 plans to drill in the Central Mackenzie Valley of the Northwest Territories while it participates in a 145-mile 2-D seismic program on three exploration licenses.

The seismic work will cost about C\$13 million and cover Haywood EL-423, North Stewart EL-397 and South Tate EL-441. Data acquisition is scheduled for completion in September and a prospect map will be developed before the end of 2006.

International Frontier said its partners agreed to defer 2007 drilling plans until 2008 to allow sufficient time to interpret the newly acquired seismic data and integrate the information into existing geological models. The consortium believes the delay will translate into more cost-efficient drilling and logistical operations.

—GARY PARK

FINANCE & ECONOMY

Harvest spreads wings, buys refinery

By GARY PARK

For Petroleum News

Harvest Energy Trust has moved Canada's income trust sector into a whole new realm, buying a Newfoundland oil refinery to become a fully integrated operation from exploration to processing.

It is paying C\$1.6 billion for the North Atlantic Refining facility at Come-by-Chance, plus 69 gas stations and a home heating business, picking up an asset that many other leading refiners apparently shunned.

But Harvest Chief Executive Officer John Zahary is entering the downstream certain that the refinery represents all positives and no negatives.

He said North Atlantic's expected operating life of at least 30 years raises Harvest's lifespan to 16 years once its oil and gas reserve life index of 9.5 years is taken into account. Despite the volatility of refining margins, Zahary is confident that given the "under-investment" in North American refineries and the absence of plans for any new facilities profit margins should stay robust for a minimum of five years.

However, Harvest executives were not overly eager to commit themselves to spending as much as C\$800 million which previous owner Vitol, the Swiss oil trader, estimated would be needed to expand and upgrade the refinery to produce the RBOB blendstock that is eagerly sought following the U.S. ban on the MTBE gasoline additive.

Asked whether he would make that kind of capital investment, Zahary said "that is

something that over time the owner ... should do to capture maximum value. We hope to do that under the Harvest ownership." Beyond that he offered no timelines.

For now, Zahary said, the plant processes 115,000 barrels per day of crude, mostly medium sour feedstock, from the Middle East, Russia and Latin America. The end products are largely for export to New England and New York.

Harvest said North Atlantic has enjoyed steady growth over the past 12 years since Vitol became the owner and invested C\$600 million on modernizing the plant, with current clean-fuel exports worth more than C\$2 billion a year.

Zahary said the refinery "is very well run and has a good reputation for operating performance," being rated No. 2 among Canada's 16 refineries in 2004.

But those results were not enough to entice such leading takeover candidates as Valero and Petroplus.

North Atlantic has a colorful past, opening in 1974 under Shaheen Natural Resources, quickly closing with the loss of tens of millions of dollars of Newfoundland government money in a C\$500 million bankruptcy, being picked up in the late 1980s by Petro-Canada for C\$17 million, faltering again before being sold to U.S. convenience chain Cumberland Farms for a nominal C\$1, before being acquired by Vitol.

High-flying Harvest has made two purchases of E&P companies in the past nine months totaling C\$2 billion, lifting its forecast production for 2007 to 65,000-67,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day, joining the top bracket of trusts. ●

continued from page 10

HOMER

\$10 million per year savings

Enstar has estimated a total current cost per year of about \$15 million for heating Homer homes and businesses using fuel oil, propane and electricity, at today's prices for those fuels. By calculating the volume of natural gas required to provide the same amount of heat, the company has calculated a cost of \$5 million for the use of gas at today's gas prices.

"They're going to see almost a \$10 million a year savings if they switch to natural gas vs. what they're paying today," Thayer said.

Enstar did not include the use of wood as a heating fuel in its calculations. The company views wood as, essentially, a free fuel source, the use of which would remain unaltered were people to start using natural gas.

Expanding the pipeline infrastructure

In addition to reducing heating costs in Homer, Enstar thinks that extending the Cook Inlet natural gas pipeline infrastructure to the southern Kenai Peninsula would encourage new gas exploration in that area — convenient access to a gas pipeline connected to gas markets significantly improves the economics of gas exploration.

"If we build it they will come," Thayer said.

Thayer said that Enstar is talking to both Chevron and Marathon about exploration possibilities, were the pipeline to be built. But Thayer also emphasized the preliminary nature of Enstar's proposals: the concept hinges on proving enough gas at the Red pad to at least supply Homer.

"If the Red well didn't exist we probably wouldn't be talking Homer, but here is an idea that we can supply Homer and our existing customers with a new discovery," Thayer said. ●



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FINANCE & ECONOMY

U.S.-based ConocoPhillips and Anadarko dangle Canadian assets

In a market hungry for growth, but starved of opportunities, the Canadian upstream sector is getting a helping hand from ConocoPhillips and Anadarko.

The two big U.S.-based companies have, respectively, placed daily production properties of 23,000 barrels of oil equivalent and 69,000 boe on the market, pushing the overall offerings past the 140,000-barrel mark and that doesn't take into account Talisman Energy's plans to unload about 20,000 boe.

There is no agreement among analysts whether deal-making favors buyers or sellers, but there is little doubting the desire among income trusts to build up their portfolios.

Anadarko's Canadian business has been on the block for more than two months and is expected to fetch more than C\$5 billion.

ConocoPhillips said in late August it has decided to sell seven packages of non-core oil and gas properties in Alberta and Saskatchewan, representing about 8 percent of its Canadian output and containing 53.7 million boe of proven reserves.

After bids close Sept. 26, the returns could be in the range of C\$1.2 billion — money that will help cushion the impact of ConocoPhillips' US\$35 billion takeover of Burlington Resources.

The company said the Canadian properties no longer have a place in its long-term strategic plan.

—GARY PARK

NATURAL GAS

AOGCC finalizes Kustatan gas ruling

Commission issues pool rules, spacing and drilling unit exemptions for Forest Oil's west side single-well natural gas pool

By KRISTEN NELSON

Petroleum News

The Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission has issued pool rules for the Kustatan gas field on the west side of Cook Inlet, wrapping up a process that began in February when the commission found that Forest Oil Corp. was operating the Kustatan Field No. 1 gas well in violation of well spacing requirements and drilling unit requirements.

The well, drilled for oil by Forest predecessor Forcenergy Inc. in 2000, did not encounter commercial quantities of oil and was completed as a Class II waste disposal well in 2003, and used for injection from April 2003 through November 2004.

The well was subsequently re-completed as a gas well and began regular production on Nov. 14, 2005.

The well, however, lies within 1,500 feet of a property line where ownership changes; re-completion of the well as a gas well without a spacing exception violated the commission's regulations, as did regular production from the well without a pooling agreement in place.

The commission provided a notice of violation of well spacing and pooling requirements to Forest on Feb. 24, 2006, and the company shut the well in that same day. In March the commission issued an interim order allowing Forest to resume production to avoid potential damage to the reservoir and loss of reserves (see story in April 9 issue of Petroleum News).

Exemptions are to spacing, drilling unit requirements

Forest applied for an exemption from well spacing requirements and drilling unit requirements. The commission said it received letters from all potentially affected landowners stating that they did not object to Forest's application; it granted a temporary spacing exception March 17 to allow Forest to return the well to production.

In its Aug. 24 findings the commission said the proposed Kustatan field #1 gas pool is an area of approximately 210 acres within State of Alaska lease ADL 390368; the existing well, Kustatan Field No. 1, is the only well drilled in the pool. The commission said not more than one well may be completed in the pool.

The gas pool lies between 5,352 feet and 5,385 feet measured depth in the Kustatan Field 1 well, with best quality reservoir rock in the lower, primary reservoir interval, which is 18 inches thick. Production is from the Tyonek formation.

Original gas in place 0.55-0.56 billion cubic feet

Original gas in place is estimated at 0.55 billion to 0.56 billion standard cubic feet and Forest estimates a recovery factor of 80 percent. Based on seismic, well log and production data Forest believes the entire gas accumulation to lie within the boundary of ADL 390368.

Peak production from the pool was approximately 1.85 million cubic feet of gas per day, with cumulative production through June 12 of 183.3 million cubic feet. The commission said the existing well is the only development well planned for the pool. Forest is developing the gas pool through blowdown and no pressure maintenance or enhanced recovery operations are planned.

The commission granted a waiver for well spacing, allowing regular production of a gas well within 1,500 feet of a property line, and a waiver for a drilling unit, allowing regular production from a gas well from a property that is smaller than the governmental section upon which the well is located. It said that because the pool is small establishing a drilling unit smaller than one governmental section "will not promote waste nor jeopardize correlative rights"; it also said waiver of the property line set-back requirements "will not promote waste nor jeopardize correlative rights." ●

NATURAL GAS

Agrium's coal project moves to phase 2

Agrium says its Kenai Blue Sky Coal Gasification Project has completed a preliminary review for a coal gasification facility in Alaska and is proceeding to phase two. The next step, which is expected to take up to six months, involves doing a "detailed feasibility review, further development of industry partnerships, more detailed definition of the design and commencement of environmental permitting."

In April, Agrium's top official in Alaska, Bill Boycott, put a \$28 million price tag on phase two. He said the goal was to "create a bankable commercial deal" that Agrium could "then take to Wall Street" to finance the \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion gasification complex using coal from the Beluga deposit on the west side of Cook Inlet.

Agrium hoped for a total of \$5 million from the state and feds for phase two, and the balance from grants and industry sources.

In its Aug. 31 announcement the company said it had been awarded a \$2 million grant from Alaska's Denali Commission and a \$5 million grant from the State of Alaska.

If built, the gasification facility would produce off-take gas on a long-term basis for Agrium's nitrogen facility at Nikiski, which is in danger of closure because of dwindling supplies of natural gas from the Cook Inlet basin. The facility would also generate competitively priced electricity for the regional power grid and provide carbon dioxide for enhanced oil recovery in the basin's maturing oil fields.

"The facility could be operational by 2011 and is based on proven technology," Agrium said.

—KAY CASHMAN



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Business Spotlight



Alex Kohler, Computer Instructor

Northwest Technical Services

Northwest Technical Services began as a local company, providing engineers and draftsmen to the oil industry. In 1981 it was acquired by Piping Design Services, now PDS Technical of Washington State, which provided contract employees to the nuclear power industry. Since then, NWTS has provided professional, technical, administrative and skilled labor personnel to industries and businesses throughout Alaska.

Alex Kohler joined NWTS this year as a computer instructor with 10 years' experience. He trains contract personnel to be proficient in major computer systems and applications. Alex moved to Anchorage in 1997 and "lives" to free Windows users from viruses, crashes and security woes by teaching them Linux to get the most of their computers. He's a single guy who enjoys the lifestyle Alaska offers.



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FORREST CRANE

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AGPA

and delivery to the West Coast as LNG.

The main line from the North Slope to Delta Junction would not be full until the highway project is built, which the port authority estimates would be at least three years later.

Major points in the wide-ranging discussion, which included the port authority, legislators, Murkowski administration officials, producers and consultants, were as follows:

- whether the port authority project would be subject to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission jurisdiction;
- whether the port authority project could deliver gas at least three years before a highway project;
- whether financing could be obtained without a ship-or-pay contract, long-term impacts of beginning gas shipment with the LNG project, and;
- how returns would compare to those from a highway project taking natural gas to Lower-48 markets in the Midwest.

Three-year head start crucial

The port authority would ship 1.2 bcf a day to Valdez for LNG.

Finizza looked at two port authority options once the highway segment was complete: 4.3 bcf with 1.2 bcf going to Valdez and 3.1 bcf going to the Lower 48 and 5.5 bcf with 1.2 bcf going to Valdez for LNG and 4.3 bcf going down the highway pipeline.

Finizza said the LNG segment offers a lower netback than the highway project, but the three-years of early cash flow produces a better net present value than just the highway line.

If the LNG project doesn't start until the highway project, however, the combined net cash flow is below that of a highway project alone, and the economic value of an LNG project can evaporate, Finizza said.

Rep. Ralph Samuels, R-Anchorage, said he recalled TransCanada telling legislators that below 3.3 bcf the economics of a highway line fall apart: if you took 1.2 bcf for an LNG project out of 4.3 bcf, you could hurt the highway economics. If 3.1 bcf a day is not economic for the highway project and you can't get an off-take rate of 5.5 bcf, then

if you start with 1.2 bcf on LNG, that's all you get, Samuels said. If you can't take 3.3 bcf it's not economic until you discover more gas, but there won't be gas exploration without a gas line.

Finizza said he thought Samuels had identified a risk.

Port authority would amend YPC permits

The port authority believes its access to permits developed by Yukon Pacific Corp., which the authority doesn't believe would take long to amend, provide the earliest opportunity to provide gas to Alaskans. Gas could be flowing by 2013, Walker said.

Samuels asked about FERC regulation and Walker said a pipeline owned by the port authority would be FERC-exempt because of its status as a municipality.

Shipkoff said downstream of Valdez components of the project would be regulated by FERC. He also said if the port authority owned the conditioning plant on the North Slope that would also be FERC-exempt.

The FERC process for an environmental impact statement and a certificate of convenience and necessity is expected to take a substantial amount of time, and gas pipelines cannot begin construction until they have completed FERC certification.

Sen. Ralph Seekins, R-Fairbanks, the committee chair, said FERC told the committee its permitting timeframe is at least 48 months. Seekins does not believe FERC is going to ignore one of the largest gas projects.

Walker said the port authority has been talking with the U.S. Department of Energy, and has assured FERC it's not out to do battle with them.

Price makes project work

Shipkoff said the port authority's numbers show the project to be commercial, and called it a project ready to proceed.

The LNG project will carry the costs of a line sized for the highway project to Delta for three years. That is possible because of current prices, he said.

The reverse does not hold true. He said if the highway project goes first, LNG would have to wait and by the time the highway project was completed, LNG markets would be lost.

Steve Porter, deputy commissioner of the Alaska Department of Revenue, said the ... key is to track risks and costs. True believers sometimes emphasize the positive over the negative, he said, calling the port authority "quite optimistic" and saying the port authority "generally has no risk," but would transfer that risk to the producers, bond holders or downstream, taking incremental benefit without shouldering risk.

Shipkoff said the port authority has been asked, if you have such a good project, why aren't the producers coming to you, and he said the port authority believes that when the producers are ready to seriously consider a project out of Alaska they will implement an LNG project.

Samuels asked about the risk if gas prices dropped dramatically.

Shipkoff said the port authority has proposed a netback purchase agreement. If gas prices drop to \$2, he said, the producers would shut in the wells and the investors would absorb the loss. The question is can you convince investors to commit money, he said, noting that the port authority believes it's a remote possibility that the gas price will drop. Many multi-billion-dollar projects which "look just like ours" are proceeding, he said.

Seekins asked whether the port authority anticipated ship-or-pay contracts and Shipkoff said that would depend on the outcome of discussions, but the proposal was netback with just performance risk for producers.

Seekins said it had always been his assumption that it would be very difficult to get financing without ship-or-pay contracts and asked if the port authority was saying that the federal loan guarantee would act as a guarantee so ship-or-pay contracts wouldn't be required.

Shipkoff said that would have to be negotiated, but said government backing of private loans is common and while ship-or-pay commitments are a very common way to provide surety they are not the only way: lenders have accepted alternate arrangements, he said.

An issue of risk

Steve Porter, deputy commissioner of the Alaska Department of Revenue, said the port authority project is important to the state, and thinks it is important to the state to understand the project.

It is also important to understand the risks to the state, he said, quoting from a book on mega-projects and risk to the effect that project promoters are happy to go ahead with highly risky projects as long as they themselves do not carry the risk and are not responsible for cost overruns.

The key, Porter said, is to track risks and costs. True believers sometimes emphasize the positive over the negative, he said, calling the port authority "quite optimistic" and saying the port authority "generally has no risk," but would transfer that risk to the producers, bond holders or downstream, taking incremental benefit without shouldering risk.

When you transfer risk, Porter said, you transfer costs: if you transfer the risk to the bondholders, the bonds are going to cost more.

Bechtel, which did cost estimates for the port authority, looked at a turn-key project, he said. That's a fair approach, but leaves money on the table and the producers are looking for leakage — where does money leak from their project? They're not going to like turn-key, Porter said, because it can add cost and make the tariff higher.

