



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
Post Office Box 6898
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	August 1, 2014
EXPIRATION DATE:	September 2, 2014
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2009-651
WATERWAY:	Multiple Waterways

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED ALASKA STAND ALONE PIPELINE PROJECT

PROJECT INFORMATION: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Alaska District, Regulatory Branch has received a Department of the Army (DA) permit application from the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC) to construct the Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline (ASAP) Project.

The applicant has stated, "The purpose of the Alaska In-State Gas Pipeline (ASAP) is codified in state law as one of the projects the AGDC is directed to develop. As stated in state law, AGDC "shall, for the benefit of the state, to the fullest extent possible, ... develop, finance, construct, and operate an in-state natural gas pipeline in a safe, prudent, economical, and efficient manner, for the purpose of making natural gas, including propane and other hydrocarbons associated with natural gas other than oil, available to Fairbanks, the Southcentral region of the state, and other communities in the state at the lowest rates possible." (Alaska Statute 31.25.005(4)).

The ASAP Project would be comprised of a natural gas conditioning facility (GCF) near Prudhoe Bay capable of producing 500 MMscfd of utility-grade natural gas; a 36-inch, 727-mile long, 1,480 psig subsurface natural gas pipeline connecting the GCF to the existing ENSTAR pipeline system in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and a 12-inch, 29-mile long, 1,480 psig, subsurface lateral line connecting the mainline to Fairbanks. The GCF would be constructed from modules delivered to the existing West Dock causeway in Prudhoe Bay. Facilitating transport and offload of these modular components will require modifications to dock head 3, winter dredging of a navigational channel to a 10-ft depth, nearshore dispersion of dredge material over bottomfast ice, channel screeding, and use of a temporary ballasted barge bridge during offload. The proposed pipeline would be buried except at possible fault crossings, elevated bridge stream crossings, pigging facilities, and block valve locations. Because the pipeline system would be designed to transport utility-grade natural gas, access to smaller communities would be possible. The ASAP route would generally parallel the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) and Dalton Highway corridor to near Livengood, northwest of Fairbanks. At Livengood, the route would continue south, to the west of Fairbanks and Nenana. The pipeline would bypass Denali National Park and Preserve to the east and would then generally parallel the Parks Highway corridor to Willow, continuing south to its connection with ENSTAR's distribution system at MP 39 of the Beluga Pipeline southwest of Big Lake. The Fairbanks Lateral tie-in would be located approximately two miles south of the Chatanika River, crossing at MP 439 of the mainline. From the mainline tie-in, the Fairbanks Lateral pipeline would traverse east over Murphy Dome, following the Murphy Dome and Old Murphy Dome Roads, and then extend southeast into Fairbanks."

As lead federal agency, the Corps completed a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) pursuant to the requirements on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), in October 2012, for the ASAP

project. However, the proposed project design was not complete enough for the Corps' to make a permitting decision. Since the publishing of the FEIS, the ASAP project has undergone some changes and the AGDC has applied for a DA permit, as stated above. The current application requires review through the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) process.

The Corps has invited several federal and state agencies, along with Tribes to be cooperating agencies in the SEIS process. All other agencies, individuals, and other private interest organizations and parties are invited to participate via submission of comments. The Corps published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a federal NEPA SEIS in the Federal Register on August 1, 2014. All comments received in response to the Corps' NOI and this Public Notice will be considered when determining the scope of the SEIS.

COMMENTS: Scoping comments and suggestions must be received no later than October 14, 2014. To be most helpful, comments should clearly describe specific environmental topics or issues which the commenter believes the SEIS should address. All comments will become a part of the administrative record and are subject to release, as appropriate, in their entirety, including any personally identifiable information such as names, phone numbers, and addresses, if included in the comment.

Written comments should be sent to the following mailing address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, Regulatory Division, Attention: ASAP Project, Ms. Mary Romero, Post Office Box 6898, JBER, Alaska 99506-0898. Written comments can also be emailed to the following address: asapeiscomments@usace.army.mil. Comments may also be submitted on the SEIS website at www.asapeis.com.

SCOPING MEETINGS: Public scoping meetings will be held in the communities listed below. Please check the project website for further details on where and when the meetings will be held.

Anaktuvuk Pass, Anchorage, Barrow, Denali/Cantwell, Fairbanks, Healy, Kenai, Minto, Nenana, Nuiqsut, Seward, Talkeetna, Willow, and Wiseman

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Project Impacts:* The proposed ASAP project would impact up to 23,534 acres of wetlands, 1,350 acres of open waters, and 59.6 acres of subtidal waters of the U.S.

Permit Authority: The proposed project would involve both work and structures in traditionally navigable waters of the U.S., and the discharge of fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Therefore, the proposed project is subject to both Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972.

Alternatives: The SEIS will address any new alternatives, not addressed in the FEIS, which are found to be practicable in light of the proposed project changes since the issuance of the FEIS and the proposed project's purpose and need.

Cooperating Agencies: The following agencies have agreed to serve as cooperating agencies in preparation of the SEIS:

- U.S. Bureau of Land Management; Alaska State Pipeline Coordinator's Office; U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration; U. S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service

Additional Consultations: The Corps anticipates consultations will be required pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Essential Fish Habitat provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Corps will be available to conduct government to government consultations with all affected federally recognized tribes.

Permitting Process: The decision to issue a DA permit or not will be based on an evaluation of the potential impacts, including direct, indirect, and/or cumulative impacts of the proposed project on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both the protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably can be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. For the discharge of fill into special aquatic sites, evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (40 CFR Part 230).

Development of the SEIS will assist the Corps in determining whether to issue a DA permit, issue a DA permit with special conditions, or deny a DA permit.

Drawings as well as maps for the project showing the original FEIS alignment and the current alignment are available on line at <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx> under POA-2009-651. Additional information is available at www.asapeis.com.

District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers