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TRANS ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM

A Vital Link Across Alaska

The iconic Trans Alaska Pipeline System has delivered North Slope crude oil from Alaska's North Slope oil fields to the Valdez Marine Terminal for nearly 50 years. Stretching across 800 miles of some of the state's most remote and dynamic terrain, TAPS stands on a proven record of safety, reliability, economic impact, and community investment.

Designed for Alaska

From the beginning, TAPS required innovative engineering solutions to operate safely in arctic and sub-arctic conditions. Portions of the pipeline are elevated above ground to protect permafrost and accommodate wildlife movement, while other sections are buried where conditions are more suitable. TAPS was designed to withstand seasonal temperature changes, unpredictable seismic activity and changing ground conditions common throughout Alaska.



Operating Around the Clock

The pipeline is monitored and maintained 24 hours a day by teams located along the route and in the Operations Control Center. Employees work year-round to inspect, maintain, and operate the system, helping ensure the safe and reliable transportation of Alaska North Slope crude oil.

Environmental Stewardship

Protecting the environment remains a key part of pipeline operations. Alyeska works closely with regulatory agencies, Alaska Native organizations, communities, and other stakeholders to support safe operations and responsible environmental practices across the TAPS corridor.



TAPS TODAY

24/7 monitoring and operations
Nearly 50 years of operation
Stewardship across Alaska's diverse environment

Looking Ahead

Originally engineered for a much shorter operating life, TAPS continues to serve Alaska through ongoing maintenance, system improvements, and strategic investments. Today, reliability programs and infrastructure upgrades help position the system for continued operation into the future.



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By the Numbers

- Length: 800 miles from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez
- Pipe diameter: 48 inches
- Years built: 1974-1977
- Linefill volume: 9,059,057 barrels
- Mountain ranges crossed: Brooks, Alaska, and Chugach
- Major river and stream crossings: 34 major crossings and nearly 500 others

Construction Facts

- Construction took 3 years and 2 months
- Approximately 70,000 people worked on the project between 1969 and 1977
- Peak workforce reached 28,072 workers in October 1975
- Construction cost was approximately \$8 billion in 1977 dollars

Wildlife & Environment

- Approximately 579 animal crossings are incorporated into TAPS
- More than 170 bird species have been identified along the route
- 34 fish species have been identified in waters crossed by the pipeline
- About 75% of the pipeline passes through permafrost terrain

Safety & Engineering

- TAPS successfully withstood the magnitude 7.9 Denali Fault earthquake in 2002 without spilling oil
- Three independent systems are used for leak detection
- The Operations Control Center in Anchorage continuously monitors pipeline operations

Valdez Marine Terminal

- The terminal occupies approximately 1,000 acres
- The terminal operates with 13 in-service storage tanks and a working inventory capacity of 6.6 million barrels of crude oil
- Each crude oil storage tank can hold 510,000 barrels

Pump Stations

- The original TAPS design called for 12 pump stations
- Eight pump stations were operating when TAPS started up in 1977
- Pump Station 11 was never built
- Pump Stations 8, 10 and 12 have been demolished as part of Alyeska's asset retirement program

