

Position This Year: 47
Position Last Year: N/A
2006 Revenues: \$49.70 Million
Alaska Employees: 80
Worldwide Employees: 80

Photo courtesy of Colville Inc.



Severe cold weather conditions won't stop this Colville Inc. worker from performing his duties on a ramp fueling on the North Slope.

Colville Inc.

**They arrived at Prudhoe Bay,
even before the pipeline.**

BY NICOLE A. BONHAM COLBY

Serving Alaska's North Slope with a collection of varied support services, Prudhoe Bay-based Colville Inc. operates across the sweeping landscape of Alaska's extreme north—literally the top of the world. It's familiar ground for company

President and CEO Mark Helmericks, who became sole owner in March 2006. The Helmericks name has a long history in the Arctic regions, with historical family ties to the development of what is today the modern Prudhoe Bay infrastructure.

ARCTIC HISTORY

Colville, in early form, started in the 1950s, first as pioneer Bush pilot Bud Helmericks' Arctic Tern Fish & Freight Co., and eventually evolving to serve the oil-field operators as oil expansion grew. The operation added fuel services

(Mark) Helmericks himself grew up on a homestead near the Village of Nuiqsut. He is Alaska's first native-born Rhodes Scholar, holding a BS in geology from Harvard and a master's degree in economics from Oxford. He staffs his executive ranks with a similar intensity of experience and expertise.

and then expanded into serving as an industrial supplier. Today, Colville Inc. is the parent company to several business units, including (beyond its fuel services), a waste-management service, a full-service industrial supply center, and even the general store/post office. It's a wide array of service sectors for a company that specializes in supporting streamlined business operations in the challenging environment of the North Slope. Aiming high—both in latitude and quality of service—Colville Inc. proclaims its intent across the top of the company Web site (www.colvilleinc.com): “World Class Service at The Top of the World!”

“Together, these entities provide essential supplies and services across the entire North Slope, including the supply and delivery of fuel, solid-waste-management services, industrial supplies, hardware, parts, tools, contract services and general store supplies,” according to the company Web site.

Incorporated in 1981, the company has 80 employees, with 49 in Alaska. Reporting its 2006 revenue as \$49.7 million, Colville Inc. saw a 28 percent increase from 2005 revenue figures. The company operates from two primary locations in Prudhoe Bay.

PRUDHOE BAY GENERAL STORE

Colville Inc. acquired the Prudhoe Bay General Store and Post Office—an institution with a long and colorful history—and moved it to the Brooks Range Supply facility, creating what's been monikered the “Colville Mini-Mall.” The busy site serves as the one-stop shop for visitors and workers on the North Slope, serving up everything from local news and history to custom-fit arctic gear. The store Web site (<http://www.colvilleinc.com/store.html>) does a similar job, serving double duty both advertising goods and

providing links to curious local history, including the “real story” about how Deadhorse got its name and a first-hand historical narrative of the development of the Prudhoe Bay General Store and post office.

BROOKS RANGE SUPPLY

Serving the North Slope with industrial and oilfield supplies for 20 years now, Brooks Range Supply operates as a company subsidiary along the themes, “Remember, if we don't have it, we can get it for you!” and “Your Source on the Slope.” The company supply list includes everything an operator on the North Slope might need: from office supplies to steel. Housing the NAPA Industrial Supply Store, General Store and post office, Brooks Range Supply maintains a large and constant inventory for immediate service to its far-flung customers.

COLVILLE SOLID-WASTE SERVICE

Through its waste-management business unit, Colville provides three categories of service across the North Slope region: municipal solid waste, construction debris and recyclables. The company serves the Western and Dalton service areas. The Western area includes Kuparuk, Alpine, NPR-A west to the Ikpikpuk River, and the coastal waters up to 3 miles offshore of those regions, according to the company. The Dalton area ranges from Prudhoe Bay south to Atigun Pass.

FUEL SERVICES

Colville Inc. has a long-term history of supplying and delivering bulk fuel across the North Slope, both for industrial and village clients. The company also serves aviation and jet fuels and has the top-of-the-world distinction of operating the northernmost gas station on the Alaska highway.

PEOPLE FACTOR

Tracing its lineage to the early days of Prudhoe Bay development and prior, Colville points to its experienced labor force as a key competitive edge. From early day Alaskan pioneers to modern-day technologists and business leaders, the Colville work force includes management and front-line employees who are well-grounded in the realities of far-North



*Mark Helmericks
President and CEO*

Alaska operations and global oil economies. Helmericks himself grew up on a homestead near the Village of Nuiqsut. He is Alaska's first native-born Rhodes Scholar, holding a bachelor's degree in geology from Harvard and master's degree in economics from Oxford. He staffs his executive ranks with a similar intensity of experience and expertise.

Doug Clinton, vice president of administration, is a 33-year Alaskan, retired Air Force colonel, and previous senior program manager for an Alaska Native corporation in Washington, D.C. Clinton also worked as Colville's health, safety and environmental manager and led the company in meeting BP's Environmental Management System (EMS) certification requirements. Rick Hofreiter, vice president of operations, oversees daily operations, is considered the “go-to” source for Colville, and first started in the company's fuel division.

“Rick is a wonderful combination of North Slope experience, encyclopedic knowledge of the oil field, and good humored integrity,” Helmericks commented in announcing the appointment earlier this year.

Finally, Becky Gay, vice president of business development, is a familiar Alaska name. She has served as executive director and lobbyist for the Resource Development Council, ANWR coordinator for former Gov. Wally Hickel, a legislative aide for Rep. John Harris, and also worked for the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) and the Alaska Energy Authority. □