Shipkoff said some of the extra cost that came with the turn-key approach has been stripped out of the port authority's numbers; without turn-key, he said, the project takes on that risk of cost overruns.

Whitaker said North Slope producers BP, ConocoPhillips and Exxon are transferring significant risk to the State of Alaska through the fiscal contract they negotiated with the Murkowski administration. He told the committee that he thought the plug should be pulled on that contract.

How likely is three-year head start?

Roger Marks, an economist with the Department of Revenue, asked Finizza how plausible he thought it was the port authority could begin production three years before a highway line and Finizza said he'd taken that as a given.

Marks said he questions how plausible it is.

He also said the administration believes the port authority will be under FERC jurisdiction. Projects within municipalities could be FERC-exempt, he said, but a project for inter-state transportation of natural gas would be under FERC jurisdiction.

Marks said for a 4 bcf pipeline to Delta Junction with 1 bcf going to Valdez and no commitment for the other 3 bcf he didn't think FERC would allow the tariff to cover the cost of the remainder of the pipe.

Shipkoff said the port authority had asked its FERC counsel for an opinion on that issue, even though the port authority doesn't think it would be under FERC jurisdiction. The port authority wouldn't build a pipe bigger than needed to go to Valdez, he said, unless it had an agreement with the producers to build the larger pipe to handle a future highway project. There would be a negotiated rate, and he said he didn't believe FERC would disallow a negotiated rate. FERC has agreed to sizing pipe to allow for future volumes and he said the port authority's FERC counsel didn't think FERC would approve a line that wasn't large enough to allow for future volumes.

Producers disagree

In response to the assertion that all parties to the deal might approach FERC supporting an LNG-highway Y-line as the best commercial deal, BP Exploration (Alaska)'s gas commercialization manager Dave Van Tuyl said "all parties do not believe this is the best commercial deal."

Van Tuyl said the cost of delivery for LNG is higher than for pipeline gas and markets are not known. The LNG project has a higher cost and would reduce the highway volume, making the combination project worse than a highway gas pipeline.

Marks said the very small limited West Coast market for gas is a concern with the LNG project. He said gas sells for 50 cents less on the West Coast than in Chicago, noting that the need for gas is in the upper Midwest, not on the West Coast.

On that same issue Porter said that if the profit on gas going through Canada is \$2 and the profit from LNG is \$1, then LNG is not producing the maximum value to the state. It's not that you couldn't make money on 1.2 bcf for LNG, he said, it's that it's more economic — you make more money — taking the gas through Canada.

Conflicting views on role of FERC

Counsel for the legislative committee told members that FERC would likely allow a larger line to be built, but would require investors to eat the cost of the entire line until it was full. Van Tuyl said BP's FERC attorney had a very similar response.

Shipkoff again said the port authority wouldn't build the pipeline in isolation. There will be a commercial agreement with



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AGPA

the producers, he said. He didn't think FERC would overrule a commercial agreement.

Seekins asked if the port authority has had talks with the producers on a commercial agreement and Shipkoff said the port authority would like to engage in such talks, and that it wouldn't have a project without discussions.

Whitaker said there's no conversation if there's no gas. He said if the Legislature would exercise its responsibility it could make the gas supply available.

Seekins said he appreciated the state's responsibility, but thought it would be best if the port authority tried to cut a commercial deal.

The committee's counsel said the more he thought about it, the more convinced he became that FERC would take control of a port authority project. The Energy Policy Act of 2005, he said, strengthened FERC's authority over LNG projects.

He said FERC is saying that a municipality is not subject to its authority, but if a municipality chooses to do things within FERC's authority — such as move gas in inter-state commerce — then that project would come under that authority.

FERC has said once you come to "our party" you have to abide by "our rules," he said.

Walker said because the port authority has kept its ownership within the state, it is FERC exempt. He said the authority can get a declaratory order that it is exempt and plans to sit down with FERC in the next 30 days and discuss the issue.

Three years not FERC-related, says Walker

Seekins said he didn't wish FERC on anyone, but if the port authority is not exempt, he asked, does its advantage disappear?

Walker said the authority's three-year time advantage comes from the Yukon Pacific work and is not FERC related.

Marks noted that the Yukon Pacific environmental impact statement was done 20 years ago for a non-FERC project, a different project than this one. An EIS under FERC would add two years, he said, questioning whether a 20-year-old EIS would be considered out of date.

The committee's FERC attorney said there is explicit timing in the 2004 act for an EIS; if the old one were sufficient that wouldn't be in the act, he said.

Walker agreed that permits would need updating, but said the port authority does not believe it will have to start over.

Commitment same as debt

Sen. Gene Therriault, R-North Pole, asked Van Tuyl why, since companies make commitments to ship on other pipelines, that this one is different.

Van Tuyl said it's the same for everything they invest in: auditors treat it as debt. They are real obligations and need to be counted, he said.

Dan Dickinson, formerly director of Revenue's Tax Division and now a consultant to the department, said the effect of long-term financing is the same for the company as if cash came out of its pocket.

On costs, he noted that Bechtel did some 55,000 hours of work on the port authority project while the producers have done more than a million hours. Neither of the cost numbers is the final number Dickinson said, and further technical work on both projects may make a difference in either narrowing or widening the cost gap. ●

MMS includes Chukchi in new five-year plan

Alaska would see federal outer continental shelf lease sales in four areas under a proposed five-year plan and draft environmental impact statement issued Aug 24 by the Minerals Management Service.

The Chukchi Sea has the most proposed sales in the Alaska OCS — Sale 193 in 2007, Sale 212 in 2010 and Sale 221 in 2012. MMS said the Chukchi Sea sale area has been modified from the draft program it issued in February: a 25-mile buffer area along the coast has been removed from the proposed program, since there is no existing oil and gas activity in the area and the State of Alaska made no request to include leasing closer to shore.

Two Beaufort Sea OCS sales are proposed, Sale 209 in 2009 and Sale 217 in 2011.

There are two Cook Inlet sales on the proposed schedule, Sale 211 in 2009 and Sale 219 in 2011, but MMS said the Cook Inlet planning area is included as a special interest sale, which will take place only if enough interest is shown by industry in answer to a nomination call.

The North Aleutian basin also appears on the proposed sale schedule.

MMS said Alaska Gov. Frank Murkowski and the majority of local governments and tribal organizations requested that proposed sales in this area take place only in the area offered in Sale 92, held in 1988. The North Aleutian basin planning area is currently withdrawn by presidential order under section 12 of the OCS Lands Act, MMS said, but the governor has requested that the president modify his withdrawal to allow sales in the Sale 92 area. If held, those would be Sale 214 in 2010 and Sale 223 in 2012.

The Department of the Interior's MMS said the second draft of the new leasing plan would succeed the plan expiring on June 30, 2007. The agency will accept comments through Nov. 24; the draft EIS is open for comment until Nov. 22.

—KRISTEN NELSON

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SALES

to mitigate those as much as possible, I think we can work together."

Allred nominated as assistant secretary

Burton also said that Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne has announced the nomination of C. Stephen Allred to be assistant secretary for land and minerals, overseeing BLM, MMS and the Office of Surface Mining. The Aug. 3 nomination is subject to confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

Allred served in Kempthorne's cabinet as director of the Department of Environmental Quality when the secretary was governor of Idaho. He was previously director of the Idaho State Department of Water Resources and a senior vice president and group president for Morrison-Knudson Corp.

Allred has bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Idaho.

Burton, who is MMS director, has been acting assistant secretary for about a year, and will continue to serve in that capacity until Allred has been confirmed. ●

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EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

Oil sands ups, downs end on the up side

Alberta's three traditional oil sands mines produced an average 594,000 barrels per day in the first half of 2006, beating last year by 114,000 bpd, despite scheduled maintenance and an operational setback at Shell Canada's Athabasca facility.

Athabasca dropped to 78,000 bpd in the second quarter from 164,000 bpd a year earlier and 103,000 bpd for the January-to-June period, off 45,000 bpd from last year.

This time it was Suncor's turn to avoid plant problems which plagued its 2005 first-half, notching 266,000 bpd to the mid-point of 2006 vs. 134,000 bpd last year. Second quarter volumes soared to 267,000 bpd from 128,000 bpd last year.

Syncrude climbed to 223,000 bpd from 196,000 bpd over the opening half and surged to 242,000 bpd in July compared with Suncor's 225,500 bpd.

—GARY PARK

continued from page 1

MAC COSTS

mate will be released beyond indicating it is likely later this year.

Regulatory and cost concerns

Bell, who holds the industry, tourism and investment portfolio, told Petroleum News he is hoping the NWT government will be at the table with the Canadian government when Imperial presents the numbers and makes what many expect will be a bid for royalty and tax relief.

Bell said the worry among ministers is that a failure by Canada to set fixed regulatory deadlines along the lines of the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will drive investors away.

Speaking from the annual conference of Canada's federal, provincial and territorial energy ministers in Whitehorse, Yukon, Bell said his concerns are two-fold: Continuing delays in the regulatory process and the costs.

Of the two he is "much more concerned about costs" which are caught in period of inflation that has put the squeeze on other energy mega-projects such as the oil sands, where operators Imperial, EnCana and Husky Energy have warned they could be forced to move upgraders from Alberta to the United States or overseas.

The regulatory delays, which point to the postponement of the Mackenzie project's start-up date from 2011 to 2012, are weighing heavily on all energy ministers, who issued a communiqué calling for energy supply, infrastructure, efficiency and conservation options to be developed in a timely and responsible manner.

They agreed to identify and develop pilot projects using a "single window" regulatory approach over coming months and report back in early 2007.

Bell: too late to intervene in Mackenzie

Federal Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn, echoing concerns expressed in August by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, urged the ministers to figure out how to expedite projects through the regulatory process. Bell said it is too late to intervene in the Mackenzie process, which has "got to run its course."

But he said the latest delay, when the Joint Review Panel examining environmental, socio-economic and cultural impacts, extended its completion date by five months to mid-April 2007, will result in overall "slippage" of one year in the completion date because of the weather-affected construction season in Canada's North.

"The project can't withstand any more delays," he said. "This (the panel delay) has got to be it."

Apart from hearings being conducted by the panel and Canada's National Energy Board (which deals with technical, safety and economic matters), the project also needs thousands of permits and licenses to proceed and that, too, is an open-ended phase, Bell noted.

Bell said the worry among ministers is that a failure by Canada to set fixed regulatory deadlines along the lines of the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will drive investors away.

He emphasized the deadlines would be tailored to specific projects and would not "diminish or water down environmental standards or debate."

But for now there is no provision in Canada for governments to legislate or issue ministerial directives to bring discipline to the regulatory process. ●

continued from page 1

SHARE

The driving force behind the initiative are the Samson, Enoch and Saddle Creek nations of Alberta in response to a Canadian government decision to cancel major funding for aboriginal economic development.

In addition, Swampy said his communities feel it is time for Alberta money to play a larger role in the development of oil sands at a time when U.S. and Asian money is playing a large role in the province's economic boom.

"We want to be a major part of it too, but it's going to take a large investment," Swampy said.

He said the government erred in scrapping federal equity programs that gave first nations a degree of economic self-sufficiency.

The Samson Cree parlayed a C\$1.7 million government investment into a C\$36 million business enterprise, embracing oil and gas drilling, real estate holdings and a financial trust company.

Saddle Lake Chief Eddie Makokis said that given the 80 percent jobless rate on reservations governments have a responsi-

bility to look to aboriginals rather than immigrants to solve labor shortages in Canada.

Crowfoot named to NEB

Meanwhile, Strater Crowfoot, a former Blackfoot chief, has become the first aboriginal member of the National Energy Board, Canada's federal regulator.

Although Crowfoot emphasizes that he views the posting as a chance to represent all Canadians, not just one group, he concedes that recent court rulings mandating consultation with natives on major energy projects allow him to bring a "different perspective" to the discussions.

Earlier this year, in speaking to a public utilities conference, he said First Nations "want the same things as everyone else" — businesses and job opportunities on their lands and revenues to build infrastructure and provide a higher quality of services."

He suggested there should be a national agency to negotiate aboriginal participation in resource development as well as to clarify property and business rights on aboriginal land.

—GARY PARK

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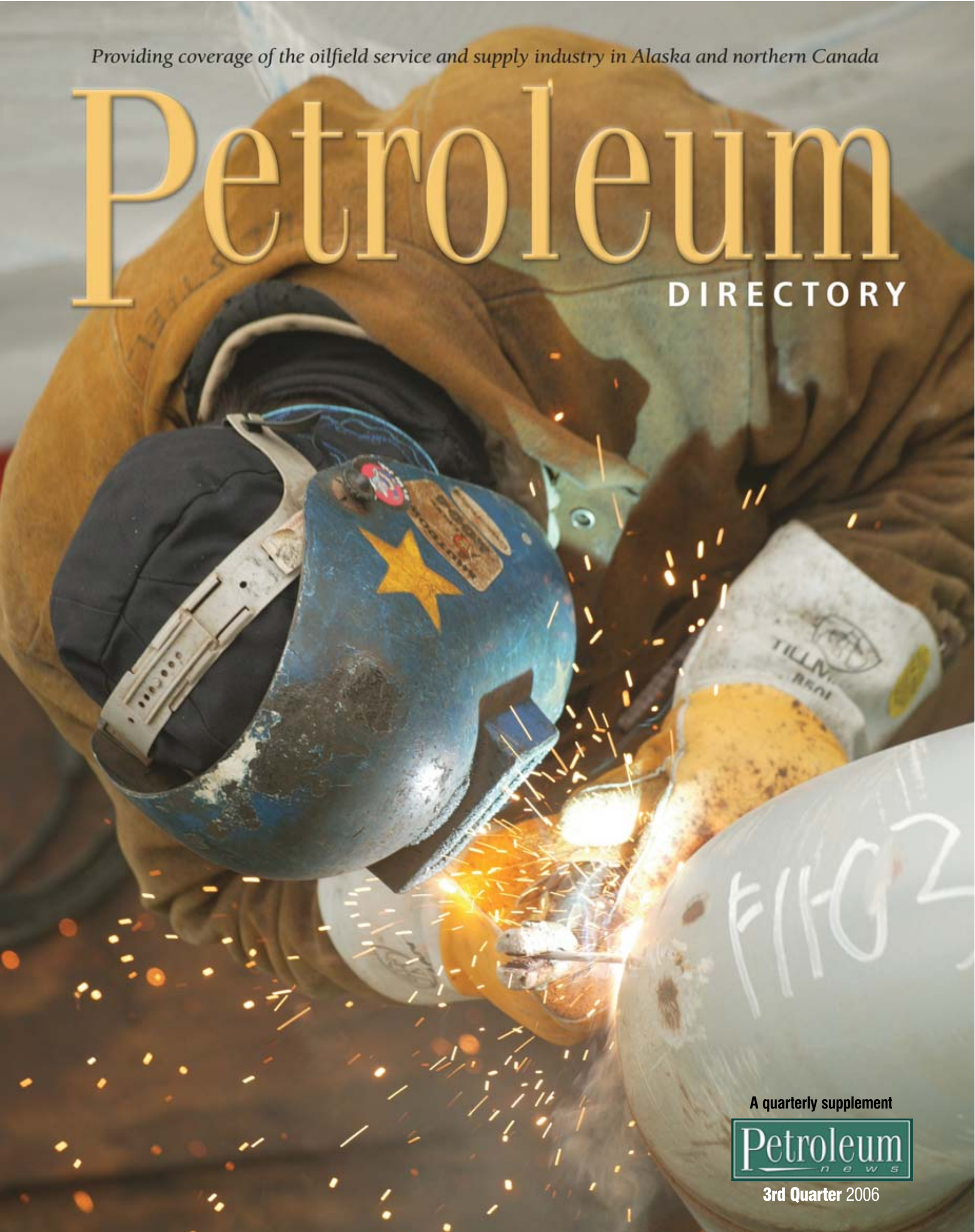


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A quarterly supplement

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3rd Quarter 2006

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The cover photo, an up-close look at a welder, is courtesy of Judy Patrick



Finding Kuparuk was a big surprise

Geologist: Sinclair's ploy to boost stock price ends with discovery of North America's fourth-largest oil field

By **ROSE RAGSDALE**
For Petroleum Directory

The discovery of Kuparuk River, North America's fourth largest oil field, was a good example of exploration serendipity.

