APSC Letter No. 45942

Anthony Strupulis, P.E., State Pipeline Coordinator
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
State Pipeline Coordinator’s Section
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1100
Anchorage, Alaska  99501

RE: Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, Pipeline Milepost 785.2
   Land Description Modification for Right-of-Way Lease, ADL 63574
   Bank Stabilization at Lowe River

Dear Mr. Strupulis:

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, agent for the Trans Alaska Pipeline System lessees, hereby applies to modify the description of the TAPS facilities attached to the referenced lease to include lands needed to accommodate the subject new construction which was conducted under emergency conditions. Alyeska notified you of the situation on June 5th as crews mobilized to stop further erosion of lands in the right-of-way. A fish habitat protection permit, FH 20-SPO-0032, was issued October 22, 2020 to cover this same work.

The lands subject to this application are generally described as:

T. 9 S., R. 4 W. (Copper River Meridian)
Section 33, those lands lying below
the line of Ordinary High Water,
adjacent to the TAPS right-of-way
and Alaska State Cadastral Survey no. 98-30,
comprising approximately 0.82 acres

Attached as part of this application are a permit narrative and an as-built drawing showing the proposed right-of-way addition. ADNR Survey is copied to begin the As-built/Record of Survey review. The drawing also depicts the stabilization improvements on the uplands owned by the City of Valdez, and it is being submitted to the City also.

Please contact me at 787-8170 if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,
Pete Nagel

Peter C. Nagel, SRWA
Emergency Response at Pipeline Milepost 785.2, Lowe River Bank Erosion
(November 2020)

On the night of June 4th, the river eroded the remaining buffer, about fifty feet wide, between the pipeline workpad and river. TAPS engineers and civil maintenance personnel had been monitoring the situation since last Fall and had recently started to mobilize equipment to place large Rip Rap along the northerly (riverside) edge of the pipeline workpad. The sudden buffer loss was due to the river braid adjacent very recently changing its trajectory resulting in 100' of buffer lost in two days. Prior to that, seasonal inundation of the workpad by high, but non-erosive, river water was occurring. The pipeline is buried approximately 10 feet deep on the side of the workpad opposite from the river.

On June 5th, to mitigate further erosion and the potential exposure of the buried pipe, TAPS crews accelerated the mobilization to place up to 2,000 cubic yards of riprap along the eroded bank. Approximately 300 feet of bank was armored and an upstream key-in installed on grade in the non-wetland uplands. Subsequently, the work included building short spur dike/groins to provide protection to the mainline pipe and right-of-way. In addition, the workpad elevation was built up and sills were constructed. Access to the site was via existing TAPS access road 4 PL-1 and the pipeline workpad including the Browns Creek ford.

Only the excavator bucket was in contact with water of the Lowe River. Other equipment included front-end loaders, backhoes, bulldozers, compactors, and trucks. Existing vegetation on the bank was left undisturbed as much as possible, and changes to the slope were graded so that fish entrapment was not likely to result. Fish passage was continuously maintained for the duration of the work. Seeding and fertilizing was done in accordance with MR-48 guidelines. No fueling of equipment occurred on the active floodplain. Equipment was cleaned of all excess grease and oil prior to the start of the work and inspected regularly to prevent potential spills. Appropriate spill response equipment was maintained on site during construction. The work is complete.
OWNER: STATE OF ALASKA
TAPS R.O.W.: STATE OF ALASKA
LOWE RIVER TRACT E (R6: 2016-7)
UPLANDS OWNER: CITY OF VALDEZ
(INCLUSION OF PROPOSED PARCELS 1&2)

COMMENCING POINT OF BEGINNING

PRINT DATE: 09/08/2020