

00020

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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Natural Resource Conservation & Development Board

550 WEST 7th AVENUE, SUITE 1400
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3660
PHONE: (907) 269-8431
FAX: (907) 269-8918

August 5, 2002

BLM TAPS Renewal EIS
Argonne National Laboratory EAD/900
9700 S. Cass Avenue
Argonne, IL 60439

Dear TAPS Renewal Team:

The Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board is a five-member board appointed by the Governor representing the five major land areas of the state. The board advises the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources regarding development of agricultural, forest and grazing land in the state, oversees the conservation of soil and water resources and acts in an advisory capacity to the soil and water conservation districts in the state. In addition, the board and the districts have a functional role in the development and settlement of land.

Alaska's Soil and Water Conservation Districts support the continued transport of Alaskan oil through the pipeline and beyond in a manner that both maintains the delivery system but also protects the environment on land and at sea. Safe operation of the pipeline is of concern to the districts since it runs, for its entire length, within district boundaries. In some areas, the pipeline represents a barrier that restricts access to lands with arable soils, timber, mineral resources and recreation opportunities. Consequently, the holder of this lease should not only manage this invaluable public resource in an efficient and environmentally sensitive manner, but also facilitate conservation and access to adjacent lands through the leased right of way.

During the last few years, we have been working with the Kenny Lake Soil and Water Conservation District and the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts to create access to state lands to the west of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System at TAPS Milepost 704.2. Creation of access to these lands from the Richardson Highway involved construction of approach roads and a bridge over a segment of below ground pipe. This project required coordination and support from the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. Alyeska worked with the project team on bridge design and performed a substantial amount of the bridge installation work. The support and cooperation provided by Alyeska during this project exemplifies the kind of stewardship that should be expected of the manager of the TAPS.

"Develop, Conserve and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans"

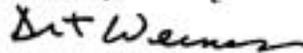
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Our working relationship with the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company leads us to believe that this organization has the expertise, experience and attitude towards the state and its residents to successfully manage the TAPS for another thirty years. The Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board supports the Preferred Alternative described in the DEIS that would renew the Federal Agreement and Grant of Right of Way for 30 years.

20-1
(cont.)
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Sincerely,



Art Weiner, PhD
Executive Director

for

Dick Zobel
Chairman

Responses for Document 00020

00020-001: Thank you for your comment. Public access to the TAPS ROW is addressed in stipulation 1.12 of the Federal Grant and State Lease.

00020-002: Thank you for your comment.

August 5, 2002

BLM TAPS Renewal EIS
Argonne National Laboratory EAD/900
9700 W. Cass Avenue
Argonne, IL 60439

SUBJECT: Comments on TAPS ROW Renewal DEIS

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a Vice President of Lynden, Inc. Lynden has a long history in the state of Alaska providing logistics and transportation services to the oil and gas industry starting with Cook Inlet in the late 1950's. Lynden transported many of the materials used in the construction of the Trans Alaska Pipeline and has continued to provide services during the 25 years of operations.

I was personally involved in the construction of the pipeline starting in 1970 with the original survey of the route. I was a construction manager for Alyeska Pipeline Service Company during the construction phase between 1974 and 1977, as well as being the manager of the Project Management Department for the expansion of the pipeline in 1979 through 1981. As someone who was a part of the construction, I am well aware of the tremendous efforts that were applied to build a pipeline that would survive for many years beyond its initial thirty-year useful life. We spared no expense to insure that the pipeline would be capable of withstanding any of the operational requirements it would encounter.

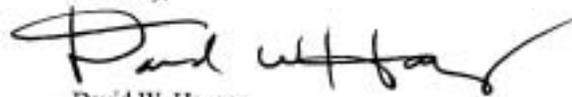
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I fully support the renewal of the Right of Way Lease for a full thirty-year term. My family, and myself have benefited tremendously from the economic impact of the pipeline on the State of Alaska. Without the pipeline, the State of Alaska would be dramatically less well off and many of the facilities and services we enjoy would never have been available.

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The track record of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company in constructing and operating the Trans Alaska Pipeline System is well documented and beyond reproach. Alyeska has deserved the rights to operate this project for another thirty years.

Sincerely,



David W. Haugen
10300 Elies Drive
Anchorage, AK 99507

Responses for Document 00021

00021-001: The methods of construction and the TAPS operational history were considered in the analysis.

00021-002: Thank you for your comment.

169 Wildflower Drive
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
August 8, 2002

BLM TAPS Renewal EIS
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S.Cass Avenue
Argonne, IL 60439

Dear Sir:

Even though I live in Pennsylvania, I have walked along portions of the pipeline that is accessible to the public from various highways in Alaska, and have flown over portions while on the way to backpacking on Alaska's north slope. I have also viewed some of the displays along the pipeline route. I also submitted earlier comments concerning the renewal of the pipeline permit.

There are a number of issues that trouble me. The mind set seems to be that since there really have been no *very serious* problems in the past decades with the pipeline, there won't be any problems in the future, so simply give the oil companies a 30-year renewal; just trust them.

Of course, the Exxon Valdez incident showed just what happens when one simply 'trusts' the oil companies to do what they pledged to do.

If the permit were to be renewed for another 30 years, the pipeline would be a 'senior citizen.' Decades of hot oil going through a pipeline in a time of changing climate conditions could pose some serious engineering considerations, considerations that the pipeline was never engineered to meet. The heat pipes on the VSM's show a blockage of 84% to some degree, yet there seems to be blanket assurances that everything will be all right. Climate changes in the permafrost could cause substantial shifting of VSM's, but only 300 are noted as moving, and might require action. What type of monitoring system will be in place to monitor this issue? Technology exists to monitor the shifting of entire mountain sides within fractions of a millimeter; shifting of VSMs should be simple to monitor on a continuous basis on a statistically relevant basis to determine problems in shifting before breaks occur. Exactly what type of monitoring system will be in place to do monitoring. Is it a continuation of the same system that was designed 30 years ago? Is pipeline monitoring based on GPS systems to detect any shifts and relay information in real time? At one location along the pipeline, it was noted on how much shifting that a specific portion of the pipeline could handle in the event of an earthquake. An earthquake shifting might be able to be statistically calculated. What would be the effect of subsidence in a non earthquake area due to permafrost melting?

I do have to question whether the statement of 'routine monitoring and maintenance' is a satisfactory response. There has been a steady decrease in staffing levels over the years. For a

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pipeline that is aging, with corrosion problems and other problems a result of aging, this does not really indicate that now is the time to reduce the efforts. The situation of staff reductions and continued rotations of management is a recipe for failure and ideal for finger pointing in the event of problems.

In the time period of 1998-2000, there was a total of 29 restarts of the pipeline; a process that can result in serious problems if everything is not working properly. These numbers are substantially more than in a time period before then when staffing levels were higher. This seems to suggest an aging system with more problems developing. Rather than some congratulations for doing this process with fewer people and not having a catastrophic spill, it should demand closer scrutiny so that a spill will not occur in the future.

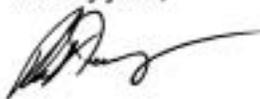
The oil spill from the rifle hole shot in the pipeline apparently went undetected for thirty-six hours. To a terrorist, it could suggest shooting bullet holes along a long portion would be an excellent way of disabling the pipeline for a considerable length of time, since it would be a long time before the collective loss might be detected with current monitoring systems in place.

The messages of the oil companies seem to be that since there have not been serious problems with the pipeline in the past decades, nothing will happen in the future decades, so simply give a rubber stamp for approval. Using that analogy, I guess I could save a lot of money by canceling all my insurance coverages – auto, house, health. After all, I haven't needed or used them, so why pay the premiums.

There are certain accounting procedures that some corporations have used that may have been acceptable once, but after bankruptcies and the loss of trillions of dollars to investors and pension holders, are looked upon in disfavor. I do not want to read of massive damage to the environment due to failure of certain maintenance that was once considered adequate but really were not once a problem arose, but was rubber stamped by officials at the time of the TAPS renewal for 30 years.

While I could footnote some of the specifics that I have cited, it all comes from public sources that should be readily recognized by reviewers if they are indeed looking over the comments provided, since some will footnote the specific information in their comments.

Sincerely yours,



Robert Franz

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(cont.)

Responses for Document 00022

00022-001: Integrity of pipeline structural supports is closely monitored. See Section 4.1.3.2.1 for a discussion on the design, monitoring, and repair of pipeline structural supports and heat pipes. Ongoing monitoring of pipeline corrosion is also discussed in Section 4.1.3.2.1.

The warming in Alaska in the last several decades is recognized. Evidences of warming in areas surrounding Alaska, including the Arctic Sea, as well as air temperatures, permafrost temperatures, and field observations in thermokarst lakes and glaciers are presented in Section 3.12.7.

The text box in Section 4.1.1.8 provides a synopsis of the MP 400 bullet hole incident. Details of the spill and the response are provided. Changes to the pipeline's spill contingency plan that are being made as a result of lessons learned are also discussed.

The comment suggests that "routine" equates to minimal. As the term is used in the EIS, routine means something that continues over time on a deliberate schedule designed to preclude failure of critical subsystems. The maintenance activity itself is very deliberately developed and focused on the particular needs of the system being maintained or the particular threats or forces the system is subjected to. The only thing "routine" about it is that it occurs on a regular schedule.

