

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **US west coast states and the Canadian Province of British Columbia honor efforts to prevent oil spills**

The Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force will give its 2004 Legacy Awards for Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response at its Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon on July 20th. This year's Legacy Award winners are:

- The Alaska Tanker Company, LLC
- Joan Lundstrom of the San Francisco Bay Harbor Safety Committee
- The US Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, Group Portland
- The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Shipping Companies: ConocoPhillips Marine/Polar Tankers, Inc; SeaRiver Maritime, Inc.; Tesoro Maritime/Seabulk Tankers; and the Alaska Tanker Company, LLC

Legacy Awards are given to industry, non-profit or public agency organizations and individuals, or for team efforts. The Task Force gives Legacy Awards for projects, accomplishments, or leadership that demonstrates innovation, management commitment, and improvements in oil spill prevention, preparedness, or response resulting in enhanced environmental protection. Efforts to promote partnerships and involve the public are favored. Organizations, individuals, or projects nominated for the Legacy Award must be located or primarily operating in the Task Force jurisdictions of Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii. Organizations or individuals representing a regulated industry must demonstrate a satisfactory history of compliance with state, provincial, and federal oil spill regulations. Jean Cameron, Executive Coordinator for the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force, characterizes the 2004 Legacy Award winners as "...models for others in industry, government, and the public to emulate. We are pleased to honor the commitment of this year's winners to effective oil spill prevention and collaborative teamwork." More details on the 2004 Legacy Award winners follow:

- **The Alaska Tanker Company, LLC (ATC)** will receive a Legacy Award in recognition of their outstanding commitment to safety and oil spill prevention. ATC operates eight tankers that transit the waters of every member jurisdiction of the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force. ATC has conclusively demonstrated that preventing spills and injuries is not only the right thing to do, but is cost effective as well. ATC has saved millions of dollars in injury claims, spill response costs, and insurance premiums. During 2002 and 2003, ATC transported 13 billion gallons of crude oil with just 2.2 total gallons being spilled and completed more than five million man-hours without a lost time injury. ATC firmly believes that openly reporting near misses and losses of containment - and using this information as the basis for improvement - is a key factor in instilling the awareness and behaviors that prevent pollution. Identifying environmental risks, assessing the potential impacts, and then taking action to mitigate those risks is a core component of ATC's safety culture and environmental management program. ATC was the first US shipping company to become certified to the ISO 14001 environmental standard, and it has been recognized by the States of Alaska and Washington as well as by the US Coast Guard for its outstanding performance. ATC has worked with the Seafarer's international Union (SIU) to establish a dedicated employment pool of individuals who meet specific medical, fitness, training, and performance requirements. ATC has also made a point of hiring Alaskans and maintaining an office in Valdez, thus underscoring its commitment to the Alaskan community. ATC has also partnered with the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council and with the Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force on spill prevention projects such as the Ice Detection Radar System, efforts to promote voluntary spill prevention efforts industry-wide, and efforts to plan for requests for Places of Refuge by ships in distress. ATC will soon be operating BP's new "Alaska Class" tankers; these double hull vessels will be equipped with redundant propulsion and steering systems which include twin diesel-electric power systems in segregated engine rooms, twin propellers and twin rudders to reduce risk.

- **Joan Lundstrom of the San Francisco Bay Harbor Safety Committee** will receive a Legacy Award in recognition of her contributions to navigation safety – and thus spill prevention – in the San Francisco Bay area. Joan was a charter staff member of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) oil spill prevention program and later represented BCDC on the Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) of the San Francisco (SF) Bay Region where she served as vice-chair for 4 years and continues to serve as a charter member. Her HSC service includes: preparing an analysis of the economic impacts of the SF Bay tug escort regulations prior to their promulgation; chairing the Tug Escort Workgroup; chairing the Underwater Rocks Removal Workgroup; chairing the Physical Oceanography Real-time System (PORTS) Ad-Hoc Advisory Workgroup; being one of three members who wrote the initial Harbor Safety Plan (HSP); chairing the HSP Annual Update Workgroup; and co-chairing the HSC Bylaws Workgroup. In addition, Joan regularly attended meetings of the State Board of Pilot Commissioners and was appointed to their Regulations Subcommittee as a public member. Joan continues to serve as a BCDC Commissioner and an active, contributing HSC member. Her nomination stated that, both as a BCDC Commissioner and as Mayor of the City of Larkspur, Joan was a champion of government transparency, full disclosure, due process, partnership building, and facilitating the highest level of public participation. Noted Scott Merritt of the Foss Maritime Company, former Vice Chair of the HSC, "Joan exhibits everything that's right about government. She makes the "system" work by extracting a high level of performance from participants. Her leadership makes everyone be the best they can be. Through Joan's efforts, SF Bay experiences a higher level of maritime safety which results in lower pollution and makes the SF Bay Region a safer, healthier and better place in which to live, work and enjoy recreation. "
- **The US Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, Group Portland** will be honored with a 2004 Legacy Award in recognition of their aggressive and comprehensive approach to investigating and prosecuting waste oil dumping. The dedicated men and women of Marine Safety Office (MSO) Portland developed and led a multi-agency partnership that relentlessly sought evidence of this

