

**Incident Name: Pump Station 1 Booster Pump Piping Incident**

**Source:** Joint Information Center

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**Website:** [dec.alaska.gov/spar/ps1](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ps1)

**\*\*\* Media Advisory \*\*\*  
Jan. 11, 2011, at 5:25 p.m.**

**Trans Alaska Pipeline System to resume operations for interim period**

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company has received regulatory concurrence to resume operations of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System on an interim basis. The pipeline shut down at 8:50 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, after crude oil was discovered in the booster pump room basement at Pump Station 1.

The pipeline will operate while crews continue to work on fabricating bypass piping that will be installed at Pump Station 1.

Safely returning the pipeline to service, while protecting people and the environment, has been the goal of Unified Command. The Unified Command is a joint leadership team made up of federal, state and Alyeska representatives.

The restart will help increase temperatures in tanks and the pipeline, reducing the potential for wax in the oil to accumulate, or for water in the oil to freeze. It also allows flowing oil to move a cleaning pig from its current location between Mileposts 419 and 420 to Pump Station 8. The pig could affect the pump station equipment if left in the pipeline too long in cold temperatures. With the pipeline operating again, crews can trap the pig between two valves in the mainline and route crude oil around through bypass piping.

The restart solves three problems. It avoids having to do a more complex cold restart process. It avoids the additional problems that would occur if the pig were in the line when the pipeline begins to get too cold. And it also allows North Slope producers to increase production, which will help mitigate freeze concerns on the North Slope.

For more information, see [dec.alaska.gov/spar/ps1](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ps1).

The Unified Command consists of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.