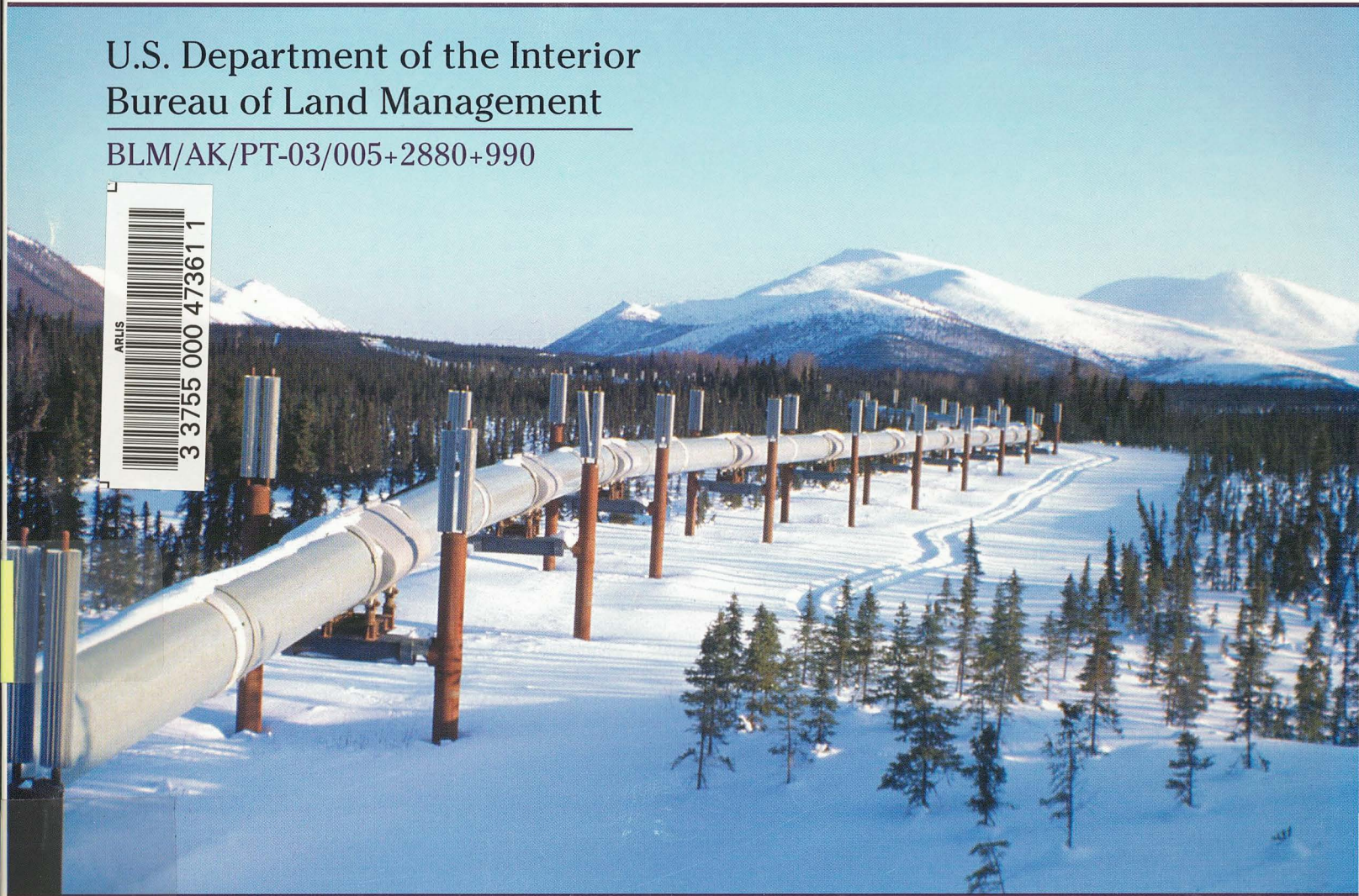


Renewal of the Federal Grant for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Right-of-Way

November 2002

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

BLM/AK/PT-03/005+2880+990



*Volume 6: Comment and Response
Document – Part 4*

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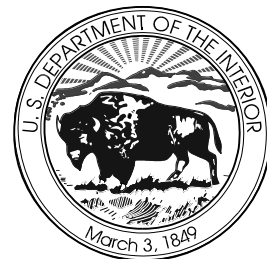
Final Environmental Impact Statement

Renewal of the Federal Grant for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Right-of-Way

Volume 6: Comment and Response Document, Part 4

U.S. Department of the Interior
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November 2002



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Notation

The following is a list of acronyms and abbreviations (including units of measure) used in this document.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAAQS	Alaska Ambient Air Quality Standards
AAC	Alaska Administrative Code
AADT	annual average daily traffic
ACEC	area of critical environmental concern
ACM	asbestos-containing material
ACMA	Alaska Coastal Management Act
ACMP	Alaska Coastal Management Program
ACS	Alaska Clean Seas
ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADGC	Alaska Department of Government Coordination
ADNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
ADPS	Alaska Department of Public Safety
ADT	average daily traffic
AFB	Air Force Base
AFFF	aqueous film-forming foam
AFN	Alaska Federation of Natives
AK	Alaska
AKOSH	Alaska Occupational Safety and Health
ALOHA	Areal Locations of Hazardous Atmospheres
AMHS	Alaska Marine Highway System
AMM	asset maintenance management
ANCSA	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
ANILCA	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
ANUA	Alaska Native Utilization Agreement
ANWR	Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
AO	Authorized Officer (Joint Pipeline Office)
AOGCC	Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
API	American Petroleum Institute
APSC	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
AQCR	Air Quality Control Region
AQRV	air-quality-related value
ARCO	Atlantic Richfield Company
ARRC	Alaska Railroad Corporation
ARRT	Alaska Regional Response Team
AS	Alaska Statute
ASME	American Society of Mechanical Engineers
ATV	all-terrain vehicle
BE	biological evaluation
BLM	Bureau of Land Management (U.S. Department of the Interior)
BLS	Bureau of Labor Statistics
BMP	best management practice

BOD	biochemical oxygen demand
BOD ₅	biochemical oxygen demand measured over a five-day period
BP	British Petroleum
BPXA	British Petroleum Exploration (Alaska), Inc.
BS&W	basic sediments and water
BTEX	benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene
BTT	biological treatment tank
BWT	ballast water treatment
BWTF	Ballast Water Treatment Facility
BWTS	ballast water treatment system
CBR	Constitutional Budget Reserve
CBRF	Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund
CCP	Central Processing Plant
CDMS	Corrosion Data Management System
CEO	chief executive officer
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFC	chlorofluorocarbon
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
Cir.	Circuit Court
CMP	Coastal Management Program
	or
	Comprehensive Monitoring Program
CNG	compressed natural gas
CO	carbon monoxide
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
CP	Contingency Plan
CPF	Central Production Facility
CPlan	Contingency Plan
CS	containment site
CSU	conservation system unit
CY	calendar year
CZ	coastal zone
CZM	coastal zone management
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DAF	dissolved air flotation
DBGC	designated big-game crossing
DCE	design contingency earthquake
DDT	dichloro-diphenyl-trichloro-ethane
DEIS	draft environmental impact statement
DHCMA	Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
DOT/OPS	U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety
DRA	drag reducing agent
DRO	diesel-range organics
DS	drill site
DSMA	digital strong-motion accelerograph
EIA	Energy Information Administration
EFH	essential fish habitat

e.g.	exempli gratia (for example)
EGHP	exhaust-gas horsepower
EIA	Energy Information Administration
EIS	environmental impact statement
EMS	environmental monitoring system
	or
	earthquake monitoring system
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act
ER	environmental report
ERPG	emergency response planning guideline
ESA	Endangered Species Act
et al.	and others
ETT	enhanced tractor tug
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FACA	Federal Advisory Committee Act
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration
FDS	Fire Dynamics Simulation (computer model)
Fe	iron
Fe ₂ O ₃	ferric oxide
FEIS	final environmental impact statement
FEOC	Fairbanks Emergency Operations Center
FLIR	forward looking infrared
FOSC	Federal On-Scene Coordinator
FR	Federal Register
FSIH	Fire Safety and Industrial Hygiene
FTE	full-time equivalent
GAO	General Accounting Office
GC	Gathering Center
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIS	geographic information system
GMU	Game Management Unit
GNOME	General NOAA Oil Modeling Environment
GRO	gasoline-range organics
GSP	gross state product
H ₂ O ₂	hydrogen peroxide
H ₂ S	hydrogen sulfide
HAP	hazardous air pollutant
HAZCORE	Hazardous Materials Consolidation and Redistribution
HAZMAT	hazardous material
HAZWOPER	hazardous waste operations
HC	hydrocarbon
HCFC	hydrochlorofluorocarbon
HCl	hydrogen chloride
Hg	mercury
HRR	heat release rate
HVAC	heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

ICS	Incident Command System
i.e.	that is (id est)
IMPROVE	Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments
IRIS	Integrated Risk Information System
IRT	Initial Response Team
ISC3	Industrial Source Complex Model (Version 3)
ISCST	Industrial Source Complex Short Term
IWSS	industrial wastewater sewer system
JPO	Joint Pipeline Office
L _{dn}	day-night average sound level
L _{eq}	equivalent steady sound level
LEFM	leading-edge flow meter
LNG	liquefied natural gas
LVB	line volume balance
MAP	Man in the Arctic Program
MCCF	mobile contingency camp facility
MCL	maximum contaminant level
MEI	maximally exposed individual
MEK	methyl ethyl ketone
MGV	manual gate valve
MLA	Mineral Leasing Act
MLR	Mainline Refrigeration
MMC	Marine Mammal Commission
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MMS	Minerals Management Service
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	milepost
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheets
MSFCMA	Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act
MSGP	Multi-Sector General (NPDES) Permit
MSWLF	municipal solid waste landfill
N	nitrogen
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NADP	National Atmospheric Deposition Program
NAICS	North American Industry Classification System
NANA	Northwest Alaska Native Association
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NF	National Forest
NFRAP	no further remedial action planned
NGL	natural gas liquid
NH ₃	ammonia
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMDS	National Missile Defense System
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
no.	number
NO _x	nitrogen oxides
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NO ₃ ⁻	nitrate
NOA	Notice of Availability

NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOD	Notice of Disposal
NOI	Notice of Intent
NORM	naturally occurring radioactive material
NP	national park
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPP	national park and preserve
NPR	National Petroleum Reserve
NPR-A	National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska
NPS	National Park Service
NRA	national recreation area
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NS	North Slope
NSB	North Slope Borough
NSC	National Safety Council
NSPTS	North Slope Production and Transportation System
NTP	Notice to Proceed
NWR	national wildlife refuge
NWS	National Weather Service
O ₃	ozone
O&M	operation and maintenance
OCC	Operations Control Center
OCS	Outer Continental Shelf
ODC	ozone-depleting chemical
ODP	ozone-depleting potential
ODS	ozone-depleting substance
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OMS	operational material site
OPA	Oil Pollution Act
OPS	Office of Pipeline Safety (U.S. Department of Transportation)
ORC	oxygen-releasing compound
ORV	off-road vehicle
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OSHTF	(Alaska) Oil Spill Health Task Force
OSPFR	Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response
OSV	oil spill volume
P	phosphorus
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PAH	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon
PAI	Phillips Alaska, Inc.
Pb	lead
PBT	persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PDF	pipeline design flood
PELs	permissible exposure limits
PF	Permanent Fund
PG	Pasquill-Gifford
pH	hydrogen ion concentration
P.L.	Public Law
PM	particulate matter
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter with a diameter less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers
PM ₁₀	particulate matter with a diameter less than or equal to 10 micrometers

PMP	probable maximum precipitation
PO ₄ ³⁻	phosphate
POP	persistent organic pollutant
POTW	publicly owned treatment works
PPE	personal protective equipment
PPV	peak particle velocity
PRT	prevention and response tug
PS	pump station
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
PWS	Prince William Sound
QA	quality assurance
RAC	Resource Advisory Council
RCAC	Regional Citizens' Advisory Council
RCM	reliability-centered maintenance
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
REAA	Regional Educational Attendance Area
RGV	remote gate valve
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROD	Record of Decision
ROS	recreation opportunity spectrum
ROW	right-of-way
RRO	residual-range organics
RSC	reduced sulfur compounds
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SCADA	supervisory control and data acquisition
SD	standard deviation
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SERVS	Ship Escort/Response Vessel System
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
Si	silicon
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification
SIP	state implementation plan
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SOSC	State On-Scene Coordinator
SO _x	sulfur oxides
SPC	State Pipeline Coordinator
spp.	species
SRS	state recreation site
Stat.	statute
SWDS	solid waste disposal site
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWTP	sanitary waste treatment plant
TAPAA	Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act
TAPS	Trans-Alaska Pipeline System
TAGS	Trans-Alaska Gas System
TCA	1,1,1-trichloroethane
TCC	Tanana Chiefs Conference
TCP	traditional cultural property
TEEL	temporary emergency exposure limit
TEF	toxic equivalency factor

TFE	tetrafluoroethylene
TLV	threshold limit value
TPQs	Threshold Planning Quantities
TRI	Toxics Release Inventory
TSDf	treatment storage and disposal facility
TSP	total suspended particulates
TSS	total suspended solids
TVB	transient volume balance
TVR	tanker vapor recovery
UAA	University of Alaska-Anchorage
UC	Unified Command
UIC	underground injection control
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UV	ultraviolet
VAHS	Valdez Air Health Study
VHF	very high frequency
VHS	viral hemorrhagic septicemia
VMT	Valdez Marine Terminal
VOC	volatile organic compound
VRM	visual resource management
VSM	vertical support member
VTs	Vessel Traffic Service
WSR	Wild and Scenic River
ZRAs	Zone of Restricted Activities

Units of Measure

acre-ft	acre-foot (feet)	m ³	cubic meter(s)
bbl	barrel(s)	mg	milligram(s)
Btu	British thermal unit(s)	mi	mile(s)
°C	degree(s) centigrade	mi ²	square mile(s)
cm	centimeter(s)	min	minute(s)
cm ³	cubic centimeter(s)	mL	milliliter(s)
cSt	centistoke(s)	mm	millimeter(s)
d	day(s)	mmole	millimole(s)
dB	decibel(s)	mph	mile(s) per hour
dBA	A-weighted decibel(s)	MW	megawatt(s)
°F	degree(s) Fahrenheit	MYA	million year(s) ago
ft	foot (feet)	ng	nanogram(s)
ft ²	square foot (feet)	pCi	picocurie(s)
ft ³	cubic foot (feet)	ppb	part(s) per billion
g	gravitational acceleration	ppm	part(s) per million
gal	gallon(s)	psi	pound(s) per square inch
GW	gigawatt(s)	psig	pound(s) per square inch gauge
h	hour(s)	rpm	revolution(s) per minute
ha	hectare(s)	s	second(s)
hp	horsepower	scf	standard cubic foot (feet)
in.	inch(es)	scfm	standard cubic foot (feet) per minute
in. ²	square inch(es)	wk	week(s)
j	joule(s)	YA	year(s) ago
K	kelvin degree(s)	yd	yard(s)
kg	kilogram(s)	yd ³	cubic yard(s)
km	kilometer(s)	yr	year(s)
km ²	square kilometer(s)	μg	microgram(s)
knot(s)	nautical mile(s) per hour	μg-atoms	microgram-atom(s)
kW	kilowatt(s)	μm	micrometer(s)
L	liter(s)	μmoles	micromole(s)
lb	pound(s)	μR	microrentgen(s)
m	meter(s)	\$/bbl	dollar(s) per barrel
m ²	square meter(s)		

Index to Comment Documents

Introduction

This Volume 6 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Renewal of the Federal Grant for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Right-of-Way contains public comments on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) responses to those comments. The BLM prepared the DEIS, which was published on July 5, 2002, in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These procedures include a period of public comment on a DEIS prior to publication of an FEIS.

The comment documents are presented in numerical order by document number. Each comment document is immediately followed by the responses to those comments, except for comments presented at the public hearings (see below). To view a specific comment document and its associated responses, the reader should consult the following index to determine the document number. Two indices are provided: (1) the Individuals index contains all of the comment documents received and (2) the Agencies, Organizations and Tribal Governments index contains a subset of the Individuals index, to aid readers who may not know the names of specific people affiliated with those organizations.

The transcripts of the public hearings are presented in this volume as a set of comment documents; therefore, instead of the response immediately following the comment document, the response follows in numerical order immediately after the entire transcript document. To aid the reader, the following lists the comment documents associated with the transcripts of each public hearing. Responses to those comments follow the last document number listed for each set (e.g., responses to document number 00115 would follow document number 00140, the last comment document for the Cordova hearing).

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¹ This listing of agencies, organizations, and Tribal governments was compiled on the basis of comment documents submitted on official letterheads. It is not necessarily a complete list of all agencies, organizations, and Tribal governments that commented on the Draft EIS. This listing does not include any organization that provided verbal testimony, but did not submit written comments. The Individuals index for specific speaker names can be consulted to find testimony that may also be affiliated with specific agencies, organizations, or Tribal governments.

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

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TAPS RENEWAL DEIS
PUBLIC HEARING

Barrow, Alaska

August 9, 2002

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Barrow, Alaska - 8/9/2002)

3 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Good evening.

4 This public hearing is called to order.

5 My name is Dennis Geary and I am the
6 Hearing Officer to preside at this hearing. The purpose
7 of this hearing is to receive public comments concerning
8 the proposed renewal of the Right of Way for the Trans-
9 Alaska Pipeline System. We invite comments tonight on
10 the following three documents related to that proposal:

11 1. The Bureau of Land Management Draft
12 Environmental Impact Statement.

13 2. The Evaluation and Finding regarding subsistence
14 under Section .810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands
15 Act which are contained in Appendix E of the Draft
16 Environmental Impact Statement.

17 3. The State of Alaska, Department of Natural
18 Resources Commissioner's Statement of Reasons and
19 Proposed Written Determination, Trans-Alaska Pipeline
20 Right of Way Lease Renewal ADL63574.

21 It's not the purpose of this hearing to
22 engage in discussion or debate or to respond to questions
23 about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
24 subsistence, the Commissioner's Determination or the
25 Trans-Alaska Pipeline system.

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1 In addition to myself, Federal and State
2 representatives from the Joint Pipeline Office are here
3 to listen to your comments.

4 TRANSLATOR: (In Inupiat)

5 MR. REIMER: Good evening and thanks for
6 coming. I'm Gary Reimer of the Bureau of Land
7 Management, also the Joint Pipeline Office.

8 MR. THOMPSON: Hello. I'm Mike Thompson.
9 I represent the State of Alaska, Department of Natural
10 Resources. Thank you for attending tonight's public
11 hearing.

12 MS. ZULO: Cynthia Zulo, Division of
13 Governmental Coordination. I'm pleased to join you this
14 evening.

15 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)

16 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Notice of
17 availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
18 on the TAPS Right of Way Renewal appeared in the Federal
19 Register on July 5th, 2002 in Volume 67, Number 129 at
20 Page 44832. The State of Alaska has also provided notice
21 of the availability of the Commissioner's Proposed
22 Determination on July 3rd, 2002. Notification about the
23 date, time and location for this hearing as well as the
24 six other hearings scheduled to receive comments on the
25 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, subsistence and the

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1 Commissioner's Proposed Determination was announced in
2 the media including newspaper, radio and the internet.
3 In addition, notices about the hearing were sent to
4 individuals and organizations that have requested to be
5 kept informed about this project. If you would like to
6 be on the list to receive information about this project,
7 you can sign up at the back of the room at the
8 registration table.

9 Both oral and written comments will be
10 taken tonight. In addition, comments can be submitted to
11 the BLM by mail, fax, telephone, the internet or hand-
12 delivered to the Joint Pipeline Office in Anchorage. The
13 State will accept additional written comments sent by
14 mail, fax or e-mail. The telephone number for the Joint
15 Pipeline Office to submit comments is 1-866-542-5903.
16 We will accept additional comments received or postmarked
17 by August 20th, 2002, which is the closing date of the
18 public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact
19 Statement and the Commissioner's Proposed Determination.
20 Information for providing additional comments is also at
21 the back of the room on the registration table. All oral
22 and written comments received by the end of the public
23 comment period will be treated equally and will be
24 analyzed and considered in the preparation of the Final
25 Environmental Impact Statement and the Commissioner's

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1 Final Determination. In addition, both the Final
2 Environmental Impact Statement and the Commissioner's
3 Final Determination will contain written responses to the
4 comments received on the respective draft documents.

5 In order to ensure a complete and
6 accurate record of the hearing, it is necessary that only
7 one person speak at a time. It's also requested that
8 everyone remain as quiet as possible while the hearing is
9 in process.

10 If you wish to speak, please sign in at
11 the registration table first. In the event that a
12 speaker is not present when I call their name, I will
13 proceed and I will call that person's name later. In
14 order to give everyone who wishes an opportunity to
15 speak, we ask you to please limit your comments to 10
16 minutes.

17 A court reporter will record the oral
18 comments and prepare a verbatim transcript. If you have
19 an extra written copy of your comments, please provide it
20 to me so that we can use it for any clarification that
21 may be necessary. In any event, your remarks will be
22 recorded as you state them. If you wish to supplement
23 your oral comments with additional written material,
24 please provide that material to me and it will be marked
25 as an exhibit and made a part of this hearing.

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1 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)
2 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Are there any
3 questions about the process of this hearing tonight?
4 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)
5 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: We'll proceed
6 with the hearing.
7 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)
8 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: When I call your
9 name, please come forward to the microphone, state your
10 name, the organization that you represent, if any, and
11 whether you're also providing written comments. Also,
12 for administrative purposes, please specify whether
13 you're commenting on the Draft Environmental Impact
14 Statement, whether you're commenting on subsistence under
15 .810 of ANILCA or whether you're commenting on the
16 Commissioner's Proposed Determination. 00272
17 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)
18 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Mayor George
19 Ahmaogak.
20 MAYOR AHMAOGAK: Good evening. Although
21 I wanted to continue mechanizing on my boat to go boating
22 tonight, I thought it was very important that I come over
23 here and present the North Slope Borough's comments.
24 I'm George Ahmaogak, Sr., and I'm the
25 Mayor of the North Slope Borough. I want to welcome the

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1 agency officials and staff members who have come to
2 Barrow today for this hearing. I also want to thank the
3 local officials, staff and members of the public who have
4 taken the time to attend and provide their testimony on
5 the subject of reauthorizing the Trans-Alaska Pipeline
6 Right of Way. I first testified on this very issue
7 October of last year.

8 The documents that are under review are
9 very large and complex, but my comments will be brief and
10 I hope to the point. There is no need here to provide a
11 history report on centuries-old Inupiat prior use and
12 occupancy on the North Slope. Our relationship to this
13 land and adjacent waters, the growth of the oil and gas
14 industry in our region, the formation of the North Slope
15 Borough and associated vast improvements in the quality
16 of life of our people or our strong economic ties to the
17 oil and gas industry and its facilities, including the
18 Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Those topics are either well
19 known to you agency decision-makers or adequately covered
20 in the document. More to the point, there are eight
21 primary issues or action items as we see them regarding
22 the Trans-Alaska Pipeline system and the decision facing
23 the Federal and State of Alaska oversight agencies at
24 this critical time.

25 We have the following comments on these

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1 key issues.

2 On the issue of reauthorization. The
3 North Slope Borough supports the reauthorization of the
4 Trans-Alaska Pipeline system pipeline Right of Way.
5 This, of course, should be no surprise to anybody. The
6 pipeline is a valuable State and Federal asset. The
7 North Slope oil fields and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline are
8 the primary tax base for our municipal borough
9 government. We, in turn, fund essential services and the
10 construction and operation of public facilities in all of
11 our eight villages. These include schools, health
12 clinics, water and sewer projects, power plants, roads,
13 fire, public safety stations and including community
14 centers. The state of Alaska and all of its residents
15 are likewise dependent upon oil and gas revenues and have
16 benefited greatly from the North Slope and the Trans-
17 Alaska Pipeline operations.

18 The pipeline has proven to be the only
19 safe and reliable means of transporting massive volumes
20 of oil from the northern fields to southern processing
21 facilities and to the market. All of the conceivable
22 alternatives including ice going tankers are far less
23 efficient and pose far greater risk to the Alaskan
24 environment and to the Inupiat way of life.

25 Now, I want to talk on the issuing of

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1 monitoring and the maintenance of the Trans-Alaska
2 Pipeline system. Comprehensive monitoring and
3 maintenance of the pipeline should be increased. This is
4 common sense, responsible management and good public
5 policy. As I have said, the pipeline is an extraordinary
6 valuable asset. The land it occupies is essentially on
7 loan to its operators and to the owners. All feasible
8 steps to protect the asset and land should be required.
9 We recognize in our personal lives that aging facilities
10 and equipment require greater attention if they are to
11 continue their useful lives. The saying is true in the
12 public realm, we believe that on a whole, operators have
13 done a capable job of monitoring and maintaining the
14 pipeline to prevent spills and maintain flow. Discharges
15 have been quickly detected and contained when they have
16 occurred.

17 In short industry has acted responsibly.
18 But now must be even more aggressive in watching over an
19 aging facility. Monitoring and maintenance plan programs
20 and budgets must be enhanced.

21 On the issue of the citizen's oversight
22 group. A lot of people talking about that, whether in
23 Fairbanks or in Anchorage and I thought I would at least
24 say something regarding that. We support formation of a
25 citizen's oversight group for the pipeline. The group

272-2
(Cont.)

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1 should include North Slope members representing our
2 people whose traditional homeland bears much of the risk
3 associated with an asset which benefits all of Alaskans.
4 Along with the increased monitoring and maintenance
5 programs and budgets should come greater transparency in
6 management of the pipeline. An oversight group patterned
7 after the Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet Regional
8 Citizen's Advisory Council, RCAC's established by Federal
9 followed the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill would go to a
10 long way to raising public confidence and preventing
11 operator complacency in the management of the pipeline.

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(Cont.)

12 The mission of the RCAC, the Regional
13 Advisory Councils is to promote environmentally safe oil
14 and gas operations in their respective areas. The
15 guiding rational behind this establishment is that
16 citizens with the most at risk from such operations ought
17 to have some say in the management decisions which could
18 affect them. It has long been clear that North Slope
19 Inupiat residents bear most of the risk associated with
20 the industrialization of our traditional homeland. Good
21 public policy, environmental justice and common decency
22 demand that we have a voice not only in the permitting of
23 projects, but also in the ongoing operations of
24 facilities which so massively and directly threaten our
25 environment and our culture.

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1 On the issue of impacts. Construction
2 and operation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline system has not
3 been without any impacts. I touched on the positive
4 economic impacts associated with the Trans-Alaska
5 Pipeline system. There certainly have also been some
6 long-term adverse impacts, which have not been adequately
7 addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
8 which you produced. There have been changes in the
9 habitat and migration and use patterns of North Slope
10 wildlife. Using caribou as a good example, if not in
11 their numbers, there have been cumulative, social and
12 cultural impacts on our residents, there have been
13 impacts associated with the Haul Road paralleling the
14 Trans-Alaska Pipeline, distinct from impacts related
15 solely to the pipeline itself.

16 Caribou migration patterns were altered,
17 changed by construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline
18 system and the associated Dalton Highway. Studies,
19 scientific studies utilizing radio collars on caribou
20 indicated that to a great extent, these obstacles
21 continue to impede the free movement of the affected
22 North Slope herds. Without pre-construction baseline
23 data it is impossible to asses the likely impact of these
24 animals. Subsistence users in our communities of Nuiqsut
25 and Anaktuvuk Pass have long noted these changes and they

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11

1 have to cope with the absence of game in traditional
2 harvest areas. A comparable deflection of animals from
3 industrial areas has occurred in the oil fields as well
4 as in the association with the transportation corridor.
5 Our communities have lived with these impacts for over
6 decades. Continued expansion of oil facilities on the
7 North Slope will likely further displace game and alter
8 subsistence harvest patterns. These ongoing and
9 increasingly significant cumulative impacts is not
10 addressed in your Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

272-5
(Cont.)

11 There are hazardous waste sites and other
12 damaged areas within the pipeline corridor in need of
13 clean up and remediation. This reauthorization must
14 require that all of these sites are identified and
15 reasonable timelines set for their rehabilitation.

272-6

16 We have also spoken before about another
17 less obvious category of impacts, these are the social
18 and the cultural impacts associated with North Slope oil
19 and gas activities that continue to affect our
20 communities. They are not always specific to a single
21 project or incidents, but can certainly be heightened by
22 individual events. More continuously, these impacts
23 reflect the cumulative level of industrialization that
24 makes people worry and feel threatened by thee effects of
25 the change. Over a relatively short three decade period

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1 of time our people have experienced changes, felt over
2 perhaps 200 years by the greater American society.
3 Despite the clear benefits which oil and gas development
4 on the North Slope has generated, industrialization has
5 also created the conditions for a whole range of anti-
6 social responses to a deeply felt sense of loss. The
7 stress and anxiety and the depression associated with
8 dramatic change is evident in individuals, in families,
9 and in the broader North Slope communities. The North
10 Slope Borough has urged the comprehensive study of the
11 cumulative impacts of exploration and development on our
12 communities. The North Slope Borough alone now absorbs
13 the cost in health care, counseling, public safety and
14 other areas associated with these impacts. We have urged
15 that action be taken by the oil and gas industry and by
16 the state of Alaska and by the Federal government to
17 mitigate these ongoing impacts which are direct result of
18 industrial development. We urge the industry and
19 governments that greatly benefit from the North Slope
20 operations to allocate impact assistance funds as a
21 normal part of doing business in places where Native
22 cultures are affected.

23 In addition, we'd also like to see more
24 permanent job opportunities for our people in pipeline
25 and other industry operations. You see these planes

272-7
(Cont.)

272-8

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1 coming out of Anchorage and Fairbanks, coming out of
2 union halls and none for the local people to land these
3 jobs. While residents do find work with Native
4 corporation subsidiaries that receive contracts for
5 occasional projects, permanent jobs associated with the
6 pipeline and other operations still primarily go to the
7 people from outside the region. Alaska Natives and North
8 Slope residents in particular are poorly represented in
9 the oil industry work force. We recognize industry
10 initiatives to increase Native employment and renewed
11 efforts to train and employ North Slope residents in
12 pipeline and other jobs.

13 On the issue of the Haul Road. The
14 direct environmental impacts of the pipeline has been
15 limited and manageable. Issues associated with the
16 Dalton Highway or the Haul Road and their relationship to
17 the pipeline issues complicate matters. Clearly, the
18 Haul Road and the pipeline are related and the management
19 of the two assets must be a coordinated undertaking. The
20 State of Alaska, over the strong objections of the North
21 Slope Borough opened the Haul Road to public traffic.
22 The ongoing and potentially serious impacts associated
23 with the Haul Road must be considered together with the
24 pipeline for purposes of impact assessment.

25 Originally a restricted industrial supply

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(Cont.)

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1 route to the oil fields, the Haul Road is not promoted in
2 a lot of travel magazines as one of the America's great
3 frontier driving experiences. This attracts more and
4 more travelers every year to a road that was not designed
5 for public use and is not adequately maintained for
6 public travel. There is a critical shortage of sanitary,
7 waste, emergency facilities, including toilets, waste
8 receptacles, roadside pullouts and call boxes. Drivers
9 of 18-wheelers feel they have a priority on that road,
10 just drive it one time you'll see it, as was the
11 intention and the case since the highway was first
12 constructed. Slow-moving or stranded passengers vehicles
13 can create dangerous situations out there. It is, of
14 course, the North Slope Borough which must respond to
15 emergencies on that very road within our boundaries.
16 This is an added expense to us, to our local government
17 and diverts limited response equipment and personnel from
18 potential needs in our communities. This ongoing and
19 increasingly significant impact is not addressed in your
20 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Why? The Borough
21 should be reimbursed for all of its expenses including
22 responding to emergencies associated with public access
23 to that road. The road is more dangerous and more remote
24 than any public road of comparable length in the country.
25 These conditions demand a higher concentration of

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1 emergency facilities that are found elsewhere. It is
2 irresponsible for the State of Alaska to continue to
3 allow public access to the Haul Road without providing
4 appropriate sanitary, waste and emergency facilities
5 especially pullouts, call boxes for use by the traveling
6 public.

7 Beyond the dangers associated with the
8 Haul Road travel are impacts to subsistence can be linked
9 to that highway. While by comparison under normal
10 operating conditions, the pipeline's impact are somewhat
11 constant and manageable. The impacts of the Haul Road
12 are largely dependent on traffic levels. More traffic
13 generally means more impact on wildlife and to the North
14 Slope residents.

15 Since the opening of the Haul Road to the
16 public subsistence hunters in Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut
17 have noticed a decrease in the availability of caribou
18 near their villages. Sport hunters and game guides using
19 aircraft and off road vehicles cache supplies and use the
20 road as a jumping off point to reach vast areas of the
21 North Slope traditionally utilized only for subsistence
22 by these and other communities.

23 Competition for resources, disruption of
24 subsistence activities and non-subsistence hunting
25 practices which deflect animals from traditional

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1 subsistence harvest areas are a major concern. Without
2 mitigation, these impacts will sure increase with the
3 increasing traffic on that road. This is a very serious
4 concern for those residents and more focus should be
5 placed on scientific study and mitigation measures to
6 address the village concerns. The village concerns of
7 Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk Pass.

8 This ongoing and increasing significant
9 impact is not also addressed in your Draft Environmental
10 Impact Statement. Why?

11 Security of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline as
12 related to public access to the Haul Road should also be
13 a significant concern. The events of last September, as
14 well as the Livengood shooting incident, argue in favor
15 of a far greater restriction on access to the road. This
16 potentially significant impact is not, again, addressed
17 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Why?

18 As a means of mitigating impacts to
19 wildlife movement, subsistence uses, economic impacts
20 associated with the provision of emergency and other
21 services and security risks, the North Slope Borough
22 strongly recommends a return to purely industrial use of
23 the Haul Road. Short of that, public access should be
24 limited to licensed tour operators only.

25 Now, I'm going to talk about the issue of

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(Cont.)

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1 historical promises. You got to remember the Trans-
2 Alaska Pipeline has been there for many years and I want
3 to talk about the issue of historical promises.

4 During the initial permitting of the
5 Trans-Alaska Pipeline, the Borough's First Mayor, the
6 Late Eben Hopson, Sr., spoke of his frustration with the
7 government officials moving ahead with the project, oil
8 and gas leasing and other proposals threatening
9 significant impacts to the traditional Inupiat homeland
10 and the culture without sufficient consultation with the
11 affected community. Today, we often share that
12 frustration and can add to it a related frustration over
13 promises made during those early days of the Borough and
14 the North Slope industrialization which has not been
15 honored. I want to touch on those two issues tonight.

16 First, the North Slope Borough has been
17 consistent over the last 30 years in demanding that a
18 comprehensive inventory of historic, archeological and
19 cultural sites be undertaken in association with the
20 construction and the operation of the Trans-Alaska
21 Pipeline system. That has never been followed up and it
22 showed up on your first Environmental Impact Statement
23 and still nothing today. Why?

24 The Haul Road and other North Slope
25 industrial infrastructure, those sites, historical sites

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1 identified as deserving a formal designation as
2 historical sites were to have been appropriately
3 designated and protected. A comprehensive survey and
4 inventory of these historical sites has never been
5 adequately undertaken. These current renewal processes
6 can be the tool to correct this wrong.

272-10
(Cont.)

7 Reauthorization of the Trans-Alaska
8 Pipeline Right of Way must demand a full inventory and
9 where appropriate, designation of historic, archeological
10 and cultural sites within the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Haul
11 Road and transportation corridor.

12 There were also assurances, again,
13 talking about promises, past promises, given during the
14 initial permitting of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline that made
15 microwave communication links associated with the
16 pipeline were to be made available for public use.
17 Microwave links. Communication links. Thirty such links
18 were to have been developed and only two ultimately were
19 and they were not available again for public use for
20 communications. That was 20, 30 years ago.

272-11

21 Today, there is a fiber optic capability
22 associated with the operation of that pipeline. Where
23 feasible the North Slope public should have access to
24 communications, technology brought into our region in
25 association with TAPS and other industrial facilities.

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1 Again, this renewal process can serve as a tool for
2 fulfillment of a promise made during initial review and
3 the permitting of the original pipeline system.

4 They promised these things and still
5 today nothing every happened, it just got buried in the
6 shuffle again and here we go again, another 30 more
7 years. These were commitments.

272-12

8 On the issue of the time for Draft
9 Environmental Impact Statement review. This should not
10 be a difficult issue. The review period should be
11 extended for 30 days as requested by numerous individuals
12 and groups. An additional 30 days of public input in
13 advance of a proposed 30 year Right of Way grant should
14 not be significant to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline owners
15 and operators or the oversight agencies. Given the
16 volume and complexity of paperwork generated and subject
17 to review and the great interest shown by the public it
18 is nonsensical to deny the extension requested.

272-13

19 An additional 30 days of review can only
20 enhance the quality of critical inquiry and comments
21 received and raise public confidence in the depth of
22 scrutiny employed by agencies in the renewal process.

23 On the issue of renewal for less than 30
24 years. You want to renew that Right of Way renewal for
25 30 years, I want to talk on the issue of renewal for less

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1 than 30 years. Renewal of the Right of Way has been
2 proposed for an additional 30 years. 30 years is a long
3 time in life of such massive and critically important
4 facility. Our uneasiness with the length of the renewal
5 would be significantly lessened by the establishment of
6 the citizen's oversight group advocated above by the
7 Borough and elsewhere by others. Establishment of the
8 group would be a good and appropriate compromise between
9 those in the industry and agencies who desire long-term
10 certainty in management of the asset and those in the
11 public who desire a meaningful voice in management
12 decisions which will affect them perhaps even longer
13 term.

14 Again, thank you for coming to North
15 Slope, I hope you will listen and act on the comments you
16 hear tonight. Thank you very much for giving me this
17 opportunity to testify before you and comment on the
18 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We will submit
19 further written comments because there is other issues
20 that we need to bring up.

21 We had an incident, a good example, one
22 of our individuals on the North Slope was driving from
23 Anchorage through the Haul Road going to Nuiqsut,
24 apparently he had a heart attack and his wife went out to
25 one of the pipeline camps, pump stations and wanted to

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272-15

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1 use the phone so we can call our search and rescue
2 medevac people to pick him up, apparently he was having a
3 heart attack, well, the individual died on the location
4 and we medevac'd him out and brought him back but he was
5 denied access to a telephone to call us. These are the
6 types of written comments that we are going to submit.

7 There's many, many more issues like this
8 that we need to bring out, so in written form we'll
9 follow-up later on. Thank you for the opportunity
10 tonight. Goodnight. Do you want a copy of this?

11 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Thank you.

12 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)

13 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Mayor Ahmaogak's
14 comments will be entered into the record as Exhibit 64.

15 (Hearing Exhibit 64 marked)

16 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)

17 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: We'll stand in
18 recess for 10 minutes and we'll come back on the record
19 in 10 minutes. Go off record.

20 (Off record)

21 (On record)

22 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: All right, we're
23 going to go back on the record. The next speaker that I
24 have scheduled to speak is Richard Glenn. Is Richard
25 here? Richard, come on up to the podium.

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1 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)

2 MR. GLENN: Good evening. Excuse me, I
3 apologize for not coming when you first called me, some
4 of our elders had questions and I was in the back room.

5 My name is Richard Glenn and I'm the vice
6 president of lands for Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
7 and I've been asked to present comments on behalf of our
8 regional corporation.

9 First, I'd like to welcome you all to
10 Barrow for this hearing and I appreciate the facts that
11 these hearings are being held at locations throughout the
12 state. I've turned in a written prepared statement and I
13 am requested that it be incorporated into the record and
14 I will not read it in its entirety. Instead, in the
15 interest of time I'll present the summary of our
16 statement and highlight some important points so that the
17 meeting can have a comfortable time table for this
18 evening's gathering.

19 You are probably familiar with Arctic
20 Slope Regional Corporation, our Native regional
21 corporation for the Inupiat people of the North Slope of
22 Alaska. IT has a shareholder base of more than 8,000
23 people and is the largest private landowner on the North
24 Slope with title to more than five million acres of
25 surface and subsurface lands. I won't go into a lengthy

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1 review of our corporation but to say that it is the
2 Native regional corporation of the North Slope of Alaska.

3 Our comments can be summarized as
4 follows.

5 1. ASRC supports reauthorization of the
6 Right of Way of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline system. This
7 is the backbone of Alaska's economy, it's the best way to
8 move Alaskan North Slope oil to the market and in 30
9 years of operation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline system,
10 Alyeska, the operator has shipped billions of barrels of
11 oil out of the North Slope and had demonstrated
12 environmental responsibility and respect for the living
13 resources of the Arctic.

273-1

14 2. The current public input at the local
15 and State and Federal government oversight levels of the
16 Trans-Alaska Pipeline system is sufficient. No new
17 oversight panels or groups are being requested by Arctic
18 Slope Regional Corporation. We don't believe they're
19 necessary and we're not requesting them. The ASRC does
20 not advocate for another layer of government oversight
21 for TAPS, it would add an unnecessary bureaucratic layer
22 to a system that is currently working effectively.

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23 3. 30 years is an appropriate time
24 interval for revisiting the Right of Way authorization.
25 We know that it is necessary to occasionally revisit the

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1 reauthorization issue, should evaluate the operator's
2 performance and also the standards to which you're
3 holding the operator. If this time interval were
4 significantly smaller, though, then the operator and the
5 regulatory agencies would constantly be getting ready for
6 a review or be in the middle of a review and then we
7 would be bogged down in paperwork. 30 years is
8 appropriate for infrastructure life, for technological
9 changes, for a large scale fluctuations in the market and
10 it's a meaningful increment to track long-term changes
11 and responses in production.

12 4. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline system has
13 had a minimal environmental impact thanks to responsible
14 design and construction and sufficient maintenance and
15 safe operations. Nevertheless, some of the displacement
16 of wildlife resources has occurred, in part, due to the
17 Trans-Alaska Pipeline and in part due to production and
18 intermediate transmission lines and facilities elsewhere.
19 Despite the inertence [sic] of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline
20 system itself, North Slope residents have noticed a
21 displacement rather than a reduction of some subsistence
22 animals or at least a displacement of the areas in which
23 these animals can be harvested. Not just a result of
24 TAPS, individually, it is more the result of oil and gas
25 infrastructure taken in total. The clearest example of

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1 this is the availability of caribou for the hunters of
2 Nuiqsut. The TAPS, itself is impressive though in how
3 little it has directly affected the environment and its
4 living resources. Watersheds have been preserved from
5 pollution, caribou, fish and waterfowl have continued to
6 thrive. The pipeline itself is often a haven for
7 wildlife species such that visitors and residents alike
8 will find bears, caribou and other species gathering
9 along its length. So this inertence [sic], this aspect
10 of not really interacting with the environment is a
11 testament to the engineering and construction techniques
12 that have withstood the test of time and it is also a
13 testament to the safe and non-intrusive operations and
14 maintenance procedures of the TAPS personnel.

273-4
(Cont.)

15 So we offer no significant criticism of
16 the DEIS with regard to the physical environmental
17 impacts detected along the Right of Way itself. However,
18 we do maintain that displacement of wildlife or
19 displacement of the areas where wildlife is being
20 harvested has occurred and our residents feel that.

21 5. In addition, despite the relatively
22 benign impact of the TAPS itself, there have been
23 negative impacts that are not associated with TAPS
24 operations along the Right of Way such as stressed public
25 services and sport hunting pressure.

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1 The Borough is saddled with some of the
2 TAPS corridor public services and the Mayor went into
3 great length in describing these. Providing these
4 services in a remote area that is devoid of permanent
5 Borough residents is costly and difficult in times of
6 shrinking Borough revenues. And when it succeeds in
7 delivering these services, it seems only that it
8 increases the influx of outside visitors traveling along
9 the Haul Road who need even more support. So this is an
10 undesirable feedback, effect, the more support we give to
11 the Haul Road corridor, the more people use it, the more
12 people who use it they more support they need.

13 In addition, some visitors use the Dalton
14 Highway and the associated airstrips to exert
15 sportshunting pressure and produce other negative impacts
16 that are not associated with the TAPS operations.

17 6. WE find it important that after 30
18 years of operations the Trans-Alaska Pipeline system is
19 only now beginning to transport oil produced on lands
20 owned by Alaska Natives. This is a significant milestone
21 in realizing the purpose and intent of the Alaska Native
22 Claims Settlement Act. The well publicized onset of
23 production from the Alpine oil field benefits, not only
24 the village corporation and the Arctic Slope Regional
25 Corporation but all regional corporations in the state by

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1 benefit of provisions written into the Alaska Native
2 Claims Settlement Act.

3 With an estimated 460 million barrels of
4 oil, the Alpine field represents a significant return on
5 an investment made by Alaska's Native people. For ASRC
6 and the residents of the North Slope where there is no
7 commercial industry save for oil and gas exploration and
8 production, Alpine revenue represents a major stake in
9 our economic self determination. The TAPS Right of Way
10 is aiding ASRC and other Native corporations in realizing
11 the purpose and intent of the Native Claims Settlement
12 Act.

