

**HARD  
FACTS  
ABOUT  
A HARD  
JOB**

# KEEPING IT ALL IN LINE

Alaska's Operations Control Center (OCC) regulates the flow of oil through the entire 800-mile pipeline, from Pump Station One on the North Slope to tanker loading at Valdez. Controllers at the OCC, located at the Marine Terminal in Valdez, use the latest computers, technology to monitor and control actions at every point in the system. Nothing is overlooked. Information must be precise. Communication must be clear. Computers and equipment must perform flawlessly.

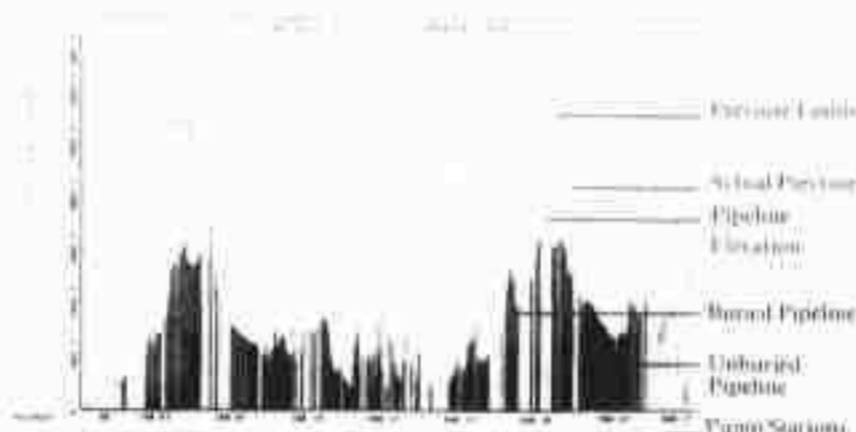
## Technology and Equipment

Terminal computer provides critical and data acquisition at 64 K. It receives constant, real time information from each pump station. Controllers receive

## What Does It Do?

The system allows three OCC controllers in Valdez to continuously monitor all pump stations, valves, leak detection systems, seismic activity, and alarm systems, as well as vessel loading. Oil in the line is checked for pressure, temperature, flow rate and specific gravity.

In addition to monitoring operations, the three controllers have all control functions. The Pipeline Controller can start and stop pumps, shut down fuel pumps, isolate pump stations, control valves and start and stop compressor stations. The Terminal Controller can direct the flow of oil to storage tanks and from the tanks to the vessels, as well as coordinate operation of the Ballast Water Treatment System.



Controllers use this continuous Gradient Profile Graph to monitor oil pressure at different elevations along the pipeline.

the data using monitors on which over 100 screens can be displayed. In the unlikely event that the main computer were to fail, a "hot" standby computer is ready at all times to take over. Backup power systems further ensure monitors' uptime performance.

Information to and from the OCC is transmitted over Alaska's microwave network system. The network generally parallels the pipeline route and links pump stations and maintenance centers with Valdez. In the event of a communication break, the system is backed up by a satellite communication system. Large data display screens show all the information received from the communication system. Provided with this continuous data flow, controllers operate the pipeline through smaller, touch control monitors.

and the vapor recovery plant. The Oil Movement and Vessel Controller coordinates all vessel functions, such as scheduling, loading and the Ship Escort/Response Vessel System (SEERVS).

## Building on a Commitment

Controlling and transporting thousands of barrels of crude oil every day requires precise information, accurate analysis and instant responses—to keep people, the environment and the pipeline safe.

For more information, contact Corporate Affairs, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, 1835 S. Bragaw, Anchorage, Alaska 99512.

## On The Job

Jim Bogart and Brian Johnson safeguard the integrity of the pipeline and keep oil flowing smoothly through it.

As the Oil Controller Coordinator, Jim Bogart oversees the work of a team of 14 controllers who operate and monitor the pipeline. A sports enthusiast, he plays softball and is president of the Valdez Softball Association. Jim joined Alyeska when he came to Alaska nine years ago.

Brian Johnson is an Oil Controller in Valdez, and performs each of the three different OCC duties—Pipeline Controller, Terminal Controller and Oil Movement and Vessel Controller—on a rotating basis. Brian came to Alaska in 1977 and has served with Alyeska for almost 12 years. He is the current president of the Valdez Basketball Booster Club and president of the Alyeska Terminal Pipeline Club.



Jim Bogart

Brian Johnson

**Alyeska pipeline**  
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# Ruby John

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Photo by Ruby John for State House, Mary John, Chairwoman, P.O. Box 25, Unalakleet, AK 99579

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