BLM TAPS renewal EIS
Argonne National Lab EAD/900
9700 S. Cass Ave.
Argonne, IL 60439
To Whom It May Concern:

Let me tell you a story. Three years ago while driving along the Richardson Highway after a camping trip in the Alaska Range, we noticed that one of the pilings holding the pipeline above Upper Miller Creek was severely degraded because of recent flooding. On mentioning it to Alyeska, they pretty much blew us off. On reporting it to the Alaska Forum for Environmental Responsibility, they formally complained about it to Alyeska. It took a long time until Alyeska did anything about the failing piling (three months, in fact), but thanks to AFER something finally was done to save that stretch of the line and avoid a spill that would have polluted almost the entire Tanana and Yukon Rivers. This underlines the need to establish AFER as the citizens pipeline oversight group. This group should be funded by TAPS through the Dept. of the Interior, as is the oversight group in Prince William Sound. State and federal documents did not consider this need during scoping meetings last fall.

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There are other needs/deficiencies that should be considered.

1. The comment period for reading and digesting the nearly 2000 pages of documents relating to the renewal of the TAPS lease should be increased by a minimum of 45 days. It is patently ridiculous that BLM and DNR expected these documents to be read with constructive scrutiny during the summer months, at least in the 45 days allowed.

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2. The pipeline is now 25 years old and, like any aging mechanical equipment, will face major maintenance challenges as the years go by. The fall 2001 spills on pipeline startup, the failed response to the Livengood bullet hole spill, and a 21 inch shift in a section of the pipeline at Atigun Pass that went undetected for several months are just a few reasons why periodic technology and environmental reviews should be made mandatory as a condition of reauthorization of the TAPS.

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3. TAPS dismantling, removal and restoration funds should be immediately placed in an escrow account to assure that, even with potential bankruptcy (a la Enron and World-Com) of the pipeline companies who presently own the line, money will be available to restore the environment.

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4. Despite clear indications that Alaska faces multiple effects from global warming, the state and federal documents do not adequately address climate change and its impacts on permafrost and TAPS structural supports.

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5. A TAPS Employee Concerns Program should be incorporated into lease and right-of-way renewal to ensure critical problems are adequately addressed to prevent spills.

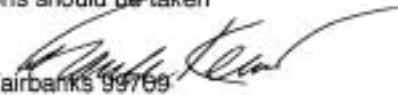
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6. To prevent conflict-of-interest, TAPS should be transferred to a single responsible managing party with no North Slope production.

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Since the TAPS right-of-way agreements will set the course for the operation and maintenance of TAPS for the next 30 years, and since this 800 mile line crosses some of Alaska's most beautiful wilderness, these considerations should be taken seriously. Thank you.

Frank J. Keim
2220 Penrose Lane, Fairbanks 99709



Responses for Document 00023

00023-001: The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

00023-002: Although 45 days is understandably a short time to review a document of this size, the time period is consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act regarding the review of draft environmental impact statements. Significant effort was made to advise people of the schedule and duration of the review well in advance (one year). The DEIS was published on schedule and many substantive comments on the content of the DEIS, including yours, were received during the 45-day period.

00023-003: At this time the BLM does not see a need to conduct an independent audit of TAPS facilities and the associated management and operation processes. However, audits are one of the tools used by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the agencies of the Joint Pipeline Office (JPO) to evaluate and regulate TAPS operations and maintenance. Examples of audits conducted on TAPS facilities and management systems over the past 10 years include the Quality Technology Company audit of TAPS, Arthur D. Little Audit of TAPS, AKOSH electrical systems audit, BLM audit of TAPS Employee Concerns Program, JPO audit of Section 29 compliance, and various others. Past audits targeted areas that had insufficient information required to determine the adequacy of the conduct of operations.

In addition to formal audits, BLM and the member agencies of JPO conduct ongoing reviews of TAPS operations and maintenance. Examples include:

- Ongoing oil spill contingency planning (tri-annual) and response capability reviews (annual),
- Field surveys of stipulation requirements, such as fish passage inspections,
- Comprehensive Monitoring Program Reports (12 published since 1996), and
- Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM) systems reviews (ongoing).

While targeted audits, inspections, field surveys, and monitoring programs provided useful information on the condition of TAPS, targeted assessments of specific activities do not generally provide the necessary framework to systematically address all critical TAPS functions and their associated reliability. Thus, the BLM and member agencies of JPO in close cooperation with APSC have begun a systematic process to identify the critical functional components of TAPS. The process, called reliability centered maintenance (RCM), is an ongoing system-by-system audit that determines function, failure modes, consequence and preventative maintenance of critical systems. The BLM is committed to RCM and believes that this process represents a pro-active approach to oversight and regulation of TAPS. In addition, RCM is widely used in the airline and other industries as the standard tool for reducing risk of failure to critical system components. Reducing risk in TAPS critical systems directly translates to reducing safety and environmental risks.

00023-004: The reader is directed to the discussion of escrow funds found in Section 2.5.

00023-005: Please see Section 4.3.2 of the FEIS (Soils and Permafrost) for additional information.

00023-006: The BLM and the agencies within JPO acknowledge both that there have been legitimate issues related to APSC's Employee Concerns Program (ECP) and that APSC has undertaken considerable efforts to improve and refine its ECP program.

The BLM and JPO expect to continue to evaluate the effectiveness of APSC's ECP through confidential surveys that will seek input from all TAPS employees (see Section 4.8.4 of the FEIS). Like the three prior surveys, these efforts can provide broad measures of the confidence that TAPS workers have in APSC's ECP and can suggest areas needing improvement.

The JPO also notes that a confidential hotline (1-800-764-5070) currently exists for employees or members of the public to report issues and concerns about TAPS. Recorded messages are checked daily by the BLM-Alaska Special Agent's office. The purpose of the hotline is to identify issues relating to pipeline integrity, public safety, environmental protections and regulatory compliance for incorporation into the JPO work program. The BLM also refers employees seeking personal relief (e.g., restoration of employment or lost compensation) to the U.S. Department of Labor or other appropriate authorities for further investigation.

00023-007: The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."



August 5, 2002

6441 South Airport Place
Anchorage, Alaska 99502-1800
(907) 245-1544
Fax: (907) 245-1744

BLM TAPS Renewal EIS
Argonne National Laboratory EAD/900
9700 S Cass Avenue
Argonne, IL 60439

SUBJECT: Comments of the Draft EIS

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a Vice President of Lynden Logistics, a subsidiary company of Lynden, Inc. Lynden has a long history in the state of Alaska providing logistics and transportation services to the oil and gas industry starting with Cook Inlet in the late 1950's. Lynden transported many of the materials used in the construction of the Trans Alaska Pipeline and has continued to provide services during the 25 years of operations.

Lynden fully supports the renewal of the Right of Way Lease for a full thirty-year term. Lynden has benefited as a company from the transportation services it has provided but, in addition, all Lynden employees, including my family, and myself have benefited tremendously from the economic impact of the pipeline on the State of Alaska. Without the pipeline, the State of Alaska would be dramatically less well off and many of the facilities and services we enjoy would never have been available.

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As a company that is in the transportation business, we appreciate doing business with well constructed and operated organizations. The track record of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company in constructing and operating the Trans Alaska Pipeline System is well documented and beyond reproach. Alyeska has deserved the rights to operate this project for another thirty years.

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Sincerely,

LYNDEN LOGISTICS, INC.

Jeanine St. John
Jeanine St. John
Vice President

Responses for Document 00024

00024-001: Thank you for your comment.

00024-002: Thank you for your comment.

00024-003: Thank you for your comment.

Mentasta Lake Traditional Council
P.O. Box 6019
Mentasta Lake, Alaska 99780-6019
(907) 291-2319 or (907) 291-2328

August 7, 2002

BLM/TAPS Renewal Scoping
Argonne National Laboratory, EAD/900
9700 South Cass
Argonne, IL 60439

Dear Sirs:

Mentasta Lake Village was not included in the Government-to-Government Consultation Process, yet as a village in the Ahtna region, we experience definite impacts from the TAPS/ROW. Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629) directs federal agencies to include environmental justice considerations as part of their missions, addressing the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions, programs or policies on minority and low- income populations. Section 4-4 of Executive Order 12989 identifies subsistence issues as a particular concern. Other effects discussed by EPA guidelines in particular impact areas including ecological, human health and socioeconomic analysis. Some impacts we face as tribal governments include being tasked with (and under-funded for) the disproportionately high and negative impacts to our lands and their ecosystems, not to mention the socio-cultural and socio-economic impacts that accompany.

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Many communities should have received economic benefits that include improved education facilities, economic development, socio-cultural awareness, etc. But with the decline in Federal and State funding, the quest for improvements becomes increasingly difficult as we compete for limited and declining resources. Tribes, with less resources, bear a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences.

The JPO agencies would continue to use risk-based approach to overseeing applications, whereas the familiarity of culture, historic uses, subsistence patterns and changes, and other terrain knowledge needs to be inserted in the risk-based method of thinking to estimate the true impacts of possible events. For example, an oil spill that reached the Copper River impacts the spawning habits of salmon at Batzulnetas on Tanada Creek, which is the main source of subsistence fishing for Mentasta residents. Section 3.24 discusses subsistence as "difficult to estimate relative impact of subsistence harvests because consumption and exchange of subsistence products do not occur in the marketplace". This shows the need for further study. Subsistence is discussed in Section 3.24 in figures, techniques, reasons and a brief discussion of harvest patterns, with old and inaccurate data. It is apparent that the study still does not grasp the full impact of subsistence. A history has been provided, but there does not seem to be an understanding

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of the true impact a spill, for example, would have on one river. A failure to protect our Tribal members' historical subsistence use and livelihood in this area and along the entire Copper River puts at risk a catastrophe that cannot be measured in dollars. BLM is authorized to fund any study it finds necessary in the course of its monitoring of TAPS and can oblige TAPS owners to fund studies, so a study on Tribal impacts should be funded that would present an updated and clearer picture of impacts on Alaska's Native population. The census figures used in the EIS were from 1990, and reflect "minority" figures that do not clarify Native figures. Since the ROW Agreement was with Alaska Natives and not any other ethnic or minority group, an updated census needs to be analyzed for Native benefit. The 20% Native hire figure by 2004 has not been met, and an adjustment for education and training was not the original intent of the figure agreed upon. Much has changed since the 1990 census figures that were used and old figures only present gross inaccuracies.

