



1.2 Purpose and Need

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The trans-Alaska pipeline right-of-way (ROW) includes both federal and state lands. The agreements that govern these rights-of-way were executed in 1974 and will expire in the year 2004 — the federal Agreement and Grant of Right-of-Way for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline (Federal Grant) on January 22, 2004, and the State Right-of-Way Lease for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline (State Lease) on May 2, 2004. While this Environmental Report was prepared primarily to address the environmental issues for renewal of the Federal Grant, the report covers the entire TAPS ROW. The TAPS owners will apply for renewal of the State Lease, and this report applies to that renewal as well.

The original right-of-way on federal lands was authorized and issued pursuant to Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act, as amended by the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act of 1973 (43 U.S.C. §1651). Under Section 28(n) of the Mineral Leasing Act [30 U.S.C. §185(n)], the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) “shall renew” a right-of-way, upon request of an applicant, in accordance with Section 28(n). This statutory mandate for renewal is incorporated into the right-of-way. Section 7(C) of the Federal Grant, entered on January 23, 1974, states that “the Right-of-Way shall be renewed, subject to and in accor-

dance with the provisions of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act.” The TAPS owner companies have applied for renewal of the right-of-way for the purpose of extending the authorization for this essential pipeline.

The purpose of the trans-Alaska pipeline is to transport crude oil from the North Slope of Alaska to the marine terminal at Valdez. The pipeline is essential to providing oil for the energy needs of the nation — at present, the pipeline carries about 20 percent of the oil produced in the United States. Renewal of the right-of-way is needed to maintain this critical flow of oil from Alaska.

The need for the pipeline has been declared by an Act of Congress. In Section 202 of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act, Congress specifically made the following findings and declaration:

- “The...delivery of oil...from Alaska’s North Slope to domestic markets is in the national interest because of growing domestic shortages and increasing dependence upon insecure foreign sources.”
- “The...trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline from the North Slope of Alaska to Port Valdez...will best serve the national interest.”