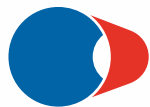


Panorama CPC



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Caspian Pipeline Consortium Corporate Edition

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*In Focus:
Western Region*

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Kairgeldy Kabyldin:

“Our country expects major development achievements from the CPC pipeline”



CPC IS A TIME-TESTED, SUCCESSFUL AND DYNAMICALLY DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL PROJECT. CPC SHAREHOLDER COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE, “KAZMUNAIGAZ” MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, KAIRGELDY KABYLDIN, TOLD “CPC PANORAMA” HOW THE PROJECT’S PRESENT AND FUTURE LOOKS FROM KAZAKHSTAN.

– Mr. Kabyldin, as we know, you have been with the CPC Pipeline Project from the very start. Can you say that the pipeline’s significance as an export vehicle for Kazakh oil remains as high today, after 13 years have passed from the pipeline’s launch?

– Without doubt, the CPC pipeline is currently the main export vehicle for Kazakh oil. Also, the pipeline has no rivals in its attractiveness for Kazakh oil suppliers from an economic viewpoint.

In 2013, Kazakhstan exported 72 million tons of oil, of which 28.7 million tons, or 40%, were exported via the CPC pipeline.

The oil transported through the CPC pipeline comes mostly from the oil fields of Western Kazakhstan, namely Tengiz, Karachaganak, Uzen, Martyshe and some others.

Plans call for increasing Kazakhstan’s oil supplies to the world market in connection with the projected increase of production from the Tengiz field and the production launch at the Kashagan field.

Therefore, as before, our country expects major development achievements from the CPC pipeline and the CPC Expansion Project, which will allow us to dramatically increase the volume of oil supplied from Kazakhstan to world markets.

– As we know, within the framework of cooperation with CPC, you supervise construction work at the pump stations located in Kazakhstan. Could you elaborate on the specific tasks and issues related to these duties?

– Construction efforts within the pipeline’s Kazakh segment include modernization of two existing pump stations (PS Tengiz and PS Atyrau), construction of two new pump stations (A-PS-3A and A-PS-4), pipe replacement to a total length of 88 km, external power supply to PS Atyrau, PS Tengiz, A-PS-3A and A-PS-4, and construction of a new high voltage power line – OHPL 220 kV.

Aiming to boost efficiency and expedite project work, “KazMunaiGaz”, together with CPC and “Kazakhstan Pipeline Ventures”, has implemented a number of organizational and structural changes to transfer project management powers directly to the production sites.

As things stand, we have resolved a number of issues relating to the development of an integrated work completion schedule, engineering, division of project management powers, setting up working groups, and appointing managers for the CPC Project Management Group at all four pump stations located in Kazakhstan.

Apart from the coordination and monitoring of construction work, we are actively working with

contractors to help resolve their routine issues and problems related to project implementation, supplies of materials and equipment, manpower needs and mobilization of subcontractors.

– What is the current status of construction work progress? What is left to do before the work is completed?

– Construction and installation work to replace pipes to a total

By the end of 2014, we plan to complete upgrade of PS Atyrau and PS Tengiz. Construction of two new pump stations (A-PS-3A and A-PS-4) is scheduled to be finished in 2015.

Among projects scheduled to be completed in 2014 are the construction of a new high voltage power line, OHPL 220 kV, construction of new substations for electrification A-PS-3A and A-PS-4, and modernization of the existing substation in Atyrau.

Construction work is being managed on an on-going basis with issues being resolved involving all stakeholders, and the work progress of the contractors is permanently monitored.

I believe that the measures to be taken to overcome delays will be effective and that our construction contractors will fulfill their obligations and complete their work by the target dates established in the newly agreed schedule.



Head office of "KazMunaiGaz" National Company

length of 88 km was completed in 2013, and on May 20-23, 2014, during pipeline scheduled shutdown the new constructed segment was tied-into the trunk pipeline. Currently, the segment is operating in a comprehensive testing mode. This is the first major task to have been accomplished as part of the Expansion Project in Kazakhstan.

– Do you think that the CPC pipeliners will succeed in completing the work on schedule, so that oil production in the republic is not held back?

– Together with all other project participants, "KazMunaiGaz" is doing everything possible to expedite work within the Kazakh segment of the Expansion Project.

Also, I would like to note that the ongoing work progress within the Russian section gives reasons to expect the timely completion of the project as a whole.

– You communicate a lot with managers and specialists from CPC and the consortium's shareholder companies. How would you appraise the level of »

mutual understanding between “KazMunaiGaz” and the Expansion Project participants?

– Representatives from “KazMunaiGaz” and “Kazakhstan Pipeline Ventures” are permanently present and actively working at the Expansion Project’s sites. We have developed particularly close cooperation with the management of CPC and construction contractor “KazStroiService”. We are well acquainted with “KazStroiService” as we worked together earlier on the Kazakhstan-China oil pipeline construction project.



Pipeline construction in Kazakhstan under the CPC Expansion Project

I believe that our specialists have achieved an adequately high level of mutual understanding with all project participants to the extent that they need to carry out their tasks.

– Which innovative methods are being employed in the construction of new facilities in Kazakhstan within the framework of the Expansion Project?

– Both proven and innovative methods are being employed in the Expansion Project.

The latter include semi-automated welding, which has advantages

over manual arc welding, and integrated surge relief systems, which react on any pressure jump in the pipeline and allows increasing its operational safety.

The CPC Expansion Project also involves the practice of using dry air (dew point minus 20°C) for drying pipeline interiors, which is both environmentally friendly and economically advantageous, since it avoids the use of methanol as a corrosion inhibitor.

On the whole, we are certain that the numerous innovative approaches employed for the Expansion Project, which are based on the best practices of CPC and its shareholders, will ensure the pipeline’s high performance, its accident-free and reliable operation as well as environmental security.

– What do you do to monitor and control industrial and environmental security at the construction facilities?

– Industrial and environmental security standards employed for the project are in compliance with the relevant Kazakh requirements and generally accepted international standards.

Our contractors/subcontractors are committed to using the best practices of standard compliance. Some of them are certified under ISO 14001. Monitoring and control of industrial and environmental security compliance is performed by all project participants and HSE specialists.

A particularly important element of system management is Industrial Environmental Monitoring, which involves monitoring atmospheric air, soil, surface and ground waters. The main objective of the environmental monitoring program is the protection of these

environmental domains as well as biodiversity and ecosystems.

In line with our business practice, we communicate and consult with various interested parties, including government structures, the local population, suppliers and employees, on matters pertaining to industrial and environmental security within the framework of the Expansion Project.

We are certain that the measures to be taken to ensure industrial and environmental security will allow us to achieve our major goal – reducing to the minimum our environmental impact, accident rate and work-related injury rate at CPC facilities, as well as, also importantly, ensuring rational use of the natural resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

– Which tasks facing CPC today are most important and significant?

– Today’s priority tasks include the most rapid completion of all construction work for the CPC Expansion Project and commissioning of new facilities.

I would like to emphasize that it is of special importance for Kazakhstan that these new facilities are launched by the time when commercial scale production is started at the Kashagan field, because the CPC pipeline is the most attractive option for Kazakh oil supplies from a commercial viewpoint. Also, I want to stress the importance of ensuring the economic efficiency of the project for its governmental shareholders – Russia and Kazakhstan.

Of course, on a par with the project’s economic and commercial priorities, the main task facing CPC and its shareholders is the safe and efficient functioning of the CPC pipeline. ■

Build-up relations, assert reputation

IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE ANY BUSINESS WITHOUT CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE POPULATION OF THE AREAS IN WHICH THE COMPANY OPERATES. SUCH RELATIONS ARE MAINTAINED IN MANY AREAS, PARTICULARLY IN STATUTORY REGULATION, LICENSING, ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, TAXATION AND EMPLOYMENT.

At CPC, these important tasks are entrusted to the RF Government Relations Department (CPC-R) and the Kazakh Government Relations Department (CPC-K). The main goal of both departments is to create favorable conditions for the Company's operation in the areas of its presence and to ensure uninterrupted transportation of oil from the fields in Western Kazakhstan to Novorossiysk.

This article features the work of the RF Government Relations Department of CPC-R, which is in charge of maintaining relations with the federal and regional executive and legislative power structures, and the municipal and local power structures of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and relevant government agencies.

CPC covers an extensive geography. The pipeline runs through two countries and its Russian section crosses four constituent entities of the Russian Federation and 22 municipalities. Each region has its specific features and peculiarities in terms of management, administration, legislation and the population's ethnic make-up and mindset. Hence the multitude of tasks facing the RF Government Relations Department.



Anatoly Shatalov stood at the origins of the Consortium and so deserves to be called the department's "founder". In 1996, Shatalov headed the Transitional Committee on Restructuring and over the next six years he worked as CPC Deputy General Director and head of the RF Government Relations Department. Thanks to his deep knowledge of industry specifics and his experience in implementing major investment projects, he managed to create a viable structure with a potential for growth and development in the then complicated political and economic situation. In a brief period of time, relations were organized with all relevant power structures, including those on the top level and those of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and the district administrations through which the CPC pipeline runs. Thanks to that, with a limited number of employees it became possible to handle a wide variety of organizational, financial, legal, administrative, informational and other matters and to lay the foundation for the functioning of not only the department, but of CPC as a whole. These achievements remain important and relevant today. As CPC matured, the tasks of the RF Government Relations Department transformed from strategic



Alexey Khardykin with the "CPC for Traffic Safety" program-winner, secondary school student from the village of Staromyshastovskaya

ones into more routine, though no less important, ones related to the normal course of business.



Working in close contact with the relevant government agencies and departments, the RF Government Relations Department puts in daily efforts to create and maintain a system of long-term, comfortable and predictable relations with these government structures, and to support the positive image of the Consortium as a socially and environmentally responsible international company. Openness and readiness for direct dialogue with the federal and regional executive and legislative power structures as well as the municipal and local power structures of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation is a CPC hallmark. Long-term agreements on cooperation and partnership are in place with all the relevant regions and CPC has executed modification agreements»



Meeting with Astrakhan Regional Governor Alexander Zhilkin

to them to implement social programs within the framework of the Expansion Project.

An important part of this work is regular notification of the authorities, local population, media and other interested parties of the Consortium's current activities, development plans, methods, achievements, significant corporate events and social programs.

Key tasks of the RF Government Relations Department include organization of regular public relations events in Moscow and the relevant constituent entities of the Russian Federation, build up a positive image for CPC, prevention of any potential information crises caused by the Consortium's activities and, of course, support of the Expansion Project's successful implementation.

The start of the Expansion Project was a challenge for the RF Government Relations Department. The department had to mobilize all its potential, knowledge and experience to support the Expansion Project, including assisting in the obtainment of the necessary permits and ensuring the on-schedule arrival of the construction contractors at the facilities. The cooperation continued during the construction phase. One graphic example is the Department's coordinated work with the Expansion Project's Regulatory Affairs Group during the obtainment of necessary permits for the construction of a power line in the Stavropol and Krasnodar Krai.

Also useful for these purposes have been the informational and presentation events, which helped appropriately present the Company and acquaint the broad public with the true facts about CPC.

Also, the Department organizes the Consortium's participation in national and international conferences and forums, specifically the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, the World Petroleum Congress and the International Investment Forum in Sochi. CPC participation in these events is necessary for maintaining its high level contacts, obtaining current information on the key issues and trends of the world oil and gas industry, and for further consolidation of a favorable atmo-

sphere of cooperation with the RF government agencies and regional administrations.

Recently CPC has also focused on taking part in environmental forums, thus maintaining dialogue with the relevant ministries and departments and obtaining the most complete information on these developments, which are becoming increasingly important for the country's economy and public life.

An important PR instrument of the Consortium is its website, which was recently updated by the RF Government Relations Department. Thanks to the new design, the website has acquired a more innovative, colorful and dynamic look and has become more informative. Accessibility of information works to increase the company's transparency and credibility.

With the upcoming completion of the Expansion Project, increase in the system's throughput capacity and the expected substantial growth of the Consortium's performance indicators, PR methods are acquiring increasing signif-



During training, which took place in Novorossiysk in late June, department representatives visited the Tank Farm during its construction

icance. A good example is the Marine Terminal, which is located close to a seaside resort area. It is clear already today that more ef-

forts are required in this direction, including to properly build and maintain relations with the local administration and public to keep them adequately informed of the CPC processes and procedures and the Consortium's high security and environmental protection standards. It is also important for CPC managers to take part in public meetings held by the regional administrations.

Early this year, the RF Government Relations Department decided to develop a plan for more active work with the mass media and population of Novorossiysk. The study performed in due course indicated that despite the rapid development of electronic media, the local population was not adequately informed of the Consortium's activities and the Expansion Project, which led to the circulation of various rumors and gossip, sometimes of a negative character. Based on the »



Working meeting with the head of the Republic of Kalmykia Alexey Orlov

results of the study, the CPC-R RF Government Relations Department prepared and adopted a “Program to Activate Work with the Mass Media and the Population of Novorossiysk”. Specifically, the program calls for more active use of the city’s electronic and printed media for publishing materials focusing on CPC-R, to place additional information boards with regularly updated relevant information in the local administration offices and at schools, and to distribute pamphlets about the Consortium among the population. It is also necessary to maintain direct contacts with the local population, including to regularly take part in the public receptions conducted by the Novorossiysk municipal authorities in the villages located in the neighborhood of CPC facilities, and to organize a tour of the Marine Terminal for those who are particularly interested.



The extensive socially-oriented activities of CPC-R deserve to be specially mentioned. Support of

socially significant and humanitarian projects in the areas of operation is a most effective means to harmonize the Consortium’s business with the steady development of these regions. A comfortable social environment is a guarantee of the lasting and durable operation of the pipeline system.



Quite a few charity projects implemented by the Consortium have developed into regular events,

“To believe in good, you need to start doing good deeds”.

Leo Tolstoy

including “CPC for Veterans,” “CPC for First-graders” and “New Year’s Day with CPC”. There are a lot more, smaller in scale but no less significant, such as the program of support of adult and adolescent teams in fire-fighting and combative sports.

Charity programs have been implemented by CPC from the very start of the Consortium’s business in Russia. The Consortium renders assistance to the disabled, veterans, orphans and other vulnerable strata of society, implements numerous projects targeted at supporting public education, health care and municipal infrastructures in the towns and villages located close to the pipeline. CPC social programs are targeted, transparent, strictly controlled and implemented in compliance with the applicable RF law. Importantly, all the Consortium’s social efforts are undertaken in close coordination with the regional administrations which ensures good planning and efficiency.

We are permanently perfecting the forms and methods of our work. New social projects launched by the Consortium in 2013-2014 are focused primarily on public education and environmental information. Another important topic is pedestrian safety, first of all for children. The “CPC for Traffic Safety” program, which was launched in 2013, involves training primary school students. In 2013, the program involved students from two secondary schools in the village of Staromyshastovskaya in the Dinskaya district of the Krasnodar Region. In 2014, plans call for organizing similar training in villages located close to the CPC facilities in the Stavropol Region and Novorossiysk.



When speaking of the RF Government Relations Department and its functions, something needs to be said about its role in organizing intra-corporate communications, specifically the regular updating of the information boards in the Consortium’s Moscow office and regional offices. The latest news and photographs on display help



Finals of the “CPC for Traffic Safety” charity program

to keep employees up to date on the most interesting events involving the Consortium and the progress of its projects, and hence to feel like a part of one team. The department prepares daily media reviews on relevant topics, weekly bilingual media reports and is actively involved in the preparation of "CPC Panorama" materials.