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Many other issues need to be fully addressed and if BLM and ADNR were truly working to satisfy both federal and state requirements of Government Consultations, they would honor the tribe's requests to participate. There is still a need for Tribal participation on the Joint Pipeline Office and a "tribal" draft Environmental Impact Statement should be considered. Since Native land interests are at risk and need protection, Native oversight should be required. There should be consideration for reimbursing the expenses incurred in defense of subsistence and land rights during the establishment and continued use of the right-of-way, including legal and consulting expenses and issues associated with trespass enforcement.

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The EIS discusses State and Local expenditures (3.23.3.5.3/4) but fails to consider the fact that the Glenallen area does not tax the pipeline and there is an impact in the level monies available for community programs and education spending in its surrounding communities, including Mentasta. Again, the level of expenditures per capita will only decrease and the Tribal Governments will again, unfairly, assume many responsibilities.

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What the EIS did not do was address what will be done to correct the deficiencies, such as trespass concerns and land use issues. The EIS also suggests that sociocultural impacts would be negative but small, but the continued fragmentation of rural Alaska Natives and non-Native sociocultural conditions is important and needs further study. Since the EIS was not received by the tribes in a timely manner, we can only continue to encourage the agencies to provide a "sufficient opportunity for productive participation". We expect to submit further comments as this lengthy document is reviewed further.

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Sincerely,



Donna M. Pennington
Council Member

Responses for Document 00025

00025-001: In a letter dated July 16, 2001, Mentasta Village Council asked to be included as a “directly impacted tribe of Ahtna along the ROW corridor.” The BLM responded in a letter dated August 7, 2001 that described the criteria for determining which tribes should be involved in the “fullest level of consultation.” The BLM offered to add the Mentasta Traditional Council to the list of directly affected tribes “if you could provide us with written rationale related to the criteria above or other good reasons for including your tribe.” The BLM did not receive a response to this request.

00025-002: Section 3.29 discusses the evaluation of environmental justice in the EIS, which is consistent with points made in the comment. Sections 4.3.25 (proposed action), 4.4.4.19 (spills), 4.5.2.25 (less-than-30-year renewal alternative), 4.6.2.25 (no-action alternative), and 4.7.8.7 (cumulative impacts), in turn, examine anticipated impacts associated with environmental justice. In the absence of anticipated high and adverse impacts, a precondition stated in Executive Order 12898, environmental justice impacts are not anticipated under any of the alternatives or cumulative actions considered in the EIS.

The flow of federal and state funds to tribal governments in general is beyond the scope of this EIS. Overall state expenditures are expected to increase slowly under both renewal and non-renewal alternatives (Tables 4.3.14 and 4.6.19). However, state budget problems call into question how these expenditures will be distributed, possibly putting certain expenditures that affect Alaska Natives and rural Alaskans in general at risk (see revisions to Section 3.25.1.3).

00025-003: The EIS team examined a broad range of information on eight Alaska Native sociocultural systems whose traditional areas intersected (or occurred near) the TAPS, in part to develop a better understanding of a range of potential impacts to Native peoples. The evaluation of subsistence employs the best available data to conduct a community-specific evaluation of subsistence. It also coordinated the evaluation of potential impacts with other sections of the EIS that examined impacts to important subsistence resources, such as the coordination of Section 4.4.4.14 (anticipated impacts of spills on subsistence) with Sections 4.4.4.3 (anticipated impacts of spills on surface water) and 4.4.4.10 (anticipated impacts of spills on fish). Instead of evaluating potential impacts of spills into each of the roughly 800 waterways that the TAPS crosses, the EIS looked at categories of waterways, identifying some situations (narrow, shallow, low-volume waterways with large spills) to be particularly serious.

Although additional data almost always are desirable, the information available on subsistence was adequate to evaluate likely impacts under all alternatives considered in the EIS. It is important to note that with respect to spills such occurrences are not part of the normal operation of the TAPS, owner companies make considerable effort to avoid spills, and the likelihood of a large spill into a specific waterway is extremely remote (see Section 4.4.1).

In the identification of subsistence concerns explored in this EIS, the document identified sociocultural and ceremonial roles of this activity for Alaska Natives in addition to economic roles—acknowledgment that negative impacts to subsistence indeed would extend beyond those that can be measured in financial terms. The discussions of subsistence and sociocultural systems (Sections 3.24 and 3.25) have been revised to present this position more clearly.

00025-004: The reader is directed to Section 2.5 of the EIS.

00025-005: The comment incorrectly states that the DEIS used 1990 census figures to identify minority status. As noted in Section 3.29, the document used data from the 2000 census (the most recent decennial census) to identify minority status. The census aggregates statistics for Native peoples (Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians) for presentation, although data are collected for broad groups of Alaska Natives (e.g., Athabascans). The DEIS did use 1990 data to identify low-income status for small geographic units (block groups), as the 2000 census data were not released at the time of document preparation (as noted in Section 3.29).

The FEIS includes the 2000 census data for low income, which have since been released (also noted in Section 3.29). Any adjustments in Section 29 of the Agreement and Right-of-Way for Trans-Alaska Pipeline in terms of education and training were not discussed in the DEIS. Most recent data on Alaska Native hires are presented in Section 4.3.21.1, as is the explicit assumption of APSC compliance with Section 29.

00025-006: Establishment of a Tribal oversight role for TAPS operations and maintenance, and tribal representation in the Joint Pipeline Office, are outside the scope of the environmental impact statement process for the renewal of the federal grant of right-of-way. In addition, legal and regulatory circumstances do not allow BLM to create a specific TAPS Tribal oversight group.

Although Executive Order 13175 requires BLM to consult with Tribal groups through government-to-government consultation, it does not exempt BLM from its statutory authority to provide regulatory oversight for all TAPS operations and maintenance. This authority cannot be displaced, shared, or abdicated. Agencies that operate within the framework of the Joint Pipeline Office (JPO) also derive their oversight responsibilities from specific statutes and regulations. As with the BLM, these authorities form a legally binding regulatory responsibility on the agency.

Tribal participation and Tribal input has and will continue to be a fundamental component of the government's responsibility to ensure safe and environmentally-protective TAPS operations. Many laws and regulations that direct specific TAPS oversight and compliance issues include mandated Tribal as well as public review and comment—for example, subsistence hearings and oil spill response planning. In addition, specific input has been sought from the 21 directly affected tribes—such as the request to contribute traditional ecological knowledge and information on traditional cultural properties, invited via certified mail in April 2002. In general, review and comment by Tribal groups and the public ensure full and open disclosure of the decision-making process. In addition, BLM-Alaska has a legally authorized Regional Advisory Council (RAC) that meets regularly to discuss land management issues in Alaska. The RAC is composed of a diverse cross-section of citizens, including Tribal representatives who provide advice to BLM-Alaska and who work together in a collaborative setting.

00025-007: The nature of the fiscal relationship between the City of Glennallen and the State of Alaska, levels of public expenditures, and any changes in such expenditures beyond impacts associated with the alternatives considered in the EIS, are beyond the scope of this document.

00025-008: Although Section 4.3.23.1 notes trespass concerns on Alaska Native lands, such impacts were not judged to be severe, and thus within the context of an EIS mitigation measures would not be required. The same general logic holds for sociocultural impacts associated with the TAPS, such as those discussed in Section 4.3.21.

This is not to say that either land use or sociocultural issues of the sort cited in the comment do not deserve attention, but rather that they should be addressed outside the EIS process -- particularly when they are not necessarily associated with continuation of the TAPS.

00025-009: Although 45 days is understandably a short time to review a document of this size, the time period is consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act regarding the review of draft environmental impact statements. Significant effort was made to advise people of the schedule and duration of the review well in advance (one year). The DEIS was published on schedule and many substantive comments on the content of the DEIS, including yours, were received during the 45-day period.

While comments on the DEIS had to be received by the end of the 45-day comment period in order to be addressed in the Final EIS, additional provisions for involvement in the decision-making process apply to Tribal governments and Native organizations. The process of government-to-government consultation allows these groups to continue dialogue with the Bureau of Land Management.



CHENEGA CORPORATION

*REV
8/30/02
9:09*

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Phone: 907.277.5706
Fax: 907.277.5700
e-mail: chenega@chenegacorp.com

Aleut Plaza, 4000 Old Seward Highway, Suite 101, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

August 20, 2002

Joint Pipeline Office
411 West 4th Avenue, Suite 2
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

TAPS RIGHT OF WAY RENEWAL: COMMENTS ON DRAFT EIS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) Right-of-Way (ROW) Draft EIS. Following are general comments submitted on behalf of Chenega Corporation.

1) CHENEGA CORPORATION BELIEVES THE PAYMENT OF PUNITIVE DAMAGES BY EXXON MUST BE MADE PRIOR TO ANY RE-ISSUANCE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PRIVILEGES

As one of the owners of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, Exxon stands to greatly benefit economically from any re-issuance of right-of-way privileges. It is our firm belief that Exxon should be made to pay all outstanding punitive damages arising from the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, damages that have been pending for more than a decade, prior to being allowed to receive any additional economic benefit as a result of right-of way renewal.

