



VIA EMAIL ONLY
(larry.hartig@alaska.gov)

February 10, 2017

Larry Hartig, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
P.O. Box 111800
410 Willoughby Ave., Ste. 303
Juneau, AK 99811-1800

Re: Hilcorp gas pipeline leak in Cook Inlet

Dear Commissioner Hartig:

Yesterday the Alaska Dispatch News contained a short story about a “low risk” gas leak from a subsea pipeline operated by Hilcorp in Cook Inlet.¹ In the article, both Hilcorp and CISPRI downplayed the significance of the leak.

Yet additional information from various sources reveals Hilcorp’s gas line leak is in fact quite sizable, and presents serious risks to fish and wildlife, air and water quality, and perhaps worker and/or spill responder safety.

ADEC has broad authorities to protect fish, water, air and other natural resources in Cook Inlet, and a corresponding obligation to do so.²

According to recent reports, Hilcorp plans to continue using the leaking gas line until sea ice recedes and a repair plan can be implemented. This could be weeks or months.³ Yet Hilcorp has amassed a broad array of environmental and safety violations during its relatively short tenure in Cook Inlet,⁴ and it’s now apparently more concerned with its bottom line than the health, safety and welfare of Cook Inlet and the communities that rely on it.

¹ See <https://www.adn.com/business-economy/energy/2017/02/08/low-risk-gas-leak-from-undersea-pipe-suspected-after-helicopter-spots-bubbles-in-cook-inlet/>

² See generally AS 46.03.020.

³ In addition to the pollution and safety issues this gas leak poses, it also represents considerable “waste” pursuant to AOGCC laws and rules.

⁴ See <https://www.adn.com/energy/article/agency-fines-hilcorp-alaska-says-company-disregards-alaska-oilfield-regulations/2016/05/06/>

In response, I am writing now to call on you to immediately order Hilcorp to shut down the 50+ year old leaking gas line to Platform A in Cook Inlet until satisfactory repairs can be made and the pipeline can be thoroughly inspected.

Hilcorps should not be allowed to put its profits above environmental protection in Cook Inlet.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me if you have questions at 907.299.3277 or bob@inletkeeper.org

Yours for Cook Inlet,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Shavelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bob Shavelson
Inletkeeper

Cc: (VIA EMAIL ONLY)
Michelle Pirzadeh, EPA Region 10
Tom Johnson, PHMSA
Greg Siekaniec, USFWS Alaska
Jim Balsiger, NOAA/NMFS
Cathy Foerster, AOGCC
Andy Mack, DNR
Kim Weibl, SERC