



COMMUNITY

**Alaska Railroad Corporation
2nd Quarter, 2011**



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**Alaska Railroad
Ongoing Projects:**

**Northern Rail Extension
and Tanana River Crossing**

**Fairbanks - North Pole
Rail Relocation**

**North Pole Road/Rail
Crossing Reduction**

Positive Train Control

Port MacKenzie Rail Extension

**Healy Canyon Safety and
Reliability Improvements**

Ship Creek Intermodal Center

Chugach Forest Whistle Stop

South Wasilla Rail Relocation

**Bridge Improvements and
Track Rehabilitation**

**Seward Coal Loading Facility
Improvements**

**For updates or comments on
these projects, visit the
Alaska Railroad web site at
www.AlaskaRailroad.com**

RAILROAD RE-MARKS RIGHT-OF-WAY

Anchorage ROW delineation promotes public awareness and safety

The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) is delineating (marking) the right-of-way (ROW) boundary through Anchorage to increase boundary visibility and promote public awareness of the ROW as a railroad utility and safety corridor.

The primary purpose of the ROW is to operate trains while providing maximum public protection from safety risks inherent in railroad operations. Higher train speeds, more frequent trains and increased residential development make protecting and maintaining the ROW imperative. State law also requires the ROW to be preserved for transportation, communication and transmission purposes.

This summer, residents and businesses along the main railroad track through Anchorage may notice workers installing durable 6-foot blue posts (*pictured at right*) every 200 feet to physically mark the ROW boundary (*see map on page 2*). Installation will conclude before snowfall. New markers augment the U.S. Survey monuments that currently mark the ROW boundary.



(see "Delineate" on page 2)

3 HERBICIDE PERMITS HELP VEG CONTROL

Railroad gains traction in battle against fast-growing weeds

Alaska's long summer days are back... and so are the weeds. Thanks to three herbicide use permits in force this year, the Alaska Railroad gained some traction in the battle against vegetation that poses safety risks along the track and in the yards. The herbicide AquaMaster (very similar to Roundup®) was applied June 20-27, 2011, within rail yards and along select areas of track in and around Seward, Anchorage, Healy and Fairbanks. In accordance with the permits, areas near surface water were avoided.

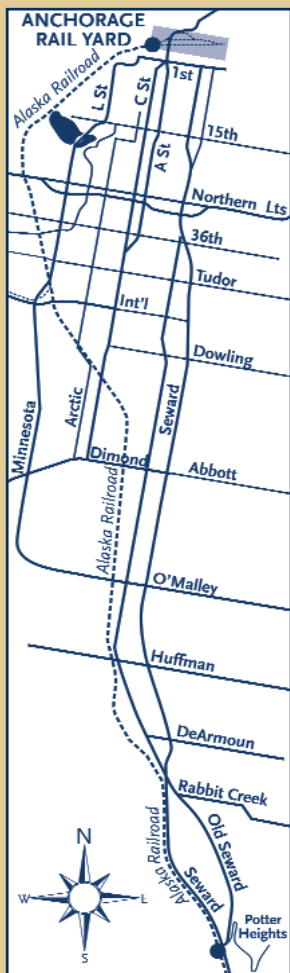
A two-year permit approved in 2010 by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) covers the stretch from Seward to Indian. The railroad used this permit for the first time last year after an administrative appeal was denied. An appeal to the court

(see "Weed Control" on page 2)

DELINEATE...

(continued from page 1)

The delineation is part of an effort to preserve ROW integrity by addressing existing uses. ARRC is currently evaluating residential lawn-and-garden use, crossings, trails, utilities, commercial and special uses. New policies to address different types of ROW uses are being developed by an ARRC Board of Directors committee. Once policies are drafted, the public will be notified and invited to comment before they are finalized. ●



ARRC TALKS TO COMMUNITY LEADERS

Meetings with local government officials promote dialogue

Early summer marked the start of ARRC's annual local government meetings in which senior railroad managers engage with local political leaders. These face-to-face get-togethers provide a forum to discuss railroad and community issues of mutual interest, and exchange ideas for resolving problems and capitalizing on new opportunities. Meeting goals include maintaining important relationships, facilitating community dialogue and keeping lines of communication open with neighbors and customers. The railroad's President-CEO Chris Aadnesen, along with vice presidents and key staff from Corporate Affairs, Real Estate and Train Operations departments are participating (depending on local issues).

Meetings kicked off in Seward with Mayor Willard Dunham, City Manager Phil Oates and others representing the community and city council. Interior meetings followed to include Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins, Fairbanks City Mayor Jerry Cleworth, and North Pole Mayor Doug Issacson. Next came a trip to Whittier to connect with Mayor Lester Lunceford, Vice-Mayor Jerry Vandergriff, Interim City Manager Robert Prunella and Senator Gary Stevens. In July and August, meetings are scheduled with mayors of Houston, Wasilla, Palmer, Mat-Su Borough, Anderson, Nenana, Denali Borough and Anchorage ●



L-R: ARRC Real Estate VP Jim Kubitz, Senator Gary Stevens, Whittier Mayor Lester Lunceford and ARRC President/CEO Chris Aadnesen discuss community development plans during a walk along along the Whittier Boat Harbor July 13. (Photo by Tim Sullivan)

WEED CONTROL GAINS TRACTION...