13 7. One section of the Draft
14 Environmental Impact Statement we believe overstates the
15 positive sociocultural and economic impacts that are
16 attributed to Alaska Natives and North Slope residents.
17 This can be found in Section 4.7 of the EIS, where
18 reference is made to the positive cumulative impacts of
19 oil and gas development as well as the positive impacts
20 of the alternative actions of the EIS.

21 Many of these positive interpretations
22 relate to employment and say something like cash must be
23 making it to the local communities if employment is
24 present and if operations continue more cash will come to
25 the communities so this is a positive, cumulative

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1 benefit. We believe that this benefit is overstated.
2 And to make sure that this is not the case we recommend
3 that the EIS authors should strive to quantify just how
4 much revenue from the Trans-Alaska Pipeline system
5 operations is making it to the villages that are located
6 closest to the development. Many, many North Slope
7 operations and construction positions go to non-
8 residents. This is an issue that needs attention, not
9 only from the operator and not only from its contractors,
10 contractors like our companies themselves, but also from
11 the North Slope residents. The ASRC recognizes this and
12 continues to make efforts to improve recruitment and
13 employment of North Slope village residents.

14 8. In addition, ASRC applauds Alyeska's
15 continuing efforts to increase the number of workers of
16 Alaska Natives in its work force. This process, the
17 reauthorization process provides a great opportunity to
18 revisit and reassess Alyeska's Native hire
19 responsibilities as was defined in Section 29 of the
20 Right of Way agreement between the government and the
21 owners and operators of the pipeline.

22 In general, ASRC applauds Alyeska's
23 efforts in this area and they are evidenced by the
24 recently produced Alaska Native Utilization Agreement
25 signed by Alyeska and the Department of Interior. In

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1 forming this document, Alyeska has signaled its desire to
2 improve the current situation by developing scholarship
3 and training and recruitment programs for Alaska Natives.

4 For example, in the Arctic Slope region,
5 50 to \$75,000 a year is invested by Alyeska for
6 scholarship programs at our local college, Ilisagvik
7 College. In addition, Alyeska and its owners and
8 contractors have invested millions more in in-house
9 training programs which have enlisted scores of young
10 North Slope village residents.

11 Nevertheless, Alaska Natives in general
12 and North Slope village residents in particular continue
13 to be under represented in the oil field operations work
14 force, just visit any work site with regular rotation of
15 workers and look for people that come from our villages.
16 In Northern Alaska where no other significant industry
17 exists, our future is tied to meaningful participation in
18 exploration and development and production of North Slope
19 oil and gas.

20 There has been in our own communities a
21 growing realization that instead of simply pursuing
22 short-term jobs in industry efforts such as construction
23 opportunities and seasonal work, our young people should
24 instead pursue careers. As the North Slope matures as a
25 hydrocarbon producing province, these operation positions

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1 of long duration will eclipse and overtake shorter lived
2 construction and other opportunities. As this change in
3 opportunity and in attitude occurs, so should the
4 targeted training and scholarship efforts of the operator
5 and its partners.

6 In conclusion, the ASRC offers a
7 relatively affirming and positive statement in support of
8 reauthorization of the Right of Way for Trans-Alaska
9 Pipeline system. Some problems exist. Some negative
10 impacts exist, yet, on the whole the reauthorization
11 process offers us an opportunity to revisit these issues,
12 to revisit the commitments made by all of our companies
13 and try to do right by our own people.

14 ASRC thanks you for this opportunity.

15 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)

16 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Mr. Glenn's
17 comments are entered as Exhibit 65. 00274

18 (Hearing Exhibit 65 marked)

19 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Mr. Helmericks.

20 MR. HELMERICKS: Good evening everyone.
21 For the record my name is Mark Helmericks and I'd like to
22 make some comments first on behalf of myself as a
23 resident of this area and then also as president of my
24 corporation, Colville.

25 First, speaking on behalf of myself I

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1 would like to endorse and support the Commissioner's
2 decision to renew the Trans-Alaska Pipeline system lease
3 for another 30 years. I've lived in this area for 44
4 years and I took note of the Mayor's comments about
5 having to deal with aging facilities and I'm reminded of
6 this, I didn't bring my glasses tonight so I'm kind of
7 having to do the extended elbow stretch.

8 Key issues as I see them. The pipeline
9 is indeed a critical facility. I echo Mr. Glenn's
10 earlier comments, it truly is the backbone of the oil
11 industry in Alaska. And this industry is critical to the
12 health and economy of this area. Areas of praise that I
13 see for the pipeline, it has a good and improving
14 environmental and safety record. And perhaps a little
15 counter, intuitively, the pipeline appears to be a game
16 and habitat attractant or enhancement. I've noted this
17 by driving the Dalton, by living in the area around
18 Prudhoe Bay and just by being somewhat of a curious
19 observer over four decades. And I notice that game
20 appears thicker along the pipeline corridor than it does
21 in other areas and I believe that the phenomenon that the
22 Mayor spoke to earlier about the pipeline deflecting the
23 game is, in fact, a converse. I believe it is an
24 attractant, it's luring, if you will, game away from
25 areas which may have traditionally been used by

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1 subsistence hunters. So I think the effect that people
2 are experiencing, a decrease, perhaps in game density is
3 real but the effect that they are scribing to it as a
4 deflection is, in fact, incorrect, it's actually an
5 attractant.

6 And I attribute this to two phenomenon.
7 I'm not a scientist, I'm an economist by training but I
8 do observe these game patterns on an annual basis. First
9 of all, the dust from the Dalton Highway spreads out and
10 settles on the snow and then when the sun returns, that's
11 the first areas that become snow free so the game then,
12 rather than having to paw through the snow, the caribou
13 especially and the ptarmigan, are attracted to this
14 corridor and then the predators follow suit. So the best
15 place, if you want to observe game is actually up and
16 down the Dalton Corridor, especially in the spring.

17 The second phenomena that I attribute
18 this attractant phenomena to is the fact that it's
19 something of a hunting sanctuary, you know, there's the
20 10 mile Dalton Highway Corridor which is limited to bow
21 hunting only and the entire area around Prudhoe Bay is
22 closed. And it doesn't take game long to figure where
23 they're not persecuted. And as I think as you experience
24 in other areas where there's a game refuge, that's where
25 all the game is especially on opening day of hunting

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(Cont.)

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1 season. I think the caribou have figured out rather
2 quickly that they're safer from hunting along the
3 corridor and then the Prudhoe area and so tend to collect
4 there.

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(Cont.)

5 Areas of improvement, perhaps criticisms,
6 if you will, I'd like to echo earlier comments that we do
7 need to continue to work on more local hire and more use
8 of local resources. I comment Alyeska for their outreach
9 programs in this area and urge them to continue. The
10 observations that there remains a remarkably low level of
11 local resident hire especially from the villages in the
12 oil industry, it's perhaps one of the more puzzling
13 aspects of what would appear to be a relatively good
14 match between a subsistence lifestyle and a cash income.
15 You should be able to go work two weeks at a pump station
16 and then come back and engage in a traditional
17 subsistence lifestyle for two weeks. In theory it sounds
18 like a perfect match between traditional use and a cash
19 economy. For some frustrating reason we've been unable
20 to actually form a good articulation and I urge that we
21 continue to note this and work on it.

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22 Now, changing hats, if you will, I'd like
23 to speak on behalf of my corporation, Colville, which
24 among other things is in the solid waste management
25 business. We run a public utility in the Prudhoe area.

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1 We are, I believe the largest handler of solid waste
2 within the oil industrial area. And we have pending
3 before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska a certificate
4 of public convenience and necessity, this is something
5 that's required before you can operate a garbage
6 business, we have a pending a certificate application
7 which would extend the area that we serve all the way to
8 Atigun Pass. And that would cover the entirety of the
9 area that, his Honor the Mayor spoke to, as requiring
10 waste recepticals and the need for some solid waste
11 management. So I believe that within the public arena
12 that that need is about to be addressed.

13 The Regulatory Commission of Alaska as
14 you may have observed from reading the headlines has had
15 some troubles of their own with the legislature and as a
16 result their caseload has been backed up a bit but we're
17 confident that we'll have this certificate within the
18 next six months. And in fact, the North Slope Borough
19 has filed a notice of non-opposition to us receiving that
20 certificate.

21 I believe that the Dalton Highway should
22 not be closed to only industrial traffic. The pipeline,
23 obviously is a backbone of the oil industry but don't
24 forget that the second largest or the third largest
25 industry in the state is tourism and that road plays a

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1 critical part, I think, in enhancing tourist resources
2 for people to come and visit our state. As you know most
3 people use the roads, especially in the wake of September
4 11th, more and more people are staying in their RVs and
5 the ability to drive the Dalton and partake in an area of
6 the world which otherwise would be inaccessible, I think
7 is important to making the oil industry, if you will,
8 attractive to a larger audience than just us oilees. I
9 believe that the Borough's comments about the burden that
10 the public use of this road imposes on them is
11 overstated. I have requested of the Borough some
12 documents or evidence to back up their position on this.
13 I received informal comments that the actual number of
14 emergency events they've responded to is quite small,
15 less than 10 perhaps, and that the industry, in fact,
16 does a good job of responding to genuine, bone fide
17 emergencies. As you know Alyeska has its own security
18 force that patrols the road. We respond out of Prudhoe
19 Bay and the North Slope Borough has two public safety
20 officers posted in Prudhoe. I'd like to point out that
21 oil industry and the citizen's of Prudhoe Bay pay over
22 \$200 million a year in property taxes so we don't believe
23 that having them provide two public safety officers in
24 return for \$200 million in tax receipts is an undue
25 burden. We refer to these people as our Hundred Million

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(Cont.)

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1 Dollar Men.

2 And, in fact, they are responsible and
3 responsive, they recently helped with a bear incident.
4 You may have read the newspapers today, we regrettably
5 had to -- they say euthanize, I say, kill a sow that had
6 developed an appetite for breaking into camps. My company
7 is in the news because the bear was discovered that it
8 could pop open doors and was helping itself to the
9 chiller with sandwiches.

10 But anyway, I'm digressing a bit. I don't
11 think that there is an undue burden imposed on the
12 Borough by public use of the highway and I have not seen
13 any direct record on it but my informal inquiries
14 indicate that it's relatively diminimus.

15 That's all for my comments other than I
16 have no written ones. My oral testimony is all tonight.

17 Thank you very much for coming and good
18 luck with your project.

19 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat) 00275

20 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Rex A. Okakok,
21 Sr.

22 MR. OKAKOK: Thank you very much. My
23 name is Rex A. Okakok, Sr. I'm the director of planning
24 and community services for North Slope Borough. I'm also
25 the land management administrator that handles all the

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(Cont.)

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1 land management, ACMP, reviews, consistency review for
2 our North Slope Borough Alaska Coastal Management
3 Program.

4 I'm not going to deal a lot with the
5 issues that we're going to be coming up with specifically
6 during our written review.

7 I do want to state that the documents are
8 large, massive and complex. So far we've been able to go
9 through about 10 or 12 pages of one document and for us
10 to review it in the next few days, the 20th of this month
11 is -- we won't be able to do it. So in order for us to
12 really critically review and make comments, we need
13 additional time to do that.

14 As I understand in the policies of the
15 Coastal Zone Management Program there's supposed to have
16 been consultations prior to the 90 day, beginning of the
17 90 day review and I only got the documents three weeks
18 ago. So there's some discrepancies as to what is
19 required in reviewing the renewal of TAPS Right of Way.
20 The documents that I saw speaks about erosion studies
21 that have been made, those are not included, we don't
22 have those documents in order for us to review them.
23 Rather than just take the word for it that you did it, we
24 need those documents to review.

25 Recently, the Mayor talked about, a

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1 little bit about caribou issues, caribou collaring, we
2 also have a GIS division in our department that shows
3 where those caribous -- collared caribous were going.
4 They go all the way from Teshekpuk area all the way to
5 the TAPS and all of a sudden it becomes a straight line.
6 And you wonder why it has straight line, why are they not
7 going over that or going under that. There's some
8 impediment in caribou migration just from looking at that
9 particular caribou study. We need documents of that
10 nature for us to critically review.

275-3
(Cont.)

11 The enforceable policies that we have
12 speaks to local knowledge that's required in the
13 testimony and in your findings that are in the documents,
14 none of that is in there. So it is very critical for you
15 to listen to our elders, our people that are going to be
16 speaking in Inupiat and include those, if not, then you
17 haven't met our enforceable policies. Our enforceable
18 policies talk about including Federal and State and North
19 Slope Borough, talk about direct and indirect impacts.
20 The document only speaks about direct and environmental
21 impact, it doesn't talk about indirect impact. So those
22 are not there and those have to be addressed and may have
23 covered those very briefly in socioeconomic impacts that
24 we experience up here. There's some positive impacts that
25 have happened.

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1 Just to let you know some of the problems
2 during the time I was in the pipeline work force under
3 302 Union. Out of 250 in the 302 Union I was the only
4 other Native among those 200 people. The only Native
5 that was there was Australia Native so at least there
6 were two Natives that fall in the category Native. And
7 out of 370 billion that had positive impact to Alaska
8 probably a few million have come back to Arctic Alaska
9 where most -- where it's mostly impacted by TAPS and
10 other related TAPS programs.

11 We will be providing a written report on
12 these. I just want to state in public that these are
13 very important issues that need to be addressed in your
14 documents. If you don't have the documents, we don't
15 have the documents, then in order to make more involved
16 statement, you need to make sure that our local
17 knowledge, our elders concerns are taken into
18 consideration.

19 And with that, I'd like to thank you.
20 These are very brief and we'll provide a written
21 statement later.

22 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)

23 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: And your comments
24 will be entered as Exhibit 66.

25 (Hearing Exhibit 66 marked)

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1 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Arnold Brower,
2 Jr.

3 MR. BROWER: Welcome to Barrow. Welcome
4 to the Arctic Slope. My name is Arnold Brower, Jr. I'm
5 president of the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, a
6 regional IRA tribal government.

7 The Determination by the Commissioner
8 intends to renew the release for a term of 30 years. My
9 comments is a flat no.

10 Unless you meet these desires that we
11 have.

12 The pipeline corridor should not be
13 renewed. It must stop. We have testified time and time
14 again for 30 years on behalf of the industry, on behalf
15 of the development but still we pay over \$3 a gallon of
16 fuel for our cars. In the villages six drums ,five drums
17 of heating fuel in Atqasak at \$150 per drum and the
18 heating cost of one house is too great.

19 There is a means to alleviate these
20 problems, horrific problems in the wake of declining
21 revenues and less work and I applaud Alyeska quota plan
22 to hire Alaska Natives in the same way provide a quota
23 plan for our energy needs. Provide a quota plan for our
24 energy needs in the Arctic Slope. It is easy to do that
25 by a simple matter of mathematics based on what I just

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1 told you on the cost of fuel in Atkasak even in Nuiqsuk
2 at the moment. A couple miles from Alpine on a cold day,
3 that drum of diesel will literally freeze and will not
4 flow into the house. Provide a quota plan for our energy
5 needs, for our people.

6 I support the Mayor's comments. But I am
7 saying no for the purpose of providing an alternative or
8 energy plan for us. There is no other benefit in the oil
9 that flows. It only comes back in a deficit at over \$3 a
10 gallon in gasoline.

11 Alyeska Pipeline Services runs the
12 pipeline in concert with the industry. And I'm glad to
13 see Mr. Hanley is here. I don't know if there are other
14 industry folks here but this quota can be met at a
15 minimal ease, as a write-off by the industry and Alyeska
16 Pipeline Services, even the State by allocating 100,000
17 to 200,000 barrels of oil, heating oil or supplement, it
18 can be natural gas where there is some containers that
19 can be allocated because we have to fight legislation for
20 our share of the funds.

21 The Alyeska Pipeline Services people
22 should provide a mediation program or an office for
23 unresolved conflicts pertaining to lands whether they are
24 Native allotments, corporations or other types of private
25 lands. One of our elders, maybe two of our elders are

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(Cont.)

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1 here, they have allotment in Prudhoe Bay engulfed around
2 pipelines. They had lived there and thrived off of the
3 land before the pipeline came. Now, is just a piece of
4 land inexcusable by snowmachine, maybe only by boat now
5 and these have not been mitigated.

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(Cont.)

6 For 30 years we have raised these
7 concerns at almost every public hearing yet that
8 document, weren't consulted and life goes on in the oil
9 and gas world.

10 A message to the Commissioner, a message
11 to the Governor, listen to our needs, meet our needs on
12 promises unkept. Who will address them? Much to be
13 ignored for the next 30 years, but we've gotten used to
14 revenues on oil and gas and fuel for our snowmachines and
15 there needs to be a mechanism to offset these horrific
16 impacts which are detrimental to our lifestyle in the
17 Arctic Slope.

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18 (In Inupiat)

19 And I appreciate her translation for our
20 public and for our elders. I appreciate you folks for
21 retaining her to let people understand. I have said my
22 comments, verbal comments in my language so Emma didn't
23 have to do it.

24 Thank you very much.

25 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Thank you.

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1 Robert Edwardsen, Sr. Robert, are you here? I'll call
2 his name later. Bob Henrich.

00277

3 MR. HENRICH: My name is Bob Henrich.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify tonight. I was
5 born in Eyak/Cordova, Alaska and I've lived there for the
6 past 59 years. I'm president of the Native Village of
7 Eyak with 500 members, we're the largest tribe in Prince
8 William Sound. We have all the oil that travels through
9 the Trans-Alaska Pipeline goes through our traditional
10 homeland in tankers and our traditional homeland is
11 Prince William Sound, the Copper River Delta and the gulf
12 of Alaska.

13 We have felt the down side, the negative
14 impacts of the transportation of oil but we're not part
15 of the tax basis that enables us to provide services to
16 our people.

17 I have some written statements on
18 sections of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
19 however, I'm not going to read them I'm going to turn
20 them in.

21 As someone who went through the Exxon
22 Valdez Oil Spill, maybe I can tell the people of the
23 North Slope what it's like in case they ever have an oil
24 spill up here and I pray that they never see 11 to 40
25 million gallons dumped in their traditional hunting and

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1 fishing grounds as happened to us.

2 It was pretty amazing, they put a drunk
3 that couldn't get a driver's license behind the wheel of
4 a tanker and the guy ran it aground and instead of being
5 in the wheelhouse he was down in his cabin having a
6 drink. Shortly after that occurred, the president of
7 Exxon came to Prince William Sound and spoke to us and
8 did he say, oh, we're sorry for what happened, no, this
9 is what he said, he said, you guys are lucky, you're
10 lucky it was Exxon because we're going to take care of
11 you and we'll make you whole and then the guy ran like a
12 thief and we never saw him again.

13 We don't feel that that pipeline Right of
14 Way renewal should be issued until Exxon pays their bills
15 to the Alaska Natives.

16 There are some judgments against them
17 that have not been paid 13 years after the oil spill.
18 They have trashed our traditional homeland and trashed
19 our lifestyles and they have not accepted the
20 irresponsibility for it. Any new Right of Way agreement
21 should have some mechanisms in that, that if there are
22 spills there should be a way to address damages in a way
23 that they should be paid in a timely manner. And if they
24 give a renewal on it it should be for five years and then
25 their performance should be monitored until they learn to

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1 be good citizens and responsible.

2 Every time I start thinking oil companies
3 are men of honor and you can deal with them I take my
4 tape of the Exxon president and I pop it in my VCR and I
5 listen to him tell us how lucky we were that he spilled
6 the oil in our traditional homeland.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to listen
8 to our concerns.

9 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)

10 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Thank you. Mr.
11 Henrich's written comments will be entered as Exhibit 67
12 and 68.

13 (Hearing Exhibit 67 and 68 marked)

14 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Is Robert 00278
15 Edwardsen, Sr., here? We'll move on. Richard Fineberg.

16 MR. FINEBERG: Thank you. I am Richard
17 Fineberg and I am testifying again tonight on behalf of
18 the Alaska Forum for Environmental Responsibility, a non-
19 profit environmental organization. In the interest of
20 hearing the testimony from the people of this region, my
21 testimony tonight will be brief.

22 We share many of the concerns of others
23 who have testified at this and previous hearings on the
24 economics, the subsistence and the timing of this review
25 process.

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1 However, our primary focus has been with
2 the problems relating to TAPS operations, maintenance and
3 management. We feel so strongly on the subject that two
4 Alaska Forum board members testified at five of the
5 previous hearings, two others testified once and I have
6 presented testimony at each of the previous six hearings.
7 We have also submitted for the record a copy of our June
8 2002 status report on TAPS, the Emperor's New Hose, How
9 Big Oil Gets Rich Gambling with Alaska's Environment.

10 Tonight I wish briefly to request
11 clarification on apparent discrepancies in basic data set
12 forth in the Federal Draft Environmental Impact Statement
13 on oil production, prices and spills. The first from the
14 executive summary and the body of the report there's a
15 statement that continued production through 2034 would
16 contribute an estimated 8.9 billion barrels of crude oil
17 of production over the renewal period of 30 years. This
18 total is significantly higher than the total production
19 implied by information presented elsewhere in the
20 report's economic discussion. For example, the annual
21 production shown in Appendix A would add up to about 8
22 billion barrels, nearly one billion barrels less.

23 The executive summary of the report
24 states that during the renewal period, the oil produced
25 would be valued at \$374 billion. If 8.9 billion barrels

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1 were produced in this period, the average price would be
2 \$42.02 per barrel, however, table 4.3-6 shows oil prices
3 at five year intervals ranging from 21.31 to 24.52,
4 that's the second discrepancy.

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(Cont.)

5 The third issue I want to note briefly is
6 that the owner's use of the Concawe, C-O-N-C-A-W-E 1998
7 data suggesting that older pipelines have the same spill
8 rate as newer pipelines. The pipeline risk assessment
9 manual, the industry standard warns that historical data
10 on pipeline events is normally rare event data, one
11 failure in many years of service. Therefore,
12 extrapolation would imply a false precision and it can
13 result in significant errors. Nevertheless, the DEIS
14 echoes the TAPS owners position citing Concawe that,
15 quote, 25 years of performance data on Western, European,
16 across country oil pipelines indicate no evidence to show
17 that the aging of the pipeline system increases either
18 the frequency or volume of spills. However, the closest
19 I could come was an update of that report. I was not
20 able to find the citation in the DEIS. When I went on
21 line I found a newer version with 30 years of data but
22 that report specifically noted that the data were limited
23 to corrosion spills on cold oil pipelines and that hot --
24 and that insulated hot oil pipelines have a different and
25 significantly inferior performance record.

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1 These are three areas that lead me to
2 conclude, the failure to present even the most basic raw
3 data in a clear and convincing manner inevitably calls
4 into question the veracity of the entire report.
5 Clarification of these confusing data is therefore
6 requested.

7 There are many more and significant
8 concerns that have been brought to you by people at all
9 of the hearings, I hope they will receive better
10 consideration than the comments we brought in the scoping
11 meetings last fall.

12 I would like to submit for the record the
13 written comments of my statements from Fairbanks on the
14 6th and Minto on August 7th and Barrow, tonight, August
15 9th, for the record.

16 Thank you very much. This concludes my
17 comments.

18 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)

19 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Mr. Fineberg's
20 written comments will be submitted to the record and
21 entered as Exhibits 69, 70 and 71. 00279

22 (Hearing Exhibits 69 through 71 marked)

23 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Paul Fairchild.

24 MR. FAIRCHILD: Good evening. Thank you
25 for allowing me to testify tonight. My name, as stated,

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1 is Paul Fairchild and I'm the external affairs North
2 Slope Regional director for Phillips Alaska.

3 I've spent 22 years of my working life
4 engineering Alaska-based oil and gas projects. Phillips
5 is the largest producer of oil and gas in Alaska with
6 production of nearly 400,000 barrels of oil equivalent
7 per day and the largest holder of State and Federal
8 leases, including 1.3 million acres of undeveloped lease
9 holdings. I'm pleased to have this opportunity in Barrow
10 today to provide Phillips view on a 30 year Right of Way
11 renewal of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline system. I would
12 like to assure you of Phillips commitment to continued
13 investment in TAPS and discuss the potentially damaging
14 economic implications of less than a 30 year renewal.

15 TAPS is an economic engine that provides
16 tax revenues for the state and the communities along the
17 pipeline corridor. In 2001 the six communities and the
18 State of Alaska received more than 60 million from
19 pipeline property taxes. The State and communities also
20 received an additional 2.2 billion from corporate income
21 taxes, production taxes, royalty and other property taxes
22 paid by the industry for which TAPS is a vital element in
23 the oil production chain. The North Slope Borough alone
24 received 193 million from industry taxes in 2001.

25 Phillips is not only a 26.7 percent

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1 interest holder of TAPS but it also one of the original
2 six companies that joined together in 1969 to take on one
3 of the most challenging engineering feats ever
4 undertaken, the design and construction of TAPS. We have
5 a 50 year of Alaska operations and we currently operate
6 both exploration and production on the North Slope of
7 Alaska.

279-1
(Cont.)

8 Our fields include Alpine, which is the
9 closest development to a Alaska Native Village, the
10 Village of Nuiqsut.

11 I'd like to take a moment to address the
12 need for a 30 year renewal. Last spring Phillips Alaska
13 announced the first discoveries in the National Petroleum
14 Reserve Alaska since the area was open to industry
15 exploration in 1999. The cycle time from lease award to
16 first production is lengthy in new production areas.
17 Following lease award comes seismic acquisition. After
18 we shoot seismic we come up with prospects. We do
19 wildcat drilling. And then we do environmental
20 evaluations. We come up with mitigation plans, appraisal
21 drilling, engineer and design and finally construction
22 and development drilling.

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23 This cycle can require seven to 10 years.
24 Considering a field's producing life is 10 to 25 years,
25 the full life cycle of an exploration and production

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1 project approaches or may exceed a 30 year period. A
2 lack of a long-term assurity will add additional risk to
3 projects and consequently further degrade their
4 competitive economic position.

5 At Phillips, we know the challenges ahead
6 are great. In order to make areas like NPRA economic, we
7 need the corporation of all the stakeholders, surface use
8 owners, the Alaska Native community, other State and
9 local governments, particularly the regulatory agencies
10 and our own contractors. Phillips Alaska is an
11 exploration and production company. Exploration is key
12 to the maintenance of our production levels and can only
13 be sustained if Alaska is a competitive place to explore,
14 development and operate. Alaska's North Slope is a long
15 way from our West Coast markets and transportation costs
16 are one of our greatest challenges. According to the
17 Alaska Department of Revenue, the average cost per barrel
18 for shipping North Slope crude on a tanker is about \$1.70
19 a barrel. In additional Federal Energy Regulatory
20 Commission reports a TAPS tariff of about \$3.50 to ship
21 crude through the 800 mile pipeline to Valdez. These
22 costs which are in addition to the normal exploration and
23 development and production expenses make the economics of
24 Alaska projects very challenging.

25 Our Alaska projects must compete for

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1 capital dollars with other worldwide exploration and
2 production opportunities. At Phillips Alaska we
3 recognize this and work very hard to reduce our costs
4 while simultaneously maintaining the integrity of our
5 assets and improving our safety and environmental
6 performance. Being a competitive producer and
7 maintaining a stable transportation system is critical to
8 continued investment in Alaska.

9 The investments that Phillips makes in
10 Alaska exploration benefit everyone through state
11 revenues and jobs today and into the future. As
12 described earlier, investments can happen years or even
13 decades before a field starts producing oils. Elements
14 such as a known transportation means, a stable fiscal
15 environment and efficient permitting are serious
16 considerations for future investment and exploration and
17 development.

18 For example the Alpine oil field which
19 currently we're producing about 100,000 barrels of oil
20 per day there was first evaluated in the early 1980s.
21 When the first exploration was done on the leases that
22 are now part of the Colville River unit, that happened
23 more than 20 years ago, though the Alpine field did not
24 start production until the year 2000.

25 The cost of the field's development was

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1 more than one billion dollars. That investment was made
2 on the assurance on a reliable cost efficient
3 transportation system and a stable physical environment.
4 The 430 million barrel Alpine field will generate more
5 than a billion dollars in state revenues and taxes over
6 its life.

7 Alaska continues to be an important
8 worldwide asset for Phillips Petroleum. With a less than
9 30 year pipeline renewal, fields like Alpine will have a
10 higher investment risk, additional transportation risk
11 which leads to more challenging economics and therefore
12 lower likelihood of sanctioning.

13 I'd like to urge you to renew the Trans-
14 Alaska Pipeline system Right of Way for a term of 30
15 years, not only for the economic future of my company but
16 for the future of Alaska and the generations yet to come.

17 Phillips Alaska will be submitting
18 additional written comments during this public comment
19 period.

20 Thank you.

21 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)

22 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: We're going to
23 take a five minute break. We sill have four folks signed
24 up to speak so we're going to keep it just at five
25 minutes. So we're going to go off record for five

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1 minutes, off record.

2 (Off record)

3 (On record)

4 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: All right, we'll
5 go back on the record. The next speaker that we have
6 that is signed up to speak, Noah Itta.

7 MR. ITTA: Good evening everybody. Good
8 evening. How I going to talk, I never been no school in
9 my life. Anyway, I got help.

10 (In Inupiat)

11 Thank you.

12 INTERPRETER: I hope I can do justice to
13 what our elder Noah Itta has stated. 00280

14 Noah Itta grew up here in the North
15 Slope, he is 83 years old. He has never had formal
16 education. And as he was growing up he has been helping
17 our people. He started helping our people in the late
18 1920s and at that time when he was starting to help our
19 people he was told that there will come a time when a lot
20 of people will come to take our oil. And as time went on
21 in the 1940s -- beginning of 1940s sure enough the people
22 started coming. There were ships that came up and there
23 was one that he mentioned called Liberty. And
24 unfortunately that big ship had gone to the point and
25 could no longer move because it was in the shallow area.

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1 And his opinion of the oil industry, the
2 people who said they were looking for oil was just at the
3 very bottom because those people from that ship, when
4 they were no longer able to move that ship they just
5 dumped all that oil into the ocean. And as a result
6 there was devastation of our marine life at that time and
7 it took many, many years for our wildlife to recover.

8 His opinion of the oil industry was one
9 that made him realize that these people will go out after
10 what they want without regard to the environment, without
11 regard to the people who live in the area. Because our
12 people did have a lot of difficulty once that oil was
13 dumped when those ships first came.

14 And the other is when he heard that the
15 pipeline was built removing the oil from our land and
16 taken all the way down to Valdez without assistance to
17 the very people who live up here, that was not good. And
18 another devastation that he has experienced is when that
19 Exxon accident occurred. People may think that it only
20 affected that area but there are migratory birds that
21 come up here and our elders and our people felt the
22 impact of all of the birds that were diminished to the
23 point where it affected the number of birds that were
24 caught for subsistence.

25 Now, because the oil comes from our land

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1 because our people had to fight for everything it is
2 imperative that the oil industry work with ASRC, which is
3 the regional corporation for our area and also Kupik
4 Corporation (ph), because it is those companies that help
5 the people up here. So for this pipeline, the work must
6 go to these companies because the money stays and helps
7 the people. That's about the only thing that our people
8 get. And ASRC and Kupik have to fight for whatever work
9 that they can get on this pipeline.

10 His opinion of the oil industry is such
11 that it's difficult to accept them but because they are
12 here they should make it a very high priority to leave
13 something behind because our people get nothing. At
14 least get the jobs to the Arctic Slope Regional
15 Corporation and to Kupik Corporation because those are
16 the companies that help the people up here.

17 He also mentioned he just turned 83 and
18 his health is not that great but one way that he can
19 still help our people is to express his views by speaking
20 to you.

21 That's it in a nutshell and if I may have
22 missed anything maybe Emma has taken good notes and if I
23 have missed anything you can include them.

24 EMMA: He said Eskimos really need help
25 in housing and in whatever needs there are up here and in

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1 all the villages, especially jobs. And if there's enough
2 money -- and if there's a lot of money for the oil
3 companies to spend then the oil companies should be
4 helping out in providing whatever the Eskimos need,
5 especially in jobs and in housing or in whatever is
6 needed.

7 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat) Emma, thank
8 you very much.

00281

9 EMMA: Thanks.

10 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Kenneth Toovak,
11 Sr.

12 MR. TOOVAK: Well, it's getting to be
13 kind of a long night here. I think we got to behead of
14 our biggest mile, kind of encouraging a little bit.

15 My name is Kenneth Toovak, Sr., and I was
16 born in Point Barrow and I'm only 79 years old.

17 One thing, I want to thank that one great
18 thing that we had is oil in Prudhoe Bay and we all get
19 benefits from it. We all here in the room here get
20 benefits from the oil, I suppose. Because it's good to
21 have it all in the pocket.

22 Back in the days we were needy, when I
23 was growing up, so today we are living pretty high level
24 in our life, I mean the living way. We need coffee in
25 the morning. I don't feel like to have a braut to have

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1 in the morning, so we're kind of even in our life. We
2 need the dollar. We need the red meat, so that's our life
3 as Inupiat.

4 One thing I want to mention, the caribou
5 migrate, we all understand that. I suppose everybody
6 understands the caribou migrate. I think a lot of people
7 don't think the caribou migrate especially maybe the
8 hunters that are hunting in Dalton Highway. Understand
9 that people came through Dalton Highway with a bow and
10 arrow. I don't know if that's real, real hunting that we
11 could see or understand. I think it's just like maybe a
12 sport hunting.

13 So I think maybe the word should get to
14 Fish and Game or whoever's responsibility to attention
15 the caribou migrating because we understand from the old
16 culture way that the caribou migrate and then the leaders
17 of the migrators, the caribou don't shoot those -- the
18 leaders of the caribou. Let them pass-through. So these
19 others will follow-up as long as you don't follow those
20 first groups. That's our culture way -- supposed to be.

21 I think on the Dalton Highway, I think
22 the word get around, the computers are working day after
23 day, hours and hours, I think the people understand where
24 the caribous are, whether they're traveling through the
25 Dalton Highway and the word, the caribous are migrating

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1 through. I think maybe they should be a little less
2 traffic maybe on that road. I don't know whether that
3 could be controlled. I know it will be kind of
4 impossible, I think, for the traffic people.

5 And we, as a Native people, we need a
6 discipline on that also. I need discipline. There's
7 lots of people have four-wheelers today. When they heard
8 something -- when the caribous are coming from west or
9 east, boy them four-wheelers are just like a wolf going
10 to chase those caribous. Whether they're leaders or
11 whatever. That's why when they shoot those -- after
12 those leaders, that the animal migrating through or they
13 just go right back where they came from.

14 I hope that you understand to the people
15 that have responsibility to do a bit of a control on
16 that. I hope you understand what I mean.

17 So that's my feeling tonight about to
18 keep attention on the caribou of when they migrating
19 through on the Dalton Highway or wherever.

20 Here in Point Barrow, maybe we should
21 talk to the people that -- to the people that are leading
22 because sometimes as the elders, our voice going down.
23 Seems like our voice is not heard by the people that have
24 responsibility.

25 (In Inupiat)

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1 So I hope that can be heard in our
2 communities and in our outlying villages. Thank you.

3 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)

4 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Jenny Ahkivgak.

5 MS. AHKIVGAK: Thank you. Thank you. I
6 don't know how to speak English, I'll talk Eskimo. She's
7 going to help me. My name is Jenny Ahkivgak.

8 (In Inupiat)

00282

9 Thank you.

10 INTERPRETER: Her name is Jenny Ahkivgak
11 and she's saying she thanks everyone for being here. She
12 was born at Flaxsman Island near Prudhoe Bay. At the age
13 of six her parents moved to Kalusegruk (ph) and she
14 remembers at a young age and here they had lived and she
15 remembers that and she remembers that they had lived near
16 Prudhoe Bay and lived there until she was 26 years old.
17 She was raised around Prudhoe Bay area. Her father
18 passed away in 1944 and so did her oldest brother. Her
19 family was going to go to her family to get -- extended
20 family when both her father and her oldest brother
21 passed away and then they fished at Flaxsman Island.
22 They used to fish at Flaxsman Island when their father
23 got sick in 1944 and she heard about this -- when Jenny
24 heard about this, she was already in Barrow and there was
25 nothing that she and her -- the rest of the family could

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1 do.

2 The oil company people drilled and oil
3 was found where she had lived around Kalusegruk and are
4 they going to receive money from this and that's the
5 question she has been asking herself. Not only herself
6 but her husband has been going over this, over and over
7 again, she's happy she does not have education or any
8 schooling because she would be bothering the oil company
9 people a lot if she had had the education to do so.

10 The other people who lived around the oil
11 field areas that had lived around there received money
12 from where they were born and raised but her and her
13 family never did receive any money. She is now 76 years
14 old. Her husband always said that he would get a lawyer
15 but he never does and never has even until now. She is
16 sometimes happy and sometimes sad that she has never gone
17 to school. But she wishes that she had had an education
18 so that she could fight for her right to receive the
19 money that -- so she could fight for her right to receive
20 the money from the oil companies from the land that they
21 took from her and her family.

22 And she thanks you for listening. 00283

23 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Charles A.

24 Okakok.

25 MS. OKAKOK: Thank you and welcome to the

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1 top of the world. My name is Charlie Okakok and I am --
2 I was born and raised here in Barrow and I have served in
3 the service during the Vietnam era and I've also worked
4 in the tribal governments, at the Native Village of
5 Barrow as a wildlife director where we did the tribal
6 environmental agreement with EP, with the help of ASRC,
7 I'd like to thank Jacob for that. And also I've worked
8 as tribal operations officer at the Inupiat Community of
9 the Arctic Slope.

10 And I've seen quite a bit of changes
11 since the pipeline was put up. I also worked at the
12 pipeline when it was put up as an oiler, service oil.
13 And I've seen a lot of changes up here on the Slope,
14 especially the way we have lived and I graduated in 1966
15 from Mt. Edgecumb High School down across from Sitka,
16 across the channel from Sitka. And we had to travel from
17 here to Mt. Edgecumb to go to high school. And even
18 though we were told not to speak our language we kept on
19 speaking it anyway at times. But you know, that's that.

20 But I worked at the pipeline and I've
21 seen the changes -- the social ills and the economic
22 benefits of the oil flowing through the pipeline itself.
23 And as I was listening earlier, one of the speakers had
24 said the residents up here are for the pipeline and I had
25 to come in here and say I'm not for it because of the

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1 social ills that have been brought up through that.
2 There's been a lot of deaths, probably because of the
3 changes and also there were economic benefits, there's a
4 lot of that but then where has it gone? It has gone to
5 the executives. It has not gone to the ASRC
6 shareholders.

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(Cont.)

7 And also the wildlife part, when I went
8 to Anaktuvuk Pass, for the past three years I believe
9 they haven't had any caribou, three or four years, they
10 haven't had any caribou that have passed through around
11 their area and they're close to the pipeline and as Mr.
12 Helmericks had stated, that pipeline might be an
13 attractant phenomena, he called it an attractant
14 phenomena. I think it's more of a deterrent to the
15 established routes of the migration of the caribou. It's
16 not an attractant. It might attract them to the pipeline
17 but then the established routes of the migration have
18 caused some people to be hungry probably through the
19 winters, the past three or four winters. And the
20 established routes that the caribou -- that were there
21 before TAPS went close through Anaktuvuk Pass and this
22 hasn't been so for the past four or five years, three or
23 four years. I remember Wainwright having to use their
24 monies to send some caribou -- some of their caribou that
25 they caught to Anaktuvuk Pass last year and Anaktuvuk

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1 Pass lives by the caribou. And this could be due to
2 TAPS. Also the traffic on the Dalton Highway.

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(Cont.)

3 And another thing that is, you know, kind
4 of disturbing, the hiring of locals. I don't know what
5 the State of Alaska thinks local is Anchorage, Alaska,
6 you know, locals should be the area around the pipeline,
7 even people -- I met people from -- down around the
8 pipeline towards the Yukon River and they haven't had any
9 jobs either and that's pretty local to me, you know,
10 they're local people. And you become -- in Alaska you
11 become local after 30 days. And not all Alaska is local,
12 close to the pipeline. And also, the pipeline when it
13 hires people for -- you have to be in the union and not
14 very many are in the unions along the pipeline route.

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15 And these people that have been talking
16 before me and have said quite a bit and I think one of
17 the things that came up also was what we're saying now
18 should be entered into the EIS and not be put on the
19 shelf to gather dust as we've gone through all these EIS'
20 that the oil companies have put out which they probably
21 have shelves and are gathering dust on their shelves and
22 not being done anything about it.

23 And that's pretty much what I have to
24 say. And the only reason I came out was the residents
25 are not all for the pipeline.

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1 Thank you.

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2 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)

3 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Patsy Aamodt.

4 MS. AAMODT: Good evening. My name is
5 Patsy Aamodt. I am the president of the Native Village
6 of Barrow, Traditional Government. I'd like to introduce
7 my daughter Avaiyak Aamodt, she's sitting right behind
8 me.

9 I asked her to come in. We were
10 listening to the radio tonight and thought we'd be
11 driving around, head out to the point and check out the
12 polar bear and all but started thinking about the
13 importance of this meeting so I come unprepared but I do
14 have a couple points I'd like to make.

15 My grandfather, worked out there at the
16 Naval Arctic Research Lab, you know, that Naval Base out
17 there in the construction phase of it and my father also
18 worked out there and here I am, I am a mother of two
19 children and still this NPRA still is touching our lives
20 in a big way.

21 Both my grandfather and my grandmother
22 had some education, primarily elementary and also my
23 father went as far as the eighth grade and my mother did
24 not attend school. She grew up with her brother out in
25 the Cape Halcut area and none of them went to school as

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1 far as I know. And I, along with the people of my
2 generation attended school and like a lot of the people I
3 grew up with we had to leave hundreds and hundreds of
4 miles from our home to attend high school. And while I
5 was in high school, I decided after my dad had taken to
6 me to Fairbanks that I wanted to go off to the university
7 and I went to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and
8 graduated from there in 1973 with a bachelors in
9 education and went back and got a masters in public
10 school administration. Later I went to the Harvard
11 Graduate School of Education and obtained a certificate
12 of advanced study and administration planning and social
13 policy.

14 My work life has primarily been in
15 education but after I retired from the school system I
16 became involved in tribal affairs. And it wasn't really
17 by choice because I thought I had really no interest
18 there but since I have been involved, I have seen the
19 importance of voicing our concerns. Our elder, Noah, my
20 uncle stated earlier and I failed to mention this that so
21 many times our people make statements and those
22 statements are heard superficially, nothing ever gets
23 beyond that. It's just a cursory -- I guess it's just
24 cursory listening and it's just hope that it goes beyond
25 that with the statements that he made tonight.

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1 And he also wished that the statements
2 made by other elders and other people are going to be
3 truly heard and I do hope that's the case.

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(Cont.)

4 I mentioned earlier that oil has affected
5 our lives, at least my family life starting from my
6 grandfather on to my children and it's so important that
7 with the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, that there be really
8 tight regulations for making sure that there is
9 maintenance and there's upkeep. We have a cabin down at
10 Cape Simpson area and not too far from that Cape Simpson
11 area are some old exploratory wells and we do quite a bit
12 of snowmachining, we do a lot of caribou hunting, we do a
13 lot of fishing and we also hunt for the geese when they
14 come in the spring and so we're out there quite a bit.

15 In fact, my husband and my son are stranded out there, I
16 might say happily stranded out there with the ice
17 conditions. And so we're around that country a lot. And
18 last year, I believe it was, we were out snowmachining,
19 my husband and I and came across this old exploratory
20 well and we were just shocked. To us there was a big
21 puddle, big pile of oil. And so we reported that and
22 someone within BLM or some entity had the audacity to
23 point out to me and my husband that we had been the ones
24 trying to get oil from that oil well and caused that oil
25 spill to occur, raw oil. And later on we heard that

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1 person was operating out of misinformation and I'm glad
2 that it worked out that way because we certainly are not
3 going to spend a whole lot of time, neither do we have
4 the technical skills to jerry-rig anything that would
5 take oil from -- I mean raw oil at that stage and take it
6 for our own use.

7 And I just read a report on that same oil
8 spill, that there are problems in trying to get monies
9 reimbursed or, you know, funds to take care of that
10 cleanup. And I would hate for my daughter or her
11 children to appear before another body such as the body
12 that we have right here 30 years from now talk to the
13 people about the lack of maintenance and the lack of
14 responsibility in addressing issues such as oil spill out
15 there. We had a little bear, a young -- it wasn't really
16 a cub, it was not really a mature bear, come to our cabin
17 in the summer, I think it was two summers ago and that
18 poor thing was all covered with oil and again, it goes
19 back to the exploratory wells that were not maintained at
20 all. In fact, the same, whatever it -- you know, all
21 that gear that was used to cap them rusted, seeping and
22 30 years from now I do not want my daughter or
23 grandchildren to appear before a body such as this and
24 say I remember my mother talking about this 30 years ago
25 and still this thing is going on.

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1 And I know that I speak not only for my
2 family but also for others.

3 It is so hard to explain. It is so hard
4 for us, who are from up here and maybe traditionally
5 people who subsist on game around our home areas, it's so
6 hard to explain the importance of what we catch. Like
7 last year, my son did not come into do his usual hunt
8 like, for the bearded seal and the -- for the bearded
9 seal and I have extended family and I was able to get
10 some from them but this summer my son came and caught the
11 bearded seal and so I had more than enough to, not only
12 share with my immediate family but extended family not
13 only here in Barrow but elsewhere, too.

14 So all these things such as oil spills do
15 have an impact on our way of life and it is very
16 difficult when you have to depend on other people who may
17 have been able to hunt in another area who were blessed
18 to catch what we need to eat during the course of the
19 year.

