



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Commissioner Click Bishop

July 5, 2007

No. 08-02

For Immediate Release

U.S. Rep. George Miller's Letter to Commissioner

On June 29, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development received a letter from U.S. Representative George Miller, chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, which identified four primary areas of concern for workplace safety and health associated with British Petroleum's operation of the Prudhoe Bay oil field. Labor Commissioner Click Bishop summed up the department's response, saying, "DOLWD is committed to workplace safety and health for all workers across Alaska – it is our highest priority."

A Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health enforcement inspection was initiated at BP's Gathering Center #2 on June 5. The inspection included an evaluation of the fire suppression systems and the proximity of the break room in Skid 7 to the potential blast zone. However, the inspection is not complete, so the details are not yet available for release.

The department is also in the process of evaluating the concerns raised about the Central Gas Facility and the Central Compressor Plant. BP officials have assured Alaska Occupational Safety and Health officials that the capacity and flare system concerns do not pose an imminent danger to the workers in and around these facilities and BP is in the process of assembling the engineering data and specifications necessary to further substantiate their position.

For more information, contact Grey Mitchell, director of the Alaska Department of Labor's Labor Standards and Safety Division, at (907) 465-4855.

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