

Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – September 2026

INFORMATION ITEM

Sponsor: Robbin Capers, Linda Swiss, the TOEM Committee, OSPR Committee, Secondary Containment Project Team, and the C-Plan Project Team

Project number and name or topic: 6512 - Maintaining the Secondary Containment Liner at the VMT

1. **Description of agenda item:** The Board will be provided with an update on the status of the Valdez Marine Terminal's (VMT) East Tank Farm (ETF) hydro-tests conducted during the summer of 2026. This test was selected as Alyeska's evaluation method in order to meet the requirement of the Alaska Department of Conservation's (ADEC) Condition of Approval (COA) #1 from the November 2024 renewal of the VMT Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan (VMT C-Plan), which required an evaluation of the integrity of the ETF secondary containment liner. The first hydro-test, on ETF containment cell #4, was conducted on August 1, 2026, with additional tests scheduled for the fall of 2026, and the summer of 2027. Staff members Robbin Capers, Joe Lally, John Guthrie, and Geosyntec consultant Olga Stewart attended the August 1 test. Observations from additional tests conducted prior to the Board meeting will also be included in this briefing.

2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** The integrity of the ETF's secondary containment liner is important for the prevention of the contamination of ground and surface water in the event of an oil or other hazardous liquid spill. Evaluating the VMT's ETF secondary containment liner is a requirement of ADEC's November 2024 renewal of the VMT C-Plan under COA #1: "East Tank Farm Secondary Containment Area Required Evaluation." A hydro-test was chosen by Alyeska as their evaluation method.

3. **Previous actions taken by the Board on this item:** Verifying the integrity of the Secondary Containment Liner at the VMT has been a concern for the Council for over 20 years, and many actions have been taken by the Board on this since that time. In the interest of providing recent pertinent information, the following is an abbreviated list of actions. All historic actions pertaining to the Secondary Containment Liner are available for review upon request (for more information contact Robbin Capers).

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>
XCOM	12/4/19	Authorized staff to submit requests for informal review on VMT C-Plan renewal.
XCOM	1/18/22	Authorized the Executive Director to file a request for an adjudicatory hearing on the VMT C-Plan related to the secondary containment liner.
Board	1/27/22	Authorized the expression of support for the 1/18/22 XCOM decision to authorize the Executive Director to file request for adjudicatory hearing on the VMT C-Plan related to secondary containment liner, and delegated authority to the Executive Director, President, and Vice President to act on behalf of the Board during discussions related to the adjudicatory hearing.

Update on VMT East Tank Farm Hydro-Test 4-2

XCOM	4/28/22	Approval of contract with Dr. Craig Benson for secondary containment liner work, and accepted the report "Utilizing Numerical Simulation to Estimate the Volume of Oil Leaked Through a Damaged Secondary Containment Liner" dated February 7, 2022 by TOEM Committee members Matt Cullin and Tom Kuckertz, and staff member Austin Love as final and for public distribution.
Board	1/26/23	Accepted report "Methodologies for Evaluating Defects in the Catalytically Blown Asphalt Liner in the Secondary Containment System at the Valdez Marine Terminal" by Dr. Craig Benson dated 11/29/22 as meeting the terms of contract 6512.22.02; direct staff to send report to Alyeska, state and federal regulators.
.Board	11/26/24	Authorized staff to request an informal review on the VMT C-Plan renewal on COA #1 on the VMT C-Plan renewal related to the secondary containment liner.
Board	3/19/25	Authorized Executive Director to request an adjudicatory hearing on COA #1 on the VMT C-Plan related to the secondary containment liner.
XCOM	11/20/25	Accepted the following analyses to be attached and/or incorporated into the Council's submittal to ADEC regarding Alyeska's proposed hydro-test to demonstrate the integrity of the catalytically blown asphalt liner used for secondary containment in the East Tank Farm at the VMT: "Proposed hydraulic test to evaluate catalytically blown asphalt (CBA) liner at Valdez Marine Terminal" memorandum by Dr. Craig Benson; and "Hydrological Expert Review of Hydro-Test Proposal" letter by Geosyntec.
XCOM	11/26/25	Approved Taku Engineering's analysis and assessment of the proposed Secondary Containment System Testing for support and incorporation to the Council's submittal to ADEC regarding Alyeska's proposed hydro-test to demonstrate the integrity of the catalytically blown asphalt liner used for secondary containment in the East Tank Farm at the VMT.
XCOM	8/17/26	Authorized a sole source contract with Geosyntec Consultants in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 for Project 6512 Maintaining the Secondary Containment Liner at the VMT.

4. **Committee Recommendation:** None, since this is for information only. However, the C-Plan Project Team, Secondary Containment Project Team, and members of the TOEM and OSPR Committees have been updated on this issue.

5. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** Project 6512 – Maintaining the Secondary Containment Systems at the VMT is in the approved FY2027 budget and annual work plan.

6. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:** None, item is for information only.

7. **Attachments:** None.