20 Sure we can live on hamburger. Sure we
21 can live on chicken. Sure we can live on pork. But you
22 know what it never satisfies our hunger. When we eat our
23 traditional foods, whether it's sea mammals, caribou or
24 fish, it takes care of our hunger. But when we have to
25 live on hamburger and chicken and pork, that hunger never

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1 goes away and it's a fact. It would be just like you
2 people who may be used to that food, if you were sent
3 someplace else and had to live with the food that is
4 common in that area you would be very hungry for whatever
5 your favorite food is.

284-3
(Cont.)

6 So it is very important that you people
7 who are in key decision-making positions, that you have
8 very stringent guidelines in making sure that the
9 maintenance and the upkeep of the pipeline is held to a
10 very high standard. And it is also imperative that the
11 local companies do the work. I am an ASRC shareholder, I
12 am a USC shareholder. And it is very unlikely that I
13 could go to Phillips Company and have them do something
14 that would benefit not only myself but the people here.
15 Sure, there may be a few thousand dollars that may be
16 given to some entity for a donation but you know what,
17 all of this development has impacted our lives so much,
18 Charlie pointed that out, there are a lot of social ills.
19 There's a lot of good that also has come from it. But
20 the tribal entities are the ones who end up having to
21 try, with very limited resources, to try and help our
22 people who may be unemployed, who may be hungry, who may
23 not have enough to take care of their fuel costs and
24 things of that nature.

284-4

25 So I may have a conflict but I tell you

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1 it's a lot easier to approach our regional corporation
2 and our village corporation to help in any way they can
3 than it is for me to go to big oil company and ask for
4 assistance.

284-4
(Cont.)

5 Anyway, I've spoken a lot more than I had
6 planned. But again, I would encourage you as decision-
7 makers to take your role very seriously and I pray that
8 my daughter or my grandchildren will not appear before
9 another body such as this 30 years from now and beg that
10 something be done about the poor maintenance, if that's
11 the case, of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

12 Thank you.

13 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)

14 MS. IPALOOK-FALK: Could I make a comment
15 before you close?

16 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: Certainly.
17 Please come forward and state your name. 00285

18 MS. IPALOOK-FALK: My name is Martha
19 Ipalook-Falk. And I would like to make comment on what
20 Pat had to say about her father he may have gotten an
21 eighth grade education but John, Sr. was in the first
22 and second legislation sessions for the state of Alaska
23 from 1959 through 1961. So Pat Aamodt and all of our
24 individuals that are here tonight that have made
25 testimony are following in the footsteps of our fathers

285-1

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1 who are the first stewards of our natural resources and
2 it is our responsibilities as Inupiat to continue to
3 testify and stand and represent our people and educate
4 you time after time after time with these testimonies
5 whenever you come for your public hearings.

6 But I wanted to emphasize the fact that
7 her father may have just have gotten an eighth grade
8 education but he was one of our leaders to represent our
9 region as Inupiat in the Alaska Legislative body down in
10 Juneau. And I worked there down with our legislator for
11 seven years from 1989 to 1996 so I just wanted to make
12 that comment.

13 INTERPRETER: (In Inupiat)

14 HEARING OFFICER GEARY: I've no
15 additional speakers scheduled or signed up to speak
16 tonight. I want to thank you all for your comments and
17 your attention. This concludes the seventh hearing into
18 the public comments concerning the proposed renewal of
19 the Right of Way Trans-Alaska Pipeline system. I declare
20 these hearings closed. Off record.

21 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
22
23
24
25

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I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska, and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

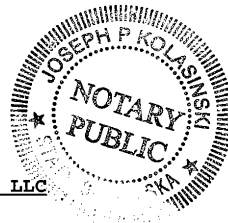
That this hearing was recorded electronically and thereafter transcribed under my direction and reduced to print;

I further certify that I am not a relative, nor employee, nor attorney, nor of counsel of any of the parties to the foregoing matter, nor in any way interested in the outcome of the matter therein named.

THIS 17th day of August 2002:



Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04



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Responses for Document 00272

- 00272-001:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00272-002:** The BLM and member agencies of the JPO use an adaptive management approach to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations and regulatory oversight. Ongoing monitoring programs, as identified in the 12 Comprehensive Monitoring Reports published since 1996, provide BLM and JPO with the necessary information to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations in the Grant and Lease.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.
- 00272-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00272-004:** Members of the public have an opportunity to contribute to the development of an EIS through public participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process. Such participation can occur early in the NEPA process during public scoping, and later in the process during comments on the draft EIS. The comment currently of interest, and this response, are part of the latter process. Moreover, Iñupiat and other Alaska Native peoples living in the vicinity of the TAPS have been included in the decision-making process through government-to-government consultations, which for the ROW renewal have been ongoing since April 2001 (see Table 4.3-22). Results in the EIS, in turn, are considered carefully in deciding whether to renew the ROW (see Section 1.2).
- 00272-005:** Discussion has been added to Section 4.7.7.3.2 on factors that can influence the size and distribution of caribou herds. The text in Sections 4.3.20 and 4.7.8.1 similarly has been modified to address the issue of modified caribou mobility due to oil-related infrastructure. No single factor is responsible for shifts in caribou distributions within the North Slope.
- 00272-006:** Hazardous wastes are managed routinely along the TAPS corridor. Please see EIS Section 3.16 and Section 4.3.12, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management, for a thorough discussion on this subject.
- 00272-007:** The EIS recognizes the cultural stress that results from a rapid change in lifeway and the sudden, intense exposure to a new culture. This EIS focuses on the impact of the renewal of the TAPS right-of-way. While a brief discussion of the cumulative effects on Alaska Native cultures from other actions in the TAPS region of influence is included in Section 4.7.8, a detailed discussion of cumulative effects of all energy development on the North Slope Borough is beyond the scope of this EIS. Discussions of the role of energy companies of the state of Alaska in remedying the effects of development are also beyond the scope of this document.
- 00272-008:** The EIS considers Section 29 of the Federal Grant of Right-of-Way for the TAPS in the evaluation of impacts to sociocultural systems under the proposed action (see Section 4.3.21). Section 29 addresses Alaska Native training and hire for work on the TAPS. Specifics concerning the application of Section 29, or any modifications to this or any other part of the ROW agreement, are outside the scope of this EIS.

- 00272-009:** The opening of the Haul Road/Dalton Highway to all traffic has clearly created additional demands for emergency and other public services provided by the North Slope Borough. While the analysis of any proposed change in the fiscal relationship between the North Slope Borough and the state in order to secure funding for the additional services is beyond the scope of the EIS, text has been added to section 4.7.8.3 to include the cumulative impacts on public services of operating TAPS, the proposed natural gas pipeline and the Haul Road/Dalton Highway open to all traffic.
- See Section 2.5 for a discussion as to why issues relating to Dalton Highway operation were not included as alternatives in the EIS.
- 00272-010:** Section 3.26.2 addresses the cultural resource surveys conducted prior to construction of TAPS. This section acknowledges the strengths and weaknesses of these surveys. This section also discusses the potential historic significance of TAPS itself. Section 4.3.22 identifies the process for identifying historic properties whether archaeological, traditional cultural properties or historic structures including TAPS and the process for appropriately considering them under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- 00272-011:** The promised use of TAPS communications for uses other than TAPS operations is outside the scope of the DEIS.
- 00272-012:** The current Federal Grant and associated stipulations, along with the provisions of TAPAA, provide BLM with extensive and ongoing regulatory control of TAPS operations. These conditions would not change upon renewal.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.
- 00272-013:** 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.
- 00272-014:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered, but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00272-015:** The use of APSC facilities for medical emergencies is outside of the scope of the DEIS.

Responses for Document 00273

- 00273-001:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00273-002:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.”
- 00273-003:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00273-004:** Discussion has been added to Section 4.7.7.3.2 on factors that can influence the size and distribution of caribou herds within the North Slope. In addition, Sections 4.3.20 and 4.7.8.1 have been modified to include discussions of affects on caribou movement, and on subsistence harvest area, due to the development and use of oil-related infrastructure on the North Slope (specifically with regard to Nuiqsut). No single factor (e.g., oil field development) is responsible for distributional shifts of caribou herd..
- 00273-005:** The opening of the Haul Road/Dalton Highway to all traffic has clearly created additional demands for emergency and other public services provided by the North Slope Borough. While the analysis of any proposed change in the fiscal relationship between the North Slope Borough and the state in order to secure funding for the additional services is beyond the scope of the EIS, text has been added to section 4.7.8.3 to include the cumulative impacts on public services of operating TAPS, the proposed natural gas pipeline, and the Haul Road/Dalton Highway now being open to all traffic.
- 00273-006:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00273-007:** A portion of the direct impact of pipeline operations benefits Alaska Natives, and Alaska Native tribes and villages through the employment of Alaska Natives by the pipeline operators and their contractors, including employment in ancillary services provided by the pipeline company. Proactive programs have been developed to encourage the recruitment and employment Alaska Natives, including North Slope residents, the pipeline company and its contractors. For Alaska Natives residing in incorporated communities, revenue from pipeline operations reach the Alaska Native community through the distribution of oil revenues paid to the state by the oil companies to local community governments to support education and other programs, and through property taxes paid by the oil companies directly to local jurisdictions. The size of the portion of TAPS revenues paid to local governments reaching Alaska Natives depends on the extent to which Alaska Natives receive education services and other public services supported both directly or indirectly by oil revenues.
- For all Alaska Natives, regardless of whether they reside in incorporated communities, oil revenues reach the Alaska Native community through the distribution of the Permanent Fund Dividend, which is derived from earnings from the investment of oil revenues in the stock market.
- Note that Sections 3.25, 4.3.20, and 4.7.8.1 note some of the complications of Alaska Native increased participation in cash economies—the benefits of additional monetary resources offset by possible social stress, reduced social integration, and growing Westernization of many peoples. Also, see Section 4.3.19.6.
- 00273-008:** The EIS evaluates the current provisions of the Agreement and Grant of Right-of-Way for Trans-Alaska Pipeline (see Appendix B). This includes Section 29, which relates to Native training and hiring practices by the permittee (APSC). Specifics of Native training and hiring, how this portion of the agreement is evaluated and enforced, and any possible changes to Native hires or training are outside the scope of this EIS.

Responses for Document 00274

- 00274-001:** Your comments on the potential of the ROW to attract wildlife are noted. Sections 4.3.17.1 and 4.7.7.3.1 address the fact that dust shadows and insect relief can attract wildlife to the TAPS facilities during some portions of the year. Other influences of TAPS on the distribution of wildlife (e.g., using the ROW to avoid hunters) are more uncertain. The growth of the caribou herds over the past 30 years would offset any localized concentrations of caribou within areas where hunting would be limited or prohibited. Subsistence impacts of the proposed action are addressed in Section 4.3.20.
- 00274-002:** The EIS evaluates the current provisions of the Agreement and Grant of Right-of-Way for Trans-Alaska Pipeline (see Appendix B). No section of the Federal Grant explicitly addresses local hires as a whole. Section 29 of the Federal Grant addresses local hiring in the sense that it concerns the training and hiring of Alaska Natives by the permittee (APSC). Specifics of Native training and hiring, how this portion of the agreement is evaluated and enforced, and any possible changes to Native hires or training are outside the scope of this EIS.
- 00274-003:** Thank you for your comments regarding your preference for leaving the Dalton Highway open to all users and enhancing tourism.

Responses for Document 00275

- 00275-001:** 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.
- 00275-002:** Operation and maintenance of TAPS are currently permitted activities consistent with the Coastal Management Plan for the North Slope Borough and are in compliance with enforceable policies and applicable Alaska Coastal Management Plan statewide standards. The responsibilities of BLM relative to the Coastal Zone Management Act and the Alaska Coastal Management Plan are described in the EIS in Section 4.3.23.2, "Coastal Zone Management."
- 00275-003:** Sections 4.3.17 and 4.7.7.3 summarize a number of studies on caribou movements for the herds that occur within the North Slope. While some deflections or delays in movement occur to individual caribou from TAPS and North Slope oil facilities, no population level impacts have occurred. Changes in caribou herd size and distribution cannot be explained by a single factor, such as oil field development. Rather, a number of factors can account for such changes. A text addition has been made to Section 4.7.7.3.1 to list these influencing factors.
- 00275-004:** The DEIS clearly addresses indirect and cumulative issues and impacts. For example, the economic analysis examines a number of indirect issues related to the state and national economy. In addition, the subsistence analysis uses traditional ecological knowledge to examine direct and indirect TAPS processes on harvest of plants and animals. Traditional ecological knowledge is often based on observations made by elders.
- 00275-005:** Sections 3.23.2 and 3.23.4 discuss state and regional economic issues, respectively, with the latter focusing on revenues, expenditures, employment, and personal income. Section 4.3.21 discusses Section 29 of the Agreement and Grant of Right-of-Way for Trans-Alaska Pipeline (see Appendix B), which deals with Alaska Native training and hiring by the permittee, APSC. Native representation in individual trade unions is beyond the scope of this EIS.

Responses for Document 00276

- 00276-001:** Prices for gasoline and fuel oil result from market processes over which APSC has no direct effect, and which are beyond the scope of this EIS. Both positive and negative economic impacts of the TAPS and renewal of the ROW for 30 years appear in Sections 3.23 and 4.3.19, respectively. The revised versions of the former section and Section 3.24 both discuss the increased cost of living in rural villages.
- 00276-002:** Neither BLM nor the other JPO agencies are authorized to require or to enforce commitments that are made by APSC or the TAPS Owners directly with individuals or groups.
- 00276-003:** Thank you for your comment. Sections 3.25 and 4.3.21 discuss existing and likely future impacts of the TAPS on Alaska Native and rural non-Native sociocultural systems, which would include impacts on lifestyle. Sections 3.24 and 4.3.20, in turn, discuss existing and likely future impacts on subsistence.

Responses for Document 00277

- 00277-001:** The Native Village of Eyak, as with other federally recognized Tribes, would benefit from state tax revenues generated by the TAPS. The EIS considers existing local taxing authority (see Section 3.23.4.4), which includes the City of Valdez, but not the Native Village of Eyak.
- 00277-002:** The reader is directed to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

Responses for Document 00278

00278-001: The text in Section 4.3.19.2.1 and 4.6.2.19.2 of the EIS has been changed to reflect the forecasted value for North Slope production (8 billion barrels) used in other sections of the EIS, and that the cumulative value of North Slope production is for the period 2004 to 2020.

00278-002: The text in Section 4.3.19.2.1 and 4.6.2.19.2 of the EIS has been changed to reflect the forecasted value for North Slope production (8 billion barrels) used in other sections of the EIS, and that the cumulative value of North Slope production is for the period 2004 to 2020.

00278-003: The 1998 CONCAWE report entitled "Western European Cross-Country Oil Pipelines 25-Year Performance Statistics" appears to be currently unavailable from the Internet.

The more recent CONCAWE report entitled "Western European Cross-Country Oil Pipelines 30-Year Performance Statistics" dated February 2002 is available at http://www.concawe.be/Download/Reports/Rpt_02-1.pdf. This report is an update of the earlier 1998 CONCAWE document.

CONCAWE has collected 30 years of performance data on Western European cross-country oil pipelines. The frequency of spillages has been improved over the 30 years from 1.2 spills per 1000 km of pipeline per year to 0.25 spills per 1000 km per year. The report therefore concluded that overall there is no evidence to show that the aging of the pipeline system poses any greater level of risk.

The spill data for insulated hot oil pipelines in the CONCAWE report is based on transport of fuel oil and other refined petroleum products, and not crude oil. As stated in the report, the great majority of Western European pipelines carry unheated petroleum products and crude oil.

The CONCAWE data was not used in the development of spill scenarios and source terms for the DEIS. The CONCAWE results were referenced to merely point out that the aging of a pipeline does not necessarily lead to the pipeline's degradation.

Responses for Document 00279

00279-001: Thank you for your comment.

00279-002: Thank you for your comment.

Responses for Document 00280

- 00280-001:** Thank you for your comment. The impacts of oil spills on fish and wildlife is included in the TAPS EIS.
- 00280-002:** The EIS evaluates current provisions of the Agreement and Grant of Right-of-Way for Trans-Alaska Pipeline (see Appendix B). This includes Section 29, which relates to Native training and hiring practices by the permittee (APSC). Specifics of Native training and hiring, how this portion of the agreement is evaluated and enforced, and any possible changes to Native hires or training are outside the scope of this EIS. Similarly, which corporations APSC does business with, and the hiring practices of those corporations, are beyond the scope of this EIS. Benefits to rural Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, from state and local government expenditures, are discussed in Sections 3.25 and 4.3.21.

Responses for Document 00281

00281-001: The issue of caribou migration, and possible impacts on caribou migration from the TAPS, activity related to the TAPS (including TAPS-related transportation), and hunters shooting at lead animals appears in Sections 3.21.1.2, 3.24.1, 4.3.17.2, and 4.3.20.

Responses for Document 00282

00282-001: Thank you for your comment. Payments made by oil companies for exploration and development on particular tracts of land are beyond the scope of this EIS. Economic impacts more closely associated with the TAPS are discussed in Sections 3.23 and 4.3.19.

Responses for Document 00283

- 00283-001:** Existing sociocultural conditions, including social problems, are discussed in Section 3.25.2.3. Anticipated impacts under the proposed action of the 30-year ROW renewal, in turn, appear in Section 4.3.21.
- 00283-002:** Sections 4.3.17 and 4.7.7.3 summarize studies on caribou movements within the North Slope, and Sections 4.3.20 and 4.7.8.1 examine potential impacts of the oil industry on subsistence resources (including caribou) in that and other regions along the pipeline. While some caribou experience deflections and delays in movement, no adverse impacts have occurred at the population level. Changes in caribou herd size and distribution cannot be explained by a single effect (such as oil field development), but rather could be due to a number of factors. A text addition to Section 4.7.7.3.1 has been made to discuss these influencing factors
- 00283-003:** The EIS evaluates current provisions of the Agreement and Grant of Right-of-Way for Trans-Alaska Pipeline (see Appendix B). This includes Section 29, which relates to Native training and hiring practices by the permittee (APSC). Currently, no provision exists requiring APSC hiring to focus on individuals living near the TAPS. Specifics of how Native training and hiring are implemented, such as geographic requirements for hired workers, would constitute modifications of the existing Federal Grant and are beyond the scope of this EIS. Similarly, hiring requirements with regard to union membership are outside the scope of the EIS.

Responses for Document 00284

- 00284-001:** In the past decade, the value of Elders' testimony and traditional ecological knowledge has been more widely recognized. This EIS incorporates TEK, drawing on both Elders' testimony and formal studies such as the Ahtna Elders information on salmon. When TEK and other sources of data support different conclusions, analytic judgment is required, and an effort is made to clearly explain the reasoning for the conclusions drawn.
- 00284-002:** Your comment regarding the condition of the sites of some old exploratory wells has been forwarded to the appropriate staff at BLM and the State of Alaska.
- 00284-003:** Sections 3.24, 4.3.20, and 4.4.4.14 of the EIS discuss existing conditions, likely impacts of the proposed action, and likely impacts of spills for subsistence. These and other sections of the EIS attempt to represent the importance of subsistence to Alaska Natives, which is discussed in terms of its economic, sociocultural, and ceremonial roles. The EIS has attempted to point out cases where past impacts or likely future impacts affect subsistence.
- 00284-004:** Which companies APSC does business with is beyond the scope of this EIS. Sections 3.25 and 4.3.21 deal with sociocultural impacts of the TAPS, both positive and negative (including social problems). Local assistance to rural Alaskans, in terms of special programs, infrastructure, and other forms of assistance through public expenditures, are similarly discussed in those sections of the EIS.

Responses for Document 00285

00285-001: Thank you for your comment.

Hughes Village Council
Hut'odleekkaakk'et Tribe
P.O. Box 45029
Hughes, AK 99745

00286

RECEIVED
JOINT PIPELINE OFFICE
02 SEP 11 AM 10:35

July 30, 2002

Pat Pourchot, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Joint Pipeline Office
411 West 4th Ave., Suite 4C
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

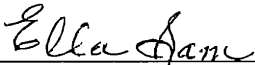
Dear Commissioner Pourchot,

We write today to express our support for the "Request for Expansion of Public Process" submitted on July 19 by Trustees for Alaska on behalf of a broad array of conservation, community, and Tribal organizations. We fully support extension of the deadline for submittal of comments by at least an additional 45 days.

The comment period now runs concurrently with the busiest time of the year for our members' traditional and subsistence activities. We therefore feel that it is necessary to have additional time to analyze and submit comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and State of Alaska's Commissioner's Statement of Reasons and Proposed Written Determination.

286-1

Sincerely,


Ella Sam, First Chief

Cc:
Yukon River Inter Tribal Watershed Council
Alyeska Pipeline Service, Co.
Trustees for Alaska

incoming - LTR 2002-08-02
C: MR
JM

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
AUG - 8 2002
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
ANCHORAGE

Phone (907) 889-2239 - Fax (907) 889-2252

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9/17*

Responses for Document 00286

00286-001: 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.

00287

510-540-4163

August 12, 2002

Megan Holloway

PO Box 4864 , ♦ Palmer, AK 99645

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 u

287-1

Sincerely,

Megan Holloway

Responses for Document 00287

00287-001: The entire Livengood (or Milepost 400 “bullet hole”) incident response was the subject of an interagency (including industry) report “Joint After-Action Report for the TAPS Bullet Hole Response,” dated February 8, 2002. Major findings include: quick detection of the leak by APSC’s security force; apprehension of the alleged shooter by the state troopers within hours; activation in Fairbanks of the state/federal/industry unified command with several hours; rapid isolation of the affected pipe section and appropriate pressure-relief actions; containment of the spilled oil was effectively achieved with trenches, berms, and pits; safety concerns were appropriately the paramount consideration throughout the incident; and permanent repairs were effected as soon as the situation permitted. A number of recommendations to improve future responses were made. See the text box in Section 4.1.1.8 for a more complete discussion of the MP 400 incident.

Similarly, the situation at Atigun resulted in a series of changes to the way valves are operated to preclude future shifts of the pipeline at the pass.

TO: BLM Director Kathleen Clarke

00288

FROM: Bixler McClure
159 Baker St.
Shell Beach, CA 93449

SUBJECT: Aging Pipeline Requires Environmental Safeguards

DATE: August 12, 2002

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 u

288-1

Sincerely,

Bixler McClure

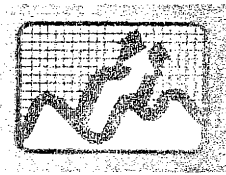
Responses for Document 00288

00288-001: 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.



Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation

August 15, 2002

State Pipeline Coordinator's Office
State of Alaska
411 West 4th Avenue, Suite 2
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2343

Dear Sir:

This letter is an expression of support of the Proposed Written Determination of the Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources concerning the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) Right of Way Lease Renewal. The Commissioner's findings indicate all leases associated with the operation of TAPS have met all the requirements for renewal of the lease.

The Reliability Centered Maintenance report issued by your office has determined the useful life of the TAPS facilities is in excess of 30 years. Therefore, the requested renewal period of thirty (30) years should be approved. A renewal period shorter than thirty (30) years would threaten new investment in North Slope production. As a result, the throughput level of TAPS would be reduced which would adversely affect gross state product, employment, and tax revenues.

289-1

The Alyeska Pipeline Service Company has operated the TAPS efficiently, safely, and with integrity for over twenty-five (25) years. During this time, the pipeline has been under constant monitoring by the public as well as Federal and State regulatory agencies. This system of oversight by State and Federal agencies has been very efficient. We oppose the inclusion of citizen advisory groups in the oversight of the system. The current oversight system has served the residents of Alaska and the citizens of the United States professionally and well.

289-2

A renewal period of thirty years for the TAPS is strongly supported by this organization.

Sincerely,

Dean M. Owen
Executive Director
Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation

*Scanned
9/1/02*

Responses for Document 00289

- 00289-001:** 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.
- 00289-002:** Thank you for your comment. The reader is directed to Section 2.5 of the FEIS and the text that discusses citizen oversight of TAPS.

APPENDUM TO MY TESTIMONY
PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING THE TAPS LEASE RENEWAL
TELS,

00290

FROM: SHEELAGH MULLINS ROWANE

PO BOX 416, CORDOVA, ALASKA 99514

PHONE: (907) 424-7060. email: sheelaghm@yahoo.com

AUGUST 19TH 2002,

I ADD THIS MESSAGE TO EXXON IN MY TESTIMONY:-

HONOR YOUR DEBTS NOW TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SO
ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY YOUR OIL SPILL, BEFORE
ENDANGERING MORE OF OUR ECOSYSTEMS.

WE DID HAVE A HEALTHY HERRING FISHERY PRIOR TO THE
SPILL BUT NO LONGER, DUE TO THE OIL SPILL.

WHY SHOULD WE PERMIT YOU TO RENEW YOUR LEASES
BEFORE YOU HAVE HONORED YOUR ONGOING DEBTS TO US

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SPILL YOU TOLD CORDOVANS
AT A CITYWIDE MEETING THAT WE WERE LUCKY THAT WE
WERE DEALING WITH EXXON AND THAT YOU WOULD
"MAKE US WHOLE" HONOR THAT PROMISE NOW.

FROM SHEELAGH J. MULLINS ROWANE

-cammo
9/17

290-1

THIS ARTICLE/COMMENTARY WAS PUBLISHED IN THE CORDOVA TIMES, ALASKA 99514. I WISH
TO INCLUDE THIS IN THE TAPS RENEWAL DEIS PUBLIC TESTIMONY. S.J. Mullins Rowane.

FROM: SHEELAGH MULLINS ROWANE, PO BOX 416 CORDOVA AK 99514. Phone (907) 424-7061
Fax (907) 424-3931
email sheelaghm@
yahoo.

Guest Commentary

The Cordova Times

Aug. 15, 2002

Are We the Disposable People?

By Sheelagh Mullins Rowane

TAXED 8/19/02

This letter is to all of the people who have been or could be affected by oil spills.

This is a quote from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) oil pipeline lease renewal, page 4-7-116: "While the Exxon Valdez oil spill was a significant event in the operation of TAPS, 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, it is unlikely that a spill of such magnitude, even if it occurred again, would create the same level of economic activity".

This statement is an insult to all of the residents of Prince William Sound and others who make their living here. There is still no understanding by the oil industry of what has happened to us in the 13 years since the oil spill. We continue to be treated as "disposable" people.

I wish to point out to TAPS, Exxon and other oil companies that we had jobs here before they spilled their oil. That we enjoyed the way we lived and worked and did not need their spilled oil for our "economic benefit". Many PWS men and women who work in the fishing industry have the drive and the intelligence, and the education to be working in the high echelons of various industries, including the oil industry, but have chosen to live and work here in a very different type of lifestyle. This does

SHELAGH MULLINS ROWANE, PO BOX 416, CORDOVA, AK 99574

PA
ETAPS LEASE RENEWAL DEIS

FAXED 8/19/02

not make this type of work any the less important in the grand scheme of all of our lives.

In the TAPS DEIS there are other misstatements and misunderstandings of the people and the lifestyles of the Sound and the Copper River Delta. This information is available in the TAPS DEIS documents at the Cordova Public Library for us to be able to read and make an educated response to this situation. The time to act on this very important issue is very limited and comments or phone calls have to be made by Aug. 20. We must speak now or forever hold our peace. Please see the end of this letter for addresses, or contact the Copper River Watershed Project at 424-3334 or the Eyak Preservation Council at 424-5890 for more information.

There is constant talk of the bottom line of the oil companies. The bottom line of the fisheries is also important as well as the promising "clean" business of eco-tourism, which is becoming very important in the long-term plans for the economy of Cordova. Spilled oil doesn't mix well with salmon or eco-tourism.

But it should not be only the almighty dollar that is being discussed in this impact statement. The true bottom line is the health of our area. We, the residents of the Sound and the Copper River Delta, need to be the stewards of this remarkable and exquisitely balanced ecosystem, which has taken eons to develop. Let us try to ensure that our children's children will also witness the migration of the millions of shorebirds and the salmon, and will be able to experience the biodiversity and the beauty and bounty of PWS and the Copper River and delta.

We have learned the very hard way about the broken promises of the oil industry and some politicians. The Copper River and its delta are at risk

SHEELAGH MULLINS ROWANE, PO BOX 416, CORDOVA, AK 99574
TAPS LEASE RENEWAL DEIS.

PAGE 3
(PLUS ADDEND)

from toxic contamination of North Slope oil. Twenty percent of the aging pipeline crosses 76 salmon-bearing tributaries of the river in remote and earthquake prone areas. How could any spilled oil be contained? Who will be checking? What are the clean up plans?

At the very least, prior to any leases being granted, we must request the following:

- A citizens' oversight committee similar to the Regional Citizens Advisory Council;
- A full pipeline audit now followed by regular audits every year as new science becomes available, particularly regarding global warming and the melting of the permafrost;

- A program to address employee concerns because they are the people who have hands-on experience with possible problems;

- A management which is independent of the North Slope owners.

Lastly we should not have to put up with this uncomfortably rapid lease renewal process without being allowed much more time for public comment ... 45 days is not enough to give to fishermen and others who are in the middle of their working season.

Yours sincerely,
Sheelagh Mullins Rowane

Sheelagh Mullins Rowane has lived in Cordova for nearly 40 years. Rowane has been a commercial fisherwoman since 1963 and was involved from the beginning of Cordova's interests in possible oil contamination from late 1970 and onwards.

Responses for Document 00290

00290-001: The reader is directed to Section 2.5, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

- TAPS EIS comments

Page 1

00291

From: "Thomas Paragi" <tparagi@hotmail.com>
To: <jpoweb@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/20/2002 6:17PM
Subject: TAPS EIS comments

I have tried to send this to a couple JPO email addresses and it has bounced back (including Record@jpo.doi.gov). Could you please route it correctly and let me know that it was received? Thanks,

Tom Paragi
1271 Lowbush Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709

I support the EIS alternative to renew the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) grant for right of way on federal lands for less than 30 years (commencing 2004) unless the Joint Pipeline Office and oil industry agree to allow an independent audit of TAPS operations, maintenance, and environmental safety prior to grant renewal and at least every five years thereafter during the next 30 years.

291-1

Although outside the scope of the TAPS EIS, I also support formation of a citizen oversight group composed of Alaska residents for independent monitoring of TAPS operations, maintenance, and environmental standards. A recent model for this type of oversight group was the Citizen Oversight Committee for Oil and Other Hazardous Substances, which was formed following the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The TAPS oversight group should have the ability to hire researchers, subpoena witnesses, take testimony, conduct investigations, and appoint advisory panels with specialized knowledge. These abilities are necessary to ensure transparency and adequate disclosure in reporting the status of our aging TAPS during the next lease period, which could be an additional 30 years beyond its original engineered lifetime. The oversight group should include representation from urban and

291-2

Charles Chinnis - TAPS EIS comments

Page 2

rural communities, tourism, fishing/aquaculture, recreation, Native groups,
and environmental organizations.

291-2
(Cont.)

Send and receive Hotmail on your mobile device: <http://mobile.msn.com>

Responses for Document 00291

- 00291-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00291-002:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

Gale Norton
 To: EXSEC/OES/OS/DOI@DOI
 07/24/2002 cc:
 07:49 PM Subject: DEIS Renewal of the
 Federal Grant for the TAPS ROW

Julie Bator
 <firefly682000@
 yahoo.com>
 To: Gale
 Norton/SIO/OS/DOI@DOI
 Cc:
 07/24/2002 Subject: DEIS Renewal of the
 07:47 PM Federal Grant for the TAPS ROW

Dear Ms. Norton;

I am hoping you will consider an extended time period to review and comment on the DEIS released on the 8th of July. I drafted a letter, and sent it out on the 12th asking for the same.

I have not even received all of the 4 volumes, and I am a Tribal representative, attending all meetings.

I know that you care about the 4 C's, and that you would understand that we are interested in getting this right. It took the BLM 2 years to get to this published point, and I think that we deserve more than 45 days to review it. You see, the review period and deadline comes at a very busy time for us. We have traditionally used summer time to harvest and dry our fish and fall for berry picking and hunting. These events are more than merely gathering food supplies, this is our anchor to our culture. We harvest together, bringing families and communities together. We hunt and share in the work associated with a successful hunt or continue to search until we become successful. These things seem minor to people who live outside of our areas and have only to go to the grocery store to get food, but where we live, hunting, fishing, gathering has taught many lessons, and is the backbone of our society. It is where we learn survival, respect, social order and connect with where and who we are.

Please address this. Please allow us 120 days, and let the deadline be 4 November.
 successful

292-1

Responses for Document 00292

00292-001: 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.

From: "Jerry Prioste" <10nisne1@cox.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/14/2002 1:33 PM
Subject: Alaska Wilderness

Please protect and preserve the remaining undisturbed and undeveloped areas in Alaska.

293-1

Jerry Prioste
11614 N 68th PL
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

/

Responses for Document 00293

00293-001: Thank you for your comment.

00294

From: "JANE RALLS" <janeralls@msn.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 3:20 PM
Subject: Trans-Alaska Pipeline

I am against re-authorizing the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

294-1

Jane Ralls
515 E Grant St. #404
Minneapolis, MN 55404-1499

janeralls@msn.com

Responses for Document 00294

00294-001: Thank you for your comment.

From: "fssh@uaf.alaska.edu" <fssh@aurora.alaska.edu>
To: <adnr_administrative_record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/20/2002 12:39 PM
Subject: Aaska pipeline

Please extend the current 45-day comment period regarding the request by the owners of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline for a 30-year renewal of the pipelines rights of way. The present comment period does not give sufficient time for concerned citizens to study the request in detail so they can participate in the public process in an informed and meaningful way. That participation is vital considering what is at stake if the now aging pipeline fails to be maintained to the standards required for its safe operation. Thank you for giving time and thought to our request.

295-1

Sallie Hogg
Norman Hogg
P.O. Box 212595
Anchorage, AK 99521-2595

Responses for Document 00295

00295-001: 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.

From: "wjenkins" <waj101032@hotmail.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/20/2002 10:03 AM
Subject: Oversight

Additional oversight is not needed at this as as per GAO and the record of the pipeline. This is just another example of the enviromentalist lobby to justify their existence by continued legal actions. The additional oversight would only add to the cost without any additional safety! Thank you. Dr Wayne A. Jenkins, Bx 2608 , Sitka, AK 99835

296-1

Responses for Document 00296

00296-001: The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: Evan WW Craig <auk@interaccess.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/15/2002 5:48 PM
Subject: Trans-Alaska Pipeline Agreement
CC: Evan Craig <auk@interaccess.com>

I oppose renewal of this agreement without a phase-out commitment to be carried out over the next ten years. Global Warming is already softening the tundra that supports this pipeline, and the oil it carries can only make this problem worse.

297-1

297-2

In addition, this pipeline crosses 800 miles from Alaska's North Slope, where the oil industry pollutes a sensitive environment, to the port of Valdez, where tankers play roulette with marine ecosystems. It crosses public land for almost the whole journey, crossing 80 rivers and streams, three mountain ranges, and some of Alaska's most spectacular locations.

If the pipeline is re-authorized, the highest possible environmental standards should be enforced.

This includes:

- * An independent environmental review conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska, with the authority to require repairs and environmental safeguards.

- * Additional periodic reviews should be mandatory, with the authority to require additional repairs and safeguards.

297-3

- * Citizen advisory councils, representing local people and interests, should be given a formal oversight role.

297-4

These are the public's lands, and the pipeline operators must be good stewards of them to deserve our support.

Evan Craig
Chair, Woods & Wetlands Group of Sierra Club
<http://illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w>
847-680-6437
... Work to Live, Live to Ride, Ride to Work!

Responses for Document 00297

- 00297-001:** Please see Section 4.3.2 in the EIS for a discussion on soils and permafrost related to the TAPS.
- 00297-002:** The importance of continued surveillance, monitoring, and appropriate response planning are critical issues for maintaining the quality of water resources crossed by the TAPS pipeline. JPO oversight of these procedures ensures that the highest standards of environmental protection will continue during the next 30 years of pipeline operations.
- 00297-003:** 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.
- 00297-004:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: "Bill H. Grimm" <bhgwriter@hotmail.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/14/2002 9:44 AM
Subject: Alaskan Pipeline...

Thank you for your efforts over the past years...NOW is the time to renew our efforts to keep the strictest standards of protection so that we have a HEALTHY BALANCE between economic need and enviornmental beauty, and this balance can be attained for the benefit of all of us and our children and their families.

Alaska is a SPECIAL PLACE, both to people who live thee and also in the hearts and minds of people who hope to come there some day...it is imperative to PROTECT OUR FUTURE BY SETTING REAL RULES TODAY!

ASK YOURSELF...IS THIS WHAT I WANT FOR MY CHILDREN, THEN DECIDE.

Thank you, and have a great day...

Sincerely,

Bill H. Grimm
Mesa, Arizona

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<http://photos.msn.com/support/worldwide.aspx>

298-1

Responses for Document 00298

00298-001: Thank you for your comment.

From: david lynn grimes <corinpocrow@earthlink.net>
To: <tapswebmaster@anl.gov>, <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/20/2002 1:01 PM
Subject: TAPS RENEWAL

August 20, 2002

BLM TAPS Renewal EIS
Argonne National Lab EAD/900
9700 S. Cass Ave.
Argonne, IL 60439
tapswebmaster@anl.gov

State of Alaska, DNR/JPO
Attn: TAPS Renewal Team
411 West 4th Ave., Suite 2C
Anchorage, AK 99501
ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov

Re: Comments on Application of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Owners for Renewal of the Federal Grant and State Lease for the TAPS Right-of-Way

My name is David Grimes and I've lived in Cordova since 1977. I have been a commercial fisherman and wilderness guide in the Exxon Oil Spill region for 25 years. The Copper River and Prince William Sound are important to me spiritually, economically and for subsistence.

The Exxon Oil Spill was a great crisis, and the defining moment in my life. In the 13 years since, I have worked to protect and restore the oil spill region. not just for myself and my community, but because **Prince William Sound and the Copper River and Delta are ecosystems of global value and significance.**

Napoleon is said to have once stated that "History is a set of lies agreed upon." I and all citizens of the oil spill communities and all the animals killed and injured by the oil spill are disrespected and offended by the following statement in the draft EIS. "While the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill was a significant event in the operation of TAPS, 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, it is unlikely that a spill of such magnitude, even if it occurred again would create the same level of economic activity" (DEIS, page 4-7-116). **The oil spill was a great tragedy and to paint it as an economic boon to Alaska is to say that events of 9-11 in New York City will create lots of great jobs in the economy of reconstruction.**

299-1

Primary improvements in TAPS after the oil spill have come about because of the lessons we learned from this tragedy and from citizen oversight of oil shipping in Prince William Sound. The current pipeline is old and in danger of catastrophic failure. **Any renewal of the pipeline lease MUST include citizen oversight of pipeline operations, similar to public oversight of tanker operations.**

299-2

The pipeline crosses most of Alaska's major rivers in its 800 miles from Prudhoe Bay to Prince William Sound. In its last 150 miles the pipeline crosses 76 tributaries of the Copper River--**there**

are two parallel rivers out there, one of salmon and one of oil. Through citizen oversight of the pipeline we can do our best to help prevent the aging pipeline from spilling oil into the precious Copper River and harming the world-renowned Copper River wild salmon runs.

Government and industry have promised the people of Alaska and the United States safe best-available-technology pipeline operations. **Many former promises have been broken.** For current promises to be trusted, it is essential to have citizen oversight of all aspects of pipeline operations and oil transport. Anything less is simply a sham and a sign that greed rather than commonsense and respect runs our government.

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on TAPS renewal. **I can only support TAPS reauthorization for another 30 years if my recommendations are honestly addressed and included in the next federal grant and state lease.**

Sincerely,

David Grimes
PO BOX 1636
CORDOVA, AK 99574

299-2
(Cont.)

Responses for Document 00299

- 00299-001:** 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.
- 00299-002:** The reader is directed to Section 2.5 of the FEIS and the text that discusses citizen oversight of TAPS.

From: "Lou Brown and Jon Miller" <loubrown@gci.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/16/2002 1:02 AM
Subject: TAPS Renewal comments

State of Alaska, DNR/JPO
Attn: TAPS Renewal Team
411 West 4th Ave., Suite 2C
Anchorage, AK 99501

August 15, 2002

Dear Sir or Madam,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the re-authorization of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Grant and Lease.

My principle concern with the aging pipeline is the damage to the structure that will be caused by the effects of global warming. Needless to say, the pipeline's designers went to great lengths to ensure that the permafrost which underlies much of the pipeline would remain undisturbed and unmelted. Global warming may pose the most significant threat to the pipeline ever, since melting beneath the vertical supports has potential to be very widespread and a constant source of cracks and breaks in the line. The renewal should ascertain if a credible plan has been made by the pipeline's owners and managers to address this issue.

300-1

I also feel that, given the age of the pipeline, the maintenance schedule will have to be significantly stepped up. I urge you to ensure that an aggressive preventative maintenance program is built into the grant lease.

300-2

Today, the public's interests are often guarded by citizen's oversight groups. Given the importance of the pipeline to Alaska's economy and the potential for damage to public lands in the case of a significant spill, the grant lease should establish a such a citizen group to protect the public interest.

300-3

When Congress authorized construction of the Dalton Highway and the infrastructure of the TAPS, it was with the understanding that, at some point, the land would be rehabilitated and returned to its previous state. I would like to know that funds for this massively expensive project will be set aside now to ensure that dismantling, removal and restoration work can be immediately undertaken and completed in a timely manner when the North Slope is abandoned. I urge you to make the creation of such a fund a condition of the renewal.

300-4

I believe it is in DNR's and the public's interest to learn exactly what condition the pipeline is actually in. I think the new grant and lease should not be awarded until DNR is satisfied that no significant problems exist. This information should be gathered by an independent agent who should also review policies and procedures of the operation to ensure that emergency contingency plans are in place and that all aspects of pipeline operation assure the protection of people, land and animals. I also think that, again, given the age of the pipeline, such a review would be in order at least every five years.

300-5

TAPS employees know best where potential problems lie. It is critical that employees who see problems that could lead to oil spills be free to bring their concerns to management without fear. Likewise, "whistle-blowers" should be protected and appropriate language in the new grant and lease will help ensure that conscientious employees do not suffer reprisals from management for actions that may help reduce the number of spills.

300-6

Of course, DNR should require the application of any new advances that have been made in the technology of the petroleum industry. Moreover, any new scientific data should be incorporated into the management plan to ensure the highest level of protection for people, land and animals.

300-7

Finally, I feel that the opportunity for the public to comment on this critical document is much too short. I feel that an extension of at least two months would be very appropriate so that the lay population will have time to learn about the issues and make their concerns known to you.

300-8

I appreciate the time you have taken to consider my thoughts on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Lou Brown

2630 Home Run

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Responses for Document 00300

- 00300-001:** VSM stability is obviously critical to TAPS integrity. As such, it is the focus of extensive monitoring and surveillance. Please see Section 4.3.2 of the FEIS (Soils and Permafrost) for additional information.
- 00300-002:** The BLM and member agencies of the JPO use an adaptive management approach to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations and regulatory oversight. Ongoing monitoring programs, as identified in the 12 Comprehensive Monitoring Reports published since 1996, provide BLM and JPO with the necessary information to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations in the Grant and Lease.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.
- 00300-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00300-004:** The reader is directed to the discussion of escrow funds found in Section 2.5.
- 00300-005:** 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.
- 00300-006:** 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.
- 00300-007:** The BLM and member agencies of the JPO use an adaptive management approach to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations and regulatory oversight. Ongoing monitoring programs, as identified in the 12 Comprehensive Monitoring Reports published since 1996, provide BLM and JPO with the necessary information to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations in the Grant and Lease.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.

00300-008: 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.

From: "M. Radcliffe" <radcliffex@hotmail.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/18/2002 10:04 AM
Subject: Comments on Renewal of Trans-Alaska Pipeline

Following are my official comments regarding the renewal of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

Dear Administrative Manager,

While I do not live in Alaska, I have vacationed in Alaska on numerous occasions in the last 15 years, the first time being a kayak trip in and around Prince William Sound the year before the Exxon Valdez oil spill. What luck that was to not put off the trip for a year! Otherwise all I would have seen would be oil slicks on the Sound and oily creatures and birds trying to live and eat in the Sound.

So I want you to know that I am very concerned about the renewal of the agreement for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, particularly regarding the potential for environmental damage if proper safeguards are not taken with regard to the Pipeline.

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

Now the agreement to allow the Pipeline to carry the oil is up for renewal, and I want you to know my position on this issue that if the pipeline is re-authorized, it must be accompanied by the strictest possible environmental standards. That means the following:

- 1) An independent environmental review should be conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska.
- 2) Additional periodic reviews should be mandatory.
- 3) Citizen advisory councils, representing local people and interests, should be given a formal oversight role.
- 4) Upkeep and maintenance standards should be stiffened (particularly pro-active checking of potential problems that are caused by the softening of the perma-frost which is no longer permanently frozen).

While I realize that the people running the Pipeline do not want to have an oil spill that results in environmental damage, the pipeline is now almost 30 years old. And anything that is 30 years old requires alot more upkeep and maintenance than new items. Then just to make it interesting, throw in the problems of global warming with the perma-frost no longer being so permanent. The softening of the perma-frost makes the upkeep and maintenance and additional challenge as more pro-active engineering and monitoring is needed for changing ground conditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this matter.

