



DOWN THE PIPE

The SPLC GOM Region Quarterly Newsletter

THIRD QUARTER 2003

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

How do you get the attention of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality? By offering them an opportunity to get out of the office and go on a field trip of course!

Shell Pipeline recently invited several agency representatives who are typically involved in the pipeline construction and repair permit process to view a new 6" propylene pipe lateral installation, near the west bank of the Mississippi River, that utilized a directional drill.

"We thought this demonstration might be of interest to the agency people because viewing a directional drill in progress is not an everyday occurrence. Most regulatory people have not physically seen this sort of project," said **Geoff Sanders, Sr. Staff Land Agent**. "We are always on the look out for activities that might be of interest to the agencies, because the more they actually see and learn about the way we do work, the more information they will have on hand when reviewing our permits."

Typically, directional drills are utilized when a construction project is located in a less than ideal environment - like when crossing rivers or other environmentally sensitive areas. In this particular instance, the directional drill technique was utilized because the pipeline needed to cross a major road, a canal, and a sewer line.



"This site was very accessible. It was, for a change, not in a swamp or in the middle of a river, but along a road way," said Sanders. "So it was very easy for the agency people to access and see the process."

The entire new lateral is 1.6 miles in length and its construction employed the use of both conventional pipeline construction techniques as well as directional drills.

"The traditional land-based pipe lay utilizes a very visual trenching process. With the directional drill method however, all that our guests were really able to see was the pipe going into the ground," he added. "Which was fine because they could truly appreciate how clean this process really is."

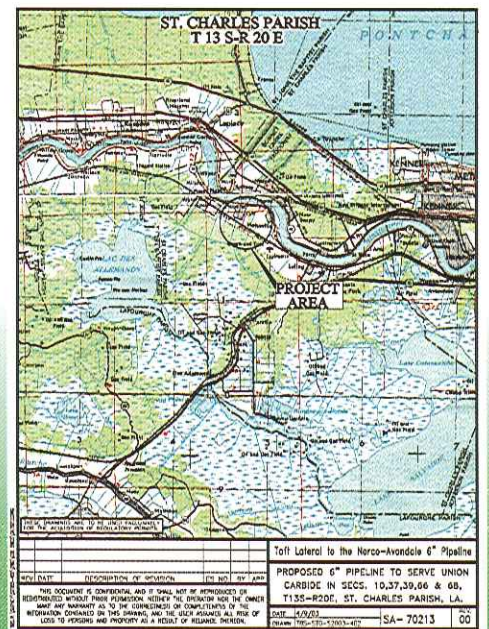
The Taft Drill Demonstration was attended by 12 agency representatives, who met at a restaurant close to the work site, where they were given a technical presentation on the directional drill process and an operational overview of Shell's pipeline business in the Louisiana area. Afterward, the group was driven out to the drill site and given a hands-on tour.

In order to make the day a success and impart the GOM's emphasis on safety, job preparation and its sensitivity to the environment, a team effort was required. Nearly 20 Head Office and Region employees contributed, from approving the

funding, to giving presentations, driving the minivans, and being available to answer questions.

"I was one of the tour guides who helped answer questions the agency people had," said **Shawn Merry, Regional TSO Engineer**. "They seemed genuinely interested in the work we were doing and wanted to know all about it."

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LATE BREAKING NEWS...

The GOM Region has made 2 consecutive months with NO Releases for the months of October and November. This is just the 3rd time since 1998 or in past 71 months that we have accomplished this benchmark with the combined companies. The GOM is also on track in 2003 to have the lowest number of releases since 1998. Let's strive to set a 3 month, no release record in December. Everyone should be congratulated on their continued "Release Prevention" success.

2003 RELEASE HISTORY YTD

Location/Detail	Date	Bus Unit	Volume	Water	Cause
1. Erath – Sump overflow	1/8	Onshore	0.24	No	Human
2. Terrebonne Bay 10"	1/30	OTP	160.0	Yes	3rd Party
3. Norco – Sample line	2/27	Chemical	0.6	No	Human
4. SWP-24	3/11	OTP	300.0	No	3rd Party
5. Terrebonne Bay 8"	5/21	OTP	0.02	Yes	3rd Party
6. WD-143 – Seal	6/7	Technical	0.09	Yes	Equipment
7. Houma – Barge sump	6/9	Craft	0.07	No	Equipment
8. Houma – Tank line	8/22	Technical	0.01	No	Corrosion
9. Sugarland – Sump overflow	9/26	Craft	6.0	No	Equipment

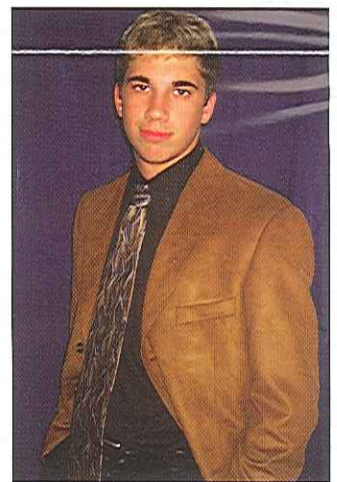
30 YEARS OF SAFE WORKING



Don Popp, Patoka Mechanical Technician, in recognition of his 30 years of safe working, receives the Joseph A. Holmes award from **Al Bertaut, Craft Manager**.

GOM Employee's Son Selected For Leadership Challenge In Nation's Capital

National Young Leaders Conference Provides Inroads for U.S. Future



Justin Aldridge, born in New Orleans and attended Isidore Newman School through 8th grade, has been selected to participate in the National Young Leadership Conference (NYLC) in Washington, D.C. from October 28th to November 2nd. NYLC is a unique leadership development program for high school students who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit. Aldridge will be one of approximately 350 outstanding scholars from around the country at the Conference. He is presently living in Ocoee, Florida and is an 11th grade honor student at West Orange High School. Aldridge is the son of GOM employee **James Aldridge**.

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"I think it was good to get that personal interaction and to build those relationships, especially with the agencies. We have the same goal of protecting the environment, and it is of great value for them to know that we have this shared interest," he added.

All of the planning and work was worth the effort. The GOM received nothing but rave reviews and positive comments about the demonstration.

"It went over really well and everyone who attended was definitely interested. They must have been. After we showed them the drill, it was time for lunch, but they asked so many questions that we were at the work site for another hour," Sanders said. "They were very into the project."

"The terrific agency turnout shows their commitment to staying up-to-date with industry projects and construction techniques," he added. "The GOM is committed to keeping a dialog going that allows for the exchange of information that in the long run will help us both in doing our jobs."