



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Greg O'Claray, Commissioner

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TelAlaska and UniSea Awarded Star Level for Outstanding Safety and Health Programs

(Juneau) – Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner Greg O'Claray today recognized TelAlaska and UniSea for excellence in safety and health management programs. The two companies were awarded Star designation in the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Voluntary Protection Program in separate ceremonies in Unalaska.

“We're proud to recognize these businesses and their employees for a strong commitment to safety and health in the workplace,” said Commissioner O'Claray. “They join a growing number of companies in Alaska and nationwide who understand the value of protecting their workers and providing them a safe place to earn a living.”

TelAlaska is a statewide full-service telecommunication provider of local telephone service, advanced data services, dial up, DSL and Internet service.

UniSea is a seafood processing plant employing about 200-1300 employees, depending on the specific fishing season. It is the only seafood processing plant in the group of 1,424 VPP sites nationwide.

VPP recognizes and promotes effective safety and health management. VPP sites are removed from general scheduled enforcement inspections for the approved period of time (from 18 months up to 5 years). Participants have also reported reduced Workers' Compensation costs.

VPP is one of several consultation programs offered by Alaska Occupational Safety and Health. At a company's request, health and safety consultation officers visit the work site to help employers identify and correct hazards in the work place, and train their workforce in safe work practices. The company then has the opportunity to address potential violations before an official inspection occurs.

There are currently nine VPP sites in Alaska: BP Exploration Alaska Inc. Central Power Station in Prudhoe Bay (VPP Star); BP Exploration Alaska Inc. Gas Plants in Prudhoe Bay (VPP Star); Air Logistics of Alaska Inc. in Fairbanks (VPP Star); Insulfoam Inc. in Anchorage (VPP Star); TelAlaska Inc. in Dutch Harbor, Seward and Nome (all VPP Merit); Aero Services in Ketchikan (VPP Merit); and UniSea.

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