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BP Recognized for Excellence in Health and Safety Programs

(Juneau) – Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner Greg O'Claray today recognized BP Exploration Alaska's Central Gas Facility and Central Compression Plant in Prudhoe Bay for top-notch safety and health management programs. The two facilities were awarded Star designation in the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Voluntary Protection Program in a ceremony at the company's Prudhoe Bay site.

"We're proud to recognize BP staff for setting and maintaining such high standards for safety and health in their workplace," said Commissioner O'Claray. "To process 8 billion cubic feet of natural gas through on a daily basis while continually achieving high scores from Occupational Safety and Health is no small feat."

"Plant employees are proud of their efforts to enhance safety and health where they work," said BP team leader James Fausett. "Focusing on safety and health is central to how we do business. VPP not only helps us honor our commitment to the safety of our employees, it has also made our business more efficient."

The Central Gas Facility and Central Compression Plant join two other BP North Slope facilities with VPP designation – the Central Power Station is designated Star by the State of Alaska and the Endicott operation is a Star facility within the jurisdiction of Federal OSHA.

VPP recognizes and promotes effective safety and health management. VPP sites are removed from general scheduled enforcement inspections for the approved period of time (from 18 months up to 5 years). Participants have also reported reduced Workers' Compensation costs.

VPP is one of several consultation programs offered by Alaska Occupational Safety and Health. At a company's request, health and safety consultation officers visit the work site to help employers identify and correct hazards in the work place, and train their workforce in safe work practices. The company then has the opportunity to address potential violations before an official inspection occurs.