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Long-term monitoring in Port Valdez shows water quality improvements

A recent report points to improvements to water quality near the Valdez Marine Terminal.

The Long-term Environmental Monitoring Program (LTEMP) looks at petroleum hydrocarbon levels in sediment and mussel samples taken around Prince William Sound. The most recent findings show a continual decline in these levels between 2008 and 2012. The LTEMP report cites several factors that played a role in the progress, including "improved [Ballast Water Treatment Facility] efficiency at removing particulate/oil-phase polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons." The program is managed by the Prince William Sound Regional Citizen's Advisory Council.

The Terminal Ballast Water Treatment facility is charged with treating the sea water taken on by tankers during their journey north to Valdez. While the majority of tankers have segregated tanks, there are still a few vessels that offload oily ballast for treatment through the facility before being released into Port Valdez. The facility has undergone several improvements over the last 5 years, including the implementation of air strippers in 2011. These four units are able to mechanically remove most benzene, ethyl-benzene, toluene, and xylene particles from the ballast.

"This is great news," said Alyeska President Tom Barrett. "Alyeska has implemented several upgrades to our Ballast Water Treatment facility, and we have highly committed and conscientious operators. It's important to have independent confirmation that our improvements are successful and the work of our people is effective."

For more information, the report can be found at <http://www.pwsrca.org/resources/reports-documents/environmental-monitoring/>.

About Alyeska Pipeline Service Company

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, and Unocal Pipeline Company.

For more information, visit www.alyeska-pipe.com, or follow Alyeska on Facebook or on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/AlyeskaPipeline](https://twitter.com/AlyeskaPipeline).

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