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# IMPROVING NORTH SLOPE GAS MARKETING THROUGH ADVANCEMENTS IN PIPELINE TECHNOLOGY

**MARCH 1997** 



#### **PRESENTATION OVERVIEW**

- Background
- Pipeline Technology Advancements
- North Slope Gas Economics



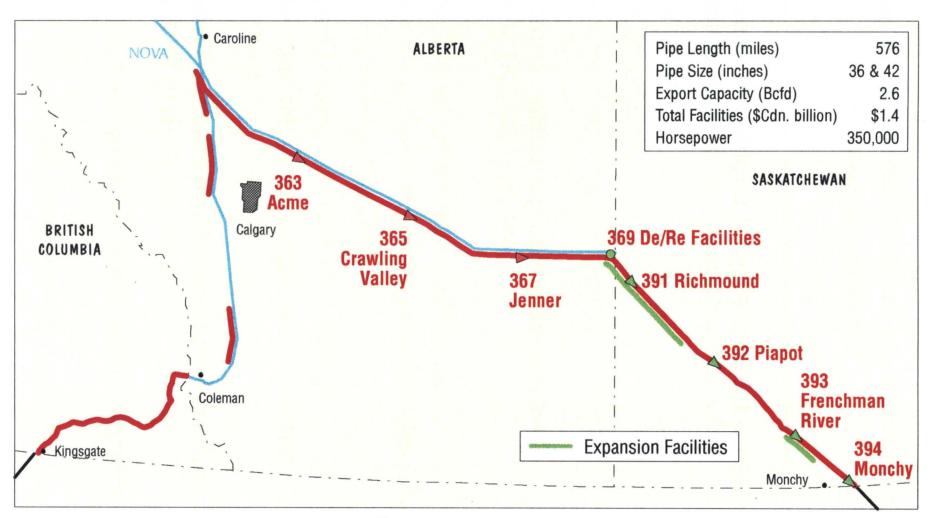
#### **BACKGROUND**

#### FOOTHILLS PIPE LINES LTD.

- Privately held Canadian Company
- Owned equally by NOVA Corporation and Westcoast Energy Inc.
  - Total combined investment \$US 17 Billion
- Created to pursue Northern Pipeline Project Development and has actively done so since its inception in the 1970's
- Canadian sponsor of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System (ANGTS)
- Ownership interest in and joint operator of the Alaskan Segment of the ANGTS (ANNGTC)
- Has done extensive work with respect to all aspects of Northern Pipeline Development
- Owns and operates the Prebuild Canadian section of ANGTS
  - In 1996 transported 922 Bcf, 1/3 of the total Canadian gas exported to the U.S.
- Total investment \$US 1.0 Billion



#### FOOTHILLS EXISTING FACILITIES





# ANGTS PROJECT PIPELINE RESEARCH COMPLETED TOTAL PROJECT

- Hundreds of millions of dollars spent both in Canada and Alaska related to study of:
  - -Permafrost
  - -Soil Stabilization
  - Environmental Management and Mitigation
- Confirmed northern pipeline design and construction techniques, e.g.:
  - Soil Thermal Prediction Techniques
  - Frost Heave and Thaw Settlement Mitigation
  - Arctic Ditching Techniques
  - Pipe Fracture Control Methodology
  - Environmentally Acceptable Construction Windows
- Obtained much of the information from full scale field testing facilities
- Provides base data for site specific pipeline design



# ANGTS PROJECT PIPELINE RESEARCH COMPLETED SPECIFIC TO ALASKA

- Approximately \$450 million spent on research and gathering of field data
  - -Seven Field Research Test Sites
  - Extensive Geotechnical Data Obtained and Documented, eg.:

Borehole Drilling

3650 holes

 Hydrologic Surveys and Aufeis Studies

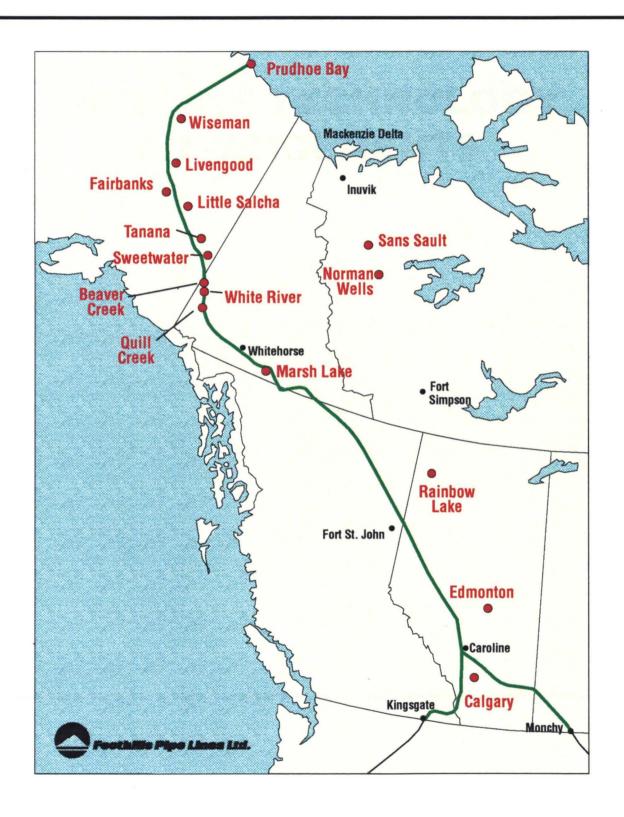
130 stream crossings

 Soil Temperature Measurements 20,000 thermistors

- Seismic and Fault Crossing Studies
- Majority of data specific to the Prudhoe Bay to Delta Junction section of pipeline alignment
- Comprehensive Environmental Studies
- Resulted in approval of engineering and environmental design criteria by both OFI and FERC
- Knowledge applicable to other northern projects



# ARCTIC PIPELINE TEST SITE LOCATIONS

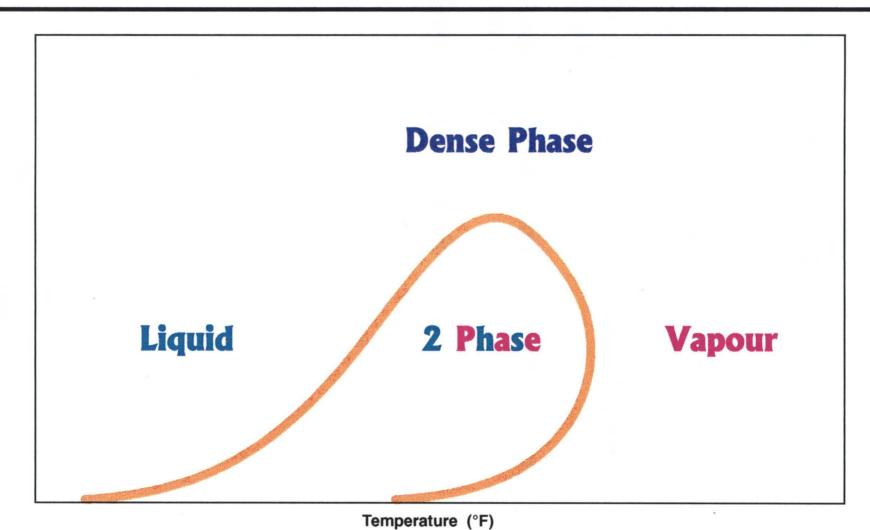


# PIPELINE TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENTS

### PIPELINE TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENTS OVERVIEW

- Dense Phase Flow
- Higher Operating Pressures
- Ultra High Strength Steel/Composite Materials
- High Speed Automatic Welding Systems
- Geometric Inspection Tools
- Advanced Ditcher Technology
- Enhanced Modular Construction Techniques
- Satellite/Fibre Optic Communication Systems
- High Efficiency Gas Turbines
- Real Time Transient Modelling





#### DENSE PHASE ADVANTAGES

- Transports up to 50% higher Btu stream, reducing unit transportation cost
- Smaller diameter, high strength pipe reduces pipeline cost
- Reduces frost heave/thaw settlement concerns
- Reduces gas conditioning



#### RECENTLY COMPLETED STUDIES

- Preliminary Design and Cost of Prudhoe Bay Gas Conditioning Facility
- Modelling Dense Phase Fluid properties and behaviour - Statoil independent analysis
- Preliminary Design and Cost of Dense Phase Compressor Station
- Study of Technical Capability and Availability of X100 Steels
- Frost Heave Study for X-100 Steel Pipeline
- Hydraulic Design of Pipeline Facilities
- Preliminary Fracture Control Design
- Plume Dispersion Study