Without doubt, the Department owes its success to its small, but exceptional, team, which is composed mostly of experienced CPC veterans. A clear leader among them is Chief Representative Regional Government Relations Victor Volgin, who has been with the Consortium since early 1997. The Department's Administrative Assistant Svetlana Sokolinskaya boasts a slightly shorter service record. Dmitriy Gerasimuk and Vladimir Chaikin have worked for CPC for around 10 years, and Aleksandr Ignatyev who has been employed with the Consortium for more than seven years. Each of them possesses considerable professional experience and readily shares it with newcomers who, in turn, bring something new to the style of work. Combined, they create an atmosphere of candor, mutual support and commitment to common goals.

Complacency is alien to the department, where everyone is in the process of permanent professional development.



As regards the department's future tasks and objectives, they directly depend on the future development of the Consortium as well as sociopolitical, legislative and other processes in the country in general and in the pipeline's



Ceremonial presentation of new buses to the city attended by Novorossiysk Mayor Vladimir Sinyagovsky

regions in particular. Speaking of short-term issues, elections for governors in three out of the four constituent entities of the Russian Federation where CPC operates are scheduled for this September.

As part of the Consortium, the department's team is putting in maximum effort to achieve the most rapid and successful completion of the Expansion Project. New CPC facilities are to appear in the regions. For example, two new pump stations will be commissioned in the Stavropol Krai. Consequently, CPC will contribute more in taxes and provide more jobs for the local population. Simultaneously, the Consortium's

regional representatives will have more work to do as they will have to intensify relations with both the general public and the authorities. The budget of CPC social investment in the regions of operation will either grow or, at minimum, will remain at current levels. Maintaining its best charity traditions, CPC will remain an example of social responsibility. Since the effectiveness of the Consortium's social projects is expected to increase, we will have to put in more efforts and implement innovative approaches. ■

*Alexey Khardykin
CPC-R Deputy General Director,
RF Government Relations*

SERGEY POTRYASOV:

“THE COMPANY IS OUR SHARED ZONE OF RESPONSIBILITY”

THE 543 KM-LONG TRUNK PIPELINE SEGMENT FROM THE BORDER OF KALMYKIA TO NOVOROSIYSK IS THE ZONE OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WESTERN REGION TEAM. REGIONAL MANAGER SERGEY POTRYASOV TELLS “CPC PANORAMA” ABOUT THE TASKS HIS TEAM HAS TO SOLVE, AND WHAT IS GOING ON IN THEIR LIVES.

electrical engineers, mechanical engineers, pipeline operation engineers, operation and maintenance managers). We should also mention the representatives of supporting services who make the correct workflow possible with the observance of labour protection requirements, industrial security norms and the Labour Code. They are the HSE engineers, economists, accountants, HR specialists, logistics specialists, interpreters, IT specialists, training specialists. All our employees are highly professional and have got vast experience in their field.

It would be unfair not to mention our contractors – LLC “Starstroy”, LLC “Neftegaz Security”, LLC “Masterservice”, and others. Formally they are not part of our team but

“We are all after a common goal, and all problems are to be solved collectively. Teamwork is crucial for our success”

they contribute a lot to the Western region’s activities: the service providers handle over 80% of all the facilities’ operation works.

– What can you say about the personnel policy practiced in the Western region?

– The same as for general CPC policy, we pay a lot of attention to attracting new staff. The graduates’ training and work experience program that we’ve had in our company for a number of years helps us in that.

In the nearest future two new PS will be put into service in the Stavropol Krai which means more workplaces. In close cooperation with the Stavropol board of labour and employment of



– Sergey, what is the nature of the organization you head?

– Taking into consideration the Expansion Project, we now have 182 people working in the CPC-R Western region. The average employee age is 40-43 years old. People of various professions are

brought together in this team. First of all it is the personnel responsible for the oil pumping process, from working staff (processing unit operators, electricians) to specialists and managers (Control & Instrumentation technicians technicians, shiftmen, PS superiors, lab technicians,

population we are searching for highly-skilled personnel to take the vacant positions. There is an agreement signed between CPC and the North Caucasus Federal University according to which University graduates receive the chance to undergo training on our sites for specializations relevant to our company's profile. Based on the training results the best of the best can aspire to get full-time employment if there is a vacancy.

– What is being done to improve the microclimate in your team?

There are a number of social programs introduced which are being carried out in the company. There is no doubt that the Consortium is one of the leading enterprises in terms of providing social security for its employees, and everybody feels that. Special events organized for staff members and their families also contribute to uniting the team.

– What is your view of the proper relationships within a team?

– Work-oriented, constructive, and positive. A formal approach

– In its operational areas CPC has formed constructive business relationships with the local authorities. The Consortium has become an important integral part of regional economic life and social development. In particular, the company has gained the reputation of being one of the best employers, and is among the major taxpayers in those municipal units where we have pipeline sites subordinated to the Western region (the Ipatovsky and Izobilnensky areas in the Stavropol Krai, and the Kavkazsky, Dinskaya and Krymsky areas in the Krasnodar



Team-work style. A meeting at the Western region office

– When trying to reach common goals and objectives much depends on the attitude of people. That is why the company is trying to build team spirit, establish friendly trust-based relationships and a favorable working environment at its offices and on its sites. For that purpose we have regular polls to find out to what extent people are satisfied with their work and the way it's evaluated.

is totally unacceptable, there should be no indifference or stepping back, meaning, "This is none of my concern, let other people bother about it". We are all after a common goal, and all problems are to be solved collectively. Teamwork is crucial for our success.

– What are the company's relationships with the regional authorities based on?

Krai). CPC's charity work is important: the traditional programs for veterans and first-graders, and also the New Year program that has been conducted for the 18th time this year!

The pipeline system expansion gave CPC the possibility not only to build new production sites but also to carry out large-scale social programs such as construction and modernization of kindergartens, »

schools, hospitals and sports stadiums alongside traditional charity work. A strong example of that will be the Kavkazsky village kindergarten that was modernized due to the Expansion Project and equipped at the expense allocated by the core business.

When the new regional CPC sites become functional, it will create additional workplaces with achievement-oriented pay and increase local budget revenues, which I am sure will add value to the company's relationships with the local authorities. The Consortium will continue to serve the interests of the local population, especially when it comes to envi-

CPC here works proactively, things go according to plan, and all the necessary documentation (like land allocation, etc.) is ready in advance. That is the right thing to do and that is as it should be.

Another thing that appeals to you when hearing about CPC is its high level of social responsibility – its contributions to the regional social sphere far exceeds those of other larger companies.

– From your fresh perspective of the Consortium, are there any “bottlenecks” you would like to point out to your Russian and foreign colleagues?

“CPC is a single company and our shared zone of responsibility. That is why there should be no artificial boundaries between departments, units, services, the core business and the Expansion Project subdivisions”

ronmental safety, while retaining its economically sound basis.

– Sergey, you are a relatively new person in the CPC system. Tell us about your first impressions of the Consortium.

– The first thing that stands out is its respect for people. This is a company where the staff are really taken care of. The quality of the food at the CPC sites is also an important factor. It means a good catering contractor was chosen.

Any CPC newcomer will immediately see what a highly organized company it is. Everything is considered, every last detail spelled out in procedure. I've seen a number of companies where there was excessive haste while implementing major projects, and the documentation had to “catch up” with the advancing reality.

– It is natural for any rapidly growing structure to have “bottlenecks”, it points to the fact that there is room for growth and progress. To my mind, excessive process regulation at CPC leads to over-organization in some matters. The result is the unreasonably long decision-making time the facility completion deadlines depend on. These delays undoubtedly result in higher construction costs and in some cases may have a negative effect on business processes.

A few years ago it was decided to build a new chemical laboratory at PS Kropotkinskaya. It was the right decision since the station operates with substantial amounts of oil and the CPC Quality Bank obliges the staff to make sure that all products entering the system are in the proper condition. In full accordance with the procedure the new laboratory project was made

and approved, the documentation package was prepared, the construction agreement signed and the money allocated. The facility was supposed to be completed by 2011 – now it's 2014 and the lab technicians are still huddling in the old cramped room.

– What are the reasons for this delay?

– I asked this question of many people, trying to get to the root of the matter. The thing is that after construction began there were some flaws found during FEED (study). It also turned out that some things were not taken into account in terms of new equipment and materials. How could this have happened? We are talking about a standard chemical laboratory where everything is standard – the ventilation system, the sewage system, the special equipment sets. There are a great many premises like this built at pipeline sites and there is a great selection of lab equipment on the modern market. Yet what do we have here? The laboratory was supposed to be built in a year, and it's been four years already which means construction costs more and more. To be able to avoid such time delays and unsatisfactory quality of work in the future, I think the design and construction of projects should be separated. The monitoring of construction should be executed by the division that is going to operate the site.

There is another example: as part of the Expansion Project there were new more powerful pumping modules installed at a working PS. The existing compressor station that was built temporarily for the diesel-gas transition period can't provide it with the necessary amount of fuel so a new compressor station was built. Once again,

everything was done according to procedure – project, tender, contract... The commencement of works was set for July 2012, the completion of works with two compressors launched was set for late December of the same year. But that was only according to the plan. Now it is mid-May 2014 and not a single compressor is ready to operate so far.

At the moment our efforts are focused on the chemical laboratory and the compressor station works.

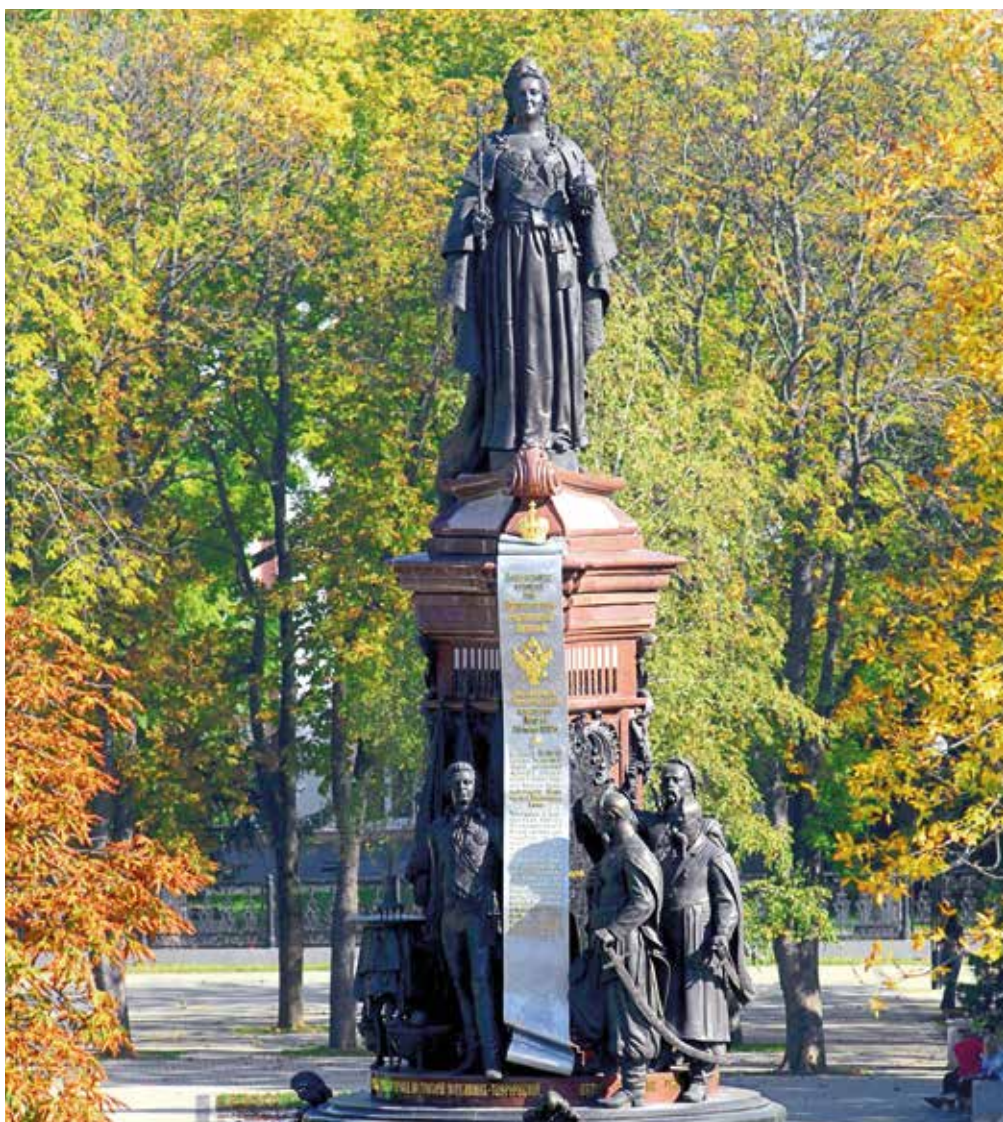
«It is in our best interests that all the Expansion project sites be built on time and in proper quality»

We conducted a number of subject-oriented meetings and had several specialists involved to assist with this matter.

– So it appears that going through multiple procedures and multi-tier approvals does not always prevent mistakes?

– Unfortunately, it doesn't. The responsibility of particular people for the ultimate outcome is downplayed by multiple document authorizations which make it impossible to find the person who showed poor judgment. It shouldn't be that way, the executive agent should be made clear.

Suppose a contractor is taking up a project and then suddenly finds out it forgot to take something into account when drafting the agreement. It should be solely at the contractor's expense and risk, do you see my point? The deadlines should be clearly spelled out in the contract, and if you don't follow it, you pay »



The city of Krasnodar where the CPC Western region office is located – the object of its inhabitants' affection and care. Photos by Ivan Zhuravlev

a fine. There are no strict penalties in the current contracts I looked through. As a result the Consortium has to bear the full burden of expenses for improperly fulfilled contracts.

– What kind of power levers do you think regional subdivisions need to operate with more success in the interests of the company?

– I think Dennis Fahy, CPC First Deputy General Director in charge of operations, was right to issue the order on delegation of authority to the regions. Some things are much clearer when viewed on the ground rather than from Moscow. Many practical issues are better solved on the spot while, of course, consulting the managers in charge of various of the company's focus areas; I've had multiple occasions to see their highest level of professionalism for myself. I understand that such an approach means that we have to bear more responsibility. There is a principle in economics: the level of any production

efficiency directly depends on the degree of self-sufficiency given to the production.

Right now we rolled up our sleeves and got to work on the Expansion Project processes in the territory subordinated to the Western region. It is in our best interests that all the Expansion Project sites be built on time and to the proper quality.

“It is natural for any rapidly growing structure to have ‘bottlenecks’, it points to the fact that there is room for growth and progress”

Our efforts fully correspond to the focus on enhancement of the Expansion Project implementation pursued by the company's executive management represented by General Director Nikolay Brunich. When he joined company, the first thing he did was locating and getting rid of “bottlenecks” in this process. This approach began to find better understanding with our western colleagues who are very aware that boosting the works on the pipeline system

expansion will get the Consortium's shareholders to reach the project's break-even point faster.

Every employee should reach the understanding that CPC is a single company and our shared zone of responsibility. That is why there should be no artificial boundaries between departments, units, services, the base business

and the Expansion Project subdivisions.

