



FACTSHEET: ALASKA PIPELINE OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN, PROPOSED FOR RENEWAL, 2006

TAPS is the #1 threat to the Copper River Watershed.

- **A spill could ruin the Wild Copper River Salmon fishery**
Over 160 miles of pipeline run along the Copper and tributaries. There are over 50 river & stream crossings. Fishermen have long warned of spills entering the, Gulkana, Tazlina, Klutina Tonsina, Tiekel or Tsaina Rivers. According to Salmon Nation's Copper River Knowledge System, "Pipeline spills were universally identified as an extreme threat to salmon and salmon habitat."
http://www.ecotrust.org/copperriver/crks_cd/content/pages/background/assessment_1.htm
- **The Exxon Valdez taught us that oil is toxic to life**
Prince William Sound residents have a unique understanding of the effects of an oil spill. Science done since shows oil is much more toxic to life than we knew.
"The new understanding holds that: (1) oil has short-term and long-term toxic effects to fish and wildlife; (2) subsurface buried oil *is not* environmentally benign; and (3) oil is both persistent and bioavailable. Oil was found to be harmful to fish and wildlife at 1,000 times lower levels than those thought to be "safe" for wildlife under the old paradigm." (Ott 2005 Sound Truth & Corporate Myths, p.395)
- **Alyeska has NO contingency for protecting the Copper River Delta & Flats**
The latest C-Plan doesn't even include the words "Copper River Delta."
Alyeska relies on an "offensive" strategy of catching oil in containment sites upstream. But according to their own studies, there is no primary containment site on 248 segments, over 20% of the pipeline. (DNV Fate & Transport Study, 2005)
The same study finds that oil company suffering after an oil spill would be "orders of magnitude" greater than damage they caused to ecosystems or residents.

Oil Companies boost profits by cutting corners on safety, environment

- **Oil companies are getting rich on Alaska's oil**
Pipeline owners made \$5.5 Billion profit on North Slope production in 2004, when oil was \$38 a barrel. (<http://www.pwsrca.org/docs/d0014100.pdf>)
Globally, Exxon profited over \$10 Billion the last three months. (Exxon, 2006)
- **Corrosion on the aging pipeline increases risk of a spill.**
The undetected, corrosion-caused spills that culminated in the current Prudhoe bay shut-down expose the growing danger as the pipeline ages. The 30-year old Pipeline is being run years beyond its design life. (see http://www.alaskaforum.org/TAPS_Report/Low_Resolution_Black_and_White_Version_of_Emperor's_New_Hose.pdf)
- **Leak Detection Systems Don't Work**
The recent Prudhoe Bay spills went undetected by all their high technology.
Oil companies own estimate to detect an underground, 30 gallon-per-hour spill is **3 months**.

- **Whistle-blower complaints raising alarms**
Departing employees continue to raise alarms about the risks at the pipeline. August 16, 2005, the #2 man at Alyeska, Dan Hisey, sent a list of 101 Risks to safe operation. The remarkable list includes "minimum requirements for Oil Spill Contingency Plan are not met (staff size & training)...scheduled completion of oil spill response base at PS 11 (at Tazlina River) is delayed...Owners do not make timely decision..." (available at <http://www.finebergresearch.com/archives/spilling.html>)
- **The Pipeline owners history does not inspire confidence**
Remember the Exxon *Valdez*?
- **C-PLAN Documents are censored**
Using "Homeland Security" as an excuse, information regarding shortcomings and vulnerabilities is censored from public review copies of the C-plan. This includes not only authentic security information, but also the corrosion-monitoring section, the entire EPA-mandated prevention plan, and even the MSDS forms, which disclose basic toxicity information.

Citizen Involvement is the Solution

- **Citizen Oversight Council to represent our interests**
The best solution would be an industry-funded but independent, RCAC -type organization to represent the public interest on pipeline issues. Such a council has widespread support of everyone but the oil companies. The state could require this as a condition of approval. (see <http://www.pwsrcac.org/> to learn what cutting-edge spill response looks like.)
- **Train a community response force.**
The oil industry profits by depending on good-Samaritan locals to clean up a spill when it happens. May as well make it official (and get paid).
The Fishing Vessel program in Prince William Sound proves that industry, government and citizens CAN cooperate to improve safety of oil operations.
- **Pre-staged equipment at strategic locations**
Equipment and anchors for boom could be pre-staged at strategic locations. (e.g. Million\$ Bridge, Baird Canyon, Wood Canyon) ANCSA Corporations and Alaska Native tribes have a key role to play.

**What you can do:
send a comment letter**

**Department of Environmental Conservation
Joint Pipeline Office
ATTN: C-Plan #015-CP-4131
411 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501**

Comment Deadline is not set yet, but is projected for sometime in late September.

For more information

Official state contact Becky Lewis, ADEC 907-257-1374. <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/ipp/taps.htm>
A copy of the C-Plan is in the Cordova library. ADEC will give you a copy for about \$500 paid in advance or, contact Cascadia about pirated copies.
Copper River Watershed Project and Eyak Preservation Council have more information.

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