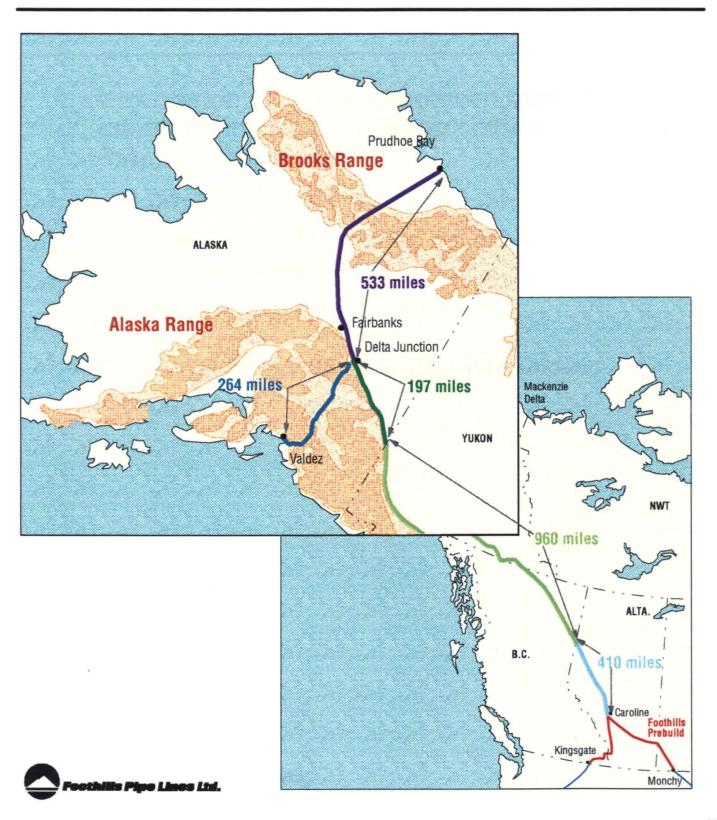
#### STUDIES IN PROGRESS

- Cost Estimate of Pipeline Facilities
- Composite Materials Design
- High Strength Component Availability
- Evaluation of High Pressure Pipeline Compressors
- Pipe/Ground Heat Flow Simulations
- Environmental Assessment of Dense Phase Design
- Laboratory Evaluation of Dense Phase Fluid Properties
- University of Alaska collaboration



#### **NORTH SLOPE GAS PROJECT**

#### **ROUTINGS - ALASKAN GAS PROJECTS**

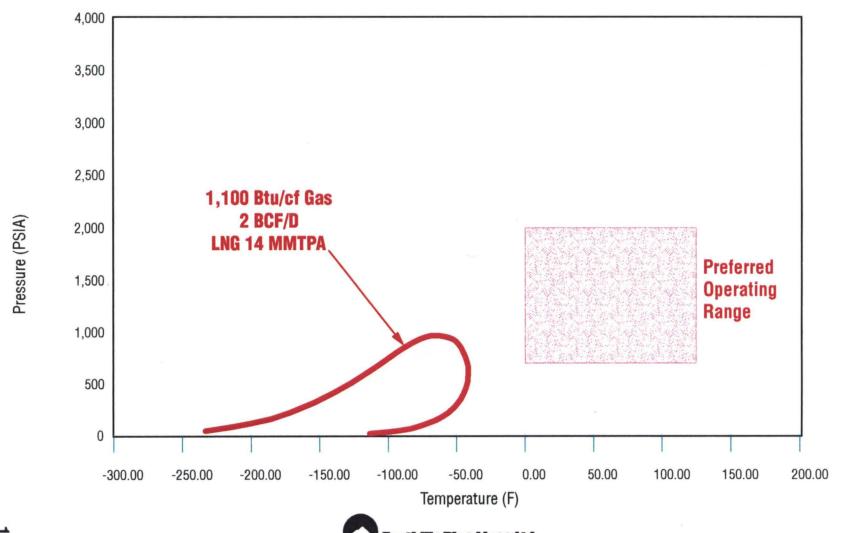


#### PROJECT ISSUES

- Key obstacles which have been publicly identified in Working Group chaired by Representative Barnes:
  - Lower capital costs
  - Penetrating LNG market quickly with large volumes to realize full project revenues
  - Suitable financing environment
- Presentation addresses first two issues

