

Doyon subsidiary gets ARCO drilling contract

FAIRBANKS—Doyon Drilling, Inc. Joint Venture (DDJV), Doyon Limited's 51 percent-owned drilling subsidiary, has been awarded a contract to build and operate a third development oil drilling rig, according to Doyon President Morris Thompson.

The rig, which will be designated Doyon Rig 14, like its sister Doyon Rig 9, will be providing development drilling services to ARCO Alaska, Inc. in the Kuparuk oil field on Alaska's North Slope. When Rig 14 begins work in August of this year, it will be the third rig in DDJV's growing fleet.

"As Doyon's premier operation, oil development drilling is quickly becoming a noteworthy source of jobs for our shareholders and other local residents, as well as a considerable source of the corporation's revenues," Thompson said.

Over the past three years Doyon and DDJV, together with the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) based in Fairbanks, have provided drilling rig training and employment to some 40 Doyon shareholders. Besides shareholder employment, which after April of this year should be close to 40 percent, the company stresses local Alaska hire in its drilling operations.

Currently, 15 additional Doyon shareholders are being trained as roustabouts at the Alaska Vocational Technical Institute in Seward, with another six to eight shareholders scheduled for training for work within other DDJV job classifications. And plans are being put together to train more individuals in anticipation of Rig 14 start up.

"As an Alaska-based contractor," Thompson said, "we are proud of DDJV's record of training and hiring Alaska residents. And to the extent that the major oil producers award us these drilling contracts, we will continue to vigorously pursue our shared goals of shareholder and local hire."