



Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline Project Environmental Impact Statement

Newsletter #1

24-inch diameter, high pressure natural gas pipeline from Alaska's North Slope to Cook Inlet

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND UPDATE

This is the first in a series of newsletters about the Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline Project (Project) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The proposed project would be a 24-inch diameter, 737-mile, high pressure natural gas pipeline from Alaska's North Slope to Cook Inlet. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Alaska District (Corps) has been designated the lead federal agency and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) are participating as cooperating agencies in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process and development of the EIS. As the lead agency, the Corps is responsible for the development of the EIS, as well as necessary permits within its jurisdiction. The cooperating agencies join in this effort so that the EIS provides the basis for their respective actions on the Project.

This newsletter will:

- » Provide a summary of the scoping meetings and a timeline of the NEPA process.
- » Provide a project history.
- » Describe the next steps regarding the analysis of alternatives.



Anchorage Public Scoping Meeting – December 14, 2009

STEPS IN THE NEPA PROCESS

- 1** **Federal Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**
December 4, 2009
- 2** **Scoping**
Revised Scoping Period:
December 7, 2009 to March 8, 2010
Public Scoping Meetings:
December 8 to December 18, 2009
Scoping Report: Released May 2010
- 3** **WE ARE HERE** **Analysis of Alternatives**
- 4** **Issue Draft EIS**
Available for 45-day public review
- 5** **Public Hearing on Draft EIS**
- 6** **Public Comment Review and Synthesis**
- 7** **Respond to Comments/Prepare Final EIS**
- 8** **Issue Final EIS**
Available for minimum 30-day public review
- 9** **Corps Identifies Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative Public Statements of Agency Decisions**

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

In December of 2009, the Corps held a series of eight public scoping meetings across Alaska. The goal of these meetings was to disseminate information and to hear issues and concerns from the public about the Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline Project. Meetings were held in Glenallen, Delta Junction, Nenana, Fairbanks, McKinley Village, Anchorage, Wasila and Barrow.

Scoping is designed to be an open, public process for identifying the scope of significant physical, biological, and social environmental issues related to the proposed Project that should be addressed through the NEPA process. The scoping process is the first

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phase of an ongoing public participation process, which keeps relevant agencies and the interested public engaged in the Project's progress and informed of opportunities to participate in the preparation of the EIS.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM ALASKANS

Public comments were received verbally and in writing, through discussion, testimony, mail, fax, and electronically by email or through the project website. The comments received during scoping fell into 10 impact categories described as follows:

- » Cultural Resources
- » Communication
- » Engineering, Including Route Alternatives
- » Cumulative Impacts
- » Land Use/Recreation
- » Operations
- » Safety
- » Socioeconomic
- » Surface Water and Wetlands
- » Wildlife and Fisheries

Much of the discussion of those attending the scoping meetings focused on details regarding design, alignment, and the relationship to other gas pipeline projects.



Area along the proposed route North of Healy

These comments are a key component to development of the EIS since the scoping process provides the framework for the environmental study. The public and agency input during scoping also influences the development of the reasonable range of feasible alternatives that will be evaluated in the draft EIS.

You can view a complete record of comments from these public scoping meetings on our website at www.asapeis.com, by clicking on the "scoping meetings" tab and downloading the Scoping Report and attached appendices.



