



How to Use This Environmental Report

The body of this Environmental Report is divided into four major sections based on the guidelines of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1500-1517). It is important to read these sections in order because each builds on the one before it.

- Section 1 describes the *purpose of and need for the action*, and provides background on the history of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS).
- Section 2 describes the *proposed action* (renewal of the TAPS right-of-way) and *the no-action alternative* (non-renewal). This section provides a detailed description of the facilities that make up TAPS and the removal of the system that would ensue in the no-action alternative.
- Section 3 describes the *physical, biological, and social features* of the affected environment to form the basis for the analysis of environmental consequences.
- Section 4 analyzes the *environmental consequences* of the proposed action and the no-action alternative. First, however, the section describes the *ground-impacting maintenance actions* that would occur during the renewal period, as well as the *mitigation measures* that are built into TAPS design and operation. In addition, the section provides a discussion of oil spill potential, which is analyzed in detail in Appendix B. Section 4 also addresses the potential *cumulative effects* of the alternatives in relation to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

The mechanical and organizational conventions followed in the report are summarized below:

- *Authors* of individual report sections are identified as bylines in the text and are compiled in Section 5. Where more than one author is identified in a byline, the first author listed is the principal author for the section. The byline is provided once for a given section, and subsequent subsections by the same

author(s) have no byline. When the author(s) change, a new byline is given.

- Both metric and English *units of measurement* are used in this report, generally according to the custom of each technical discipline. Where appropriate for clarity, conversions are provided.
- An *alphabetical subject index* for the report is contained in Section 6. This index consists of key words and subjects and the most important pages on which they occur in the text.
- *Acronyms* are defined in the text the first time they occur in each major section (i.e., Sections 1, 2, 3, etc.). Section 7 provides an alphabetical list with definitions for all acronyms used in the report.
- A complete list of *literature cited* for the text is contained in Section 8, while literature cited for each appendix are provided at the end of that appendix. Literature are arranged alphabetically by author last name and date of publication. Personal communications are treated in the same manner, with the author being the person consulted and the date the year of the contact.
- *Maps* are provided in the text for important place names along the pipeline route and in the state of Alaska. Refer to Appendix C for a set of 25 detailed maps of TAPS based on U.S. Geological Survey topographic data. These maps contain the following information:
 - TAPS pipeline and facilities, including pump stations, valves, access roads, and material sites.
 - Topography and place names.
 - Glaciers.
 - Water bodies.
 - Township and range.
 - Roads.
 - Land ownership of the right-of-way.