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Press Release

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ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc., Alpine Field, Approved for Voluntary Protection Program

(Juneau, AK) – Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Click Bishop approved ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc., Alpine Field, for Alaska Occupational Safety and Health's Voluntary Protection Program at the "Star" level to signify a tremendous achievement in occupational safety and health.

The Voluntary Protection Program recognizes and promotes effective workplace safety and health management through a cooperative program between a company's management, employees and AKOSH.

As a VPP Star recipient – the highest level of VPP achievement – ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc., Alpine Field, won't be subject to random enforcement inspections for five years. Enforcement regulations remain in effect, however, in cases of employee complaints, accident investigations or other significant incidents. Participation in the program is voluntary.

"The AKOSH Voluntary Protection Program's process in which Alpine participated during its site preparation and evaluation allowed our safety culture to move to an even greater performance level," said Mike Lyden, Alpine Operations' maintenance superintendent. "We knew that Alpine was a great place to work, but when our work force pitched in for the formal OSHA VPP assessment, we noticed an increased participation in our safety processes by all employees. Since the site evaluation, we've had a high level of employee involvement and pride in Alpine's Zero-Incident Safety Culture.

"It is a win-win program that not only makes Alpine a safer place to work, but also keeps our operation on a continuous improvement path," Lyden said. "We are proud to have been recognized as a model workplace that unites the efforts of our work force, our management team and the regulatory community to improve worker safety and health."

Fourteen sites in Alaska now have the VPP designation; for a complete list, go to labor.state.ak.us/lss/vpp-participants.pdf. For more information about VPP, other recognition programs, and consultation and training services, contact Ann McCarthy, an AKOSH safety consultant who coordinates the VPP program. She can be reached at (907) 269-4949 or Ann.McCarthy@alaska.gov.

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