We request that Section 30 of the Code of Federal Regulations be implemented to provide for coverage of cumulative damages to the subsistence economy of Prince William Sound.

We have attached a document indicating Congressional intent for Alaska Natives to be provided with restoration if the TAPS ROW should result in negative impacts to subsistence resources. This matter was addressed as a part of the initial pipeline approval process, and if these regulations are not followed, it casts doubt upon the ultimate effectiveness of the current renewal process.

2) CHENEGA CORPORATION BELIEVES THE RESOLUTION OF PAST PROMISES MADE BY TAPS OWNERS TO THE CHUGACH PEOPLE MUST BE RESOLVED PRIOR TO ANY RE-ISSUANCE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PRIVILEGES

In return for its withdrawal of claims to lands in the vicinity of Valdez, Chugach Alaska Corporation and its people were promised the provision of employment and training opportunities, as well as the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the lands and waters for subsistence and other uses.

To date, nearly 30 years following the original TAPS ROW Agreement, the

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promises for employment and training opportunities have yet to be meaningfully fulfilled and the promises of environmental conservation and protection were irreparably broken at the time of the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.

It is Chenega Corporation's firm belief that meaningful, preferential contracting, employment and training opportunities must be included, monitored and enforced as part of any ROW renewal to assure the promises made nearly 30 years ago are upheld and implemented and that the accountability of those responsible for the 1989 Oil Spill are rendered prior to any re-issuance of ROW renewal.

3) CHENEGA CORPORATION BELIEVES THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF THE TAPS MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND PREPARED FOR PRIOR TO ANY RE-ISSUANCE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PRIVILEGES

While Chenega Corporation fully recognizes the great benefits brought about by the existing TAPS, as one of the most affected landowners in the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, we also recognize the severe and long-lasting damage that such a system can create as well. Chenega lands continue to be affected by damaging levels of residual oil, as shown by the attached map and tables, which indicate that the impact of oil on our subsistence use areas will last for many decades to come. The Chenega people's subsistence way of life and psychological well being are still heavily impacted by the Spill's harm. Only by acknowledging and preparing for such potential future harm can we be assured of greater future security for our lands and our people.

We feel this goal can best be accomplished by implementing and operating a First Responder System at the Village of Chenega Bay. Not only will the security of our environment be enhanced by such a facility, but by maintaining such a Response System at Chenega, necessary equipment and trained manpower will be ready at a moment's notice to provide required response services.

A detailed baseline study that addresses the on-going impacts of the Chenega people's subsistence way of life as a direct result of the Oil Spill would also be a positive starting point for recognition of harm and a beginning point for healing.

The existing communication and outreach program has not been effective in addressing our needs in terms of oil spill response, environmental issues, and promises made to the Native people of the Chugach Region.

4) CHENEGA CORPORATION BELIEVES INCREASED CONTRACTING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES MUST BE INCLUDED AND ENFORCED IN ANY TAPS ROW AGREEMENT PRIOR TO ANY RE-ISSUANCE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PRIVILEGES

While efforts to live up to their Section 29 commitments by the TAPS owners have increased in recent years, it is our firm belief that even greater improvements need to be made and that some enforceability mechanism should be added to the ROW grant to ensure such improvements occur, as no enforcement mechanism beyond closure of the pipeline

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(cont.)

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TAPS Renewal
Page 3

presently exists. This mechanism should incorporate realistic compensation for damages and noncompliance.

Additionally, the increased capabilities of the Corporations within the pipeline and marine corridors must also be recognized and acknowledged as part of reaching Section 29 and contracting commitments. Using Chenega Corporation as an example, our capabilities for manpower and contracting have vastly increased over the past 30 years and there are now several contracting and employment opportunities associated with the TAPS that can be effectively provided by our Corporation that did not exist at the time of original ROW creation nearly 30 years ago.

26-6
(Cont.)

The TAPS ROW agreement should incorporate first right of refusal and sole source rights for the above mentioned services to Chenega. We would like to point out that this right should have been provided to us over the first 30 years of TAPS according to the promises made to tribes prior to and during the process of building the pipeline in exchange for right of way easements. We expect Alyeska to fulfill the obligation to provide minority contracting opportunities as required in Section 28 and the Native contracting provisions of Section 29.

51 COMMENT PERIOD

Chenega Corporation would like to express our displeasure with the length of the comment period for responding to the DEIS. This document took over a year and several million dollars to develop, clearly it requires more than 45 days for a detailed public review. We believe the comment period ought to be extended for another 45 days.

26-7

51 VAGUENESS OF NATIVE SECTIONS

The sections of the DEIS intended to summarize impacts on Native communities (Section 3, Appendices D and E) were not developed with any input from anyone in Chenega. There are inaccuracies and missing information in the presentation of Chenega's current lifestyle and economy, and therefore the report does not accurately reflect the impact that TAPS could have on our community's socio-economic, cultural and psychological well-being. The people of Chenega are particularly qualified to provide input on this subject due to our ongoing experience with the impacts of oil contamination.

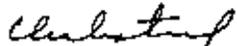
26-8

In conclusion, while Chenega Corporation supports the ROW extension for 30 years DEIS alternative, it remains gravely concerned with the primary issues highlighted above and optimistic that these recommended measures may be incorporated into any final Federal right of way grant. Again, because of the limited response time, we are not able to detail all of these inaccuracies.

26-9

Thank you again for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,


Charles W. Totemoff
President & CEO

Attachments

Responses for Document 00026

00026-001: The reader is directed to the discussion of Exxon Valdez payments in Section 2.5.

The BLM recognizes that there may be interactions between the TAPS and subsistence resources. The BLM also notes that current information does not show a relationship between TAPS and subsistence impacts. The BLM and State of Alaska within JPO are currently working with industry and others to develop a science-based approach to determine how TAPS and subsistence resources interact.

00026-002: Section 29 issues have been a major component of the ongoing government-to-government process under TAPS renewal. BLM welcomes continued dialog with all affected Native Tribes related to Section 29 issues.

A copy of the 2001 Alaska Native Utilization Agreement (ANUA) and its implementing plan have been added to the FEIS as Appendix F. These documents detail the Section 29 requirements, as agreed to by the company and BLM/DOI.

00026-003: The oil spill planning and prevention effort in the JPO is a large-scale, multi-agency endeavor. Each participating agency (Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Environmental Protection Agency, BLM, and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources) has a particular focus, but these are all considered collectively in the JPO TAPS oil spill response and planning group. This inter-agency group generally meets monthly with APSC and maintains a continuous monitoring program on TAPS oil spill planning and related issues. The group also coordinates with the Office of Pipeline Safety, which reviews the Pipeline Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

The emphasis of all agencies is on the prevention of spills. This is accomplished through a combination of: 1) oversight of spill contingency planning (including 64 exercises on TAPS annually) and, 2) through JPO's comprehensive TAPS operations oversight, monitor issues which could contribute to a spill in the future. In the event of a spill, however, JPO has a number of highly-trained individuals who are fully prepared to respond quickly and effectively.

The Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan (C-plans) for the pipeline, VMT and PWS provide for significant resources, including equipment, trained personnel, and effective organization, to respond if oil does spill to the environment. Some of the oil spill response crews reside in local villages along the pipeline.

The C-Plans are updated periodically and lessons learned from actual occurrences as well as from regular exercises conducted along the pipeline, VMT and PWS are incorporated into the Plans. In addition, the C-Plans are reviewed periodically ranging from every year to every 5 years by BLM, ADEC, DOT, EPA. As part of this process, APSC and the Federal and State agencies with oversight responsibilities for TAPS make sure that the appropriate emergency response equipment and personnel are made available along the TAPS. Recommendations concerning the spill response process, equipment and training are noted. However, recommending specific methods for mitigating future oil spills should be done as part of the C-plan review.

00026-004: The BLM recognizes that there may be interactions between the TAPS and subsistence resources. The BLM also notes that current information does not show a relationship between TAPS and subsistence impacts. The BLM and State of Alaska within JPO are currently working with industry and others to develop a science-based approach to determine how TAPS and subsistence resources interact.

- 00026-005:** Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments," requires that the federal government consult with Tribal governments during the preparation of an EIS. Government-to-government consultation for this EIS is described in Section 5.3. As the lead federal agency associated with this EIS, the BLM established government-to-government exchanges with all tribal governments in Alaska and more focused exchanges with 21 tribes directly affected by the TAPS. Chenega Bay and other villages in the Chugach Region are included. These 21 communities received more detailed mailings explaining the proposed ROW renewal, the EIS process, and the various sources of additional information. Meetings were held with all Tribal organizations and Native groups that requested them to discuss the EIS process and related issues in greater detail. At the meetings, specific emphasis was placed on how Tribal organizations and Native groups can participate effectively in the EIS and ROW renewal processes. The BLM and member agencies of the JPO are committed to ongoing government-to-government consultations and welcome invitations to participate in meetings and dialogue with Tribal organizations and Native groups.
- 00026-006:** Section 29 issues have been a major component of the ongoing government-to-government process under TAPS renewal. BLM welcomes continued dialog with all affected Native Tribes related to Section 29 issues.
- A copy of the 2001 Alaska Native Utilization Agreement (ANUA) and its implementing plan have been added to the FEIS as Appendix F. These documents detail the Section 29 requirements, as agreed to by the company and BLM/DOI.
- 00026-007:** Although 45 days is understandably a short time to review a document of this size, the time period is consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act regarding the review of draft environmental impact statements. Significant effort was made to advise people of the schedule and duration of the review well in advance (one year). The DEIS was published on schedule and many substantive comments on the content of the DEIS, including yours, were received during the 45-day period.
- While comments on the DEIS had to be received by the end of the 45-day comment period in order to be addressed in the Final EIS, additional provisions for involvement in the decision-making process apply to Tribal governments and Native organizations. The process of government-to-government consultation allows these groups to continue dialogue with the Bureau of Land Management.
- 00026-008:** Chapter 3 (Section 3.24.2.4.1) and Appendix D (Section D.2.3.4.1) discuss Chenega in particular, and have been revised to summarize characteristics of this community more thoroughly. Appendix E does not have a section discussing Chenega.
- In April 2002, EIS preparers contacted the 21 directly affected villages by certified letter to invite additional participation in preparing this EIS, specifically focusing on traditional ecological knowledge and traditional cultural properties. Chenega was among the villages contacted; neither they nor any other villages have responded to this invitation.
- 00026-009:** Thank you for your comment.