Together with my colleague Viktor Abmayev, the Central region manager we are trying to “smooth out” these interdepartmental boundaries inside our teams. There is no other way to be efficient in solving the ambitious tasks set before us by the CPC management but to be a single united team. ■

*Interview conducted
by Ekaterina Suvorova*



Bird's eye view on PS Kropotkinskaya

The pipeline of good deeds

THE TENGIZ-NOVOROSIYSK PIPELINE STRETCHES FOR 1,500 KM FROM THE CASPIAN SEA TO THE BLACK SEA. FOR ALL THE REGIONS ALONG THE LINE IT HAS BECOME NOT JUST A LARGE INDUSTRIAL PROJECT, A PIPELINE ARTERY, BUT ALSO A REAL LINE OF GOOD DEEDS. AND TODAY, WHEN THE CONSORTIUM IS INCREASING THE OIL PIPELINE CAPACITY, THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR PART ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE EXPANSION PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTATION IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY.

A while ago "CPC Panorama" took the chance to visit Vitaly Khotsenko, the Minister of Energy, Industry and Communications of the Stavropol Krai.

– Our cooperation is long-term and fruitful, based on the agreement between CPC and the region. The level of the Consortium's social responsibility is so high so we had to conclude a new agreement which would embrace all the new obligations. The signing of the document is planned for autumn this year, – the Minister accented.

The regional executive department in his charge is supervising the CPC Expansion Project in the Stavropol Krai. The department created a working group that is providing assistance in Expansion Project implementation, and handling land acquisition for transmission lines (OHL-10 kW). The parties are actively working together on other construction issues as well.

– Our working group is a way to promote mutual understanding between CPC and the region's population. The arrangements take



Vitaly Khotsenko, the Minister of Energy, Industry and Communications of the Stavropol Krai

time, but it is comforting to know that together we are consistently moving toward the achievement of our goal. In the end both parties are satisfied, which is, to my mind, our primary objective, – Vitaly Khotsenko comments.

– It is important to notice that, while implementing a project of national importance, the Caspian Pipeline Consortium does not forget about the residents of the region and renders significant help to the area. For example, large social projects are being carried out at the expense of CPC – an outpatient clinic at the Ptitch'ie village of Izobilnensky district, a diagnostic and treatment wing at the Ipatovsky Central District Hospital. Those are beautiful modern facilities, and as their future owner we will definitely invite you to the grand opening! – Vitaly Khotsenko promised. ■



The building of the Stavropol Krai Administration

By Ekaterina Pavlova

Main Station

A MI-8 HELICOPTER TAKES OFF FROM KRASNODAR AIRPORT AND HEADS FOR THE TENGIZ-NOVOROSSIYSK OIL PIPELINE...

...Passing slowly below, under the chopper's belly, are rectangles of farm lands, their borders delineated by straight rows of trees and shrubs. Only rarely is this monotonous and plain rural land-

pipelines gleaming in the sunlight, and the neat blue roofs of the administrative buildings and process facilities. One can't but admire the view of this state-of-the-art and mighty oil industry

Federation. In addition to transporting oil from Kazakhstan, it receives oil from Russian producers. Within the framework of the Expansion Project, PS Kropotkinskaya has acquired a surge relief system, three gas-turbine main line pumps, one booster pump, a fire truck station, a fourth metering line at the oil metering station, and two 50,000 m3 tanks.

PS Kropotkinskaya is where the region's best specialists have



In the communications equipment room of PS Kropotkinskaya



PS Kropotkinskaya Manager Alexey Baev (second from left) on an inspection walkabout

scape "invigorated" by snake-like meandering rivers, or the gigantic "legs" of power line towers "walking" away towards the horizon.

Now we approach our destination point – PS Kropotkinskaya, with its eye-catching snow-white tanks, skywards-pointing lightning rods, bends of the process

site. Having circled around the facility, the chopper finally lands on the helicopter pad.

A SOURCE OF SKILLED MANPOWER

Kropotkinskaya is the Consortium's largest PS in the Russian

gained experience, and now it well deserves to be called a source of skilled manpower for CPC's new facilities, specifically PS-4 and PS-7. PS Kropotkinskaya does indeed boast one of the strongest teams. Veterans recall that there has not been a single stoppage here due to human error. Safety specialists have

always noted the high level of labor safety at the station. Exact statistics, which are available from 2007, indicate that in May 2014 the Western Region passed the milestone of 10 million man-hours without loss of work time due to incidents or injuries. The test lab team also has something to boast about: in 2013, they won the top prize in the nationwide laboratory performance competition, beating almost 100 other contestants.

the increased tankage allows us to maintain oil flow for many hours in the event of loading interruption at the Marine Terminal. If such an incident happens, oil flow will be redirected from the pipeline to the tank farm automatically.

Our new tanks are equipped with floating roofs which excludes the possibility of toxic emissions into the atmosphere. Fire safety is ensured by modern automatic foam fire-fighting systems

Shift Supervisors are in charge of monitoring and control of all processes at the station and supervising the main and auxiliary equipment operators, I&C technician and on-duty electrician, and are operationally subordinate to the dispatcher of the Operations Control Center in Novorossiysk.

In addition, PS Kropotkinskaya accommodates a back-up dispatcher station of the CPC pipeline



A modern fire truck station has been built at the station as part of the Expansion Project



The canteen boasts a variety of tasty meals

CAPACITY GAINS

– Thanks to the Expansion Project our station's capacities have increased considerably, – PS Manager Alexey Baev told "CPC Panorama".

– The station's throughput capacity is now much higher after the addition of new main line pumps, and

capable of pumping foam into the tanks.

– The PS process equipment occupies a fairly large area of over 30 hectares, – Shift Supervisor Vladimir Plokhov, who has worked at the station from the very first day and who remembers the arrival of the first, line fill oil, told "CPC Panorama".

system, which means that if for some reason it becomes impossible to manage the pipeline from Novorossiysk, control will be temporarily passed to PS Kropotkinskaya.

Another critical facility located at PS Kropotkinskaya is the Western Region's Warehouse. »

– In case some part is needed for equipment repairs at the station, we are able to get it delivered to operations services within 10 minutes, Warehouse Superintendent Alexander Molodichenko stressed.

COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE WITHOUT INTERRUPTIONS

Based at PS Kropotkinskaya is a unit of the “Neftegazokhrana” private security firm. In addition to the station’s grounds, their area of responsibility includes a lengthy section of the main pipeline. With the help of a GPS system, they monitor the movement of their mobile squads. From CCTV cameras a video signal is transmitted to the monitor of the active duty officer. According to the security men, there has not been any real intruder-related danger for this section of the pipeline so far, except for hares and foxes, which often trip the security perimeter

alarms – almost as if they’re doing it on purpose to check the security personnel’s vigilance.

Another crucial factor for the pipeline’s safe operation is uninterrupted communication. Indeed, even a short-term communication failure may cause a pipeline operation stoppage. Therefore, CPC specialists perform mandatory inspections of communication equipment twice a year (usually, in spring and fall).

– The most recent inspection proved that the equipment was in good repair and the cable lines laid within the station’s grounds, to the entire length of 200 km, were in excellent condition, – CPC Western Region’s Telecom Engineer Sergey Chirva told “CPC Panorama” in the communications equipment room at PS Kropotkinskaya.

Regardless of one’s specialization and duties, there is a place regularly visited by all PS employees,

without exception. No surprise – it’s the canteen! It can accommodate 50 people at a time, and offers varied and tasty meals.

– We have thoroughly studied the tastes of the station’s employees, – LLC Master-Service chef Olga Didenko said, replying to our praise.

– The most popular dishes are solyanka, Ukrainian borscht with garlic donuts, and pickled fish.

As things stand today, PS Kropotkinskaya is receiving oil from PS Komsomolskaya in Kalmykia to transmit it onwards to the Marine Terminal. More pump stations will appear in the Western Region in the near future, including in the Ipatovo and Izobilny districts of the Stavropol region, and in the Dinskaya and Krymsk districts of the Krasnodar region. ■

By Pavel Kretov



PS Kropotkinskaya is CPC's largest pump station in the Russian Federation

The emergency men

NO ONE IS HERE JUST BY ACCIDENT. THE "IPATOVO" EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTER'S TEAM HAS A REALLY TOUGH WORKING REGIME. IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO BE JUST A GOOD SPECIALIST. TO FIT IN HERE, YOU HAVE TO BE READY FOR ANY SURPRISES. "IT'S OUR WORK," THEY REPLY LACONICALLY WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THEIR DUTIES.

BACKGROUND

OJSC Welding & Construction Group has quite a history. In 2012, it turned 65. Established back in the Soviet era as an oil and gas pipeline systems builder, the Welding & Construction Group had laid over 105,000 km of various pipelines, more than half of which were main large diameter oil and gas pipelines (dia. 1,020-1,420 mm).

The Group's vast experience, its state-of-the-art equipment and modern methods have proved useful during the construction of the Tengiz-Novorossiysk pipeline

section, where it runs through the Stavropol region. After the pipeline's launch, the Group chose to stay with the Consortium: yesterday's builders took up the job of servicing pipeline facilities. Specially for this purpose the District No. 1 – "Ipatovo" Emergency Response Center (ERC) was established as a member of the Group in 2001.

– Our zone of responsibility lies between the pipeline's kilometer points 952 and 1,206, ie. between the borders of Kalmykia and the Krasnodar region, – ERC head Sergey Shchegolkov comments.



Train hard, fight easy

– Ipatovo was chosen as the base for ERC for its advantageous location. The arrival time of our specialists and equipment to the remotest point in the direction of Kalmykia where there are practically no roads is 90 minutes. Though in the direction of the Krasnodar region the distance is much longer, the movement is convenient since there is an asphalt road.

ON PERMANENT DUTY

Beginning the interview, "CPC Panorama" asked the head of the "Ipatovo" ERC to comment on the people in his team. After all, however good the equipment, the human factor remains the most important – responsibility, training and, of course, courage.

– The name of the division, Emergency Response Center, speaks for itself. It means the team is ready to work in the most difficult conditions, fighting various emergencies, whether equipment failure or, God forbid, oil spill. There are 30 people on the ERC payroll. All of them are well aware of the importance of their mission to ensure the safe operation of the pipeline section they are responsible for, – Shchegolkov remarked. »



Sergey Shchegolkov:

"We are ready for working in the most difficult conditions"



Anatoly Steblinenko:

"I'm certain about the good condition of the pipeline's facilities!"

– Since the team has to cope with a wide variety of jobs, each of our men has more than one specialization. For example, our drivers can do welding, air analysis and pipeline inspection and testing. Almost everyone in our team can operate a vehicle.

The ERC base also accommodates auxiliary personnel assigned from the Welding & Construction Group. These people fill in for those ERC team members who are on vacation, sick leave, etc.

– What does the EPC team do during “down time”? – “CPC Panorama” asked Sergey Shchegolkov.

– We do pipeline maintenance. Our team includes electricians, I&C specialists, pipeline mechanics... At any time when they receive a call from the Operations Control Center our special-

ists take off promptly to fix the problem.

Besides, there is more than enough work at our base. We have to maintain our emergency response machinery and equipment in ideal condition.

From time to time, ERC personnel takes part in various exercises and drills aimed at testing the alarm system, practicing interaction algorithms and perfecting special equipment operation skills. The latest special tactical training exercises of our team took place at the pipeline's intersection with the water canal on May 7. Large-scale exercises involving a mock spill and attended by representatives from Emercom and other relevant federal agencies are held every year.

An emergency team member must be in great shape and on

call 24 hours a day. Even when the whole country is celebrating New Year, drinking champagne and watching their favorite shows and movies on TV, an ERC team member must be ready for an emergency call.

– We stage alerts on weekends and public holidays, and our men always demonstrate excellent readiness and promptness. We maintain on-duty details at the base on non-working days who are the first to respond to an emergency call, Sergey noted.

ARSENAL

Sergey walked the “CPC Panorama” correspondent around showing the ERC “Ipatovo” special equipment and machinery. Indeed, the emergency team has everything necessary for fighting any emergency, be it on land or water.

– In case of oil spill, we have to first contain it and then mitigate its consequences. For this purpose we erect retaining walls blocking the oil spill's extension. We also have absorbent pads, sorbent pulverizers, explosion-proof design pumps, oil collectors, oil sludge incinerators, welding equipment and a lot more. For fighting waterborne oil spills we have containment booms and special vessels for their deployment. Furthermore, our arsenal includes floodlighting towers, generators, earth-moving machinery, oil spill response trailers on KAMAZ truck chassis equipped for fighting potential emergencies, including unauthorized tie-ins, – Sergey explained.

“CPC Panorama” was particularly impressed by the size and power of the DT-30 emergency repair complex – a really strong machine, not to be stopped by any marsh or river.

EVERYTHING SHOULD BE OK!

Now our conversation returned to the people, without whom even that impressive arsenal is only a heap of useless metal.

The team comprises people of different ages, including those who took part in the construction of the CPC pipeline system. One of them, Anatoly Steblenko, is a professional builder turned pipe-liner.

– I worked as a teamleader at a construction site. We did earth-moving and concreting, – he recalled. – There was a stringent quality control by foreign specialists, especially Americans. I remember one particularly

inspect the pipeline together, perform instrumental tests, and discover unauthorized tie-ins by indirect indications. Thanks to stricter surveillance, there have not been any unauthorized tie-ins within our section of the pipeline over the last several months.

Here it is worth recalling what regional manager Sergey Potryasov said during our conversation the previous day. “As regards the problem of unauthorized tie-ins, it is important to be proactive. If such a tie-in appears, it is the worst thing happening. We should make it so that nobody could even imagine encroaching on the pipeline. This is precisely what we are working on today. And we are working hard. For obvious reasons, I can’t disclose

An emergency team member must be on excellent form and on call 24 hours a day

uncompromising American who would not utter any other words except “OK” or “not OK”. If “not OK,” we had to do it all over again... Now that I’ve been in pipeline servicing for many years, I’m completely certain in the impeccable condition of the CPC facilities we maintain. Everything is OK!

WITH SECURITY SERVICE...

ERC “Ipatovo” team makes its contribution to protecting the pipeline from unauthorized tie-ins.

– There are still plenty of those wanting to steal oil from the pipe, but the pipe is becoming increasingly well protected, – Sergey Shchegolkov commented.

– We are staying vigilant and work hand in hand with the security men who guard the pipeline. We

the plans we developed together with Western Region’s Security Manager Sergey Yelnikov. Believe me, the measures we plan to take are fairly tough. We are working in cooperation with the Federal Security Service and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. We are most active at the particularly suspicious sections of the pipeline where we organize sudden movements of our mobile teams and technical personnel. We also do surprise checks and take other unscheduled action as appropriate. All combined, these measures are already bringing in certain results.”

... AND DIASCAN

– The Expansion Project calls for a sizable increase in the pipeline system’s throughput capacity. How does ERC “Ipatovo” contribute to minimizing the relevant



The kicking of an “intelligent pig” into a pipeline is not an easy thing to do

risks?, – we inquired from Sergey Shchegolkov and his colleagues, as we concluded the interview.

– We take part in the in-line inspections performed using “intelligent pigs” provided by the Diascan Technical Diagnostics Center. The pigs are kicked into the pipeline and go through together with the oil gathering data on the pipeline’s technical condition. Our personnel does the kicking of pigs, their tracking and removal at the end point. Pigs are tracked along the distance of hundreds of kilometers with the help of GPS in order to ensure precise location of detected flaws.

