

VIP- site

Smolensk site of the Baltic Pipeline System will be ready for Hydrotest even in September

DMITRIY RACHIEV

CORRESPONDENT "RG"

Vladimir Putin, Chairman of the Government of Russia, signed the resolution on design and construction of "Baltic Pipeline System-2" (BTS-2) more than two years ago (in November 2008). Such an infrastructure of trunk pipelines will optimize the pipeline routes, increase the oil supplies to the Russian oil-pumping stations, diversify oil stream abroad (that will result in new markets entry and increase the share at the traditional product markets). The construction of the BTS-2 was commenced on 10 June last year. The construction is the laying of about 998 km of linear pipes with diameter of one meter, which will connect the existing pipelines with oil terminal at seaport Ust-Lug, Baltic Sea.

The pipeline will be laid round the Republic of Belarus via territory of Bryansk, Smolensk, Tver, Novgorod and Leningrad regions. Two oil pumping stations – NPS-3 will be constructed at Pochinkov district, Smolensk region and NPS-7 at Novgorod region. It will allow transmitting up to 63-70 million tones per year. JSC "Promstroj" conducts the construction of the NPS-3 at Pochinkov district. The company for a long time has been actively cooperating with the owner of all Russian pipelines – JSC "Transneft". "Promstroj" has an experience of construction of quite a number of large-scale and complicated sites, conducted t different parts of Russia.

Smolensk region site is not the most complicated though quite the responsible one, as they say in the company.

— The efficient work of the construction company is not the only point, - the deputy Director General of the JSC "Promstroj", Vladimir Kozlov, remarks. – Three years ago we had been constructed the site nearby the operating oil-pumping station "Nikolskoe" at Tambov region. At that time the solution of the problem with the ground area allocation took almost five months! I have never faced such a problem here: by the time I visited the administration of Pochinkov district the local authorities have been informed of everything and were ready to cooperate.

We managed to get all required permissions within 10 days this time! I would say this is an achievement.

— The authorities of Smolensk region indeed did their best we do not face any problems, — Vladimir Kozlov says. — The position of the Governor of Smolensk region, Sergey Antufiev, wins over. He organized the meeting for the leaders of all structures we cooperate with, including local authorities, and declared: "You all are the participants of this construction, neither monitors nor controllers but participants!" I have to admit that I never and nowhere felt such an understanding though I have an experience to work at many important sites.

The ground area for the construction of the oil-pumping station is to be chosen with consideration of many different factors. This time was not an exception and "Promstroj" has to work at not the easy site. Firstly, at the ground area where the oil-pumping station was to be built up, the hill of 18 meters height and several hundred meters was discovered. Secondly, there is the soft clay under the seemingly solid topsoil. The soft clay is almost cannot be rolled and never dried out.

It became clear that the soil has to be changed after the additional survey was carried out. The constructors urgently took about 70 thousand cubic meters of clay off the construction site and filled it up with the sand layer width up to 4,5 meters. The bog discovered nearby was "moved" to the side filled it up with 160 thousand cubic meters of sand-gravel. In parallel there was another problem to solve. During the Great Patriotic War there were the tough war actions at the territory of Pochinkov district. The area was filled up with the evidences of those events. That it is why the mine clearing had to be conducted.

The constructors finished the preparatory works only on 9 September 2009 and laid the first cubic meters of concrete as the foundation of the oil-pumping station. As of today all buildings, constructions and pipelines and networks designed are constructed, the finishing is in process as well as fire protection treatment.

— There re 300 people work on the site, about the third part

—of them are the citizens of Smolensk region: drivers, electricians, mechanics, carpenters, crane operators, - Vladimir Kozlov explains.

— The leading experts move from one site to another. The majority of people who work here are from Bryansk, some welders are from Ukraine, who know how to weld silicate enamel pipes. The staff is not numerous however the shift is prolonged and we work during week-ends. Remuneration of labor depends on timely business plan completion, that is why it is not profitable for us to delay the work or do something without required quality. The works are approved by the independent engineering supervision authorities hired by JSC "Transneft", which indicates on any mistakes. The engineering supervision authorities will sign the completion of the construction only in one case, when all works are conducted at sufficient level of quality.

Hydrotest of Smolensk BTS-2 is planned for September 2010, which is quite ahead of the contract date. If there is a reason to be in a hurry when the work is not conducted with such a speed on other sites of this pipeline? As it turned out the completed site will not be idle as it will be possible to connect it to the operating pipelines at the oil-pumping station "Andreapol" at Tver region.

Reference

JSC "Promstroj" has an experience of industrial construction of more than 25 years. It is member of the construction and installation Holding: "Promstroj" Companies' Group. It constructs the sites at the filed of oil-and-gas industry, pipelines and networks and civil construction. The construction process on sites is managed in a way when the construction and installation subsidiaries of the Holding provide the required personal if needed (out-staffing) based on the signed contracts, apart of the administrative and economy ties which are supported inside. "Promstroj" provides the turnkey operating and construction management with the help of its own experienced managers and qualified engineering and technical staff. In 2010 it is to complete the construction of the pipeline "Skovorodino – Public Republic of China", in 2011 – oil-pumping station 3, Baltic pipeline system 2, Smolensk region



Vice-Première Minister, Igor Sechin, is signing on the first ring of the pipeline. Photo made by Alexander Fedosov

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CHIEF	GENERAL
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Address of editorial office:
24, Pravdy street, Moscow, 125993
«Rossiyskaya Gazeta»
Telephone: (8499) 257-56-50, fax: (8499) 973-22-56 (international)

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