ERIC TROYER
 2011 RED BERRY ROAD
 FAIRBANKS, AK 99709

BLM TAPS Renewal EIS
 Argonne National Laboratory HAD/900
 9700 S. Cass Avenue
 Argonne, IL 60439

To whom it may concern,

I am concerned about the renewal of the right-of-way agreements for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. There are two main things I am concerned about: sufficient oversight and proper maintenance.

I support the call for an oversight committee with strong citizen participation similar to what was formed in the wake of the Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989. As citizens of Alaska we have the most to lose when the next oil spill occurs. Therefore, we should have a say in how the pipeline is being run.

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Also, the pipeline is getting old and the climate is changing. Despite all the maintenance that is done on the pipeline these things need to be taken into formal consideration. As time marches on maintenance, oversight and examinations of the pipeline need to be increased.

27-2

I am not soothed by the comments of TAPS administrators that it would be counterproductive for TAPS to not take proper care of the pipeline. I believe that TAPS employees are good people, however, recent events have shown us that it is foolish to completely rely on businesses to take care of themselves. While a few administrators may (or may not) pay the price for their mistakes, it's the little guy who really gets hurt.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Eric Troyer

Responses for Document 00027

00027-001: The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

00027-002: The warming in Alaska in the last several decades is recognized. Evidences of warming in areas surrounding Alaska, including the Arctic Sea, as well as air temperatures, permafrost temperatures, and field observations in thermokarst lakes and glaciers are presented in Section 3.12.7.

The JPO and APSC have entered into an agreement to apply reliability centered maintenance methodologies to TAPS maintenance to ensure continued integrity. See Section 4.1.1.7, third paragraph.

From: "rick larimore" <rick@sunsetdigital.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 3:02 PM

00028

The Trans-Alaska Pipeline sends one million barrels of oil each day across 800 miles from Alaska's North Slope to the port of Valdez. It crosses public land for almost the whole journey, thanks to a 1974 agreement. That land includes 80 rivers and streams, three mountain ranges, and some of Alaska's most spectacular locations.

If the pipeline is re-authorized, it must be accompanied by the strictest possible environmental standards. That means the following: - An independent environmental review should be conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska. - Additional periodic reviews should be mandatory. - Citizen advisory councils, representing local people and interests, should be given a formal oversight role.

28-1

28-2

Thank you,
Richard Larimore
716 N. Ontario St.
Burbank, Ca 91505

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Visit <http://www.mwti.net> for more info on eScan and MailScan.

Responses for Document 00028

- 00028-001:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, in which audits are addressed under Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00028-002:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: "Jim O'Neil" <jim@proaxis.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 3:10 PM
Subject: Official Comment on Trans-Alaskan Pipeline Re-authorization
CC: <jim_oneil@hp.com>

00029

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am opposed to Re-authorizing the trans-Alaskan pipeline, but if re-authorization does occurs it must be accompanied by the strictest possible environmental standards. That means the following:

29-1

- An independent environmental review should be conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska.
- Additional periodic reviews should be mandatory.
- Citizen advisory councils, representing local people and interests, should be given a formal oversight role.

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29-3

The Trans Alaska Pipeline crosses public land for almost the whole 800 mile journey.

That land includes 80 rivers and streams, three mountain ranges, and some of Alaska's most spectacular locations. Please do whatever you can to protect this national treasure.

Sincerely,

Jim O'Neil
 136 NW 21st St. #2
 Corvallis, OR 97330
 (541)715-0647

✓

Responses for Document 00029

00029-001: Section 4.4.4.7, "Human Health and Safety," provides a detailed analysis of the potential effects of oil spills on human health.

The BLM and member agencies of the JPO are committed to the protection of human health and the environment. The Federal Grant and authorizing legislation (TAPAA) provide unprecedented authority to BLM in assuring the protection of human health and the environment. Stipulations (the guiding conduct of operations for the operator of TAPS) within the Federal Grant contain numerous provisions that are protective of human health and the environment.

00029-002: The reader is directed to Section 2.5, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

00029-003: The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

Aug 9, 2002

Good day,

00030

I wish to make my opinion known concerning the renewal of TAPS for another lease. Many considerations must be taken into account. How long will this lease run? Are we looking at a pipeline that was engineered to last 30 years. What safety measures must be implemented to prevent a spill and the importance of an adequate response team if a spill should occur. As a resident of the Copper River Basin, my home, lifestyle and spiritual health depend upon a healthy, oil free Copper River. The pipeline crosses 76 tributaries of the Copper River. You must keep these oil free.

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Walt Parker, who chaired the Oil Spill Commission and Stan Stephens, who has been a leader of the Prince William Sound Advisory Committee for many years along with other knowledgeable Alaskans have come up with several practical, positive recommendations which will work toward the only acceptable goal, of "no" oil spill and quick response.

I endorse these recommendations which are summarized as follows:

1. Establish a Citizen's Oversight Group
2. Changes to the way DR & R funds (for future dismantling, removal & restoration of the pipeline)

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- 3) Require Alyeska to pass an independent evaluation every 5 years in order to keep its lease. 30-4
- 4) Set up an advisory panel to consider how to best provide a single responsible managing party and a stable source of funding for TAPS. 30-5
- 5) Establish an Employees Concerns Program, so that Alyeska employees ^(in the grant and lease) can speak up about pipeline problems, without fear of harassment, intimidation or retaliation. 30-6
- 6) Provide for a review of old lease stipulations to be sure they reflect the past 3 decades of A) scientific and technological advances B) and experiences in TAPS operation 30-7
- 7) Provide for an immediate North Slope to Valdez 'audit' of the condition of the pipeline, based on employee knowledge 30-8

I know you have these recommendations and I pray to God that you will do what is right and implement these positive steps. Profit margin, increased jobs, streamlining ect. mean nothing if the pipeline spills oil. We must protect and nurture our Earth for future generations. I often look at my grandchildren and wonder what legacy we are giving them. Please consider all of the above criteria. 30-9

Sincerely,
 Linda Rutledge
 P.O. Box 91
 Copper Center
 AK 99573

Responses for Document 00030

- 00030-001:** The preferred alternative presented in the FEIS is to renew the Federal Grant of Right-of-Way for 30 years. The text in the FEIS has been revised to address specific concerns regarding the Copper River. Please see the text box in Section 4.4.4.3.
- 00030-002:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00030-003:** The reader is directed to the discussion of escrow funds found in Section 2.5.
- 00030-004:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, in which audits are addressed under Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00030-005:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00030-006:** The BLM and the agencies within JPO acknowledge both that there have been legitimate issues related to APSC's Employee Concerns Program (ECP) and that APSC has undertaken considerable efforts to improve and refine its ECP program.

The BLM and JPO expect to continue to evaluate the effectiveness of APSC's ECP through confidential surveys that will seek input from all TAPS employees (see Section 4.8.4 of the FEIS). Like the three prior surveys, these efforts can provide broad measures of the confidence that TAPS workers have in APSC's ECP and can suggest areas needing improvement.

The JPO also notes that a confidential hotline (1-800-764-5070) currently exists for employees or members of the public to report issues and concerns about TAPS. Recorded messages are checked daily by the BLM-Alaska Special Agent's office. The purpose of the hotline is to identify issues relating to pipeline integrity, public safety, environmental protections and regulatory compliance for incorporation into the JPO work program. The BLM also refers employees seeking personal relief (e.g., restoration of employment or lost compensation) to the U.S. Department of Labor or other appropriate authorities for further investigation.

00030-007: The BLM and member agencies within the JPO utilize an adaptive management approach in the oversight of TAPS operations and maintenance. Adaptive management uses ongoing surveillance, monitoring and testing that provides APSC and JPO with the data and information necessary to evaluate and change, if conditions warrant, the operations and maintenance of TAPS. Examples include:

- Ongoing oil spill contingency planning (tri-annual) and response capability reviews (annual),
- Field surveys of stipulation requirements, such as fish passage inspections,
- Comprehensive Monitoring Reports (12 published since 1996),
- Issues raised by the public (e.g., the Thompson Pass slack line and the Valdez tugs) and by the APSC workforce (e.g., electrical),
- Inspections by the State Fire Marshal as part of the JPO, and
- Routine surveillance that is outside of formal audits.

In addition, the BLM and member agencies of JPO, in close cooperation with APSC, have begun a systematic process to identify the critical functional components of TAPS. The process, called reliability centered maintenance (RCM), is an ongoing system-by-system audit that determines function, failure modes, consequence and preventative maintenance of critical systems. The BLM is committed to RCM and believes that this process represents a pro-active approach to oversight and regulation of TAPS. In addition, RCM is the industry standard for reducing risk of failure to critical system components. Reducing risk in TAPS critical systems directly translated to reducing safety and environmental risks.