The driving force behind Sinclair Oil Corp.'s 2.5-billion-barrel find in 1969 actually originated thousands of miles away in the boardroom of a competitor, according to Christopher J. Lewis, area geologist for Alaska at the time

Sinclair, which had partnered with BP in the 1964 state Colville lease sale, was smarting from one disappointing exploration effort after another on the North Slope. This bad news had culminated with Colville No. 1, the first attempt to find commercial quantities of oil on the North Slope, turning out to be a dry hole.

Gulf & Western made a hostile bid for Sinclair, who by that time had closed its Anchorage office. But the New York-based independent wanted nothing to do with Gulf & Western, recalled Lewis.

He told the story of Kuparuk's discovery in a presentation titled, "Three Big North Slope Surprises," at the Pacific Section meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in Anchorage May 9.

Lewis, 74, described the process of finding the Kuparuk River field as one big surprise.

Angered by Sinclair's rejection of the buyout offer, Gulf & Western Chairman Charlie Bludhorn is rumored to have said to Sinclair's chairman, "I'm going to get your company, Mr. Thomas, and when I do, the first thing I'm going to do is fire you and your bunch of lackeys."

The geologist said Sinclair Oil then sought to counter the overt threat from Gulf & Western by drilling another well on the Colville leases near the recent Prudhoe Bay discovery, which had excited the oil industry and its investors.

"The thinking was that if we would spud a well; our stock would go up; and Gulf & Western wouldn't get us," he recalled.



Flaring at the Ugnu well

Arduous Arctic conditions

Lewis said he was summoned to the offices of exploration subsidiary Sinclair Oil & Gas in Denver on a Friday evening just before Thanksgiving 1968 by Regional Vice President Glen Simpson.

"I want you to go out there and stake a well location straight away," Simpson told Lewis.

The next day, Lewis climbed aboard a plane to Fairbanks where he just happened to stumble upon the party chief of a Union Oil seismic crew working in the Colville area.

"I was able to use their camp and helicopter," he said.

The weather was very cold with temperatures dipping 40 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. That first day Lewis said visibility was limited due to the frosting up of the helicopter bubble and as he and his surveyor were in the back seat they could not help the pilot to find the location. The next day he borrowed a tracked vehicle from the seismic crew and with one of their surveyors, set off across the tundra.

"We only had a few hours of daylight," recalled Lewis. "With two surveyors aboard, suddenly I realized that we were going 180 degrees in the wrong direction. I saw the

lights of Bud Helmerick's place to the northwest of our location. We needed to go southeast. We finally got to the site just before dark." (One of Helmerick's sons, Mark Helmericks, runs Colville Inc. today.)

A likely well site

The geologist said he had spotted two odd-shaped lakes from air photographs and picked a location in between them because he thought it would be easy to find.

They marked the spot with a flag and returned on the third day to finish plotting the well site.

Months later when drilling began in early 1969 Sinclair assigned Lewis to sit on the well.

"We were drilling at 6,000 feet without any hope of getting anything because we were down dip from the Colville High, and that was a dry hole," Lewis remembered. "I was having my dinner when the crew said we had had a break."

In drilling parlance, "a break" meant the rate of penetration had increased because the drill bit encountered porous layers of rock.

"When I looked at the cuttings, I real-

continued on next page

Cosmopolitan: Geologist employs wit in naming lower Cook Inlet oil prospect

By ROSE RAGSDALE
For Petroleum Directory

Senior officials sat down with geologists at ARCO Alaska Inc. in the mid-1990s and laid their cards on the table. Top management at the Los Angeles-based parent company, Atlantic Richfield Co., were “concerned,” they said, that the geologists working for the company in Alaska did not have enough international experience.

Phrasing this not-so veiled criticism as delicately as possible, the managers told the Alaska’s ARCO rock hounds that perhaps they weren’t “cosmopolitan” enough to satisfactorily do their jobs.

The managers then discussed transferring the geologists working in Alaska to other ARCO locations in the world such as Los Angeles, Houston and Indonesia.

Sitting in that meeting, ARCO geologist Bob Swenson said the discussion caught his attention, especially the term “cosmopoli-

tan.”

Shortly afterward, Swenson completed work in 1995 on a project in the lower Cook Inlet just offshore north of Anchor Point. Drawing on the Starichkof State No. 1 well drilled in 1967 by Pennzoil and numerous geological clues, Swenson said he “came up with the concept” for an oil prospect at the offshore location and presented it to his superiors.

As the geologist credited with identifying the prospect, Swenson enjoyed the privilege of giving the prospect a name.

“The earlier remark came to mind, so I named it ‘Cosmopolitan,’” said Swenson, and in so doing, perhaps sent a not-so veiled message of his own to in Los Angeles.



Geologist
Bob Swenson

Exploration continues at prospect

Over time, Swenson’s “concept” metamorphosed into the 24,601-acre Cosmopolitan unit that today encompasses seven state and two federal offshore oil and gas leases where unspecified quantities of oil have been discovered.

More than a decade later, Cosmopolitan is being actively explored by ARCO Alaska’s successor, ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc., and generating excitement, according to its newest working interest owner, Pioneer Alaska Resources Inc. Pioneer said recently it will up its investment from 10 percent to 50 percent and become operator of the unit.

Swenson, meanwhile, left the company to become a consultant a few years ago and in 2005, joined the state Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys in the Alaska Department of Natural Resources as acting director and state geologist.

KUPARUK *continued from previous page*
ized that we had an excellent oil sand,” Lewis said. “I wanted a core to obtain a solid rock sample of the sand but the rig site did not have the connections to core in a 12 1/4-inch hole.”

Wireless communication was usually so poor that Lewis realized he would have to travel to Fairbanks to confer by phone with his superiors in Colorado about the next step and then travel back to the slope, using up over a day of precious drilling time in the process. Instead, he decided to ask the drilling crew to test the well.

Surprise, surprise

“Our surprise was complete when the test produced oil. We recovered oil at a rate of about 1,000 barrels per day in that well,” he said.

Sinclair named the well Ugnu No. 1 because the Ugnuravik River ran through the area. “It was really a small stream. Ugnuravik was too long, so we just called it ‘Ugnu,’” he said.

In short order, the well spewed barrels and barrels of crude into a pit on the tundra. “We could have bulldozed it over, but thought the easiest thing was to burn it,” he said. “Thereupon we applied a lighted



COURTESY CHRISTOPHER LEWIS

From left, Cameron Cox, head of the drilling department for Sinclair Oil and Gas, Christopher J. Lewis, Alaska area geologist and Glen Simpson, Sinclair Oil & Gas regional vice president. Simpson later became the Alaska General Manager for Arco.

torch to the black gassy pool.”

Leaping tongues of flames soon warmed the icy tundra.

But an Atlantic Richfield Co. rig working only 14 miles farther east never saw the fire. The entire ploy, meanwhile, paid off handsomely for Sinclair. The company’s stock price rose, and ARCO soon offered to buy the company in a friendly takeover.

At the time of the takeover, Lewis said Alaska was no longer a top priority at Sinclair. Company officials saw themselves as major players in the Rockies where Sinclair had made a number of significant discoveries.

Ironically, one of the first things ARCO did when it took over Sinclair was sell many of the company’s assets in the Rockies.

Acuren provides comprehensive integrity management services

With expert skill, Acuren engineers test performance of polymers, metals, ceramics and composites for Alaska clients

Q. Where is your company located?

A. Acuren has 60 offices throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. Its headquarters are in Greenwich, Conn.

In Alaska, Acuren functions as an independent company within the group with operations in Anchorage, Prudhoe Bay, Kenai and Fairbanks. Our Alaska headquarters office is at 7911 King Street in Anchorage. The telephone number is (907) 569-5000, and our fax number is (907) 569-5005.



Kim Harker, Acuren's Alaska Managing Director, provided information for this company profile

Q. When was the company founded, who founded it, and what was its original name?

A. Original companies which now constitute Acuren are Canspec Group, founded in 1973 in Alberta, Canada, by Ken Stankievich, and Longview Inspection founded in 1980 in Texas by Jim Treat. Canspec and Longview combined operations under the new name of Acuren in 2005.

Q. Who heads up Acuren and who is on its senior management team?

A. Ken Stankievich, president, and Tal Pizzezy, vice president, operations, lead the international operations. The senior management team in Alaska consists of Kim Harker, managing director; Nelson Perrin, operations manager; and George Bryant and Kevin Deutsch, alternate project managers, Prudhoe Bay.

Q. What is the company's primary business sector? What services do you offer?

A. Industries served include oil and gas, power, pipeline, mining, fabrication, petro-



Envision ScanTrack is a robotic pipeline crawler inspecting pipelines for corrosion in real time.

chemical, pulp and paper, aerospace, railroad and automotive.

Services include the full range of conventional non-destructive testing (NDT) including ultrasonic, radiographic, liquid penetrant, and magnetic particle inspection; advanced NDT services including various automated ultrasonic, phased array ultrasonic, eddy current examination, digital radiography; pressure vessel and tank inspections, positive material identification, visual inspection, guided wave ultrasonics, and more. Materials engineering services include materials analysis, failure analysis, welding engineering, fitness for service assessments, corrosion engineering, quality assurance and visual inspection.

Q. Who are the company's main clients?

A. In Alaska, Acuren mainly serves the oil and gas industry including BP, Chevron, Forest Oil, Flint Hills, Tesoro and Pioneer. We also serve the mining, fabrication and power industries in the state.

Q. How many employees does your company have?



Acuren inspector using rope access technology to inspect a tower.

A. Acuren has 2,400 employees globally and 146 in Alaska.

Q. Describe your essential equipment in general terms.

A. Our primary equipment arsenal consists of:
Industrial radiography equipment and

QA AND

By Paula Easley

FORREST CRANE

COURTESY ACUREN

COURTESY ACUREN

mobile darkrooms

Real-time radiography equipment
Manual, automated and phased array

ultrasonic equipment

Magnetostrictive guided wave ultrasonic equipment

Non-destructive testing and inspection equipment

Q. Is Acuren expanding any of its operations and/or locations?

A. We recently opened an office in Fairbanks to provide services to the oil and gas and mining industries in central Alaska.

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

A. Acuren is the only national materials engineering and non-destructive testing company with a strong presence in Alaska. We have tremendous depth in technology, experience and people that is unmatched in the industry. Whether an oil pipeline or a roller bearing, Acuren engineers respond quickly with cost-effective, concise and objective answers. Our engineers work at client field sites or they can examine components in company laboratories.

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

A. We opened new offices in Kenai and Fairbanks in the past year to meet the needs of the oil and gas industry and Alaska's growing activity in its mining sector.

Q. Has the company invested in any new technology in the last two years?

A. During the past two years in Alaska, Acuren has invested in the following new technologies:

Computer radiography system

Real-time digital radiography (hand-held and crawler units)

Magnetostrictive guided wave ultrasonic system

Phased array ultrasonic system

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

A. Providing on-going NDT and inspection services to the Greater Prudhoe Bay and ACT fields on the North Slope — it is the size of the project (120-plus technicians and inspectors) and the variety of ser-



COURTESY ACUREN

Guided Wave Ultrasonic system for longitudinal monitoring of cased piping.

vices that provides the on-going challenge.

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

A. Our biggest obstacle is a shortage of skilled and experienced technicians. This is a problem throughout North America.

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

A. Recruiting, training and developing enough qualified people to meet the demands of our customers.

Q. What do you see as future trends or opportunities for your company from events such as long-term weather fluctuations, resource development, etc.?

A. The development of the natural gas industry in Alaska would provide new opportunities for our services both during

construction and in providing on-going maintenance and reliability services.

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

A. Most of the employees we hired when we came to Alaska in 2002 are still with us. During the past year, our labor force has grown by almost 50 percent.

Q. What is your company's safety record?

A. During 2005, Acuren had an injury frequency rate of 0.9.

Q. Does your company maintain a Web site?

A. For an overview of services provided by Acuren, we encourage companies with analysis, inspection, or other integrity management needs to visit our Web site at www.acuren.com.

Traversing the Northwest Passage

Northern Transportation's ship MV Alex Gordon travels from Halifax to the Canadian Beaufort Sea to assist with refit of Kulluk drill ship for Shell

By **ALAN BAILEY**
Petroleum Directory

Fortunately marine technologies (not to mention health and safety standards) have improved out of all recognition since Sir John Franklin led an 1847 British expedition to seek the Northwest Passage. Franklin's two ships were crushed and sunk by pack ice; Franklin and the more than 100 sailors in the expedition subsequently died of starvation in one of the Royal Navy's more spectacular disasters. But the route that Franklin was attempting to navigate proved to be the optimum way to thread between the many islands of northern Canada, between Baffin Bay and the Canadian Beaufort Sea.

Sunny Munroe, business liaison and communications manager for Northern Transportation Co. Ltd., told Petroleum News about a July 2006 voyage through the Northwest Passage — the first of the 2006 season — by NTCL's supply ship and anchor handler, the MV Alex Gordon, which traveled from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories in the company of the Vladimir Ignatyuk, an Arctic Class IV icebreaker owned by Murmansk Shipping and based in Murmansk, Russia.

Mobilizing the Kulluk

The NTCL voyage resulted from a contract to assist with mobilizing the Kulluk Arctic drill ship for Shell — Shell has purchased the Kulluk for drilling in the leases that it now owns in the U.S. Beaufort Sea. The Kulluk has been moored for several years in McKinley Bay, about 50 miles east of Tuktoyaktuk, Munroe said. Frontier Drilling is managing the refurbishment of the Kulluk for Shell, which contracted NTCL to assist with the marine aspects of the refurbishment.

The drill ship is held in position by anchors and 10 steel mooring lines, each about 2,000 feet long. Shell wants all of these anchors and lines replaced as part of the refurbishment, Munroe said. Shell also wants to move the ship out of McKinley Bay during the summer and then put the ship back into the bay for the winter. The Alex Gordon is assisting with the mooring line replacement,



SUNNY MUNROE, NTCL

Northern Transportation Co. Ltd.'s supply ship and anchor handler, the MV Alex Gordon, in the Arctic ice.

recovering and replacing the 10-ton anchors as needed, and with moving the drill ship in and out of the bay. Shell has hired a team of mooring line specialists from Texas to change the lines.

Because NTCL's fleet of tugs are engaged in the company's routine freight and fuel transportation business during the summer, the company decided to use one of its pair of seasoned anchor handling and supply vessels for the Kulluk project. These vessels are also Arctic class II icebreakers and were designed and built for work in the Arctic by Dome Petroleum in the late 1970s.

"They're both stationed in Halifax, so in order to arrive at McKinley Bay the Alex Gordon, which was chartered for this specific operation, had to go through the Northwest Passage," Munroe explained.

But in order to arrive at McKinley Bay by Aug. 1, the date the marine part of the Kulluk project was scheduled to start, the Alex Gordon needed to sail from Halifax in July, a time of year in which ice conditions in the Northwest Passage are too severe for an Arctic Class II icebreaker. Shell had also chartered a Russian-owned Arctic Class IV icebreaker called the Vladimir Ignatyuk, which was formerly called the Kalvik and was owned by Gulf

Canada during the heyday of Canadian Beaufort Sea exploration.

"In order for our ship to get through it needed to be accompanied by a higher-powered icebreaker. We followed the Vladimir Ignatyuk through the Northwest Passage," Munroe said.

The Vladimir Ignatyuk would participate as the lead tug with the Alex Gordon in the Kulluk operations at McKinley Bay.

Experienced pilot and captain

Even with modern icebreakers, navigating through Arctic ice is not a trivial exercise; a safe and successful voyage depends on experience and knowledge.

"You need the experience for two things: to know what your ship is capable of doing and to know what kind of ice you're going through," Munroe said. "... It's helpful, at least for the first time that you go through (the passage), to have someone who has done it a number of times, who can say 'this is OK, we can do this. Your ship can do this'."

