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Trans Alaska Pipeline System maintenance shutdown set for July 16-17, 2011

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company crews are preparing for this summer's major maintenance shutdown on the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), scheduled to run around the clock from Saturday morning, July 16, through Sunday evening, July 17.

"Alyeska maintains the pipeline as part of our commitment to the continued integrity and viability of TAPS," said Senior Director for Pipeline Operations John Baldrige. "Our goal is to safeguard personnel and the environment while doing the work necessary to continue operating the pipeline safely and efficiently."

Alyeska, the pipeline operator, will complete various projects during the scheduled shutdown, including major work at Pump Station 4 south of Prudhoe Bay and at Pump Station 11 (now the Glennallen Response Base) near Glennallen.

- At Pump Station 4, a 48" diameter 62,000 pound valve and a 36" diameter 26,000 pound valve used to redirect the flow of crude oil inside the pump station will be replaced as part of planned maintenance. The valves are part of the system that enables the station to receive and launch inline cleaning and inspection devices (known as "pigs").
- Near Glennallen, at the Pump Station 11 site, piping to accommodate a pump station was installed as part of the original construction but the pump station itself was never built. The legacy pipe and valves will be replaced with new "straight line" pipe to eliminate the potential for corrosion in the unused "dead leg" piping.
- Other work will include maintenance work on several mainline valves and work at several pump stations and the Valdez Marine Terminal, including valve maintenance, annual electrical system maintenance and inspections, and modifications to the LEFM (Leading Edge Flow Monitoring) equipment at Pump Station 3, Pump Station 8, and Pump Station 11.

Alyeska conducts pipeline system shutdowns annually to conduct certain work that can only be done while the pipeline is shut down. This allows maintenance crews time to work on projects simultaneously along the pipeline and at the Valdez Marine Terminal. These shutdowns coincide with the producers' routine maintenance on equipment and facilities on the North Slope.

A successful shutdown involves a majority of the TAPS organization and months of thorough preparation and coordination between field locations and the Operations Control Center.

For further information, contact Michelle Egan, Alyeska Corporate Communications Director, 907-787-8870. For more information on Alyeska, visit the company's website at www.alyeska-pipe.com

About Alyeska

Alyeska operates the 800-mile Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), which runs from Prudhoe Bay on the North Slope south to the Port of Valdez, the northernmost ice-free port in the United States. The pipeline crosses three mountain ranges and 34 major rivers and streams. Alyeska operates out of Anchorage, Fairbanks and Valdez and at various facilities along the line. Alyeska was created to construct, operate, and maintain TAPS for the owner companies. The current TAPS owners are BP Pipelines (Alaska), ConocoPhillips Transportation Alaska, ExxonMobil Pipeline Company, Unocal Pipeline Company, and Koch Alaska Pipeline Company.

For more information, visit www.alyeska-pipe.com, or follow Alyeska on Facebook or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/AlyeskaPipeline.