301-1

301-2

301-3

301-4

301-5

Cynthia Radcliffe
1811 Briar Ridge Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Send and receive Hotmail on your mobile device: <http://mobile.msn.com>

Responses for Document 00301

- 00301-001:** 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.
- 00301-002:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00301-003:** To address changes in conditions, the BLM and member agencies of the JPO use an adaptive management approach to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations and regulatory oversight. Ongoing monitoring programs, as identified in the 12 Comprehensive Monitoring Reports published since 1996, provide BLM and JPO with the necessary information to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations in the Grant and Lease.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.
- See Section 4.1.3.2.1 of the FEIS, which explains how the VSMs can be adjusted to respond to soil changes and seismic events.
- 00301-004:** 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 proactive 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 risks to safety and the environment.
- 00301-005:** VSM stability is obviously critical to TAPS integrity. As such, it is the focus of extensive monitoring and surveillance. Please see Section 4.3.2 of the FEIS (Soils and Permafrost) for additional information.

From: "Helen L Talbot" <htalbot@earthlink.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/18/2002 12:11 PM
Subject: Alaskan Wilderness

The Alaskan Wilderness is an environmental treasure for all the people in this country. We need to impose the strictest standards and security checks to safeguard it from disasters that could occur from the Pipeline. Please renew with the utmost of care for protecting the lasting beauty of this environment.

302-1

Helen L Talbot
5018 LedgeStone Dr
Fort Worth, TX 76132

Responses for Document 00302

00302-001: Thank you for your comment.

00303

From: "Andrew W. Jones" <awjones@zoo.uvm.edu>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/15/2002 4:16 AM

Dear Sir or Madam:

If the Alaska pipeline permit is to be renewed, it should only be done according to the strictest environmental standards. These should include an independent review and regular audits of the pipeline. And if the pipeline is not safe for the environment, it should be shut down until the necessary repairs can be made.

As the Alaska pipeline ages, it is a disaster just waiting to happen. We must prevent another repeat of the Exxon Valdez.

Sincerely,

Andrew Jones
124 Centennial Court
Burlington, VT 05401

303-1

303-2

Responses for Document 00303

00303-001: The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.

00303-002: The BLM and member agencies of the JPO use an adaptive management approach to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations and regulatory oversight. Ongoing monitoring programs, as identified in the 12 Comprehensive Monitoring Reports published since 1996, provide BLM and JPO with the necessary information to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations in the Grant and Lease.

The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.

TAPS ROW Public Hearing 8/5/02 Edward D. LaFehr

- ✓ Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement for the TAPS right-of-way renewal. My name is Ed LaFehr and I'm the asset manager for the Milne Pt. field on the North Slope, operated by BP. I'm responsible for the health and safety of the several hundred men and women who work on our lease, and I'm responsible for the environmental and operational performance ^{and} the long-term viability of the field.
- ✓ Milne Pt. is a relatively small oil field on the slope, producing some 50,000 bopd - but we are a field which holds enormous potential and promise. We are aggressively pursuing development of viscous oil and we've just started an enhance oil recovery project. Both are very long term investment programs, requiring stability in fiscal terms, a competitive cost structure, and a long term view.
- ✓ There are thought to be 1 to 2 billion barrels of recoverable viscous oil on the North Slope, and we believe at Milne Pt. we're on the verge of a breakthrough in how to access the heavy oil, and some of you may know we will complete our \$180mm S-spool project in Sept. This is our first major step into the viscous oil.
- ✓ By 2020 it is projected Milne Point will be producing from almost entirely new sources of oil - primarily viscous. All of these projects have high development costs, very long project lives, reservoir complexity and new technology requirements. As a result, Milne Pt. carries significant development risk from an economic standpoint. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline plays a vital role in our cost structure and outlook for further investment within the North Slope oil fields.
- ✓ I therefore urge you to support the new marginal developments on the slope, ~~renewing~~ renewing the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Right-of-Way for 30 years. This will help my asset plan its future, attracting further investment to continue making strides to unlock the viscous oil. Thank you for this opportunity to speak and I submit this written ^{copy}

304-1

Exhibit 45

Responses for Document 00304

00304-001: Thank you for your comment.

00305

From: sturd <sturd@ncweb.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 1:32 PM
Subject: Alaska Pipeline

Dear Sirs,

Please accept these comments regarding renewal of the 1974 agreement allowing the Trans-Alaska pipeline.

The Trans-Alaska Pipeline sends one million barrels of oil each day
This oil is essential to reduce our country's dependence on foreign
energy sources.

The current agreement has served our country well for nearly 30
years. It should be renewed as is.

Regards,
Mike Sturdevant
11351 Prouty Rd.
Concord Twp., OH 44077
(440)352-8970
Virtec Enterprises
(440)352-8970
sturd@ncweb.com

305-1

Responses for Document 00305

00305-001: Thank you for your comment.

From: <randyzurcher@earthlink.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 2:09 PM
Subject: [No Subject]

Friends,
I understand the Trans-Alaska Pipeline is up for re-authorization. Please place these comments in the official record. Please do not re-authorize the pipeline. We need to work to become independent of oil, instead of re-authorizing this pipeline running through wilderness. If the pipeline is re-authorized, it must be accompanied by the strictest possible environmental standards. That means the following:

306-1

- An independent environmental review should be conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska.

306-2

- Additional periodic reviews should be mandatory.

306-3

- Citizen advisory councils, representing local people and interests, should be given a formal oversight role.

306-4

Thank You,
Randy Zurcher
369 Bocana
San Francisco, CA 94110

Responses for Document 00306

- 00306-001:** The current Federal Grant and associated stipulations, along with the provisions of TAPAA, provide BLM with extensive and ongoing regulatory control of TAPS operations. These conditions would not change upon renewal.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.
- 00306-002:** 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.
- 00306-003:** 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.
- 00306-004:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: mark <metrognome0@yahoo.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/20/2002 11:55 AM
Subject: pipeline public comment

Greetings.

This serves to as comment regarding landlease for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

Should the agreement that allows this land lease be re-authorized, it must be accompanied by the strictest possible environmental standards.

307-1

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.

307-2

307-3

307-4

Respectfully,

Mark Cosgriff
3960 West 23 Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44109-2908

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<http://www.hotjobs.com>

Responses for Document 00307

- 00307-001:** The current Federal Grant and associated stipulations, along with the provisions of TAPAA, provide BLM with extensive and ongoing regulatory control of TAPS operations. These conditions would not change upon renewal.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.
- 00307-002:** 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.
- 00307-003:** 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.
- 00307-004:** The reader is directed to Section 2.5 of the FEIS and the text that discusses citizen oversight of TAPS.

From: Wanda Ballentine <wsb2001@adelphia.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/17/2002 3:38 PM
Subject: Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS)

State of Alaska, DNR/JPO
Attn: TAPS Renewal Team
411 West 4th Ave., Suite 2C
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS)

I have learned that the 30-year right-of-way agreements between the federal and state governments and the owner of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) are up for renewal for another 30 years.

A 30-year old pipeline transporting a million barrels of oil daily 800 miles from the North Slope oil fields to Valdez must be due for a major overhaul. As the pipeline crosses 80 rivers and streams, three mountain ranges and some of those most spectacular locations in Alaska, we certainly don't want any spills. Yet the federal DEIS and the state's Proposed Determination are relying on Joint Pipeline Office (JPO) documents that ignore these issues. They rely on TAPS owners saying they'll maintain the aging pipeline in good condition for the next 30 years. They didn't do very well with the spills on pipeline startup, the Livengood bullet hole spill, or the 21-inch shift in a pipeline section at Atigun Pass that was undetected for several months. A thorough, independent environmental review is needed, and periodic technology and environmental reviews should be mandatory as a condition of reauthorization.

Global warming is here, is already impacting Alaska, with greater impacts predicted, yet the proposal does not adequately address the threat to permafrost and TAPS structural supports. Though Citizen Advisory Councils have been viewed by both industry and government as essential in environmental protection, no recommendation for such has been included.

I urge you to insist on thorough and proper pipeline maintenance and repair, to require a plan to deal with the effects of global warming, and the establishment of a Citizen Advisory Council to monitor the situation.

Thank you,

Wanda S. Ballentine
1195 Sylvania Rd.
Cleveland Heights, OH 44121-2523

308-1

308-2

308-3

308-4

308-5

Responses for Document 00308

- 00308-001:** 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.
- 00308-002:** 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.
- 00308-003:** VSM stability is obviously critical to TAPS integrity. As such, it is the focus of extensive monitoring and surveillance. Please see Section 4.3.2 of the FEIS (Soils and Permafrost) for additional information.
- 00308-004:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00308-005:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: <bfbg@attbi.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/17/2002 6:27 PM
Subject: Alaskan Pipeline/Wilderness Protection Reauthorization

August 17, 2002

To: ADNR Administrative Record
From: Bonita Bowman, Ph.D. and Donald Greenspan, Ph.D.

Subject: Alaskan Pipeline/Wilderness Protection Reauthorization

If the Trans-Alaska Pipeline from Alaska's North Slope to the port of Valdez is reauthorized, we would like the most strict possible environmental standards to be established to protect the public land through which it passes, especially the Alaskan wilderness areas. This land includes 80 rivers and streams, three mountain ranges, and some of Alaska's most spectacular locations. For many of us, that land is a special place of renewal and symbol of the vastness of the American spirit.

309-1

In 1974 an agreement was forged to protect this land. That agreement is up for renewal.

309-2

I am urging that the protection of this land be continued and that what we have learned since that time be used to strengthen that protection. We suggest that the new agreement contain provisions for

(1) an independent environmental review conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska,

309-3

(2) additional mandatory, periodic reviews, and

309-4

(3) citizen advisory councils that representing local people and the larger public interest to provide formal oversight of the protection of this land.

309-5

There is no reason that both the interests of the pipeline companies, the general citizen, and the people who are sustained by America's wild areas cannot all be served by this agreement.

Sincerely,

Bonita Bowman and Donald Greenspan
1601 University Drive
Arlington, Texas 76013

Responses for Document 00309

- 00309-001:** The current Federal Grant and associated stipulations, along with the provisions of TAPAA, provide BLM with extensive and ongoing regulatory control of TAPS operations. These conditions would not change upon renewal.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.
- 00309-002:** Section 4.4.4.7 in the EIS, "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.
- 00309-003:** 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.
- 00309-004:** 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.
- 00309-005:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: "Steve Knowlton" <knowlton@att.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/14/2002 2:12 AM
Subject: Trans-Alaska Pipeline

Please add my comments to the administrative record.

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.

310-1

It would be a terrible thing if the pipeline ruptured.

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.

310-2

- Additional periodic reviews should be mandatory.

310-3

- Citizen advisory councils, representing local people and interests, should be given a formal oversight role.

310-4

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Knowlton
77 Church St.
Fair Haven, NJ 07704

Responses for Document 00310

- 00310-001:** The current Federal Grant and associated stipulations, along with the provisions of TAPAA, provide BLM with extensive and ongoing regulatory control of TAPS operations. These conditions would not change upon renewal.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.
- 00310-002:** 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.
- 00310-003:** 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.
- 00310-004:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: Ellen Koivisto and Gene Thompson <offstage@earthlink.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/17/2002 6:32 AM
Subject: Comment on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline

We must not create complex, functioning equipment that crosses environmentally sensitive and important lands without regularly reviewing the condition, the need for, and the emergency response plans for the equipment. We immediately need to implement just such review procedures for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

311-1

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, due to a 1974 agreement. That land includes 80 rivers and streams, three mountain ranges, and some of Alaska's most spectacular locations.

311-2

Now the agreement is up for renewal. If the pipeline is re-authorized (and other alternatives for getting energy are much more useful, cheaper, and less dangerous), 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.

311-3

- Additional periodic reviews must be mandatory.

311-4

- Citizen advisory councils, representing local people and interests, must be given a formal oversight roles.

311-5

Thank you,
Ellen Koivisto

Responses for Document 00311

- 00311-001:** 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.
- 00311-002:** The current Federal Grant and associated stipulations, along with the provisions of TAPAA, provide BLM with extensive and ongoing regulatory control of TAPS operations. These conditions would not change upon renewal.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.
- 00311-003:** 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.
- 00311-004:** 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.
- 00311-005:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: "Kelly Wayne" <waynekins@hotmail.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 9:28 PM
Subject: Renewal of Trans Alaska Pipeline Agreement

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this as my official comment on the forthcoming renewal of the 1974 Trans-Alaska Pipeline Agreement.

The renewal of the subject agreement should include a complete environmental survey of the pipeline and it's effects. This survey should be an independent one conducted by the State of Alaska and the Bureau of Land Management and/or all other relevant government agencies.

312-1

Local citizens and indeed all Americans should be allowed public input and comments in all areas of the pipeline management process as this pipeline is on public land. This should also be a written part of the renewal agreement.

312-2

The renewal agreement must also contain the strictest environmental safeguards and guarantees so that the pristine wilderness that this pipeline crosses will not be despoiled or impacted in any way.

312-3

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views as a concerned citizen.

Sincerely,

Wayne Kelly
1257 Siskiyou Blvd, #1133
Ashland, Oregon 97520-2241

MSN Messenger, 'Üî·İpâÇİç© ŁÄ¶öÄİ»óçİ ÄÖ'Ä Ä£±,Łİ 'ëE,İ 3a'©¼¼čä.
<http://messenger.msn.co.kr>

Responses for Document 00312

- 00312-001:** 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.
- 00312-002:** The reader is directed to Section 2.5, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00312-003:** The current Federal Grant and associated stipulations, along with the provisions of TAPAA, provide BLM with extensive and ongoing regulatory control of TAPS operations. These conditions would not change upon renewal.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.

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

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:

- 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.

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

313-1

313-2

313-3

313-4

313-5

Responses for Document 00313

- 00313-001:** The current Federal Grant and associated stipulations, along with the provisions of TAPAA, provide BLM with extensive and ongoing regulatory control of TAPS operations. These conditions would not change upon renewal.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.
- 00313-002:** 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.
- 00313-003:** 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.
- 00313-004:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00313-005:** The current Federal Grant and associated stipulations, along with the provisions of TAPAA, provide BLM with extensive and ongoing regulatory control of TAPS operations. These conditions would not change upon renewal.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.

From: Mark Thomas <mlthomas_ok@yahoo.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/14/2002 6:45 PM
Subject: Trans-Alaska Pipeline

I am writing concerning the renewal of the agreement to allow the Trans-Alaska Pipeline to cross public land. If this agreement is renewed, I urge you to make it conditional upon the strictest environmental safeguards. An independent environmental review of the project should be conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska. Additional periodic reviews should be mandatory. Also, citizen advisory councils, representing local people and interests, should be given a formal oversight role. The people and the place should be respected, in addition to profits!

314-1

314-2

314-3

314-4

Thanks for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Mark Thomas
715 W. Hughbert St.
Norman OK 73069

mlthomas_ok@yahoo.com

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<http://www.hotjobs.com>

Responses for Document 00314

- 00314-001:** The current Federal Grant and associated stipulations, along with the provisions of TAPAA, provide BLM with extensive and ongoing regulatory control of TAPS operations. These conditions would not change upon renewal.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.
- 00314-002:** 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.
- 00314-003:** 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.
- 00314-004:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Rights-of-Way Renewal
Environmental Impact Statement

Comments of Stan Jones
Box 240264
Anchorage AK 99524
907-273-6230

My name is Stan Jones. I am a long-time Alaskan and an employee of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council. I live in Anchorage.

I'll start by saying that the Environmental Impact Statement, as drafted, appears to fail in many significant respects to comply with the letter and intent of the National Environmental Policy Act and with the regulations from the Council on Environmental Quality that implement the Act.

315-1

These defects are too numerous to itemize in the short time available here. Accordingly, I will limit myself to only a few of them tonight, hoping meanwhile that other speakers tonight, as well as written comments yet to be filed, will cover them all.

1. First, I'll briefly join the chorus of critics of the 45-day comment period that falls squarely athwart the Alaskan summer, a time when many people in coastal areas are unable to comment on the EIS without great difficulty, if they can comment at all. The regulations have this to say about timing of the process of producing and reviewing an Environmental Impact Statement:

"The statement shall be prepared early enough so that it can serve practically as an important contribution to the decisionmaking process and will not be used to rationalize or justify decisions already made."

315-2

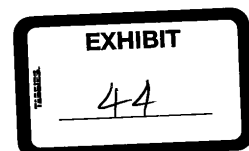
and

"Agencies shall: . . . make diligent efforts to involve the public."

Forty-five days is neither "early enough" nor "diligent" enough for a document the size of the EIS covering something as important as a 30-year renewal of Alyeska's operator's license for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.

2. The EIS improperly fails to consider the role of citizens' groups such as the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council in lessening adverse environmental impacts. Even industry has acknowledged the helpfulness of PWS RCAC on numerous occasions. For example, RCAC has exercised leadership (1) in having vapor controls installed on Berths 4 and 5 at the Alyeska tanker terminal in Valdez; (2) in developing and installing ice detection radar in Prince William Sound; (3) in having a fleet of 5 very large tugs to assist tankers in both normal operations and in emergency situations; (4) in helping develop realistic contingency plans for response to oil spills; and (5) in helping develop geographic response strategies for protection

315-3



and cleanup of specific sensitive resources. Impact of citizen oversight groups should be included. In fact, impacts associated with citizens' oversight groups can be compared with the impacts associated with the absence of such groups because the pipeline itself does not have a citizens' oversight group.

315-3
(Cont.)

3. Transparency is a key value in the operation of our social, economic and political systems. This is probably nowhere more vividly demonstrated than by the recent arrests of top corporate executive for fraudulent bookkeeping that made it impossible for stock analysts or the public to determine the true value of their enterprises.

In my view, transparency is equally vital in the operation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. It is one of the largest industrial facilities in the United States and one that – when oil tankers are considered as part of the system – produced the Exxon Valdez spill, one of the largest environmental disasters in the history of our nation.

Unfortunately, the operations of the TAPS system fall woefully short of transparency to citizens and even to regulators. Alyeska claims that such information is proprietary to its business activities, even though Alyeska has no competition and the facility it operates is essentially unique. JPO has related to PWS RCAC its own difficulties in getting the information it needs to assess compliance with its regulations and the laws it is to administer. It is unclear how the environmental impact of a system as complex as TAPS can be properly assessed if complete information regarding operations and maintenance is withheld from those making the assessment. For example, it is acknowledged that the Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM) paradigm is appropriate to TAPS; however, we do not know if it has been applied in a systematic manner to all processes and subsystems; and we do not know the status of action plans to implement maintenance strategies identified by the RCM methodology. Information that allows quantification of the present state of TAPS is needed to verify that the assumptions of impact cited in the DEIS remain valid. It should be a condition of renewal that this information be made available to regulators and citizens alike.

315-4

In conclusion, I urge the responsible parties to allow an additional 45 days of public comment on the draft EIS, and to then revisit it to remedy the numerous defects identified by myself and other commenters.

###

Responses for Document 00315

- 00315-001:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00315-002:** 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.
- 00315-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00315-004:** The JPO has published 12 comprehensive monitoring reports, the last two focusing on compliance and RCM. These reports are available to the public. All underlying information is available to the JPO. Selected, highly technical and detailed information is confidential. The JPO is discussing with PWS RCAC about how to address their issues in an appropriate manner.

Bob Lachaussee
P.O. Box 146
Ester, AK 99725
(907) 479-5525

Here is my comment. I do not think that the right-of-way should be renewed unless there is some method of getting helpful citizens suggestions collected, acted upon and the best ones implemented in a public forum so that the oil spill contingency plan can be improved. At this point the oil spill contingency plan has some serious flaws in it notably a lack of equipment at the right spot and this is why apparently oil can bleed for 3 days as in Livengood because they didn't have the right equipment at the right time. I was a witness and I worked on an oil spill in 1981 valve 23 where we had exactly the same problem a lack of the right equipment at the right time. The reason the right equipment was not onsite was because it was not in the contingency plan (the OSCP). Apparently the OSCP is completely unchangeable and since the local engineers use it as a bible once you are on the job nothing can be ordered or done if it is not in the OSCP even though you basically have a flawless response using a flawed plan which results in a flawed response wherein you wind up looking at oil spilling because you didn't have the right equipment. Thank you.

316-1

Responses for Document 00316

00316-001: The TAPS Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan for the pipeline (C-Plan), prepared by APSC (2001g—see Section 3.30 of the FEIS for the reference), provides for significant resources, including equipment, trained personnel, and effective organization, to respond if oil does spill from the pipeline. These capabilities are summarized in Section 4.1.4. The C-Plan is updated periodically and lessons learned from actual occurrences such as the Livengood incident mentioned by the comment as well as from regular exercises conducted along the pipeline are incorporated into the C-Plan. A synopsis of the Livengood bullet hole incident is provided in the text box in Section 4.1.1.8. In addition, the C-Plan is reviewed annually by the BLM, every three years by ADEC, and every 5 years by DOT. EPA also reviews the plan as it applies to pump stations. 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 placement of spill response equipment and materials along the pipeline are noted. However, recommending specific methods for mitigating future oil spills should be done as part of the C-Plan review.

Hello, my name is Tom Lakosh and this is a continuation of my testimony presented at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel on August 6, 2002 and is directed to both the Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management and the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Alaska with regards to the renewal of the federal grant and state lease of right-of-way of TAPS for another 30 years or otherwise considered for nonrenewal or amendment of the previous leasing grant. I would like to adopt and incorporate by reference additional comments of other parties as I had done in my oral testimony. I would now like to adopt and incorporate the comments of Richard Charter of the Marine Conservation advocate of the environmental defense on the draft EIS dated August 20, 2002. I fully agree with all these comments and adopt and incorporate them. I also adopt and incorporate the comments of the Northern Alaska Environmental Center dated August 20, 2002 as submitted by Deb Moore [Arctic?]Coordinator. I also adopt and incorporate the comment of the Alaska Forum for Environmental Responsibility Alaska Center for the Environment Northern Alaska Environmental Center dated August 20, 2002 as submitted by Richard A. Fineberg, Consultant... [end of message]

317-1

Responses for Document 00317

00317-001: Thank you for your comment.

Dorothy Redell
1026 P Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

I would like to make a comment about this renewal of the permit for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and I hope that it will be renewed for the 30 years and it has been a very well— (for the last 30 years or so) and I do not think we need another agency. I think there is something about 15 agencies that keep track of it now and they have been doing an excellent job. And I'm afraid if they have one more (I think they call it Citizen's Oversight, something like that) those who want to lock up Alaska and do away with the pipeline, oil exploration and logging and mining and so forth will use that to get control of yet another oversight deal and use it for frivolous law suits to wreck the whole thing. I believe it has excellent service and I think we should renew it as is. Thank you.

318-1

318-2

Responses for Document 00318

00318-001: The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

00318-002: Thank you for your comment.

From: <Bryan_Carpenter@tigspecialty.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/19/2002 4:18 AM
Subject: ALASKA

I am requesting that the most strict possible environmental standards be established for the protection of the Alaskan Wilderness on Public Land if the Trans-Alaska Pipeline from Alaska's North Slope to the port of Valdez is reauthorized. That land includes 80 rivers and streams, three mountain ranges, and some of Alaska's most spectacular locations.

319-1

This land was protected by the 1974 agreement, which is up for renewal. I am urging that the protection of this land be continued. In order to provide the necessary protection, the following requirements should be established:

319-2

(1) An independent environmental review should be conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska.

319-3

(2) Additional periodic reviews should be mandatory.

(3) Citizen advisory councils, representing local people and interests, should be given a formal oversight role.

319-4

Sincerely,

Bryan Carpenter
601 Burnet Dr.
Keller, TX 76248

Responses for Document 00319

- 00319-001:** Because the TAPS was in place prior to most Wilderness designations in Alaska, its existence pre-empted Wilderness consideration of the pipeline corridor. As a result, the TAPS does not cross any designated Wilderness in Alaska.
- 00319-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00319-003:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00319-004:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: "alar 001" <timbalovesme@hotmail.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 1:37 PM
Subject: Keep High Standards for Trans Alaska Pipeline

Dear Administrator,
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.

320-1

Now that the 1974 agreement is up for renewal, we must assure that the pipeline meets the strictest environmental standards:
1. An independent environmental review should be conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska.
2. Additional periodic reviews should be mandatory.
3. Citizen advisory councils, representing local people and interests, should be given a formal oversight role.

320-2

320-3

If these conditions cannot be met, the agreement should not be reauthorized. As citizens, we don't just solve today's problems, we lay pipeline for people who come after us. Let's leave them some clean, wild, spaces, filled with the conditions that foster life of all kinds. Keep the pipeline standards as pristine as the wilderness it flows through.

320-4

Thanks for your consideration,
Hadrian Alegarbes

Chat with friends online, try MSN Messenger: <http://messenger.msn.com>

Responses for Document 00320

- 00320-001:** 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.
- 00320-002:** 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.
- 00320-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00320-004:** Thank you for your comment.

From: "Glen Berger" <glenberger@hotmail.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/15/2002 5:43 AM
Subject: Reauthorization of Alaskan Pipeline

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to urge you to make sure that if the Alaskan Pipeline is re-authorized, that it be accompanied by the strictest environmental standards possible.

An independent environmental review should be conducted the BLM and State of Alaska, and citizen advisory councils representing local people and interests, should be given a formal oversight role.

If we can't transport this oil with the highest degree of caution and responsibility with regards to the environment, we have no business transporting it.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Glen Berger
354 W. 121st St. - grdn
New York, NY 10027

Join the world's largest e-mail service with MSN Hotmail.
<http://www.hotmail.com>

321-1

321-2

321-3

Responses for Document 00321

- 00321-001:** 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.
- 00321-002:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00321-003:** The current Federal Grant and associated stipulations, along with the provisions of TAPAA, provide BLM with extensive and ongoing regulatory control of TAPS operations. These conditions would not change upon renewal.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.

From: Mike Farnan <hoju@pacbell.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 3:28 PM
Subject: Trans-Alaska Pipeline

To whom it may concern:

I understand that the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline agreement is up for review. I believe that, if the pipeline is to be re-authorized, it should be done so with only the strictest possible environmental standards. This pipeline runs almost entirely on public land, much of it beautiful wilderness unique to Alaska. Protecting it should be the highest priority.

322-1

The following actions should be an integral part of any re-authorization plan:

- A thorough environmental impact review by both the state of Alaska and the BLM.

- Mandatory periodic reviews of the pipeline.

322-2

- Citizen advisory councils, comprised of local people and representing their interests, should be given formal oversight roles.

322-3

I urge you to make protecting the Alaskan wilderness your priority when reviewing the pipeline re-authorization. The rivers, mountains, and wildlife of the Alaskan wilderness are a precious and finite commodity, and should not be sacrificed for some oil.

322-4

Thank you for your attention,

Mike Farnan
7551 Norton Ave. #5
Los Angeles, CA 90046

Responses for Document 00322

- 00322-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00322-002:** 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.
- 00322-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00322-004:** The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System has been in place for over 25 years and does not cross any designated Wilderness.

From: <dharman@sbcglobal.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/17/2002 1:58 PM
Subject: Protection of Alaskan Wilderness

August 17, 2002

To: ADNR Administrative Record
From: Dotty Harman

Subject: Protection of Alaskan Wilderness

I am requesting that the most strict possible environmental standards be established for the protection of the Alaskan Wilderness on Public Land, if the Trans-Alaska Pipeline from Alaska's North Slope to the port of Valdez is reauthorized. That land includes 80 rivers and streams, three mountain ranges, and some of Alaska's most spectacular locations. This land was protected by the 1974 agreement, which is up for renewal. I am urging that the protection of this land be continued. In order to provide the necessary protection, the following requirements should be established:

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

Sincerely,
Dotty Harman
3608 Rolling Meadows Dr.
Bedford, TX 76021

323-1

323-2

323-3

Responses for Document 00323

- 00323-001:** 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.
- 00323-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00323-003:** The reader is directed to Section 2.5 of the EIS.

From: <dharman@sbcglobal.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/17/2002 1:58 PM
Subject: Protection of Alaskan Wilderness

August 17, 2002

To: ADNR Administrative Record
From: Dale Harman

Subject: Protection of Alaskan Wilderness

I am requesting that the most strict possible environmental standards be established for the protection of the Alaskan Wilderness on Public Land, if the Trans-Alaska Pipeline from Alaska's North Slope to the port of Valdez is reauthorized. That land includes 80 rivers and streams, three mountain ranges, and some of Alaska's most spectacular locations. This land was protected by the 1974 agreement, which is up for renewal. I am urging that the protection of this land be continued. In order to provide the necessary protection, the following requirements should be established:

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

Sincerely,
Dale Harman
3608 Rolling Meadows Dr.
Bedford, TX 76021

324-1

324-2

324-3

Responses for Document 00324

- 00324-001:** 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.
- 00324-002:** 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.
- 00324-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

00325

TAPS ROW Renewal

1835 South Bragaw Street, MS-668, Anchorage, Alaska 99512
Telephone (907) 787-8882 FAX (907) 787-8322

August 20, 2002

APSC Letter No. 02-18962

Mr. John Kerrigan
State Pipeline Coordinator's Office
411 West 4th Avenue, Suite 2C
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2343

Mr. Pat Pourchot
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1400
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3554

Re: Comments on "Commissioner's Statement of Reasons and Proposed Written
Determination/Trans Alaska Pipeline Right-of-Way Lease Renewal (ADL 63574)"

Enclosed for your consideration are the comments of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System owner companies on the referenced document. These comments are transmitted in response to your public notice of July 8, 2002 pertaining to the subject Written Determination. We have used a red-lined format to indicate our suggested revisions, and, where appropriate, our rationale for the revisions appears in brackets. We hope you will find this approach useful and the comments helpful.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 787-8091.

Sincerely,



W. Steven Jones
TAPS ROW Renewal Project Manager

Enclosure

cc: M. Thompson, w/enclosure
S. Martin, APSC, w/enclosure
TAPS Owner Companies, w/enclosure

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TAPS ROW RENEWAL COMMENTS AS RED-LINED BELOW
DATED: AUGUST 20, 2002

State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Joint Pipeline Office
411 West 4th Avenue, Suite 2C
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

**Commissioner's Statement of Reasons and Proposed Written Determination
Trans-Alaska Pipeline Right-of-Way Lease Renewal
ADL 63574**

11 AAC 80.075

PROPOSED ACTION:

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources proposes to renew the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Right-of-Way Lease for a term of 30 years.

INTRODUCTION:

On May 3, 1974, the State of Alaska executed the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Right-of-Way Lease (Lease) authorizing the construction and operation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) across state land. TAPS currently crosses approximately 344 miles of state land between Prudhoe Bay and Valdez, Alaska. The Lease, issued under the authority of AS 38.35.010 - 260 (the "Right-of-Way Leasing Act"), provides a term of 30 years, subject to a right of renewal in accordance with the requirements of AS 38.35.110. The Lease will expire on May 2, 2004, if not renewed or in the process of renewal by that date.

The procedures for renewal of an AS 38.35 pipeline right-of-way (ROW) lease are set out in 11 AAC 80.065 - 085. On May 2, 2001, the TAPS Lessees submitted an application for renewal of the Lease, thus providing the minimum two years for processing required by 11 AAC 80.065. The State Pipeline Coordinator's Office (SPCO) published the required public notices of the application on May 23 and 24 and June 11, 2001, and has undertaken the in-depth review of Lessee's compliance with state laws, regulations, and terms of the lease required for approval of lease renewal under AS 38.35.110.

RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS:

AS 38.35.110 provides that the Lease shall be renewable provided the Lessee (1) is in commercial operation; (2) is in full compliance with all state law; and (3) is in compliance with all terms of the lease. In addressing the three renewal requirements the SPC report: (1) identifies documentation that establishes the continuing commercial operations of the Lessees; (2) provides a report from each state administrative agency identifying statutes or regulations of the agency that apply to the Lessees, and providing a determination by each regulating agency regarding the Lessees' compliance with their

TAPS ROW RENEWAL COMMENTS AS RED-LINED BELOW
DATED: AUGUST 20, 2002

State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Joint Pipeline Office
411 West 4th Avenue, Suite 2C
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

**Commissioner's Statement of Reasons and Proposed Written Determination
Trans-Alaska Pipeline Right-of-Way Lease Renewal
ADL 63574**

11 AAC 80.075

PROPOSED ACTION:

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources proposes to renew the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Right-of-Way Lease for a term of 30 years.

INTRODUCTION:

On May 3, 1974, the State of Alaska executed the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Right-of-Way Lease (Lease) authorizing the construction and operation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) across state land. TAPS currently crosses approximately 344 miles of state land between Prudhoe Bay and Valdez, Alaska. The Lease, issued under the authority of AS 38.35.010 - 260 (the "Right-of-Way Leasing Act"), provides a term of 30 years, subject to a right of renewal in accordance with the requirements of AS 38.35.110. The Lease will expire on May 2, 2004, if not renewed or in the process of renewal by that date.

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RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS:

AS 38.35.110 provides that the Lease shall be renewable provided the Lessee (1) is in commercial operation; (2) is in full compliance with all state law; and (3) is in compliance with all terms of the lease. In addressing the three renewal requirements the SPC report: (1) identifies documentation that establishes the continuing commercial operations of the Lessees; (2) provides a report from each state administrative agency identifying statutes or regulations of the agency that apply to the Lessees, and providing a determination by each regulating agency regarding the Lessees' compliance with their

respective regulations; and (3) provides a detailed outline and analysis of the State Pipeline Coordinator's review of the Lessees' compliance with the Lease.

My determination on renewal of this ROW Lease is based on the administrative record, ADL 63574; information from the Lessees, as required; the State Pipeline Coordinator's Report issued June 28, 2002; and the independent analyses and reviews presented to me in the State Pipeline Coordinator's Report.

FINDING: Based upon the administrative record, ADL 63574, information from the Lessees and the independent analyses and reviews presented to me in addition to the State Pipeline Coordinator's Report, its attachments and appendices and the documentation cited therein:

(1) I find that the Lessees are in commercial operation, as required for renewal of the Lease under AS 38.35.110.

(2) I find that the Lessees are in full compliance with all state laws, as required for renewal of the Lease under AS 38.35.110. ~~based on the written reports prepared by each state administrative agency for TAPS ROW Lease renewal.~~ **[DELETED BECAUSE IT IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH FORMAT IN 1, 3 AND 4. ALSO, EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW IS NOT LIMITED TO STATE AGENCY REPORTS, JUST AS EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH LEASE PROVISIONS IS NOT LIMITED TO JPO ANALYSES. EACH OF THOSE REQUIREMENTS IS SUPPORTED BY ALL RELEVANT EVIDENCE]**

(3) I find that the Lessees are in compliance with all terms of the Lease, as required for renewal of the TAPS ROW Lease under AS 38.35.110.

(4) I find that the ancillary facilities associated with the Lease are in compliance with the terms of the Lease and the associated permits and rights. **[ADDED TO COVER VARIOUS MEANS OF AUTHORIZATION]**

TERM OF RENEWAL:

AS 38.35.110 was amended by the legislature, effective July 1, 2001, extending the maximum term applicable to a right-of-way lease renewal from 10 to 30 years. The Lessees' application for Lease renewal requests a 30-year renewal term. Factors bearing on the duration of the Lease renewal term include the cost of the facility, its useful life, and public purposes it serves. **[THIS ADDITION IS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE DISCUSSION IN THE SPC REPORT]** The JPO has published a technical engineering report titled Reliability Centered Maintenance that provides an analysis of the physical condition of the pipeline, the maintenance processes and standards adopted by the Lessees in conformance with (and subject to enforcement under) the requirements of the Lease, and the worldwide industry practices and standards that are applied to similar oil pipeline facilities for determination of useful life and safe operation. The conclusion of that report is that operation and maintenance of the TAPS facilities in accordance with the enforceable requirements of the lease will result in a useful life in excess of the 30 years applied for by Lessees.

The TAPS Owners have also sought renewal of ancillary permits and rights for access roads, communication sites, and other related facilities and improvements. See TAPS ROW Renewal Application at Volume 2 of 3. With regard to the term of renewal for these ancillary facilities, also known as Related Facilities in the Stipulations at 1.1.1.37, the duration of the ancillary permits and rights on their faces is tied to the state Lease and federal Grant that are being renewed for 30 years, therefore the ancillary permits and rights are automatically extended 30 years by virtue of the renewal of the Lease and Grant. In all events, however, the State has comprehensively considered all aspects of TAPS—including renewal of the ancillary facilities—through the renewal process and extends the ancillary permits and rights for a duration that is the same as the Lease.
[ADDED FOR COMPLETENESS]

FINDING: Based upon the Reliability Centered Maintenance report issued by the JPO that the useful life of the TAPS facilities is in excess of the 30-year renewal term requested in the renewal application, and based on the public purposes it serves, as well as the cost of the facility, and other factors discussed in [ADDED FOR COMPLETENESS] the administrative record, I find that the ~~Lease~~, and its ancillary permits and rights, [ADDED FOR COMPLETENESS] should be renewed for a term of 30 years. ~~term~~: [WORD 'TERM' WAS USED TWICE]

DETERMINATION:

Based on the findings stated above, the administrative record, information from the Lessees and the independent analyses and reviews presented to me in addition to the State Pipeline Coordinator's Report, its attachments and appendices and the documentation cited therein, it is my determination that the requirements of AS 38.35.110 for renewal of the Lease have been met, that the useful life of the TAPS facilities exceed the applied for 30 year term of renewal, and that after consideration of the public purpose it serves and the other factors described above, [ADDED FOR COMPLETENESS] the Lease shall therefore be renewed for a period of 30 years. Additionally, any ancillary facilities used in conjunction with the Lease and ~~applied for in the renewal application~~ [UNNECESSARY QUALIFICATION] shall be renewed or issued for a like term of 30 years.

In conformance with 11 AAC 80.085, I direct that the following actions to be taken:

1. Provide a copy of my determination to the Lessees and their agent.
2. Make copies of the written determination and the Lease available to the public for viewing.
3. Provide copies of the written determination, upon request, to the public at cost.
4. Solicit written comments from the public for a minimum of 30 days ending on August 20, 2002 at 5:00 p.m., and schedule public hearings in the

communities of Cordova, Valdez, Glennallen, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Minto and Barrow, Alaska.

Any comment, objection or expression of interest pertaining to the proposed actions must be received in writing by the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office at the above address on or before 5:00 p.m., August 20, 2002, to ensure consideration. If I revise the proposed written determination following closure of the public comment period on August 20, 2002, the revised written determination will be published consistent with AS 38.35.070. My written determination, or if revised, the revised written determination, is the final administrative decision 30 days after the end of the public comment period unless, in writing, I extend that 30 day period for a specified period of not more than 90 additional days to allow for full consideration of the comments received. If the department requires additional time to consider public comments, notice of this action would be published on or about September 19, 2002 (11 AAC 80.085(d)).

Pat Pourchot, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Date

Responses for Document 00325

00325-001: This document is appropriately directed to the State of Alaska as part of the state lease renewal process.

From: <HargroveFire368@aol.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 1:23 PM
Subject: Comment on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Review

To all parties concerned,

As an American & global citizen and an environmentalist I urge you to ensure the following in the renewal of Trans-Alaska Pipeline Agreement:

*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.

I urge you to take steps to protect the Alaskan wilderness.

Sincerely,
Christopher Hill Hargrove
3328 N. Broadway, Apt. A303
Knoxville, Tn., 37917

"Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the powerful roar of its many waters."

Frederick Douglass, 1849

326-1

326-2

326-3

326-4

Responses for Document 00326

- 00326-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00326-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00326-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00326-004:** Because the TAPS was in place prior to most Wilderness designations in Alaska, its existence pre-empted Wilderness consideration of the pipeline corridor. As a result, the TAPS does not cross any designated Wilderness in Alaska.

From: <SBlum93823@aol.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/14/2002 6:31 PM
Subject: Trans-Alaska Pipeline

I am writing to you regarding the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, which 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. Now the agreement is up for renewal, and if re-authorized, it should 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.

327-1

327-2

327-3

Thank you for your consideration.
Steve Blumberg
Olive Branch, Mississippi

Responses for Document 00327

- 00327-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00327-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00327-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

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

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.

328-1

328-2

328-3

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

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Responses for Document 00328

- 00328-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00328-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00328-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: "Curtis Ryan" <ryan@amnh.org>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 1:31 PM
Subject: Comments on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline

Greetings:

I am writing to comment on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline agreement that is currently up for renewal. If the pipeline is reauthorized, it must be accompanied by the strictest possible environmental standards.

329-1

Please consider the following points for reauthorization:

* An independent environmental review should be conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska.

* Additional periodic reviews should be mandatory.

329-2

* Citizen advisory councils, representing local people and interests, should be given a formal oversight role.

329-3

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

Curtis Ryan
341 Manhattan Avenue #3
Brooklyn, NY 11211-2403
718-963-3646
ryan@amnh.org

Responses for Document 00329

- 00329-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00329-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00329-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

00330

From: "Richard" <rablain@earthlink.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/16/2002 1:06 PM
Subject: The Trans-Alaska Pipeline comment

If the pipeline is re-authorized, it must be accompanied by the strictest possible environmental standards. This 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.

Sincerely,
Richard Blain
43447 Calle Carabana
Temecula, CA 92592

330-1

330-2

330-3

Responses for Document 00330

- 00330-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00330-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00330-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

To Whom it May Concern:

331-1
331-2
331-3

Sincerely,

Angela Alvarez-Blackwell

Responses for Document 00331

- 00331-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00331-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00331-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: "Quam, Leah" <Leah.Quam@transamerica.com>
To: "ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov"
<ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/16/2002 12:47 PM
Subject: 1974 Trans-Alaska Pipeline Renewal

I am writing to express my concern for the upcoming renewal of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline agreement.

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.

Thank you for your time.
Leah Quam
Woodstock, Georgia

332-1

332-2

332-3

Responses for Document 00332

- 00332-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00332-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00332-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: Paul Russell <russell@hvi.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/14/2002 8:22 AM
Subject: Trans-Alaska Pipeline Renewal

I am writing about the 1974 Trans-Alaska Pipeline agreement that is up for renewal. If the pipeline is to be re-authorized, it must be accompanied by the strictest possible environmental standards. That means:

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

333-1

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333-3

Thank you for your attention to these comments.

Yours,
Paul Russell
842 Elting Road
Rosendale, NY 12472

Responses for Document 00333

- 00333-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00333-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00333-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: "PETER GREEN" <petel@peoplepc.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 1:30 PM
Subject: Trans-Alaska Pipeline Agreement Renewal

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to comment on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline agreement that is up for renewal. Any renewal must be accompanied by the strictest possible environmental standards which should include the following: An independent environmental review conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska. Additional periodic reviews by same should be mandatory. Lastly, citizen advisory councils, representing local people and interests, should be given a formal oversight role.

334-1
334-2
334-3

Thank you for your for your attention.

Sincerely,
Peter Green
San Mateo, California
650-377-0392

PeoplePC: It's for people. And it's just smart.
<http://www.peoplepc.com>

Responses for Document 00334

- 00334-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00334-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00334-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

00335

From: Shawn Spencer <sns@nyc.rr.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/14/2002 11:08 AM
Subject: Alaska Pipeline reauthorization

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to urge that the possible reauthorization of the Alaskan Pipeline have attached to it very stringent environmental standards such as an independent environmental review conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska, with additional periodic reviews. Also, that the reauthorization should require citizen advisory councils made up of local people and interests to be given a formal oversight role.

335-1

335-2

Thank you very much,

Shawn Spencer

261 E. 10th St, #11
New York, NY 10009

Responses for Document 00335

- 00335-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00335-002:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.

00336

From: Howard Connell <HowardC@HBSS.COM>
To: "ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov" <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 1:39 PM
Subject: Trans-Alaska Pipeline renewal agreement

I understand an agreement regarding the Trans-Alaska Pipeline is up for renewal. I strongly believe that environmental standards must be put in place for this to move forward. 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.

Please take these issue seriously during this process.

Howard Connell
4418 20th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

336-1

336-2

336-3

Responses for Document 00336

- 00336-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00336-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00336-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00336-004:** Thank you for your comment.

00337

From: Mitchell Price <price@mdvl.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/14/2002 4:40 AM
Subject: Re-authorization of Alaskan pipeline.

Before the Alaskan pipeline, which runs across public land, is re-authorized, I would like to see the following positive changes implemented:

- *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.

Thank you,

Mitchell Price
17283 South Mosiertown Road
Saegertown, PA 16433

337-1

337-2

337-3

8/14/2002

Responses for Document 00337

- 00337-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00337-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00337-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

00338

From: <Nlwboggan@aol.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/15/2002 5:35 PM
Subject: Renewal

To whom it may concern:

If the Trans-Alaska pipeline is to be re-authorized, please include an independent environmental review of it conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska and mandate additional periodic reviews. Also, please give citizen advisory councils a formal oversight role in the process. Thank you for your time.

|338-1

|338-2

Sincerely,
Joel Boggan

Responses for Document 00338

- 00338-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00338-002:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: rfgrove@adelphia.net
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/14/2002 4:36 PM
Subject: Trans-Alaskan Pipeline Reauthorization

This email concerns the reauthorization of the trans-Alaskan pipeline.
Reauthorization should be done only with the strictest possible
environmental standards, including 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.

