

Incident Name: Pump Station 1 Booster Pump Piping Incident
Source: Public Information Office
Contact: 907-450-5857
Website: dec.alaska.gov/spar/ps1

Progress toward full pipeline operations continues

Jan. 18, 2011, 11:05 a.m.

FAIRBANKS, Alaska – The Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) is currently operating at a throughput rate of 510,000 BPD. Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC) is progressing towards full operations with oil moving smoothly through the pipeline.

With resumption of full service, the continued focus is safety with particular attention to weather conditions. Phase 1 and Phase 2 advisories – blowing and drifting snow causing poor visibility – are currently in place in various locations north of Pump Station 5. Phase 2 road conditions require convoys of two or more vehicles with local supervisor approval prior to travel.

Forward flow of oil began at 10:18 a.m. on Jan. 17 after crews at Pump Station 1 successfully installed the 157-foot bypass pipeline.

Alyeska initially shut down TAPS the morning of Jan. 8 after discovering crude oil in the booster pump building basement at Pump Station 1 at Prudhoe Bay, about 500 miles north of Fairbanks.

The pipeline temporarily restarted Jan. 11 while Alyeska employees and contractors prepared bypass piping. Alyeska shut down TAPS again about midnight on Saturday, Jan. 15, to begin installation of the bypass piping.

After the leak was detected Jan. 8, responders installed an 800-gallon containment vault and parked vacuum trucks on-site to remove oil from the vault. The total recovery estimate from Pump Station 1 is about 317 barrels of oil. APSC, State and Federal officials will investigate the source of the leak.

Currently Alyeska and contract employees, joined by state and federal regulators, are closely monitoring the restarted line.

There is no known harm to wildlife or the environment due to this incident.

The Joint Information Center for the Unified Command is now closed. Media calls can be directed to the public information office in Fairbanks at 907-450-5857 or Michelle Egan, Director of Corporate Communications for APSC, at 907-787-8397. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) will maintain the Unified Command website at www.dec.alaska.gov.spar/ps1

Note: All times are Alaska Standard Time.

The Public Information Office consists of ADEC and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.