The mending of the defects discovered follows - which is again the duty of ERC “Ipatovo”. Repair crews are sent to identified locations and perform necessary work to find and fix the defects.

Colossal work in finding and mending mainline defects was performed some three years ago. All identified defects, such as insulation failures, pipe wall corrosion, etc., were fixed, hence the relevant risks of pipeline operation were eliminated, – the head of ERC “Ipatovo” concluded. ■

By Ekaterina Suvorova

Optimism, realism, cooperation

IN THE PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE IPATOVSKY REGION, PS-4 LOOKS GOOD – A LINE OF BLUE PORTACABINS SET AGAINST THE EXUBERANT GREEN OF THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE.



The construction camp is soon going to disappear without trace: after re-cultivation the ground will be once again covered with local wild grasses, and this nice accommodation camp will remain only in pictures and in our memory.

The reason for the visit of “CPC Panorama” to PS-4 was the Company management meeting

participants that became the main point of the meeting’s agenda.

The tone of the event was set by Dennis Fahy, CPC First Deputy General Director in charge of operations, who addressed the audience with a short speech:

– The aim of our meeting is to understand what is left to be done

as guidance in our future work. So let’s look on the bright side, while staying realistic and supporting each other!

Schedule update was accompanied by a detailed analysis of all the objectives to be gained before starting up PS-4. Schedule 11.05.2014 Revision used as the base comprised of 50 sections



Meeting at PS-4 on May 13, 2014.



that took place there in mid-May. While this issue was being prepared for print, many changes took place at the station with regard to the increasing pace of construction. It was exactly this acceleration of the works given the coordination of efforts from all the

to put the station into service. We are about to execute a range of works that are inextricably interlinked, so every party has to take on mutual obligations and follow them closely. By updating the schedule we have to produce a working document that will serve

with several line items in each section. As a result many points were rescheduled for earlier completion. The specialists set October 10, 2014 as oil-in date and October 24 as the integrated test date for PS-4 equipment. With all conditions fulfilled, acceptance



commission certificate signing can be expected on October 30.

The focused and businesslike talk of the specialists moved to the construction site, as the meeting's participants inspected every corner of PS-4 site. ■

By Ekaterina Suvorova



SPEEDING UP!

Comments by the CPC Expansion Project laws and legislation manager Mikhail Kolesnikov:

In Astrakhan on May 25 of this year, CJSC "CPC-R" and JSC "CPC-K" shareholders were informed about receiving a positive conclusion from Rostekhnadzor on the Expansion Project Phase 1 sites – PS Kropotkinskaya, Astrakanskaya, Komso-molskaya, and as of today permit to operate has been granted. The next step is registration, receiving the certificates of ownership, and readying the accounting procedure.

In addition, it is planned by the end of 2015 to complete construction, start-up & commissioning, conduct the completed facility acceptance first by the Working Commission and then by the Acceptance Commission and Rostekhnadzor representatives, and execute the permitting documentation for the

commissioning of all the Expansion Project facilities both at the Marine Terminal and PS.

The Expansion Project Regulatory Affairs group (RF) is engaged in carrying out the necessary procedures for the fulfillment of these targets.

Also, energetic efforts are being made to extend the leasing agreement and create the initial permit documentation to install a 100-km power line between PS-5 and PS Kropotkinskaya.



* * *



S.F. Sagalayev (center), the head of Novoaleksandrovsky municipal district administration, meeting Mikhail Kolesnikov, Viktor Volgyn and Ayshat Tekeeva, CPC representatives.

On June 4, 2014, the CPC work group met with the head of Novoaleksandrovsky municipal district administration S.F. Sagalayev to discuss coordination of efforts aimed at receiving permission documentation and building contractor mobilization to start building the power lines along the route between PS-5 and PS-6.

In the course of the meeting it was noted that due to close cooperation between CPC and the local administration it was possible to eliminate all the problem issues that emerged while discussing the questions of power lines construction with the land users.

In the homestretch

HAVING ARRIVED IN LATE APRIL AT THE PS-7 CONSTRUCTION SITE NEAR STAROMYSHASTOVSKAYA VILLAGE, KRASNODAR KRAI, "CPC PANORAMA"'S CORRESPONDENT WAS ON TIME FOR THE SOLEMN PARADE OF THE CONTRACTORS.



Site improvement. Construction of a walkway to mud strainer units



The PS-7 construction team has more than once received safety awards

There was certainly something to celebrate: the construction team had just passed a milestone of 1.32 million work hours without any injuries or incidents.

– It is our excellent team that has to be honored for that, – General Contractor's representative and LLC Velesstroy Safety Department head Dominic Dushek said, commenting on this impressive landmark. –We have twice won challenge pennants in safety

competitions, which involve all CPC Expansion Project sites in the Russian Federation.

No incidents means no loss of work time. Therefore, PS-7 construction is proceeding strictly on schedule, without interruptions or downtime. All major sub-facilities have been erected, and an access road, helipad and a tie-in skid have been completed. Incidentally, PS-7 was connected to the operating pipeline back in

2013, the first among the Phase II pump stations.

– Process equipment installation, hydraulic pressure tests and air leak tests, where necessary, have been completed, and a fire-fighting system and a first-stage pump station have been commissioned, – Deputy Site Manager of the Project Management Site "Krasnodar", Directorate for CPC Project Management OJSC Chernomortransneft, Dmitry Medvedovsky remarked. Though he is young, he's already an experienced pipeliner with a record of building quite a few pump stations, from the Krasnodar Krai to Sakhalin, including many in difficult geological and climatic conditions.

He will remember PS-7 as a challenging project – especially for the complicated leveling and foundation reinforcement operations performed to resolve the problem caused by the shallow aquifer.

In order for the station to "go live" and become a functional element of the pipeline, all the constructed sub-facilities have to be connected to the appropriate control and electricity systems. Watching Elektroservis specialists at work, their adroitness and skill, one might get the impression that electrical



installation is one of the simplest work tasks. But that is only how it seems. It's enough to say that the scope of work includes laying some 160 km of cables with nearly 4,000 termination points.

– Each control cabinet accommodates 38 cables, – electrician Alexander Doronin, 24, told «CPC Panorama». Alexander arrived from the Sverdlovsk region to work for the project. According to him, process automation and electrical engineering are among the most interesting construction-related disciplines. He is currently studying at the Urals Federal University, and after graduation plans to continue working in these fields – however, as a certified engineer.

A modern oil and gas facility cannot be imagined without reliable safety and security systems. The international company “Honeywell” is in charge of installing CCTV, perimeter security and access control systems at PS-7.

– Though the systems being installed at PS-7 are similar to those installed at previously commissioned CPC pump stations, they are much more sophisticated due to ongoing technological progress, – Project Director for Security Systems of the CPC Expansion

Project in Russia and Kazakhstan Dmitry Pestun remarked. – Similar systems are currently widely used at oil and gas facilities in the United States. ■

By Pavel Kreto

By late May, the construction team had completed site improvement and proceeded with the finishing phase of start-up and check-out. Nobody doubts that PS-7 will be commissioned not later than December 25, 2014



Each control cabinet accommodates 38 cables



PS-5: Hot season

THIS YEAR HAS SEEN NO SHORTAGE OF WEATHER SURPRISES. OUR VISIT TO PS-5 IN MID-MAY COINCIDED WITH TORRENTIAL RAINSTORMS.

A number of villages were flooded in the Izobilny district of the Stavropol Krai, where the pump station is being constructed. No surprise that the weather also gave the construction team a hard time.

NEED FOR SPEED

On the way to PS-5, our car was caught several times in sheet rain. Fortunately, the sky cleared of heavy clouds as we approached our destination.

Walking around the construction site we saw deep furrows left by the wheels of heavy equipment and the reflections of huge lifting cranes in the puddles.

Representative of the Directorate for CPC Project Management (OJSC "Chernomortransneft") Sergey Rastorguyev commented on the situation:

– The PS-5 construction effort involves 274 workers and 80 units of equipment. The work currently under way includes welding, building construction, concreting, installation of pump units and construction of utility lines. As things stand today, we are about two months behind the contract schedule.

– What are the causes of the schedule delay?

– The weather does not allow us to perform certain kinds of work, specifically construction of access roads and utility lines, – Sergey replied. – Also, there are some problems with equipment sup-

plies. In the course of the year, we are determined to overcome the delay. By December, we plan to complete construction work and proceed with installation of I&C and SCADA.

PHOTO FOR MEMORY

Work was in full swing at the site. "It's most important that water isn't pouring down on us from above," the workers joke. When it's raining, they move indoors, and today was no exception.

The pump units are covered with tarpaulins, and the final cement isn't laid yet on the floor.

– It doesn't look very good at the moment. Why photograph it?, – our escort enquired with doubt.

– I think we should. After all, it's history, – I replied.

– You won't recognize the place in three or four months, – Lead Specialist for Pump Station Commissioning Konstantin Gofman joined the conversation.

– There will be walkways and green lawns, and trees will be planted in the fall.

Konstantin is a well-known expert in the Expansion Project's work progress. So we asked him to comment on the general situation in the Western Region.

– The Expansion Project envisions refurbishment and new construction of five pump stations in the Krasnodar and Stavropol Krai. PS-6 from the project's Phase I



Sergey
Rastorguyev



Konstantin
Gofman

has already been put into operation. Four more pump stations are under construction: PS-4 and PS-7 from Phase II are scheduled to be commissioned this year, and PS-5 and PS-8 of Phase III are to be commissioned in 2015.

– What are the prospects for PS-5 to be launched on schedule?

– The prospects are definite, – Gofman remarked. – The contractor is working to overcome the delay and has promised to deliver PS-5 by next spring.

ASSISTANCE AND OVERSIGHT

– What are your functions as CPC representative at the stations under construction?, – "CPC Panorama" asked Konstantin Gofman.

– First of all, my job is to assist in the construction of the facilities.

Such assistance includes identification of bottlenecks, which might adversely affect future operation of the process equipment. Together with the Technical Supervision Service and “Chernomortransneft”, I monitor work progress, maintain contacts with the management team of the Moscow office, organize the work of the engineers who provide construction and installation supervision. Communications with the contractor’s personnel take place right at the construction sites.

Also, we conduct plan-of-the-day meetings together with the contractor’s managerial staff and resolve technical issues together at Technical Committee meetings.

– How does the contractor react to criticism?

– We do not have any friction, not to mention opposition, – Gofman replied. – Many issues are resolved right at the site. If necessary, the Expansion Project’s Management Group gets involved.

PETROLEUM ENGINEER

As we finished our walk around the PS-5 construction site and headed toward the construction worker’s camp, our conversation with Konstantin Gofman turned into a more general talk about the profession of petroleum engineer.

– I believe, your life is all traveling from station to station?, “CPC Panorama” enquired.

– Yes, and this is normal. After all, a major construction project is under way. PS-4, where I worked from December 2012 to March 2014, has already been turned over to the commissioning and operation teams. Start-up and check-out is currently being performed there. Now I’ve moved to PS-5, which I used to visit once a week.

Konstantin Gofman was born in Grozny, where he graduated from the Petroleum Institute in 1982. That marked the beginning of his eventful record as a petroleum engineer. For 17 years he worked with “Langepasneftegaz”, a subdivision of LUKOIL-West Siberia. In 1999, he joined the CPC pipeline construction project, and took part in the construction of project facilities within the Stavropol Krai until 2001. After that, he worked for 10 years with “Starstroy” as deputy manager of the Western Region. In 2011, he came to the Consortium to work at the stations to be constructed within the framework of the Expansion Project.

We could not but ask Mr. Gofman whether his previous experience, including that earned while working in the northern areas, was useful for him today.

– The North is a severe, but very useful school for a petroleum engineer, where one can learn to identify bottlenecks and accumulate the relevant skills to be capable of resolving any issues that might emerge during the construction of pump stations and to communicate with colleagues on a professional level. Frankly speaking, it is a pleasure when you introduce yourself to a group of professionals and it turns out that they have heard quite a lot about you, i.e. when your name speaks for itself. It is also pleasant there is still a lot of work remaining to be done!

Being a petroleum engineer is not only a profession, but a way of life, where one’s career also depends on one’s family. Gofman’s close relatives, who live in Stavropol, accept his job with understanding.

– Of course, my wife complains a bit about my being far from home five days a week. But after we launch PS-5, I will be able to come home from work every day, – Konstantin smiles, expressing the cherished hopes of many of his colleagues who are doing their best to ensure the soonest completion of the CPC Expansion Project. ■

By Ekaterina Suvorova





Enduring values

IN MAY AND JUNE, KRASNODAR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO THE CITY ATTENDED THE FREE EXHIBITION "CULTURE OF COOPERATION: EXCAVATION OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN CPC'S CONSTRUCTION AREA" ARRANGED AT THE YEVGENY FELITSYN STATE HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM. PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS NOTED THAT THE UNIQUE FINDS AND RARE ARTEFACTS COLLECTED OVER A DECADE AND A HALF IN CPC'S PIPELINE ROUTE AREA WOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH NOT ONLY FOR A TEMPORARY EXHIBITION, BUT ALSO FOR A LARGE MUSEUM COLLECTION.

15 YEARS OF EXCAVATION

"It was a real pleasure for me to work on the exhibition," – Nikolai Shevchenko, the exhibition curator, says. As the head of the museum's Fieldwork Research Laboratory he has taken part in all the archaeological expeditions along CPC's pipeline route since 1997. The expeditions were held under the aegis of the company OOO Nasledie Kubani. Alongside with employees of the Felitsyn Museum, the excavations involved scientists from Kuban State University, Novorossiysk museum and others.

Owing to their extensive research, Russian scientists have acquired a complete picture of all the development stages in Kuban from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages. The pipeline route contributed a lot to such research, as it runs through the whole Krasnodar region, from the village of Temizhbekskaya to the city of Novorossiysk, across a variety of landscapes and historical areas: the steppe mounds area, the floodplain of the River Kuban, the Caucasus mountains and hills, crossing the dolmens area and running down to the sea.

Within the initial construction area, and later within the area of the CPC's Expansion Project, many archaeological sites have been explored, dating from various his-

torical periods – dozens of Bronze Age mounds, early Iron Age settlements and burial grounds, medieval monuments and even dolmens. One of these dolmen burials, found near the village of Veselovka, was fully cleared and restored at the expense of CPC, including the installation of a memorial sign.

GOLD AND OTHER TREASURES

The central part of the exhibition was given over to gold items from the Sarmatian and Meotian graves. They always attract the greatest attention from the public. However, for professional historians it is more important that the finds, presented at the exhibition, enable them to accurately reconstruct the life and traditions of the peoples living in the Kuban area millennia ago. For example, there was an interesting find there – a seal from Mesopotamia dated back to pre-Babylonian times: it proves the possibility of trade relations between the Maikop culture and Mesopotamia, the cradle of many civilizations. Or a flint flake, almost similar to one found during the excavation at the Chatal Hyunzh settlement (from the 6th millennium BC) which is located in the territory of modern-day Turkey.



Sergey Potryasov, CPC Western Region Manager, opens the exhibition



Nikolai Shevchenko, Head of Fieldwork Research Laboratory



A dialogue with scientists: business and science speak the same language

“The maximum number of the most interesting finds was made at the Early Iron Age monuments: we discovered two huge Meotian burial grounds – at the villages of Prikubansky (4th century BC) and Vinogradny (2nd-1st centuries BC). In this area, monuments of this kind have never been studied before on this scale,” – Nikolai Shevchenko said.

