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For Immediate Release:
April 16, 2013

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Alyeska practices oil spill response south of Fairbanks on April 18

Dozens of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company employees, joined by representatives from state and federal agencies, will spend this Thursday in one of the largest pipeline joint-drills conducted annually for oil spill response in Alaska.

The drill involves standing up a fully staffed Incident Management Team, with responders in the field and in Fairbanks on Thursday, April 18, 2013. Participants spend the day responding in real-time to a simulated oil spill incident. A minor increase in traffic may occur on the Richardson Highway south of Fairbanks and at the Salcha River campground during this planned 12-hour drill.

"This is one of the largest of the 58 drills Alyeska schedules year round along the 800-mile pipeline and in Valdez and Prince William Sound to ensure its people and equipment are ready to respond to any pipeline incident any time of the year," said Wes Willson, Emergency Preparedness & Compliance Manager.

The drill is an opportunity for Alyeska's highly trained Source Control and Repair Team in Fairbanks to practice using specialized equipment to stop a simulated oil spill and repair the pipeline. Source control equipment will be dispatched from Pump Station 8 on Johnson Road to the simulated incident location, just south of the Little Salcha River. The Pipeline Incident Management Team and Mobile Command Post will be activated to manage the response.

The Fairbanks Response Base will take the lead during the drill, with assistance from the Valdez Marine Terminal Fire Team, Delta and Fairbanks Response Bases, Fairbanks Fleet Facility, Fairbanks Maintenance Base responders, Pipeline Incident Management Team, and the Pipeline's Mobile Command Post Go Team. In all, approximately 160 people will perform during the drill. Observers and evaluators from state and federal agencies such as EPA, ADEC, BLM, ADF&G and Fairbanks North Star Borough will also participate.

For further information, contact Lynda Sather, Fairbanks Communications Manager, 907-450-5758. For information on Alyeska, visit the company's website at www.alyeska-pipe.com.

About Alyeska Pipeline

For 35 years, Alyeska has operated the 800-mile Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), safely moving oil from Prudhoe Bay on the North Slope of Alaska south to the Port of Valdez, the northernmost ice-free port in the United States. The pipeline traverses three mountain ranges, permafrost regions and 34 major rivers and streams. Alyeska personnel work in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Valdez and at pump stations and response facilities all along the pipeline. They also operate the Ship Escort/Response Vessel System (SERVS) for Prince William Sound. Alyeska was created to construct, operate, and maintain TAPS for owner companies which today 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.

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