The master on board the Alex Gordon, Captain Selby Wiseman, spent 10 years in the Canadian Arctic during the 1980s working for Arctic Towing, which assisted the exploration vessels owned by Dome and Gulf. And Captain Yuri Krivenko, mas-



Northern Canada viewed from the north. Peel Sound runs north to south directly above Resolute. Cambridge Bay is on Victoria Island. The Northwest Passage route passes through Peel Sound and then between Victoria Island and the mainland of Canada.

ter of the Vladimir Ignatyuk, had sailed his ship through the Northwest Passage in 2005 as part of an assignment to move the SDC drilling rig from Herschel Island to a drill location in the Canadian Beaufort Sea for Devon Canada’s offshore program, the first Canadian Arctic offshore well in about 15 years. Shell also hired retired marine Captain Clive Cunningham to act as the ice pilot. Cunningham had worked for Dome Petroleum when that company was exploring offshore in the Canadian Arctic during the 1970s and 1980s.

“He’s an acknowledged expert in all aspects of northern marine travel and ice conditions,” Munroe said.

For most of the Gordon’s crew of 10, all mariners from Newfoundland, this was their first trip through the Northwest Passage. But for the Vladimir Ignatyuk’s crew of 25, this was second trip for many of them. All, however, are experienced crewmembers, well-trained for their work.

Cunningham and Munroe joined the

Vladimir Ignatyuk and Alex Gordon, respectively, at Resolute, on the southern coast of Cornwallis Island — Cornwallis Island lies in the Canadian Arctic southwest of Ellesmere Island, at a latitude of about 75 degrees north. From Cornwallis Island the preferred Northwest Passage route heads south through Peel Sound (east of Prince of Wales Island), into Queen Maud Gulf. From there the route follows a series of straits or gulfs between the south side of Victoria Island and the northern coast of mainland Canada.

Inspection of a map of the region shows alternative routes in much wider water channels than Peel Sound, to the west of Prince of Wales Island, for example. However, the larger water bodies tend to contain larger amounts of multi-year ice — ice that has not melted between successive winters. Multiyear ice tends to be much harder and much more difficult to break through, thus making the Peel Sound route the most viable passage, Munroe explained.

Significant challenges

But even Peel Sound can present significant challenges, with the sea ice shifting, cracking, opening up and closing again. As the Vladimir Ignatyuk and Alex Gordon progressed through the sound they encountered some ice more than four feet thick, Munroe said.

“The ice at the north end of Peel Sound was fairly thick and difficult and as we progressed south the ice conditions would change, depending on what the weather conditions were like, how much pressure there was on the ice, how close the ships were to land, if there was wind blowing,” Munroe said. “... The first day we only made about 10 miles and the second day we probably doubled that.”

The Vladimir Ignatyuk has a wide and flat spoon-shaped prow, designed to ride up on the ice and then break it using the weight of the ship. A “bubbler system” sprays water to lubricate the ice as the vessel slides onto it. Even so, breaking the ice would sometimes require more than



SUNNY MUNROE, NTCL

The Vladimir Ignatyuk, a class IV icebreaker owned and operated by Murmansk Shipping Co., in the sea ice of Peel Sound in the Northwest Passage

one attempt.

"There were a number of instances where the Vladimir Ignatyuk took a run at it and had to back up and do it again," Munroe said.

While the ships were in the sea ice Munroe said that she saw several polar bears, one of which came close to the ship. And she recalled one occasion when she thought there was a possibility of a whole herd of bears showing up at the Gordon. "There was one day when our cook on the Gordon was cooking a turkey and it smelled wonderful," Munroe said. "(The boat) had stopped for a while and I was out on deck. I could smell the turkey through the oven vent on the outside and I thought we might get a few extra guests for dinner. But the ship started moving again and we didn't get any."

Other wildlife included many seals and Arctic terns, and a lone Arctic fox.

Less severe than normal

Ice conditions improved as the vessels traveled south and, in fact, proved to be less severe than is normal for July.

"The farther south we got, the ice softened and then disappeared entirely," Munroe said. "The ice pilot said he had never seen ice conditions that easy, that early in the shipping season."

After leaving Resolute on July 21 the vessels arrived in Tuktoyaktuk on the evening of July 28.

"The schedule called for that trip from Resolute to Tuktoyaktuk to take from



SUNNY MUNROE, NTCL

Yuri Krivenko (left), captain of the Vladimir Ignatyuk and Captain Clive Cunningham (right), ice pilot for the journey through the Northwest Passage.

eight to about 10 days ... so we were actually about three days early," Munroe said.

However, three years ago, Cunningham piloted three ships through the Northwest Passage, and the ice in Peel Sound was so difficult the ships were stuck for four-and-a-half days, she said.

But those few days now seem trivial when compared with the years that early explorers spent marooned in the Arctic ice. Munroe recounted how she played a recording of a folk song about the 1847 Franklin expedition while the modern icebreakers passed the spot where Sir John Franklin met his demise.

"They had come down Peel Sound and they had got as far as a place called King William Island," Munroe said. Near King William Island a body of water now called Franklin Strait meets Peel Sound, causing ice pressures that probably trapped and crushed Franklin's two ships.

"Doing it now ... the Vladimir Ignatyuk has 25,000 horsepower and a modern, specially designed steel hull," Munroe said. "You can imagine that ship being stuck there for four-and-a-half days and these guys (in the 1840s) were stuck there for two years. ... It just boggles the mind that they were doing it at all."

Stamps hard at work in Calgary for Core Energy

By ROSE RAGSDALE
For Petroleum Directory

Bill Stamps, former manager of business development and external affairs for Peak Oilfield Service Co. in Alaska, has a knack for landing on his feet in new situations.

Sent to Nabors Canada in Calgary in January 2005 on a six-month assignment (Peak is partly owned by Nabors), Stamps elected to stay on in Alberta to become vice president of business development for Core Energy Solutions, a pipelines and facilities construction company Nabors purchased out of bankruptcy.

Just as chance brought him to Alaska in 1970 after he helped to erect an offshore platform in

California, so have the vagaries of fortune transported him to Canada. And just as Stamps came to Alaska for just six weeks to help out a friend on the North Slope and ended up staying for 25 years — 17 years with Peak, so has he extended his “temporary” stay in the Canadian oil patch.

FORREST CRANE



BILL STAMPS



Whatever happened to...? appears in every issue of Petroleum News' quarterly Petroleum Directory. We're tracking down people in Alaska and western Canada's oil and gas industry who have moved out of those areas to pursue other ventures.

If you have been wondering what happened to a former client or associate, please let us know. Or if you have any information on the whereabouts of someone who other people might be wondering about, let us know.

Contact Amy Spittler
Special Publications Editor
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aspittler@petroleumnews.com

Stamps' wife, Charlene, also landed on her feet, working for the same employer, DHL Danzas, in Calgary for whom she did in Alaska.

Looking back on a quarter century spent in the Alaska oil patch, Stamps says his most memorable experiences center on his unrelenting struggles to overcome unreasonable opposition from environmentalists to responsible energy development in the state.

“For a wonderful place like Alaska that receives 80 percent of its unrestricted revenue from the oil and gas industry, it never ceases to amaze me that so many people in the state are against responsible development,” he said. “In Alberta, we put pipelines across farmers' fields, and they are very open to it. Here, they welcome responsible oil and gas development.”

Beef, not seafood; golf, not fishing

A memorable achievement during his Alaska career, was co-founding the Sakhalin-Alaska College in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk with Dennis Steffy, director of the University of Alaska's Mining and Petroleum Training Service, according to Stamps.

“It was a pleasure to work with Dennis in pioneering Alaska's involvement in the Russian Far East,” he says.

He also recalls good times working with various community groups including the Resource Development Council, Kenai Boys & Girls Club and Kenai Chamber of Commerce.

What does he miss most about Alaska?

“My friends,” says Stamps, “and something I took for granted for 25 years — fresh seafood.”

“That's just not happening over here,” he chuckles. “But the best beef in the world is Alberta beef.”

In his leisure time, Stamps plays golf at one of the 40 golf courses within a 45-minute radius of Calgary. “I try to play golf when I get a chance,” he says.

Of fishing, he adds: “I haven't wet a hook since I left Alaska.”

Stamps and his wife would love to hear from friends in Alaska. They can be reached at bill.stamps@nabors.com.

Stamps: 'Working my butt off'

When asked in a recent interview what he is doing in Canada, Stamps replied: “Working my butt off, and loving every minute of it.”

The former president of the Alaska Support Industry Alliance and leader in the group's Kenai Chapter now spends his days looking for new construction projects all over central and northern Alberta, northeastern British Columbia and the Northwest Territories.

Most of Core Energy's work involves building oil and gas infrastructure, but Stamps says the contractor is looking into branching into other industry sectors. Core Energy employed more than 400 workers on construction projects last winter, and expects to ramp up employment again this fall with at least 400, if not more, workers.



DISPELLING THE ALASKA FEAR FACTOR

This is an annual comprehensive guide to Alaska's oil and gas basins and business environment. The purpose of the guide is to give potential oil and gas investors the information they need to make investment decisions — or point to where they can find the information.

The 17 chapters include everything from securing leases to permitting to Alaska service company profiles. A chapter analyzing efforts made to reduce the ‘fear factors’ that underlie the belief you can find lots of oil in Alaska but you can't make money in the state spawned the guide's title, *Dispelling the Alaska Fear Factor*.

For information on how to be included in this guide call Amy Spittler at (907) 522-9469 or email aspittler@PetroleumNews.com.

Wanted: Bush entrepreneurs

New public-private venture seeks to spur economic development, create jobs in rural Alaska with annual business competition

By **ROSE RAGSDALE**
For Petroleum Directory

Designer cosmetics made in Nunataat? Anti-cancer treatments from Nuiqsut? A biodiesel plant in Delta Junction? A cross-cultural learning institute on St. George Island? Winter eco-tours in Deering? A high-speed visitor ferry in Metlakatla?

Yes, these innovative concepts could soon become reality thanks to the Alaska Marketplace, a new program aimed at spurring economic development in the state's smallest communities.

Inspired by The World Bank Development Marketplace, the Alaska version got its start last year when the Denali Commission, Alaska Federation of Natives, BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc., Telecommunications Development Fund, Alaska Growth Capital Inc. and ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc. came together to underwrite the project. Other partners include the Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership, College of Rural Alaska, University of Alaska Fairbanks and Alaska Village Initiatives.

Managed by the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Alaska Marketplace process runs 18 months. The first cycle began with a call for proposals in October, climaxed with monetary awards this spring, and is set to end in the spring of 2007 after the winning business ideas have been implemented.

Call for ideas

Like the international marketplace, the Alaska Marketplace focuses on finding the best ideas and turning them into action. The theme for 2006 is "Culture and Development."

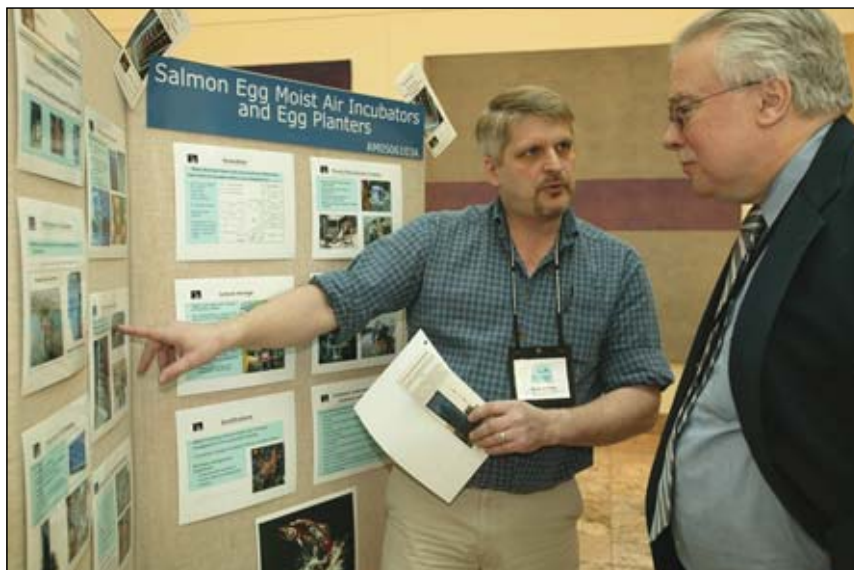
The program invited rural Alaskans with innovative ideas about how to create jobs and stimulate rural Alaska economies to compete for startup funds. Winners use their awards to develop and implement their ideas with the help of seasoned business professionals.

In the first competition, held earlier this year, 170 ideas were evaluated based on their innovation, sustainability and profitability, poverty reduction/job creation and cultural heritage.

Innovators with the 22 most promising



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALASKA MARKETPLACE



Top photo, the 2006 Alaska Marketplace winners. At left, finalist Brian Ashton shares his idea for salmon egg incubators and planters. Below, finalist Sherry Adams shares her project with Arts and Crafts judge Gail Schubert



proposals — as determined by a world-class jury of 23 private and public sector professionals — won a portion of \$500,000, in seed money awards ranging from \$8,000 to \$50,000, and all 43 finalists received an honorable mention prize of \$1,000. The judges also presented three People's Choice awards of \$1,000.

Some of the winning ideas are practical notions inspired by the needs of the local

community, such as the arts and crafts cooperative planned for Mekoryuk. Others seek to capitalize on the economic strength of nearby markets such as the energy-efficient four-season greenhouse planned for Chickaloon, about 70 miles northeast of Anchorage. Still others aim to capture global markets with products created from raw materials unique to Alaska, such as health products from Southeast Alaska forests to be produced in Wrangell.

Impressed with the success of the 2006 competition, BP committed \$200,000 on May 18 to kick off next year's contest. The Alaska Federation of Natives' board of directors has set a goal of raising \$2 million to award in the 2007 competition.

For a complete list and description of the 2006 winning projects, visit www.alaskamarketplace.org.

Alaska customers use wide array of 3M's 55,000 products

3M's commitment to innovation brings constant stream of new products to worldwide markets

Q. Where are 3M's operations located?

A: 3M is a global, diversified technology company with operations in some 200 countries. 3M Alaska is a focused element of 3M with a specific mission to serve Alaska customers.

Q. What year was the company founded, who founded it, and what was its original name?

A: 3M was founded in 1902 in Two Harbors, Minn., as a mining operation for grinding wheel abrasives. 3M was known as Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing until just the last few years. 3M Alaska was established in 1971. We were first located in the Spenard area. We later moved to the corner of International and Minnesota. Our current facility is located in south Anchorage near Minnesota and C Streets (11151 Calaska Circle).



Alaska manager Paul Sander contributed to this company profile.

FORREST CRANE

Q. Who heads up your company and who is on its senior management team?

A: The 3M corporation is led by George Buckley. Paul Sander manages the 3M Alaska operation. 3M Alaska is structured under our corporate organization as part of 3M's international business development. 3M Alaska, 3M Hawaii and 3M Guam operate as 3M offshore operations, but as part of the 3M's United States operations. Alaska is considered offshore because of some of the logistical challenges to servicing non-contiguous states.

Q. Describe any partnership arrangements and when they became effective.

A: We partner with and sell our many products through a large number of local and national distributors. We have products that are marketed and sold in virtually every business environment.

Q. What are the company's primary business sectors? What services do you offer in Alaska?

A: We focus on products and customer solutions in multiple markets. Our corporate structure is organized in the following big business areas:

- Consumer and office
- Display and graphics
- Electronic and communications
- Health care
- Industrial and transportation
- Safety, security and protection

We offer our Alaska customers local sales, technical support, customer service as well as warehousing and delivery service.

Q. Who are the company's main clients?

A: Our customers vary and range from large corporations and multinational manufacturers to the individual consumer.

Q. How many employees does your company have? How many in Alaska?

A: 3M has more than 69,000 employees worldwide. About half of those employees work in the United States. 3M Alaska has 14 highly motivated employees located in Anchorage to serve our Alaska customers.

Q. Does 3M have subsidiaries?

A: 3M operates a number of U.S. subsidiaries, as well as in-country subsidiary operations in more than 60 countries.

Q. Is your company expanding any of its operations?

A: Corporately, 3M is constantly expanding its operations through internal growth or through business acquisitions. One of our recent exciting acquisitions is the filtra-

tion company, CUNO. This acquisition greatly expands our product solutions for liquid filtration. We see a number of opportunities to assist our Alaska oil and gas customers with their filtration needs in both their production and refining facilities.

