



**Alaska Risk Assessment
of
Oil and Gas Infrastructure**

**Summary of Public Meetings and Comments
on
Proposed Methodology**

September 15, 2009

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1 INTRODUCTION

The State of Alaska is conducting the Alaska Risk Assessment (ARA) project to provide a baseline risk assessment of the oil and gas infrastructure in Alaska. The ARA project is being conducted in three phases:

- (1) Design Risk Assessment;
- (2) Implement Methodology; and
- (3) Analyze Data and Report on Results.

To provide guidance and direction to the ARA process, a State Agency Oversight Team (SAOT) was formed, consisting of representation from 12 state agencies and departments. In 2008, Emerald/ABS, was hired to conduct Phase 1 of the Alaska Risk Assessment, which included initial stakeholder outreach, development of a proposed methodology for conducting Phases 2 and 3 of the ARA, and participating in a public and peer review of the Proposed Methodology.

In March 2009, a Proposed Risk Assessment Methodology Report¹ was developed and published, describing the proposed methodology for carrying out the infrastructure risk assessment. A ten-week public review and comment process was initiated to gather input from stakeholder groups and the public on the proposed methodology. This report documents the outreach efforts, meetings, and comments received from the public on the proposed methodology during this public review. The State's responses to these comments will be forthcoming in a subsequent report to be published by late November 2009.

Concurrent with the public review, a peer review was conducted by the Transportation Safety Board of the National Academy of Sciences. The Peer Review Report will be published as a separate document during the fall of 2009.

2 PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

The Proposed Risk Assessment Methodology Report was made available for public review through the State of Alaska's Alaska Risk Assessment Project website² on March 29, 2009. Input from the public regarding the methodology was solicited through stakeholder workshops and regional meetings. Written comments could be submitted via comment cards, phone, email, mail, fax, or through the project website.

2.1 Stakeholder Outreach

During the initial phases of the Alaska Risk Assessment project, stakeholder consultations were conducted to disseminate information and invite participation from key stakeholder organizations. This initial stakeholder outreach process laid the foundation for the stakeholder outreach efforts conducted during the public review period for the Proposed Methodology Report.

2.2 Meetings and Workshops

For Methodology public review meetings, the ARA project team returned to four out of the five locations previously visited during the initial stakeholder consultation period to hold meetings and workshops with key stakeholders. A more extensive public workshop and an all-day industry workshop

¹ http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/ipp/ara/documents/Proposed_Risk_Assessment_Methodology_Rev_1.pdf

² <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/ipp/ara/index.htm>

were held in Anchorage, in addition to three regional public meetings held in Kenai, Valdez, and Fairbanks, all during May 2009. No public meetings were held in Barrow (North Slope Region) during the Methodology public review period, because the proposed timing conflicted with the spring whaling and subsistence hunting season.³

Public outreach for the regional meetings and workshops and for soliciting written public comments included the following methods:

- Display and classified advertisements in eight local newspapers and email publications;
- Email announcements to over 250 contacts on the ARA contact list on April 17, 2009;
- Fliers developed and distributed for each meeting;
- Public Service Announcements developed and distributed to local radio stations to announce each meeting;
- Telephone calls to notify interested stakeholders identified in other meetings; and
- Additional methods as discussed under each workshop summary in Sections 2.2 and 2.3.

3 PUBLIC REVIEW MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

3.1 Anchorage Workshops

Two workshops were held in Anchorage; one for the public at large and a second for industry stakeholders.

3.1.1 Anchorage Public Workshop

The Anchorage Public Workshop was held on May 5, 2009. The meeting was announced in an e-mail to Anchorage stakeholders on the approved contacts list, and fliers were posted and emailed out by Cook Inlet Keeper, the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC), and the Z.J. Loussac Library. Meeting information was listed on the public calendar of events (print and online) in the Anchorage Daily News (ADN) and Anchorage Press. A weeklong classified ad (print and online) ran in the ADN beginning on April 28, 2009, and a display ad ran in the ADN on May 4, 2009. Public Service Announcements (PSA) were sent to two local radio stations, KBNA and KSKA, for airing until the meeting date. The workshop time and location was also listed in the email newsletter "What's Up" and on Craigslist.

The workshop was held on May 5, 2009 in the Z.J. Loussac Library from 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. A total of 40 individuals were in attendance, including members of the project team, members of the State Agency Oversight Team (SAOT), industry representatives, local businesses, NGO representatives, members of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) peer review committee, and members of the general public. The State provided transportation to stakeholders who did not live in Anchorage and who desired to attend the workshop.

