



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Commissioner Click Bishop

Oct. 1, 2007

No. 08-22

For Immediate Release

Prudhoe Bay's AES Grind and Inject Plant and Oily Water Injection Facility Approved for Voluntary Protection Program

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Click Bishop approved the AES Grind and Inject Plant and Oily Water Injection Facility in Prudhoe Bay for the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health's Voluntary Protection Program at the "Star" level to signify a tremendous achievement in occupational safety and health. AES stands for ASRC Energy Services. ASRC Energy Services is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, a Native regional corporation.

The Voluntary Protection Program is designed to recognize and promote effective workplace safety and health management through cooperation among a company's management, its employees and AKOSH.

Once approved under the program, a worksite is exempted from AKOSH's scheduled random enforcement inspections for 1½ years to five years. Enforcement regulations remain in effect, however, in cases of employee complaints, accident investigations or other significant incidents.

As a Voluntary Protection Program Star recipient – the highest level of VPP achievement – the AES Grind and Inject Plant and Oily Water Injection Facility won't have random enforcement inspections for five years.

"As an organization we strive to improve our people and operations continually and VPP has allowed us to improve productivity and the work environment, as well as increase safety awareness and the performance for our workforce," said Tim Gross, AES' field service manager. "The level of focus combined with continual improvement activities has led to a safety culture that has become the standard for other departments," he said.

"We believe that ASRC is setting the standard for our organization and other organizations in our state and we look forward to enjoying the benefits that VPP participation brings to our workers, our organization and our country," Gross said.

Thirteen Alaska sites now have the VPP designation. For a complete listing of the sites and more information about the program, go to labor.state.ak.us/lss/vpp-participants.html.

Krystyna Markiewicz, AKOSH's health consultant and VPP coordinator, can provide more information about recognition programs and other consultation and training services. To reach her, call (907) 269-4958 or email her at krystyna.markiewicz@alaska.gov.

- End -