We are always looking for opportunities to expand our Alaska operation for 3M in such areas as logistical support to the 3M global business or some light manufacturing.

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

A: Our real strength comes in a couple ways. First, with more than 55,000 products, we offer our customers a one-company solution for many of their needs. In Alaska, we offer this along with local sales, customer service and logistical services. Secondly, 3M offers vast technical support services through our development and support labs as well as our engineering and technical service departments. Our sales and customer service people in Alaska have this solid technical support from our division and corporate groups.



By Paula Easley

Q. In what new markets did your company experience growth in the last year?

A: 3M's most significant growth areas this past year have been in our commercial graphics, occupational safety and abrasives product areas.

Q. Has the company invested in any new technology in the last two years?

A: 3M corporately targets a large amount of income back into R&D. Last year, 3M spent over \$1.2 billion in research and development. This investment is in addition to acquisition expenditures made to bolster our product depth and knowledge. The company also encourages innovation from outside sources. For instance, 44 young university researchers received 3M grants in

continued on next page

Property on the block in ANWR

Owner puts small Kaktovik hotel complex up for sale in prime Arctic coastal plain location

By **ROSE RAGSDALE**

For Petroleum Directory

It's not everyday that commercial real estate comes on the market in the middle of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Yet, a 14-bed hotel, with 3,500 square feet for restaurant, bar and office space, is up for sale in the Village of Kaktovik, smack dab in the middle of ANWR.

Known as the Kaktovik Hotel, the lodging complex is the brainchild of Harris Yang, a Korean-American entrepreneur who came to Alaska nearly 40 years ago.

Yang said he invested \$700,000 in constructing the hotel in 1999 and is hoping to sell it now that he has retired. The property has been closed for a couple of years.

Yang is offering the property for \$450,000 and notes that it can be used as offices for oilfield services, or as a man camp, hunting lodge or tourism business.



Yang: Hotel built for ANWR

"The hotel was built for ANWR," he said. "It's hard to build up there, and some companies may need rooms or offices. There's a lot of activity in Kaktovik. There's construction pretty much every year."

Oil companies in Canada and the Lower 48 already have expressed interest in the property, according to Yang.

And Kaktovik residents are eager to see it reopen, he said.

A remote community of about 200 resi-

dents accessible only by air or sea, Kaktovik has two other operating hotels, the 20-bed Waldo Arms and the six-room, 24-bed Marsh Creek Inn.

Kaktovik visitors, including oilfield and government workers and tourists, appear to be fully accommodated by the two operating hotels, according to a Kaktovik city council member who requested anonymity.

Still, the Kaktovik Inupiat Corp., which owns the Marsh Creek Inn, is currently planning an addition, and the Waldo Arms recently doubled up beds in its rooms to meet demand.

Yang said he immigrated to the United States in 1970 after spending two and a half years fighting in the jungles of Southeast Asia. He is also selling the 70-bed Klondike Hotel, with a 4,000-square-foot bar and restaurant, in Fairbanks. The price tag: \$3.6 million.

3M *continued from previous page*

2006 for their research that could result in new products.

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

A: Like so many Alaska companies, logistics issues are always a challenge. We work hard to stock locally the key products to support our Alaska customers. 3M's large number of individual products adds a lot of complications to our supply chain process so that we can provide our customers with timely delivery at a reasonable cost.

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

A: One of our ongoing challenges is to be able to meet a growing demand for 3M products. We have a large number of products that fit the industrial markets, particularly related to respiratory safety. Worldwide demand has been such that 3M is investing in additional manufacturing capacity to keep pace.

Q. What do you see as future trends or opportunities for your company from events such as long-term weather fluctuations, resource development, etc.?

A: I see the Alaska market as a steadily growing business environment. 3M has many products that can help our customers adjust to that changing environment as well as a changing economy. We have concentrated a lot of our future growth on the oil and gas industry. The gas pipeline will generate a number of growth opportunities in our industrial products such as abrasives, welding and personal protection products.

Q. What is the most humorous story from your company's years in the business in Alaska?

A: When people think of duct tape, they usually think of two other things — 3M and Alaska.

A number of year ago, 3M produced a whole container of one-inch duct tape for a foreign country that then had a trade embargo placed against it. The obvious best outlet for a container load of special one-inch duct tape was Alaska. One inch is not the most popular size of duct tape, but over a rather extended period of time we moved the entire container of tape by one means or another including a sizeable donation to the Anchorage Duct Tape Ball that included completely covering a car. We joke today about one-inch duct tape and its

many uses.

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

A: Our real key milestone was in 2002 when 3M celebrated its 100-year anniversary. 3M Alaska is proud to be an Alaska business partner, now in our 35th year in the state.

Q. What is the average length of time employees work for the company? Are you hiring for any positions?

A: We typically have very long-term employees. Our Alaska support staff averages about 15 years with 3M. Our sales force has seen more frequent change lately, but in the past we have had sales people typically with 15-20 years of service. We plan to add a sales person in the near future to focus on our growing business in dental products.

Q. Does your company or its partners or subsidiaries maintain Web sites?

A: The corporate Web site is <http://3m.com/>. This site provides in depth information on our organization and products. Our local Alaska Web site is <http://www.3m.com/intl/alaska.jhtml>.



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Web site: www.nac.aero

Serving the aviation needs of rural Alaska for almost 50 years, NAC is the states largest all cargo carrier moving nearly 100 million pounds of cargo on scheduled flights to 17 of Alaska's busiest airports. NAC's fleet of DC-6, B-727, and ATR-42 aircraft are available for charters to remote sites and flag stops to 44 additional communities.

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Ten years ago in Alaska & northern Canada's oil patch.....

This section consists of partial reprints from Petroleum News Alaska (predecessor to Petroleum News).

Slowly, step-by-step, oil exploration is being revived in Canada's Arctic

—Petroleum News May 6-June 2, 1996

The lure of Canada's Arctic has intensified this year as several smaller companies have joined a handful of majors in raising the work commitments made in the last 16 months to C\$56.4 million.

It's a long way from the billions of dollars ultimately needed to start commercial oil or natural gas production, but the pledges are seen as part of a step-by-step return to northern exploration.

Fortunes began to look up for the relatively under-explored region in 1994 after land claim settlements with aboriginal communities ended a 25-year federal government moratorium on land sales.

"We're seeing a broad range of interest from both major companies and juniors," said Bruce Young, the national Energy Board's manager of geology resource assessment.

The revival of land sales in the Northwest Territories generated some winter seismic work by Ocelot Energy Ltd. On a 135,000-acre block at Fort Liard, which could lead to some drilling in 1996, he said.

In the latest developments, the federal Northern Oil and Gas Directorate attracted \$9.34 million in work pledges for five parcels covering 924,000 acres in the central Mackenzie Valley areas of the Mackenzie Delta, Normal Wells, and Colville Hills — a significant step up from the first call for bids which garnered C\$4.37 million for 403,000 acres. The region has total discovered recoverable reserves of 236 million barrels of oil and 450 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

Independent drilled wildcat on Greenland's west coast

—Petroleum News Aug. 26-Sept. 22, 1996

A small Canadian oil company hopes to unlock oil reserves in one of the world's last untapped basins by drilling a wildcat well on Greenland's west coast.

Calgary-based GronArctic Energy Inc. began drilling its first well using a conventional rig on the Nuussuaq Peninsula at the start of August, after two years of exploration that included using a slim-hole diamond rig to evaluate the presence of oil. Since GronArctic's 900,000 acres of exploratory lands on the peninsula and nearby Disko Island are mostly covered by a 3,300-foot-thick volcanic rock, most conventional seismic techniques are of limited value, said company President Cam Hanna.

The unprecedented use of a mining rig to search for signs of oil was prompted not just by the geology, but also by GronArctic's small size and limited access to capital.

The recently started GRO No.3 well, beside the Kugsuaq River, was expected to be drilled to a depth of 8,200 feet to test oil seeps found to the northwest and the southeast. Hanna said test last year of GronArctic exploration land encountered "significant amounts" of light oil seeping into fractures from 1,424 feet below the surface and upward. It reported sand intervals, or potential oil reservoirs, were up to 330 feet thick.

Greenland's oil history has so far been limited to five offshore wells in 1976 and 1977, all of which came up dry. ...

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Ten years ago in Alaska & northern Canada's oil patch....

This section consists of partial reprints from Petroleum News Alaska (predecessor to Petroleum News).

Chugach expects to start building road to Katalla

—Petroleum News Aug. 26-Sept. 22, 1996

"We're beginning to generate some interest in Katalla," said Chugach Alaska Corp's Director of Business Development Mike Williams in an interview with PNA in late August.

"David Lappi (LAPP Resources) has been working with us somewhat on it and he has approached some people. ... Once we get some of the roads into the area, when companies know they have access, I think there will be even more interest," said Williams.

Chugach owns oil and gas rights to two federal tracts, No. 41 and 42, near the original Katalla oil field (first commercial well drilled in 1902) which is owned by Ginger and Dale Welch of Valdez, as well as several thousand acres interspersed with federal, state and private lands stretching west from Katalla and east to Icy Bay, off the Gulf of Alaska. Corporation leadership has a strong interest in opening up portions of their 970,000 acres in Southcentral Alaska to resource development, including timber, coal, tourism and oil and gas. ...

Williams expects the roads to be started next year and completed in about two years.

"The road from the Copper River Highway to Cordova and into our timber areas ... will terminate within 20 to 30 miles of the Katalla tracts," said Williams.

Assured access to the corporation's Katalla oil and gas properties is one of Chugach's most important assets, Williams said.

"Under the rights (Chugach holds with the federal government) they cannot stop us from getting into that area. That's important because when we do a drilling operation, we don't have to look at necessarily a sea-borne operation," said Williams. ...

Exxon continues to look at Point Thomson

—Petroleum News July 1-July 28, 1996

Exxon Company U.S.A. updated the state Department of Natural Resources' Division of Oil and Gas on its Point Thomson unit plans June 27.

Division Director Ken Boyd told PNA June 28 that the update meeting was part of Exxon's current development plan for Point Thomson.

"It was really a progress report," Boyd said. "I felt the meeting was very upbeat and constructive," he said. "I feel they are making some progress."

Point Thomson, Boyd said, consists of a center box — the core of the unit — the Point Thomson sands. The sands are one issue, he said, and then there are all the tracts around the outside, where there's been talk of contracting tracts out of the unit.

For those outer tracts, Boyd said, Exxon was asked to contact companies to see who else would be interested in doing some work there, and they have done that. ... "There's nothing definite. But they have made contacts and there was some interest shown."

For the other piece in the core of the unit Boyd said the question is what do you do with it? ...

Boyd said Exxon went through some scenarios at the meeting, and that the division and Exxon will meet again at the end of the summer to see what progress Exxon has made then on farmins and core use.

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Ten years ago in Alaska & northern Canada's oil patch.....

This section consists of partial reprints from Petroleum News Alaska (predecessor to Petroleum News).

Are they back? Chevron just picked up 26,000 acres in Alaska's Beaufort Sea

—Petroleum News Sept. 23-Oct. 20, 1996

Chevron U.S.A. Inc. first showed up in Alaska in 1898 selling kerosene to miners in Nome. They came back up in the 1950s with ARCO. They explored for oil in the Cook Inlet basin and were the first operators at the Swanson River and Beluga fields. They shared Anchorage office space with ARCO at 36th and Benson until ARCO struck it big at Prudhoe and moved their headquarters uptown. They built the airport at Deadhorse and sold it to the state for \$1. They struck out on the North Slope, but then came back with a hefty exploration program in the late 1970s and drilled wells all over Alaska on federal, Native and state lands. By the early 1980s they had 1.5 million acres under lease — the largest leaseholder in Alaska. In a joint venture with BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. they secured from Arctic Slope Regional Corp. the only leases on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and they drilled the refuge's first and only exploration well, the KIC well.

Then, in 1986, it all began to unravel.

The price of oil fell. Congress imposed a moratorium on drilling in Bristol Bay and essentially confiscated Chevron's leases. Finally, in 1989, following the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound, Congress closed the doors to exploration in ANWR.

It was the last straw. Chevron accelerated the cutbacks in Alaska, which they had begun in 1987: production staff and properties were reduced. Operatorship at Beluga and Swanson River were relinquished, production acreage was sold or traded and most of their exploration acreage was dropped.

In August 1992 they laid off the remnants of their personnel in Alaska and closed their Anchorage office. ...

"For all practical purposes they had left the state," said Tom Cook, former exploration representative in Alaska for Chevron.

But all that may have begun to change. The oil and gas company with the longest history in Alaska appears to be increasing their presence in Alaska once again.

On Sept. 18, in the first Alaska outer continental shelf lease sale held by the Minerals management Service in five years, Chevron Production Co. more than doubled its federal OCS acreage position as the high bidder on eight tracts in the Flaxman Island area offshore west of ANWR.

Chevron paid \$684,758 for the leases, which totaled 26,145 acres, bringing the company's total Alaska acreage, including state, federal and Native land, to 120,000-plus acres, Rick Chamberlain, Chevron's Alaska exploration manager, told PNA in a recent interview.

What has changed in the last four years?

Chamberlain says it's the state's willingness to work more cooperatively with industry on lease terms and marginal field development. ...

Despite their minimal presence in the state since 1992 (they drilled their last exploration well as an operator in 1991) Chamberlain says Chevron's interest in Alaska has remained constant. ...

"Our participation in OCS (sale) 144 reflects Chevron's long-term commitment to exploration in prospective areas on the (North) Slope where there is accessible, developable acreage," said Chamberlain, explaining that, "It reflects our long-term view on the potential for the opening of ANWR where our substantial acreage position on privately held land is inaccessible at this point. ... My point is, we are quite interested in areas that are accessible." ...

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Ten years ago in Alaska & northern Canada's oil patch.....

This section consists of partial reprints from Petroleum News Alaska (predecessor to Petroleum News).

Roll call of petroleum companies in Alaska

—Petroleum News May 6-June 2, 1996

Since 1991 almost half Alaska's oil and gas companies have effectively left (or are in the process of leaving) the state for greener pastures. The determination of a company's position in the listing to the right was made by the editor of Petroleum News Alaska, not by the companies noted.

"In?" indicates the company is considering increasing its position in Alaska and may be a new player in the state.

A designation of "In" means the company still has land holdings in Alaska, possibly an office, and has not tried to dump a significant percentage of its properties recently. However, all companies in this category have somehow reduced their presence in Alaska, whether it was by reducing employee numbers or cutting exploration and development budgets.

"Leaving?" indicates the company appears poised on the verge of leaving the state (for all practical purposes, even though they may retain a land position here) and have no intention of making further investments in Alaska.

"Out" says the company has effectively left Alaska and is making no additional investments here (beyond what is required if they have producing interests here).

The following designations are for upstream operations only, not downstream.

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Anadarko PetroleumIn?
ARCO AlaskaIn
BP ExplorationIn
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ConocoOut
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In memory of Ruth Sheldon Knowles

—Petroleum News Aug. 26-Sept. 22, 1996

Ruth Sheldon Knowles, mother of Gov. Tony Knowles, died in early September in New York City. An internationally known petroleum ... writer, foreign correspondent and lecturer and the mother of four children, Mrs. Knowles served as a petroleum consultant for several governments and wrote for leading popular magazines, newspapers and professional journals. She had retired in New York City.

She gleaned her first knowledge of the oil industry as the daughter of an Oklahoma wildcatter.

"As a child before I even found out that a wildcat was an animal I knew it was a well that my ... father was drilling in search of oil hoping to pay last month's bills with the oil he was going to find tomorrow," Mrs. Knowles wrote in the preface of her 1959 book, *The Greatest Gamblers*. "I feel particularly fortunate that I was born in the oil patch. ... As I was finishing the last chapter of the first edition of this book my 5-year-old daughter Nora, watching me type, asked 'How many miles have you done on your book, Mommy?' I nearly answered, 'all of my life.'" ...

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This section consists of partial reprints from Petroleum News Alaska (predecessor to Petroleum News).

Anadarko: their game is exploration

—Petroleum News Sept. 23-Oct. 20, 1996

ARCO Alaska Inc. has pulled one of the petroleum industry's most aggressive explorers into Cook Inlet to search for oil and gas.

