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Alyeska names prestigious Atigun Award winners

ANCHORAGE, AK – Alyeska Pipeline Service Company has named this year’s recipients of its Atigun Awards, which annually honor innovative work, exciting projects and shining-star professionals along the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS).

“Atigun is TAPS’ highest peak, a perfect symbol for the highest level of recognition on TAPS – celebrating personnel and teams who exemplify our values at the highest level,” said Tom Barrett, President of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

Atigun Awards are given out in five categories: Environment, Health and Safety, Innovation, Integrity and Teamwork. Barrett and his leadership team also gave two employees Professional of the Year Awards, and granted retiree Bill Frichtl a Lifetime Achievement Award.

At 4,739 feet, Atigun Pass in the Brooks Range is the highest elevation scaled by TAPS. During construction in the 1970s, designing and building the pipeline’s Atigun crossing exemplified the ingenuity and determination fueling the workforce. During TAPS’ nearly 38 years of operations, Atigun has remained symbolic of the challenges employees have conquered to safely and reliably operate TAPS.

Here is a summary of the people and efforts being honored with Atigun Awards:

- **ENVIRONMENT: Flood response at Sag River and Beaver Brook.** Responding swiftly, safely and effectively to extreme flooding, employees from across TAPS – from Alyeska, Maritime Helicopters, Hawk Engineering, HCC and Merrick Survey -- worked over several days amid rapidly changing conditions to protect the pipeline from damage.
- **HEALTH AND SAFETY: Scott Smith, Valdez Marine Terminal Utility Supervisor, and the Power Vapor Facility Team.** Smith and his Valdez-based team identified and implemented a custom-molded device to provide hearing protection and improve communication across the massive and complex Power Vapor Facility.
- **INNOVATION: Robotic in-line inspection tool team.** Using technology innovatively, with collaboration across teams and departments, this group – based out of Anchorage – was able to introduce a new tool for inspecting pipe, marking a significant change in approach to pipeline inspections.
- **INTEGRITY: Julia Redington, Area Project Manager.** Redington, an Anchorage employee who spends ample time in the field, is credited with “creating a positive work climate through respect, teamwork, mentoring and Open Work Environment practices” that encourage employees to stop work if conditions are unsafe or raise concerns without fear of harassment, intimidation, retaliation or discrimination.
- **TEAMWORK: Hal Eppley, Material Coordinator.** Eppley, based out of Fairbanks, facilitated exceptional teamwork across a wide variety of groups over a sustained period of time.
- **PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARDS:**
 - **Jerry DeHaas, Senior. Discipline Engineer Advisor, Fairbanks/Pump Station 1.**
 - **Kim Kortenhof, Senior Pipeline Compliance Coordinator, Fairbanks.**

- **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Bill Frichtl, retired Senior Discipline Engineering Advisor, Anchorage.**

“Jerry and Kim demonstrate professionalism, discipline, a passion and energy for their work, and respect for their colleagues’ safety and success,” Barrett said. “Both Jerry and Kim are seen as examples by their peers.”

Of Frichtl, who retired in February after 38 years of service, Barrett said, “Bill is one of our TAPS veterans who has served us since startup. It’s innovators like Bill that we all have to thank for the dedication, time and hard work that went into building the legacy that is TAPS today.”

Numerous honorable mentions were announced as well. Awards ceremonies for employees are scheduled during the next few weeks in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Valdez.

About Alyeska Pipeline

For nearly 38 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 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 and Unocal Pipeline Company. For more information, visit www.alyeska-pipe.com or follow Alyeska on Facebook (www.facebook.com/alyeskapipeline) or on Twitter (www.twitter.com/AlyeskaPipeline).

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