(continued from page 1)

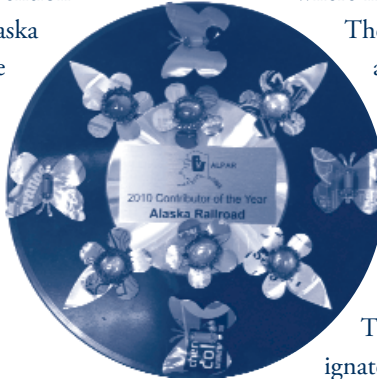
system was filed May 27, 2011, and is pending. This appeal is on procedural and constitutional grounds only; it does not involve health or safety issues related to the herbicide. Until the courts hear the appeal, the permit remains in force.

ARRC applied for additional permits (Anchorage and Healy/Fairbanks) in January 2011. No comments were made during public hearings in mid-February and ADEC received relatively few comments by the mid-March deadline. These permits were approved in early May and the 45-day waiting period ended June 15, allowing the permits to be used by late June. No legal actions opposing these permits have been filed as of press time. ●

ALPAR PRESENTS RAILROAD WITH 2010 AWARD

Recycling and litter prevention group salutes railroad's support of recycling backhaul

In late spring, the Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR) presented the Alaska Railroad with its 2010 Contributor of the Year Award for outstanding service to ALPAR and Alaska communities. The award recognizes ARRC's backhaul services in support of recycling along the railbelt. In particular, ARRC helped with the transport of 5.8 million pounds of recyclable materials in 2010.



where materials are loaded into 53-foot containers.

The containers are then loaded onto flat railcars at the Alaska Railroad's Trailer on Flat Car / Container on Flat Car (TOFC/COFC) operation in Anchorage, and then transported to Whittier, where railcars are loaded onto a barge bound for Seattle, and ultimately delivered to Smurfit in Renton, Washington. The Alaska Railroad donates the TOFC/COFC service for containers/trailers designated to support ALPAR.

The Alaska Railroad maintains a steady relationship with Alaska West Express / Lynden (AWE/Lynden), whereby recyclable materials are moved from Anchorage to Whittier to the Lower 48 for recycling. AWE/Lynden trucks pick up recyclable materials at Smurfit-Stone Recycling Center in Anchorage, and bring recyclable materials to Lynden's yard,

ALPAR is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing economically viable recycling and eliminating litter in Alaska. In April 2007, ALPAR also presented the Alaska Railroad with its 2006 Board of Directors Award for similar contributions to recycling support. ●

IT'S FOG, NOT DUST

Water spray from a new fogger system dampens coal as it is dug out from the pile at the Seward Coal Loading Facility. The fogger was installed in 2010 on the bucket wheel of the stacker/reclaimer as a dust control measure. Spray from the nozzles is sometimes mistaken for coal dust, when in fact the fine droplets work to mitigate dust during movement of coal. In this photo coal is being moved from the pile onto a conveyor leading to a ship at the coal dock.

(Photo by Matt Kelzenberg)



ICE ALASKA UPDATE

Railroad helps ice carving venue move

Ice Alaska has found a new home on 25 acres it purchased in mid-June, located about one mile west of the railroad property at Chena Landing, where Ice Alaska has hosted the BP World Ice Art Championships. The Alaska Railroad is assisting Ice Alaska with moving equipment and facilities to the new site. The railroad delivered eight 40-foot containers and contracted with a local trucking company to move full containers and building sections.

The Chena Landing site encompasses O'Grady's Pond, which was used to produce carving ice renowned for its clarity and consistency. The Alaska Railroad has issued a no-fee permit to allow future dredging and cleaning of O'Grady's Pond and subsequent ice harvesting as needed.

Given Ice Alaska's uncertain status, ARRC was previously unable to market the land that Ice Alaska used three to four months out of each year to host the ice carving event. Following the move, ARRC will pursue new lease opportunities, capitalizing on the millions of dollars originally invested in the 1990s to construct a road through, and connect utilities to, Chena Landing. ●

RAILROAD HIRES NEW EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MANAGER

Tim Sullivan to focus on government relations and community outreach

Tim Sullivan, Jr., has joined the Alaska Railroad's (ARRC) Corporate Affairs team as Manager, External Affairs. He is responsible for government and public relations, community outreach and special project requests. Sullivan's experience includes six years as a legislative aide and 11 years as a government relations and resource development consultant. Most recently, he worked for the state's Division of Economic Development (DED), Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED). As a DED Business Development Officer, Sullivan worked on agricultural, fisheries and small business issues as well as department outreach.

Sullivan's experience working for the Alaska State Legislature and DCCED will be valuable as ARRC works with the public and elected officials on providing transportation services for Alaskans and access to Alaska's resources.



"The Alaska Railroad has always been an important part of Alaska's history and economy," said Sullivan. "My family grew up around the Alaska Railroad, from Fairbanks and Nenana all the way down to Seward and I'm thrilled at the opportunity to now play a part in how the Railroad will help develop Alaska's future."

A fifth-generation Alaskan, Sullivan graduated from West Anchorage High School and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington. He has lived in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau.

In 2007, Sullivan was named one of the "Top 40 Under 40" by the Alaska Journal of Commerce. He currently serves on the boards of the Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Bayshore Elementary School PTA. His interests include community service, camping and history. ●

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