

Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors - September 2022

INFORMATION ITEM

Sponsor: Austin Love and the Terminal Operations and Environmental Monitoring Committee

Project number and name or topic: 5000 - Valdez Marine Terminal Tank Vent Damage Monitoring

1. **Description of agenda item:** This agenda item will provide information regarding the Council's efforts to monitor the substantial tank vent damage that occurred at the Valdez Marine Terminal in February and March of 2022, and the subsequent work by Alyeska, state and federal regulators to investigate this incident, repair the vents, and prevent a reoccurrence of such an event. Additionally, PWSRCAC retained Bill Mott of Taku Engineering to assist the Council in reviewing information regarding this incident, and assisting in the development of any recommendations. Project Manager Austin Love and PWSRCAC contractor Bill Mott of Taku Engineering will provide a presentation on the aforementioned topics.

2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** The snow damage sustained to the crude oil storage tank pressure/vacuum vents resulted in the release of hydrocarbon vapors to the environment and PWSRCAC believes this also posed substantial safety risks for Valdez Marine Terminal personnel and infrastructure. As Alyeska identified damaged vents and worked to plug them in various ways, an unknown but likely significant amount of hydrocarbon vapors was released to the atmosphere. Such vapors can be harmful to the environment but also pose a threat to human health and welfare. Alyeska recognized this and worked to mitigate health related harm to those working to remove snow from the tank tops. Depending on the circumstances, hydrocarbon vapors also increase the risks of a fire or explosion. Alyeska also recognized the fire and explosive risks and took steps to minimize those threats. While no substantial injuries were associated with this event, and no fire or explosion occurred, PWSRCAC believes this event was a "near-miss" and could have resulted in devastating consequences. The subsequent actions taken by Alyeska and state and federal regulators will be critical to ensure that such snow damage does not occur to the tank vents, or other critical infrastructure at the Valdez Marine Terminal, in the future.

3. **Previous actions taken by the Board on this item:** None.

4. **Summary of policy, issues, support, or opposition:** As Alyeska identified and worked to mitigate the impacts from the damaged vents in February and March 2022, the Council was informed of significant safety and environmental risks posed by this incident. In order to ensure those risks were being addressed, the Council sent Alyeska a letter subject "Notice of Imminent Risk of Life, Safety and Environmental Violations at the Valdez Marine Terminal" on March 28, 2022, listing concerns that "...pose an imminent threat to

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life, safety, and the environment...” On March 29, Alyeska responded by addressing the list of the Council’s tank vent damage related concerns to “correct a number of errors and mischaracterizations.” On March 31, the Council replied to Alyeska’s letter reiterating and clarifying the intent of its March 28 letter. The Council continues monitoring the resolution of the tank vent damage related concerns.

5. **Committee Recommendation:** Not applicable.
6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** None.
7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:** None.
8. **Attachments:** None, item is for information only.