

Report to the Board from the Executive Director

Subsea pipeline construction could begin as early as 2014

Cook Inlet RCAC has been informed that Tesoro is considering the installation and operation of a trans-Foreland subsea pipeline to transport crude oil from the west side of Cook Inlet to Tesoro's refining facilities in Nikiski. Although still in the planning stages, all indications are that this pipeline is going to be built and construction could begin as early as spring 2014. As proposed, the pipeline would begin at Cook Inlet Energy's Kustatan production facility from Cook Inlet's west side and come onshore south of the KPL dock in Nikiski on the east side.

Cook Inlet RCAC has been in contact with both west side operators: Cook Inlet Energy, which has committed to shipping their oil, and Hilcorp Alaska, who has indicated that they are awaiting additional information before committing to utilizing the pipeline.

Cook Inlet RCAC is very supportive of Tesoro's proposed project. With the installation of the crude oil pipeline, there will be an alternative means of transporting crude oil from Cook Inlet's west side facilities. We will continue to advocate for the installation of the pipeline and Tesoro has been invited to present their plans and status of the project at the Council's Board of Directors December meeting in Anchorage.

Cook Inlet RCAC to spearhead creation of a Harbor Safety Committee

The Cook Inlet Navigation Risk Assessment Advisory Panel has recommended the formation of a Cook Inlet area harbor safety committee for immediate implementation. After consultation with the United States Coast Guard and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Cook Inlet RCAC will spearhead and lead in the development of the committee. Harbor safety committees promote navigational safety, security and protection. A Cook Inlet harbor safety committee would benefit mariners area-wide, according to the risk assessment.

DEC approves news skimmer technology for Alaska

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has approved the use of the coated disc skimmer for Alaska's waters. The Crucial skimmer is highly efficient, collects more oil than water, and reduces bottlenecks in skimming systems usually caused by on-water storage. For more information about the coated "fuzzy" disc skimmer, see Cook Inlet Navigator's May 2013 issue.

DNR revisits Platform Dismantlement, Removal & Restoration regulations

The Department of Natural Resources held a workshop on recent changes to their regulations overseeing the dismantlement, removal and restoration (DR&R) of platforms. DR&R regulation development has been a PROPS (Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety) Committee project for a number of years. In 2005 Cook Inlet RCAC commissioned a white paper when the issue was a DNR priority that reviewed the legal, regulatory issues and costs associated with platform removal. No platforms have been removed and dismantled since the first platforms were installed more than 48 years ago. Cook Inlet RCAC will review and update the 2005 white paper as applicable and resubmit it to DNR through the PROPS and Protocol Committees and continue to monitor and provide input on this issue.



From Left: Mike Munger, John Williams, Gary Fandrei and Grace Merkes