00030-008: The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

00030-009: Thank you for your comment.

August 15, 2002

Robin Colna

416 Durham Ct. ♦ Mantua, NJ 08051

BLM Director Kathleen Clarke

Subject: Aging Pipeline Requires Environmental Safeguards

Dear BLM Director Kathleen Clarke:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the future safety of the aging Trans-Alaska Pipeline (TAPS). Before any pipeline renewal or lease agreement, government agencies must ensure critical safeguards are established.

The 25 year-old pipeline has suffered from serious operational and maintenance failures such as the delayed response to the Livengood bullet hole spill, and the 2 foot shift in a section of pipeline at Atigun Pass that went undetected for several months, corrosion and support instability from accelerated thawing of permafrost and future seismic activities. These are only some of the serious concerns that call for renewal conditions.

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Spill prevention and response plans at the 800 river and stream crossings is one of the biggest failures of this aging pipeline lease and renewal contract. Any spill over an anadromous river, such as the Yukon, Copper, Gulkana, or Tanana, would be economically and environmentally devastating. Oil spill contingency plans are gravely inadequate and must be improved to the highest standards as a condition for the renewal.

Despite the fact that the pipeline crosses major fault lines, a complete new assessment on the seismic problems associated with pipeline is lacking. In all cases, contract conditions must require careful, periodic review to ensure that they reflect scientific and technological advances. Therefore, the renewed agreement needs to include an immediate comprehensive independent field audit, as well as an independent technical review and field audit every five years.

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Funds for future pipeline dismantling, removal and restoration (DR&R) must also be immediately placed in an escrow account.

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A long overdue citizens oversight group, funded by the pipeline owners through the Department of the Interior, must be added to the renewal agreement. To ensure critical problems are adequately addressed to prevent spills a pipeline Employee Concerns Program must also be incorporated.

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The 45-day comment period must be extended. The 1,700 page environmental impact document glosses over vital environmental issues. Most Alaskans are too busy during the summer months, due to subsistence, commercial fishing and other activities in the area of the pipeline, to review such a lengthy and technical document. Public hearings nationally and in small communities downstream from TAPS must be added to an extension.

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For the record, I am in complete and utter disagreement with the government's offensive assessment that in the operation of the pipeline, the Exxon Valdez oil spill was beneficial to Alaska: "creating significant benefits to the state and local economy that more than offset the economic damage to the fishing and tourism industries in Prince William Sound" (page 4-7-116). There is absolutely no benefit of toxic oil spills.

31-6

Finally, in view of the problems experienced on TAPS since inception, the renewal process must be used to consider means to assure stable and sufficient funding for TAPS, including transfer of ownership of the pipeline to a single owner with no connections to North Slope crude oil production. The conflict between resource stewardship and the desire for TAPS Owners to reduce costs is not in Alaska's best interest. Let's raise our performance standards for this aging pipeline, not lower them. We must not be complacent about oil spill prevention and response.

31-7

Sincerely,

Robin Colna

Responses for Document 00031

00031-001: It is correct that the effects of aging have the potential to impact the integrity and reliability of any mechanical system. However, age alone does not dictate reliability or performance. Myriad factors can impact system performance. For example, the manner in which mechanical systems are operated and maintained can greatly influence their long-term integrity, reliability, and performance.

Utilizing its oversight authority, the JPO ensures that APSC's operating and maintenance procedures take all potential impacting factors into account and are sufficient and appropriate to maintain TAPS integrity. The JPO also has the authority to direct APSC to undertake changes, repairs, or upgrades when that is not the case. Under the reliability centered maintenance (RCM) program, all TAPS subsystems are being carefully evaluated for the consequences of their failure and will have maintenance regimens or remanufacture, overhaul, or replacement schedules established that preclude such failures from occurring, if they would have an adverse impact on public safety or the environment.

The text box in Section 4.1.1.8 provides a synopsis of the MP 400 bullet hole incident. Details of the spill and the response are provided. Changes to the pipeline's spill contingency plan that are being made as a result of lessons learned are also discussed.

Impacting factors such as those that may cause movement in the pipeline are identified in Section 4.2 and are incorporated in analyses presented in Section 4.3. Rather than address each historical event, the analyses used selected events to determine whether pipeline design parameters and ongoing monitoring programs are adequate to identify potentially destabilizing impacts on the pipeline.

Oil spill contingency planning is extensively discussed. See Sections 4.1.1.7, 4.1.4, 4.4, and 4.7.10. The text box in Section 4.4.4.3 provides a detailed discussion on contingency planning in the Copper River Drainage.

00031-002: The assessment on the seismic design of the pipeline has been reviewed and updated several times (February 15, 1995, March 31, 1997, June 30, 1997, August 16, 1999, December 21, 2000 and February 14, 2001 by APSC) and is not within the scope of the EIS. BLM and JPO agencies oversee the assessment to ensure the integrity of the pipeline.

The reader is directed to Section 2.5 for a discussion on audits.

00031-003: The reader is directed to the discussion of escrow funds found in Section 2.5.

00031-004: The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

00031-005: Although 45 days is understandably a short time to review a document of this size, the time period is consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act regarding the review of draft environmental impact statements. Significant effort was made to advise people of the schedule and duration of the review well in advance (one year). The DEIS was published on schedule and many substantive comments on the content of the DEIS, including yours, were received during the 45-day period.

00031-006: Text has been added to Section 4.7.8.3 of the FEIS providing additional sources of information about the impact of the Exxon Valdez oil spill (EVOS) on communities, including intangible impacts, such as psychological stress, and in the fisheries, recreation, and tourism industries in the Prince William Sound area. In addition, compressed overviews of selected impacts of the EVOS have been added to Sections 4.7.8.1 and 4.7.8.2.

00031-007: The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

00032

August 15, 2002
BID 540-4163

BLM Director Kathleen Clarke

Subject: Aging Pipeline Requires Environmental Safeguards

Dear BLM Director Kathleen Clarke:

There is absolutely no benefit of toxic oil spills.

|32-1

Yours truly,

Kaule Horwitz
5249 N. Paulina
Chicago, IL 60640 2831

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Responses for Document 00032

- 00032-001:** Text has been added to Section 4.7.8.3 of the FEIS providing additional sources of information about the impact of the Exxon Valdez oil spill (EVOS) on communities, including intangible impacts, such as psychological stress, and in the fisheries, recreation, and tourism industries in the Prince William Sound area. In addition, compressed overviews of selected impacts of the EVOS have been added to Sections 4.7.8.1 and 4.7.8.2.

STEVE MARSHALL
BP EXPLORATION (ALASKA) INC.
AUGUST 14, 2002

STATE OF ALASKA
 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
 02/01/2002 09:43:28

RIGHT OF WAY TESTIMONY

My name is Steve Marshall, and I am President of BP Exploration Alaska Inc.

My company has been active on Alaska's North Slope since the late 1950s, and we confirmed the discovery of the Prudhoe Bay oil field in 1969. Today, BP-operated fields on the North Slope account for 12% of all U.S. oil production. Since Prudhoe Bay production began 25 years ago, BP's oil production on the North Slope has reduced U.S. oil imports by more than \$100 billion, and our North Slope production plays a prominent role in making us the largest oil and gas producer in North America.

I strongly support and urge the Bureau of Land Management to grant a 30-year renewal of the Trans Alaska Pipeline Right-of-Way under its current terms.

33-1

For the past quarter of a century, the Trans Alaska Pipeline has been a lifeline for domestic oil supplies, especially on the West Coast. At the peak of North Slope oil production in the late 1980s and early 1990s, TAPS carried 25% of all U.S. oil production from the north coast of Alaska to tidewater in Valdez. Today, despite declining production on the North Slope, it still carries 17% of all domestic oil production. As such, it is also a lifeline to the U.S. economy.

Since 1977, North Slope oil production has reduced the U.S. balance of trade deficit by nearly \$300 billion. Over the next 30 years, according to data from the U.S. Department of Energy, it will account for another \$370 billion worth of production.

33-2

Taxes and royalties on North Slope production have contributed more \$40 billion to the federal treasury, and nearly \$60 billion to the State of Alaska. Over the renewal period for TAPS, they are projected to contribute another \$11 billion in 2000 dollars to the U.S. Treasury.

But none of these contributions would have been possible without the Trans Alaska Pipeline, and future contributions will be placed in jeopardy without a 30-year right-of-way renewal under terms that encourage ongoing investment and development on the North Slope.

The length and terms of TAPS renewal will send a clear message to oil and gas industry investors about Alaska's long-term business climate. And make no mistake about it – the oil and gas business on Alaska's North Slope has extremely long lead times and huge capital requirements. We plan our projects over years and even decades, and we invest in increments of tens, hundreds of millions of dollars ... sometimes billions of dollars.

Industry forecasts for new oil and gas development typically include a 10-12-year exploration and development cycle. Before beginning the process, companies must have a high level of confidence their investments won't be short-circuited by the loss of transportation infrastructure in the midst of the 15- to 20-year production life that's necessary to justify a project.

The North Slope still holds extraordinary potential for new oil and gas discoveries, development and production ... and for Alaska to play a pre-eminent role in satisfying America's energy needs for decades to come. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, it holds 5 billion barrels of booked oil reserves, 9 billion barrels of unbooked resources and 13 billion barrels yet to be found. The same USGS data suggest 35 trillion cubic feet of natural gas discovered and possibly another 100 trillion cubic feet yet to be found.