The Russian historians immediately informed the world scientific community about their findings.

The results of the excavations in CPC area of responsibility were discussed during a number of conferences, described in dozens of scientific publications, and will be presented in a forthcoming major monograph.

ing the museum administration, said at the exhibition’s opening ceremony.

Yelena Rzhevskaya, the head of the Department for Libraries, Museum and Exhibition Activities of the Ministry of Culture of the Krasnodar Region, called the exhibition a big event in the cultural life of the region and a true gift for the Year of Culture.

A SIDE NOTE

World experience of protection of archaeological monuments extends back several centuries. As far back as the second half of the 17th century, King Karl XI of Sweden issued a decree about the protection of ancient buildings. However, for a long time, the protection of historical monuments in Western countries has been selective. It was not until the 20th century that there were regulations governing activities to ensure the conservation of the archaeological heritage during construction works. In Russia, archaeological studies on construction sites started more than 80 years ago. Thus, in 1927, historians studied the monuments in the largest all-Soviet Union construction area, the Dnieper Hydroelectric Station (DneproGES). ■

A GIFT FOR THE YEAR OF CULTURE

The exhibition “Culture of Cooperation: Excavation of Ancient Monuments in CPC’s Construction Area” has become an important event in the life of the museum, which celebrates its 135th anniversary this year.

“Throughout its history, our museum has conducted archaeological research commissioned and funded by various organizations. For the last two decades, we have worked with major companies, but it is the first time that our collaboration has resulted not only in research and reports, but in such an interesting joint cultural and educational project. I hope strongly that our cooperation with CPC will be a model for other companies and large private businesses operating in the Krasnodar region,” – Nafset Hut, represent-

The opening ceremony was attended by Sergey Potryasov, CPC Western Region Manager.

“This exhibition is the outcome of long-term and fruitful cooperation between CPC and the museum. The archaeologists have collected a wealth of materials, literally piece by piece. The collection is interesting both for experts in the history of the Northwest Caucasus peoples, and also for those who are just fond of the ancient history of our region. The exhibition itself is another indication of CPC’s careful attitude to the environment, monuments of nature, history and culture in carrying out the company’s production activities. The Kuban land still hides many mysteries, and the partnership of the museum and the consortium will undoubtedly be continued,” – he promised. ■

By Pavel Kretov



Vitaly Ochkalasov



Those who participated in the Great Patriotic War are not forgotten by CPC

A flagship of creation

ON THE EVE OF VICTORY DAY "CPC PANORAMA" HAD A CHANCE TO SEE HOW GIFTS WERE RECEIVED IN THE KAVKAZSKY DISTRICT OF THE KRASNODAR KRAI BY VETERANS OF THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR.

"Petr Vasilievich, this is for you from the staff of the pipeline that runs close by and carries export oil from Kazakhstan to Novorossiysk", – the head of the village veterans' organization who accompanied CPC representatives explained. But the veteran still looked bewildered – did he not understand or hear properly?... "From CPC, you know, the ones that send you greetings every holiday" – and the old man's face relaxed into a happy smile – now he remembered!

For years the Consortium has worked hard to improve social conditions for those who live along the whole length of the pipeline's route, launching its charity programs far and wide. That is why simply mentioning the name in Kavkazsky or in any other area where CPC operates says a lot to anyone – from elders to toddlers.

– We are extremely grateful to the Consortium for its help in resolving many of our social

issues, – says district head Vitaly Ochkalasov.

– The social sphere is the basis for everything. People need a decent steady job, highly reliable social security, confidence in the future – and something to look forward to. We are gradually progressing in that direction and have already succeeded on a few levels (the work of the district administration is highly regarded in the region), which is in my opinion largely due to the caring efforts of the enterprises that are based locally. In this sense CPC is a recognized flagship in our progress, a perfect role model.

The district head gives an example to illustrate the point. At the moment they are experiencing a baby boom. In 2013, for the first time, the birth rate was higher than the death rate. But such developments have to be encouraged in every possible way, including additional places in kindergartens. The administration is planning to build two new kindergartens, but of course it will take a long time to put the design and budget documentation together, to get the necessary approvals and expert evaluation – not to mention how long the construction itself will last. However, a spoon, as the saying goes, becomes all the more important when lunch time approaches – we are desperate for another kindergarten right now.

– And this is where CPC comes to our aid, – Ochkalasov went on. – Using the money from the corporate charity budget in no time they have renovated the building of the former children's activity center and converted it into a kindergarten. What a special occasion it was for the children, their parents and for us, the representatives of the district administration!



The kindergarten in Kavkazskaya Cossack village has the nickname “Solnechny” (Sunny)

Or take the story of that school cafeteria in the Temizhbekskaya Cossack village. It was in a critical condition, so the school had to close it and make do without for several years – there were no budget funds for repairs. And again CPC acted with its magic wand! Today the school has so splendid a cafeteria, with brand new imported equipment, that it is used by the district Ministry of Education to set an example for the whole region. This kind of equipment cannot be found even in the biggest cities in the region – not even in Krasnodar or Novorossiysk.

The Consortium’s input in the social sphere of the region is truly far-reaching. In the Kavkazsky district CPC reconstructed a stadium in the town of Kropotkin, provided vehicles for its hospitals and ambulance stations, and buses for the music school and children’s activity center.

– It is worth noting that the budget of the district, with a population of over 120,000 people, is only about 800 mill rub. After paying salaries to those working in the social sphere there is hardly anything left to spend on taking care of even the most pressing social needs. It is therefore of great importance for us to increase tax revenue by creating a comfortable environment for efficient operations, not only for big businesses but also for medium-size and small enterprises. We hold regular meetings with business representatives to find out whether any support or encouragement is needed, to learn about the problems they face, to offer grants and loans. And it is a pleasure for us to know that CPC, in addition to its problem-free functioning in our district, is developing rapidly, and represents one of the driving forces of the economy, – the head of the district concluded. ■

By Pavel Kretov



A kindergarten is the best gift for a Cossack village with a baby boom



School cafeteria in the Temizhbekskaya Cossack village – a present from CPC

Concern for the local population

THIS "CONSTRUCTION PROJECT OF THE CENTURY" STARTED AT THE PTITCHIE VILLAGE IN IZOBILNENSKY DISTRICT IN THE STAVROPOL REGION ONLY AT THE END OF LAST YEAR BUT BY MID-MAY WE ARE ALREADY WITNESSING THE PANORAMA OF THE SECOND FLOOR BEING BUILT!

We are referring here to the village ambulance station being built by CPC charity funds, the 65 mln rubles expenditure allocated in the context of the Consortium's Expansion Project. One cannot but appreciate the rapid pace of construction. The even movements of the lifting crane, the rotation of the batch mixer, numerous workers laboring away like ants...

– At the moment we have 35 construction workers busy with this project. We are accelerating to finish it up by August! We are adding

people, finishing the associated works in advance, – states Yaroslav Kapitsyn, "Rosstroysservice" LLC foreman. – This ambulance station is a real palace compared to the old village hospital. It is going to be very patient-conscious: ramps, many offices, light wards ... We guarantee the construction and fit-out of high quality!

The ambulance station is not the first project carried out by this construction company in the Ptitchie village. Last year the Consortium allocated 15 mln rubles

for "Rosstroysservice" to build the pavements that villagers now can't imagine their life without. Due to this amenity the village streets not only became safe for pedestrians but also became a kind of decoration. Lenin Avenue, Bobryshev Avenue – these are the Western-sounding names the people gave the streets that have become their favorite promenade spots.

Yaroslav Kapitsyn emphasized that the implementation of CPC charity projects is constantly monitored by the Consortium and is highly supported by the local administration. We paid a visit there after seeing the ambulance station construction site.

Vladimir Kozlov, Head of the Izobilnensky district, accorded us a hearty welcome. We heard many words of praise about the Consortium from him.

– CPC has incontestable authority with the local people, – he said.



The ambulance station in Ptitchie rises brick by brick...



Vladimir Kozlov, Head of the Izobilnensky Municipal District Council



Yaroslav Kapitsyn, the foreman

– The contribution the company makes to the social sphere of the region is far beyond that offered by other companies. And in the present situation nothing but investment in the social sphere allows the region to develop.

Today Vladimir smiles at his memories of his first encounter with CPC that took place when he was the head of Ptitchie village:

– To tell the truth, it all began with something of a negative attitude on my side. It was like this: after the villagers vested their confidence in me at the elections in March 2012, I started sorting out the matters of the establishment under my control. There were a huge number of problems and the budget was really small, 8.5 mln rubles per year. It was the very moment when the procedures of choosing the land plot for PS-5 started. The traffic routes had not yet been coordinated but heavy construction vehicles were already passing through the village, ruining the road. At the meeting with Vitaliy Iskanderov, Representative, Regional and Local Authorities,

Regulatory Affairs RF Group, CPC Office, Stavropol, I said: “I won’t allow any more vehicles through until you build the road!” Later it turned out that the vehicles belonged to MRSK that had started the power substation construction without formal approval. Nevertheless now in Ptitchie we have great stone-block pavements like nowhere else in the entire region, built at CPC expense.

And now, as Municipal District Council Head, Vladimir Kozlov is monitoring the implementation of another charity project aimed at improving the quality of life for the people of Ptitchie. He shows us “live” pictures on his smartphone:

– I am watching the ambulance station construction online. One of the essential conditions when choosing the contractor was the organization of 24-hour Internet video surveillance (at their expense, of course), and “Rosstroy-service” readily agreed.

– I will tell you the truth, – the District Head continues, – the matter of the ambulance station location

could have been resolved in the favor of the town. It was my ardent desire to bring this project to Ptitchie, where we have a serious problem with medical services for the population. The old hospital is half-ruined and in critical condition, and now very soon we will have a new one. It is going to be a cluster medical ambulance with modern high-tech equipment that will render medical assistance not only to the villagers of Ptitchie, but also to the villagers of Baklanovskaya, Tishchenskoye and Novoizobilnoye, about 17,000 people in total. One cannot possible overestimate the significance of such help to the Izobilnensky district!

The local administration is already taking measures to provide the new ambulance station with highly qualified staff. Young and promising doctors who are about to graduate from Stavropol Medical University are especially welcome. Medical staff who choose Ptitchie as their permanent residence will be provided with accommodation. ■

By Ekaterina Suvorova

Alert drill on Environmentalist's Day

COMPREHENSIVE JOINT PRACTICAL EXERCISES INVOLVING MITIGATION OF A MOCK OIL SPILL TOOK PLACE IN THE KAVKAZSKY DISTRICT OF THE KRASNODAR REGION ON JUNE 5, INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTALIST'S DAY.

Solemnly lined up, representatives from CPC-R, Starstroy, Russia's Emercom Division for the Krasnodar Region, Rescue, Emergency and Environment Protection Operations Center, the territorial sub-department of the Unified Russian System of Emergency Situations Prevention and Response, environmental protection services, Emergency Medicine Service and event guests were briefed on the program and objectives of the drills and greeted by Kavkazsky district administration head Vitaly Ochkalasov.

– We are here to witness a large-scale practical exercise involving mitigation of a mock oil spill. This is the first time such exercises are taking place in the Kavkazsky district. I'm certain they will be a success because CPC employs highly skilled and responsible specialists. I wish everyone luck and success!

After a briefing, the exercises began.

DRILL SCRIPT IS ALL IMPORTANT

A Consortium dispatcher detects a steady loss of pressure in the pipeline system in the area of the main pipeline's intersection with the River Chelbas, near the village of Privolny

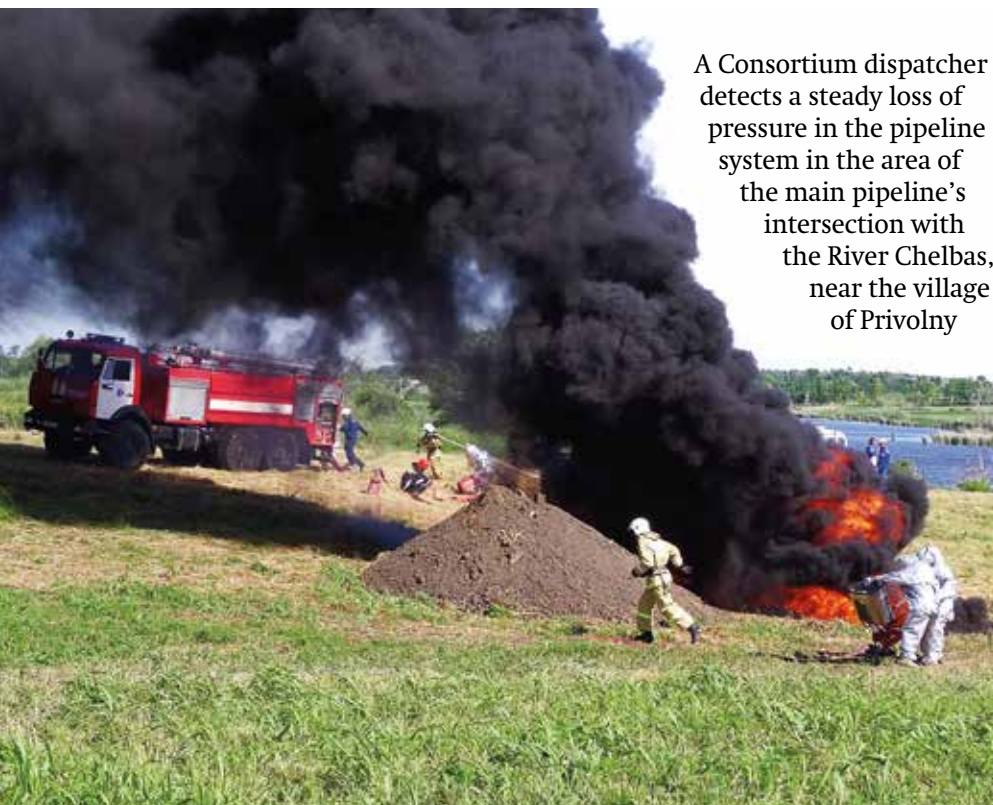
(at KP 1215 km). Oil transfer is stopped, the affected section is promptly shut off, and CPC leadership is informed of a possible accident. Mobile teams from the pipeline security service and emergency response center (ERC) rush to the site and discover the cause of the decrease in pressure. They find an illegal tapping from which some oil has leaked onto the ground, with part of it flowing downhill into the river. They see a tank truck speeding off, allegedly driven by the culprits. Meanwhile, the spilled oil catches fire and the fire threatens to spread to the nearby population center.

SO VERY REALISTIC!

A rapid-response police contingent intercepts the criminals and emergency fire-fighting teams arrive at the site of accident. Men in protective suits resembling astronauts take prompt action to contain the fire. The deafening sirens, the speed at which the firemen operate, the snow-white spouts of foam quenching the fire, the emergency medicine people carrying a "victim" – when you see all that you forget for a moment that these are only exercises. It all looks so breathtakingly real!

Meanwhile, the police and CPC security group cordon off the accident area. A joint headquarters of operational management is promptly set up headed by Alexey Fomenko, O&M Manager, Western Region – Operations CPC Office, Krasnodar, who meticulously surveys the "accident" site from a MI-8 helicopter. The population of Privolny village is being urgently evacuated.

