**CASE STUDY**

**Drift River Oil Terminal**

**Cook Inlet, Alaska**

“In addition to providing competitive pricing, Nucor Skyline has the depth to provide value added design solutions and materials when others can’t.”

— David Myers, Director of Business Development, STG Incorporated/Alaska Crane

**HISTORY**

The Drift River Oil Terminal is located in Alaska, along Cook Inlet, at the end of the Drift River. Owned by Hilcorp Alaska, the facility is an oil farm that holds seven, 10-million gallon bulk fuel tanks. The tanks hold crude oil before it is loaded onto oil tankers and transported to refineries. Oil is collected into the tanks via a buried and submerged Cook Inlet Pipeline, which connects the tank farm to the oil fields on the west side of the Cook Inlet. Oil tankers load crude oil from the tanks via a pump station located approximately one mile off shore.

**PROBLEM**

The tank farm is situated near the base of Mt. Redoubt, an active volcano. Several major eruptions in 1989/1990 and again in 2009 caused controversy and concern over the tanks and how to best protect them from the lahars (a moving fluid mass of volcanic debris and water) and flash floods that ensued after the eruptions. The 2009 eruption unleashed flooding five times greater than the flow of the Mississippi River, nearly washing away the tank farm. Consequently, the project garnered interest from multiple stakeholders, including state, local, and federal agencies, as well as the general public.

**SOLUTION**

In 2012, STG and Brice Incorporated constructed a hybrid earthen dike and sheet pile wall that stretched 3,000 linear feet at Drift River in the Cook Inlet. Brice performed the earthen works and STG installed the sheet pile wall. It was imperative that the project was designed to ensure the tank farm was safeguarded. The timeline for the project was a very tight five months. In addition to Brice Incorporated, STG worked closely with their other sister company, Brice Marine, along with their vendor Nucor Skyline. Skyline provided product performance value engineering, as well as geotechnical engineers and designers from around the world to create the design. Skyline’s ability to provide the needed product in a tight turnaround proved invaluable. STG’s experience in logistics and piling installation ensured a technically sound design that could be constructed efficiently in a remote location.

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

**Owner**
Hilcorp Alaska – Anchorage, AK

**General Contractor**
STG Incorporated – Anchorage, AK
Brice Incorporated – Fairbanks, AK

**PRODUCTS**

**Sheet Pile:**
AZ 26-700 Pairs (2,000 tons) 612X40’, 22X60’ and 20X45’
CAZ 26-700 8 each fabricated 60’ box piles

**PROJECT TIME FRAME**
May to November 2012

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For technical questions and engineering support, please contact us via our technical hotline at: 1-866-875-9546 or email us at: engineering@nucorskyline.com.