Area along the proposed route north of Coldfoot

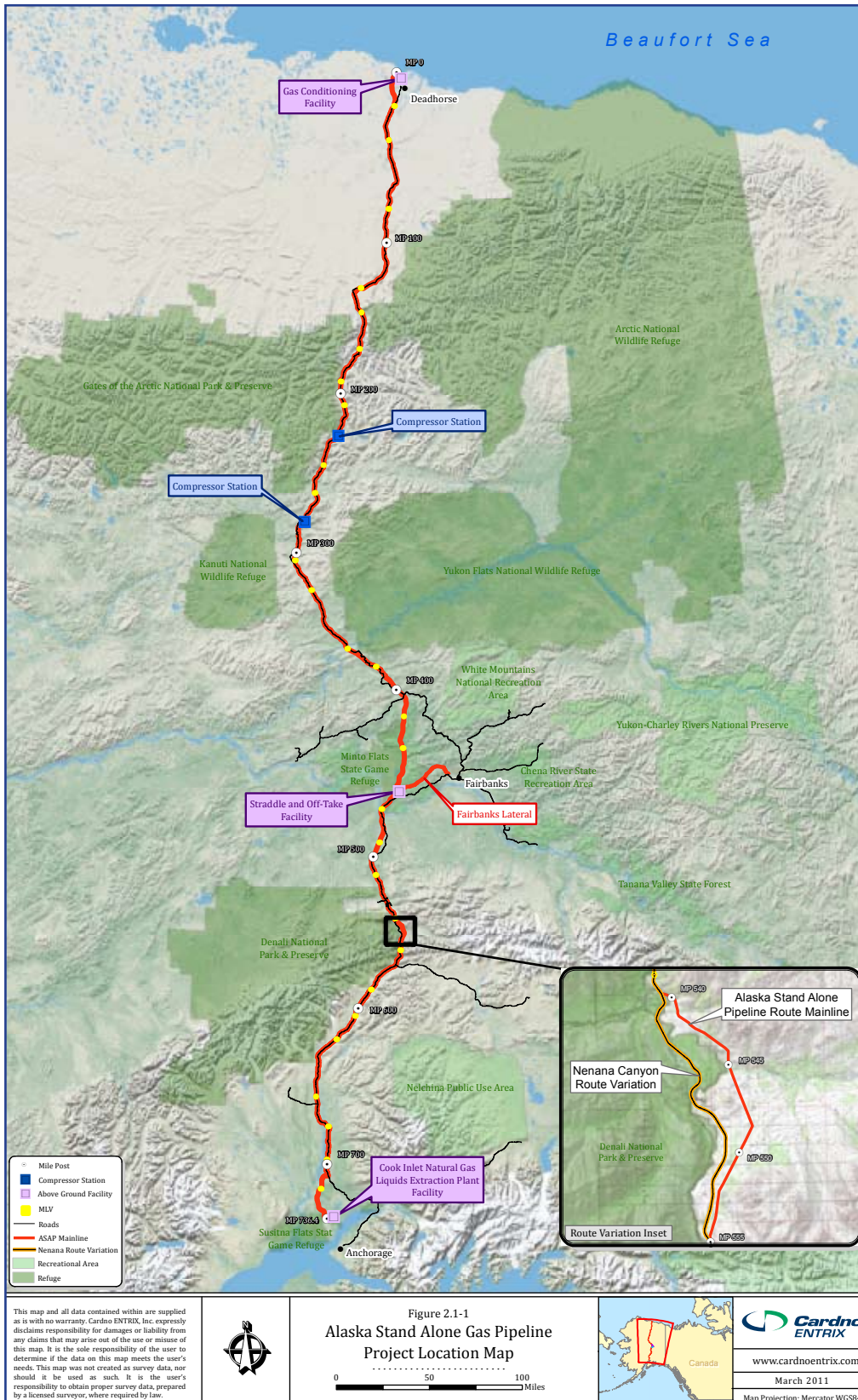
PROJECT HISTORY

In 2009, Alaska's 26th Legislature passed House Bill 113. This legislation was the genesis of the Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline Project and authorized the development of an in-state pipeline. With the permitting, cost analyses and engineering work for the project underway, the Alaska Legislature acted again in 2010 by passing Speaker Mike Chenault's House Bill 369. House Bill 369 mandated that the State prepare a Project Plan for an in-state natural gas pipeline to be operational by December 31, 2015.

Speaker Chenault's legislation also established a Joint In-State Gasline Development Team to prepare the plan, which is required to be submitted to the Legislature by July 1, 2011. The development team is led by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, which created a subsidiary corporation called the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC). The primary mission of the AGDC is to plan, construct, and finance the Project. AGDC took over the project in July 2010 and continues to analyze engineering, budget and construction options as they prepare for the July 1, 2011 legislative deadline to submit a Project Plan. The Corps and the other federal cooperating agencies continue to work with AGDC on right-of-way and environmental permitting issues as the Corps develops the EIS for the Project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline Project is to provide a long-term, stable supply of up to 500 million standard cubic feet per day of natural gas and natural gas liquids (NGLs) from North Slope gas fields to markets in the Fairbanks and Cook Inlet areas by 2016. The proposed pipeline would be generally located in the vicinity of the Dalton and Parks Highway Corridors. A 12-inch diameter



lateral pipeline would extend about 35 miles from Dunbar east to Fairbanks. The project would include the following aboveground facilities:

- » North Slope Gas Conditioning Facility
- » 1 or 2 Compressor Stations
- » Straddle and Off-Take Facility near Dunbar
- » Cook Inlet Natural Gas Liquids Extraction Plant Facility
- » Mainline Valves and Pig Launcher/Receivers

Support Facilities would include: Operations and Maintenance Buildings; Construction Camps and Pipeline Yards; and Material Sites. The current project plan is described in detail in **Plan of Development – Revision 1, March, 2011**, available for viewing on the project website: www.asapeis.com

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Several alternatives to the proposed project have been identified for further consideration within the EIS. Analysis of the No Action alternative will be conducted as required by the NEPA. A route variation alternative in the vicinity of McKinley Village will also be analyzed in detail. The Nenana Canyon route variation alternative would be located near the Parks Highway within the Nenana Canyon, and would affect lands within Denali National Park. This alternative would provide a shorter, more direct route than the proposed alignment located east of Nenana Canyon.

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Visit the project website at
www.asapeis.com

The full scoping report is now available on the website!



McKinley Park Public Scoping Meeting – December 11, 2009

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