Anadarko Petroleum Corp., a Houston-based independent that has been involved in some of the largest oil and gas discoveries in the world in recent years, has entered into a two-year strategic alliance with ARCO to explore for hydrocarbons on 127,000 acres of ARCO's upper Cook Inlet leases.

In exchange for conducting new seismic surveys, completing other geological and geophysical studies and drilling exploration wells, Anadarko will earn a 50 percent share of ARCO's working interest in the leases. The deal does not include ARCO's Sunfish prospect or the Beluga River gas field.

It was ARCO that first drew Anadarko to Alaska in 1992 with a minority investment in the company's Colville River prospect (Alpine). Until recently the giant independent has played a relatively small role in the state, sticking to minority positions in its investments. Then earlier this year Anadarko took its first majority position in an Alaska oil and gas unit when it took over Exxon Exploration Co.'s Thetis Island leases in the Beaufort Sea, making the company an operator in Alaska for the first time.

But while Anadarko has not decided what it will do next, if anything, with Thetis Island, it has already moved a technical team north to Alaska to begin evaluation of the upper Cook Inlet leases — even before the paperwork on the inlet deal was signed with ARCO.

It is the intent of both companies to move forward quickly with the Cook Inlet exploration program, Michael Richter, ARCO Alaska's vice president of exploration and land, told PNA in early October.

"We're considering some very early work, possibly there could be some seismic as early as this winter," he said.

Explorers haven't had much success in the Cook Inlet basin in the last 10 to 15 years. "It's a pretty risky business," said Richter. "Having a dependable partner gives us the opportunity to drill more wells."

Richter, whose last position was with ARCO International in Plano, Texas, said that he believes Anadarko will make an excellent partner in Cook Inlet.

"Our emphasis is to explore in a different manner. Anadarko has a different perspective on exploration, new ideas and strong technical skills that complement ours."

...

Jim Talley, an Anadarko geologist heads up the company's Alaska team of five geoscientists from both ARCO and Anadarko. ...

(Ken) Nadolny (Anadarko's vice president of exploration) said ... Anadarko is looking to be a long-term player in the state. ...

"It's heartening to see state government setting lease sale schedules and sticking to them and making land available to oil and gas operators," he said (referring to the areawide leasing program that had just been introduced in Alaska). ...

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—Petroleum News Sept. 23-Oct. 20, 1996

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Colville Delta partners ARCO Alaska Inc. (56 percent), Anadarko Petroleum Co. (22 percent) and Union Texas Petroleum Corp. (22 percent) were delighted to talk about the answer — their Alpine development west of Kuparuk — to equally delighted ARCO Alaska employees and guests from Arctic Slope Regional Corp., Kuukpik Corp. and Nuiqsut on Oct. 2, the day after state oil and gas lease sale 86A (Colville Delta exempt) in which the bidding group of ARCO, Anadarko and Union Texas added five tracts to the Colville Delta area they have been exploring since 1992.

ARCO Alaska President Ken Thompson said the exploration phase at Alpine is complete, and the project has been turned over from exploration to development. The discovery well for Alpine was drilled in 1994, he said, and the 10-mile long, 40,000-acre field was delineated over two years with six wells, four sidetracks and 120 square miles of 3-D seismic.

Thompson said recoverable reserves of oil are in the 250-300 million barrel range and oil in place in the 800 million to 1 billion barrel range, and said after the presentation that lower permeability and the lack of a gas cap make projected recovery rates lower at Alpine than at Prudhoe Bay.

"However," Thompson said, "we will work hard over the next few years to see if we can further improve the recovery...."



'V' for victory? Michael Richter heads up ARCO Alaska's aggressive exploration program

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Contact: Vince Morelli, executive vp
Phone: (403) 342-4441
Fax: (403) 342-6613
Email: vince@pipewranglers.com
Web site www.pipewranglers.com
PWCI is a manufacturing & service company of pipe handling equipment. We are manufacturers of hydraulic catwalks for service rigs and drilling rigs onshore and offshore.

STEELFAB

2132 Railroad Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501
Contact: Janet Faulkner, vice president
Phone: (907) 264-2819
Fax: (907) 276-3448
Email: jfaulkner@steelfabak.com
STEELFAB is the largest Alaskan-owned steel service center in the state. It provides pressure vessels, modules, special design items and raw steel products.

Unique Machine

a subsidiary of Sumitomo Corp.
5839 Old Seward Hwy
Anchorage, AK 99518
Contact: Pat Hanley, gen. mgr.

Phone: (907) 563-3012
Fax: (907) 562-1376
Email: pat.hanley@umalaska.com
Web site: www.uniquemachineinc.com
The design, development, manufacture and distribution of oilfield construction, mining, fishing and government parts to industry quality standards.

Welding Services

P.O. Box 7248
Nikiski, AK 99635
Mile 20.5 Kenai Spur Hwy.
North Kenai, AK
Contact: Keith T. Raham
Phone: (907) 776-8279
Fax: (907) 776-8279
Cell Phone: (907) 252-5466
General Contractor #27005. Oilfield and general welding fabrication and repair services including aluminum, stainless steel and carbon steel.

Wire Rope

Arctic Wire Rope & Supply

6407 Arctic Spur Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99518
Contact: Jill Reeves
Phone: (907) 562-0707
Fax: (907) 562-2426
Email: awrs@customcpu.com
Web site: www.arcticwirerope.com
Arctic Wire Rope & Supply is Alaska's largest and most complete rigging supply source. We specialize in custom sling fabrication (wire rope, web, chain, and polyester round.)

OIL COMPANIES

Operators

ConocoPhillips Alaska

700 G St. • P.O. Box 100360
Anchorage, AK 99510-0360
Contact: Jim Bowles, president & CEO
Phone: (907) 265-6134 • Fax: (907) 265-1502

Marathon Oil

3201 C St., Ste 800 • Anchorage, AK 99503
Contact: John A. Barnes, regional mgr.
Phone: (907) 561-5311 • Fax: (907) 564-6489
Web site: www.marathon.com

XTO Energy

810 Houston St. • Fort Worth, TX 76102
Contact: Vaughn O. Vennerberg, II
Phone: (817) 870-2800 • Fax: (817) 870-0379
Other Office:
52260 Shell Rd. • Kenai, AK 99611
Contact: Scott Griffith, production superintendent
XTO Energy, established in 1986, is engaged in the acquisition and development of quality, long-lived producing oil and gas properties and exploration for oil and gas.

XTA units may be remote dream come true

Canadian firm offers versatile, programmable alarm monitoring and control products to operators of field installations in Alaska

By **ROSE RAGSDALE**
For Petroleum Directory

What if you could keep an eye on that remote oil well, pumping station or water treatment plant while attending to other business hundreds of miles away? What if you could monitor the critical workings of your remote installation during total darkness or in a blinding snow-storm or when temperatures plunge to minus 40 degrees Celsius? And what if you could do all this without breaking the bank?

You can, says RF Works, a marketing, sales and product management company based in Seba Beach, Alberta.

Thanks to a versatile line of wireless communications products manufactured since 1989 by Canada's Xtel International Ltd. of Edmonton, Alberta, you can keep tabs on virtually any kind of remote operation from the comfort of your vehicle or office, according to RF Works.

"Xtel's equipment works in wide temperature extremes with low power consumption," says General Manager Blair Foxton. "We have units in northern Alberta and in Saudi Arabia. You can put our products in a cabinet with a cell phone, satellite phone or two-way radio in the middle of Alaska with a solar panel on it and walk away from it."

So what can Xtel's XTA products do? Plenty.

For example, an XTelAlert unit can help reduce or eliminate losses from environmental damage, equipment failure and lost production at remote or unattended facilities by providing reliable advanced warning, remote control and diagnostic trend information.

Units have many uses

The XTA product line monitors and controls petroleum processing plants, waste treatment plants, lift stations, radio transmission sites, electrical sub-stations, irrigation systems, air navigation landing systems, tank farms, rail transportation, telecommunication facilities, fire and security, electric drive monitoring and control — providing a smart and easy-to-use communication interface for VSDs at well sites, monitoring and control for non-powered sites.



COURTESY XTEL

Thanks to a versatile line of wireless communications products manufactured since 1989 by Canada's Xtel International Ltd. of Edmonton, Alberta, you can keep tabs on virtually any kind of remote operation from the comfort of your vehicle or office, according to RF Works.

"One client uses it for environmental monitoring," Foxton says.

XTAs can monitor remote generators and telephone the operator when a generator runs low on fuel or if noises made by the generator change.

"XTA units are capable of turning equipment off and on and phoning people with alerts if monitored levels get to high," Foxton says. "And they can put data on a Web site for remote monitoring."

The basic XTA unit sells for C\$1,995, and comes with a two-year warranty.

Foxton says the newest version of the XTA unit will work on digital cell phone systems and can be expanded to 16 binary and 12 analog inputs and five control outputs. It also has serial ports, internal modems and user definable voice labels.

"XTAs can communicate in master

and slave mode over two-way radio systems. You can take remote (slave) units and bring their alarms back to wireless master units," Foxton says. "XTAs can talk ModBus, DF-1 and DGH and we're willing to incorporate other protocols for communications to VSDs, PLCs and other serial devices."

Good fit for Alaska

Foxton says Xtel's XTA products are a good fit for Alaska businesses and institutions that need to operate remote installations.

"We've kept it simple and easy to use for the operator," he says.

As a result, RF Works has built a loyal following for XTA products.

"We've got guys who insist on our product, even when they change companies because it works for them," Foxton says.

One reason: RF Works offers technical support 24/7.

Another reason: XTA units have demonstrated high reliability, according to Foxton

"I've got units out there that haven't needed service in 10 years," Foxton says.

RF Works is looking for dealers in Alaska, adds Foxton.

Ivory set free at Prudhoe Bay

After a six-month stay in Sitka, Alaska, and 1,500 miles of jet travel in a dog kennel, "Ivory," a two-year old Snowy owl, was released at Prudhoe Bay in late June by the Alaska Raptor Center.

Approximately 75 well-wishers were present to cheer her release, including Colville Inc. President Mark Helmericks who opened the cage door.

Ivory, a wild owl that was rescued in December, was released on a pingo overlooking the Saganavirtok (Sag) River. According to Colville News, the site, which was chosen by Helmericks and Colville summer hires Jordan Davis and Rick Oldson, was covered with wild flowers and "brimming with ground squirrels."

Ivory's care and release festivities, which included White Owl cigars, music, ice cream, and three cakes with owl motifs, were underwritten by ConocoPhillips, Alaska Airlines, Ice Services, Brooks Range Supply, Colville and Prudhoe Bay General Store.

The cakes with owl motifs were concocted for the occasion by master baker Raven Mosher of Colville, including one that said "Free Ivory."

Kathy Adkins, Marie Draper and photographer Kelly Champ of Brooks Range Supply made the special "Project Hooter" labels for each cigar.

Capping off the event was a live acoustic guitar serenade by "Tony D" Martin of Brooks Range Supply, performing "Free Bird," the classic Lynard Skynrd tune as Ivory flew by the cheering crowd. According to "Only the caribou grazing on the other side of the Sag River seemed unimpressed by the event. But they've seen strange things done in the midnight sun before," said Deb Bernard from the Prudhoe Bay General Store.

"The clear Arctic evening was a perfect setting for this bird to return to its summer habitat," said Rollo Pool, ARC's executive director who traveled to Prudhoe Bay with ARC veterinarian Dr. Vicky Vosberg.

Ivory found near Sitka

Snowy owls are normally found in tundra regions of Alaska in the summer. When



FLOSSIE SWANSON

Ivory was spotted near the Sitka airport in December, she was weak and apparently unable to continue the winter migration. Dr. Vosberg and a team from ARC captured

the animal and took it to the rehabilitation facility.

After determining that the owl was starving but uninjured, ARC kept her in its Sitka rehabilitation facility for the rest of the winter where she was fed a steady supply of frozen rats and exercised in a large aerobic training tube.

Despite the five-star treatment, it was clear Ivory was ready to hunt for live prey. ARC purposefully scheduled her release in the

Arctic near summer solstice when prey, like lemmings, would be abundant.

In preparation for her release, and prior to the jet trip to the North Slope, the bird was given a clinic check-up and its talons and beak sharpened, Vosberg said.

The Colville News described the moment of Ivory's release as follows: "A hush fell over the crowd as Mark quietly propped open the wire door, steadying the cage in anticipation. Ivory didn't appear. After a pause, Dr. Vosberg crept forward on her knees and peered around the edge of the cage, then sat back. A moment later, Ivory shot out like a silver bullet.

"Ivory launched in full control, into the perfect headwind into which Mark, one

pilot to another, had faced Ivory's cage for quick departure lift. Soaring back over his audience, Ivory chose to return to the middle of Deadhorse, settling on a nearby tundra ridge overlooking a lagoon."

"With the benefit of 24-hour daylight, the big white owl could be seen well into the night perching on high ground overlooking a freshwater lagoon, preening and starting to hunt," Pool said.

Vosberg observed the owl chasing a songbird within an hour of its release. Reports of Ivory sightings continued into the next day.

First owl release in Deadhorse service area

Ivory was the first Snowy owl captured and released by the raptor center whose main focus is treating injured Bald eagles and other birds of prey.

It was also the first time an owl was released in the Deadhorse service area of Prudhoe Bay. Hunting and firearms are banned across the oil field, creating a virtual safe haven for wildlife. In addition, the banks of the Sag River offered the bird prime and undisputed territory to claim.

Onlookers said Ivory looked completely at ease on her choice of perch.

Note: The Colville News gave special thanks to all the photographers at the event, especially Rhonda Kutzner of Colville and Flossie Lampe Swanson.

—Special to the Petroleum Directory

ALASKA RAPTOR CENTER



PDC Harris excels in Alaska energy and power generation projects

PDC Harris applies strong project management systems to execute on-schedule, under-budget projects for its Alaska clients

Q. Where is your company located? More than one location?

A. In Alaska we have offices in Anchorage and Fairbanks. In the Lower 48 we have eleven offices in nine states. An international office is in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Q. What year was the company founded and what was its original name?

A. The Alaska business was established in 1996-97, and formalized as an Alaska corporation in 2002. The parent companies (PDC Inc. and Harris Group Inc.) were each founded approximately 30 years ago.

Harris Group Inc was formed in Seattle by Robert Harris in 1975, to serve the pulp and paper business sector. Energy-related projects were first executed in the early 1980s, including production and processing facilities in Alaska for Shell, ARCO Alaska, PetroStar and MAPCO.

PDC evolved through the merging of Alaska engineering companies to provide more service areas to our clients and a cohesive team. Predecessor firms were established during the mid-1970s and 1980s. The most recent consolidation took place in 1998 through the merging of FPE Roen Engineers with Loftus Engineering Associates.

Q. Who heads up your company and who is on its senior management team?

A. PDC Harris Group's Alaska operation in Anchorage is managed by Michael Moora. Jointly the parent companies participate in the executive management committee. Currently Bill Ward, Harris Group's VP of business development for

COURTESY PDC HARRIS



By Paula Easley

lished firms — PDC Inc. and Harris Group Inc. — each with over 30 years of experience.

Our clients include upstream and midstream oil and gas producers, processors and refiners; utilities, independent power producers and rural electric associations. In general terms our services include: gathering and process systems, processing and distribution, module design, power generation, owner's engineering, infrastructure and facilities, and environmental services.

Q. Who are the company's main clients?

A. BP Exploration (Alaska), Chugach Electric Association, Forest Oil, Flint Hills Resources, Golden Valley Electric Association, Municipality of Anchorage — ML&P, UNOCAL (Chevron), US Army Corps of Engineers, Usibelli Coal/Aurora Energy, and Winstar/Ultrastar.

Q. How many employees does your company have? How many in each of its locations?

A. Like many energy related businesses, our staff levels are increasing. Presently we have approximately 80 employees in Alaska, and 350 Outside.

Q. Does your company have subsidiaries? If so, what services do they provide?

A. Our parent company Harris Group has five business sectors which are the focus of distinct business units.

oil and gas projects, and Steve Theno, president of PDC Inc., serve in this role.

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

A. Providing full-service engineering services to energy clients in cold regions, we are a joint venture between two estab-



Michael Moora, Alaska managing director, provided information for this profile

They are: Energy, biorefining, forest industries, industrial manufacturing, and micro-electronics.

