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TAPS Renewal 02-11-01
November 29, 2002

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Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Right-of-Way Renewal

BLM Announces Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today released the federal Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) Right-of-Way Renewal. The 7-volume document describes the environmental, social and economic impacts of renewing the TAPS federal right-of-way for up to 30 years. It includes responses to and text changes stemming from comments presented by the public during public hearings and public review of the Draft EIS in July and August.

“The commentary received from the public really helped us improve the final product,” said Henri Bisson, BLM-Alaska State Director. “The FEIS is a key disclosure document prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The information in it will be the foundation for a decision early next year about renewal of the federal grant of right-of-way for TAPS,” he added.

The public comments consisted of 589 messages, letters or individual testimonies. These yielded about 3,200 individual comments.

Renewal Alternatives Analyzed

The FEIS analyzed in detail three alternatives: renew for 30 years, do not renew, renew for a period of less than 30 years. Renewal for 30 years was identified as BLM’s preferred alternative.

The Next Step

BLM and the Department of the Interior will now review the FEIS and related information and make a formal decision about TAPS right-of-way renewal. The decision will be published as a formal Record of Decision, likely in January 2003.

How to Obtain an FEIS

The FEIS is available in repositories throughout the state and online as a down loadable portable document file at <http://tapseis.anl.gov> . The following locations have received the FEIS:

Anchorage:

- Alaska Resources Library; 3150 C Street, Suite 100
- Z.J. Loussac Library, 3600 Denali
- Bureau of Land Management Public Room; 222 West 7th Avenue, #13
- DNR Public Information Center; 550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1260

Barrow: Tuzzy Consortium Library; 5421 North Star Street

Cordova Public Library; 622 1st Street

Fairbanks:

- Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Library; 1215 Cowles Street
- Bureau of Land Management Public Room; 1150 University Avenue
- DNR Public Information Center; 3700 Airport Way

Glennallen: BLM Glennallen Field Office; Milepost 186.5 Glenn Highway

Juneau: Alaska State Library; 333 Willoughby, 8th Floor

Valdez Public Library; 212 Fairbanks St.

Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior Library; 1849 C Street, NW

Why the EIS was Prepared

On May 2, 2001, the six owners of TAPS filed to renew the Federal Grant and State Lease of right of way for TAPS for another 30 years. The TAPS right of way on federal lands is authorized by a federal Grant that expires on January 22, 2004. For the pipeline to remain in place and in operation, a new federal right-of-way authorization must be issued. The TAPS Renewal EIS is needed to comply with the NEPA and provide full public disclosure of the effects of TAPS renewal.

Additional Renewal Information

The following website offer additional in-depth information

Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Right-of-Way Renewal: <http://www.tapsrow.com>

TAPS EIS process and DEIS: <http://tapseis.anl.gov>

JPO Right-of-Way Renewal: <http://www.tapsrenewal.jpo.doi.gov>