

# Beluga to Fairbanks (B2F) Natural Gas Pipeline Environmental Impact Statement

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



February 2009

Newsletter #1

*This is the first in a series of newsletters concerning the Beluga to Fairbanks Natural Gas Pipeline Environmental Impact Statement. It is being mailed to federal, state, and local agencies; elected and appointed officials; Alaska Native groups; other interest organizations; and individual citizens to inform people about the project and to solicit comments. This and subsequent newsletters can be found on the project website at <http://www.angdaB2Feis.com>.*

## Scoping Notice

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the Beluga to Fairbanks (B2F) Natural Gas Pipeline proposed by the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority (ANGDA). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) joins this effort as a cooperating agency. The purposes of this newsletter are to:

- Provide background information on ANGDA's proposed natural gas pipeline
- Provide an overview of the EIS process, and invite you to participate!

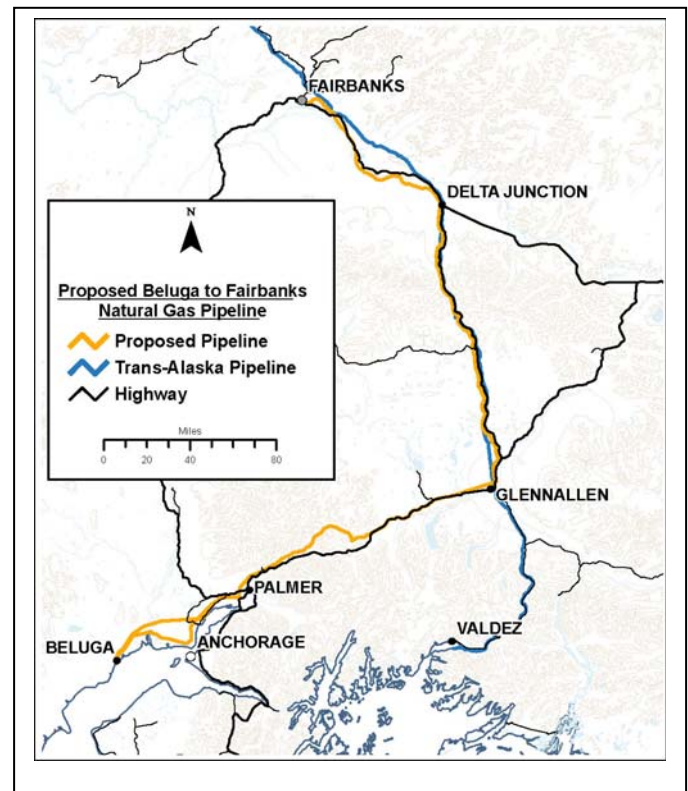
Scoping is a process intended to reach out to all interested parties early in the development of an EIS to identify areas of concern associated with the proposed project. The scoping process provides opportunities for people potentially affected by the project to express their views and concerns. The process is designed to help ensure that all substantial issues are fully addressed during the course of the EIS process.

***The scoping period for the B2F Natural Gas Pipeline EIS begins February 1 and ends March 15, 2009.***

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

ANGDA proposes to construct a 460-mile natural gas pipeline from the Beluga gas field to a connection point near the Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA) power plant in North Pole, Alaska. The B2F Pipeline would provide natural gas as an alternative to fuel oil to decrease the cost of electricity in Fairbanks and the Interior Basin of Alaska.

The B2F Pipeline is proposed to be a 20 to 24-inch steel pipeline that would originate in the Beluga gas field and terminate in Delta Junction, Alaska. A 4 to 8-inch high density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic pipeline or small diameter steel tubing would tie into the 20 to 24-inch



A more detailed image of the project area is available on the project website: <http://www.angdaB2Feis.com>

steel line in Delta Junction and would extend approximately 80 miles to a connection point near the GVEA power plant.

Future phases of operations include connecting the B2F Pipeline in the Delta Junction area to an off-take point in a large-diameter natural gas pipeline proposed to be constructed from the North Slope oil and gas fields. The flow of the B2F Pipeline would then be reversed to carry North Slope gas to the Southcentral region, with a pipeline terminus at the Beluga gas field.

## HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

ANGDA was created as a public corporation after a 2002 General Election Ballot Initiative. Its mission includes developing in-state natural gas pipelines to serve Alaska's residents. In keeping with this mission, ANGDA has commissioned a large number of engineering and environmental reports and studies for the proposed project.

Since its inception, ANGDA has continued public involvement; two of the many reports available on the ANGDA website include:

- *The All-Alaska LNG Project: A Report to the People (2004)*
- *Connecting Alaskans to their Natural Gas: Ideas to Solve Alaska's Energy Crisis (2006)*

[http://www.angda.state.ak.us/ANGDA\\_Reports/ANGDA\\_reports.asp](http://www.angda.state.ak.us/ANGDA_Reports/ANGDA_reports.asp)

ANGDA conducted Open Season Forums with the Alaska Power Association in 2007 and 2008 to discuss issues of tariffs, cost of service models, and energy markets. Anticipating issues in areas where residential properties and public lands intersect, ANGDA held open discussion meetings in 2008 with local landowners and the other interested parties to discuss the B2F Pipeline proposal and listen to concerns.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) has issued a conditional right of way lease (ROW) to ANGDA for a natural gas pipeline from Glenallen to Palmer. ANGDA continues to pursue its mission to develop an in-state natural gas distribution system.

## WHY IS THIS FACILITY NEEDED?

The B2F Pipeline would help supply the energy needs for the Interior Basin of Alaska in the short term and the Southcentral Alaska energy demands in the long term.

The objectives of the B2F Pipeline Project are to:

- Deliver natural gas from Cook Inlet Basin to the GVEA power plant in North Pole, Alaska to serve the Interior Basin region
- Provide natural gas storage for periods of peak energy demand during extreme cold weather in Southcentral Alaska
- Connect the B2F Pipeline in the Delta Junction area to an off-take point in the large-diameter natural gas pipeline proposed to be constructed from the North Slope oil and gas fields to carry natural gas to the Southcentral region

## PREPARING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The EIS will identify potential impacts that the B2F Pipeline could have on the environment, as well as measures to mitigate impacts. The EIS will also contain an analysis of secondary and cumulative effects of the alternatives. This analysis will examine other reasonably foreseeable uses of the pipeline, including opportunities to tie-in to a large-diameter natural gas pipeline from the North Slope.

As the lead agency, the USACE is responsible for the development of the EIS, in cooperation with the BLM. Preparing an EIS includes:

- A process for public participation
- Identifying project issues and concerns
- Identifying the purpose and need for the proposed action
- Describing the affected environment
- Developing and evaluating the effects of a range of alternatives for the proposed project

The process for the B2F Natural Gas Pipeline EIS is summarized in ten broad steps:

Step	Steps in the NEPA Process
1	<b>Federal Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)</b> February 1, 2009
2	<b>Scoping</b> Scoping period: February 1 to March 15, 2009 Public Scoping Meetings: February 24 to March 5, 2009 Scoping Report: Estimated April 2009
3	<b>Analysis of Alternatives and Field Investigations</b>
4	<b>BLM Identifies Its Preferred Alternative</b>
5	<b>Issue Draft EIS</b> Estimated release: mid-December 2009 Available for 45-day public review, through early February 2010
6	<b>Public Hearing on Draft EIS</b> Estimated: January 2010
7	<b>Public Comment Review and Synthesis</b> Comment Analysis Report Available, Estimated: March 2010
8	<b>Respond to Comments/Prepare Final EIS</b> Estimated: June 2010
9	<b>Issue Final EIS</b> Estimated: late June 2010 Available for minimum 30-day public review
10	<b>Record of Decision</b> USACE Identifies Its Preferred Alternative Public statements of agency decisions Estimated: July 2010

## OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

All interested parties are invited to participate in the EIS process. Members of the general public, Alaska Native organizations, local and regional interest groups, and State and Federal agencies are encouraged to participate. Objectives of the public involvement process include:

- Share information about NEPA requirements and project objectives
- Obtain and analyze comments and suggestions from interested parties that will help determine issues and concerns related to the project
- Use comments and suggestions to help define a reasonable range of alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS
- Incorporate relevant issues in analysis process
- Respond to public comments and incorporate public comments into the EIS

## HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT?

### GET INVOLVED!

Your comments are very important to us, particularly at this early stage in the project. There are several ways to participate in the B2F Natural Gas Pipeline EIS process. In February and March, 2009 there will be public scoping meetings in several communities. One agency scoping meeting will also be held in Anchorage to receive comments from agency representatives.

All public scoping meetings will have the same format:

Open House	5:00 to 6:00 pm
Formal presentation about the project	6:00 to 6:30 pm
Public questions and comment opportunity	6:30 to 8:00 pm

There are also several means to submit written comments:

- Use the pre-addressed comment form accompanying this newsletter
- Use the comment form on the project website, <http://www.angdaB2Feis.com>
- Email us at [angdaB2Feis@urscorp.com](mailto:angdaB2Feis@urscorp.com)
- Fax comments to: (907) 753-5567
- Mail comments to:  
Serena E. Sweet, Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
CEPOA-RD  
P.O. Box 6898  
Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-0898

*Please use any of these methods to be retained on or added to the mailing list.*

*Written scoping comments can be submitted until March 15, 2009.* Comments received after this time will be considered, but will not be included in the scoping report. Comments will be reviewed and incorporated into the Draft B2F Natural Gas Pipeline EIS. A summary of scoping comments will be provided in the next newsletter.

## SCOPING MEETING LOCATIONS AND DATES

ANCHORAGE AGENCY MEETING	
ANGDA Office 411 West 4 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor Anchorage, Alaska	February 23, 2009 10:00am – 3:00pm

GLENNALLEN PUBLIC MEETING	
Tazlina Village Hall Mile 110.5 Richardson Hwy Glennallen, Alaska	February 24, 2009 5:00-8:00pm

DELTA JUNCTION PUBLIC MEETING	
Delta Junction Community Center 2288 Deborah Street Delta Junction, Alaska	February 25, 2009 5:00 – 8:00pm

FAIRBANKS/NORTH POLE PUBLIC MEETING	
Wedgewood Resort 212 Wedgewood Drive Fairbanks, Alaska	February 26, 2009 5:00 – 8:00pm

ANCHORAGE PUBLIC MEETING	
Sheraton Hotel 401 East 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Anchorage, Alaska	March 4, 2009 5:00 – 8:00pm

WASILLA PUBLIC MEETING	
Central Mat-Su Public Safety Building 101 West Swanson Drive Wasilla, Alaska	March 5, 2009 5:00 – 8:00pm

*Please call URS Corporation for directions, if needed.*

To request accommodation of a disability or special need at a public meeting (e.g., sign language interpreter), please contact URS Corporation, the USACE contractor for the B2F Natural Gas Pipeline EIS, at least 10 business days prior to the meeting. The USACE will make a reasonable effort to provide effective accommodations for all participants.

URS Corporation, B2F EIS Project Team  
560 East 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Fax: (907) 562-1297  
Telephone: (907) 562-3366 or (800) 909-6787

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

Public involvement will continue throughout the project. The goal is to receive public and agency comments, identify key issues of concern, and improve project design and analysis. Additional newsletters will be distributed during the project to provide updates on key developments.

Once the Draft B2F Natural Gas Pipeline EIS is complete, the document will be released to the public for an estimated review period of 45 days. During the

review period, the USACE will conduct public hearings to accept comments on the Draft EIS. Public testimony, written comments, and electronic comments will be accepted during the review period.

Visit the project website for on-going project information: <http://www.angdaB2Feis.com>.

Let us know what aspects of the project are important to you!

We encourage you to take an active part in the B2F Natural Gas Pipeline EIS. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed and to allow you every opportunity to voice your opinion regarding this important project. If you have any questions, comments, or requests for more information, please contact:

### Mail:

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