Transforming the North Slope's potential into production – into economic growth and safe, reliable energy to fuel America's future – will require tens of billions of dollars of new investments by companies like BP. But anything less than a 30-year renewal for TAPS would add enough uncertainty to negatively influence investment decisions. It would discourage investments in exploration for new sources of oil and gas, it would limit investments to expand fields that are already in production, and it would undermine construction of a North Slope gas line, which is contingent on a healthy oil business throughout the life of the project.

So, too, would onerous new terms jeopardize new investments and diminish the potential of Alaska's North Slope oil and gas to bolster the nation's economy and satisfy its energy needs.

The North Slope has yielded nearly 14 billion barrels of oil in the past 25 years, but today, it is producing at half the rate it was at its peak. Pressure to reinvest simply to sustain production at current levels is relentless. But so is the pressure on costs. Alaska is now a mature and much smaller oil province. Operating systems and infrastructure were designed for much higher volumes of throughput, and as production declines, unit costs increase.

The "easy" oil has been produced, and only tough barrels remain. At BP, we're doing everything we can to build a sustainable business on the North Slope.

33-2
(cont.)

Reducing costs and eliminating unnecessary spending are the cornerstone of efforts to refocus our business and make it competitive.

33-2
(Cont.)

Midstream and transportation costs for our North Slope production already are four times higher than the global average for BP. Onerous renewal terms for TAPS will aggravate the cost burden and further impair our ability to compete for investment capital within the company.

More important, there is no cause for a change in right-of-way terms. TAPS is operated and maintained in accordance with all laws and regulations, and its safety and environmental record sets a standard of excellence for the entire worldwide petroleum industry. Furthermore, the Joint Pipeline Office is doing an effective job of regulating TAPS, and the current right-of-way agreement can be changed as needed to ensure its continued safe operation.

33-3

After 25 years of production, Alaska's North Slope continues to have a pivotal role to play in America's energy future for decades to come. TAPS continues to be the lifeline to that potential. Ensuring safe, reliable and commercially viable transportation infrastructure is a critical first step toward turning opportunity into reality, and that can only be achieved through a 30-year renewal of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Right-of-Way under its current terms.

33-4

Thank you.

Responses for Document 00033

00033-001: Thank you for your comment.

00033-002: Thank you for your comment.

00033-003: Thank you for your comment.

00033-004: Thank you for your comment.

August 7, 2002

Bureau of Land Management
BLM TAPS Renewal Draft EIS
Argonne National Laboratory, EAD/900
9700 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, IL 60439

Dear Sirs:

I wish to express my appreciation of the BLM's work to develop in my opinion a full and complete environmental assessment of a long establish and operating project within Alaska called the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). TAPS has operated successfully for over 25 years and to put it in simple terms the pipe is fine. TAPS receives very detailed and adequate oversight by numerous experts in the regulatory, engineering and scientific field through the 13 Participating Government representatives in the Joint Pipeline Office (JPO). There is no justification for another oversight body such as is being called for by those who do not understand nor wish to remain aware of the facts of operations of the TAPS Project. If BLM or others believes JPO is not doing their job then hold hearings on that matter and resolve the issues. Do not add costs to an already costly regulatory process in both time and resources for no define regulatory or scientific reason.

34-1

34-2

I support the DEIS and the recommendation for renewal of the TAPS lease for the full 30 years. It should be apparent that this engineering marvel has meet every technical challenges and performed to the highest of standards. Yes, there have been events but there has been no event that has not been safely and adequately responded to with due corrective action taken both for the reliable operations of the pipeline and the least environmental damage. Remember, the most notable oil spill that ill informed detractors use as a public saber against the TAPS operations was done because of a drunk boat captain who allowed his vessel to hit a charted rock. Both of my grandsons know what a marine chart and navigational notes means and I believe could have done better.

34-3

Over 13 billion barrels of crude oil have been safely handled and delivered to American consumers. These are barrels of American oil, from American soil, handled by American workers, serving American families and businesses. I urge you to review the comments received and assess the facts of design, engineering, construction and operations of TAPS. From this assessment I also call upon you to conclude the only decision to be supported by these facts is one that says the TAPS Lease request be granted for another 30-year term and find the DEIS to be complete. The Public comment period is also adequate.

34-4

34-5

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey Anderson, owner
Chena Ridge Bed and Breakfast
1407 Chena Ridge Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-2608

Cc:
U.S. Senator Ted Stevens
U.S. Senator Frank Murkowski

Responses for Document 00034

- 00034-001:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00034-002:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00034-003:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00034-004:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00034-005:** Although 45 days is understandably a short time to review a document of this size, the time period is consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act regarding the review of draft environmental impact statements. Significant effort was made to advise people of the schedule and duration of the review well in advance (one year). The DEIS was published on schedule and many substantive comments on the content of the DEIS, including yours, were received during the 45-day period.

Diane Frizer
 President - Williams Alaska Petroleum, Inc.
 Energy Services



August 13, 2002

BLM TAPS Renewal EIS
 Argonne National Laboratory EAD/900
 9700 S. Cass Avenue
 Argonne, IL 60439

Re: Trans Alaska Pipeline System Right of Way Renewal DEIS

Dear Sirs:

I am writing on behalf of the Williams Companies, Inc. (Williams) to provide comment concerning the above subject.

Through wholly owned subsidiary companies, Williams owns a 220,000 barrels per day crude oil refinery located outside Fairbanks in North Pole, Alaska. This refinery is the largest in Alaska and is located approximately two miles from and is connected to the Trans Alaska Pipeline System ("TAPS"). As the refinery is located inland, it is totally dependent upon TAPS for its supply of crude oil and has been since its initial start-up in 1977.

In addition to the North Pole Refinery, Williams owns the following additional assets located in Alaska:

- 29 company owned convenience stores marketing under the "Williams Express" brand;
- a 3.0845% interest in TAPS;
- a 50% interest in the Williams Lynx Alaska CargoPort, which is an air cargo handling facility at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport;
- a 700,000 barrel refined products terminal at the Port of Anchorage; and
- a 20,000 barrel refined products terminal located at the Fairbanks International Airport.

Without the secure source of crude oil supply that the North Pole refinery has enjoyed during the past 25 years, it would not have been possible to increase its capacity from the initial 45,000 barrels per day to its current level of 220,000 barrels per day. Over 170 Alaskans are now employed at the refinery and are dependent upon its continued operation for their livelihood.

The above-mentioned growth in the refinery's capacity has also enabled Williams to grow its retail presence in Alaska. Williams Express now employs approximately 350

Williams Alaska Petroleum, Inc.
 3201 C Street, Suite 700
 Anchorage, Alaska 99503-3960
 Phone (907) 273-3300 Fax (907) 273-3333



Alaskans throughout the state and supplies roughly one third of the state's total retail demands for gasoline.

With the knowledge that the refinery's source of crude oil supply via TAPS was secure, Williams invested approximately \$70 million in 1997/1998 to increase the refinery's production of jet fuel by 20,000 barrels per day. This investment enabled our company to meet the growing demand for jet fuel at Alaska's two key international airports: Anchorage and Fairbanks, as well as to decrease the state's dependency on imported jet fuel. These airports are key economic drivers for the Alaskan economy and directly or indirectly provide in excess of 10,000 jobs in the Anchorage and Fairbanks metropolitan areas.

More recent, Williams investments in Alaska include a \$10 million expansion to its Anchorage terminal facility and \$37 million to acquire a 3% interest in TAPS. Williams has also formed a joint venture with the Alaska CargoPort. This \$23 million facility was built to provide additional cargo handling infrastructure and attract additional air cargo business to Alaska.

Our past investments in the refinery and associated assets have been based on a long time horizon for recovery of capital investment. Our estimated life projections for major capital improvements range from 15 to 30 years. The proposal of a renewal period of less than 30 years puts future projects at risk.

The Williams refinery project of the most significance to Alaska is a \$40 million gasoline de-sulfurization project, currently in the planning stages. This modification is required for the refinery to meet the EPA's 2007 clean fuels guidelines. However, the project cannot be justified on a 5-year life. Thus, a 5-year renewal period puts this project at risk. If the project is not constructed, consumers in Alaska will pay more for gasoline.

Clearly TAPS has had and will continue to have a significant impact on the economy of our state both in the public and private sectors. It is our firm belief that a renewal period of less than 30 years would have a negative impact on any future capital investments in the energy sector and a subsequent negative impact on the state's economy.

I thank you for providing this opportunity to express our views.

Sincerely,

Diane Prier

Williams Alaska Petroleum, Inc.
3201 C Street, Suite 700
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-9960
Phone (907) 273-3300 Fax (907) 273-3333

35-1

Responses for Document 00035

00035-001: Thank you for your comment.

Natural Resources Specialist
Native Village of Port Graham
P.O. Box 5510
Port Graham, AK. 99603

August 13, 2002
BLM TAP Renewal
Argonne National Laboratories EAD/900
9700 S. Caff
Argonne, Il. 60439

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to make a few comments on the trans Alaska pipeline right of way renewal process and the draft environmental impact statement.

First, 45 days is just not adequate time to review and digest such a massive document, a 60 or 90 day extension would have been appropriate and in the best interest of all concerned parties. The average person could read the document in its entirety if that's all that they had to do for the forty five days. unfortunately most of the talented people representing the Native Alaskan interest also have jobs and other responsibilities.

36-1

I am aware that this is of national interest, however, it bothers me somewhat that a comment from someone outside of Alaska has as much consideration and consequence as Rural Alaska Natives who live along the pipeline corridor. The village residents are directly impacted spiritually, psychologically and financially in a very big way. Even very well intentioned people coming from a Western European worldview usually cannot grasp what subsistence, land, culture and extended family mean to Alaska Natives. I think it would be easy to "stuff the comment box" by outside corporate interests.

