

Click Bishop

Commissioner

P.O. Box 111149

Juneau, AK 99811-1149

www.labor.alaska.gov



Beth Leschper

Communications Director

907.465.2700

cell: 907.723.1321

beth.leschper@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 7, 2008

No. 08-68

For more information: **Ann McCarthy**, Voluntary Protection Program Coordinator
907- 269-4949, Ann.McCarthy@Alaska.Gov

BP Exploration Alaska Flow Station 2 and Crude Oil Topping Unit Approved for Voluntary Protection Program

JUNEAU, Alaska— Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Click Bishop approved BP Exploration Alaska Flow Station 2 and the Crude Oil Topping Unit, Prudhoe Bay for the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Voluntary Protection Program at the “Merit” level to signify a tremendous achievement in occupational safety and health.

The VPP recognizes and promotes effective workplace safety and health management through a cooperative program between a company’s management, employees and AKOSH.

As a VPP Merit recipient BP Exploration Alaska Flow Station 2 and the Crude Oil Topping Unit won’t be subject to random enforcement inspections for three years. Enforcement regulations remain in effect, however, and cases of employee complaints, accident investigations or other significant incidents will result in an enforcement inspection. Participation in the program is voluntary.

“Achieving Merit status in the VPP program has been a tremendous accomplishment,” said Bob Walker, the company’s team leader. “The greatest benefit I see from participating in the program is that our facility has become a safer place to work and we achieved this through a team effort.

“As we begin having conversations about our pursuit of ‘Star’ status, the crew is recognizing this is a commitment to continuously improving our safety program for the long haul. Participation has made this a better place to work and been a real boost to employee morale.”

There are now 16 sites in Alaska with the AKOSH VPP designation. For a complete listing of the sites and more information about the program, go to labor.alaska.gov/lss/vpp-participants.html.

###