Sincerely,

--

Ralph F. Grove, Jr
170 Westhampton Ct.
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
rfgrove@computer.org

339-1

339-2

339-3

Responses for Document 00339

- 00339-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00339-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00339-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

00340

From: "talbott hagood" <hap@cstone.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 3:25 PM
Subject: Trans-Alaska Pipeline Renewal

If the Trans-Alaska pipeline is re-authorized, it must be accompanied by the strictest possible environmental standards. Including the following: An independant 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.

Talbott B. Hagood, Jr.
P.O. Box 334
Clover, VA 24534

340-1

340-2

340-3

Responses for Document 00340

- 00340-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00340-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00340-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: Michael Howden <mhowden@execpc.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 1:50 PM
Subject: Alaskan Pipeline Renewal

Dear Sir:

If the pipeline is re-authorized, it must be accompanied by the strictest possible environmental standards and:

- 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.

Sincerely,

Michael Howden
1430 North 40th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208

| 341-1

| 341-2

| 341-3

Responses for Document 00341

- 00341-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00341-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00341-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: "Nathaniel Vogt" <nvogt@core.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 1:54 PM
Subject: Renewal of Trans-Alaska Pipeline Agreement

If the 1974 Trans-Alaska Pipeline agreement 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 Bureau of Land Management and the State of Alaska.

- Additional periodic reviews should be mandatory.

- Citizen advisory councils, representing local people and local interests, should be given a formal oversight role.

Please enter these comments into the official public record. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Nathaniel Vogt
302 Olentangy St.
Columbus, OH 43202

342-1

342-2

342-3

Responses for Document 00342

- 00342-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00342-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00342-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: "Timothy Taylor" <timataylor@hotmail.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 10:09 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to comment on the possible re-authorization of the 1974 agreement that allows the Trans-Alaska Pipeline to travel across mostly publicly-owned land. If the pipeline is re-authorized, it must be accompanied by the strictest possible environmental standards, including an independent environmental review conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska. It should also be mandatory that additional periodic reviews be undertaken, and that citizen advisory councils representing local people and interests should be given a formal oversight role. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Taylor
853 Ogden, #3
Denver, CO 80218

343-1

343-2

343-3

Chat with friends online, try MSN Messenger: <http://messenger.msn.com>

Responses for Document 00343

- 00343-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00343-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00343-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

Responses for Document 00344

- 00344-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00344-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00344-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: "Norman C. Schwartz" <kschwartz@hvc.rr.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/14/2002 12:02 PM
Subject: Comments on Alaska Pipeline renewal

The Trans-Alaska Pipeline Agreement is up for renewal. 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.

345-1

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Norman C. Schwartz, 3 Martha's Court, Saugerties NY 12477. 845-246-9478

Responses for Document 00345

- 00345-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00345-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00345-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: "Susan Seiler" <naturelover@snet.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/14/2002 2:28 PM
Subject: Alaska Wilderness

To Whom It May Concern,

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.

346-1

346-2

346-3

Thank you,
Susan Seiler
Marlborough, Connecticut
naturelover@snet.net

"In nature there are neither rewards nor punishment - there are consequences."
Robert G. Ingersoll

Responses for Document 00346

- 00346-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00346-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00346-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: "Frank Slider" <sliderf@ovis.net>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/15/2002 7:35 AM
Subject: re: comments on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline re-authorization

To Whom It May Concern:

As a frequent visitor to this area to hunt, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the re-authorization of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. If the pipeline is re-authorized, it must be accompanied by the strictest possible environmental standards. This means the following:

347-1

(1) An independent environmental review should be conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska.

(2) Additional periodic reviews should be mandatory.

347-2

(3) Citizen advisory councils, representing local people and interests, should be given a formal oversight role.

347-3

Sincerely,

Mr. Francis D. Slider
Rt 1 Box 163-A2
Middlebourne, WV 26149

Responses for Document 00347

- 00347-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00347-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00347-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: "laura j lewis barr" <lew barr@eudoramail.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/14/2002 6:06 AM
Subject: pipeline feedback

To those involved in pipeline decisions:
The Trans-Alaska Pipeline sends one million barrels of oil each day across some of Alaska's most spectacular locations.

Please: If the pipeline is re-authorized, it must be accompanied by the strictest possible environmental standards. That means 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.

Thank you,
Laura Lewis-Barr
Roselle, IL

348-1

348-2

348-3

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Responses for Document 00348

- 00348-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00348-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00348-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: <Brit1American@aol.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/15/2002 7:13 AM
Subject: TAP

I am writing to you regarding the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, which 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. Now the agreement is up for renewal, and if re-authorized, it should 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.

349-1

349-2

349-3

Thank you for your consideration

Responses for Document 00349

- 00349-001:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00349-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00349-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

From: "K. W." <kwitman@hotmail.com>
To: <ADNR_Administrative_Record@jpo.doi.gov>
Date: 8/13/2002 8:58 PM
Subject: re-authorization of 1974 Trans-Alaska Pipeline agreement

I am writing to you to voice my opinion about the re-authorization of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline agreement. The fact that the pipeline crosses PUBLIC land for most of its 800 miles from Alaska's North Slope to the port of Valdez means that the public's interests should come first in all matters related to the issue.

350-1

If the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline agreement is renewed, it must be accompanied by the strictest possible environmental standards. An independent environmental review should be conducted by the BLM and the State of Alaska and additional periodic reviews should be mandatory. Citizen advisory councils, representing local people and interests, should be given a formal oversight role.

350-2

350-3

Everything possible must be done to ensure that some of Alaska's, and the nation's, most spectacular locations are protected for the enjoyment of all its citizens.

350-4

Sincerely,

Keilly Witman

1008 Hatch Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202-1536

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Responses for Document 00350

- 00350-001:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00350-002:** The reader is referred to the material on audits found in Section 2.5 of the FEIS, Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.
- 00350-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00350-004:** Thank you for your comment.

Document 00351

Document Info Done

The Trans Alaska Pipeline System has had significant positive impacts. It's continued operation is, from a global viewpoint, the most environmentally and economically efficient way to continue to meet energy demands. It is critical that no artificially burdensome costs be added to the TAPS system as the environmental and economic benefits can only be reaped as long as the pipeline remains economically competitive. Considering the rigorous permit stipulations, there is no imperative for the renewal period to be shorter than than 30 years The oversight and maintenance of TAPS is unparalleled. In addition, over twenty State and Federal agencies regulate the pipeline and millions of dollars are spent each year on its upkeep. Any additional regulation resulting from the reauthorization process must be supported by demonstratable benefits to safety and the environment. One of the issues raised by some members of the public was the need for a citizens advisory group to oversee pipeline operations. This concept was not deemed appropriate for evaluation in the DEIS. The BLM should refrain from including it in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

00351-1

00351-2

00351-3

Document Info Done

Responses for Document 00351

00351-001: Thank you for your comment.

00351-002: Thank you for your comment.

00351-003: The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.”

Document 00352

Document Info

Done

I support Alyeska Pipeline Service Company's application for a 30-year renewal of the Grant of Right of Way, without reservation. Please see the attachment for my comments.
See Attachment.

00352-1

Document Info

Done

July 9, 2002

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Subject: Trans Alaska Pipeline ROW Renewal

To Whom It May Concern:

As one who helped build TAPS, who has lived in Alaska since before construction was begun, and who has spent years working as a contractor to help maintain the system, I would like to contribute my reasons for supporting renewal of the Grant of Right of Way for a full 30 year term:

1. The system's original design has fulfilled its intent of providing a reliable and safe system for transporting up to 20% of our nation's crude oil needs.
2. The system's integrity remains a top priority of its maintenance program under operator, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (Alyeska).
3. Alyeska and the TAPS Owner companies have shown steadfast dedication to updating the system hardware, and annually expend large sums of money to implement these changes. Whether it be system-wide electrical code upgrades which we completed in 1998, or complete replacement of 8.5 miles of mainline pipe in the Atigun Pass floodplain in 1993, Alyeska and the Owners have not flinched at investing the dollars needed to thoroughly comply with their responsibility to maintain system integrity through professional engineering, planning, and implementation.
4. Alyeska has made timely improvements to the system monitoring and communications systems. Their internal pipeline monitoring using "smart pigs" is world renown for being state of the art. The 1997 remote gate valve monitoring upgrades were thoroughly planned and implemented. In the rare instance where an upgrade does not meet system integrity standards, such as the installation of a fiber optic backbone system in 1996-97, Alyeska has shown it is willing to "swallow costs" and "do it right" before implementation.
5. Besides being a well-designed and functional system, TAPS has truly become Alaska's umbilical cord. Its daily throughput has provided the State Government with the bulk of its revenues, provided jobs and training to thousands of Alaskans in its major cities as well as rural locations along the ROW, and provided feedstock for local refineries in Valdez and Fairbanks.

00352-2

00352-3

While fully supporting the TAPS ROW renewal for the above reasons, I must speak out against suggestions to increase "citizen oversight" by creating new panels or boards. Because TAPS is so vitally important to Alaska's economy, and because the Joint Pipeline Office was created to monitor Alyeska's compliance with the Grant of Right of Way, there has always been very good visibility of TAPS operations, and always will be with the continued oversight by the JPO. Creation of new review boards would serve as an impediment to the current process of oversight by the JPO and would drain funds which could otherwise increase the economic return on the pipeline's assets or be used for maintenance.

00352-4

Since crude oil is a commodity whose price is largely determined by worldwide supply/demand factors, the economic delivery of Alaska's oil cannot be taken for granted. No extraneous costs or barriers should be erected which might lessen the ability of pipeline owners to recover their costs and achieve a return on their investment. In a world economy, if an asset such as TAPS fails to deliver economic returns to all its stakeholders, the State of Alaska and the people of Alaska will risk losing the centerpiece of the state's economic infrastructure.

Thank you for reviewing my comments and please expedite the renewal of the TAPS Grant of Right of Way.

Very truly yours,

Wesley P. Nason

Responses for Document 00352

00352-001: Thank you for your comment.

00352-002: Thank you for your comment.

00352-003: Thank you for your comment.

00352-004: The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.”

Document 00353

Document Info

Done

The trans-Alaska Pipeline is a major element of transportation infrastructure in Alaska. The line was constructed at considerable expense and effort to meet energy shortages in the rest of the U.S. The sale of oil transported through the line has made it possible for Alaska to develop significant improvements that have enhanced economic and social conditions in the state. Attempts to reduce or remove these improvements have failed to meet with favor by most Alaskans. It makes the most sense to extend the permit for the pipeline for thirty years. The pipeline is as important to Alaska transportation as the Alaska Railroad and Alaska's highways. No one would consider recommending that the Alaska railroad right-of-way be limited to three decades. It is unlikely that anyone would suggest limiting the use of the Parks Highway for less than thirty years. Therefore, Alaska's important element of transportation infrastructure, the trans-Alaska pipeline, should be extended to at least thirty years. The operation of the pipeline is important for Alaska and is even more important for maintaining a supply of oil for the rest of the nation.

00353-1

Document Info

Done

Responses for Document 00353

00353-001: Thank you for your comment.

Document 00354

Document Info

Done

Scott Metzger PO Box 999 Cordova Ak 99574 slm@adnmail.com July 25, 2002 BLM TAPS Renewal EIS Argonne National Laboratory EAD/900 9700 S.Cass Ave Argonne, IL 60439 Public Comments on Grant and Lease Renewal for the TAPS, It is my understanding that the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) has outlived its 30-year life expectancy. It obvious that the pipeline is aging and not very gracefully judging by the number of operational problems, shutdowns and small spills the pipeline has had over the last couple of years. It is reasonable then to assume that if the pipeline is not already showing serious signs of wear and tear, it will in the very near future. It is absolutely critical that the proper safeguards be put in place now to ensure safe operation of the pipeline, should the right of way lease be renewed. The Alaska Forum for Environmental Responsibility in its report, The Emperors New Hose, details some of the serious operational and maintenance problems facing Alyeska and the pipeline over the last couple of years. In this report they make six recommendations about how to change and improve pipeline operations and they insist that these changes be implemented prior to the Grant and Lease renewal of the right of way lease for the Trans Alaska Pipeline System. These six recommendations include: 1) There needs to be a Citizen's Advisory Council established to oversee operations of the pipeline. We have the PWSRCAC to oversee tanker operations at the port of Valdez and PWS and we want a citizens advisory council for the entire length of the pipeline as a condition to renewal of the right of way lease. 2) Secondly, the TAPS owners should be required to place the dismantling, removal, and restoration funds directly into an escrow account so that they no longer continue to profit off of these funds, and a portion of these funds should be used to fund a Citizens Advisory Council 3) The Grant and lease renewal should be made conditional upon satisfactory completion of an independent audit and technical review every five years for the duration of the life of the pipeline. 4.) The ownership of the TAPS should be transferred to a single owner with no connections to north slope crude oil production. 5.) A viable employee concerns program must be established and implemented within Alyeska prior to Grant and lease renewal. 6.) Federal and state Lease stipulations should be reviewed and updated to reflect current scientific and technological advances and understandings during the last three decades. These are the recommendations made by AKFER and support them 100 percent and also wish them to be implemented before the Grant and Lease renewal is approved. Cordova is a fishing community whose lifeblood is the Copper River. The fishermen and women here rely on the healthy and intact spawning habitat in the upper Copper River and it's tributaries to assure continued returns of fish. The TAPS dissects the entire Copper River Watershed and crosses over or under 76 anadromous streams If the spawning habitat is compromised in a serious way, such as with an oil spill into the Copper River or one of it's tributaries, the economic and environmental consequences could be devastating for Cordova and all the other communities in the Copper River Watershed. It is absolutely critical that the TAPS be held to the highest possible operational standards and that the employees who operate it feel confident that it is running smoothly and that if it is not they are not afraid to speak up to their bosses. It would be impossible to clean up in a timely manner, an oil spill that dumped oil directly into the Klutina River for example. So hence the reason for 5-year independent audits; to assure the pipeline is operating mechanically as well as is possible to prevent any accidents. As far as oil spill contingency plans for the overland portions, particularly the Copper River Watershed, they are sorely inadequate or lacking. If there were and earthquake that ruptured the TAPS, there is no way

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Alyeska, the state, or the Feds could mobilize cleanup operations in a timely enough manner that would make a difference. Once it's happened it is too late. Having the Pipeline running through the Copper River Watershed is like having a gauntlet over our heads just waiting to drop. Two final points, I believe there needs to be permanent air quality monitoring in Valdez. Every time I go there, especially in the winter, you can see the blue smoke lingering in the air from the oil tankers. This should be implemented as a condition to the lease renewal as well. And finally I think that the public comment period for the TAPS grant and lease renewal needs to be extended and public scoping meetings need to be held in more communities in Alaska and Nationally. As a national security issue we deserve to know what everyone thinks.

00354-12
(Cont.)

00354-13

00354-14

Document Info

Done

Responses for Document 00354

- 00354-001:** Incidents, such as those mentioned in the comment, have resulted in modifications to the manner in which TAPS is operated. In order to be more proactive, 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 proactive 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 risks to safety and the environment.
- 00354-002:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.”
- 00354-003:** The reader is directed to the discussion of escrow funds found in Section 2.5.
- 00354-004:** 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.
- 00354-005:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00354-006:** 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.
- 00354-007:** The BLM and member agencies of the JPO use an adaptive management approach to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations and regulatory oversight. Ongoing monitoring programs, as identified in the 12 Comprehensive Monitoring Reports published since 1996, provide BLM and JPO with the necessary information to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations in the Grant and Lease.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.
- 00354-008:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00354-009:** See the text box in Section 4.4.4.3 “ Oil Spill Planning for the Copper River Drainage.”

00354-010: 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.

00354-011: The reader is directed to Section 2.5 in which the need for additional audits is discussed. In addition, Section 4.4.4.3 describes spill response and mitigation in the Copper River Drainage.

00354-012: The seismic design of the pipeline took all active faults into consideration. To reduce the likelihood of pipe rupture at the fault crossings, the pipe is above ground and on supports that allow relative displacement across the fault. The pipeline design was based on the possibility that severe seismic events could occur. Section 4.4 of the EIS discusses the spill scenarios considered and the estimated impacts from those scenarios. The scenarios range from high frequency/low consequence events to low frequency/high consequence occurrences. Potential seismic activity and fault displacements along the pipeline were included as potential spill initiators. The discussion includes potential impacts in the Copper River drainage area. Oil spill prevention and response capabilities and related activities specific to the Copper River drainage area are discussed more fully in the text box that has been added to Section 4.4.4.3.

00354-013: Presence of visible blue smoke lingering in the air from the oil tanker does not necessarily mean serious ambient air quality problems in Valdez area. The decision to install and operate permanent air quality monitoring system in Valdez would have to be made based on the levels of ambient concentrations monitored for a limited duration in order to adequately characterize current air quality levels.

00354-014: 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.

Document 00355

Document Info

Done

I would like to express my opinion that the permit should not be granted. The potential environmental risk is far greater than the possible economic benefit. Thank you for considering public comments.

00355-1

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Responses for Document 00355

00355-001: Thank you for your comment.

Document 00356

Document Info

Done

The oil companies must provide, before renewal, the dollars to remove and restore the pipeline areas as they promised. They are not presently doing this and do not have anywhere near the monies set aside to remove the pipeline or restore the areas. Don't renew the lease until they fulfill their original agreements with the state.

00356-1

Document Info

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Responses for Document 00356

00356-001: The reader is directed to the discussion of escrow funds found in Section 2.5.

Document 00357

Document Info

Done

I'm a 30 resident of Alaska and I have worked in and around the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System for 20 years. I've held an assortment of positions from technician to Team Lead, Pipeline Compliance Group. I know first hand the workings of Alyeska Pipeline and the actions taken, daily, to ensure safe operations. Accidents and mishaps do occur. However this is true in very facet of life. The way Alyeska approaches these has always been professional and interaction with government agencies and the news media, forth right. I have confidence the pipeline will continue to be operated safely in the future. Without mishap, no, with concern and appropriate response, I believe so. Entering into an additional 30 yr lease is the correct thing to do for the State of Alaska and the Federal Government. The risks associated come hand in hand with the price of freedom.

00357-1

Document Info

Done

Responses for Document 00357

00357-001: Thank you for your comment.

Document 00358

Document Info

Done

Figures D-5 and D-10 are labeled incorrectly. The location of Allakaket should be shown as being on the South bank of the Koyukuk River and Alatna on the North bank. Please note that we will be submitting lengthier comments at a later date.

00358-1

Document Info

Done

Responses for Document 00358

00358-001: Maps D-5 and D-10 (renumbered as D-2 and D-6 in the FEIS) have been corrected.

Document 00359[Document Info](#)[Done](#)

As a former 20 year Alaska banker and frequent recreationalist familiar with TAPS infrastructure, I wish to support the 30 year permit renewal option. Please keep the social, cultural and political arguments out of your consideration and focus on the real economic and environmental issues effecting this permit process. I believe that TAPS has invested and will continue to invest in the plant and equipment sufficient to warrant an additional 30 year permit renewal and that the consortium can and will remediate and make whole any consequence of a potential mishap or permanent final reclamation.

00359-1

00359-2

[Document Info](#)[Done](#)

Responses for Document 00359

00359-001: Thank you for your comment.

00359-002: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) directs federal agencies to analyze the potential impacts on the human environment that could be expected to result from proposed actions and their alternatives. Specifically included in that direction are social and cultural considerations, as well as economic impacts and impacts on the natural environment. This EIS includes analyses of social and cultural impacts in addition to environmental and economic impacts, as required by NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations. Political considerations are not analyzed in the EIS because they are not considered impacts on the human environment as defined under NEPA; however, political considerations are not precluded from the final decision-making process that will occur after the EIS is finalized.

Document 00360

Document Info

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I know I'm writing from Texas, but I have friends in Alaska and lived in Fairbanks as a child. We as American, not only people from Alaska, have to think about how this world will be when this comes up again. We take a risk with oil spills but due to the way the world is now, we need our Alaska oil. Thirty years from now we may not need this pipeline, but we do need the time to finish this change over that has started. Cars and power sources are changing over already. I live in a city that at one time oil was the main source of business. Houston had to make a change, oil isn't all that makes this city any more. We have a lot of companies that have nothing to do with oil. This change over from using oil has started, Alaska needs to think about what happens after it's over. How many jobs in Alaska are related to this pipeline? If the pipeline closes how many people will move back to the lower forty-eight? This may be the last time this is needed. Other sources of energy are going to have to be used, they already are more and more everyday. For now we need to let the ones developing other sources finish their job. Keep the pipeline in place for now.

00360-1

00360-2

Document Info

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Responses for Document 00360

00360-001: Thank you for your comment.

00360-002: Thank you for your comment.

Document 00361

Document Info	Done

The oversight and maintenance of TAPS is unparalleled. TAPS' overall performance reliability rate is in excess of 99% since start-up. Alyeska's corrosion control program, valve maintenance program and spill response plans are the leaders in the industry. In addition, over twenty State and Federal agencies regulate the pipeline and millions of dollars are spent each year on its upkeep. Any additional regulation resulting from the reauthorization process must be supported by demonstratable benefits to safety and the environment. TAPS should not be burdened by unnecessary costs. Specifically, I believe that the BLM's Right of Way renewal should be for no less than thirty years in order to provide the necessary security for further investments in North Slope oil exploration and production.

00361-1

00361-2

Document Info	Done

Responses for Document 00361

00361-001: Thank you for your comment.

00361-002: Thank you for your comment.

Document 00362

Document Info

Done

As with most things in life, privileges are granted through responsible actions. Although the first 25 years have gone well, I believe that an aging pipeline is going to become more expensive and intensive to maintain, requiring a higher level of scrutiny. Granting a long term extension would not hold these companies to the same level of concern for access. When considering other positions of responsibility or contract that are high profile and concern so many people, (political office, state or federal contracts), we offer short term privilege as a check and balance for responsible action. I feel that the same should be true when dealing with huge business entities that can easily afford a fine, but couldn't operate without access. Though it may be inconvenient for them, it is a safeguard for Alaskans. Thirty years is too long. Five years is not too restrictive to allow long term management, yet would prompt attention to detail in the short term for the benefit of us all. Many things can change in 5 years, let alone 30 years.....

00362-1

Document Info

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Responses for Document 00362

00362-001: Thank you for your comment.

Document 00363

Document Info	Done

I am in favor of the renewal of the pipeline right of way.

|00363-1

Document Info	Done

Responses for Document 00363

00363-001: Thank you for your comment.

Document 00364

Document Info

Done

As an individual and as a company representative I fully support renewal of Alyeska's permits and acceptance of it's EIS without any changes. Over a 20-year period I have had the opportunity to be directly involved with the construction and operations phase of the Trans-Alaska pipeline. Taking into consideration the size and scope of this project, Alyeska has done an exemplary job of handling it's environmental responsibilities. While many environmentalists are critical of Alyeska, their criticism is laughable when put into context. There are 30 drops of oil to a gram and 28.35 grams to the ounce. Alyeska has spilled 1.3 drops of oil for every 2 quarts of oil transported, remove the Exxon Valdez spill and it is 0.26 drops for every 2 quarts transported over a 30 year period. On an equivalent basis, there is not one environmentalist nor government official who has not spilled 50 times that amount of oil EVERY time they put a quart of oil in their automobiles. While the total amount of oil spilled by Alyeska may seem rather large, it is truly a drop in the bucket when compared to the total amount of product that has been transported.

00364-1

00364-2

Document Info

Done

Responses for Document 00364

00364-001: Thank you for your comment.

00364-002: Thank you for your comment.

Document 00365

Document Info

Done

I was chagrined to peruse the eis and see no reference to the impact that the TAPS ROW has had on the wildlife population along the right of way. My personal experience (south of Glennallen) has been that BLM, Alyeska, and the State of Alaska have looked aside as they allow hunters to turn the ROW into their own personal hunting reserve while the trapping community turns the ROW into their very own trapline. Bridges and culverts are replete with martin and mink and ermine traps and wolf and lynx and coyote leghold traps litter the right of way within 10 to 20 feet of the pipeline. This is not right. Unless the 3 agencies can develop some statutory language complete with enforcement provisions and penalties along with enforcement action to keep these folks off the right of way, my inclination is to seek some legal remedy on behalf of the wildlife population . . . Does the eis address this situation? Putting up signs as Alyeska and BLM have done regarding the trespass situation does absolutely no good without active enforement provisions.

00365-1

00365-2

Document Info

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Responses for Document 00365

- 00365-001:** Information on the impacts of TAPS on wildlife are presented in Section 4.3.17. Hunting and trapping are not allowed within the ROW (see Table 4.1-2). Additionally, no firearm hunting is allowed within 5 miles of either side of the Dalton Highway within GMUs 20, 24, 25, and 26 (Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area).
- 00365-002:** Impacts to wildlife are discussed in Section 4.3.17 of the FEIS. See also Section 2.5, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.”

Document 00366

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There are so many reasons that I support the renewal of the TAPS right of way it is hard to cover them all. First Alaska and ALL Alaskans have benefited dramatically by economic engine that is driven by TAPS. 85% of Alaska's Gross Domestic Product is driven by oil. Without TAPS there would be no economy here save for a few t-shirt shops. The revenue made available to Alaska because of TAPS has paid for roads, schools, fire and police services and just about everything else state and local government does here. That would all go away if you do not renew the TAPS right of way. I favor at least 30 year renewal period. The oil industry has treated Alaska well, and a period of less than 30 years jeopardizes future industry investment here. The importance of TAPS to Alaska cannot be understated because everything here depends on it. A 30 year renewal period makes sense because building the infrastructure required for development here is very expensive and investors need to be assured to the maximum degree possible that these investments will be paid off. The oversight and maintenance of TAPS is unparalleled. TAPS' overall performance reliability rate is in excess of 99% since start-up. Alyeska's corrosion control program, valve maintenance program and spill response plans are the leaders in the industry. In addition, over twenty State and Federal agencies already regulate the pipeline and millions of dollars are spent each year on its upkeep and meeting an ever changing regulatory climate. One of the issues raised by some members of the public is the need for a citizens advisory group to oversee pipeline operations. This concept is not appropriate for evaluation in the DEIS. Please refrain from including it in the Final Environmental Impact Statement. The cost for this would be significant and could reduce the economic viability of remaining North Slope reserves which, in turn, reduces State revenues. Moreover, federal and state laws traditionally do not favor the creation of citizen oversight groups with regulatory authority. Such groups are duplicative and unnecessary as TAPS is already heavily regulated with intense and comprehensive oversight. The Prince William Sound Citizens Oversight organization that already exists is very ineffective, and I do not see any reason to make the same mistake again with TAPS. The DEIS mentions climate change and its possible effect on the pipeline. TAPS' design represents state-of-the-art engineering for cold climates. The design was based on protecting the permafrost from pipeline impacts and the pipeline from permafrost problems. The notion that some soil conditions may change over time is built into this design. Alyeska monitors these conditions constantly, maintains the heat protection systems, and when necessary repairs and replaces any that require adjustment due to changes in soil conditions. Alyeska's ongoing monitoring approach (with plenty of Government oversight) is more than sufficient to provide adequate response time. Please issue a renewal to the TAPS right of way. Make it as long as you can, but in no case should you make it less than 30 years.

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Responses for Document 00366

- 00366-001:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00366-002:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00366-003:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.”
- 00366-004:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00366-005:** Thank you for your comment.

Document 00367

Document Info

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Thank-you for the opportunity to submit formal comments on the TAPS EIS. I am concerned that the TAPS Renewal EIS process has been a non-critical rubberstamp process. The EIS seems to be written to completely minimize any negative environmental consequences of the pipeline. I tend to view this entire exercise as a shame. It is the government's position that the TAPS simply must be renewed, regardless. I believe that TAPS renewal is not to be assumed as a given. It should be earned. The government should renew only if certain precautionary actions and additional analyses are undertaken and satisfactory and proactive actions are carried out. For instance, the analysis of consequences of a guillotine-break spill is ridiculous. It states that the worst impacts are revenue loss! What about damage to the environment? Loss of wildlife? It states that if it occurred on a river crossing, that it may be polluted several miles up or downstream. Does the Exxon Valdez oilspill ring a bell? The soiling of a pristine environment and loss of wildlife was a horrible blow to the country, as well as a cost for Mobile of several billion dollars! I believe the TAPS renewal needs to acknowledge the destructive potential of spills, and it also should require proactive actions such as greater planning and placement of spill equipment, use of the newest high-tech detectors, and stepped up maintenance inspections. I have read that oil flowing in the pipe has worn the insides of the pipe to a quarter inch in some areas. I find this very frightening. At this rate, in the 30 year renewal period this last quarter inch would be breached. What plans are in place for replacement of worn pipe? What are the requirements for inspections? These criteria should be specified as conditions for a renewal. I am very frightened at the casual analysis of the impacts of global warming contained in the EIS. The EIS states that future impacts will not be much more than those seen historically. How can this be? Alaska is undergoing an alarming rapid increase in temperatures. There is no expectation that this will not continue and even accelerate. Some predict more than a fifteen degree rise in average temperatures. Already the permafrost in many areas is melting. Roads and building foundations are cracking and breaking as a result of shifts and stresses due to the loss of the permafrost. It is inconceivable that these effects of rising temperatures will not significantly impact the structural integrity of the pipeline. Renewal should only be granted on condition of on-going and rigorous independent scientific analysis of climate change impacts and the resultant dangers to the pipeline. Additional conditions should be set for continuous inspections of all the pipeline foundations. There should be a formal criteria for shutting off flow through the line once a predetermined structural stress level is reached, as I fear it will be due to climate change during this thirty year renewal period. The recent incident of a hunter shooting a hole in the pipeline was astonishing and alarming. It also brings up a number of questions and concerns the EIS should address. What anti-terrorist planning should be done and what protections put in place? Protection of this oil flow is critical to the economy of the United States. Loss of oil flow, or environmental damage due to a puncture are both important concerns. I also want to suggest that a no hunting zone be established for one mile either side of the pipeline, for its entire length, to protect against any errant bullet hitting the pipeline. Also to protect against any terrorist activity, I think it makes sense to make this two mile buffer zone closed to any and all entry. To conclude, I fear that this EIS has not been written from a critical or a realistic basis. More science and less economics should underlie the analysis. Renewal should only be granted in conjunction with a set of conditions designed to address concerns such as those outlined above. Thank-you, Bryan Wyberg

00367-1

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Responses for Document 00367

- 00367-001:** APSC's oil spill response capabilities and plans for TAPS are summarized in Section 4.1.4 of the EIS and explained in detail in the "TAPS Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan" (APSC 2001g) for the pipeline and in the "Valdez Marine Terminal Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan" (APSC 2001h) for the VMT. The Plans provide for significant resources, including equipment, trained personnel, and effective organization, to respond if oil does spill from the pipeline or at VMT. They are available to the public through various libraries in several major cities in Alaska.
- Impacts of oil spills on fish and wildlife are discussed in Sections 4.4.4.10, 4.4.4.11, and 4.4.4.12 of the EIS. These sections state that a large spill, especially one to water, could have significant impacts on these species.
- 00367-002:** For concerns specifically related to pipe wall thickness, see the EIS, Section 4.1.3.2.1, Mainline Pipeline Integrity Monitoring.
- The BLM and member agencies of the JPO use an adaptive management approach to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations and regulatory oversight. Ongoing monitoring programs, as identified in the 12 Comprehensive Monitoring Reports published since 1996, provide BLM and JPO with the necessary information to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations in the Grant and Lease.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.
- 00367-003:** Historically, the warming of air temperature and permafrost in the past several decades is limited (see Section 3.12). It is very unlikely to have a 15 degree rise in average temperatures in the next 30 years. From field observations, the southern part of Alaska near the southern end of permafrost is mostly affected by the warming. VSM stability is obviously critical to TAPS integrity. As such, it is the focus of extensive monitoring and surveillance. BLM/JPO has agreed to intervention criteria that would require certain actions be taken when those engineering criteria are met. Please see Section 4.3.2 (Soils and Permafrost) of the FEIS.
- 00367-004:** Security issues related to the TAPS have been added as Section 3.1.2.1.6.
- 00367-005:** Thank you for your comment.

Document 00368[Document Info](#)[Done](#)

I vote for the No-Action Alternative: Do Not Renew Federal Grant. The warming trend which is affecting Alaska gives rise to the increased possibility of earthquakes which of course would be disastrous for the environment. Wildlife has been negatively impacted for 28 1/2 years by this pipeline. This country needs to look into alternative energy, especially for automobiles. I just bought a hybrid electric-gas car. We can make cars this way if the oil people would allow it. Raising the cafe standard to 35 mpg would mitigate any need for more oil.

00368-1

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Responses for Document 00368

00368-001: Thank you for your comment.

Document 00369

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See Attachment.

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August 17, 2002

BLM TAPS Renewal EIS
State of Alaska, DNR/JPO
US Dept. of the Interior
Argonne National Lab EAD/900

Attn: TAPS Renewal Team

Dear Gale Norton, BLM and the TAPS Renewal Team,

First I would like to say that I am a resident of Kenny Lake Alaska and have had the pipeline in my viewshed for many years. The pipeline dominated out valley and effects the lives of our citizens in many ways form supplying jobs to effecting where and where we can not cut firewood. Since the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) right-of-way lease permits are up for renewal for the first time in 30 years, I wanted to make sure my concerns were appropriately addressed. I tried to read the EIS, but short time frame, during the fast paced summer months and short deadlines only allowed me to give it a fast look. First, I would like to argue the statement by federal and state regulatory agencies that the aging 800-mile pipeline and its support systems that were originally built to last 30 years, can be sustained for an unlimited duration, with minimal costs and change in the operating and maintenance procedures. This is hardly credible given the numerous problems with the pipeline. The permafrost is melting, the ground is moving, the pipeline is corroding, the infrastructure is shifting, and the 800-mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) was only built to last 30 years.

00369-1

I am concerned about the Bureau of Land Management TAPS Renewal Team's hurried push to move forward plans to renew the aging pipeline which travels across the tundra, through mountains and forests and traverses hundreds of rivers and streams, south to the Gulf of Alaska for another 30 years with no public awareness and marginal response to public concern. In Cordova for example, the BLM TAPS Lease Renewal Team scheduled a public hearing at 7pm on a Friday night in late July in a fishing community with less than 10 day's notice? Last time there was a public hearing regarding oil transport in Cordova, the hearing began at 8am and lasted until 8pm.

00369-2

I had worked with the BLM for 27 years and have worked on countless EIS's, from powerplant siting, MX missiles, Wilderness EIS's, coal leasing to extensive land use plans. I have never in my 27 years been faced with such a short deadline for comment on such a complex issue. BLM's own EIS Procedures and CEQ guidelines provide for extensive public comment procedures on EIS's with significant public controversy. Why wasn't the public informed about the short deadlines. Why wasn't the public given the chance to comment on a public participation plan outlining their responsibilities for review. It appears to me that you are setting yourself up for further delays brought about by lawsuits based on lack of public input. If this renewal process does not constitute significant public controversy, I don't now what would. I believe the comment period needs to be extended at least another 45 days, that another hearing needs to be scheduled after fishing season at a reasonable hour, and that there needs to be sufficient notice of

00369-3

such a hearing. Why was the public given such a short time frame in which to respond to concerns .

00369-3
(Cont.)

Beyond those logistical requests, I have been informed about concerns regarding the safety of the pipeline renewal and the toxicity of oil and what they mean for our coastal fishing communities. Since the pipeline crosses more than 250 salmon-bearing streams along the 800-mile pipeline corridor, oil pollution affects salmon spawning and reproduction at a tiny amount of 1 part per billion, and there is no workable oil spill response plan for the waterways in the case of an earthquake or an accident, and because the TAPS was an engineering feat only built to last 30 years. I, along with many Alaskans was concerned about the potential and very-likely threats to the wild sustainable salmon fisheries. For example, the fall 2001 pipeline startup, after the repair of the Livengood bullet hole spill, resulted in a 21-inch shift in a section of pipeline that went undetected for 3 months. This is an obvious examples of problems with the TAPS.

Alaskans have already been devastated by oil pollution from the infamous Exxon Valdez tanker. Alaskans depend enormously on the waterways to make a living, to feed their families, and for clean drinking water. Perhaps the BLM /State is concerned because Alaskans know all too well that there is no way to clean up an oil spill once it has happened. In our rivers. If there were and earthquake that ruptured the TAPS, there is no way Alyeska Pipeline, the state, or the Federal agencies could mobilize cleanup operations in a timely enough manner that would make a difference. Oil spill contingency plans for the overland portions are sorely inadequate or lacking. The potential for disaster is real and Alaskans have already felt its effect on the social and economic fabric of the Prince William Sound communities from the Exxon Valdez 1989 spill. In addition, the remote Alaskan communities depend increasingly on tourism as a source of much-needed revenue. Many people go to Alaska to enjoy the serenity and magic of the wild, in such places as the unprotected Copper River Delta and the myriad of wildlife it boasts, including eagles, trumpeter swans, dusky Canada geese, black and brown bears, marmots, goats, wolves and moose.

00369-4

Several major conservation, public safety, and corporate watchdog groups are concerned about the affects of the aging infrastructure, the possibility of additional terrorist attacks and global warming's melting permafrost along the 800-mile pipeline corridor. Oil is toxic to fish, wildlife and the pipeline workers. Past oil spills, as large as the Exxon Valdez, and as small as bullet hole last October have taken far too long to cleanup, have polluted inland and coastal waters and have cost millions to contain. All in all, once oil is spilled, Alaskans lose their food supply, fishing economy, clean water and natural heritage oil is impossible to clean up and its damage lasts untold generations. The Alaska Forum for Environmental Responsibility (AFER) in its report, The Emperors New Hose, by Richard Fineberg, details some of the serious operational and maintenance problems facing Alyeska and the pipeline over the last couple of years. In this report AFER makes recommendations about how to change and improve pipeline operations and they insist that these changes be implemented prior to the Grant and Lease renewal of the right of way lease for the Trans Alaska Pipeline System.

These recommendations include:

1. The public comment period must be extended by at least 45-days to ensure ample time for meaningful input.

00369-5

2. There needs to be a Citizen's Advisory Council established to oversee operations of the pipeline. The grant lease should establish a citizens oversight group (COG) funded by the TAPS Owners through the Department of the Interior.

00369-6

3. The TAPS owners should be required to place the dismantling, removal, and restoration funds directly into an escrow account so that they no longer continue to profit off of these funds, and a portion of these funds should be used to fund a Citizens Advisory Council Grant and Lease renewal should be made conditional on satisfactory completion of an immediate comprehensive independent field audit, as well as an independent technical review and field audit every five years for the duration of the life of the pipeline. There is currently no assurance that the owners will have the resources to dismantle the pipeline, unless these funds are placed in escrow and immune from corporate tampering as we have seen recently in the news.

00369-7

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

5. Stipulations attached to the original federal and state Grant and Lease agreements should be carefully reviewed to ensure that they reflect a) scientific and technological advances during the last three decades and b) experience with the operation of TAPS.

00369-8

I fully support these recommendations to be implemented before the Grant and Lease renewal is approved that were complied by the Alaska Forum for Environmental Responsibility. TAPS is a national security issue affecting all US citizens, not only those who live in Alaska. We must reduce our dependence on oil, not only as a national security issue, but also as a public health issue. I am not suggesting that the lease not be renewed. I am suggesting that serious consideration be given to the recommendation cited above and caution be given to before renewing the lease. Let us not revisit the mistakes of the past because of deadlines and a rush to keep things as they are.

00369-9

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my concerns and comments.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Boos

Responses for Document 00369

00369-001: Incidents, such as, those mentioned in the comment, have resulted in modifications to the manner in which TAPS is operated. Programs are in place to monitor and respond to shifting ground, melting permafrost, corrosion, and other potential problems. In order to be more proactive, 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 proactive 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 risks to safety and the environment.

00369-002: The reader is directed to Section 5.2 of the FEIS.

00369-003: 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.

00369-004: 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.

APSC's oil spill response capabilities and plans for TAPS are summarized in Section 4.1.4 of the EIS and explained in detail in the "TAPS Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan" (APSC 2001g) for the pipeline and in the "Valdez Marine Terminal Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan" (APSC 2001h) for the VMT. The estimated response times for various spill locations considered in the DEIS are provided in Table 4.4-13 on page 4.4-44 of the DEIS. The C-Plans provide for significant resources, including equipment, trained personnel, and effective organization, to respond if oil does spill from the pipeline or at VMT. They are available to the public through various libraries in several major cities in Alaska. Oil spill prevention and response capabilities and related activities specific to the Copper River Drainage area are discussed more fully in the text box in Section 4.4.3, "Oil Spill Planning for the Copper River Drainage."

6Since the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill in 1989, and the enactment of the Oil Pollution Act in 1990, significant improvements have been made in the procedures, staffing, and the equipment needed to prevent and respond to potential oil spills from tankers in the Prince William Sound. Among the improvements made are the following: (1) APSC's Ship Escort/Response Vessel System was established in July 1989 to help tankers navigate through the PWS and to respond to potential oil spills, (2) New procedures were established and regulations put in place by the United States Coast Guard to better control the tanker traffic in the PWS, (3) PWS Regional Citizens' Advisory Council was created to help plan for and oversee the oil spill prevention and response operations, (4) The amount of equipment and personnel available for oil spill prevention and response was increased, (5) more stringent training and personnel monitoring programs were established, (6) Government oversight was increased, and (7) the spill prevention and response budget was increased dramatically. The currently available oil spill response capabilities and plans for the PWS are summarized in Section 4.1.4 of the EIS and are provided in detail in the Prince William Sound Oil Discharge Prevention and Response Plan (Prince William Sound Tanker Plan Holders 1999).

- 00369-005:** 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.
- 00369-006:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.”
- 00369-007:** The reader is directed to the discussion of escrow funds found in Section 2.5.
- 00369-008:** The BLM and member agencies of the JPO use an adaptive management approach to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations and regulatory oversight. Ongoing monitoring programs, as identified in the 12 Comprehensive Monitoring Reports published since 1996, provide BLM and JPO with the necessary information to evaluate the effectiveness of stipulations in the Grant and Lease.
- The reader is referred to Section 4.1.1 (JPO oversight) and specifically to Sections 4.1.1.2 (Adaptive Nature of the Grant in Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.3 (Risk-based Compliance Monitoring), 4.1.1.4 (JPO Comprehensive Monitoring Program), and 4.1.1.8 (Coordinated Planning and Response to Abnormal Incidents) for more information on the role of adaptive management as a JPO business practice.
- 00369-009:** Thank you for your comment.

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I am a scientist and engineer with over 30 years experience in the petroleum and energy industry. I have had involvement with the Alaska North Slope oil fields and TAPS directly and indirectly for over 20 years as a reservoir engineer for Phillips Petroleum Company and as a Management and Operating contractor employee at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. As a contractor for the DOE, I have analyzed the long-term value to the Nation and to Alaska of the North Slope production and the impact a shut down of the TAPS would have on the Nation and Alaska. The impact would be great as clearly spelled out the DEIS. This work has also given me the opportunity to know from the earliest days of production from the Prudhoe Bay field the care and concern the industry has taken to prevent operational problems and environmental impacts. It is clearly in the best economic interests of the TAPS owners to use the latest technology and risk management methods to minimize any spills and shutdowns of TAPS. The excellent record of TAPS proves that they have always done this and can be expected to continue to do so in the future; its just good business. The impacts of spills on the environment are critical to all concerned including the industry and the impacts of negative publicity are so enormous that to take shortcuts that raise the probability for spills will not be allowed to occur. The industries technical expertise coupled with the extensive regulation and oversight that is already provided in the State of Alaska and federal agencies through the Joint Pipeline Office, makes the renewal of the pipeline right of way and permit for the full 30 years as recommended in the DEIS, a good sound decision. The next 30 years can be expected be bring about unexpected challenges but the expertise of American industry and federal government research programs at the nation's universities and national laboratories will also be making progress in leak detection technology, corrosion prevention and detection technology, and rapid response and remediation technology. The TAPS operator is actively involved in research to improve the technical capabilities in these areas. The technical and scientific capability to respond effectively to the results of climate change and aging of the pipeline exists and will continue to improve over the 30-year extension period. The expansion of the industry into the ultra deepwater regions of the Gulf of Mexico will also provide challenges that can be expected to provide improved technical capabilities for leak detection and corrosion inhibition as well and will provide synergistic benefits to continued safe and environmentally responsible operation of TAPS. The need for additional public oversight is not needed given the extensive oversight currently in place for TAPS and obvious need for the operators to operate in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

Charles P. Thomas, Ph.D. Senior Energy and Environmental Policy Analyst Science Applications International Corporation Alaska Energy and Environmental Office Anchorage, Alaska

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Responses for Document 00370

00370-001: Thank you for your comment.

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Renewal of the TAPS right-of-way for a 30-year period is crucial to Alaska's economy. While the state and its leaders acknowledge we must diversify the state's economy, we also know that we will continue to depend upon the revenues generated by marketing the oil from Alaska's North Slope to fund state services for many years to come. Alaska's economy drives most industries. Our industry, transportation, is no different. Without the economic support the state receives from TAPS, the state's economy would suffer, and so would our company's. Without sufficient revenues to fund reinvestment in our sea- and shore- based assets, we would find our services becoming marginalized. We would not be able to sustain the levels of service that we traditionally have provided. Very possibly we would be forced to reduce the service levels of an industry that the entire state relies upon. We believe that the right-of-ways must be renewed for the maximum 30 year period. Without long term leases, the pipeline owners and operators would not be able to justify and expend the necessary capital to maintain the pipeline. Additionally, we do not feel that any sort of citizen watchdog group would do anything other than drive up the cost of pipeline operations. Thank you. CSX Lines of Alaska, LLC

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Responses for Document 00371

00371-001: Thank you for your comment.