36-2

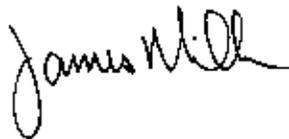
I would like to see stronger incentives for Alyeska and designated contractors to adhere to the contractual agreement to hire Alaska Natives at the pre-determined 20% ratio. Enforced penalties for non-compliance would be good.

36-3

Our village of Port Graham was one of the Exxon Valdez oil spill impacted communities, yet there has been no government to government meeting.

36-4

Sincerely,



James Miller

✓

Responses for Document 00036

00036-001: Although 45 days is understandably a short time to review a document of this size, the time period is consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act regarding the review of draft environmental impact statements. Significant effort was made to advise people of the schedule and duration of the review well in advance (one year). The DEIS was published on schedule and many substantive comments on the content of the DEIS, including yours, were received during the 45-day period.

While comments on the DEIS had to be received by the end of the 45-day comment period in order to be addressed in the Final EIS, additional provisions for involvement in the decision-making process apply to Tribal governments and Native organizations. The process of government-to-government consultation allows these groups to continue dialogue with the Bureau of Land Management.

00036-002: The National Environmental Policy Act requires that all comments be considered equally, irrespective of the location of the commentor within the United States. In addition, comments are not votes, and the BLM does not make decisions based on the number of comments received on any particular issue.

Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments," requires that the federal government consult with Tribal governments during the preparation of an EIS. Government-to-Government consultation for this EIS is described in Section 5.3 of the FEIS. As the lead federal agency associated with this EIS, the BLM established government-to-government exchanges with all Tribal governments in Alaska and more focused exchanges with 21 Tribes directly affected by the TAPS. These 21 communities received more detailed mailings explaining the proposed ROW renewal, the EIS process, and the various sources of additional information. Meetings were held with all Tribal organizations and Native groups that requested them to discuss the EIS process and related issues in greater detail. At the meetings, specific emphasis was placed on how Tribal organizations and Native groups can participate effectively in the EIS and ROW renewal processes. While comments on the DEIS had to be received by the end of a 45-day comment period in order to be addressed in the Final EIS, additional provisions for involvement in the decision-making process apply to Tribal governments and Native groups. The process of government-to-government consultation allows these organizations to continue dialogues with the Bureau of Land Management and for their comments to be considered in the Record of Decision.

00036-003: Thank you for your comment. Section 2.5 of the FEIS discusses other alternatives and issues considered but not evaluated.

00036-004: Section 5.3 of the FEIS provides background information on the government-to-government process and the development of the final list of affected Tribes. The 21 villages identified by the BLM as being directly affected by TAPS includes Port Graham. All 21 villages were invited to participate in government-to-government consultations associated with the TAPS right-of-way renewal process. Port Graham was represented at a government-to-government meeting in Cordova on June 4, 2002. The BLM is very willing to meet with any Native Village or Tribe that requires further information on the renewal process.

During Session: Juneau, Alaska
State Capitol, Room 1117
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-7095
465-1811 fax



00037

During Session: Juneau, Alaska
216 W. 4th Ave., Suite 220
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 262-0240
262-0247 fax

Senator Loren Leman

August 12, 2002

BLM TAPS Renewal EIS
Argonne National Laboratory EAD/900
9700 S Cass Ave
Argonne, IL 60439

Submitted as public record for BLM TAPS Right-of-Way Renewal Draft EIS

I strongly support the proposed action by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company to continue operation of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) for 30 years.

37-1

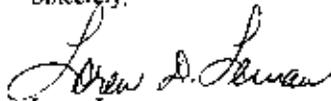
TAPS is one of the most heavily regulated pipelines in the world—perhaps the most. As a member of the Alaska Legislature and its resource-related and finance committees I have had the opportunity to be briefed on pipeline issues and to view pipeline activities.

I am confident that with continued monitoring and maintenance the pipeline will last another 30 years. The Joint Pipeline Office, our elected officials and other Alaskans demand that the pipeline be operated safely and efficiently. We have everything to gain by ensuring that the contents of the pipeline arrive in Valdez without problems.

37-2

The TAPS pipeline and its related facilities already exist with known, observable impacts. Absent plans by the owners to radically alter the pipeline's route or operations, a 30-year extension is reasonable and prudent.

Sincerely,


Loren Leman
Senate Majority Leader

Responses for Document 00037

00037-001: Thank you for your comment.

00037-002: Thank you for your comment.



Northwest Technical Services

August 13, 2002

BLM TAPS Renewal EIS
Argonne National Laboratory EAD/900
9700 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439

Subject: Draft EIS and Proposed Determination
Alyeska Pipeline Right-of-Way Renewal

Members of the Joint EIS and Proposed Determination Teams:

I am writing in support of the right-of-way renewal for the 800 mile trans-Alaska oil pipeline, not only as General Manager for Northwest Technical Services but also as a member of the Alaska community since 1972. I was here before the line was built and understand the difference it made to the development of Alaska and the security of our nation's energy resources.

The construction of the pipeline, at a monetary cost of over \$8 billion, transformed our Nation's access to oil from the North Slope of its northernmost state from 0 to billions of barrels of oil. If the line had not been built when it was and where it was, our reliance upon imported oil would have placed us in an untenable bargaining position with the oil rich middle-east countries. Not re-permitting the line would create the same problem now.

38-1

I am continually amazed by preservationists who believe importing oil from other areas of the world is a safer method of acquiring access to this invaluable commodity than developing our own petroleum resources and having a pipeline that can deliver them to either tidewater or the market itself. They seem to believe that oceangoing foreign ships, the construction of which we do not control, is a safer method of transportation than a pipeline upon land that is examined, monitored, permitted, and regulated by local, Alaskan and Federal rules and which is maintained by a company, Alyeska, that exists for that sole purpose.

38-2



BLM TAPS Renewal EIS
Argonne National Laboratory EAD/900
August 13, 2002
Page Two

Having worked with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company for many years, I have been in a position to observe its commitment to safety, not only to the line but also to the men and women who work within the Alyeska system and the community at large. Under its auspices, a safety committee was formed which initially embraced only Alyeska and its contractors. Within months, this committee went from being the "Alyeska Contractors Alliance Safety Committee" devoted to workplace safety only, to becoming "The Denali Safety Council" which is dedicated to promoting safety at work, at home and in the community. The Denali Safety Council, with the continued support – both physically and monetarily – of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company has engaged the Alaskan community in a "Nobody Gets Hurt" philosophy and the Governor and Legislature of the State of Alaska have supported and annually proclaim the month of May as "Nobody Gets Hurt" month.

38-3

In this mode of thought, Alyeska continues to rigorously monitor the Trans-Alaska pipeline to insure its safe, reliable operation. The financial investment required is significant; direct Payroll costs hover around \$422 million with \$1.7 billion spent on goods and services in the state. This allows approximately 17% of our country's domestic oil supply to be safely transported with a reliability rate in excess of 99%. Adding an additional layer of regulatory oversight in the form of a citizens' advisory group to the existing federal and state agencies (13) would only serve to increase production costs and reduce revenue to the state of Alaska.

38-4

I will conclude by saying that as an individual who is very engaged in the community of our state and as General Manager for a company which provides services to Alyeska I urge you to renew/extend the Alyeska Pipeline rights-of way for an additional 30 years.

38-5

Respectfully submitted,


Mary E. Shields
General Manager

cc: State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources



Responses for Document 00038

00038-001: Thank you for your comment.

00038-002: Thank you for your comment.

00038-003: Thank you for your comment.

00038-004: The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

00038-005: Thank you for your comment.

00039

August 16, 2002

BLM TAPS Renewal EIS
Argonne National Laboratory EAD/900
9700 S. CASS Avenue
Argonne, IL 60439

RE: Public Comment in Support of 30-year Right of way Renewal

If not for regulations already in place, I would argue there should be a fourth "over 30" alternative evaluated in the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) Right of Way Renewal Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Since an "over 30" alternative is not applicable without federal and state legislative changes, I urge you to support the 30-year renewal alternative.

39-1

A renewal period shorter than 30 years would be costly and risky. It could threaten investment in new North Slope production. It would create uncertainty within the business environment regarding the long-term viability of TAPS.

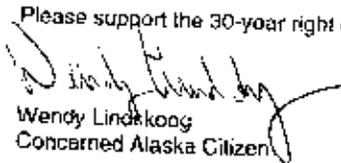
Consider the Alaska Railroad's leasing practices for example. Last year the state legislature authorized the Railroad to lease land for 56 years, up from a previous 35-year limit. The 35-year limit was an obstacle in leasing lands to large commercial and residential developers who needed to secure long-term financing for their investments. The Railroad and its potential lessees found that financial lenders were reluctant to invest in large-scale projects requiring substantial equity participation when there was no guarantee the land would be available beyond 35 years. The same premise could be argued for TAPS.

The economic impact of TAPS and the 13 billion barrels of oil that have flowed through it are significant to both the public and private sectors in Alaska. TAPS has supported thousands of jobs, funding of state services and programs through royalties. And beyond Alaska's borders, TAPS has provided nearly twenty percent of domestic oil supply and could play a significant role in our national security.

39-2

Why, when measures are in place to ensure compliance and environmental stewardship and 20 state and federal regulatory agencies monitor TAPS, do we need to subject TAPS to a shorter renewal period?

Please support the 30-year right of way renewal alternative.


Wendy Lindskoog
Concerned Alaska Citizen

✓

Responses for Document 00039

00039-001: Thank you for your comment.

00039-002: Thank you for your comment.