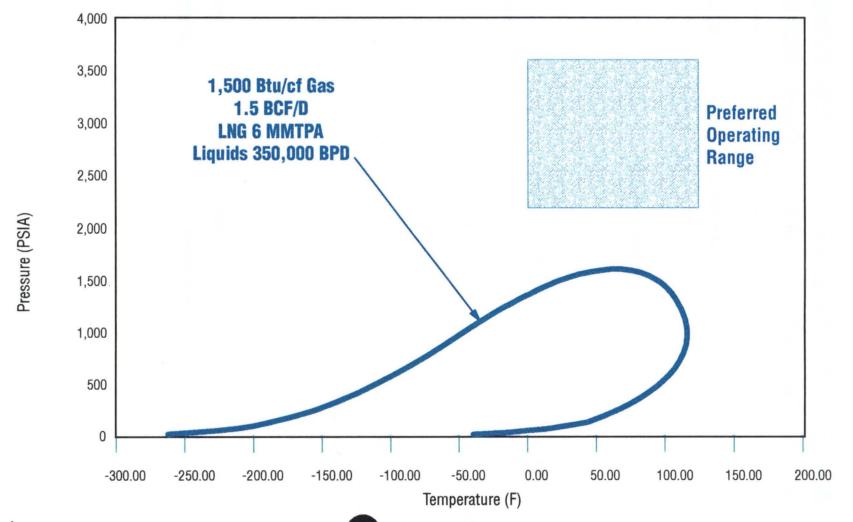


## COMPARISON OF THROUGHPUTS AND PRODUCTS FOR EQUAL ENERGY (2.2 TRILLION BTU/D) LEAN AND ENRICHED GAS STREAMS



#### COMPARISON OF THROUGHPUTS AND PRODUCTS

FOR EQUAL ENERGY (2.2 TRILLION BTU/D) LEAN AND ENRICHED GAS STREAMS



# CONVENTIONAL FLOWS VS DENSE PHASE FLOWS FOR LNG PROJECT

Conventional	Dense Phase	Advantages
Gas Conditioning	Gas Conditioning	- Reduces volume of gas to be processed
42" Pipeline MOP = 2 200 psi	30" Pipeline MOP = 3 400 psi	- Greater flexibility in product mix
3 Compressor Stations	4 Compressor Stations	<ul> <li>Frost heave/thaw settlement reduced</li> </ul>
Lean Gas (1 100 Btu/scf)	Rich Gas (eg. 1 500 Btu/scf)	<ul> <li>Reduction in cost of service</li> </ul>
1 300 psi inlet	2 100 psi inlet	<ul> <li>Light condensates will liquefy easily</li> </ul>
Liquefaction Facilities	Liquefaction Facilities	<ul> <li>Larger pressure drop will aid liquefaction</li> </ul>
1 delittles	1 domites	<ul> <li>Likely reduces cost per unit of energy</li> </ul>
~hm. ~hm.	~\dam_ ~\dam_	<ul> <li>Less costly tanker fleet</li> <li>Larger market area (light condensates)</li> </ul>



#### PIPELINE COST REDUCTION

- Smaller diameter pipe
  - -30 inch diameter pipe at 3 400 psi
- Automatic welding
  - -higher production rates
  - -120 welds/day
- High strength steel
  - -X-100
- Advanced ditcher technology
- Reduced frost heave concerns
- Year round construction
- Shortened construction period (2 years)



# NORTH SLOPE CONDITIONING PLANT COST REDUCTION

- Maximize use of existing infrastructure
  - Central compression facility
  - Central processing facility
- Lower initial gas volumes minimize CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O removal and gas refrigeration
  - -(1.5 Bcfd versus 2 Bcfd)



# LIQUEFACTION PLANT COST REDUCTION

- Initially 6 MM tons/year versus 14 MM tons/year LNG
- Higher inlet pressure reduces capital and operating costs
- Light condensates liquefy more easily than methane
  - New revenue stream



#### **TANKER COST REDUCTION**

- 6 MM tons/year versus 14 MM tons/year LNG
- Large light condensate component
- Lower cost condensate tanker construction (-60°F design versus -260°F LNG design)



#### PRELIMINARY CAPITAL COST COMPARISON OF NORTH SLOPE GAS PROJECTS PRUDHOE BAY - VALDEZ

Component	Capital Cost (1996 \$US Billions)	
-	Conventional <sup>1</sup> 1 100 Btu/cf, 14 MMT/yr. LNG	Dense Phase 1,500 Btu/cf, 6 MMT/yr. LNG 350,000 Bpd Liquids
Prudhoe Bay Conditioning Plan	1.5 t	<b>1</b>
Pipeline	6	4
Valdez Liquefaction Plant	3.75	2 - 3
Tankers	3.75	2 - 3
TOTAL	15.0	9 - 11

<sup>1</sup> State of Alaska Revenue Department



#### **SUMMARY**

- Foothills has extensive northern pipeline expertise
- Technology advancements reduce project cost
- Modest initial LNG volumes sized to penetrate market
- Significant expansion capability
- Highly marketable light condensates
- Revenue equivalent of 14 million tons of LNG per year with smaller start-up project

