



## JOINT PIPELINE OFFICE

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### Joint Pipeline Office NEWS RELEASE

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## Argonne National Laboratory Selected For Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Right-of-Way Renewal EIS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – June 28, 2001. . . . Today the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced the selection of Argonne National Laboratory as the prime contractor for preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on renewal of the right-of-way for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). BLM is the lead Federal agency in the Joint Pipeline Office (JPO), a consortium of six Federal and seven State agencies that oversee TAPS.

BLM's Deputy Authorized Officer, Gary Reimer (ree'-mer) said, "Argonne has extensive experience in credibly assessing complex projects of national and regional importance, a significant consideration for us." Argonne will begin work immediately. Current plans call for a Draft EIS to be published in July 2002 and Final EIS in November 2002.

The EIS will be a very important document that will benefit the entire TAPS right-of-way renewal process, which officially began with a May 2, 2001 application to BLM and the State of Alaska for a 30-year renewal of the pipeline right-of-way. BLM and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources in the JPO are closely cooperating in the TAPS renewal effort.

The National Energy Policy Development (NEPD) Group recently recommended expeditious process be used for renewal of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System rights-of-way to ensure that Alaskan oil continues to flow uninterrupted to the West Coast of the United States.

Copies of the right-of-way renewal application are available at the JPO TAPS Renewal web site <http://www.tapsrenewal.jpo.doi.gov>.