

TAPS Unified Plan

Alyeska, Monthly News, Jan. 2008

Accessed Aug. 20, 2010 at http://www.alyeska-pipe.com/Inthenews/Monthlynews/2008/Jan/Jan2008_presidentsmessage.asp
[as of June 2012, this link is no longer operating on the Alyeska web site]

President's Message

Kevin Hostler, President and CEO

Unified Plan developed to improve safety, integrity management on TAPS

Safety and environmental performance are two of Alyeska's most vital concerns in operating the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). Over the past year and a half, several operational incidents occurred that could have indicated a departure from Alyeska policies, standards, and the company's safety culture. These incidents have significantly impacted Alyeska's relationship with our regulators. I am happy to say we are on a solid path leading us in the right direction with the introduction of Alyeska's Unified Plan.

In April of last year, Alyeska management determined that a "Unified Plan" would provide assurance that TAPS is maintained and operated in accordance with the company's policies, in full regulatory compliance while ensuring the protection of public health and safety, the environment and system integrity.

To ensure we meet and exceed these expectations, and those of our regulators and owners, Alyeska put together the Unified Plan Project Team and fully developed the plan, targeting higher standards in safety procedures, integrity management and risk management across all areas of the company. Over the past several months, this team has supported, tracked and reported on the progress of this work.

The Unified Plan specifically covers three areas: people, operational facilities and processes. The people component is comprised of training, code of conduct, regulatory interaction and compliance, and a reevaluation of operator qualification programs. Operational facilities revolves around facility investment and plans for the next 30 years of pipeline operations, and the process section calls for improving the compliance



program; revising the integrity management plan in accordance with DOT protocols; adjusting enterprise risk management and process safety management practices; revising the Quality Improvement Plan; and improving key performance indicators for the company.

In an effort to effectuate an objective, forward-looking assessment of these programs and processes, an independent consulting firm conducted an evaluation of existing programs and processes on TAPS related to the key target areas. They gathered feedback through interviews with TAPS personnel in Anchorage, Fairbanks Valdez and along the pipeline.

The consulting firm, **ABS Consulting, provided a total of 60 recommendations**, many with common themes such as improving or emphasizing hazard recognition and situational awareness, and energy isolation procedures and practices. A key observation was the emphasis on effective translation of the Alyeska Management System process requirements into the documents that people use either on a daily basis, or consult for reference when needed.

Overall the study found Alyeska's processes and the Integrity Management program description to be sound and concluded that current risk assessment tools are effective and meet compliance needs.

As we move forward in **implementing the action plans outlined in the Unified Plan**, I ask you to please take a moment to reflect on the significance of such a huge, all-encompassing endeavor. This Plan requires the contribution of each and every one of our Alyeska employees and contractors—the pipeline people—to help maintain the integrity of TAPS for the next 30 years and beyond.

Sourcing Note *

This Alyeska “President’s Message” on the TAPS Unified Plan from the January 2008 *Alyeska Monthly News* (on-line) was accessed at the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company web site on August 20, 2010 but is no longer readily accessible on the company web site (<http://www.alyeska-pipe.com>).

Alyeska has recently revised its web site format and company personnel state that, as a matter of policy, copies of press releases and monthly or semi-monthly newsletters more than one year old are no longer readily accessible for review. (Two other hyperlinks to this report constitute examples of information formerly available on the Alyeska web site that is no longer readily accessible.)

The following document outline from the Nov. 27, 2007 Unified Plan briefing were provided by the State Pipeline Coordinator’s Office in response to a request.

**This revised sourcing note replaced the original (Dec. 18, 2012) sourcing note.*



**Unified Plan Presentation
to TAPS
Oversight & Regulatory
Agencies**

November 28, 2007

Table of Contents

Meeting Agenda

PowerPoint Presentation

Illustration of TAPS Future

Unified Plan Execution Plan

Management Action Plans – People

- Position Assessment of Operations and Maintenance Supervisors
- Open Work Environment Initiative
- Technical Development/Operator Qualification Improvement Initiative
- Engineering Department Restructure Initiative

Management Action Plans – Processes

- Alyeska's Integrity Management Plan Revisions Initiative and in response to Review of Alyeska's Intensity Management Program for High Consequence Areas
- Review of Alyeska's Key Processes and Programs
- Review of Alyeska's Risk-informed Decision-making Processes
- Review of Management of Change Activities for the Trans Alaska Pipeline System
- Key Performance Indicators Initiative
- Process Risk Management Initiative
- Enterprise Risk Management Initiative
- Common Cause Assessment from Serious Incident Reports
- Incident Investigation and Root Cause Analysis Process Improvements Initiative
- Quality Assurance Program Improvement Initiative

- Compliance Program Initiative
- DOT Compliance Records Assessment
- Alyeska Loss Prevention System (ALPS) and TAPS Integrated Reporting System (TIRS) Replacement Project Initiative
- Alyeska Interaction with the Alaska Petroleum Systems Integrity Office Initiative

Management Action Plans – Facilities

- DOT/PHMSA Commitment Matrix Initiative
- Mainline Valve Winterization Activities for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System
- Independent Assessment of the Ballast Water Treatment Gravity Separation Tanks Vapor Control Project
- Safety Integrity Pressure Protection System (SIPPS) Implementation Initiative
- Low Flow Impact Study Initiative



Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Unified Plan Presentation
to BLM/DNR/DOT/ADEC/PSIO
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Background – Learnings from Ourselves



‘ . . . Several recent serious incidents on TAPS . . . ’

Completed a Common Cause Assessment of 21 significant incidents since 2000

- Berth 4 Loading Arm Separation Incident
- CV-109 Asbestos
- PS 09 SCADA FCU Failure
- VMT - Ultrasonic Testing Data
- RGV-32 TOR Fitting Valve Leak
- 2002 VDZ Tank Project Review
- Berth 3 Live Wire Cut
- Berth 4 Fenwal Valve Jumper Incident
- Man-lift Incident, PS01
- Cleaning Pig No. 67
- Crowley Fatality
- Hydrotek Pressure Washer Fires
- Loader Rolled Over Snow Buried 480V Cable
- PS 04 VFD Module
- Berth 5 Tankers Loaded with Pressure Switch Root Valves in Closed Position
- Chain Binder Incident
- Check Valve 50 Pipe Movement Incident
- RGV-31 Leak
- Spark Incident at Berth 4
- RGV-31 Moved, Displaced Pipe
- PS 09 Tank Fire