Harris Group also operates a sixth business unit providing specialty services, addressing customers' management concerns. The goal is to contribute strategic input to improve technologies and other operational concerns. Here's a short list of Harris Group's specialty services:

Financial consulting — working with lenders and developers;

Process development — biomass, ethanol, fuel cells;

Pharmaceuticals and biotechnology — process development;

Architectural programming, preliminary engineering, and detailed design;

Systems integration — control systems and instrumentation.

PDC has tailored its internal organization to directly address the specific requirements of a client's business. As a result we offer services through in-house teams who specialize in specific industries. This organizational plan means more efficient service delivered by people who know and understand our clients' industries.

PDC design teams work in transportation (highways, streets, and trails); aviation (airport planning and design); fuels (pipelines, storage, and aircraft hydrant systems); and industrial (permitting, power generation & distribution, and industrial facilities).

Q. Is PDC expanding any of its operations and/or locations?

A. As noted, our business in the energy business sector (oil and gas production, processing and transportation) is undergoing a strong increase in project backlog. We are aggressively recruiting engineers and designers in nearly all the various disciplines to staff new projects. To address growth in the Rocky Mountain energy sector we have opened a project office in Grand Junction, Colo.

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

A. Our primary strength is our project management strength and flexibility. We listen to our customers and tailor a project execution plan to their needs. Our managers customize the project deliverables and level of design detail for each individual project, and minimize reliance upon

The engineering-design business, like other high tech sectors, is constantly challenged to stay current with more powerful and efficient computer software. Software continues to evolve for producing design drawings, predicting process plant performance or for rigorous detailed design functions. Our company must carefully choose where to expend limited budgets for 3D design, intelligent flowsheeting tools, integrated multi-discipline design packages and other technological innovations. We are constantly evaluating the need to invest in newer systems, in order to stay competitive and enhance productivity.

“doing it the same as last time.”

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

A. PDC Harris Group is currently assisting BP at Milne Point with engineering and procurement services for replacement of an aging electric generator. The challenge involves scheduling the procurement and delivery of a custom-built replacement to coincide with planned TAPS maintenance next year. Fitting the slightly larger generator within the constraints of an ultra compact module is also daunting.

Q. Has the company invested in any new technology in the last two years?

A. The engineering-design business, like other high tech sectors, is constantly challenged to stay current with more powerful and efficient computer software. Software continues to evolve for producing design drawings, predicting process plant performance or for rigorous detailed design functions. Our company must carefully choose where to expend limited budgets for 3D design, intelligent flowsheeting tools, integrated multi-discipline design packages and other technological innovations. We are constantly evaluating the need to invest in newer systems, in order to stay competitive and enhance productivity.

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

A. Our firm, like our competition, struggles with several aspects of executing complex engineer-procure-construct (EPC) projects where our customer is generally a construction contractor, and not the ultimate owner of the facility being designed. To limit our financial risk, deliver a quality design package, and yet constrain our costs to remain competitive, takes some fine balancing. Fortunately in today's booming energy market, demand has outstripped the capacity engineering-construction firms, resulting in negotiated project awards, rather than competitively bid EPC work.

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

A. Today's major obstacle is recruitment of talented and experienced designers and engineers. There is a severe shortage of personnel in all the engineering-design disciplines, forcing us to be creative, increase our networking and of course, raise salaries.

Q. What do you see as future trends or opportunities for your company from events such as long-term weather fluctuations, resource development, etc.?

A. Our outlook hinges on the financial health of our customers. No one can predict how long energy prices will remain at their present levels, but as long as they do, engineering-design services remain in a growth mode. A turndown is inevitable, but I've no way of knowing when such a trend will happen. There are few more cyclical businesses than this one.

Q. What is the most humorous story from your company's years in the business in Alaska?

A. We're not going there...!

Q. Are you hiring for any positions?

A. We are currently recruiting for a mid-level process design engineer in Anchorage. Information on employment is on our Web sites.

Q. Does your company or its partners or subsidiaries maintain Web sites?

A. Yes. www.pdcharrisgroup.com/, www.harrisgroup.com, www.pdceng.com.

COMPANYNEWS *in brief*

Arctic Controls hires Connally

Anchorage-based Arctic Controls Inc. has hired Peggy Connally as its new administrative assistant.

Connally comes from Crosby, Texas and has "excellent skills in computer networking and administrative skills," Arctic Controls President Scott A. Stewart said.

"I have done research for many years for the place I would like to call home and raise my children. When I researched Alaska I knew it was going to be here. I moved to Alaska in October 2005. This is a beautiful state and many people here have been a great influence to me. I feel comfortable that this move was a wonderful choice," Connally said.

Arctic Controls is an Alaskan-owned and operated firm. Since 1985 the company has been a manufacturers' representative in the process and control instrumentation field. Its principal customers are in the petroleum, mining and municipal markets.

CFMA Alaska chapter wins national awards

The Alaska chapter of the Construction Financial Management Association has received the association's Chairman's Excellence and the New Chapter of the Year Awards. According to a CFMA press release, the association is the only non-profit professional association dedicated to serving the construction industry, with a general membership open to financial employees of general contractors, subcontractors, developers and special trades.

The Alaska CFMA chapter, known as the Last Frontier Chapter, consists of a group of Alaska-based construction financial professionals. ASRC Energy Services' Ron Jones is president and Alaska USA Insurance Brokers' Kelly Layman vice president of the Alaska chapter.

For the 2005/2006 fiscal year the Last Frontier Chapter earned 102 ACMP accomplishment points, well in excess of the 60 points needed to gain the Chairman's Excellence Award for a chap-



COURTESY CARLILE

In July, Carlile and driver Steve Faulkner were featured in a national television program called "Dangerous Alaska."

Carlile Transportation Systems is on the move

Carlile generously donated the transportation costs for the cabinets, doors, and windows for a new home build featured on the nationally televised program "Extreme Makeover — Home Edition." Hundreds of volunteers helped to build the house for the Rogers family in North Pole. The family of 13 had been living in a two-bedroom, one-bath home and was selected from several hundred applicants.

In July, Carlile and driver Steve Faulkner were featured in another national television program called "Dangerous Alaska" which aired on the History Channel. In the program, Faulkner was shown maneuvering a heavy load delivery up the infamous "Haul Road" from Fairbanks to Alaska's North Slope.

The Anchorage terminal recently promoted Russ Baker to the position of LTL manager and Mark Lewis to the position of dispatch supervisor.

Carlile said it is launching a new recruitment campaign to hire highly skilled and qualified drivers.

"Careers @ Carlile" will use local and national advertising to fill immediate and long-term driver positions.

ter the size of the Alaska organization. The Chairman's Excellence Award is the highest honor in CFMA's annual recognition program.

The New Chapter of the Year Award recognizes the chapter's progress during its first full year in existence.

CFMA has 84 chapters in the United States, with a membership of more than 7,000.

Sister companies share booth at Global Petroleum Show

Det-tronics shared a booth with its sister company Engineered Fire & Safety at the Global Petroleum Show in Calgary this past June. Engineered Fire & Safety is the exclusive Det-tronics representative for Alaska.

Since Calgary is home to many engineering firms either bidding or conduct-

Take the history quiz: Find out what was going on in the oil patch 10 years ago. Turn to pages 17,20,25,28,33 and 38 for a peek at the Petroleum News archives.

ing engineering for many Alaska projects, the show “provided the opportunity for networking opportunities for our representatives Engineered Fire & Safety and Spartan Controls to discuss current projects,” Garry Peterson with Det-tronics said in a news release after the mid-June event.

During the show Det-tronics Regional Sales Manager Garry Peterson presented Don Maupin of Engineered Fire & Safety in Anchorage with an Outstanding Sales Performance award for 2005.

“Since bringing Engineered Fire & Safety on as our local representative for Alaska we have been successful in growing the Alaskan business and have sold EQP solutions to Unocal, Tesoro, XTO Energy and Chugach Electric. EFS’s local presence and ability to provide sales and service support for our products has been instrumental in regaining our foothold in Alaska as this is a critical element required by our customers in the Alaskan marketplace,” Peterson said.

The Global Petroleum Show attracted more than 50,000 attendees from 85 countries and more than 1,500 exhibitors, Det-tronics said.

More than 550,000 square feet at Stampede Park, both indoors and outdoors, accommodated the exhibitors showcasing their technological innovations, products and services for onshore and offshore exploration, production and transportation.

It show also provided sessions on strategic planning for the world’s energy sector, from the ground to the consumer, and is a premier networking event, Det-tronics said.

“As Canada’s fastest growing city, Calgary is home to the majority of Canada’s oil and gas production companies, major pipeline operators, oilfield service companies, equipment manufacturers and energy-related engineering and consulting firms.

“Many of these companies have significant international operations which are directed from their Calgary headquarters,” Det-tronics said.

Calgary has the second largest concentration of employment and expertise in the energy sector in North America. The city is also considered one of the most advanced centers for energy research and innovation in the world and the technologies developed in Calgary for Canada’s challenging geological and environmental conditions are deployed globally, Det-tronics said.



COURTESY EPOCH

Epoch relocates its Alaska office and warehouse

Epoch Well services Inc. has relocated its Alaska division office and warehouse facility to a new address in Anchorage, at 301 East 92nd Ave., Suite 2, Anchorage, Alaska 99515. This new facility represents the latest proactive effort in Epoch’s 17-year commitment to the Alaska markets and will assist in the continuing support of the company’s statewide operations in an efficient and customer-responsive manner, Epoch said. The company’s main phone number in Anchorage is (907) 561 2465.

ERA Aviation achieves Medallion Shield award

The Medallion Foundation Inc., a non-profit Alaska aviation safety organization, has awarded its highest honor, the Medallion Shield, to Anchorage-based Era Aviation. Achievement of the award involved completing the Medallion Foundation’s rigorous programs of safety-related training and evaluation. The Foundation’s standards mostly exceed those required by government regulation, Era said.



PAUL LANDIS

FORREST CRANE

“The Medallion Shield confirms the company’s commitment to safety, the credibility of our employees and especially the trust of our customers,” said Era President and CEO Paul Landis. “There were over 80 employee interviews throughout the Era stations that helped validate this high award. Era is only the third carrier in the history of the Medallion program to be awarded the Shield.”

According to the Medallion Foundation, an evaluation for a Medallion

shield determines, among other things, that the company has developed a safety culture that holds safety as its core value; has focused on establishing and maintaining a sustained elevated level of safety performance; has top level management commitment to safety; and that the management commitment has a positive impact on the company’s safety culture.

“Congratulations to Era for their hard work and for raising the bar of safety,” Medallion Foundation Executive Director Jerry Dennis said. “We look forward to working with Era to continue that level.”

Era operates scheduled and charter air service between cities, towns and villages in southern and western Alaska, using a fleet of deHavilland Dash 8 and Twin Otter aircraft.

VECO, Udelhoven named exporters of the year

Gov. Frank Murkowski honored two Alaska companies, VECO and Udelhoven Oilfield System Services, with Exporter of the Year awards in May.

The awards are based on 2005 activity, and are accepted at the annual export banquet organized by the Export Council and held at the Hotel Captain Cook.

“The awards recognize the important contribution that exporters make to our

state's economy," said Murkowski.

Lieutenant Governor Loren Leman presented the awards to company executives on behalf of the governor.

VECO provides engineering, procurement, construction, project management and operations and maintenance services to mining, oil and gas, petrochemical, refinery and pharmaceutical industries in more than 30 countries. The company was awarded a consulting contract in 2005 with Rosneft, a Russian oil company, for a multi-billion-dollar Siberian field development and export pipeline.

VECO also developed a new procedure in 2005 to construct and design modular buildings. The new construction technique allowed the company to lease a \$144 million prison facility to the government of Barbados over a 25-year period and export a team of 20 people to work the project.

Udelhoven Oilfield System Services has been in business for more than 35 years, with employees in Anchorage, Nikiski, Prudhoe Bay, Houston, Tennessee, Louisiana, Beijing and Tbilisi, Georgia. Alaska-based employees market the company's services to potential overseas customers, and are stationed overseas to support new projects.

Udelhoven continues to provide construction supervision on ongoing projects in China, developing gas field quality assurance and audit programs in 2005 for Royal Dutch Shell's Bohai Bay project.

International Trade Director Margy Johnson stated, "These are outstanding Alaska companies, representing the best of our state around the world."

Moody and Hawk group awarded BP contract

Hawk Consultants LLC of Anchorage and Moody International Group, based in Houston, have won a contract to provide agency personnel for BP's Alaska operations.

The Moody/Hawk group will supply professionals for BP's projects on the North Slope and for other Alaska initiatives. Terms of the agreement weren't disclosed.

Principals of Hawk Consultants are Mike Jens, Dave Norton and Maynard Tapp.

Moody International Group is a large technical services group that provides construction/project management, procurement control, quality assurance and system/product certifications.

Intec Engineering appoints chief strategy exec

Intec Engineering, an international company specializing in the engineering of offshore facilities and pipelines, has announced the appointment of Chris Tam as the company's chief strategy officer. The chief strategy officer position is new to the company and encompasses responsibilities for the company's global strategy development, planning and implementation, with a particular emphasis on technology.

Bruce Crager, Intec's chief executive officer, said that Tam's global team will focus on "leveraging technological strengths and pursuing opportunities for technology development across each of the company's six regional locations."

Intec has offices in Houston, Texas; Woking, England; Delft, the Netherlands; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Perth, Australia; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In addition, the company says that it is "well-positioned to address customer needs across Europe, Russia, Africa, Southeast Asia, Australia and the Americas."

"Intec has always been a technology leader," Crager said. "Chris's elevation to chief strategy officer underscores our continued commitment to world-class technology growth focused on supporting our customers' increasing challenges in the frontier arena."

Crager said that Intec helps its customers develop known hydrocarbon reserves through the use of advanced technologies, including technologies such as subsea processing, gas-to-liquids technology and improved asset management techniques.

And Tam said that personnel with seasoned technical capabilities are needed for a new era of frontier development.

"Quality, innovative people driven for success will get us to the next level and help us define development solutions for our customers worldwide," Tam said. "Intec recognizes these demands with the creation of the CSO position. Our global strategy is to provide an environment for cultivating individual talent, capturing lessons learned and developing new technologies for ever-more challenging project needs."

Tam holds a bachelor's of science degree in civil engineering from the University of London and a doctorate in structural engineering, also from the University of London. He is a corporate member of the Institute of Marine Engineers, a U.K. chartered engineer and a European engineer. He has particular expertise in limit state design methods for deepwater pipelines.



CHRIS TAM

BLM's Colleen McCarthy joins CH2M Hill

Colleen McCarthy has joined engineering company CH2M Hill as a senior project manager and industrial business development leader for the company's environmental services, energy and industrial systems clients. McCarthy will serve as the company's primary contact for industrial clients in Alaska, CH2M Hill said.

McCarthy has worked in a variety of positions at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management over the past 10 years, most recently as the deputy state director for the Division of Energy and Solid Minerals.

Prior to joining BLM McCarthy worked as a petroleum engineer for the

U.S. Minerals Management Service in Anchorage and as a civil engineer for the Bureau of Reclamation in Billings, Mont. She holds a B.S. in geological engineering from the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology.

Northern Air Cargo running new flight schedule

Anchorage-based Northern Air Cargo is running a new flight schedule. The changes, which were effective July 24, reflect the growing needs of clients and new Chief Operating Officer Dave Karp's commitment to customer service, the company said.

NAC has targeted specific areas where weather has been an issue in the past, changing departure times to provide con-



The first place crew of the Arctic Sun set a new ship's record, taking 3,417 manual weather observations, a 59 percent increase from the previous year.

Alaska ships ranked top three by NOAA

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has praised three Alaska ships, the Arctic Sun, the Polar Eagle and the Horizon Anchorage and their crews for their outstanding contribution of thousands of manual marine weather observations to aid NOAA's marine weather forecasts in 2005. The ship's participation is part of a voluntary international program run by NOAA in the United States.

The first place crew of the Arctic Sun set a new ship's record, taking 3,417 manual weather observations, a 59 percent increase from the previous year. The crew of the Polar Eagle took 2,620 observations, also a new ship's record and a 17 percent increase from the 2004 stats. The crew from the Horizon Anchorage took 2,392 manual observations in 2005, a new ship's record and an 81 percent increase from the previous year.

