



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Conferences to examine corrosion monitoring in Arctic**

*First of two conferences to focus on pipeline maintenance pigging*

**October 17, 2006-Anchorage**—The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc., and ConocoPhillips are hosting the first of two conferences in Anchorage this week to bring together experts in the field of Arctic pipeline integrity.

Governor Frank Murkowski called for the conferences in April, following his visit to the North Slope to view the GC-2 spill site. The first conference is scheduled for Thursday, October 19, at the Hilton Anchorage Hotel.

“For obvious reasons, these conferences couldn’t be timelier, or more relevant,” said DEC Commissioner Kurt Fredriksson. “They are the first of many steps we are taking to protect Alaska’s Arctic environment and pipeline infrastructure from future spills.”

The primary focus of Thursday’s conference will be maintenance pigging to remove sediment, water and microbes that facilitate corrosion in the pipelines. The second conference on Monday, November 13, will focus on smart or intelligent pigs which are used to perform inline inspections (ILI) including measuring pipe wall thickness in their search for pipeline anomalies.

Scheduled at both conferences are presentations from experts familiar with:

- Current practices, conditions, and limitations for pigging of North Slope pipelines;

- Best practices and recent advances in pigging programs for corrosion management of North Slope pipelines;
- Existing and new tools and techniques for cleaning, performing in line inspections, and preventing corrosion of pipelines under Arctic conditions; and
- Latest technology in pig designs to assist North Slope pipeline operators in increasing effectiveness of pigging runs and enable pigging of pipelines considered unpiggable.

A question and answer session will be held with the presenters and an Industry and Regulatory Panel in the morning. This will be followed by discussions and question and answer sessions in the afternoon to generate participation between members of the Industry and Regulatory Panel, presenters, service providers, pig manufacturers, and the audience. A full agenda for each conference is available at: [www.shannonwilson.com/pigging/](http://www.shannonwilson.com/pigging/)

Thursday's conference is open to the public and the media. An Exhibit Hall adjacent to the Conference Room will also be available to participants and interested public throughout the day.

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