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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2008

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Alaska Seeks Expert Firm to Assess its Oil and Gas Infrastructure

The State of Alaska is searching for an expert firm to conduct a comprehensive assessment of Alaska's oil and gas infrastructure announced by Governor Sarah Palin last session. The Request for Proposals (RFP), developed by a team of state agencies, is being distributed to Alaska companies and more than 20 firms worldwide identified as having relevant expertise.

"Oil produced and transported in our state must be moved safely and without interruption," said Commissioner Larry Hartig of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). "Events of the last few years show the need to take a hard look at the adequacy of existing infrastructure and systems. Alaska's oil and gas infrastructure is complex. The firm we are seeking to conduct this unprecedented assessment must be world class."

The contracted firm will design and implement the risk assessment study, which will look at existing infrastructure together with the systems in place to maintain and manage that infrastructure, identify areas that pose the greatest risk for failures and recommend mitigation measures to prevent future failures. The assessment is planned to consider all crude oil and gas infrastructure from Prudhoe Bay to the marine loading terminal in Valdez, plus Cook Inlet. Development of the project design and a detailed scope for the study will be the contracted firm's first task.

DEC's Division of Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR) is the managing agency for the project. A State Agency Advisory Team with members from DEC, the Department of Natural Resources (including the State Pipeline Office and Petroleum Systems Integrity Office), Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, Department of Labor and Workforce

Development, Department of Law, Department of Public Safety and the Department of Revenue will contribute their expertise to the project. The contracted firm will be tasked with gathering the full range of production, safety and environmental concerns from federal agencies, local government, industry, nongovernmental organizations and the public.

“The contractor will gather this information and develop the proposed project design,” SPAR Division Director Larry Dietrick said. “The draft design will then go through a peer review and public process before it is finalized and the assessment performed. The assessment is scheduled to be completed by mid-2010. It will provide a firm base of knowledge for the agencies regulating oil and gas operations in Alaska.”

Updated project information and instructions on how comments can be provided to DEC and the contractor will be available through DEC’s website. Public workshops are also being planned to provide information and take comments from the public.

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The RFP is available at the following link:

<http://notes5.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/PNByDeptActive?OpenView&Start=1&Count=30&Collapse=6.2#6.2>

A project website has been established on DEC’s web pages at:

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us>

