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Trans Alaska Pipeline System restarts, oil flowing from Pump Station 1

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - Alyeska Pipeline restarted the Trans-Alaska Pipeline following a four-day shut down. The company's Operations Control Center began the start-up sequence of opening valves and bringing pumps on line at approximately 7 pm AST.

Alyeska shut down the pipeline at 8:50 a.m. on Saturday, January 8 after crews discovered a leak into containment in the basement of a booster pump building at Pump Station 1. The restart is part of a multi-step plan to restore pipeline operations. The pipeline will run at a reduced rate for several days while a bypass segment is staged for installation. Once staged, Alyeska will shut down again while crews complete the bypass project.

Alyeska President Tom Barrett praised the 400 men and women who have been working day and night to bring the system back on line. "This interim restart is an important and necessary step to restoring operations, while managing the risks of severe damage to the TAPS system that an extended winter shutdown posed," said Barrett. "Employees and contractors have done a terrific job over the last several days, much of it in very challenging physical circumstances," said Barrett. "We know tough work remains in the days ahead, but our people understand the importance of this system to our stakeholders and to Alaska, and I know they are totally committed to promptly restoring operations that are safe and protective of our environment."

"I also want to thank the many on-site state and federal regulators who worked closely with our team to reach agreement on a safe restart plan."

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