A summary of the workshop is posted at: <http://ara.nukaresearch.com/spar/ipp/ara/public.htm>

³ The State indicated a willingness to meet with North Slope residents to review the Proposed Methodology at some later date.

3.1.2 Anchorage Industry Workshop

Outreach for the industry workshop was performed through email announcements to the designated points of contact for owners and operators of oil and gas infrastructure. The workshop was held on May 6, 2009 in the Robert E. Atwood Building from 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. A total of 27 individuals were in attendance at the industry workshop, including members of the project team, members of the SAOT, industry representatives, and the NAS peer review committee members.

A summary of the workshop is posted at: <http://ara.nukaresearch.com/spar/ipp/ara/public.htm>

3.2 Regional Public Meetings

Three regional public meetings were held in identified target regions along the oil and gas corridor in Alaska where the communities would be most likely to be affected by a failure of the oil and gas infrastructure. Meeting summaries for these regional public meetings are included in Appendix A.

Outreach efforts included email announcements to stakeholders on the approved contacts list, and fliers posted by Cook Inlet Keeper, the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (CIRCAC), the Alaska Challenger Learning Center in Kenai, the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC), the Valdez Library in Valdez, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Fairbanks. Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were sent to KBBI in Homer, KDLL in Kenai, KCHU in Valdez, and KUAC in Fairbanks. Display ads ran in The Peninsula Clarion, Homer News, Homer Tribune, Valdez Star, and the Fairbanks Daily News Miner. Meeting information was also listed on the public calendar of events in both print newspaper and online versions if available. The workshop times and locations were also listed in the newsletter "What's Up" and on Craigslist.

3.2.1 Kenai Regional Public Meeting

The Kenai public meeting was held on May 11, 2009 in the Alaska Challenger Learning Center from 4:00 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. A total of eight individuals were in attendance, including members of the project team, members of the SAOT, and two members of the public.

A summary of the meeting is posted at: <http://ara.nukaresearch.com/spar/ipp/ara/public.htm>

3.2.2 Valdez Regional Public Meeting

The Valdez public meeting was held on May 12, 2009 in the Valdez Civic and Convention Center from 4:00 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. A total of eight individuals were in attendance, including members of the project team, members of the SAOT, local businesses, NGOs, and three members of the public.

A summary of the meeting is posted at: <http://ara.nukaresearch.com/spar/ipp/ara/public.htm>

3.2.3 Fairbanks Regional Public Meeting

The Fairbanks public meeting was held on May 13, 2009 in the University of Alaska Fairbanks Wood Center from 4:00 P.M. until 7:30 P.M. A total of 13 individuals were in attendance, including members of the project team, members of the State Agency Oversight Team (SAOT), representatives from the state legislature, and the public.

A summary of the meeting is posted at: <http://ara.nukaresearch.com/spar/ipp/ara/public.htm>

4 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stakeholders who participated and provided comments during the meetings and workshops included representatives of state and federal agencies, the Alaska legislature, oil and gas infrastructure operators, non-governmental organizations, and other concerned citizens. A total of 25 sets of written comments were submitted by stakeholders via email or through the project website.⁴ Comments were received from the follow individuals and organizations:

Alaska Forum of Environmental Responsibility, et. al.
Alaska Oil and Gas Association
Alaska Wilderness League, et. al.
Bureau of Land Management
Cascadia Wildlands
Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Council
Copper Country Alliance
Doug Lalla- Joint Pipeline Office
Edward L. Morgan, resident of Fairbanks
Gary Newman, resident of Fairbanks
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
LNE Engineering and Policy
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council
Representative David Guttenberg- AK Legislature
Stan Stephens, resident of Valdez
Vera Williams, resident of Barrow
XTO Energy
Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

⁴ Copies of all comment comments are included on the project website at <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/ipp/ara/documents.htm>

5 NEXT STEPS

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Peer Review report is pending, and should be published during September 2009. Once this report is completed, it will be posted to the project website.

The State of Alaska has compiled all comments received during the public review into a database, and is currently preparing a Response to Comments document that addresses both the comments in the pending NAS peer review report and all public review comments. The response to comments document will be completed and published on the ARA project website by the end of November 2009.

The State's response to public and peer review comments will include recommendations for how to proceed with the next Phases of the ARA project, including recommendations about the project methodology as well as the overall project scope and design.

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