00371-002: The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.”

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Renew TAPS for 30 years. Record of performance by Alyeska Pipeline is impeccable.
Citizen oversight just adds more bureacracy. Let the professional regualtors regulate

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Responses for Document 00372

00372-001: Thank you for your comment.

00372-002: The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.”

Document 00373

Document Info

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I support the EIS alternative to renew the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) grant for right of way on federal lands for less than 30 years (commencing 2004) unless the Joint Pipeline Office and oil industry agree to allow an independent audit of TAPS operations, maintenance, and environmental safety prior to grant renewal and at least every five years thereafter during the next 30 years. Although outside the scope of the TAPS EIS, I also support formation of a citizen oversight group composed of Alaska residents for independent monitoring of TAPS operations, maintenance, and environmental standards. A recent model for this type of oversight group was the Citizen Oversight Committee for Oil and Other Hazardous Substances, which was formed following the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The TAPS oversight group should have the ability to hire researchers, subpoena witnesses, take testimony, conduct investigations, and appoint advisory panels with specialized knowledge. These abilities are necessary to ensure transparency and adequate disclosure in reporting the status of our aging TAPS during the next lease period, which could be an additional 30 years beyond its original engineered lifetime. The oversight group should include representation from urban and rural communities, tourism, fishing/aquaculture, recreation, Native groups, and environmental organizations.

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Responses for Document 00373

- 00373-001:** 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.
- 00373-002:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.”

Document 00374

Document Info

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A thirty year extension of the pipeline right of way is absurd. A shorter and well monitored extension would be appropriate given the well documented efforts of the pipeline consortium to muzzle critics and conceal mistakes. For the BLM- the agency known for losing millions of dollars in Indian Trust monies- to spearhead this inquiry is a sorry joke. Apparently it was chosen for its own incompetence. The National Missile Defense site at Fort Greely is but a few miles from the pipeline. This adds new dangers to protection of the pipeline that were not treated in any environmental impact statement and rarely mentioned in the hearings. That a single bullet was fired at the pipeline was the result of dumb luck. The devastating results of this puncture and the lackluster response is further proof of the line management's incompetence. The odds favor one or more larger accidents in the future. The response of industry is to fight needed citizen oversight such as that which proved so important after the EXXON Valdez spill. Industry also has worked hard to cap its legal liability, fully anticipating a disaster. Thirty years in the short life of Alaska is a lifetime. Industry simply wants and expects a politically expedient result that will insure less interference in the coming decades. It has not earned the trust of Alaskans who will pay the price for this decision if the thirty year right of way is approved. steve conn, executive director. alaska public interest research group/

00374-1

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Responses for Document 00374

- 00374-001:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.” The text box in Section 4.1.1.8 provides an extensive discussion on the bullet hole incident in October 2001 at pipeline MP 400 near Livengood.
- 00374-002:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.”

Document 00375

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See Attachment.

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80110

Testimony on TAPS Renewal

By
Jerry Neal Moore
4158 Hood Court
Anchorage, Alaska 99517
August 19, 2002

Today I attended the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce where Steve Jones spoke on the Taps Renewal process. It was a very informative speech and several good questions were forth coming at the end of Mr. Jones' speech. I ask Steve what an individual or company, had not yet "stood up to be counted" could do and he suggested I send in my thoughts on the subject. The following are my current thoughts on some major areas related to the TAPS renewal process.

SCOPE

I believe it will be best if persons responsible for giving the final TAPS Right of Way Renewal approval keep a few important issues in mind during their deliberation regarding the renewal process: 1) What is in the best interest of the Federal Government, 2) What is in the best interest of the State of Alaska and 3) What is in the best interest of the Alaska communities that benefited from and will continue to benefit from the flow of oil. Instead of what is in any individual(s) or group(s) perceived "own" best interest. I realize there has likely been a few, maybe several, individuals or groups who have a "axe to grind"; however, I ask that you see their comments for what they real are and look at the "overall picture" and do what's in the best interest of the majority.

ADVISORY GROUP

I understand that a few members of the public wish to see a citizens advisory group to oversee the future pipeline operation. As I understand it, we currently have a public regulatory oversight that may be the most comprehensive of any pipeline in the country that deals with rigorous requirements unmatched by any other pipeline right of way. I don't believe our elected officials need another citizens group to tell them what they should be doing, especially since this citizens group would likely not be as well trained as the people they would be trying to oversee. I see no reason why this "Citizens Advisory Group" should even be considered.

00375-1

DURATION OF RENEWAL

The Trans Alaskan Pipeline is the key to oil development in the northern portion of Alaska and represents a major financial support for the State of Alaska. It is also important for the Federal Government, since a sizeable amount of the oil used by the United States comes from via this pipeline. I understand that some don't want to see a renewal at all - totally unacceptable. There are others that wish to see a minimum, maybe 5 to 15 years - I don't think this is practical. TAPS has been in operation for about 30 years now and I think it has been operated very well. Had the original permit been for 15 years and then second permit given for the last 15 years, would we have seen any benefit from the process - I don't believe so. There would have been some individuals and groups that would have "padded their pockets" and it would have been a costly process, just like the current process is, but I don't think the pipeline would have been run anymore efficient or safer.

00375-2

I believe the owners of the pipeline have done a good job - not been too many times when even a minor problem has occurred and when it did it was corrected quickly and the flow of oil was once again moving towards the Lower-48. I've worked on the North Slope and firmly believe oil will be flowing from that area for the next 30 to 50 years - we may be running liquefied coal through it by 2050. I believe the renewal should be the longest that is permitted under Federal law. I understand that would be 30 years.

00375-3

CONCLUSION

I've lived in Alaska since 1970, worked on the North Slope, been associated with the oil industry and broadcasting for several years. I support what the oil companies have done both in the safe drilling for oil and the delivery of oil through TAPS for use in the Lower-48. I believe what has been done has been done in the best interest of the greatest number of persons, not the wishes of a few. I would like to see that process continued.

I respectfully request that the State and Federal governments issue their "Right of Way" permit with the same comprehensive requirements that are currently in place without adding another level of oversight and that the permit be for 30 years.

00375-4

Respectively Submitted,
Jerry Neal Moore, President

Alaska Originals Inc.
21111 Eastside Drive
Chugiak, AK 99567
Office: (907) 688-4092
Fax: (907) 688-4093
Email; JerryMoore@AlaskaOriginals.Com

Responses for Document 00375

- 00375-001:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.”
- 00375-002:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00375-003:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00375-004:** Thank you for your comment.

Document 00376

Document Info

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See Attachment.

Document Info

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To Whom This May Concern:

A 30-year renewal of the right-of-way for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System should be contingent upon the following conditions:

• A detailed audit of the current TAPS operations and hardware by an independent entity such as the National Academy of Sciences. Any deficiencies discovered by the independent review must be corrected prior to renewal of the TAPS right-of-way.	00376-1
• Independent audits shall be conducted every five years for the duration of the TAPS to identify any areas needing remediation to comply with the best available technologies and science.	
• Creation of a citizens' oversight council for the pipeline comparable to the Regional Citizens Advisory Council currently responsible for oversight of the TAPS terminal operations and oil tanker operations. The council would be responsible for oversight of operation of the TAPS and conduct of the five-year audits.	00376-2
• Staging of appropriate and sufficient oil spill containment materials and equipment adjacent to all pipeline river crossings.	00376-3
• Development of site-specific oil spill prevention and cleanup plans for all river crossings along the pipeline route.	00376-4
• Creation of an owner funded trust with sufficient funds to retire the pipeline, remove all infrastructures from the corridor, and restore any damaged resources and amenity values.	00376-5
• A yearly contribution of \$1,000,000 by the owners to a research fund for the purpose of conducting base-line research of natural resources at risk from any oil spills along the TAPS corridor. Particular areas of research interest are salmon and other aquatic habitats, bird staging and nesting areas, subsistence resources, wetlands and estuaries. The Oil Spill Recovery Institute established by Congress in OPA 90 should administer the funds.	00376-6
• Compliance by the TAPS owners with all agreements regarding native and minority hire.	00376-7
• A down payment by EXXON-Mobil of \$1 billion toward the eventual settlement of all EVOS plaintiffs' claims.	00376-8

We feel that the foregoing are the minimum conditions required to insure safe operation of the TAPS and to protect the adjacent resources that are vital to the communities along and downstream from the TAPS corridor. The costs of these precautionary measures will

seem cheap compared with any potential oil spill cleanup expenses and compensation for losses to other resource users.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Karl Becker and Nancy Bird
Box 1185
Cordova, Alaska 99574

Responses for Document 00376

00376-001: 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.

00376-002: The reader is directed to Section 2.5 of the FEIS and the text that discusses citizen oversight of TAPS.

00376-003: 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 TAPS Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan for the pipeline (C-plan), prepared by APSC (2001g – see Section 3.30 of the FEIS for reference), provides for significant resources, including equipment, trained personnel, and effective organization, to respond if oil does spill from the pipeline. The C-Plan is updated periodically and lessons learned from actual occurrences as well as from regular exercises conducted along the pipeline are incorporated into the C-Plan. In addition, the C-Plan is reviewed annually by BLM, every three years by ADEC, and every 5 years by DOT. EPA also reviews the plan as it applies to pump stations. 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.

00376-004: 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 TAPS Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan for the pipeline (C-plan), prepared by APSC (2001g – see Section 3.30 of the FEIS for reference), provides for significant resources, including equipment, trained personnel, and effective organization, to respond if oil does spill from the pipeline. The C-Plan is updated periodically and lessons learned from actual occurrences as well as from regular exercises conducted along the pipeline are incorporated into the C-Plan. In addition, the C-Plan is reviewed annually by BLM, every three years by ADEC, and every 5 years by DOT. EPA also reviews the plan as it applies to pump stations. 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.

00376-005: The reader is directed to Section 2.5, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.”

- 00376-006:** The BLM recognizes that there may be interactions between the TAPS and subsistence resources, including 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.
- 00376-007:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00376-008:** The reader is directed to Section 2.5, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.”

Document 00377

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I am opposed to a 30 year renewal. Rather I prefer three incremental renewals of 10 years each with the following requirements. 1. Appoint a Citizens Oversight Panel. This is necessary for Alaskans to have some input on the operations of the pipeline. If a Citizens Oversight Panel is not appointed or established the ROW permit should not be renewed. 2. Allow open and fair access to all producers who want to utilize the pipeline. The current operators have monopolistic operating procedures and this is a big disservice to all Alaskans. A Citizens Oversight Panel would help ensure equal access to the pipeline by all potential producers. 3. Develop real spill response plans and teams. The recent bullet hole spill at Livengood only illustrates the total lack of response that Alyeska actually has planned and in place. This spill, 75 miles by road from Fairbanks should have been contained much quicker. It was a disgrace to Alyeska and a proves their inability to respond. A realistic response plan needs to be developed for all spill scenarios. Valuable rivers and streams, especially anadromous ones need to have the highest level of protection that can be designed. Local response teams need to be trained and ready to respond. It was great public relations for Alyeska to hire the folks from Minto in the cleanup at Livengood, but those folks lacked training at the time of the spill. These crews need to be trained and ready before a spill occurs and special attention needs to be focused on cleanup procedures that protect valuable rivers and streams. 4. The BLM must require that the fund established to dismantle the pipeline is intact and accessible at all times. World wide economic forces could render north slope crude oil stranded and no longer economic to produce. No one can predict when that will occur so the fund established for the dismantling should be viable and accessible at all times. In summary, only if certain steps are taken should the ROW permit be extended, and then only incrementally. This will ensure that Alaskans and Americans have input into the continued use of this valuable right of way. Sincerely, Tom DeLong President Tolovana Hot Springs, Ltd. PO Box 83058 Fairbanks, AK 99708

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Responses for Document 00377

- 00377-001:** The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, “Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis.”
- 00377-002:** Please see Section 2.5 of the FEIS for information regarding citizens’ oversight.
- 00377-003:** See the text box on the MP 400 bullet hole incident in Section 4.1.1.8 of the FEIS.
- 00377-004:** The reader is directed to the discussion of escrow funds found in Section 2.5.

Document 00378

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See Attachment.

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August 19, 2002

State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
411 W 4th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501

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

Dear Sirs:

The Alaska pipeline has been in place since the 1970s, and has been an effective and environmentally friendly method of providing strategically important domestic oil supplies. It has not resulted in any significant adverse environmental impacts. It has provided a significant BENEFICIAL socio-economic impact on the lives of Native Alaskans, and on the lives of all Alaska residents, and is economically beneficial for the State of Alaska. The pipeline enables the State of Alaska to provide an oil-revenue sharing yearly benefit to its residents, which is particularly beneficial for low-income and minority populations within the State. A refusal to renew the right-of-way permit, or to place unreasonable and unnecessary additional stipulations on the existing right-of-way, absolutely MUST be documented by a full EIS to analyze the adverse economic impacts on the residents of Alaska that such changes would cause. If the government is going to deny a renewal of the permit, the government should prepare a full EIS, of the same level as that prepared for the original right-of-way, before taking any steps that may have adverse socio-economic impacts on the people of Alaska.

00378-1

Given the particular benefits for low income and minority peoples provided by the State oil-revenue sharing fund, and the ability of the State to provide services without taxing low-income residents, the government must analyze any disproportionate impacts of such actions on low-income and minority populations, in accordance with Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations".

00378-2

The annual State oil-revenue sharing fund benefit checks are a critical part of the yearly budget for many minority and low-income people, often making the difference between adequate nutrition and hunger for the children of these people, or the difference between the ability to adequately heat their houses or freezing to death for many poor, elderly people. I very strongly recommend that the government re-authorize the Alaska Pipeline with no changes to the current terms and conditions of the right-of-way.

00378-3

I would also call your attention to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 USC 1701, 90 STAT 2744 -2794)

"Sec 102(a) the Congress declares it is the policy of the United States that -

(12) the public lands be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands including implementation of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 1876, 30 USC 21a) as it pertains to the public lands: ..."

Sincerely,

George R Humm



Responses for Document 00378

00378-001: Thank you for your comment.

00378-002: Disproportionate positive impacts to low-income and minority populations due to the permanent fund dividend are discussed in Section 4.3.25 under environmental justice. Advantages of public services and other programs to rural Alaskans, many of whom are minority and/or low-income, are discussed in Section 4.3.21.

00378-003: Thank you for your comment.

Document 00379

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The Trans Alaska Pipeline System, management, needs to better exercise and practice potential oil spill contingency plans. The shooting of the pipeline is an example of poor coordination of all parties managing the T.A.P.S. The lease should be for a shorter period of time. The pipeline has showed signs of corrosion, and destabilization in some permafrost regions. When will major upgrades and maintenance be considered for preventive maintenance? Why are there so many budget cuts at the pump stations? Top priority should be manpower to maintain the existing structures. How long does it take to respond to an accident on the Dalton Highway? It will take even longer to respond to a major accident. At what point in time will you address the negative impacts the T.A.P.S. has already had on the natural resources? If you cannot meet the 20% native hire requirement, how can the industry claim they have met all their management goals? Please consider and revise the management of the current TAPS for major improvement, and improved communication with all Native Corporations, and Tribal Governments. When the Pipeline is all used up, who will clean it UP? I hope I receive answers to all my concerns. This will be a great start in improved communications. Thank you for the opportunity to comment after over 25 years. Sincerely Doreen Lampe

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Responses for Document 00379

- 00379-001:** A lessons learned report was prepared for the MP 400 incident (see Section 4.1.1.8). The reader is also referred to the text box in Section 4.4.4.3 on the Copper River Drainage.
- 00379-002:** The reader is directed to Chapter 2 and the discussion on the less than 30-year renewal alternative (Section 2.3).
- 00379-003:** The reader is directed to Sections 3.12.7 and 4.1.3.2 for discussion on climate change and the mitigation/engineering of vertical support members (VSM).
- 00379-004:** Spill response is directed by the Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP). The reader is directed to Section 4.1 which discusses spill response.
- 00379-005:** The reader is directed to the mitigation section (4.8.4) of the FEIS and the discussion on Alaska Native hiring practices.
- 00379-006:** BLM and the JPO are committed to open communication with Alaska Natives. In addition, BLM conducted extensive government-to-government consultations throughout the renewal process (see Section 5.3).
- 00379-007:** The reader is directed to Section 2.5, especially the part that addresses escrow accounts for termination activities of TAPS.

Document 00380

Document Info

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I write to support the recommendations of the Alaska Forum for Environmental Responsibility with regard to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the TAPS lease renewal. I am not a member, but what they say is quite reasonable. Having witnessed the public comments hearing in Fairbanks, I am deeply troubled by the willingness of the business and political communities to trust big oil to protect human and environmental health. Money is what matters to these well-protected entities, and cutting corners is part of the business. I find the reluctance to establish a citizen's oversight committee appalling, though no surprise. The concern over additional costs is typical, shortsighted, and greedy. If Alyeska is doing such a great job, additional oversight from independent parties wouldn't be expensive - but the reality is that many improvements need to be made for safe long term maintenance of the TAPS, especially in light of climate change and the likelihood of seismic activity. They can put on all the fins they want, but as permafrost warms and thaws, the ground under the pipeline will destabilize; only installing freezers would change that. Combined with an earthquake and an aging pipeline, this could get disastrous in a hurry. And what of contingency plans? There was a plan for dealing with bullet holes, which Alyeska failed to implement. Why were they praised for their recent response instead of being expected to run drills until they knew how to handle the situation - promptly. What if such a thing occurs at a river crossing? Built by the world's richest nation, through some of our most valued wild country, this SHOULD be the most thoroughly regulated pipeline in the world. With new issues of national security at hand, Alyeska should be held to higher standards than ever. Don't make this a give away. At the very least, establish a citizen's oversight committee - including Carl Benson, if at all possible. We need independent engineers and experts, as well as local residents, to determine what risks are worth taking, and how best to mitigate them. Thank you for your time, Anna Godduhn

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Responses for Document 00380

- 00380-001:** Additional information on climate change and pipeline maintenance appears in Sections 3.12.7 and 4.1.3.2 of the FEIS.
- 00380-002:** A lessons learned document has been prepared for the MP 400 incident (Section 4.1.1.8). The reader is also referred to the text box in Section 4.4.4.3 on the Copper River Drainage.
- 00380-003:** The reader is directed to Section 2.5, especially the part that addresses citizen oversight.

Document 00381[Document Info](#)[Done](#)

obviously, the thirty - year renewal of the right - of - way lease is essential for the economy of the state of alaska and for the construction of the proposed alaska natural gasline. however, the renewal ought to be contingent on certain factors.. so many changes have occurred during the past 25 years, global politics and the climate, for instance, that the pipeline's owners and operator need to leave off their "if it ain't broke, don't fix it " attitude toward maintenance and security. The TAPS owners and it's operator need to put a percentage of their oil profits into security upgrades on TAPS, to better prevent criminal or structural damage to the pipeline. If nothing else, more security and maintenance oversight would create more jobs in the Alaska bush. thanks for listening.

00381-1

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Responses for Document 00381

00381-001: Security issues are discussed in Section 3.1.2.1.6.

Document 00382

Document Info

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See Attachment.

Document Info

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80118

8/19/02

To: BLM TAPS Renewal EIS
Argonne National Laboratory EAD/900
9700 S. Cass Avenue
Argonne, IL 64039
Toll Free Fax: 1-866-542-5904

2 pages

From: Brenden and Julie Raymond-Yakoubian

Re: TAPS Renewal Comments

We are of the shared opinion that the TAPS right-of-way should not be re-authorized. Virtually every major head of state, domestic and international scientific body and conservation group around the world are in agreement that humans, largely through the burning of fossil fuels, are artificially and dramatically warming our earth beyond its natural ability to adapt. The polar regions are most severely affected by these self-induced changes. Additionally, the petroleum mono-economy of Alaska is subject to fiscal pitfalls of gigantic proportions, and the TAPS is the major crutch upon which this shaky foundation rests. Re-authorizing TAPS is simply permitting our own poor judgment to continue to poison our future.

However, recognizing the extent of governmental myopia on issues of natural resources, we recognize that the TAPS right-of-way will be re-authorized, and therefore submit the following as our opinions as to new conditions which should be put to the oil companies before such re-authorization is granted.

First, a citizen's oversight committee must be established with jurisdiction over the pipeline. Such a committee would cost a pittance in comparison to the revenues generated by the oil companies in Alaska; additionally, the Joint Pipeline Office is merely a state-funded arm of the oil companies and provides little in the way of critical oversight concerning pipeline operations. Real citizen oversight is desperately in order.

00382-1

1 of 2

Secondly, the oil companies utilizing and running the pipeline should be required to invest a substantial and demonstrable sum of funds towards alternative energies; the bare minimum should be 25% of expected net profits derived from oil production in Alaska.

00382-2

Thirdly, if the right-of-way is re-granted, stronger consideration must be given to the indisputable fact that the pipeline is aging and in need of more focused and intensive monitoring and maintenance. The oil companies' maintenance and monitoring budgets for the pipeline should be required to increase every year, without exception. This is simple mechanics; we do not expect to spend less on maintenance for our automobiles as they grow older, so why should we expect any different with regards to the pipeline? Additionally, further funding needs to be devoted to protecting the pipeline from human-induced attacks, be they terrorist in origin or otherwise. The incident at Livengood was inexcusable – better policing of the pipeline is in order, and faster spill response must be implemented.

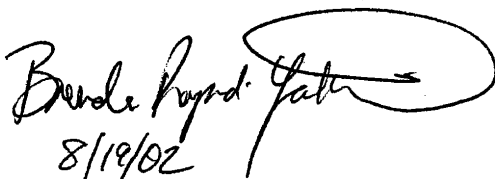
00382-3

00382-4

To ignore the fact that the pipeline is aging and in need of greater maintenance is willful ignorance. Right-of-way reauthorization must be continually re-evaluated, at shorter time intervals. If the oil companies are failing to meet their end of the bargain in maintaining, servicing, monitoring and protecting the pipeline and the environs through which it passes, they need to be shut down until their act is in order. Accusations that these measures are too costly are ludicrous; the oil companies can simply add it to the cost of doing business, a very profitable business at that.

00382-5

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.


8/19/02


8-19-02

Brenden and Julie Raymond-Yakoubian

August 19, 2002

2 of 2

Responses for Document 00382

- 00382-001:** The reader is directed to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, especially the part that addresses citizen oversight.
- 00382-002:** The use of corporate funds for other energy sources is outside the scope of this EIS.
- 00382-003:** BLM and agencies of the JPO require a set of standards, stipulations, and requirements for TAPS operations, and requirements for TAPS operations. These oversight requirements on TAPS must be met. However, BLM and JPO agencies do not dictate budget levels to meet these oversight requirements.
- 00382-004:** The reader is directed to Section 3.1.2.1.6 on security issues.
- 00382-005:** The reader is directed to Chapter 2 and the discussion on the less than 30-year renewal alternative (Section 2.3).

Document 00383

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See Attachment.

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80/20

LOUDEN TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 244 Galena, AK 99741
Phone 907-656-1711 Fax 907-656-1716

August 18, 2002

Bureau of Land Management
TAPS Renewal Scoping Argonne National Laboratory
EAD/900
9700 S. Cass
Argonne, IL 60439

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you in regard to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) permit renewal. The Louden Tribe depends on the Yukon River for our life. The Yukon River provides not only food and transportation for our people but also a spiritual connection that will not be broken. TAPS has the potential to threaten our sacred river unless many things are taken into consideration.

My first concern is that adequate time was not given to adequately assess the EIS. With limited staff a thousand page document is overwhelming and to be thoroughly read and understood requires more time for review.

00383-1

Secondly, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System does not pertain to only those people in Alaska. It is a national concern. It would be extremely beneficial to open up the comment process to people throughout the United States.

00383-2

Thirdly, the original lifespan of the pipeline was estimated at thirty years. It makes no sense whatsoever to renew the permit on this system for another thirty years. The permit should be established in five-year increments at the maximum instead so that the system can be properly evaluated for the safety of human health and the environment.

00383-3

There is also a concern that consultation with Tribes was not adequate. This should be seriously considered as a flaw in this process. More consultation with Tribes should be performed prior to approval of this permit. Tribes throughout Alaska are affected by the TAPS and should have had the opportunity for consultation.

00383-4

Next, it is my belief that the environmental impacts to the Yukon River and the Yukon River watershed have not been adequately assessed. It is extremely negligent to have the

00383-5

pipeline cross any river without having emergency shut-off valves on both sides of the river. If a leak or a horrible event such as the shooting that occurred along the pipeline it could be devastating to waterbodies such as the Yukon River and to the people who depend on them for their lifeways.

00383-5
(Cont.)

In closing, my main concern is to the health and welfare of Alaskan ecosystems and people. It is imperative that rigorous environmental controls are used in regard to the pipeline. We cannot allow massive spills to occur and contaminate our air, water, food and land. Protection of the environment should be first and foremost in your mind.

Thank you for considering these requests. It is extremely important that all parties are heard and that the environment and the native peoples are given due consideration.

Sincerely,

Carole Holley
Environmental Director
Louden Tribal Council

Responses for Document 00383

- 00383-001:** 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.
- 00383-002:** The reader is referred to Sections 5.1 and 5.2 in which statistics show that scoping comments and comments on the DEIS were received from individuals throughout the United States.
- 00383-003:** The DEIS evaluated a less than 30-year renewal period (see Section 2.3).
- 00383-004:** The reader is directed to Section 5.3 and the discussion on government-to-government consultation.
- 00383-005:** Control valves to prevent leaks into the Yukon River are present on both sides of the river. The FEIS analyzes “worst-case” spill scenarios into major rivers in Section 4.4.

Document 00384

Document Info

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See Attachment.

Document Info

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80122

Cascadia Wildlands Project

Alaska Field Office

POB 853
Cordova, AK 99574

September 24, 2002

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

RE: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIS FOR RENEWAL OF THE FEDERAL GRANT
FOR THE TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM RIGHT-OF-WAY

To whom it may concern:

It is with great frustration, and in great haste, that I submit these comments on behalf of myself, and the Cascadia Wildlands Project. The evident lack of regard for public comments displayed thus far is an embarrassment. The allotted period for public comment is insufficient even to reasonably read and digest the document.

CWP endorses the No-Action alternative, particularly for the applications of Exxon and Unocal. The pipeline should be shut down as soon as possible. We don't need the money or the gas—but we do need our land, water and critters.

We are appalled by the cowardly decision not to allow additional time for public comment. Public hearing have been cheap political theatre—clearly designed to discourage meaningful public comments. We would like to take this opportunity to officially request that the comment deadline be extended by *at least* 90 days.

This decision has been treated from day one as a foregone conclusion. Apparently DOI and state agencies are depending on widespread apathy and feelings of powerlessness to get this NEPA process completed. The title of the document, “renewal of the federal grant...,” even fails to portray that there is a decision to be made. This EIS is a pro forma document, composed in a bad faith effort at excusing the oil industry from their responsibilities. Our grandchildren's grandchildren will be paying the price for this decision.

§1.2 Scope of the Decision and Analysis

00384-1

The scope is too narrow. Should consider impact of oil all down the line, as far as we are able to trace it. The scope of review is a function of available knowledge and ability to foresee impacts.

Should consider impacts of tankers as they continue out to sea. 200 mile international limit would be reasonable, perhaps.

The impact of refineries, transportation and consumption is immense. Lower Cascadians don't deserve dirty air, even if it made Upper Cascadians rich. Fossil fuel consumption is causing some of the most profound changes to life on our planet ever to occur.

While it is understandable to segregate analysis for organizational purposes, sections for analysis (eg. north slope, tanker traffic, TAPS) are overly isolated into fragments. Scope of analysis must be holistic—because the impacts are more than the sum of their parts.

§1.3 Description of TAPS

Description should include more than just physical aspects—also describe regulatory environment, and power dynamics.

Description of the owner companies would be appropriate here. How much do they make? Who are their board members? What are their criminal histories? What is their reputation? What is their relationship with other related entities (Alyeska, refineries, Taliban, etc.)

We submitted comments during scoping, and at the DEIS hearing in Cordova, detailing the reasons why Exxon and Unocal should be considered criminal outcasts. Again, we beg you to evaluate the human rights records of these two companies. Exxon is guilty of crimes against humanity and nature in Aceh province, Indonesia, and Prince William Sound in Alaska. Unocal has aggressively supported some of this nation's most notorious enemies, and is guilty of widespread human rights violations (child slavery, forced relocation of indigenous people, disappearances, etc.) during construction of the Yadana pipeline in Burma.

Good job on the maps, and aerial photos.

§1.4 Relationship of TAPS to BLM

Last sentence says you assume NPR-A would need TAPS. Why not also assume ANWR? That is a real relationship—don't ignore it because it's controversial.

§ 2 Alternatives

Why not consider alternative of granting application to some companies, not to others? It is insulting and illegal to ignore an issue brought up in Scoping. That this was an alternative was even acknowledged in the summary of scoping comments. Yet, no

00384-2

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00384-6

mention is made of this potential alternative in the DEIS. Again, please consider the alternative of denying Exxon and Unocal's applications based on their status as social pariahs.

00384-6
(Cont.)

§ 2.2.1 Projected TAPS Operation

It is unreasonable to rely entirely on what applicants say they foresee doing. Please do an independent analysis & economic projection for TAPS system. No oil company has reason to do that—hasn't done that—the public interest demands that be done.

00384-7

§2.2.3 Projected BLM Oversight

Why not even consider a greater oversight role for BLM, JPO, or anyone else?

Why is there just a cursory description of what you might do? Please provide a more thorough work plan in the FEIS, that includes staff #s and budgets.

00384-8

§2.4 No Action Alternative

Why is this alternative so speculative in terms of what DR&R would involve? You should get cracking on this environmental analysis in order to be ready to start taking the sucker apart on Jan. 23rd, 2004.

00384-9

§2.5 Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated for Detailed Analysis

#1 Transfer TAPS ownership to someone else. You say the owners have certain rights, and strong reasons are needed. There ARE strong reasons to kick those assholes out.

Please require that Exxon pay \$5 billion dollars before even reading their application for a right of way lease. To say that their betrayal of Alaskans is not reasonably related to their asking Alaskans for something, is insulting.

Y'all are saying you don't have the authority to fine the TAPS owners? This is an excuse, because you have the authority to change the lease agreement, which sets the rules. More authority over the owners is critical to protect worker safety and whistleblowers. This has been shown time and again.

00384-10

The dismissal of independent audits (#6) is cowardly and uninspired. We know you've done audits, but they've been schwag. Richard Finerberg puts out more useful information than do the bureaucracy's reports. Also, government auditors are essentially employees of the oil companies—they are asked to critique their bosses, their customers.

On a similar note, we don't trust Argonne to do this EIS. Why is that warranted? What do scientists in Illinois know about Alaska? This DEIS is a marketing ploy, from the government to the oil industry.

The issue of native hire is not responded to. You say native hire is up, but that's no reason why you couldn't consider it.

00384-11

"Oil spill response planning is a separate process and not part of the decision on the application to renew the Federal Grant." (p.2-7) This kind of fragmentation is bullshit. In any event, it should have been disclosed in the section on scope of analysis.

00384-12

§3.1.2.1.2 Fuel Systems

on pg. 3.1-6, you say "the fuel gas pipeline is maintained and operated in accordance with federal regulations..." Does this mean in compliance, or are you just saying those are the laws that would apply. This statement looks to be an attempt to bury the line's history of trouble with federal regulations.

00384-13

§3.1.2.1.4 Road System

DEIS does not fully disclose the role of TAPS on the Dalton Highway. That the Brooks range is not continuous wilderness is because of this. TAPS is the sole cause of that road.

The road is also on-and-off the focus of attention for security reasons. A checkpoint was introduced following September 11, which caused significant disruption to the local community. The security system is integrally part of the road system, and should be disclosed and analyzed. (*note: this would not require any breach to secrecy or national security. It is reasonably possible to analyze the environmental impacts of projects, even while keeping whatever secrets are necessary. Air Force bases commonly find it possible to prepare EIS's detailing the environmental impacts of on-base construction and training, for example, even when those projects involve elements of secrecy.)

00384-14

§3.1.2.1.5 Communication System

This description presents an idealized version of how the TAPS communication system is *supposed* to work, not a description of how it actually does.

Relying on Alyeska and the pipeline owners alone for the description of communication systems is unreasonable and irresponsible. Perhaps this explains the author's apparent ignorance of the substantial, ongoing problems surrounding this system—they read what the company said, and dutifully paraphrased it.

The description of the leak detection system, for example, says that it "can identify the probable location of a leak by pipeline section; and alarms will signal deviations in pressure, flow, or flow rate balance. If emergency condition occur, the Pipeline Controller can shut down and entire pump station..." Why is there no mention of the limits of this detection system, given its inability to detect "small," but persistent leaks?

00384-15

A brief mention is made of the fiber-optic system, which you say "is currently used for noncritical voice and data communication," and is "being considered to serve as the primary...system." However, no description is given of the substantial and well-

documented troubled with this system. No explanation is given as to why it isn't used for critical communications now, but may be in the future. The public is left to guess what communications are considered "non-critical." Does that mean calls to mom? Or does it include, say, reports of leaking oil?

00384-15
(Cont.)

Please provide us with a meaningful analysis of the existing communication system that discloses all relevant aspects of the system, including technical limits, results of inspections and testing, any reported failures and the consequences of those failures, and any other relevant information.

§3.1.2.1.6 Site Safety Services

on p. 3.1-15, you incorrectly state that "operation and maintenance of the TAPS do not directly affect fire suppression decisions." Great effort is expended to keep wildfires away from the pipeline, while pipeline-related operations pose a constant risk of starting fires.

It is also incorrectly stated that "fire suppression has had no pronounced effect on the natural fire cycle [in Alaska]." The DEIS author repeats from the TAPS owners an absurd and obsolete reference. Fire suppression in and around populated areas (especially Fairbanks, Anchorage & the Mat-Su, and the Kenai Peninsula) has certainly changed the natural fire cycle. Naturally, basically all forested land in interior Alaska will burn in a wildfire, sooner or later. TAPS and related facilities occupy much of this land, and fires are suppressed near those places. Therefore, the natural regime is interrupted.

On p. 3.1-16, you say "An IRT should be able to control a small volume spill." Based on what? Depending on what? Are small volume spills in fact contained? What is the success/failure rate?

It is further stated that "TAPS is required to comply with ... (CP-35-1)." Does it? Don't tell us what they are *supposed* to do—tell us what they *actually* do.

00384-16

Re. Security: The lonely paragraph on security is not reassuring to a country which has pronounced itself at war with so much of the world. What, really, do they do to protect the pipeline? Anything? Does the U.S. military play a role? How much taxpayer money is being spent to protect the TAPS owners' pipeline? Give us a real description, please.

The statement that "security is enforced...by...fencing all facilities" is untrue. There are numerous places along the pipeline—almost the whole thing, in fact, that are wide open to the world, unfenced and in the wild. If there WERE fences at all facilities, as you say, then that would have an entirely unexamined and profound impact on animal migration.

A quick glance at Table 3.1-6 reveals that there is a shortage of oil spill response equipment. You list a total storage capacity of 973,400 gallons—not even enough for a

spill 1/10th the size of the Exxon *Valdez*. There are only two “communication modules” listed, which certainly wouldn’t be enough for a complex spill response.

Perhaps table 3.1-6 is not a complete list? If it is only a partial list, then what is it supposed to be communicating? Why are you telling us they have 30 anchors and 22 space heaters? This table looks to be a good example of the overall approach to this EIS—designed to look impressive without actually communicating any useable information.

00384-16
(Cont.)

§3.1.2.2.1 Marine Transportation System

Please include more information on the marine transportation system, including where they go, how they unload, how big they are, who owns them, what sorts of issues are related to them, etc. This section reads more like a PR piece by Exxon, attempting to erase the history of the Exxon *Valdez* by doing penance for their sins. “Significant improvements have been made,”—true. But equally true, and of more importance to this decision, are the myriad ways things have not gotten better at all; they have, in fact, gotten steadily worse. It is irresponsible to list only mitigation measures, without ever even actually describing the thing that’s being mitigated. We’ve heard of the Exxon *Valdez*. That’s the only TAPS-loaded tanker that ever spilled oil? It sounds like some folks have put in a lot of work

Tell us about the tankers moored off of Knowles Head, dumping bilge while clearcuts—bought and paid for by the Forest Service with Exxon compensation money for the *Valdez* spill—loom in the background. Tell us who works on those boats—how many jobs it creates, and what those jobs are like for them. Tells us about the federal and state infrastructure—including security systems—that goes along with the marine transportation system. Where are these ships built? Where do they go to die?

00384-17

The study by Net Norske Veritas et al. is an unreasonable basis for predicting future spill rates, and is an inappropriate cite here. No information about the estimate of a 75% decreased risk is cited. Where does this estimate come from? Who funded their study? Reduced by 75% from *what* to *what*? Given that the *Valdez* spill happened, reducing the odds by 75% still leaves us with a one in four chance of it happening again. Is this true?

Figure 3.1-5

Please use a better, more detailed map of Prince William Sound in the FEIS. There are many fantastic maps available in various formats, and we urge you to use a better one than this, which has been copied from the TAPS Owners.

00384-18

Figure 3.1-6

Please use a better, more detailed map of the North Slope oil fields. The map gives the impression that there are no roads up there, when in fact there is extensive ice-roading and tracks left behind from exploration equipment. Also, we know of at least several

00384-19

wells in NPR-A, which are not depicted on this map. Do not just copy from the TAPS owners—their material is notoriously undependable and self-serving.

00384-19
(Cont.)

§3.1.2.2.2 North Slope

Please use up-to-date information with regard to volumes produced from each field, and include all of the fields—not just those volunteered by the TAPS owners.

It is unreasonable not to contain *any* mention of the numerous huge prospects, which are opened up by a decision to renew the TAPS ROW. Among the more obvious examples are the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska, Brooks range foothills, upper Copper basin, Gulf Coast, and Katalla.

00384-20

It is also unreasonable not to contain any mention of the mines, roads, pipelines, drill rigs, capped wells, contaminated sites, gravel pads, parking lots, power plants, living quarters, airstrips, etc., which actually comprise the North Slope oil fields. These places aren't just names that produce numbers—they are an on-the-ground mess of industrial sprawl.

3.3.2.2 Permafrost Degradation and Aggradation

Problems with frost heave and subsidence are unpredictable, and have huge impacts. Please include new, on-the-ground information regarding these ongoing problems in the FEIS.

00384-21

Table 3.3-1 Active Contaminated Sites along the TAPS

This list should also include the contaminated sites caused by the TAPS. Thousands of places have been contaminated by the oil industry since drilling began on the North Slope, and it is misleading to present only those directly along the pipeline.

Even incomplete, this list clearly illustrates that the extent of damage done by TAPS is severe. The information presented here flies in the face of the constant assurance that spills can be and are promptly cleaned up. There are reports a decade old here, still being reviewed for assessment.

00384-22

Please update the table. For example, ID# 6 & 61 lists “system installation planned for 2001.” This DEIS, produced in 2002, should have been easily capable of disclosing whether or not that promise had been met. Has it?

What is the source for spill volumes? How is spill volume determined? Who determines it? What efforts are made to verify these volumes? What are the results of any verifications?

Table 3.3-2 Active Contaminated Sites at the Valdez Marine Terminal

For the spill volumes and soil volume treated sections that are listed “not available,” why aren’t they?

00384-23

§3.4 Seismicity

The Valdez Marine Terminal is not on “high ground.”

00384-24

§3.5 Sand, Gravel, and Quarry Resources

This aspect of TAPS operations is immense, and should be fully disclosed.

00384-25

§3.6 Paleontology

The North Slope area is a treasurehouse for information on the more distant past. Please describe the existing state of archaeology in the TAPS/North Slope area, and its importance to the state of human endeavor.

00384-26

§3.7.1.5 Surface Water Resources—Glennallen to Valdez

Please re-title this section “Copper River.” The extent of the pipeline’s existing and potential impact to that river ecosystem is incredible.

00384-27

The Copper river does not “discharge into Prince William Sound.”

§3.7.2.6 Historical Spills of Crude Oil

4,283 spills between ’77 and ’99 is an incredible figure—and an unacceptable cost for the benefits TAPS provides.

Does this figure include spills on the North Slope oil fields?

Please provide up-to-date information on historical spills in the FEIS. What is the reasoning behind ending your spill tally in 1999?

Please give an independent accounting of how many historical spills of crude there have been. It is unreasonable to suppose that the TAPS owners—who have very strong incentives to fatten the numbers down—are giving the complete picture. Please also tell us the total volume of these spills.

00384-28

It is not true that “no direct spills to surface water have been documented.” There are spills at the Valdez terminal fairly regularly, and the Exxon *Valdez* certainly was a direct spill to surface water. What is the reasoning behind such a flagrantly incorrect statement?

§3.11.1 Discharges from the Valdez Marine Terminal

This operation has and continues to dump toxic crap into the ocean, amidst commercial fishers trying hard to market their product as clean, fresh, Alaska salmon.

Please also provide an explanation and analysis of the alien species introduced via bilge from oil tankers.

00384-29

Why say they are in compliance with permits for discharge of trace elements, rather than disclosing what trace elements they are discharging, and what impacts that is having?

§3.11.4.1 Tanker Traffic

The table, titled “spills associated with TAPS-related marine transportation,” is in fact a short list of some of the mitigation measures in place. What spills are associated with marine transportation? How many have there been, how much have they spilled, and what impacts have they had?

00384-30

§3.11.5 Exxon Valdez Spill

This section is a shameful pack of lies. Who wrote this? We cannot express enough our outrage at the shoddy work done here.

The only sources given for information are the TAPS Owners, who have been lying about the *Valdez* spill from the get-go, and one study (Boehm et al. 1998) of two contaminated bays. That is absurd, especially given the wealth of knowledge available to anyone with access to a library. Millions of dollars and hundreds of studies have been done, and their overall conclusion is that the impact was awful, and that it continues to be awful. It is not possible the DEIS authors could have overlooked this evidence. That you have buried it completely, preferring to parrot Exxon and the other TAPS owners, is disgraceful.

One study of two bays is an absurd basis for statements such as “all concentrations were well below the low effects range.” That is misleading to the point of being an outright lie. Who funded this study?

00384-31

Prince William Sound has NOT recovered from the Exxon *Valdez*. To suggest that it has is disrespectful to those who live here—and who can today readily find *Valdez* oil on our beaches. Of the species analyzed by the EVOS Trustee Council for recovery, only perhaps a couple of them are even close. Wildlife has not recovered. The fishery has not recovered, and actually appears to be near collapse. Subsistence foods are harder to find, and many are probably poisonous to eat. The economic “compensation” for the spill gave us clearcuts and dead-end roads.

Why is there not even a mention of the substantial, ongoing controversy surrounding the spill? Exxon has lived up to its promise (perhaps for the first time) to stretch the civil damages lawsuit into the next millennia, at the expense of thousands of Alaskans whose lives were damaged (and, in some cases, utterly destroyed) by the spill. How can a

background of the spill fail to mention *any* of the lawsuits, congressional inquiries, criminal convictions, or strongarm tactics?

00384-31
(Cont.)

§3.12.7.2 Historical Climate Trends in Alaska

Thank you for acknowledging that Alaska is warming up. Global climate change is clearly one of the most alarming developments in our world, and demands immediate attention. In the FEIS, please take the next step and recognize the role of fossil fuels in causing that warming.

00384-32

§3.16 Hazardous Materials and Waste Management

It is not true, as the DEIS states on page 3.16-4, that contaminated soil is trucked out “always after no more than 2 years of storage.” Only a small fraction of the contaminated soil is ever even touched, let alone trucked somewhere for treatment. As evidenced by the time-frames involved in spill cleanups, the target goal of 2 years is often not met.

00384-33

§3.17.1 Occupational health and safety

Please include the existing conditions on the North Slope oil fields, and among spill cleanup workers.

00384-34

§3.19.1.3 Prince William Sound—fish

The Exxon *Valdez* had, and continues to have, incredible impacts on fish in Prince William Sound. The herring collapse is directly attributable to the spill. Saying that scientific consensus hasn’t been reached on the extent of damage isn’t useful. Of most relevance is the fact that sufficient evidence exists to say that crude oil is very, very bad for fish. From reading this description, a person would think the impacts might be “uncertain,” were they to fill their fishbowl with motor oil.

We urge you to use the best, most up-to-date science in the FEIS regarding the impacts of oil on fish. It is our understanding that one part per billion is sufficient to cause problems for salmon—a number 1,000 times lower than was previously thought.

00384-35

Prince William Sound and the Copper River watershed are a world-class commercial and subsistence fisheries resource, and should be recognized as such.

§3.23.5 Subsistence

Why are you trying to put a dollar figure on the worth of subsistence foods? \$3 per pound might be what subsistence foods would be worth in a grocery store, but their value extends far beyond that when local circumstances are taken into account. A subsistence food is “worth” much more than \$3 when you are cold, hungry, isolated and can’t just run down to the corner store. When it enables one to live, its value is that of life itself.

00384-36

Also, subsistence is not merely an economic pursuit, but a cultural and spiritual endeavor as well. We strenuously object to equating it as purely economic, and urge the DEIS authors to begin serious discussions with Alaska Natives and rural residents.