Now the main forces from the Kropotkin and Novorossiysk ERC move in. They deploy booms, temporary storage tanks and oil skimmers. Volunteers from among local residents join the effort. They clean up



Fire teams at work



Collected "oil" injected back into the pipeline



RF Emercom representative's concluding report

the shoreline with straw bundles, pitchforks and shovels. Environmental lab specialists demarcate the oil contaminated soil area...

After the bulk of the mitigation work has been completed, the collected oil was injected back into the pipeline and the pipeline's leak-sealing was restored.

Mock oil spill mitigation exercises are performed on a regular basis in all regions along the route of the Tengiz-Novorossiysk oil pipeline. Such exercises are an integral part of CPC policies in the fields of industrial security, labor safety and environmental protection aimed at achieving maximum reduction of anthropogenic effects on the environment and compliance with all applicable requirements provided for by the environmental and sanitary laws of Russia and Kazakhstan

Finally, all the necessary process switching was done to restore the normal operation of the pipeline.

DEBRIEFING

Again the teams were lined up. Debriefing was conducted by RF Emercom Krasnodar Region Division's Head of Fire Fighting, Colonel of Internal Service Konstantin Ratiani, CPC Deputy General Director, RF Government Relations, Alexey Khardykin, CPC

Environment Protection Manager, HSE, Moscow, Roman Matyukhin, and CPC Western Region Manager Sergey Potryasov.

The Emercom representative thanked the public for active support of the exercises, expressed special appreciation to CPC "for the policy pursued to ensure security of its facilities," and wished that the skills thus perfected will be employed only during preventive efforts and never during real accidents.

– Exercises are not a game, but a major practical effort held to train personnel in the most important skills, – Sergey Potryasov CPC Western Region Manager stressed. – Both the scale and the importance of such drills will be only increasing due to the Expansion Project as more facilities are commissioned. I wish to everybody that in the case of a real accident, which, I hope, never occurs, we will demonstrate even better organization and coordination. ■

By Ekaterina Krapivko

A Book about Our Time

ONE OF THE ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO AN INTERESTING INITIATIVE – THE CREATION OF LIBRARIES AT THE PUMP STATIONS. AND THE HERO OF THIS ARTICLE HAS GONE EVEN FARTHER: WHEN WORKING AT CPC LARGE PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION SITES, HE USED HIS LEISURE TIME TO BECOME A WRITER.

Ruben Matevosov, an interpreter at CPC Western Region, started working at CPC when there was neither a pipeline nor pump stations there – they were all still being built. When he was working there, the line part, MLBV-stations and pump station No 6 (Kropotkinskaya) were under construction. The Russian, American and British experts, working at the construction site together, constantly needed an interpreter. So, leaving for the station on Monday morning, Ruben would come back to Krasnodar only on Friday evening.

The question was what to do after a busy working day when away from home? First he tried to play sports, which provoked admiration and simultaneous humorous concerns among his foreign colleagues: “Ruben, you may collapse!” Then he turned to literature.

“Once I was struck by the thought: how little we

know about the times our fathers and grandfathers lived in! Many of them were not particularly willing to share their memories, neither did they leave diaries, and now there is nobody to be asked about that time...” – says Ruben Matevosov. “So, I thought that my own observations, my personal experience could also be of interest for someone.”

And Ruben wrote an easy to read book in his peculiar ironic manner. His short novel “Never Mind” is optimistic, although it describes a very difficult period for the country, the 1980s and the early 1990s. The characters of the novel are Soviet military specialists and interpreters in Africa and their friends and families – they are fictional, although some of them have real prototypes. The book contains interesting facts, describes people, traditions and customs, and the specificities of the mentality of different nations. A large part of the novel is devoted to the problem of relations between men and women – a subject which is always topical.

“They were both so excited

that during the wedding ceremony at the registry office, when asked, “What surname have you decided to take?” – Lena gave Misha a hidden poke in the ribs, giving him the opportunity to speak first. The groom hesitated, not understanding why he had to respond to this question, and quickly gave a hidden push back, giving the bride a sign that it only she could make the decision. She was a little confused, and pronounced his name, ‘Makarov’.”

“.. None of the local people knew exactly the ranks of the Soviet officers living alongside them. Disclosure of personal information was discouraged. So, not to confuse the local public, many of the officers presented themselves as Colonels, although the more modest officers did not promote themselves by three ranks at a jump, but just by one or two. It all depended on what rank you looked like, how loud you could shout and whether you were tough enough to be demanding...”

“...Misha’s dad often said that it is much more important how you drink than how much you drink. At that moment, Misha remembered an anecdote: Shtirlitz and Mueller* are sitting in a restaurant. – Why do you take so few snacks when you drink, Shtirlitz? Are you a Russian? – Mueller asks suspiciously. – It’s just because we, real Germans, are very stingy, – Shtirlitz answers.”

Ruben’s colleagues raved about his novel when it was published in 2009. In many ways, it was due to their persuasions that he wrote the next one, “The Parrot”. Moreover, the author wrote this book not only as a writer, but also as a professional translator: the characters of that short novel are engaged in lengthy dialogues in both Russian and English. ■

By Pavel Kretov

* Characters of an extremely popular Soviet TV spy series.



In search of truth

TIMUR JASTE IS A SENIOR TRANSLATOR FOR CPC IN THE WESTERN REGION. BUT IN HIS FREE TIME TIMUR IS A MUSICIAN, POET AND THEATRE CRITIC.

The most famous musical project that Timur ever took part in was the Krasnodar band “Ministry of Truth”, which was founded in 2007. Its name came from George Orwell’s novel “1984”, but contrary to the novel the musicians never inflicted their own ready-made “truth” on the audience. On the contrary, they were always seeking it together with their listeners.

Timur was also the “Minister of Truth” – in other words, the lyricist, and his emotional performance along with the music became Ministry of Truth’s distinctive feature. He started writing poetry in English while in secondary school, and later gained recognition in his field: specialized magazines named him “best English language lyricist of Russia”.

– I think “Pocket-size God” is one of the band’s best songs, – Timur says. – It tells about how often people can’t resist the temptation to make themselves a god in their own image. What for? Calling upon him makes it easier to justify one’s deeds and not have any doubts in one’s goodness. In fact, it’s just as comfortable as carrying a Swiss Army knife about with you – it will help you out in any

situation, if you just take it out of your pocket.

*No time to look back, locked are the gates
We’re in our own coordinates
Leave me alone, don’t ask too much
I’m on my own, God be my judge*

After a while the band decided that performing only in English meant restrictions on their creativity.

– We have nothing to be ashamed of, but we have a lot to tell our audience, – says Timur. – The inspiration for some of our lyrics was provided by the works of Dostoevsky – “man is broad”, “Aut Caesar, Aut Nihil”. I was attracted by the writer’s thoughts on the ambiguity of human nature: while in the dark, we’re still reaching for the light.

*Rightness, propriety, truth and righteousness,
You are right when you do the right thing,
And even in case you are wrong
You are still right – because it is you*

The group performed often, went on tour in Russia and released a number of mini-albums (“Minis-

try of Truth”, “Night of the Soul”, “Something, Somewhere”, “Blind”, “Emotions”, “Peel”, “Aut Caesar, Aut Nihil”), and also some full-format releases like “Pocket-size God”, “Barnyard”, “The Art of Self-destruction”.

Unfortunately, as often happens, the career of “Ministry of Truth” has been put on hold indefinitely. But Timur has not completely left the music business behind him. Within the “Dark Radio” internet project he hosts the “Red on Black” show, together with the “founding father” of “Ministry of Truth”. The show is dedicated to the work of various bands that have been for some reason underestimated, ones that were often in the shadow of more famous colleagues, but which still left a noticeable trace behind in music.

Not long ago Timur took up a new role – as a theatre critic. His aspiration “to get to the core of the matter” helped him quickly earn a reputation and now he is a welcome guest not only on opening nights but also at final runs and rehearsals at theatres in Krasnodar.

Timur’s main occupation helps him stay active and switched-on.

– We translators stay young in the soul, and are always quick off the mark – because our profession keeps us focused, – Timur Jaste concludes. ■

By Pavel Kretov

For the sake of life on Earth

IN THE MID-1980S A MONUMENT TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR WAS SET UP IN THE CENTER OF KRASNODAR, TITLED «FOR THE SAKE OF LIFE ON EARTH». IT PICTURES A SOLDIER AND A GIRL DRAWING ON THE PAVEMENT. OUR COLLEAGUE JULIA SHIRYAEVA, WESTERN REGION HR SPECIALIST, WAS THE MODEL FOR THE FIGURE OF THE GIRL IN THE SCULPTURE.



Sculptor Alexander Kibalnikov in his studio. 1980s



Julia Shiryayeva – image from childhood

It took students and professors of the Krasnodar Institute of technology (now Kuban State Technological University) almost two decades to raise funds for this monument to their predecessors who had given their lives for their Motherland. They entrusted the construction of the work to the famous Moscow sculptor, People's Artist of the USSR Alexander Kibalnikov, and the Krasnodar architect Alexander Zholtikov.

– Alexander Zholtikov was acquainted with my father, who worked at Kuban State University. He was a frequent guest at our house and decided that I would make a great model for that little girl. I had just turned seven at that time, – Julia remembers.

Being a model in this particular case meant that the architect would give Julia a clean piece of paper and a pen and ask her to draw the sun again and again. And while the child was drawing away avidly, the architect made some sketches that he later sent to Moscow to Kibalnikov's studio, who brought the image to reality, first in clay and later in bronze.

– I remember that I felt very uptight while posing, as I didn't really understand what was expected of me. The project was modified several times – that is why it took about three years to finish. By the time the monument was unveiled I was already aged ten, and being among the guests alongside the veterans I could feel all the seriousness and dignity of the moment, – Julia continues.

At the bottom of the granite rock next to the monument a message to the students of 2045 who will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Great Victory is enshrined in a special container.

During the ceremony a special student oath was given: “We will hold the memory of those fallen for the freedom and independence of their homeland sacred! We shall work hard for the sake of peace and happiness on Earth! ...”

Today, Julia has two sons, aged eight and ten, and she often tells them about the heroic deeds of the veterans of the Great Patriotic War, and about the price they had to pay for the sake of the life of future generations. ■

By Pavel Kretov

In work and in sports

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THE JOB OF A PIPELINE WORKER IS A VERY ACTIVE ONE. IT REQUIRES FREQUENT BUSINESS TRAVEL, TRIPS TO THE PIPELINE AND PARTICIPATION IN BUILDING AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

For such a rhythm of work one always has to be in good shape and ready to go to any remote site. Andrey Proskurnin, Operations Manager, Pipeline O&M Western Region, CPC Office, Krasnodar, literally knows every inch of the 543-km pipeline segment that he is in charge of – over the 12 years that he's been with CPC he has walked it all, including the hard-to-reach mountainous areas.

– Our zone of responsibility is not an easy one: there are dozens of

land owners and private farms along the line. In order not to cause them any harm while inspecting or repairing the pipeline we have to work with full concentration and exactness, performing working operations with pinpoint accuracy, – says Andrey Proskurnin.

Andrey Ivanovich learned about pinpoint accuracy in sports. He used to be a football goalkeeper, but was much more successful at table tennis: he reached the USSR Candidate Master of Sports qualifying standard when still in 10th grade, played for “Trudovye rezervy”, and became the champion of Grozny and the Chechen-Ingush ASSR.

– Thanks to sports, I've travelled all around the country: Irkutsk, Sverdlovsk, Kaliningrad, Ashkhabad, Baku... It was thrilling, – Andrey Proskurnin remembers. After graduating from the Grozny Institute of Oil he was posted to the town of Raduzny in the Tyumen region. He continued practicing table tennis there: he became a repeat regional winner in team competitions, and was frequently a medalist in individual events.

Andrey Ivanovich keeps a cutting from the “Raduzny News” newspaper about his first performance in the Tyumen regional championship which was rated as sensational by specialists: “The individual event was arranged according to the Swiss system which means you are out of the competition



Andrey Proskurnin: “Back in the 1980s a Japanese bat cost 70 rubles – the same as my parents' monthly salary”

after losing twice. And in this hot competition Andrey Proskurnin, Candidate in Masters of Sport and the Raduzny champion, came third in the individual event and fourth in pairs together with Alexander Ruban representing Megion. The performance by Proskurnin became the championship's sensation and came as a great surprise to the hosts who had expected a different candidate for third position.”

His passion for table tennis still helps Andrey Ivanovich keep fit. He doesn't take part in large competitions any more – but his bat is always ready, waiting for a match to come along. ■

By Pavel Kretov



Memory and pain

ON THE EVE OF VICTORY DAY, A HOLIDAY HELD IN VERY HIGH REVERENCE IN RUSSIA, CPC FOLLOWED ITS TRADITION OF CONGRATULATING VETERANS.

The staff of the Governmental Affairs Department together with the local administrations and social organizations' representatives visited the veterans of the Great Patriotic War, presented them with grocery baskets and gifts and took the unique opportunity to listen to their war memories. This is the war as seen through the eyes of the veterans who are residents of the Krasny Yar village in the Astrakhan Region.

Veterans' memories recorded by Ekaterina Krapivko

Viktor Dmitrievich Stolbovoy, born in 1925, fought in the Kursk Salient as a sniper. He remembers his service days, remembers an occasion when 50 men carried out an attack and only he and his



friend came back, remembers that one had no choice in battle: it is either kill or be killed.

– Once we were ordered to attack. Suddenly two girls ran up to me: «Vitya, hold us tight and give us a kiss, we've never even kissed a guy before.» So I did. And when we came back, the girls were lying there, dead. So it turned out they only had one kiss in their lives...

The war hardened Viktor Dmitrievich and made him more

From 1941 to 1945, 8,400 people went off to war from the Krasnoyarsk region, and only 5,700 returned. One in three residents of the region fell in battle



Viktor Dmitrievich Stolbovoy

demanding of himself and others. He holds on to his principles in bringing up his grandson:

– I tell him: “Heaven forbid you promise something to someone and not do it. Don't give promises you can't fulfill. But if you gave one – live up to it no matter what!” That is what I am used to.

Nikolay Mikhailovich Shcherbakov, born in 1925, was at Stalingrad and fought around Murmansk. He was a lance-corporal, and later became a lance-sergeant. He was in charge of a field artillery gun. He was 17 when he was brought to Stalingrad alongside young boys like himself.

– We got off the train and were given weapons. We didn't understand anything, we would just run forward and yell “Hooray!” and “Mama!”

His daughter Anna tells that he came home from the war shell-shocked and with no teeth – they were destroyed by scurvy,

and he couldn't talk for a long time.

The memories of Nikolay Mikhailovich are often interrupted, his voice sometimes trembling with overwhelming feelings, but he keeps on talking – people, names of places, divisions, regiments

and artillery guns, the battles he took part in... He talks about the rough time the soldiers had in Stalingrad, what a dreadful tank combat it was, how they chased the fascists who were fleeing “in crowds”...



Nikolay Mikhailovich Shcherbakov

Mikhail Andreevich Zhuravlev, born in 1926, served in a signals unit in Armenia from 1943 until 1950. He was first a private, then a platoon officer, and taught Morse code to recruits as a top sergeant. Once he had to go on a mission as part of a recon team and report to

the commanders about the offensives planned by the enemy...

He remembers how he learned about victory:

– It is a day I remember very well. I was on duty at the radio station.

The “CPC to Veterans” program has been running since 2002 in all the regions along the trunk pipeline.

