



Alaska Railroad Corporation

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alaska Railroad names new Chief Operating Officer

Chief Mechanical Officer Doug Engebretson promoted to COO

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Today, the Alaska Railroad (ARRC) named Chief Mechanical Officer (CMO) Doug Engebretson as Chief Operating Officer (COO), a position left vacant when former COO Bill O’Leary was promoted to President & CEO on November 1. Engebretson’s promotion is effective November 8.

A third-generation railroader with more than three decades of railroading experience, Engebretson joined the Alaska Railroad in 1984, just as the federally owned railroad was preparing to be purchased by the State of Alaska. “Having been here since transfer to the state, I’ve seen the astounding strides ARRC has made in every area of operations and business commitments. I’m confident we will continue to overcome any adversity and capitalize on new opportunities,” said Engebretson. “In my capacity as COO, I look forward to working with colleagues and customers to enhance our relationships.”



“Doug has proven himself as a level-headed and well-rounded leader,” said O’Leary. “Having risen from the ranks, he is well-versed in the mechanics of railroading, and our operations railbelt-wide. I know I can count on Doug’s extensive experience with regulatory compliance, safety and personnel management.”

Engebretson has extensive expertise with the mechanical aspect of train operations, beginning with his certification as a carman (railcar mechanic) in 1980, following a three-year apprenticeship at the Burlington Northern (BN) Railroad in Montana. After five years with BN (1977-1982), Engebretson found himself bound for Fairbanks, Alaska, in 1983. The following year, he joined the Alaska Railroad as a Journeyman Carman. Engebretson’s leadership skills were rewarded with a series of promotions, including to Fairbanks Terminal Supervisor in 1986. In 1990, he transferred to Anchorage to become Car Operations Manager, a position he held until 2006. He also served as Mechanical Capital Project Manager 2001-2002. In 2006, Engebretson joined the senior management team as Director of Mechanical Maintenance, and at the beginning of 2010, he was named CMO.

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Engebretson said he appreciates the historic significance that railroading has played in Alaska and in his own family. He was recently seated on the Board of Directors for the Engine 557 Restoration Company, a non-profit organization tasked with refurbishing a historic steam engine for an eventual return to service on the Alaska Railroad. Engebretson also follows in the footsteps of two previous generations in the Engebretson family who worked for railroads in Montana. His grandfather Carl worked for the Northern Pacific (NP) Railway, and father Albert worked for NP, BN and eventually retired from the Montana Rail Link.

Born and raised in Missoula, Montana, Engebretson is a military veteran who served as a track vehicle mechanic in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1974 to 1977. He and his wife of 35 years, Teresa, reside in Anchorage. They have two grown sons, Curtis and Ryan.

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ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. If you need special assistance (including language) in order to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity, please contact: Alaska Railroad Corporation; P.O. Box 107500; Anchorage, AK 99510; Attention: Legal Department, courtneya@akrr.com, (907) 265-2461; via Alaska Relay Service for hearing impaired – dial 711 anywhere inside Alaska, OR dial toll-free from anywhere outside the state 1-800-770-8255 (voice); 1-800 770-8973 (TTY). Printed materials are available in alternate formats upon request