00384-36
(Cont.)

§3.25.1.1.2 Eyak

It is an insult and a lie that “a discussion of Eyak culture in the 21st century is impossible.” Try talking to some Eyak people (there *are* some), before telling them they are “mere remnants,” and that their culture is worthless. This section demands an apology.

00384-37

§3.8.2 Wilderness

Please describe the role of TAPS in cutting the Gates of the Arctic NPP Wilderness in half. Please describe the role of TAPS in precluding all areas in its vicinity from wilderness designation. Please describe the role of TAPS in possible designation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

00384-38

§3.29 Environmental Justice

The benefits of TAPS flow almost exclusively to rich, white people. The negative consequences fall heaviest on poor, native people. That repeated, heated struggle has been necessary to get the oil companies to live up to their (repeated) promises for Alaska Native hire should be disclosed and described in this section.

In addition to analyzing and profiling poor and minority folks, it is also necessary to similarly profile rich, white people. How can we compare the justice of the situation without the other half of the equation? Please provide information in the FEIS on the decision’s impact to the best-off, say, 5% of the population. A reasonable sample set would be to take a data set of the boards of all the applicant corporations, plus Alyeska, and disclose this decision’s impact on their lives.

00384-39

What are their chances of being exposed to oil-contaminated shellfish? What are the odds of them getting a good job on an oil spill cleanup crew? What are their economic prospects? How much do they stand to gain?

If honestly evaluated, it is beyond doubt that TAPS benefits the rich, much, much more so than the poor. It is also beyond doubt that the negative impacts—destruction and/or poisoning of subsistence foods, sociocultural changes and urbanization, higher prices, etc.—fall most squarely and severely on the backs of Alaska Natives, as well as other poor, rural folks in Alaska.

§4.1 Existing Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures are not environmental consequences of the decision—they are part of the decision to be made. It looks like every effort was made to discuss every form of

00384-40

oversight, *except* the oversight being exercised under this decision. The Grant and Lease are the fundamental tools guiding operation of the pipeline—they are the essential authority of the U.S. over the TAPS owners.

It would be useful to list mitigation measures as they relate to the decision to be made, under the description of alternatives section. That would allow the decision-maker to make changes where they are warranted to account for updates in technology and knowledge. We could see the options available: An independent citizen oversight board, ESCROW accounts, an independent audit every five years, repealing grants & leases for gross violation of human rights, etc.—and then make decisions about what is useful and what isn't.

It is not useful to present an idealized vision of the existing mitigation measures. Reading back mission statements does not substitute for reasoned analysis of agency roles.

§4.1.1 JPO Oversight

Please read the reports on pipeline oversight issued by Richard Fineberg (I am sure he submitted copies), and consider and disclose that information in the FEIS. If we are going to seriously evaluate the role of JPO oversight, it will have to involve a consideration of failures, as well as worthy and important goals.

Current JPO oversight is grossly inadequate to the task at hand—great work by great people notwithstanding. There is simply no independent oversight. The state gives the oil companies land, tax breaks and permits. The oil companies give the state money—the bulk of our state revenue and state worker paychecks. JPO works *for* the TAPS owners, referring to them as the “customer.” CWP has been monitoring TAPS operations since 1998, and we have never seen an example of JPO strictly enforcing laws, regulations, or anything else. JPO is a token group, that doesn't have the power to enforce any real compliance on the TAPS owners. Their energy is stretched already, just finding ways to claim that TAPS is in compliance with all statutes and regulations. JPO attempts to regulate a few of the most powerful entities on the planet. Exxon alone could dispatch ten lawyers for every one JPO inspector, and consider it cheap.

An authentically independent citizen oversight group is imperative if the pipeline is to last another 30 years, without very many catastrophic accidents. The

§4.2.2.4.3 Surveillance and Monitoring Activities

It is untrue that surveillance and monitoring operations “have no notable impacts.” The impacts of helicopters on birds, and of boats on whales, have been documented, and should be disclosed and analyzed. ATVs, snowmachines, trucks, aircraft and heavy machinery leave scars on the land, and disrupt and displace wildlife. Digging up sections of pipeline to do corrosion monitoring also involves a locally intense intrusion on the land.

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(Cont.)

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00384-42

Re. Changes to management strategies

It is unnerving that the DEIS has such unconditional confidence in the TAPS owners to manage TAPS operations to the benefit of the public. Recent job cuts, including in areas important for security and safety, indicate a willingness to cut costs, at the expense of the environment and people of Alaska. Given the repeated, past failures of similar shifts in management strategy, we wonder on what basis this DEIS has confidence in the latest round.

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(Cont.)

§4.3 Proposed Action Alternative Analysis—Routine Operations

This section is fatally flawed, because it does not analyze or disclose the environmental impacts of the proposed action. There is plenty of description of the way different issues are handled, but almost none of actual impacts.

The burden should not fall on the public, at this stage of NEPA analysis, to again identify what the significant issues for analysis are.

§4.3.3 Seismicity

The risk of earthquakes causing a spill is a major concern. The DEIS correctly identifies it as “credible.” However, where is the analysis of the impact? If a large earthquake were to occur, causing a pipeline leak, that would be a uniquely awful scenario, and should be disclosed. Are spill response mechanisms going to be in place after an earthquake? Would emergency equipment and personnel be drawn away from other pressing needs?

00384-43

§4.3.4 Sand, Gravel, and Quarry Resources

Two paragraphs is nowhere near sufficient to describe the impact of hundreds of mines and quarries. How much acreage would be dug up? How many more quarries might be needed? What kind of vegetation would be removed? How much silt will it dump into salmon streams?

00384-44

§4.3.5 Paleontology

Renewal of this grant & lease would adversely impact known paleontological resources. A key lesson of the *Valdez* spill was that response crews cannot be turned loose without destroying historically and culturally significant artifacts. Please disclose the impact of another 30 years of arctic oil drilling on paleontology resources.

00384-45

§4.3.6 Surface Water Resources

TAPS impacts to surface water are unacceptably severe, and warrant a decision not to renew the lease. They use too much water and dump it back fouled. We need that water for drinking, and watering the food we eat. Many critters use the water for living in.

00384-46

It is inaccurate to state that the impacts will be “small, local and temporary,” given the known, profound impacts of oil spills on surface water. TAPS has produced negative impacts to surface water that are large, widespread, and permanent. Releases of hydrostatic test water are in the millions of gallons, not at all small. Alterations in hydrology on rivers are permanent. Ongoing consumption and dumping of water takes place on a large scale.

00384-46
(Cont.)

§4.3.12 Hazardous materials and Waste Management

The amount and variety of toxic garbages generated by TAPS alone should give us pause. Had the DEIS included waste generated through, for example, refining and consumption, it would be even more clear what a mess TAPS is creating. This is unacceptable, and offers strong support for the no action alternative.

Merely stating that a state or federal agency is in charge of overseeing something does not obviate a responsibility to reveal the effects. Throughout this section mention is made of the way a poison is managed, without any explanation of the actual impacts. For example, under “Radioactive Wastes,” (p.4.3-35), the DEIS says only that there will be no changes in waste volumes or procedures, and that if radioactive materials were all replaced, then there would be no more radioactive materials. What radioactive waste?

00384-47

§4.3.13.1.4 Electrical Systems Issues

If TAPS owners were out of compliance, and the JPO inspections have shown the condition to have improved, but not corrected, then the TAPS owners are still out of compliance, no?

00384-48

§4.3.13.2.3 Potential for Exposure to PBT Chemicals

The many spills associated with TAPS, over space and time, are cumulatively adding to PBT exposure far beyond the DEIS's. It is known that this causes cancer. Please disclose in the FEIS how many people can be expected to die of cancer because of continued TAPS operations.

00384-49

§4.3.14 Biological Resources Overview

TAPS operations have a huge and unacceptable impact on biological resources. While this section lists many of those impacts (eg. habitat fragmentation, altered habitat, spills, obstructed movements, etc.), no effort is made to analyze their effects. It is our observation that TAPS, for some species in some area, has been devastating. For virtually all species, TAPS has significant negative impacts. These impacts justify denying the application for ROW renewal.

00384-50

§4.3.15 Terrestrial Vegetation and Wetlands

Impacts of TAPS are very significant, and justify denying the application for ROW renewal. The cumulative area disturbed by TAPS is huge, when all factors are taken into account. Dust shadows, for example, and tracks across the tundra, are notable scars that have become a significant, unnatural element of the North Slope ecosystem. Where work occurs, the disturbance is locally very intense. Efforts to revegetate disturbed areas are only sometimes successful, and by no means entirely mitigate for the impacts.

00384-51

Introduction of invasive, alien species is a particular problem, which has unpredictable, potentially very large impacts.

§4.3.16 Fish

The impact of TAPS on fish is significant, and justifies denying the application. The Copper River salmon deserve particular attention. Please provide a detailed analysis in the FEIS of the impact of ongoing TAPS operations on that fish.

00384-52

§4.3.16.1 Alteration and Loss of Habitat

It is untrue that ADF&G does not permit water withdrawals in overwintering areas, as stated on p.4.3-50.

00384-53

§4.3.17 Birds and terrestrial mammals

This section is an overly vague and cursory listing of ways TAPS harms critters. Some effort at analyzing these harms—rather than just listing them out as though they were hypothetical—is in order. TAPS has a cumulatively massive impact on birds and critters, seriously alters the ecosystem, and risks permanently contaminating vast areas of valuable habitat.

00384-54

§4.3.17.2 Disturbance and Displacement

Habituation should not be confused with “no impact.” Critters may come to tolerate certain levels of disturbance, but still be negatively affected by them.

00384-55

§4.3.18 Threatened, Endangered, and Protected Species

It is untrue that TAPS “does not directly or indirectly affect the waters of the Beaufort Sea.” (p.4.3-59). Significant drilling work takes place there, and the risk of spills is real.

00384-56

In Table 4.3-5, the potential impacts for the listed marine mammals is that “effluent discharged from Valdez...would be monitored and kept within permitted levels.” This tells us nothing about the impacts of the decision on those species. What would those discharges *do* to them? How intense would the effect be?

00384-57

This section fails to disclose any of the projects impacts on the listed species, except to state simply that it will be some impact, but not too much. However, no indication is

00384-58

given how those conclusions were reached. It communicates nothing to explain mitigation measures, without describing the impact that it's hoped to be mitigating.

The analysis of impacts to ESA listed and other sensitive species relies entirely on the presumption that there will be operational mishaps. That is an unreasonable assumption, given the thousands of operational mishaps which have occurred. TAPS risks massive taking of ESA listed species, by killing them directly and degrading their habitat with oil spills.

00384-58
(Cont.)

§4.3.19.1.1 Assumption Relating to Oil Production..

Why are the economic benefits oilfield development considered here, while the environmental harms of that same development are excluded from other sections?

It is unreasonable to suppose that "employment in the oil fields would remain constant," (p.4.3-65), given ongoing and repeated cuts in the size of the labor force.

00384-59

Table 4.3-22 Government-to-Government Interaction Summary

The activities listed here do not comprise a meaningful government to government interaction. Sending scoping letters, and having brief meeting between unidentified personnel is insufficient.

Environmental justice demands that Alaska Native groups be afforded proper respect as sovereign peoples. Furthermore, meetings and letters are empty gestures if requests and recommendations are not taken seriously. The inability of this DEIS to incorporate even one idea or recommendation of an Alaska Native government indicates that these negotiations are not an exchange of equals.

00384-60

§4.4.1 Spill Scenarios

The risk of oil spills having catastrophic impacts to Alaska is very real. The risk is far too high, compared with the benefit being sought. The decision amounts to a gamble. It is not O.K. to gamble with the health of our planet.

Why doesn't the spill analysis "imply that these spills are 'expected' ...events."? It should be expected that renewal will result in oil spills at least as large and frequent as during the first 25 years. At least the scenarios up through the "likely" category should be expected. Oil spills will happen!

00384-61

The four frequency categories appear to have been selected at random, and represent a subjective judgement. A spill estimated to happen once every 60 years, for example, means there is a 1 in 2 chance of it occurring during the renewal period. A 50-50 chance of something does not make it "unlikely."

On page 4.4-3 it is stated that spill data were derived from “a number of available sources.” What were those sources, and how reliable are they? What effort was made to ensure that TAPS owner-reported spill volumes match the spills as they exist on the ground? Because these numbers comprise the heart of the DEIS’s statistical spill analysis, special effort must be made to ensure that they are accurate.

The ongoing questions and controversy over the real amount spilled by the Exxon *Valdez* indicate that the TAPS owners numbers should be greeted with healthy skepticism. They have every incentive to lie, have failed to build a record worthy of trust, and can not reasonably be trusted to accurately report spill volumes. Yet, the DEIS appears to rely entirely on the TAPS owners report for historical analysis and statistical distributions of spills.

00384-61
(Cont.)

Table 4.4-1 & 4.4-2 Summary of Spill Scenarios...

Why are the expected frequencies for each individual scenario given, without any corresponding idea of how often they will occur. Simply saying that small leaks will probably happen more than twice a year doesn’t give us the best available information. How many small leaks would you expect, given the over 4,000 which have occurred so far? There is, on average, a spill directly relating to TAPS at least once each day. This table blurs that reality. How much volume do they expect to spill?

The number of major scenarios (eg. which fall under the “likely” category is upsetting. Those spills are all *expected* to occur. Quite simply, that is not a price we should be willing to pay.

How accurate are these predictions? At what level of confidence, specifically?

On p. 4.4-9, the DEIS states that “if a particular postulated event is calculated to potentially cause large consequences but occurs with low frequency, the calculated risk would be small.” What is the basis for that judgement? This is a poor method of impact analysis. The greater the potential damage of an even, the less likely it has to be before it becomes a major risk.

For example, the odds of an airplane crashing into the pipeline by sheer accident is something around once every 100-400 years. That means the odds of it happening are between one in three and one in twelve. A one in three chance of an accident of that magnitude is a huge risk. Would you get in a plane that had a one in three chance of crashing?

00384-62

§4.4.2 Hydrological Analysis of Spill Events

This section presents the most optimistic information about the persistence and transportation of oil. Evidence gathered since the *Valdez* spill clearly demonstrates that oil remains longer, in greater quantities, than was previously thought.

00384-63

§4.4.3 Fire Analysis of Spill Events

It is incorrect to assume that for a vandalism (terrorism) event, an ignition source could only come from a spill response team. It's not giving away any national secrets to admit that the pipeline could get blown up.

00384-64

§4.4.4 Impacts of Spills on Environmental Receptors.

Please refrain from using any of the biased, Exxon-funded science in the FEIS.

00384-65

§4.4.4.1. Soils and Permafrost

It is absurd to state that the maximum area contaminated by a spill is 84 acres. A spill into the Copper river system, which escaped downriver into the delta, could very rapidly contaminate thousands of acres. A spill into the Yukon river, none of which could be cleaned up, could contaminate land the whole length of the river. It would also be foreseeable that a small, persistent spill could go undetected for a long period of time, and could expand to a large area.

00384-66

§4.4.4.1.2 Impacts for Selected Spill Scenarios

It is untrue that "the worst event among the anticipated spill scenarios would be an instantaneous leak of 100 bbl..." The worst event would be a much larger spill, that leaked slowly and undetected.

It is inaccurate to state that "prompt cleanup would reduce the impacts to negligible," for a 100 bbl spill. It is entirely conceivable that the leak wouldn't be discovered for some time. "Cleanup," as often as not, consists of leaving the contaminated ground where it is, and hoping nothing happens.

00384-67

It is absurd that among the worst case scenarios presented here, not one even comes close to approaching the size of the *Valdez* spill. Where has this mythical 2,268,000 gallon limit come from? Why do you assume that, worst case, it would take 48 hours to stop the leak. The Livengood spill took 36 hours to plug, and that was hardly the most difficult potential scenario.

§4.4.4.2 Paleontology

Oil spill response wrecks havoc on paleontological resources, as evidenced by the *Valdez* spill. Please disclose this effect.

00384-68

§4.4.4.3 Surface Water Resources

Oil spills will have unacceptable impacts on surface water resources, if the application is granted. Recent information has revealed that one part per billion is enough to impact salmon reproductivity. The impact of a major oil spill into a river, especially into the

00384-69

Yukon or Copper River watersheds, would have devastating impacts to fish, wildlife, and subsistence values.

00384-69
(Cont.)

What would be the impact of a spill to water, beneath ice sheets? Saying that the situation would be complex shouldn't stop the DEIS from at least informing us of what the risks are. Rivers along the ROW are frozen a great deal of the time, and such a situation is easily conceivable.

00384-70

The listed percentages of oil that would be recovered from a spill into one of the named rivers don't mesh with reality. Saying you'll recover 100% is a silly thing to say—no honest assessment could possibly guarantee that any spill will be 100% contained. Why present percentages subject to containment at the containment sites, when it is also recognized that for virtually any of the rivers, the oil slick would be miles and miles past that point by the time crews were able to respond. Again, it appears the DEIS is presenting the rosiest possible picture.

00384-71

It is a mistake to assume spills would occur instantaneously, given the likelihood and impacts of slow, undetected leaks. Changing this assumption also changes entirely the presumption of fast, effective and flawless remediation.

00384-72

§4.4.4.7.1 Impacts from exposures to contaminated soils and groundwater resulting from spills to land

Presenting us with the process used to identify the impacts of a spill when it occurs, is not a substitute for an analysis of what those impacts are likely to be. While ADEC may require that spills be cleaned up, in fact many of them are not, and exposure pathways continue to exist. The Happy Valley Camp spills are a good indication of how spills can continue to contaminate the land, decades after the cleanup should have been completed were the law followed to the letter.

00384-73

§4.4.4.7.2 Impacts from inhalation exposures resulting from spills

Table 4.4-30 appears to give some good raw data, but fails to indicate what any of it means. If I'm reading the data correctly, the inhalation hazard would be substantial for a couple miles downwind, correct? How big is that hazard? What happens to a person who breathes this stuff?

00384-74

§4.4.4.7.4 Impacts from Foodchain Exposures Resulting from Spills to Water

It is a mistake to assume that the *Valdez* accident represents the worst of foodchain impacts. Spills in different regions, with different critters and different ways and degrees of eating them, could well have even more pronounced impacts. The arctic environment breaks down oil even more slowly than Prince William Sound. Contamination would probably persist longer in colder, more stable environments, perhaps increasing their buildup in subsistence foods.

00384-75

Are you seriously meaning to say that it's safer to eat fish heavily contaminated by a crude oil spill, than it is to eat smoked fish? That is patently absurd.

Are PAHs the only risks associated with spills? Why is that the only toxin being addressed?

It is foolish to assume total cleanup for a spill into a river, when at least 2/3 of a spill into the Yukon would not be cleaned up—even under optimistic scenarios.

00384-75
(Cont.)

§4.4.4.8 Biological Resources Overview

The impact of oil spills on biological resources is severe, and justifies denying the application.

Statements that what the impacts are depend on the size of the spill, effectiveness of the cleanup, etc., are obvious and do nothing to inform the reader as to what those effects might be. Will animals die? Will their babies have genetic deformities? Will their reproductive success rates decline over the long term? Will the composition of species change? Through the fog of these sections, it is possible to glean that oil is really, really bad for any critter that comes in contact with it. The DEIS should do more than give a vague sense that oil is bad for animals—it should map out in detail how bad it is.

00384-76

A river spill could affect protected species, including migratory shorebirds on the Copper River Delta, swans, steller sea lions and whales.

§4.4.4.10 Fish

The impact of oil spills on fish is huge. Any spill that came into contact with the Copper river fishery would, regardless of its magnitude, have devastating impacts on that fishery. Fish are also a critically important subsistence food to many people along the corridor.

00384-77

An oil spill into any river would be devastating, and the benefits of renewal are not worth the cost.

§4.4.4.11 Birds and Terrestrial Mammals

The hundreds of thousands of birds and mammals which have been killed by TAPS were an unacceptable price to pay. The idea that we can comfortably decide to kill several tens of thousands more is disturbing.

The evidence from the *Valdez*, showing that bird populations do not quickly recover from spills, should serve as a warning.

00384-78

The response strategies listed to protect wildlife from spills are pretty grim. Hazing, collecting carcasses, and capturing and treating them are three very poor options—none of them should inspire the least degree of confidence. This list of response measures

illustrates that, once it is released into the environment, the TAPS owners (and everyone else) doesn't have the slightest idea what to do with it.

00384-78
(Cont.)

§4.4.4.12 Threatened, Endangered, and Protected Species

Spills are expected to occur, and we know that they would likely take listed and protected species. The proposed decision amounts to a death sentence for these creatures. Extinction of any species—even just a small risk—is an unacceptable cost for renewing the ROW.

00384-79

§4.4.4.13.2 Recreation and Tourism

Please disclose the impact of spills on marketing for tourism. A more visibly polluted environment would tend to compound the shortage of independent travelers, leaving the industrial package-tours with an even bigger market share. Millions would have to be spent marketing Alaska tourism again. The economic impact here could be huge—partially offsetting the money lost when TAPS is gone.

00384-80

§4.4.4.14 Subsistence

The impact of oil spills on subsistence is very severe, both physically and psychologically. Not only are subsistence foods directly killed, they are poisoned in the long term as well. Confidence in the health of the food decreases. Spill response impacts on the economy of affected communities interrupts subsistence.

The importance of subsistence is understated in this DEIS, and many subsistence areas we know of were left out (including all of those around Cordova). This causes your analysis of oil's impact on subsistence foods to be suspect as well. Please base the FEIS understanding of the impacts on meaningful community and tribal involvement, and scientific research not funded by Exxon.

00384-81

Subsistence is worth more than all the oil in the world. The certain and risked damage to subsistence warrants rejection of the ROW review.

§4.5 less than 30-year renewal

The analysis of this option is exceedingly shallow. Simply listing all the impacts as identical to the proposed alternative does nothing to inform the reader. Obviously, the impacts on all resources would be proportionately lessened with a shorter pipeline renewal.

00384-82

Also, impacts would be lessened substantially by the ongoing need for TAPS owners to maintain compliance with terms and conditions of the grant and lease. Their incentive to cooperate is greatly lessened, when they have a 30-year free-for-all.

§4.6 Description of the No-Action Alternative

The analysis here is fatally flawed by refusing to recognize the obvious fact that, sooner or later, the pipeline is going to have to be cleaned up. The impacts of that cleanup are inevitable—and would be the same regardless of when it is done. The No-Action alternative doesn't introduce anything into the equation that isn't already there if the application is granted.

00384-83

The economic impacts of No-Action would be better than for the action alternative. The bulk of the oil money to be had has already been gotten. The risk of massive, permanent damage to other systems (eg. subsistence, fisheries, tourism, etc.) is substantial so long as the pipeline is operating. By getting out now, we'd retain the bulk of economic advantages, while also retaining relatively healthy and intact ecosystems, on which a sustainable economy could and would be built.

00384-84

§4.7.1.1 Approach (to cumulative effects)

On page 4.7-1 it is stated that "no action has not received engineering and environmental study and its description remains somewhat speculative." This statement admits that the No-Action alternative has not been meaningfully analyzed.

It is also stated, on the same page that "the environmental impacts of the no-action alternative would result in a greater change in impacts to the existing environment than the impacts of the proposed action." This is incorrect. As mentioned above, the impacts of DR&R are inevitable—the consequence is the same, regardless of the alternative selected.

00384-85

While you all do an O.K. job in the section of describing the impacts of different other projects, virtually no effort has been given to linking those projects to TAPS. Part of the cumulative impact analysis must include the relative importance of the decision at hand, as it relates to these other projects.

§4.7.3.2 Proposals Considered but Excluded

The decision to omit analysis of both ANWR and the gasline is unreasonable. The Gas pipeline has been funded, and enabling legislation has been passed. While uncertainty remains, certainly, it is a reasonably foreseeable consequence of the decision to grant the application.

00384-86

We are somewhat confused as to whether the gasline is in fact being considered, since it is listed in table 4.7-2 as a potential contribution to cumulative effects. We urge that that project be analyzed as a result of TAPS.

§4.7.4.2 Oil Refining

Why are the refineries in Alaska considered as relating to TAPS, while the rest of the refineries it serves are not? Refining capacity can reasonably be expected to increase to serve TAPS.

00384-87

§4.7.4.4.2 Alaska North Slope Natural Gas Commercialization

The description of the proposed project is inaccurate. You list the project cost as \$10 billion, when most published reports reference a \$17-\$20 billion tab. It also is listed as being 600 miles long, when in fact the proposal would involve laying something over 3,000 miles of pipe.

00384-88

Please provide sources for your information on this project.

§4.7.4.5.2 Habitation and Development

Gleannallen/Copper Center are the site of a large, new luxury lodge built by Princess Corp. Please include that development in the description of those communities.

00384-89

§4.7.4.8.1 National Parks, Preserves...

Visitor number for the Wrangell-St. Elias are neither precise nor accurate. The new Princess lodge is adding something around 20,000 new visitors. Also, nobody has ever actually counted the number of visitors—the cited figure of 25,000 annual visitors can only be guesswork.

00384-90

§4.7.4.8.3 Military

Information on Ft. Greely is outdated. Construction there has already begun, and many elements of the project are becoming clear.

This section should include the extensive military testing of missile defense systems proposed in Alaska. A proposal to launch SCUD missiles north from Fairbanks, plus the use of Kodiak facilities for NMD testing, should be considered as part of this section.

00384-91

Table 4.7-7

This table is impossible to read. We appreciate your efforts to incorporate complex analysis in simple form, but this table communicates very little.

00384-92

§4.7.6

On page 4.7-62, it is incorrectly stated that the cumulative impact of the proposed action would be smaller than that of no-action and construction of a gasline. It is not reasonably foreseeable that a gasline would be built, if TAPS is taken out. The gasline is a consequence of TAPS. The impact of shutting down the pipeline, as stated previously, is an inevitability.

00384-93

§4.7.6.4 Surface Water Resources

The volume of water use is astounding. That is having a cumulative impact on water availability, with unknown long-term impacts.

It is naïve to assume that “implementation of the foreseeable actions would require compliance with all applicable permit restrictions, laws and regulations.” It is common practice for variances and exceptions to these laws and regulations to be made. In fact, permits are almost never not granted. This statement also flies in the face of the multitude of violations which regularly occur. It is standard industry practice to comply only with those laws they absolutely have to, in order to keep working. Since JPO never seriously considers actually forcing compliance, the existing situation is one of widespread violations of laws and regulations. Mitigation measures, such as laws and regulations, do not substitute for reasoned analysis.

00384-94

§4.7.6.6 Physical Marine Environment

Impacts to the marine environment are large and long-lived, especially when considered cumulatively .

The statement that “small spills from all vessels are rapidly responded to and cleaned up...” (p. 4.7-70) is false. Small spills off ships of all sorts are routine—and are rarely reported, let alone cleaned up.

00384-95

The assumption (on p.4.7-71) that any spill into the Sound would be contained within six hours is unjustified, and flies in the face of experience.

§4.7.6.9 Transportation

The extent to which the existing transportation network is created, expanded and maintained in connection with TAPS operations is greatly understated. That the North Slope is road-accessible at all is directly attributable to TAPS. A great proportion of the train traffic here is tied to TAPS. Huge amounts of material and personnel are constantly being shipped to and fro, at great expense to the taxpayer.

00384-96

Also undisclosed is the impact that TAPS has—via its unique requirements for extra security—on access. The Dalton highway can be closed in moments of national nervousness. The vulnerability of Alaska to attack is entirely due to the presence of TAPS.

§4.7.6.10 Wastes

It is incorrect to state that “TAPS operations do not contribute to the generation of NORM wastes,” because they are shipped to Louisiana. Wherever they are disposed of,

00384-97

that junk goes somewhere. The cumulative impact is increased, not lessened, by shipping garbage elsewhere.

The claim (on p.4-7-77) that “permit conditions would limit the extent of...impacts [to out of state disposal locations] to acceptable levels” is incorrect. That disposal is permitted only indicates that a disposal is legal—it says nothing about the scale of its impact, or whether or not it is “acceptable,” from an environmental point of view.

00384-97
(Cont.)

§4.4.7 Biological Resources

The cumulative impact of TAPS on Alaska’s biological resources is severe. Evidence is abundant that the environment here is seriously degrading. Climate change, bioaccumulation of toxics, and other impacts have greater potential impacts due to the fact that TAPS has weakened the resilience of ecosystems to respond to those changes.

00384-98

This section should include some discussion of the overall state of Alaska’s environment. The fact is that it is degrading at an unsustainable rate. We might be able to debate the causes of this degradation, but that it is happening is a matter of record.

§4.7.7.2.4 Effects of Oil, Fuel, and Chemical Spills on Fish

The statement (p.4.7-93) that “the Exxon Valdez oil spill probably had some impacts on fish...however...by 1995, fish populations and habitats had largely recovered” is false. The herring fishery is nowhere near recovered, and we are still discovering the true extent of that spill’s impact to fish.

00384-99

§4.7.7.2.5 Summary

The assertion that none of the cumulative impacts on fish are expected to “affect the viability of species’ populations,” and that “oil spills would not significantly add to cumulative impacts,” runs contrary to available evidence. Various salmon runs, and other fisheries, have been wavering in various states of crisis for the last several years. The portrayal that all is well with Alaska’s fisheries is irresponsible.

00384-100

§4.7.7.3 Birds and Mammals

§4.7.7.3.1 Habitat Loss, Alteration, or Enhancement

The cumulative loss of habitat due to TAPS operations is huge. Lost habitat is spread over an extremely large area, making its impact in terms of fragmented habitat far larger than the 21,550-acre figure you cite.

North Slope development activities cause significant changes in species composition. By favoring scavenging critters, and destroying large predators, these operations have a significant impact.

00384-101

The cumulative impacts to birds and mammals should include a recognition that weakening the ecosystem's ability to adapt to other, large-scale changes (eg. global warming), can push the area beyond an invisible threshold where adaptation will no longer be successful.

00384-101
(Cont.)

§4.7.7.3.2 Disturbance or Displacement

1,200 helicopter flights in support of offshore operations alone indicates that TAPS is introducing a profound disturbance. Helicopters are very annoying to most critters, and have been documented to affect the viability of populations.

00384-102

The assertion on p. 4.7-98 that "operation of the gas pipeline project would have a negligible impact," is unfounded, and is patently false. The largest construction project in the history of the nation would only have a "negligible" impact? Where does this information come from?

§4.7.7.3.3 Mortality

Please provide documentation and data to support the conclusions regarding mortality of predators (especially bears). This data should be easily available from ADF&G.

00384-103

§4.7.7.3.4 Obstruction to Movement

Please provide the latest documentation on the cumulative impact of movement blockage on critters.

00384-104

The assertion that "the gas pipeline...would...have no impact" is false. Clearings, disturbance and roads fragment habitat for many species.

§4.7.7.3.6 Summary

Please provide some reasoning for the statement that "it is expected that none of these activities would significantly increase impacts or affect the viability of species' populations." The on-the-ground truth, that critters are dying, and that the land is getting unhealthy, provides indications to the contrary. Something is very wrong. To say that everything is fine, and nothing will get any worse, is silly.

00384-105

§ 4.7.7.4 Threatened, Endangered, and Protected Species

The cumulative impacts to species of concern, including ESA-listed species, have self-evidently been significant. If they are pushed to the brink of extinction, quite clearly *something* has gone wrong. Please provide documentation to support the conclusions that impacts to ESA-listed and protected species are negligible.

00384-106

It is incorrect to state that "the proposed action would not affect the waters of the Beaufort Sea..." Offshore drilling there, with attendant pipelines, disturbance, and risk

00384-107

of spills, is integrally connected with TAPS. If the no-action alternative is selected, there would be substantial reduction in risks to the Beaufort Sea.

00384-107
(Cont.)

§4.7.8.1 Subsistence

It is incorrect that “any negative impacts that occurred would be extremely small.” Oil spills could wipe out some of the most significant and productive subsistence resources in the world. Even this DEIS, which makes every effort to excuse and diminish the reality of those impacts, admits as much.

00384-108

§4.7.8.2 Sociocultural systems

It is inaccurate to discuss impacts to the Native village of Eyak. The community of Cordova and village of Eyak are—for any practical purpose—one and the same place.

The statement that “the only documented subsistence areas in Prince William Sound are in Chenega Bay and Tatitlek,” is entirely false. There are subsistence use areas throughout the sound.

00384-109

§4.7.8.3 Economics

The figure of \$5-\$6 billion total costs for gasline construction runs contrary to all reports we’ve seen. The cost would be somewhere around \$20 billion.

00384-110

The statement, on p. 4.7-116, that the Exxon *Valdez* spill created “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,” is incorrect, insulting, and demands apology to the fishers and natives whose livelihoods were destroyed.

Even what you evidently term “benefits”—the huge cash payments to individuals and corporations—hardly count as such. There are thousands of acres of cleacuts here now—created in an effort to get a footing after the spill, and aided and abetted by Exxon money. Tens of millions were spent building a tunnel from Whittier to the road system, with significant cumulative impacts to the Sound.

00384-111

§4.8.3 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

In what must be an astounding oversight or editing error, petroleum is not listed here as a resource which is irretrievably committed. Granting the application for ROW renewal will result in something like 9 billion barrels of oil, and unknown billions (or trillions) of cubic feet of natural gas being extracted and consumed. Once that stuff is sucked out of the earth, it isn’t going back. This omission borders on pathological denial.

00384-112

Thank you for thoughtfully considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Scott
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Responses for Document 00384

- 00384-001:** 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.
- 00384-002:** The EIS addresses direct and indirect impacts of oil transportation from Pump Station 1 through the loading arm at the Valdez Marine Terminal. The cumulative analysis addresses impacts from North Slope oil production and marine transport in the tanker fleet. The analysis presented in the EIS is not fragmented, but as it considers the regulatory oversight authority of BLM for TAPS infrastructure and operations. The cumulative analysis reflects the natural boundaries of the North Slope and the marine environment of Prince William Sound. In response to your comment and others, the FEIS has added more analysis in Section 4.7, "Cumulative Effects."
- 00384-003:** The EIS clearly lists the owner companies in Section 1.1. Evaluation of corporate history that does not have a direct relationship to the TAPS renewal process is beyond the scope of this EIS.
- 00384-004:** Thank you for your comment.
- 00384-005:** Petroleum development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was not considered in the DEIS because such an action is not possible without authorization by Congress. Without Congressional authorization, this action was considered to not be "reasonably foreseeable." As required by NEPA regulations, cumulative effects should include "reasonably foreseeable future actions." Because petroleum development in NPR-A has been authorized, development in this area is included in the cumulative effects assessment.
- 00384-006:** The reader is directed to Section 2.5, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."
- 00384-007:** The BLM has conducted an independent evaluation during this EIS process. Obviously, certain operational components of TAPS are under the direction of the applicant. When required for the EIS analysis, this operations information was used by the BLM.
- 00384-008:** A more detailed presentation of JPO oversight is presented in Section 2.2.3 of the FEIS.
- 00384-009:** Full evaluation of dismantlement, removal, and restoration (i.e., termination) activities will require separate National Environmental Policy Act documentation. The scope of this EIS could not cover detailed termination plans. Indeed, extensive engineering and environmental data will have to be collected prior to any termination decisions. However, Chapter 2 provides the basic assumptions concerning no action, and these basic assumptions were used in the EIS analyses.
- 00384-010:** Please note that Section 2.5 in the FEIS has been substantially revised to reflect public comment received on the DEIS.
- The BLM and JPO expect to continue to evaluate the effectiveness of APSC's ECP through a confidential survey that will seek input from all TAPS employees. Like the three prior surveys, this effort can provide broad measures of the confidence that TAPS workers have in APSC's ECP and can suggest areas needing improvement.
- The Bureau of Land Management is the lead federal agency for preparation of this EIS. Regardless of assistance provided in preparation and review of the EIS, BLM is responsible for its content.

- 00384-011:** The issue of native hire is included in the discussion of consequences to sociocultural systems (Section 4.3.21.1). Beyond an evaluation of how Native hiring practices may produce impacts under the alternatives considered in the EIS, the topic is outside the scope of this impact analysis.
- 00384-012:** Oil spill planning is required by the federal grant. Prescriptive requirements for contingency plans are established by State of Alaska regulations and federal statutes. See the discussion on spill contingency planning in Section 4.1.4. See the discussion of spill contingency planning in the Copper River Drainage in Section 4.4.4.3. See also the synopsis of the response to the bullet hole incident in October 2001 near Livengood in the text box in Section 4.1.1.8.
- 00384-013:** The statement is meant to say that the fuel gas pipeline is maintained and operated in compliance with federal regulations. The statement has been revised to clarify that point.
- 00384-014:** The relation between the Dalton Highway and the TAPS pipeline is explained in Section 3.1.2.1.4 of the EIS. Security for the TAPS is an issue of national importance. There are elaborate security measures and plans in place, involving numerous Federal and State agencies.
- BLM has reviewed these confidential plans and agrees with them. Opportunities to strengthen these measures will always be pursued diligently by the agencies involved. Analyzing the disruption of traffic along the Dalton Highway due to security concerns, weather, accidents, and other highway activities is beyond the scope of the EIS.
- 00384-015:** The communication system used along the TAPS pipeline is described briefly in Section 3.1.2.5 of the EIS. The system used to detect leaks in the pipeline is mentioned in the same section and is explained more fully in Section 4.1.2.9. BLM is aware of the capabilities and limitations of both systems and is making sure that they are relied upon only to the extent that they can support. BLM and other JPO member agencies would appreciate being notified of any specific problems and issues related to these systems. The public can contact the appropriate agency to report any problems.
- 00384-016:** The fire protection and management systems at the TAPS facilities and relating to wilderness fires along the TAPS ROW are described in Section 3.1.2.1.6 of the EIS. Operation and maintenance of the TAPS could affect the fire suppression decisions near the TAPS ROW.
- The statements about the IRT and TAPS being required to comply with the TAPS Pipeline Oil Discharge and Prevention Plan (CP-35-1) (C-Plan) in Section 3.1 are correct and retained as is. BLM and other JPO member agencies make sure that the C-Plan is followed.
- Security for the TAPS is an issue of national importance. There are elaborate security measures and plans in place, involving numerous Federal and State agencies. BLM has reviewed these confidential plans and agrees with them. Opportunities to strengthen these measures will always be pursued diligently by the agencies involved.
- Table 3.1-6 is a summary of the major oil spill contingency equipment available for the TAPS.
- Details on the equipment available and procedures in place for emergency response are given in the Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans cited in Section 4.1.4 of the EIS. These documents are available to the public during Plan review periods through various libraries in several major cities in Alaska.

- 00384-017:** Further information on present and future TAPS trade tankers is provided by the British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Prevention Project (available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/prevention/bap/TAPS%20Trade%20Tanker%20Report.htm>).
- The focus of the EIS is on activities associated with continuing TAPS operations. The activities not associated with TAPS are considered only as part of the cumulative impact analysis, which is given in Section 4.7 of the EIS.
- The "Prince William Sound, Alaska Risk Assessment Study (Det Norske Veritas et al. 1996 – see Section 4.9 of the FEIS for reference) was a detailed analysis of the potential causes, frequencies, and volumes of postulated spill scenarios associated with TAPS tanker operations. The 75% reduction in risk is an estimate based on enhanced spill capabilities, revised operational changes, etc. that were implemented after the Exxon Valdez spill.
- The comment is incorrect in stating that there is a "one in four chance" of an Exxon Valdez-size spill. The frequency of catastrophic spill events in the Prince William Sound is provided in Table 4.7-6 of the EIS.
- 00384-018:** Figure 3.1-5 in the DEIS (Map 3.1-2 in the FEIS) is intended to show the major features related to tanker traffic in the PWS. The current figure meets the intended goal for the EIS and has been retained.
- 00384-019:** Figure 3.1-6 in the DEIS (Map 3.1-3 in the FEIS) is intended to show the major features related to the North Slope. The current figure meets the intended goal for the EIS and has been retained.
- 00384-020:** The TAPS EIS includes many activities associated with oil development, including oil field support. The TAPS EIS is based on the best estimates of the future oil throughput and it includes future development and production. In order to bound this range, the assessment of the impacts of TAPS operation for the renewal period was based on the bounding potential consequences of this range. The production of oil from areas where this activity is permitted will depend upon a great many factors, including pricing and availability from existing fields. It is not possible to predict how future demand will be met on an oil-field-by-oil-field basis. The EIS considers exploration, development, and production in ANWR to not be reasonably foreseeable according to current law and regulations.
- 00384-021:** Potential problems caused by heave and subsidence are being monitored regularly (Section 3.3.2.2). JPO oversight ensures that VSM stability is maintained.
- 00384-022:** Tables 3.3-1 and 3.3-2 in the EIS list the active contaminated sites along the TAPS pipeline and at the VMT, respectively. Contamination on the North Slope from oil exploration and production activities is addressed in Section 4.7 of the EIS as part of the cumulative impact analysis.
- With regard to the spill volumes listed in Table 3.3-1, the data reported were taken directly from the referenced 1999 APSC report on the status of contaminated sites along the pipeline. TAPS owners provided spill volumes to the contractor who developed the cited report. Since the EIS spill analyses relied on the TAPS Spills database along with data reported to ADEC (reference ADEC 2001b, the official record on historical spills), for consistency purposes, the data on spill volumes from the ADEC official database are now reflected in Table 3.3-1. There is no independent verification of the spill volumes reported by the TAPS owners.
- 00384-023:** Where reported in either the official TAPS spills or the ADEC spills database, spill volumes have been provided in Table 3.3-2.
- 00384-024:** The storage tank farms of the Valdez Marine Terminal are on bedrock, and their elevations are 400 ft above the local sea level. Other on-shore equipment is located above the 30-foot run-up of the tsunami reported by the USGS in the 1964 earthquake. The Valdez Marine Terminal is, therefore, considered to be on "high ground."
- 00384-025:** The volume of sand and gravel and quarry stones used by the TAPS can be found in Table 3.5-1.
- 00384-026:** The prehistory of the North Slope is summarized in Table 3.26-1. The table includes the primary known prehistoric cultural traditions that have been identified for the North Slope.

00384-027: Section 3.7.1.5 has not been retitled. Section 4.4.4.3 discusses the impacts to the Copper River drainage and two of its tributaries, the Gulkana and Tazlina Rivers. See specifically the text box on oil spill planning for the Copper River Drainage.

00384-028: The total number of identified spills in the DEIS from 1977 through 1999 are specific to the pipeline and Valdez Marine Terminal. It includes both crude oil and refined petroleum product spills (e.g., diesel fuel), but does not include any of historical crude and product spills recorded at the North Slope and in PWS.

A total 10,577 crude and product spills have occurred for all operational segments of TAPS over the identified period. Therefore the pipeline and the terminal account for approximately 40% of the total number of spill for the entire system. It should be noted that most of these spills (~ 75%) were in very small quantities, less than 10 gallons and over 90% of the spills were less the 100 gallons.

The data on historical oil spills discussed in DEIS was based on an analysis of spills (from 1977 to end of August 1999) that was not updated to include small spills that may have occurred since September 1999. However, in light of the Livengood incident, the further analysis of oil spills was conducted through November 2001. Over the 27 month period, from the end of August 1999 through November 2001, an additional 132 spills occurred along the pipeline and at the Valdez Marine Terminal. Over 90% of these spills were also less the 100 gallons. The spills since August 1999 included 18 spills over 1 bbl and 4 spills over 10 bbls. Only one spill, the Livengood bullet hole, was over 100 bbls.

The TAPS spills database shows a total of 64 spills to water at the VMT, mostly associated with tankers. Information on the Atigun spill of June 1979 added to the text. In this spill, oil entered the Atigun River and produced an oil slick that traveled 25 miles downstream. Behr-Andes et al. reference (Tundra Spill Cleanup and Remediation Tactics: A Study of Historical Spills and Literature 2002) added to the reference list.

00384-029: The possibility of the introduction of nonindigenous organisms via untreated segregated tanker ballast water is addressed as part of the analysis of cumulative effects in Section 4.7.2.1.

The EIS correctly identifies that BWTF discharges are below current NPDES permit limits and that concentrations of monitored chemicals are within levels established. This does not mean that there is not some accumulation of PAHs in sediments surrounding the BWTF diffuser near the VMT, just that those levels do not exceed the current sediment quality guidelines for protecting aquatic organisms.

Accumulation of PAHs was detected in mussels used to monitor water quality in Port Valdez as part of a PWS RCAC-sponsored monitoring program (Salazar et al. 2002). In that study, it was found that all measured concentrations of PAHs in water and estimated on the basis of bioaccumulation in mussel tissues indicated that the concentrations of PAHs in Port Valdez waters are in the low parts-per-trillion range, well below the levels that have been associated with adverse effects in herring and salmon embryos (Salazar et al. 2002). In addition, Salazar et al. (2002) did not detect reductions in overall growth of caged mussels that could be attributed to PAH burdens. Instead of stating that BWTF effluent is unlikely to impair sediment quality, the EIS was revised to state that sediment concentrations of PAHs in sediments and water due to BWTF operations are not expected to change substantially as a result of the proposed action and to cite and discuss results of the recent monitoring efforts.

00384-030: The title of the Text Box on page 3.11-6 of the DEIS has been changed to "Spill Prevention Measures Associated with TAPS-Released Marine Transportation."