This year in the Astrakhan Region presents were delivered to 195 veterans, in the Republic of Kalmykia – to 364 veterans, in the Stavropol Region – to 542 veterans, in the Krasnodar Region – to 1,050 veterans



It was 2 am, and I was switching the channels every once in a while. All of a sudden there was a message: “The Act of capitulation has been signed!” We all left our posts and ran to the barracks to tell the boys. We yelled: “The war is over! This is it!” Everybody jumped up, it was really quite something...

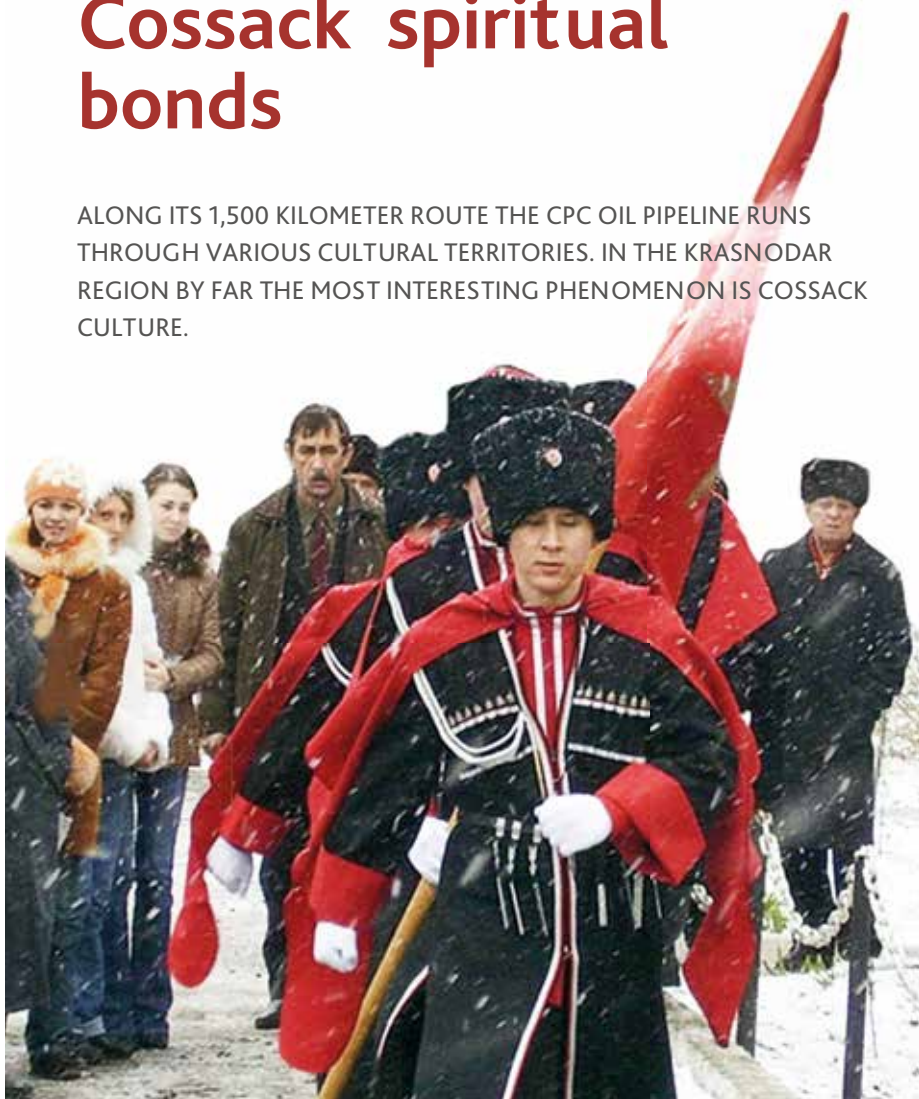
Since 2001 Mikhail Andreevich has been the head of the Krasnoyarsk Veterans’ administration, helping the participants of the Great Patriotic War to resolve pressing social issues.



Mikhail Andreevich Zhuravlev

Cossack spiritual bonds

ALONG ITS 1,500 KILOMETER ROUTE THE CPC OIL PIPELINE RUNS THROUGH VARIOUS CULTURAL TERRITORIES. IN THE KRASNODAR REGION BY FAR THE MOST INTERESTING PHENOMENON IS COSSACK CULTURE.



Young Cossacks from School No. 21 in the village of Losevo

CONTEMPORARY WITH KRASNODAR

"None there is in Russia dear, a better land of grace; Oh, Kuban, abundance, beauty, in our hearts your place..." – sings the Children's Cossack Choir with gusto and feeling. "CPC Panorama" has just arrived at school No. 21 in the village of Losevo, an old rural settlement in the Krasnodar region. Just imagine: it was founded only two years after Ekaterinodar (Krasnodar) itself, where the Kuban army headquarters were located – in 1795!

The Kuban Cossacks took part in all the Russo-Turkish wars, in the Russian army's foreign campaigns in 1813–1814, and defended Sevastopol and resisted the attacks of the British and French troops on the Taman Peninsula during the Crimean war of 1853–1856. By 1914 the army consisted of 1.3 million Cossacks, living in 278 Cossack villages and 32 hamlets. In the World War I, the centenary of the start of which will be marked this summer, the Kuban army participated with 41 mounted and one leopard crawl regiment, two mounted divisions, 27 leopard

crawl battalions, 50 special cavalry squadrons, nine mounted squadrons and one auxiliary mounted artillery squadron.

In other words, the Cossacks were always there to protect the country's southern borders and often had to face aggressors and invaders before anyone else. It is no wonder then that in Losevo they are so proud of their traditions, which are cherished here by every age group.

We talked about the glory and bravery of the Cossacks with the school's headmaster Yuri Lamanov, the Deputy Head of Kavkazsky District Administration Svetlana Filatova, and the Educational Board Manager Seda Demchenko in a spacious and recently renovated cafeteria. It is late afternoon – so the schoolchildren have already gone home and we can hear the quiet sound of kitchen utensils being arranged by the lunch ladies for tomorrow. Thanks to the equipment purchased with funds provided by CPC they have the opportunity to cook with fresh produce and forget about processed foods. In Losevo they care a great deal about healthy eating: to be able to defend his motherland every growing Cossack has to gain strength and acquire real stamina.

FROM LOSEVO TO SAKHALIN

Interestingly, it was through the children that the Cossack revival was sparked in the village 20 years ago.

– When we organized a school choir and introduced special Cossack classes the children began to study their family history, started gathering items for a museum, digging up old photos, and talking to their relatives, – said headmaster Yuri Lamanov. – This in turn seriously stirred the curiosity of

the adults, and soon many parents of our pupils were themselves received as members of the local Cossack community. Today the children of Losevo continue to set a splendid example. Young Cossacks have not lost themselves among the multitude of their counterparts from all over Russia.

– On Poklonnaya Gora in Moscow they took an honorable third place in the Marching Song Contest in 2013, coming at the top of almost 200 other children's ensembles from Sakhalin to St. Petersburg, including those representing different cadet schools, – a fact of which Svetlana Filatova, the Deputy Head of the Kavkazsky District Administration cannot help being proud.

– We have 18 Cossack classes in our district altogether with a total number of about 500 pupils, – adds Educational Board Manager Seda Demchenko. – Not to mention the special subject “Study Kuban” that is on the general curriculum across all grades in every school of the district.

The adults, of course, are striving to keep up. In the office of Alexander Shishikin, who heads the village administration and is at the same time a chieftain of the local Cossack community, every available space is taken up by award certificates and prizes.

– Three times we came first in the Cossack competition in the district, – he remarks.

IN STATE SERVICE

However, sport and leisure are not all it takes to be a Cossack. This village with a population of approximately 2,000 people has more than 60 officially recognized Registered Cossacks. To be “registered” means being in a very real sense in service to the state: coming under the strict

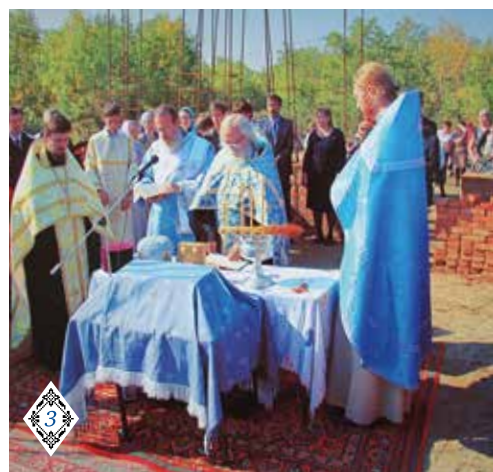
orders of the senior officers of the Kuban Cossack army; having ranks, insignia, and the right to wear Cossack uniform, as well as to carry a Cossack whip, sword, dagger and in certain cases even firearms. Talking of firearms, it is worth mentioning that modern Cossacks have long ceased to be associated only with cavalry. A Cossack who comes of age for military service can join any of the specialized Cossack regiments in various branches of the armed forces. Some enlist in the airborne infantry Mountain unit, while some choose a tank regiment or a coast-guard ship.

And during the recent Winter Olympics the Cossacks from the village were of great assistance to the law enforcement authorities in the Krasnodar region. Together with the police officers, they went on duty night and day and ensured the observance of migration procedures.

– Today people treat Cossacks with great respect. If in the 1990s the Cossack uniform was perceived as a historical costume or even worse, as fancy dress, now both the authorities and ordinary citizens eagerly seek our help. Everybody knows that with the Cossacks law always prevails: corruption, excesses and abuse of power are unheard of, – Alexander Shishikin concludes.

While reviving and developing Cossack traditions the inhabitants of Losevo pay a lot of attention to recovering society's spiritual bonds. The weddings in the village are celebrated according to ancient Cossack customs. Everyone is contributing to the building of the village church that will be dedicated to St. Alexander Nevsky. Expanding its business in this region the Caspian Pipeline Consortium treats local culture and customs with respect. ■

By Pavel Kretov



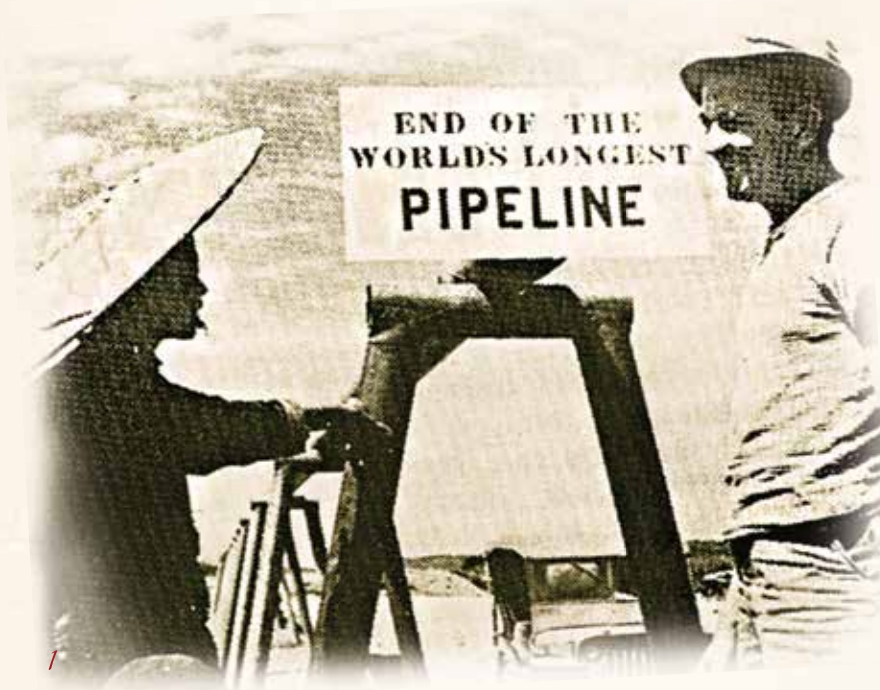
1. Alexander Shishikin is in charge of the Cossack community in the village

2. “None there is in Russia dear, a better land of grace; Oh, Kuban, abundance, beauty, in our hearts your place...”

3. Prayers at the foundation stone ceremony for the future church dedicated to St. Alexander Nevsky

Fueling a shared victory

DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR ALL FIGHTING ARMIES HAD TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF PROVIDING FUEL FOR THEIR FORCES AT THE FRONT LINE.



It was complicated in Europe and Africa equally, but the need was no less pressing in the Asian-Pacific theater of operations. The world's longest pipeline, built by the Americans, started in India and went through North Burma into China, and was the most important route for delivering oil to the US Air Force bases located on Chinese territory.

THE FORGOTTEN THEATER

American WW II veterans would often refer with bitterness to the China Burma India Theatre (CBI) as "forgotten". And indeed, events there have received a good deal less attention from histori-

ans than, for example, the battles of the Pacific, the Battle of Midway or the fighting for Singapore and the Philippines. The reason for that is quite simple: the smaller scale of CBI operations, involving only 2 % (250,000) of all conscripted soldiers in the USA during the war.

However, it was not a matter of numbers, but also of skill, as Russian Field-Marshal Suvorov used to say. Military pilots would easily remember how General Chennault held thousands of kilometers of the frontline against the Japanese air force with only 26 active fighter planes from the American Volunteer Group "Flying Tigers"; their transport aviation colleagues would recall

"The Hump" Himalayan airlift that provided non-stop supplies; infantry – the daring long range penetration raids of the 3,000 "Merrill's Marauders" special forces behind Japanese lines, and members of the engineering corps would talk about the military pipeline.

The decision to build a 3,000 kilometer pipeline to supply American and Chinese forces with gasoline was taken in August 1943 during a meeting between British and American Chiefs of Staff in Quebec. The route was marked along the valley of the Brahmaputra river, across Bengal, Assam and Northern Burma to the city of Kunming in Yunnan Province. Only the very first section of the pipeline in India could have been regarded as straightforward, whereas afterwards it went into jungle and mountains, and struggled across many major rivers and marshes.

750,000 pipes, each six meters long, were brought over from the USA on ocean-going freighters. Loaded onto cargo aircraft they were taken to airports nearest to the locations of the future sections of the pipeline and transported further by vehicles and half-track trailers. The drivers had to employ all their skill to avoid getting stuck on the narrow jungle trails. Where the vehicles could not get through, the pipes and equipment had to be carried.

WHERE THE ELEPHANTS LIVE

The marshes near Chinbiang in Burma proved particularly tricky for the builders of the pipeline since the monsoon season turned it into a huge lake. Such obstacles were overcome: the front end of the pipeline was capped and, using positive buoyancy, dragged forward, linking the pipes and



continuing the pipeline over the wetland.

Unusual perseverance was also required from builders while constructing the section near the settlement of Warazup, with the thickest jungle growth and marshes 1.5 meters deep. Tractors proved useless in such conditions and the engineering corps delivered building materials by boats and pontoons with attached engines. It was here that the Americans attempted to use elephants as pulling power, but it proved to be a bad idea – the animals were too slow. People however kept advancing eastwards – soaked under torrential rains, up to their waists in water, with the heaviest duty army boots coming apart in 10 days, and dry changes of clothes covered with mildew inside their waterproof bags.

In spite of the large numbers of workers falling sick with malaria, dysentery and typhus the work continued at the same rate. At this critical junction Indian troops stepped in to help the Americans. Their assistance was invaluable as they cut clearings in the jungle, carried various pieces of equipment over the jungle wetlands and performed other non-qualified tasks.

