

# Hilcorp Updates CIRCAC On Seismic Testing In Cook Inlet

Author: Jennifer Williams | [October 1, 2019](#)

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The CIRCAC Board of Directors met in Homer on September 6, with a full agenda of presentations from Hilcorp Alaska, LLC, the U.S. Coast Guard, and Tim Robertson from Nuka Research who provided an update on the Pipeline Assessment project.

According to a release from CIRCAC, Hilcorp submitted its presentation—including an update on their Cook Inlet operations, seismic testing and the decommissioning of the Drift River Oil Terminal—in writing.

According to the presentation, progress is being made to dismantle the Drift River Oil Terminal. The facility's pipes and storage containers are now oil-free. The oil in the ground, however, is a long-term Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation remediation clean-up project.

The release states: “*We are proud of the role we played to advance the Cross-Inlet pipeline and Drift River Oil Terminal removal.*”

The company received a release from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in August of an environmental assessment ‘finding of no significant impact’. The bureau said the seismic survey, roughly 370 square miles, would have negligible effects on marine life and birds.

The company is now awaiting an official permit in order to begin the survey. Hilcorp originally planned to begin the survey in April, but delayed the plans until after the summer season.

Hilcorp external affairs manager Lori Nelson: “*Hilcorp has experienced delays in the permitting process, in part due to the government shutdown, required to begin our seismic survey this April. We understand the waters of lower Cook Inlet are a shared resource. Therefore, our team has made the decision to delay the survey until after the height of fishing and tourist season.*”

This survey will occur within the lower Cook Inlet, south of the Forelands and west to southwest of Homer. Hilcorp originally planned to start the project in April which would have allowed for completion in early summer. Hilcorp will conduct the seismic survey over 8 lease blocks to determine the location of possible oil and gas prospects during the 2019 open-water season.

Nelson: “*We are actively engaged in discussions with our contractor to delay the survey. Our commitment to keep the community’s interests and concerns at the forefront will continue as we work to revise our schedule and work plan.*” According to Nelson these surveys provide the

resolution needed for detailed geological evaluation and data resolution for placement of drill rigs or platforms.

Hilcorp has set up a hotline number for subsistence users to share information on seismic activity and is also hosting daily phone calls with subsistence users and local mariners with information about vessel location and activities. Seismic work is expected to be completed by October 31. The phone number is 907-777-8599.