A total of 345 crude oil spills associated with TAPS-related marine transportation has been recorded from 1977 to 1999. This includes spills at the loading dock, harbor, harbor approaches, and domestic destination ports (e.g., California, Hawaii, and Washington State). A total of 279,727 barrels of crude oil was spilled during this time period. The Exxon Valdez oil spill incident on March 24, 1989 had the greatest impact of all recorded oil spills; the impact of this oil spill was catastrophic in the short-term.

00384-031: The discussion of the EVOS is included in the document as background and to describe the environment that could potentially be affected by future pipeline operations during the renewal period. The EVOS is also included as a past action, which is cumulative with present and future action in Section 4.7, which addresses cumulative impacts. This EIS is not intended to provide an exhaustive treatment of the environmental EVOS and does not attempt to provide a detailed list or to quantify the impacts caused by the EVOS. The basis for the discussion of EVOS and the environment after EVOS is based on the best scientific reports available for that purpose. Also, please see Section 4.4.4.13.

00384-032: Please see Section 4.3.2 of the FEIS (Soils and Permafrost) for additional information.

00384-033: The text in Section 3.16.5 has been modified to reflect the fact that soil may remain at the ADEC-approved stockpile locations for longer periods (4 years in the case of the VMT) or for periods sufficient to accumulated sufficient volumes to support efficient transport. In any case, stockpiling of soils is performed in accordance with an ADEC-approved plan. The record shows that substantial quantities of contaminated soils have been delivered to the commercial facility for thermal treatment. See C.6.12 for details.

00384-034: Chapter 3 deals with the affected environment of the TAPS right-of-way. However, potential cumulative health and safety impacts (see Section 4.7.6.11) were evaluated for the North Slope oil fields. For example, the issue of occupational exposures to naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) was discussed for oil production operations workers on the North Slope or during pipeline dismantlement. However, procedures in place for surveying equipment for the presence of NORM indicates little potential for exposures. Also discussed in the cumulative impacts section is that the risks of injuries and fatalities from physical hazards to oil and gas exploration workers are expected to be comparable to the historical industry rates.

Protection of spill clean-up workers is regulated under the Occupational Safety and Health Act and is beyond the scope of the EIS. However, as emphasized in the section on potential impacts of oil spills on human health and safety, minimizing the exposures of spill cleanup workers is a very important consideration. The BLM and JPO are committed to ensuring the effectiveness of APSC's health and safety program.

00384-035: Additional references and discussion have been added to Sections 3.19, 4.3.16, 4.4.4.10, and 4.7.7.2. Section 4.4.4.10 also includes additional information about the status of fish populations potentially affected by the Exxon Valdez oil spill and identify that while some species appear to have recovered, herring have not.

Additional information about the fate and effects of aqueous phase oil has also been added to the discussion of impacts from spilled oil in Section 4.4.4.10. PAH accumulation was detected in mussels used to monitor water quality in Port Valdez as part of a PWS RCAC-sponsored monitoring program (Salazar et al. 2002). In that study, it was found that all measured concentrations of PAHs in water and estimated on the basis of bioaccumulation in mussel tissues indicated that the concentrations of PAHs in Port Valdez waters are in the low parts-per-trillion range, well below the levels that have been associated with adverse effects in herring and salmon embryos (Salazar et al. 2002). In addition, Salazar et al. (2002) did not detect reductions in overall growth of caged mussels that could be attributed to PAH burdens.

Depending upon the timing and the quantity of oil, it is true that major impacts could occur to salmon in the Copper River if a large amount of oil from a pipeline break were to reach the Copper River. Spills into the Gulkana and the Tazlina Rivers (both tributaries of the Copper that are crossed by the TAPS) were considered as part of the spill scenario analyses in Section 4.4.4.10.1. Text has been added to Section 4.4.4.10.1 to reiterate the importance of the Copper and Lowe Rivers for salmon production in the area and to recognize the potentially severe impacts to salmon in the event of a large spill entering those rivers.

00384-036: The section cited in the comment (3.23.5) is in the description of the economic affected environment; in that passage, it notes that assigning a monetary value is difficult, and that it is done to establish relative economic importance. An entire section devoted to subsistence (Section 3.24) follows the economics discussion, and the DEIS devotes two appendices specifically to subsistence (Appendices D and E). The treatment of subsistence in Section 3.24 explicitly acknowledges three roles that subsistence plays: economic (in the sense of providing necessary resources, not necessarily measured in terms of monetary value), sociocultural, and ceremonial, which is consistent with the claim made in the comment. The treatment of subsistence, particularly with regard to Alaska Natives, follows this economic-sociocultural-ceremonial approach throughout the DEIS. Subsistence impacts are in no way evaluated in terms of monetary value.

With regard to beginning discussions with Alaska Natives, beginning in April 2001, contact was established with Alaska Natives throughout the State of Alaska regarding the TAPS right-of-way renewal and the planned EIS. Eventually, the Bureau of Land Management identified 21 villages that may be directly affected, and government-to-government interaction has occurred with those villages throughout the DEIS preparation. In April 2002, a meeting was held with representatives of the Alaska Federation of Natives and Tanana Chiefs Conference to discuss this and other issues associated specifically with the evaluation of subsistence impacts. Although some information was provided, no actual data were sent that would enable the improvement of the subsistence analysis. That same month, the 21 directly affected tribes associated with the TAPS were contacted by certified letter to invite their participation in providing additional traditional ecological knowledge explicitly associated with subsistence issues in the DEIS. To date, no response to those letters has been received.

00384-037: Nowhere does the EIS state or imply that the Eyak culture is worthless. Section 3.25.1.1.8 in the FEIS has been reworded to clarify its intent and the discussion of the Eyak as a sociocultural system. It is important to distinguish between the traditional Eyak sociocultural system and the Native Village of Eyak, which the revised section attempts to do.

00384-038: Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and the embedded wilderness areas were designated in December 1980, after the TAPS was in place and operating. The pipeline corridor is east of the east boundary of the park and the wilderness. Because TAPS was in place prior to most wilderness designations in Alaska, its existence pre-empted wilderness consideration of the pipeline corridor. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was originally designated as the Arctic National Wildlife Range in 1960, prior to the existence of the TAPS, and was subsequently expanded and renamed as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, in 1980, after the TAPS was in place and operating.

00384-039: Environmental justice evaluations focus on low-income and minority populations, as directed by the Executive Order that defined this issue in the context of activities by federal agencies (see Section 3.29). Environmental justice impacts, which must meet the requirement of high and adverse, are anticipated under the no-action alternative (Section 4.6.2.25), certain spill scenarios associated with the proposed action (Section 4.4.4.19), and certain spill scenarios under cumulative impacts (Section 4.7.8.7; note that text has been changed in this section to reflect such impacts). The evaluation of impacts to wealthy persons is beyond the scope of this EIS.

00384-040: Thank you for your comment. Existing mitigation measures are presented in Section 4.1 as they relate to potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives. Possible mitigation measures that could be implemented as part of the renewal are provided in Section 4.8.4. The implementation of mitigation measures are not National Environmental Policy Act alternatives, and are therefore not discussed under the description of alternatives.

Please see Section 2.5 regarding the subject of an escrow account for DR&R.

Please see Section 2.5 regarding the subject of periodic audits.

Section 29 is a specific provision in the Federal Grant of Right-of-Way for TAPS that addresses aspects of Alaska Native employment on the TAPS (APSC and contractor employment). The need for this provision arose in the early 1970s in conjunction with the settlement of Alaska Native land claims and the construction of the TAPS.

Section 29 of the Federal Grant requires four things of the permittees:

- 1) An agreement with the Secretary regarding recruitment, testing, training, placement, employment, and job counseling of Alaska Natives;
- 2) A training program for Alaska Natives designed to qualify them for initial employment and later advancement;
- 3) Try to secure employment of successful trainees and report to the BLM's Authorized Officer regarding discharge of Alaska Natives; and
- 4) Furnish required information about Alaska Native employment to the Authorized Officer.

Alaska Native Utilization Agreement (ANUA) was first executed in 1974 and more recently updated on a tri-annual basis, starting in 1995. The most recent agreement was signed in 2001. The agreement provides the basis for implementing the requirements of Section 29. The BLM has a Native Liaison officer whose responsibilities include close oversight of the Section 29 program at APSC. Any shortcomings or other agreement goals not being met are highlighted for special attention. Like any other provision of the Federal Grant, the BLM can enforce this provision by requiring permittees to take actions to remedy any deficiencies noted.

The BLM recognizes the need to provide long-term assurances that the provisions of Section 29 will not, over a long period of time, be forgotten about. Therefore, based on comments received, the BLM has engaged APSC in negotiations that will lead to a written mechanism or a procedure for ensuring that the provisions of the ANUA (and hence, Section 29) are adhered to.

00384-041: The reader is referred to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, "Alternatives and Issues Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis."

00384-042: The section referred to in this part of the comment points out that nominal impacts result from site access by various means, although the actual inspection activities have no notable impacts. Subsequent sections immediately following this one in the EIS describe impacts that could be expected to result from repair work undertaken as a result of monitoring, e.g., corrosion digs.

The BLM and member agencies of the JPO work diligently to ensure the safe operation of TAPS. The BLM has the necessary authority under the Federal Grant and TAPAA to rigorously enforce compliance with all current and future stipulations.

Section 4.3 of the EIS describes anticipated impacts that would result from renewal of the TAPS right-of-way in significant detail. It describes impacts that could be expected from routine operations and includes a separate spills analysis sub-section as well. In both cases, impact analyses are classified by environmental, social-cultural, and economic elements to facilitate review of the document.

00384-043: The analysis of the impact caused by spills, including potential earthquake-triggered spills, are provided in Sections 4.4.1.3 and 4.4.4. The Trans Alaska Pipeline System Pipeline Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan details the response in case a spill occurs.

- 00384-044:** The volume of sand and gravel and quarry stones used by the TAPS can be found in Table 3.5-1. The locations of these Operations Material Sites (OMSs) and their size of work areas are also listed. Most of the sites are co-used with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.
- Standard engineering practices are implemented to minimize the amount of silt in runoff water from the excavation sites.
- 00384-045:** No paleontological resources are currently known to exist in the ROW. As stated in Section 4.3.5, no impacts to paleontological resources are anticipated. If paleontological material is discovered along the pipeline it will be reported under Stipulation 1.9.2 of the federal Grant and lease. Section 4.4.4.2 states that the heavy machinery used during spill response represents the greatest risk to paleontological material during a spill. No studies have been conducted to identify the effect of oil on paleontological resources. The revised version of Section 4.7.8.4 discusses the early phases of the Exxon Valdez oil spill cleanup.
- With regard to impacts of oil exploration and development in the Arctic, which in some cases could be a cumulative impact, Section 3.6 notes the federal and state laws that protect such resources. Any potential impacts to paleontological resources would be addressed under those statutes.
- 00384-046:** As discussed in Section 4.4.3, major impacts to hydrological resources could be produced by unlikely and very unlikely spill events (e.g., an airplane or helicopter crash into the pipeline that causes a guillotine break of the pipe and a release of the crude oil directly to a river or stream). Impacts from water use, however, are small based on the volumes of water required. Historically, these impacts have been small, local, and temporary. With use projected to be about the same as that seen previously, the anticipated impacts are expected to be the same.
- 00384-047:** The EIS discusses the management of hazardous wastes and materials at TAPS facilities and the regulatory controls thereof. Regulatory controls are established to prevent adverse impacts to public health and the environment. Thus, it is important to discuss how those regulatory controls apply to TAPS activities. As to radioactive waste, see Section C.6.10 for a description of radioactive wastes associated with TAPS operations.
- 00384-048:** The last sentence in that section refers to JPO surveillances that indicate, "that APSC's electrical code compliance has improved." JPO (2001a) states that APSC is, in fact, in compliance with the National Electrical Code (NEC). The improvement is in the recent overall trend in NEC compliance on TAPS.
- 00384-049:** The only PBT chemical associated with TAPS operations is benzo[a]pyrene, a component of crude oil. Potential for inhalation exposure of the general public to this substance is low, because it is not volatile. The main potential pathway for exposure would be through foodchain pathways, risks from foodchain exposure pathways are extensively discussed in Section 4.4.4.7.
- 00384-050:** The EIS summarizes available information that characterizes past impacts of TAPS and existing conditions in the TAPS region. Based on this review of available information, the EIS does not conclude that the impacts of TAPS have been devastating for any species. Although TAPS may have an effect on individual organisms in the vicinity of the facility, there is no evidence to indicate that species populations have been jeopardized by TAPS construction or operation.
- 00384-051:** The impacts identified in the comment have been included in the impact analysis in Section 4.3.15. The impact analysis took into consideration recently established restoration performance requirements which include the requirement that restoration of disturbed areas "be completed as soon as practical after the disturbance", and "restoration will be evaluated by the Authorized Officer and Pipeline Coordinator on a site-specific basis", considering, among other things, whether the disturbed site has been returned, to the extent possible, "to its original or normal physical condition and natural biological productivity and diversity with reestablishment of native plant and animal species" (Brossia and Kerrigan 2001).

00384-052: Impacts to fish from the proposed action are discussed in Section 4.3.16. The conclusions of that analysis are that that while the proposed action could affect fish habitat and individual fish, operations are not expected to substantially affect fish populations during the renewal period.

Depending upon the timing and the quantity of oil, it is true that major impacts could occur to salmon in the Copper River if a large amount of oil from a pipeline break were to reach the Copper River. Spills into the Gulkana and the Tazlina Rivers (both tributaries of the Copper that are crossed by the TAPS) were considered as part of the spill scenario analyses in Section 4.4.4.10.1. Text has been added to Section 4.4.4.10.1 to reiterate the importance of the Copper and Lowe Rivers for salmon production in the area and to recognize the potentially severe impacts to salmon in the event of a large spill entering those rivers.

00384-053: Text in Section 4.3.16.1 has been corrected to identify that an ADF&G Title 16 permit is required for water withdrawals in overwintering areas.

00384-054: As discussed in Sections 4.3.17 and 4.7.7.3, some individuals are adversely impacted by the operation, monitoring, and maintenance of TAPS. However, no population-level adverse effects would be expected. As discussed in Section 4.4.4.11, even the largest land-based spill (that has an unlikely to very unlikely potential to occur) would only impact a relatively small area (i.e., <84 acres). Thus, permanent contamination of vast areas of valuable habitat would not be expected.

00384-055: As discussed in Sections 4.3.17.2 and 4.7.7.3.2, some individuals are adversely affected by disturbance (e.g., from aircraft noise or human presence). However, results from the research studies on this topic that are cited in the EIS have demonstrated that no adverse population-level effects have occurred from disturbance. Additionally, a number of mitigative measures (e.g., permit stipulations) are in effect that place spatial and temporal restrictions on activities that could disturb wildlife resources.

00384-056: Section 4.3.18 discusses the impacts of routine operations of TAPS. Routine operations do not result in any impacts to the Beaufort Sea. Drilling and other related activities that could affect the waters of the Beaufort Sea are considered in Section 4.7.7.4, which discusses cumulative impacts. The impacts of spills are considered in Section 4.4.4.12.

00384-057: The accompanying text in Section 4.3.18 provides a discussion of the potential impact of effluent discharge on species in Port Valdez. Table entries have been modified to indicate that impacts of effluent discharge on threatened and endangered species are not anticipated.

00384-058: Section 4.3.18 of the EIS describes the impacts of routine operations of TAPS on threatened and endangered species. The impacts of spills on these species are presented in Section 4.4.4.12.

00384-059: Other environmental impacts of production and exploration in the North Slope are considered in Section 4.7, “(Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS.”

While employment in the larger, more productive fields has been declining, an increasing share of production is expected to come from a larger number of smaller, more labor-intensive fields. Because it is difficult to predict the extent to which employment in newer, smaller fields would replace employment in older, larger fields, North Slope oilfield employment was assumed to remain constant.

00384-060: Government-to-government consultants heard prior to and during the preparation of this EIS are discussed in an expanded section in the FEIS (see Section 5.3). The executive order 12898 defining environmental justice is discussed in Section 3.29; its focus is on the identification of high and adverse impacts that affect minority and low-income populations, not on the sovereign status of Alaska Natives. The role of an EIS is to evaluate the likely environmental consequences of specified federal actions. It has absolutely nothing to do with the implementation of recommendations from Alaska Natives or any other group, apart from considering suggestions on the scope of the impact analysis (see Chapter 2, including Section 2.5).

- 00384-061:** The comment states “renewal will result in oil spills at least as large and frequent as during the first 25 years.” In estimating the spill volumes for spills belonging to the anticipated and likely categories, the EIS staff used the historical data from TAPS, in effect, agreeing with the assumption made in the comment. However, the TAPS owners in conjunction with the appropriate regulating bodies have instituted a number of activities that are intended to reduce spill volumes and frequencies (See Section 4.1 of the EIS). To the extent that these activities are successful, it may be expected that future spill frequencies and volumes will be less than those historically seen in the past.
- The rationale for the four frequency ranges is provided in the third full paragraph of Section 4.4.1.1 of the EIS. These frequency ranges are consistent with recent NEPA documents for other pipeline projects.
- A listing of available literature considered in the spills analysis is provided in the first full paragraph on page 4.4-2 of the EIS. Historical spills data was confirmed by a number of sources, including the ADEC database and information from the U.S. DOT Office of Pipeline Safety. In addition, spill scenarios considered in the EIS are consistent with contingency planning data from the Alaska Regional Response Team.
- 00384-062:** The frequencies in Tables 4.4-1 and 4.4-2 are estimates of how often a spill of a given magnitude may occur. That is not to say that these spills will occur, only that it is probable that a spill of this magnitude will occur over the time period specified.
- A large number of spills have occurred over the 25 years of TAPS operations, however, a large number of these spills were of low magnitude (on the order of gallons) and occurred on locations such as the work pad where the spills were cleaned or no permanent contamination of the environment occurred.
- The frequencies shown in Tables 4.4-1 and 4.4-2 were derived from available data, including spills that occurred during 25 years of TAPS operations and from sources such as the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety, and other NEPA documentation. A medium level of confidence may be expected from application of these various sources of spill frequency data.
- The impacts from postulated spill scenarios along the pipeline and at VMT are provided in Sections 4.4.2 through 4.4.4 of the EIS. In general, the consequence of a low-frequency event is higher than the consequence of a high-frequency event. However, the risk, which is obtained by multiplying the frequency and the consequence of an event may be higher or lower for accidents belonging to different frequency categories, depending on the relative magnitude of the two values being multiplied. Generally, the risk is lower for high consequence events because of the much lower frequency, but if one of those accidents were to occur, the consequences would be much higher. Table 4.4-1 in the EIS indicates that the frequency of a guillotine break accident due to an aircraft crash without fire is 0.0086 per year for the entire length of the pipeline. For any given short segment of the pipe, the frequency estimate is considerably less, and for some parts of the pipeline far from airports, the frequency estimate is essentially zero. Given the generally larger consequence for large break accidents, one would expect that the risk from such an accident would be larger than a smaller accident but with similar frequency.
- 00384-063:** Section 4.4.2 discusses the fate and transport of crude oil in inland waters. As discussed in this section, lighter oil fractions are likely to evaporate quickly from the water surface. Less volatile components are likely to remain for substantial periods of time. As stated in the text, in sheltered rock shores and marshes, it can take on the order of one year to lose one-half of the material deposited. Depending on the volume of oil deposited, these areas could remain significantly contaminated for many years. No change is required in the text.
- 00384-064:** An example of an ignition source was given in the EIS, and it did not state that this ignition source was the only way that a pipeline fire could occur.
- 00384-065:** The DEIS and FEIS utilized information from a variety of government, industry, academic, and not-for-profit sources. There was no attempt to a priori exclude sources of information for use in the EIS.
- 00384-066:** The size of the maximum contaminated area applies to the land only. Additional impact to surface water bodies is likely to occur if a spill occurs near the surface water bodies. Such impacts are addressed in Sections 4.4.4.3, 4.4.4.4, and 4.4.4.5.

00384-067: The text referred to in the comment deals with "Anticipated spills" with an expected frequency of 0.5/year or more. In this frequency range, the worst event would be an instantaneous leak of 100 barrels of diesel fuel during pipeline or pump station operations. A much larger spill would not occur in this frequency range.

The spill scenarios shown in Section 4.4.4.1.2 of the DEIS deal with continued TAPS operations; postulated spills during marine tanker operations (akin to the Exxon Valdez spill) are provided in Section 4.7.4.10.4 of the DEIS.

The upper bound of 2,268,000-gallons arises from the installation and operation of fast-closing valves along the TAPS that limit the amount of crude oil that could be spilled during a leak or break of the pipeline.

The value of 48 hours to stop the leak is based on a simple time-and-motion analysis that considered leak detection, movement of repair crews to the spill site, etc. It did not consider spill cleanup that would occur after the spill has been successfully stopped.

00384-068: No impacts to paleontological resources (fossils of vertebrate and invertebrate organisms) were identified during the Exxon Valdez spill. Section 4.4.4.2 notes that driving of heavy machinery over paleontological resources during cleanup activities likely would cause the greatest impacts to such resources due to a spill. Section 4.7.8.4 has been revised to discuss impacts to archaeological resources in the vicinity of Prince William Sound following the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

00384-069: Potential impacts to surface water resources from oil spills are discussed in Section 4.4.4. Note that it is not a total oil concentration of 1 ppb that has been shown to have potential effects on fish reproduction, but 1 of PAHs, one component of oil. Section 4.4.4.10 considers a spill in the Yukon River, and concludes that the dilution of oil in such a large river with high flow would reduce impacts to fish. However, potential impacts from aqueous phase contaminants (such as PAHs) are still considered. Depending upon the timing and the quantity of oil, it is true that major impacts could occur to salmon in the Copper River if a large amount of oil from a pipeline break were to reach the Copper River. Spills into the Gulkana and the Tazlina Rivers, both tributaries of the Copper that are crossed by the TAP were considered as part of the spill scenario analyses in Section 4.4.4.10.1. Text has been added to Section 4.4.4.10.1 to reiterate the importance of the Copper River for salmon production in the area and to recognize the potentially severe impacts to salmon in the event of a large spill entering the river. Section 4.4.4.14 is consistent with the conclusions regarding potential impacts to fishery resources. Revisions in the FEIS also include the possibility of impacts from perceived damage to subsistence resources.

00384-070: Impacts of a spill to frozen water are discussed qualitatively in Section 4.4.4.3. Because site and time-specific conditions would control the fate and transport of oil, it is not possible to quantify such a spill with any certainty. Because of potentially increased response times (due to cold weather), and the possibility that the oil could get into open water beneath the ice, impacts could be substantial, depending on the volume of oil released. The text was modified to state that the situation is further exacerbated by the presence of ice that could impede recovery activities.

00384-071: As discussed in Section 4.4.4.3.2, the effectiveness of remediation activities once a slick is either contained or diverted to an appropriate containment site is not evaluated. Instead, the percentage of oil "subject to capture" is calculated as a measure of response effectiveness for each of the spill scenarios analyzed. Additional text has been added to clarify that 100% of the oil being subject to capture does not mean that 100% of the oil would be removed. In fact, such high recovery rates are generally impossible even under ideal flow conditions.

00384-072: The DEIS did not assume that all spills were instantaneous in nature. In fact, most of the spill scenarios that have larger releases were assumed not to be instantaneous in time.

The text in Section 4.4.1.1 of the DEIS indicates that the spill duration accounted for the time required to detect a leak, locate it if it is not immediately obvious, and shut down the pipeline. One of three spill release duration ranges was assigned to each spill scenario, instantaneous (less than one hour), short (few hours up to a day), and prolonged (several days to months). Tables 4.4-1 and 4.4-2 provide the release duration for various spill scenarios for the TAPS pipeline and the VMT.

00384-073: The impacts of spill on land are through the destruction of surface vegetation cover, which can result in the degradation of permafrost. They are described in Sections 4.4.4.1 and 4.3.2. Final disposition of cleanup is regulated by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

00384-074: The text of Section 4.4.4.7.2 gives additional information to aid in interpretation of Table 4.4-30. The table estimates "impact distances" for likely, unlikely, and very unlikely oil spill scenarios. The impact distance is the distance from the boundary of the spill area to the location where the ambient air concentration drops below the level possibly associated with serious health effects for short-term exposures of 15 minutes to an hour. The impact distance identified in the table for a likely scenario spill of 10,000 barrels assuming minimum hazard weather conditions and an oil pool depth of 3 in. is about 0.04 km (about 130 feet). The impact distance identified for a very unlikely scenario spill of 42,101 barrels assuming maximum hazard weather conditions and an oil pool depth of 1 in. is about 1.3 km (about 0.8 miles). Individuals located within these distances from similar oil spills could experience serious health effects, such as nerve disorders. The text states that any members of the general public located within the impact distance downwind of an oil spill should be evacuated for a period of several hours up to 24 hours, until the plume caused by the emitted air pollutants could dissipate. It should also be noted that the conditions of individual spills vary; impact distances would vary accordingly. The impact distance estimates given in this section are intended to gain an understanding of the range of likely impacts from varying types of oil spills under varying conditions.

00384-075: The DEIS text clearly acknowledges that fish and shellfish noticeably oil-contaminated (for example, visually or by smell) are not fit for consumption. It is assumed that noticeably contaminated items would not be eaten and therefore would not present a human health hazard, although there would be serious negative ecological and economic impacts, as discussed in Sections 4.4.4.8 and 4.4.4.13.

Research to date indicates that fish and mammals exposed to fairly high levels of PAHs from spills or industrial contamination do NOT show high levels of PAHs in edible tissues, because of rapid metabolism and excretion of these compounds (many of these studies are cited in the Field et al. 1999 publication Evaluating and Communicating Subsistence Seafood Safety in a Cross-Cultural Context: Lessons Learned from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.) One of the chapters of Field et al. 1999, "Hazard and Risk Assessment of Crude Oil in Subsistence Seafood Samples from Prince William Sound: Lessons Learned from the Exxon Valdez", was written by Bolger and Carrington, toxicologists from the Food and Drug Administration responsible for evaluating the safety of seafood ingestion after the oil spill. Their assessment concludes that other components of crude oil, such as alkanes and low-molecular weight aromatic hydrocarbons, generally undergo environmental degradation and do not accumulate in seafood. These authors support the assessment of PAHs as the primary contaminants of concern for seafood possibly contaminated by crude oil spills, but also acknowledge some uncertainties with respect to bioaccumulation and toxicity of other substances such as heterocyclic aliphatic hydrocarbons (i.e. condensed thiophenes). Assessing the potential health impacts of PAHs in edible shellfish is currently state-of-the-art, but methods including analysis for and assessment of mutagenic condensed thiophenes may be developed in the future.

As stated in Section 4.4.3, the percentage of oil subject to recovery in a river such as the Yukon is used as a measure of the effectiveness of a response action. Text was added to indicate that considerably less than 100% of oil subject to capture would actually be removed at a containment site even under ideal conditions because of site and time dependent factors, such as high flow velocity, turbulence, the presence of ice, sediment load, dissolution, etc.

00384-076: Section 4.4.4.8 is an overview of the impacts to biological resources of spills. A more detailed discussion of these impacts (as requested in this comment) are presented in the follow-on sections focusing on impacts to vegetation, fish, wildlife, and threatened and endangered species.

00384-077: Depending upon the timing and the quantity of oil, it is true that major impacts could occur to salmon in the Copper River if a large amount of oil from a pipeline break were to reach the Copper River. Spills into the Gulkana and the Tazlina Rivers, both tributaries of the Copper that are crossed by the TAP were considered as part of the spill scenario analyses in Section 4.4.4.10.1. Text has been added to Section 4.4.4.10.1 to reiterate the importance of the Copper and Lowe Rivers for salmon production in the area and to recognize the potentially severe impacts to salmon in the event of a large spill entering those rivers. Also, see the text box in Section 4.4.4.3 on oil spill response in the Copper River Drainage.

- 00384-078:** Your comments about the loss of bird life due to the EVOS are noted. Since the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989 and the enactment of the Oil Pollution Act in 1990, significant improvements have been made in the procedures, staffing, and the equipment needed to prevent and respond to potential oil spills from tankers in Prince William Sound. Among the improvements made were the following: (1) APSC's Ship Escort/Response Vessel System was established in July 1989 to help tankers navigate through PWS and to respond to potential oil spills, (2) new procedures were established and regulations put in place by the United States Coast Guard to better control the tanker traffic in PWS, (3) PWS Regional Citizens' Advisory Council was created to help plan for and oversee the oil spill prevention and response operations, (4) the amount of equipment and personnel available for oil spill prevention and response was increased, (5) more stringent training and personnel monitoring programs were established, (6) government oversight was increased, and (7) the spill prevention and response budget was increased dramatically. The currently available oil spill response capabilities and plans for PWS are summarized in Section 4.1.4 of the EIS and are provided in detail in the Prince William Sound Oil Discharge Prevention and Response Plan (Prince William Sound Tanker Plan Holders 1999).
- 00384-079:** Section 4.4.4.12 discusses the impacts of spills on threatened and endangered species. Large spills could have significant impacts on these species and these impacts are described in the text. None of the impacts are expected to jeopardize the continued existence of any species.
- 00384-080:** Changes in tourism marketing strategies as a function of oil spills related to renewal of the right-of-way for TAPS are speculative at best and are considered insignificant relative to the overall cost of marketing Alaska tourism.
- 00384-081:** Subsistence is extremely important; the EIS notes sociocultural and ceremonial roles in addition to its economic role (providing necessary resources) in Section 3.24. The importance of this topic is testified to by the amount of pages dedicated to the examination of subsistence, which total more than any other single topic. Oil can have a severe impact on subsistence and subsistence resources. Potential impacts on the latter are discussed in Section 4.4.4.14, in some cases being identified as serious and long-term, and the discussions of impacts on biological resources also notes the severe impacts possible (see Sections 4.4.4.8, 4.4.4.9, 4.4.4.10, 4.4.4.11, and 4.4.4.12). The text acknowledges long-term perceptions that affected the harvest and use of subsistence resources following the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The EIS relies on a range of sources to examine subsistence. Most have not been sponsored by Exxon, and in fact the data used to characterize subsistence are from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (the most recent data collection funded by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council).
- Section 4.7.8.1 has been modified to discuss subsistence before and after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in the five villages included in the EIS as directly affected by that spill. Section 4.7.8.2, in turn, has been modified to include a discussion of psychological impacts following the spill.
- Sections 4.4.4.15 and 4.4.4.15 (impacts to subsistence and sociocultural systems due to spills) have been modified to note disruption due to involvement of subsistence practitioners in oil cleanup activities.
- 00384-082:** The BLM agrees that the duration of impacting factors would be less if the Federal Grant is renewed for less than 30 years. However, the types and intensities of the impacting factors are not different between a 30-year renewal and a less-than-30-year renewal period. Thus, the less-than-30-year renewal period refers the reader to the 30-year renewal for a more detailed evaluation of impacts.
- 00384-083:** Termination activities (dismantlement, removal, and restoration) are fully recognized under the no-action alternative. Implementation of termination activities will require a separate National Environmental Policy Act decision-making process.
- 00384-084:** Thank you for your comment.

- 00384-085:** The TAPS EIS analyzes the environmental impacts of the no-action alternative, not renewing the federal grant and lease, which would result in termination of TAPS. The TAPS EIS analyzes the environmental impacts of the proposed action, renewing the federal lease, which would not result in termination. The fate of the TAPS at the end of the renewal period is speculative; the applicant may have the option of requesting further renewal or the applicant may not wish to renew. For this reason, termination activities are not analyzed for the proposed action. This approach is consistent with the requirements of NEPA and implementing regulations. At the time that termination is anticipated, further NEPA documentation will be prepared, including an analysis of specific termination activities. See Section 2.5 for additional discussion of the relationship of the proposed action and no action.
- The cumulative impact assessment, as required by NEPA implementing regulations addresses the impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency ... or person undertakes such other actions.” These actions include actions related to TAPS operations, such as oil transportation, as well as other actions with little or no relationship to TAPS operations, such as tourism. It is not the purpose of the cumulative impact assessment to analyze how other actions are related to TAPS operations.
- 00384-086:** In Section 4.7, a natural gas pipeline is included as one of the other reasonably foreseeable past, present, and future actions that were addressed in the cumulative effects assessments. However, petroleum development in ANWR was judged not to be reasonably foreseeable for the reasons stated in section, and thus was not addressed.
- 00384-087:** Refineries in Alaska are included as ‘other actions’ in the cumulative impact assessment because they are located within the geographic area where environmental impacts from continued TAPS operation are expected. The purpose of the cumulative impact assessment is to add the impacts of TAPS operations (and no action) to the impacts of other actions.
- There is no indication that renewal of the TAPS would lead to an increase in refining capacity in Alaska or elsewhere. As included in the TAPS EIS, the volumes of oil carried by TAPS have decreased in recent years and are expected to continue to decrease.
- 00384-088:** Cost estimates and mileage for a natural gas pipeline vary widely, depending on proposed right-of-way, facilities included in the estimate, and method of economic assessment. The source of the information is cited in the TAPS EIS. Routing alternatives and costs of natural gas pipeline development are continuously under revision. Recent media accounts mention much higher cost figures. The information provided in Section 4.7 is a representative of the range of options. The length of pipeline used in the TAPS EIS represents the Alaska portion of the route.
- 00384-089:** Section 4.7.4.5.2, Habitation and Development, has been modified in the FEIS to include the information provided in this comment.
- 00384-090:** As noted in other responses on this subject, the text in Section 4.7.4.8.1 of the FEIS has been changed to reflect this information.
- 00384-091:** As described in Section 4.7, the cutoff date for including other actions in the EIS was April 1, 2002.
- 00384-092:** Your opinion regarding the value of Table 4.7-7 is noted. This table is provided for anyone wanting to follow the links from impacted resources to past, present, and future actions. This is necessary because any one resource can be affected by several different activities associated with several actions. One of the major points of cumulative impact assessment is to look at the multiple causes of environmental impacts.
- 00384-093:** The natural gas pipeline is assessed as one of many reasonably foreseeable actions. Under the No Action alternative, these multiple actions would include construction of a gas pipeline and removal of the existing TAPS pipeline. Because natural gas could still be produced on the North Slope without oil production (although perhaps with more difficulty), construction of the natural gas pipeline is considered to be independent of TAPS operation. Thus, on page 4.7-62 for the No Action alternative, soils and permafrost would be impacted by both removal of the TAPS and construction of a natural gas pipeline.

00384-094: As described in the reference document (ADNR 2001), typical annual water use for oil exploration is about 27 billion gallons. While this quantity of water is very large, it is much smaller than the quantity of water available (about 10,000 billion gallons) on the North Slope in any given year. Because it is unlikely that all water needs would be met from a single source area, impacts would be small, scattered, and localized (as described in Section 4.7.6.4).

For analysis purposes, one must assume that laws, regulations, and permits would be followed. Clearly, violations of permits could have adverse impacts to the environment, but the degree of impact is uncertain and not quantifiable unless the magnitude and duration of the violation is known. If permit violations are known, it is the responsibility of the observer to report these infractions to the proper agencies (e.g., JPO) in order to prevent such events from occurring again. Similarly, if the observer does not agree with the conditions of the permit, proper agencies should be contacted to determine if adjustments are required in the permit to protect the environment.

00384-095: The comment is incorrect in stating that “small spills are rarely reported” because the State of Alaska requires operators to immediately notify the ADEC any discharge or release to water. This is in addition to federal requirements for operators to report spills to the National Response Center (NRC).

Most pollution incidents in Prince William Sound can be expected to be minor in nature involving spills of diesel oil, lube oil, crude oil and waste bilge oil. Determining response strategies in Prince William Sound is difficult due to the presence of seasonal icebergs, extremely deep water, remote geography, high winds, heavy seas, and environmentally sensitive flora and fauna. Not all spills in the PWS can be cleaned up. In the event that the location of a spill or weather conditions do not permit open water containment/recovery, protection of the shoreline areas of greatest environmental sensitivity becomes paramount.

00384-096: The existing transportation network in Alaska is more extensive because of the construction of TAPS as discussed in Section 3.15, but actual TAPS operations have shown a decrease in the use of the network over time as pipeline flow decreases. Pump stations have been and may be taken off-line, resulting in less transport of supplies and personnel along the pipeline. In addition, heavy use of the rail network is not made by TAPS operations. The majority of supply shipments and personnel transport are over the road or air networks, and maintenance and surveillance activities are also primarily conducted by road or air. The transportation network also supports oil refining and North Slope oil exploration and production. As discussed in Section 4.7.6.9, these later activities are significant users of rail transport. Such costs are borne by the users, the companies involved in these activities, not the taxpayer.

Security for the TAPS is an issue of national importance. There are elaborate security measures and plans in place, involving numerous Federal and State agencies. BLM has reviewed these confidential plans and agrees with them. Opportunities to strengthen these measures will always be pursued diligently by the agencies involved.

00384-097: Production of NORM wastes is not directly associated with the operation of TAPS. They do, however, result from North Slope oil production activities. As such, it is the North Slope oil production activities whose waste is ultimately shipped to Louisiana, not TAPS waste. Records reviewed indicate that management of North Slope NORM wastes is in conformance with applicable regulations. In addition, records (e.g., surveys) show that interim management of NORM wastes at North Slope locations also have had minimal impacts to the environment and public safety. See Section 4.7.6.10 and C.6.11.

Since state regulations for NORM waste transportation, disposal, and treatment are established by the appropriate regulatory process, which include public participation, at levels expected to prevent adverse effects on the environment and public health, it is reasonable to conclude that when the North Slope operators conform with these regulations there will be no adverse impact to the environment and public health.

00384-098: Your concern regarding environmental conditions and trends in the State of Alaska are noted. Existing baseline conditions for biological resources in the region influenced by TAPS are discussed in Section 3.18, 3.19, 3.20, 3.21, and 3.22. The cumulative impact of the proposed action and other actions is discussed in Section 4.7.

00384-099: The cited statement from Section 4.7.7.2.4 has been revised. Additional references and discussion have been added to Sections 4.4.4.10 and 4.7.7.2. regarding the status of fish populations potentially affected by the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Information provided by the Exxon Valdez Trustee Council (2002) reports that the sockeye and pink salmon are considered “recovering,” while Pacific herring is considered “not recovering.”

00384-100: Section 4.7.7.2.5 identifies that a large oil spill to aquatic habitats could have impacts similar to those that occurred as a result of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. It was concluded that small oil spills would not add significantly to cumulative impacts or affect the viability of fish populations.

00384-101: As discussed in Section 4.7.7.3.1, developments within the Arctic Coastal Plain (including the northern portion of TAPS) occupy only about 0.02% of the available land area. Reasonably foreseeable actions would not significantly add to habitat loss within the North Slope (see Section 4.7). Generally, the carrying capacity of wildlife in the North Slope are not habitat limited. Policies are now in place regarding food handling and wildlife encounters that lessen the potential to increase scavenger populations or the need to destroy predators to protect life and property. As summarized in Section 4.7.7.3.6, impacts associated directly with TAPS are only a small component of the cumulative impacts that occur to wildlife within Alaska.

While climate change and other global changes in the environment affect Alaska as well as other arctic areas, impacts from these large-scale changes cannot be attributed to renewal of TAPS. Assessing the impacts of global warming is beyond the scope of the EIS. No evidence was found that the effect of TAPS together with the other actions discussed in the cumulative effects analysis would push populations beyond a threshold where they could no longer adapt to global change.

00384-102: The statement referred to in the comment pertains primarily to disturbance or displacement of wildlife from operation and maintenance of a gas pipeline. As is the case for the operation and maintenance of TAPS (see Section 4.3.17.2), some individuals do experience disturbance and displacement. However, no population-level impacts have been observed. Once operational, maintenance and monitoring of a gas pipeline would be less substantial than for TAPS. Thus, the potential for impacts to wildlife would be lower. Additionally, stipulations to mitigate impacts to biological systems would be required for construction, operation, and maintenance of a gas pipeline (see Table 4.2-2 for relevant stipulations).

00384-103: Additional documentation and data to support conclusions regarding mortality of predators (especially bears) has been added to Section 4.7.7.3.3.

00384-104: Section 4.3.17.4 addresses impacts of ROW clearings on wildlife; while Section 4.3.17.2 addresses disturbance and displacement, including those associated with ROW monitoring and maintenance. Impacts from the gas pipeline addressed for cumulative effects, Section 4.7.7.3.4, would be similar to, but less than, those from TAPS. The gas pipeline would be buried, so localized impacts to wildlife associated with the gas pipeline ROW would primarily occur where trees would be removed for the gas pipeline. Localized impacts that occur from the aboveground portions of TAPS would not occur for the gas pipeline. Also, less disturbance would occur from the gas pipeline as there would be less need for vehicle inspections for an underground pipeline.

00384-105: The information (and supporting literature) provided in Sections 3.20, 3.21, 4.3.17, 4.4.4.11, and 4.7.7.3 provides a thorough discussion of the bird and terrestrial wildlife resources and their potential to be impacted by TAPS and other actions. While there have been adverse impacts to individuals of some species, no species populations have been jeopardized due to the construction, operation, and routine maintenance of TAPS or from developments within the North Slope oil fields.

00384-106: Section 4.7.7.4 acknowledges the significance of cumulative impacts on listed species. For this reason, cumulative impacts to threatened species are defined in the text as “moderate” and those to endangered species are defined as “large.” Please refer to Tables 4.7-9, 4.7-10, and 4.7-11.

00384-107: The proposed action addressed in the TAPS EIS is renewal of the grant and lease for a 30-year period. The TAPS EIS assesses the impacts of TAPS operation in and adjacent to the TAPS right-of-way, which extends from Mile 0 to the Valdez Marine Terminal. This area does not include the Beaufort Sea.

However, other activities, which send their oil to TAPS for transportation, such as oil development on the shores of the Beaufort Sea, are included in the cumulative impact assessment found in Section 4.7. This section includes a variety of oil development activities on the North Slope, including the Beaufort Sea.

- 00384-108:** The passage cited in the comment explicitly refers back to Section 4.3.20, which discussed the impacts of the proposed action, during routine operations, within the TAPS right-of-way, which ends at the Valdez Marine Terminal. Spills, which are not part of normal operations, are discussed in Section 4.4.4.14. In that section, spills into rivers or streams under some circumstances, are recognized to have “serious consequences for subsistence fisheries” which seems consistent with the position taken in the comments. When cumulative impacts are taken into account in Section 4.7, the marine transport of oil from Valdez is incorporated into the analysis, and the text has been revised to provide a fuller summary of the literature on subsistence impacts of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. However, with augmented spill prevention and containment practices, a spill of the magnitude of the Exxon Valdez is of exceedingly low probability, and so it is not included in the analysis of “reasonably foreseeable” activities.
- 00384-109:** The text has been corrected to note that Eyak is a part of Cordova, though mention of the village is maintained because it is one of the 21 directly affected villages identified by the BLM for special attention. The text also has been corrected to note the presence of subsistence harvest areas of Cordova in Prince William Sound as well (and these areas have been added to Map 3.24-1 and as a map in Appendix D).
- 00384-110:** Recent, unofficial accounts indicate that the estimated cost for the gas pipeline and associated facilities may be higher than earlier estimates.
- 00384-111:** 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.
- 00384-112:** The last paragraph of Section 4.8.3 addresses this issue. However, the text has been revised to more explicitly define use of North Slope oil resources as “depletion and use.”

Document 00385

Document Info

Done

Bristol Bay Native Corporation, an Alaska Native regional corporation, ABSOLUTELY believes that the right-of-way for the Trans Alaska Pipeline should be renewed for another 30 years. The renewal should be for 30 years because anything less could dissuade continued investment and exploration on the North Slope. The TAPS is vital to the State of Alaska's and its residents' economies.

00385-1

Document Info

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Responses for Document 00385

00385-001: Thank you for your comment.

Document 00386

Document Info

Done

BLM TAPS Renewal EIS Argonne National Laboratory EAD/900 9700 S. Cass Ave.,
Argonne, IL 60439 Toll-free fax: 866-542-5904 Greetings!

I am strongly concerned for the protection of the Alaska Native Allotment Law under the Act the U.S. Congress, 1906. This precedence of legislation has not been given the consideration of individual allotment protection in the first granting of Right-of -way to the Alyeska Pipeline Service System. I personally, am concerned, particularly since the pipeline cuts off my access to the Highway and from my home, and furthermore lowering the value of my property and limiting my access to my property to four wheeler or by snow machine only. This problem was caused by the rush to build the pipeline and neglect to properly notify me as land owner as to adjusting a access height of the pipeline. Therefore, no effort to provide access was ever made. The Interior Secretary has not consulted Alaska Native Allotment owners in regard to impact of the Alyeska Pipeline Service System. Therefore, I would appreciate your consideration and effort to protect the Alaska Native Allotments created by the U.S.Congress. Thank you.

00386-1

Document Info

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Responses for Document 00386

00386-001: BLM did not grant the TAPS ROW across Native allotments and is not renewing the TAPS ROW across Native allotments. Access issues on Native allotments are negotiated between the allottees, their representatives and the pipeline owners.

Document 00387

Document Info

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There have been several letters to the editor recently concerning the establishment of a citizen's advisory panel for the pipeline. A citizen's advisory panel is not needed and I advise against establishing one. A panel of this type would cost millions with no value added. Any individual or group already has ample access to get their concerns heard and acted upon. This can be done in any number of ways including direct contact with Alyeska, contact with any agency of the JPO, through the newspaper, etc.

00387-1

Document Info

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Responses for Document 00387

00387-001: The reader is directed to Section 2.5 of the FEIS, especially the part that addresses citizen oversight.

