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Trans Alaska Pipeline System maintenance shutdown set for June 20

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company crews are preparing for a 24-hour major maintenance shutdown on the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), scheduled to run around the clock from the morning of Friday, June 20, through Saturday, June 21.

“Alyeska maintains the pipeline as part of our commitment to the continued integrity and long-term viability of TAPS,” said Senior Director for Pipeline Operations John Baldrige. “We have been planning the work for months, using an extremely thoughtful and disciplined process.”

Alyeska, the pipeline operator, will complete various projects during the scheduled shutdown, including work at Pump Station 1 in Prudhoe Bay and routine tests of all mainline valves between Atigun Pass and Pump Station 5. Planned work includes:

- Power system modifications at Pump Station 1;
- Isolation of below-ground piping at Pump Station 3 for internal integrity inspection using new technology;
- Testing all mainline valves between Atigun Pass and Pump Station 5 (pipeline mileposts 165-275) to confirm valve sealing capability.

TAPS plans other project and major maintenance work during the next couple of months that will require several short-duration shutdowns that last between 6 and 8 hours, and one additional long-duration shutdown August 29-30. Details will be posted on the Alyeska website.

Alyeska conducts pipeline system shutdowns to conduct projects and maintenance that can only be done while the pipeline isn't in its regular operating state. This allows crews time to work on projects simultaneously along the pipeline and at the Valdez Marine Terminal.

A successful shutdown involves a majority of the TAPS organization and months of thorough preparation and coordination between field locations and the Operations Control Center.

For further information, contact Michelle Egan, Alyeska Corporate Communications Director, 907-787-8870. For more information on Alyeska, visit the company's website at www.alyeska-pipe.com

About Alyeska Pipeline Service Company

For 37 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.

For more information, visit www.alyeska-pipe.com, or follow Alyeska on Facebook or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/AlyeskaPipeline.

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