“AN OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OF ENGINEERING”

At the end of summer 1944 the North Burma Campaign reached



cbi-theatre-3.home.comcast.net

1. 3,000 kilometers of pipeline reached its peak capacity at the beginning of 1945

2, 4. Field pumping station in the jungle in Burma

3. Truck convoys could fill up their tanks directly from the pipeline

5. 750,000 pipes, each six meters long, were brought across the ocean from the USA to construct the pipeline



its crucial stage. On August 3 the city of Myitkyina was taken by American special forces with the assistance of Chinese forces. The Japanese had to abandon a well-equipped airstrip and it was used by US cargo aircraft to bring in materials for the new sections of the pipeline.

In October 1944, to speed up the pipeline's construction and in view of the fighting still going on in Northern Burma and getting in the way of the pipeline engineers, it was decided to start work simultaneously from the other end of the pipeline in Kunming. For that purpose pipes and equipment started to be shifted from Indian airbases to the Celestial Kingdom.

The last kilometers of pipeline went across the Salween River, and at the beginning of 1945 gasoline arrived at the first American airbase on the Chinese side.

“There is no civilian counterpart for the world's longest pipeline to China. It is truly an outstanding engineering achievement of this

war that has been of inestimable value in carrying supplies to the fighting forces in China. Every man who has participated in the building of this petroleum life-line, no matter what his branch of service, can be justly proud of the work accomplished,” – commented Commanding General of the CBI theater of operations, Daniel I. Sultan. ■

By Pavel Kretov



"ONCE UPON A TIME THERE LIVED HENRY IV..."

20,000, 15,000, 11,000, 9,000, 7,500 – A SUCCESSION OF NUMBERS FLICKERS ON THE COMPUTER SCREEN – AND STOPS AT 4,500.

4,500 rubles is the airfare I've just been offered on kayak.com – a special search engine – for a return flight to Paris on suitable dates. As they say, "It's a bargain"! Half an hour online and we know where to start our journey.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE

My wife and I hardly ever get involved with travel agencies when going to Europe. In our experience it makes our trips 20 to 50 % cheaper than joining a standard group tour. And this can be taken in the way you choose: either they are savings – or fair earnings, considering that you are working as your own travel manager in booking connecting flights, hotels rooms or apartments, corresponding with managers and obtaining Shengen visas.

But the main advantage of planning your getaway independently is the exquisitely liberating feeling it affords. First of all, the liberty to choose. Having our five children with us we decided to stay in a private apartment in an old multi-storey building of the most central 1st arrondissement of Paris on Rue de la Ferronnerie. You will not find the name of this street in the Russian text of Dumas' "Three Musketeers" – but it is there in the original. Remember that famous dialogue between the Cardinal and Milady?

"If he persists," His Eminence paused, and then resumed: "If he persists – well, then I shall hope for one of those events which change the destinies of states."

"Your Eminence means, I presume, the stab of a knife in the Rue de la Ferronnerie?"

"Precisely," said the Cardinal.

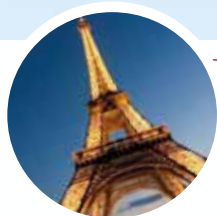
It was on Rue de la Ferronnerie that Henry IV received such a deadly stab wound on May 14 1610. The Russian translator has somewhat loosely rendered it as "Tinker Street".

LOUIS XIII AND THE SHADOW OF HIS FATHER

As a matter of fact, the "shadow" of the French king followed us almost all the time during our trip to Paris – but there was nothing mysterious about that. Despite a relatively short reign, Henry IV left a marked legacy in the history of France and, of course, in the history of its capital. In one place we crossed the New Bridge over the Seine built by Henry; in another we ate croissants in front of Notre Dame de Paris on the threshold of which he, the former leader of the Huguenots, made the famous remark that has rung out through the centuries: "Paris is well worth a mass". Elsewhere



Photos courtesy of the author



we stroll around the yards of Louvre to the so-called “staircase of Henry IV” – again, a reminder of May 14, 1610 when at the foot of this very staircase, the wounded king, briefly coming round, asked for some wine.

Telling the children about the history of France is best accomplished by taking them round the Luxembourg Gardens (created by Marie de Medici, the wife of Henry IV and the mother of Louis XIII, in 1611, in the surroundings of the future Palace of the same name). As we walk past the statues of queens and famous French dames in the park the story covers every single turn of historical significance: Saint Genevieve, Anne of Brittany, Clotilde of France, Mary Stuart...

UP THE HILL WITH A PRAM

We were particularly touched by the fate of Bertha of Laon. In the 8th century she was the bride of the Frankish king Pippin the Short, but was abandoned in the woods by malicious servants

who, knowing that the groom has only seen her portrait, substituted the bride with another girl. Her story though, just like the Snow White fairy tale, had a happy ending: a year later the king was hunting in the woods and, having met the beautiful girl, learned the whole truth. The impostor was beheaded – and Bertha gave birth to Charles the Great.

Oh, what a daunting task it is to climb Montmartre with a pram! Well, the Russian army had it much tougher at the end of March 1814. General Alexander Langeron received the highest award of the Russian Empire – the Order of St. Andrew the First-called – for storming that height dominating the city. Getting to the top 200 years later I settled for mulled wine and chestnuts.

There is an ancient cathedral of St Eustace in the neighborhood of Rue de la Ferronnerie. Modelled on Notre Dame de

Paris it houses the largest organ in France. You can enjoy the sound of the unique instrument absolutely free of charge at the regular Sunday recitals starting at 5.30 pm, and that was just what we did. There are scores of organ music enthusiasts to be sure, but the huge cathedral can accomodate them all.

I reckon we will come back to France more than once. Just as we used to return to Germany, Poland and the Baltic countries... I would say traveling is our most exciting family hobby. Having visited many European countries, we are now planning a journey to the capitals of Scandinavia. ■

By Pavel Kretov



Fishing paradise

BEING A PIPELINE WORKER IS A HIGHLY DEMANDING AND STRENUOUS JOB, AND IN ORDER TO GIVE IT YOUR BEST, MAKE SURE YOU GET A GOOD REST. IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT THE BEST WAY TO SPEND A HOLIDAY IS TO GET UP FROM THE COUCH AND AWAY FROM THE TELEVISION AND HEAD INTO THE OPEN COUNTRYSIDE BY THE WATER...



Atyrau – fish city



Oleg Karabasov and his family



Fishing on home territory

Oleg Karabasov, who works as MEO (major equipment operator) at the PS Atyrau does not have to bother about finding a place to spend his time off recharging his batteries and engaging in his favorite hobby – his fishing paradise is just outside the house. Take a few steps and here you are – spots for fishing! Oleg and his large close-knit family live on the banks of the Ural river.

– We have the opportunity to go fishing right nearby, – he tells us.
– Sometimes the catch is pretty good. Last year for example, with a rod I landed two huge carp

weighing together 20 kg. Such fisherman's luck made that day off particularly memorable!

Not that having a house and land of your own leaves much time to relax in the lounge – there is always work for Oleg to do. He can turn his hand to anything. All that there is to be seen on this plot of land is the result of his efforts.

We all know that today the quality of food you find in shops and markets poses big questions. We don't know how it is produced and whether it is good or bad for us...

– We grow everything ourselves! – Oleg declares, making us jealous, in a healthy way.

Next to the Karabasov house is a garden that yields good crops and needs to be tended and cherished. In return there is fresh fruit and vegetables that you can eat all year round, and that are beyond doubt good for your health!

We must thank Oleg for showing us around this truly blissful corner on the banks of the Ural river and wish him and his family all the best – and good luck with the fishing! ■

By Ekaterina Suvorova



The Ural with its total length of 2,428 km is the third longest river in Europe after the Volga and the Danube. This waterway feeding the Caspian Sea rises in the Ural Mountains on the high slopes of Mount Kruglaya of the Uraltau Ridge in the Uchalinsky district, Republic of Bashkortostan. A small brook at the river head flows across the Caspian depression and turns into the Ural – a river stunning in its scope and beauty. Its waters are home to 50 kinds of fish, including sturgeon, great sturgeon, asp, carp, catfish, jack-fish, pike-perch and starred sturgeon. It's a fisherman's paradise!

Tried in sports

AS THAT GREAT THINKER OF ANTIQUITY, ARISTOTLE, NOTED – “LIFE REQUIRES MOTION”. THESE WORDS ARE OF PARTICULAR CONSEQUENCE TO OUR CONTEMPORARIES. CIVILIZATION, WHILE PROVIDING MANKIND WITH A GREAT NUMBER OF “READY-MADE” COMFORTS, SETS OUTRAGEOUSLY HIGH DEMANDS THAT ARE PAID IN THE CURRENCY OF CONTINUOUS STRESS AND CHRONIC HYPODYNAMIA.



Sports trophies of the PS Atyrau

Andrey Keshishyan, instrumentation technician at PS Atyrau is surely not threatened by any of those. Andrey has worked at this station since the day it was commissioned, having participated back then in the start-up of the equipment – hence his thorough knowledge of the facility and high level of competence. He has a strong opinion about everything, whether work or play: “If you are going to do something, do it well or quit!”

Keshishyan dedicates his spare time to sporting events. In Atyrau he is well known as the leader of the “West Side” local fan group.

– We support our city and regional sports teams, – he explains. – I started as a fan attending the stadiums and sports grounds, and gradually got to know others who, like myself, don’t just fill the

stands but roar with emotion to encourage the players.

Time passed, and we decided to form a group: that is how “West Side” came about. The group mission is to support Atyrau teams in competitive sports. I was elected president at a general meeting.

Andrey is sure that the force of organized back-up by the members of the fan group is one of the major factors contributing to success in sports. Asked about the difference between a fan and an everyday supporter he replies:

– An everyday supporter is someone who comes to watch the game. If the team loses, he may not be there for the next match. A fan would stick to the team come what may, both in victory and in defeat. It is more than a hobby, it is a way of life. The

joys of the club are your joys, and its sorrows likewise. Fans can voice their opinion on important matters – and it will be taken into consideration by the team management and the players.

And Andrey can personally testify to the efficiency of this kind of back-up. He has a long record as an athlete himself, playing football as a boy and later becoming a striker for the amateur team of the football club “Meliorator”.



– Our club won many championships in its time. We did try to move to a higher level, but as often happens there was something lacking in skill.

I continued to play until a serious injury made me hang up my boots, – Andrey reminisces.

And still our man chooses to be in motion – it is his credo.

– Sports training helps to achieve the goals you set, while exercise keeps you fit and has a positive effect on work performance, – Andrey Keshishyan confidently states. He is not alone: there are a lot of like-minded people at PS Atyrau. His colleagues share his passion for active living. They enjoy football and other competitive sports. On the Day of Oil Industry Workers the PS team will again take part in friendly tournaments between the staff members from different CPC departments, traditionally held in the open countryside. ■

By Ekaterina Suvorova



Elena Belichenko gets yet another stack of books ready for the PS

“We read our way through work and play!”

THOSE WHO WORK IN CONSTRUCTION KNOW HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO HAVE A GOOD ON-SITE INFRASTRUCTURE, ESPECIALLY IN REMOTE LOCATIONS. THAT IS WHY EVERY HUB OF THE CPC EXPANSION PROJECT PROVIDES ALL THE COMFORTS OF LIVING INCLUDING CANTEENS, SAUNAS, SPORTS GROUNDS – AND EVEN LIBRARIES.

– In our age of various electronic devices printed books still have their value, – Elena Belichenko, safety programs coordinator for the PS RF group, is convinced. – Of course, the younger people use their tablet PCs and netbooks, but the older generation prefers to have their stories in print, not on screen.

Actually, organizing a library at a construction site or an operating pipeline facility is a totally cost free initiative. All you need is mutual understanding between the management and the staff. In the autumn of last year the CPC Moscow headquarters started accumulating donated items for the first libraries that appeared in the Republic of

Kalmykia at PS-2 and PS-3, and in Astrakhan Region at PS-4A and PS-5A.

– We did not e-mail all staff with a request to take part, – Elena continues. – but mainly approached those from CPC whom we know well personally. Some are renovating their homes, others moving – and there is a surplus of books.

Volunteers gratefully accept magazines as well. Love stories are in great demand in the libraries, which is no surprise if we remember that construction involves not only tough males – but also tender females who work in canteens, medical stations, laundries and so on.

Already in the first months of their functioning at the construction sites of new pump stations the libraries proved to be very successful, and we received a wealth of grateful feedback. The libraries have an open access policy, by which CPC staff, contractors and representatives of the main business are free to use the stocks in their spare time.

Library cards and service lists are non-existent – everything depends on mutual trust: having read the book, just pass it on. Rephrasing the famous Soviet song: “We read our way through work and play!”

The library idea is soon likely to acquire a new dimension. The staff of the PS RF group of the CPC Expansion Project are hoping to equip construction sites with films too.

– This should not require any additional funding as long as there is enough goodwill, – Elena reckons. – Surely someone will still have old VHS tapes and a working but outdated “vintage” videoplayer. ■

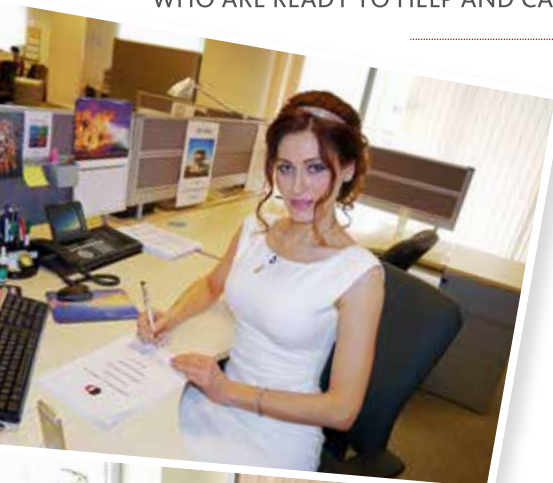
By Pavel Kretov



PS-3 has a fair number of those who are willing to spend their leisure time with a good book

A colleague in the lens

IT IS NO SECRET THAT WE SPEND MOST OF OUR WORKING LIVES AMONG OUR COLLEAGUES. OUR MOOD AND EVEN SOMETIMES OUR SUCCESS DEPEND ON THE ATMOSPHERE. WORK GOES NICE AND EASILY, AND THE MOST DIFFICULT TASKS TURN OUT TO BE WITHIN YOUR ABILITIES WHEN YOU'RE NEXT TO KIND PEOPLE WHO ARE READY TO HELP AND CAN GIVE YOU A PIECE OF SOUND ADVICE.



Surely each of you, dear readers, has a colleague whose very presence in the team can make you hurry to work every morning. It may be your mentor or subordinate, an ace in his or her profession or a newcomer just about to start a career. It is not status that is important, it is the personal qualities such as the wish to be part of a team and teamwork skills, creative approach, goodwill, understanding of others and the ability to take people for what they are.



The best of our co-workers deserve articles to be published about them on the pages of "CPC Panorama"! Send a photo of a colleague to the editorial office together with your heart-warming genuine story about him or her, and we will publish it in the September issue dedicated to the Day of Oil and Gas Industry Workers. There is only one condition: the photo must be taken on a camera and be no more than 3 MB in size (unfortunately, the quality of pictures taken with a phone is not acceptable for print quality).



E-mail your work (photo and story) on the topic "A colleague in the lens" to our press service:

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Caspian Pipeline Consortium: a time-tested international project



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While this issue was in production:
Mock oil spill mitigation comprehensive drills
took place at the Marine Terminal on June 25