"These are phenomenal achievements requiring a great deal of extra effort that is uncommon with voluntary observation programs," said Larry Hubble, port meteorological officer at the Alaska Regional Headquarters of the NOAA's National Weather Service.

Both the Arctic Sun and the Polar Eagle are liquefied natural gas tankers, owned jointly by ConocoPhillips and Marathon Oil Co. The Horizon Anchorage is a cargo ship owned and operated



The crew from the Horizon Anchorage took 2,392 manual observations in 2005, a new ship's record and an 81 percent increase from the previous year.



The crew of the Polar Eagle took 2,620 observations, also a new ship's record and a 17 percent increase from the 2004 stats.

by Horizon Lines.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate related events while providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

sistent service despite seasonal conditions. The new schedule will also allow NAC maximum utilization of their crew and aircraft- including 3 newly purchased 737's arriving in December.

Visit www.nacargo.com for specific flight information.

Northland Wood Products has several new product lines

Fairbanks-based lumber products supplier Northland Wood Products has announced some new product lines.

The company is now supplying laminated bamboo products for truck and trailer decking, and for crane and marsh mats. The bamboo products are available

in broad widths and long lengths; they are stronger and more stable than conventional hardwoods, the Northland Wood says.

A new line of EZStrap banding provides a rust-free alternative to steel banding. Northland says that the bands meet or exceed the strength of comparable width steel bands and have buckle seals with greater joint strength than steel seals.

Northland now sells Sashco log home products that include a complete range of stains, chinking and restoration materials for the care of log homes.

And Geodeck composite decking, another new Northland line, enables fast deck installation, is fade and mold resis-

tant and has a repairable grain finish. The decking can be fitted with pneumatic powered fasteners and comes with a 20-year warranty, Northland says.

Alaska firm ranked best in environmental law

The law firm of Perkins Coie said its environment and natural resources practice has been ranked No. 1 in Alaska, Washington and Oregon by Chambers & Partners, publishers of Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business.

The ranking is the product of extensive surveys of in-house counsel and leading law firm partners, Perkins Coie said.

Eric Fjelstad from the firm's

Anchorage office was also recognized by Chambers & Partners as a top lawyer in environmental, resources and regulated industries law.

Rain for Rent has new instrumentation products

Tank, pump, pipe and filtration equipment supplier Rain for Rent is announcing two new products, the Alarm Agent Wireless Terminal Unit and the AnDRU Box, an analog data responding unit.

The Alarm Agent monitors pumps, tank levels and filtration equipment 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The remote terminal unit has a totally wireless Web-based communication system that alerts personnel via cell phone, e-mail, text message or pager. The Alarm Agent works with a variety of flow, pressure, level and other sensors and is powered by a 12-24 VDC or by solar panel with a 24-hour back up battery.

The Analog Data Responding Unit, AnDRU Box, is specifically designed to control pumps and alarms based on a 4-20 mA analog input. The most basic model is designed to control three pumps, but can be expanded to control more units and works with a variety of flow, pressure, level and other sensors. The unit is set up to send signals to start equipment or trigger telemetry alarms, in outdoor environments, operating off of a 120 VAC.

The Alarm Agent and AnDRU Box are two of many instrumentation rental products available exclusively through Rain For Rent. For more information please call (800) 742-7246.

Residential Mortgage addresses individual needs

Anchorage-based Residential Mortgage LLC makes it a top priority to provide a wide range of mortgage products to Alaskans, focusing particularly on individual borrower's needs. In addition to the standard 15 and 30 year fixed rate mortgages, they can put together plans that offer adjustable rates, flexible time spans, and interest only options. Residential Mortgage also offers the less common 40-year mortgage, with talks of 50-year amortizations in the future.

The firm specializes in combination mortgages for low-income borrowers, those wishing to avoid mortgage insurance, equity extraction, and single close

construction to permanent loans for those building new homes.

No matter what the situation requires, Residential Mortgage says it dedicates itself to serving specific client needs.

For more information call 1.888.357.2707 or in Anchorage area call 222-8886.

Alaska Railroad to issue tax-exempt bonds

The Alaska Railroad Corp. agreed to issue tax-exempt bonds in August to finance rail transportation projects in the state.

The Alaska Legislature voted unanimously last spring to allow the state-owned railroad to issue up to \$165 million in tax-exempt bonds backed by Federal Transit Administration formula funds that the railroad receives annually.

The railroad decided to issue \$76 million in the tax-exempt securities this year, with the remaining \$89 million of debt to be issued in 2009 and 2012.

"For the first time, the Alaska Railroad Corp. will issue bonds allowing us to accelerate our ambitious capital improvement program," former Gov. Bill Sheffield said in a statement Aug. 3. Sheffield chairs the railroad's board of directors, which is required to approve each bond issue and related projects.

Alaska Railroad President and CEO Pat Gamble said tax-exempt bonds will enable the railroad to improve safety and increase capacity.

While refurbishing the mainline track between Anchorage and Fairbanks is the primary project of the program, some of the bond proceeds will pay for technology upgrades and more passenger equipment.

Schlumberger debuts wireline fluid sampling technology

Schlumberger has announced the commercial availability of its new wireline fluid sampling technology. Trademarked as Quicksilver Probe, the equipment collects formation fluids in a central probe while separating contaminated fluids in the probe's annular perimeter. The pure reservoir fluid then passes up one flow line, while the contaminated fluids pass up a second flow line.

The result is the collection of near-pure fluid samples in a fraction of the

Lounsbury's Campfield passes PE exam

Mike Campfield, project engineer with Lounsbury & Associates, recently passed the State of Alaska professional engineer exam, an industry certification for engineers, architects, land surveyors and landscape architects.



MIKE CAMPFIELD

Campfield joined the firm in 2003 and specializes in civil and environmental engineering that includes site, road and utility design, and hydrology and pollution control.

He has worked on projects such as the site and utility design for Wasilla Alaska Sales and Service, Palmer Urban Revitalization and various road and facility improvement projects in the Mat-Su Borough, the Ambler Sewage Lagoon Road and the P.O.B. Montgomery Retail Center in Fairbanks.

Lounsbury, the oldest surveying and engineering firm in Alaska, provides professional surveying, engineering, planning and project management services statewide.

time taken using conventional sampling techniques, Schlumberger says.

"A new generation of sampling technology has been launched that will change the future of downhole sampling," said Kåre Otto Eriksen, special advisor on formation sampling, Statoil. "Close to zero contamination sampling is not only important for general fluid analysis, it is also a significant step toward achieving the goal of doing high-quality downhole fluid measurements without being affected by mud filtrate contamination."

Tests of the technology in areas such as the Gulf of Mexico, the North Sea, Nigeria and India have proved successful, Schlumberger says. The company cites one test on the Norwegian continental shelf where conventional sampling of formation water resulted in a contamination level of 8 percent after two hours of pumping. It said a Quicksilver Probe sam-

pling operation at the same depth resulted in zero contamination over the same time period.

"This is the first time in sampling history it has been possible to collect formation fluid samples downhole that have the purity required for PVT analysis in situ or subsequently on surface," said Charles Woodburn, president, Wireline, Schlumberger. "Faster, more representative sampling cuts costs while delivering our customers more accurate reservoir information for optimizing completion, production and, in exploration phases, possible topsides design."

—Alan Bailey

Schlumberger buys geomechanics firm TerraTek

Schlumberger Ltd. has added a new firm to its Schlumberger Data & Consulting Services.

TerraTek, with 80 employees in its Salt Lake City office, will become the Geomechanics Laboratory Center of Excellence for the Schlumberger subsidiary. Terms of the deal weren't disclosed.

The new center will provide rock mechanics evaluations, analysis of unconventional gas reservoirs, log-to-core integration, and performance testing for large-scale drillings and completions.

"By integrating their knowledge of applied geomechanics core evaluation with our expertise in petrophysics and geomechanics, we will enhance the value of our services, particularly in the unconventional gas reservoirs that will produce a greater proportion of future world supply," said Chris Hopkins, president of the data and consulting services arm of Schlumberger.

Geomechanics analysis adds to a driller's understanding of the behavior of hydrocarbon reservoir rocks as they undergo the mechanical changes associated with drilling and production.

Sidney Green is the current chief executive officer of TerraTek.

Schlumberger partners with BT for communications network

Schlumberger and British Telecommunications PLC announced April 10 that they have formed an alliance in which BT will manage and operate Schlumberger's global communications network spanning 18 countries.



COURTESY MARSH CREEK

Marsh Creek is an Alaska Native corporation, jointly owned by Kaktovik Inupiat Corp. and Fairweather. The company provides environmental, construction and technical services.

Marsh Creek becomes Rolls-Royce adviser in Alaska

Rolls-Royce has appointed Marsh Creek LLC as the company's commercial adviser in Alaska.

Marsh Creek is an Alaska Native corporation, jointly owned by Kaktovik Inupiat Corp. and Fairweather. The company provides environmental, construction and technical services.

Rolls-Royce has for several decades supplied highly reliable turbines and compressors for the Alaska oil and gas industry, Marsh Creek said.

"Marsh Creek brings a multidiscipline approach to Alaska market that complements the Rolls-Royce offering," said Jeff Daun, regional manager for Rolls-Royce. "They can serve as our first point of contact for emergency and technical requirements. We anticipate a strong and productive relationship."

Marsh Creek's Anchorage office is located at 2000 East 88th Ave., Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99507. Phone: (907) 258-0050.

BT will also jointly develop with Schlumberger new network solutions for the exploration and production industry.

Schlumberger is a major oilfield services company that operates in more than 80 countries. The company's services include formation evaluation, well services, information technology services and information management. An effective network infrastructure underpins the timely delivery of business critical computer applications and services to upstream exploration and production companies, the company said.

"Schlumberger is committed to delivering the digital oilfield, so the industry can achieve enhanced operational efficiencies," said Olivier Le Peuch, president of Schlumberger Information Solutions. "This agreement will expand our capability to provide end-to-end connectivity solutions and is a logical next step towards the introduction of innovative services that support interactive operations including real-time production and drilling."

BT provides communications solutions and services in more than 160 countries. The company's main services include networked information technology services; local, national and international telecommunications services; and broadband and Internet products and services.

"We are delighted to support Schlumberger's mission critical E&P business network and augment it with a global networked information technology solution," said Andy Green, CEO of BT Global Services. "We are committed to building on the access this provides to key remote global locations and to investing in the partnership as part of our 21st century network program."

Rain for Rent launches SWAT services division

Rain for Rent said in late July that it has formed a SWAT services division specializing in bypass protocol and design for all types of bypasses and diversions.

SWAT stands for Sewer Water "A" Team.

The company said SWAT's professionally trained staff and Rain for Rent's 73 years of liquid handling knowledge and expertise can handle all types of sewer and fresh water bypasses.

"Rain for Rent's SWAT experts have been specially trained and strategically deployed across the nation to design, install, supervise and complete large pumping and filtration projects. Successful projects include systems capable of 200 MGD, flood response, and all types of general industrial and filtration projects," Rain for Rent said in a July 28 press release.

"The SWAT service division is a hands-on extension of Rain for Rent's Complete Solutions... Proven Results liquid handling program," the company said.

SWAT is supported by Rain for Rent's engineering department and 54 nationwide locations.

For more information call (800) 742-7246 or visit online at rainforrent.com.

U.S. Bearings hosts customer appreciation day Aug. 25

The Anchorage branch of U.S. Bearings and Drives will be hosting an appreciation event for their current customers on Friday Aug. 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its facility at 611 E. International Airport Road. There will be door prizes and grab bags, as well as a complimentary bar-beque and beverages.

The event will provide an opportunity to meet company staff and to tour the company's warehouse. In addition, there will be five product vendors and two freight vendors present to provide product demonstrations and answer questions.

Important! If you would like to attend please RSVP to (907) 563-3000.

Looking for a house sitter who doubles as a pet sitter?

Flo Wright has started a house sitting business in Anchorage called The Wright Touch.

Wright has decided to combine her experience as a pet groomer and personal shopper to become a house sitter for people with, or without, pets.

Her prices, she said, are competitive with what a kennel charges for a cat or dog — \$75 per week for basic house sitting and an extra \$25-50 per week,

Security Aviation expands services, relocates

Anchorage-based Security Aviation has relocated to 6121 South Airpark Place and has partnered with Alaska Regional Hospital to provide LifeFlight air ambulance services throughout Alaska and the Lower 48, Security said in a July press release.

Security Aviation, which identifies itself as the state's premier Part 135 on-demand air charter company and the largest multi-engine on-demand air charter service in Anchorage, is in its twenty-first year of accident-free flying.

Alaska Regional Hospital is the state's second largest healthcare facility, specializing in cardiovascular, orthopedic and surgical service and has provided critical care aeromedical services throughout Alaska since 1985.

Security Aviation began providing hospital transport in 1986 with Alaska Regional Hospital's predecessor, Humana Hospital-Alaska.

LifeFlight utilizes Security's Cessna 550 Citation to provide this service, which operates on gravel airstrips, is pressurized and can travel over 400 miles per hour. The company says the aircraft "is uniquely suited for the Alaskan environment thus providing the patient the most expedient mode of transportation available."

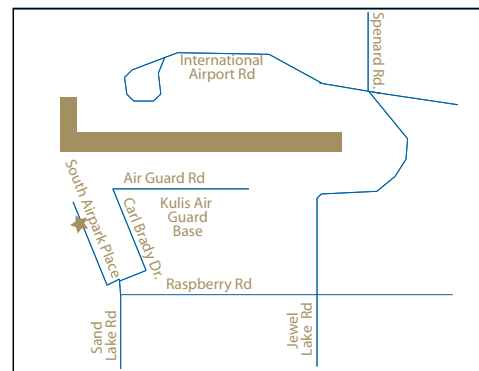
The plane, owned and operated by Security Aviation and staffed with Alaska Regional's flight nurses and paramedics, is on call 24 hours a day.

As a result of this expansion, Security Aviation relocated to a newly remodeled facility in South Airpark, previously occupied by FS. Air Service.

The new location has a larger hangar and office, as well as customer lobby space to accommodate this expansion and future expansions.

All Security Aviation's air charter operations will operate from the South Park facility.

LifeFlight is the only hospital-based program in the United States to offer services directly to the emergency room doors, Security Aviation said.



Want to get in this directory?

If you do business in Alaska and/or northern Canada's oil and gas industry and would like to be part of Petroleum News' quarterly Petroleum Directory, please call or email Amy Spittler for details at:

Telephone: 907-770-3506

Email: aspittler@PetroleumNews.com

depending on the number, size and type of pets and the situation. Light house cleaning is \$25 per hour; personal shopping and vet visits \$15 per hour. Mileage is extra.

"Pets do much better if they are allowed to stay in their own environment when their owners leave town.

They can feel abandoned in a kennel," Wright said.

"When I take care of pets while their owners are out of town I do everything from giving them medication, to walking them, to rubbing their ears. Just spending time with them is important," she said.

And she takes all the time needed when she's grooming a pet.

"Most groomers are on a time schedule that doesn't allow them to spend extra time with an animal who is shy or has had a bad grooming experience. I take the time," Wright said.

She'll do what it takes for you to come home to a happy pet and well-cared for home.

For references and more information contact Flo Wright in Anchorage at (907) 222-0313.

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STEELFAB fabricates massive double-walled tank for Kuparuk

STEELFAB employees ease a 25,000-pound steel inner flow-back tank back into its 75,000-pound outer shell after being water pressure tested for leaks. Fabricated for use at the Greater Kuparuk Area field on Alaska's North Slope, the 100,000 pound, double-walled tank is a new design that holds any potential spills and eliminates the need for building onsite containment dams, according to STEELFAB. The flow-back tanks are additionally covered with corrosion resistant coatings. Used as liquid container during daily well production activities, the double-walled tank is part of a six tank, \$1.2 million order with STEELFAB. The tanks also contain gas vents, handrails and interior ladders for easy clean-out. All six tanks are fabricated using the superior submerged arc welding process in Anchorage by STEELFAB, a locally-owned steel fabricator.



Photos courtesy of STEELFAB



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