illegal yet widespread practice by vessels. More than a dozen cases have been prosecuted, resulting in millions of dollars in penalties, jail time for offenders, and millions of dollars for environmental restoration projects in Oregon, Washington, and California as a result of plea agreements and settlements. In partnership with the Washington Department of Ecology, US EPA, and the US Department of Justice, MSO Portland successfully prevented thousands of tons of oil from being released into the ocean. MSO Portland is recognized both nationally and internationally for their leadership on this issue, and has been invited to provide training in Australia, Europe, and throughout the US on how to investigate and prosecute waste oil dumping.

- **The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) Trade Shipping Companies – ConocoPhillips Marine/Polar Tankers, Inc; SeaRiver Maritime, Inc.; Tesoro Maritime/Seabulk Tankers; and the Alaska Tanker Company, LLC** – will receive Legacy Awards in honor of the fact that they moved approximately 330 million barrels of Alaska North Slope crude oil from the Valdez Marine Terminal to various refineries on the West Coast without spilling a drop of oil into Alaskan waters. Nor did they have any spills into the waters of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California, or Hawaii, although transporting that amount of crude oil required approximately 452 tanker loads of product. John Devens, Executive Director of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, who nominated the TAPS Trade Shippers, noted that "2003 was the first year since tankers began transporting oil from Valdez without a single spill to Alaskan waters; therefore, we view a spill-free year as a significant milestone." Mr. Devens further points out that the TAPS trade routes across the Gulf of Alaska challenge both vessels and their crews, and attributes the TAPS shippers' success in 2003 to their "continued vigilance and commitment to transport oil through our waters as safely as possible." ConocoPhillips Marine/Polar Tankers, Inc. is already operating three new Endeavour Class double-hull tankers that have a bow thruster, double propulsion and steering systems and two totally segregated engine rooms in the TAPS trade since 2001. A fourth will join the Polar Tankers fleet this fall and a fifth will enter service in 2005, The Alaska Tanker Company have also committed to construction of double-hull tankers with

redundant features. ATC's first Alaska Class tanker will enter service this year. Tesoro/Seabulk operates only double hull tankers in the TAPS trade.

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The Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force is celebrating 15 years of serving as a forum for coordination and collaboration on oil spill prevention and response policies that protect over 56, 660 miles of coastline from the Beaufort Sea to the Baja Peninsula and the island chain of Hawaii. The theme for the 2004 Annual Meeting –*Partners in Prevention* - will focus on successful spill prevention efforts in our region.

Task Force Members are the directors of the oil spill prevention and response agencies in Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska. Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality will host the 2004 Annual Meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup> at the Benson Hotel in Portland, Oregon. For further information, please contact Jean Cameron, Oil Spill Task Force Executive Coordinator, at (503) 392-5860 (phone) or [JeanRCameron@oregoncoast.com](mailto:JeanRCameron@oregoncoast.com) (email).

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**PLEASE NOTE:** Digital photos illustrating the efforts of our 2004 Legacy Award winners are available upon request to Jean Cameron through July 16th and after July 22nd. Call her at (503) 392-5860 (phone) or email [JeanRCameron@oregoncoast.com](mailto:JeanRCameron@oregoncoast.com). For more information on the Task Force's Legacy Awards and past winners, please visit our website at:

<http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org/legacy.htm>