



Council Briefs

Newsletter of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

December 2008

“The mission of the Council is to represent the citizens of Cook Inlet in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet”

New Tankers for Tesoro

Tesoro will introduce a new line of tankers to Cook Inlet starting in February 2009. The new tankers from OSG America are being built at Aker Philadelphia Shipyard and will replace Tesoro’s current on time charter tankers which include the Seabulk Pride and Arctic. The new ships, approximately 600 feet in length, are 48,815 dead weight tons, double hull tankers with roughly 444,000 barrel (bbl) capacities.

“These new tankers will allow us to replace older double hull tankers we have on time charter and give us four identical U.S. flag tankers to handle our coastwise shipping needs,” reported Captain Tim Plummer of Tesoro Maritime Company.

The ships names and when they are expected to come on charter are:

- Overseas Boston - Feb 2009
- Overseas Nikiski - May 2009
- Overseas Martinez - Mar 2010
- Overseas Anacortes - Jul 2010

“Anytime new technology, such as these tankers, is introduced in Cook Inlet, we view it as a positive step toward improved navigational safety”, commented Mike Munger, executive director for Cook Inlet RCAC. “We appreciate Tesoro’s efforts and commend them for keeping us informed during the tanker replacement process.”



Overseas Martinez, a U.S. Flag Handysize Product Carrier, under construction at Aker Philadelphia Shipyard

Photo from www.osg.com

Captain Plummer plans to give the Council a full presentation on the new tankers at the Council’s forthcoming Annual Meeting on March 27, 2009

Pacific Energy Tour

In October, Pacific Energy Resources Ltd. afforded staff and council members an opportunity to visit its production facilities and Osprey platform. Along the tour, each phase of oil transportation and production was thoroughly explained by the facility supervisors. The tour began at the West McArthur production facility which came on line in 1991. The oldest of the three Pacific holdings, West McArthur has a crude oil tank capacity of 10,000 barrels (bbls) and a water injection capability of 5,000 barrels of water per day.



Council members aboard the Osprey Platform

Next the group traveled down the road to the Kustatan facility. Kustatan, a brand new facility by Cook Inlet standards, boast a crude oil tank capacity of 30,000 bbls and three Solar Taurus 60 5.3 megawatt turbine generators equipped with low emission mode. The power generation is great enough to power the facility along with the Osprey platform (the tour's final destination) some two miles offshore.

Pacific's operation allows operators at all three locations to control operations at any one of the facilities at any time. To that end the highly automated nature of the Osprey platform only requires a crew of two: one during the day and one at night. The Council was extremely please to learn that the entire production system is closed and all produced water is re-injected.

Cook RCAC appreciates opportunity like this tour to help educate the Council and provide a foundation for sound decision making.

Council Election

Five seats on Cook Inlet RCAC's 13 – member Board of Directors will expire March 27, 2009. The seats represent: the City of Kodiak, and the City of Kenai and the City of Homer. In addition, the two regional Aquaculture Associations and the Commercial Fishing Organizations need to elect a representative.

The three municipal seats are appointed by their respective mayor or city council and serve for three years. The Aquaculture Association and the Commercial Fishing Organization representatives will be elected to a three year term.

If your group would like to participate in the upcoming election process to fill the commercial fishing group's seat on the CIRCAC Board of Directors, inquiries for a one-time membership application should be directed to Karen Delaney at delaney@circac.org or 907-283-7222.

The deadline for submittal of applications is December 27, 2008. Cook Inlet RCAC will solicit nominations for a representative from member groups and ballots will be mailed January 29, 2009.