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### **Alyeska position on Alaska Dispatch OCC alarm article**

Alaska Dispatch published a story this morning about alarm volume at the Operations Control Center.

The article used testimony and evidence from ongoing Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) litigation that was many years old, primarily from 2007 and 2008. Much of that information, while once true, is out-of-date and no longer accurate. The author of the article did not contact Alyeska for information.

In 2012, the US Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration completed an exhaustive audit of the Operations Control Center (OCC) and found no corrective actions for Alyeska. The inspection raised no issues with alarms or alarm management. OCC has adopted standards to protect control room integrity and limit operator distractions.

Alyeska has worked to improve alarm systems so that OCC controllers can focus on TAPS operations. Today, alarm volume is managed by isolating operationally urgent alarms for the controllers. Other alarms are not annunciated to the controller and are analyzed and sorted by the Engineering Diagnostic Resource Center (EDRC).

“We operate this pipeline with a precautionary approach,” said Tom Barrett, Alyeska President. “If our operators aren’t confident, they’ll shut the pipeline down. If there is a significant anomaly, either our automated systems or our operators will stop the operation. And in fact they have done that. I appreciate their professionalism and their commitment to one of the most critical functions behind our safe and reliable operations.”

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### **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](http://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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