



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

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

Public Notice of Application for Permit and Notice of Availability for Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: June 30, 2017

EXPIRATION DATE: August 14, 2017

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2009-651

WATERWAY: Multiple Waterways

Project Information: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Alaska District, Regulatory Division received an application from the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation on January 13, 2016 (amended July, 2016) requesting authorization under a Department of the Army permit to construct an in-state natural gas pipeline. The Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline (ASAP) Project comprises of a natural gas conditioning facility (GCF) capable of producing an annual average 500 million standard cubic feet per day (MMscfd) of utility-grade natural gas at peak capacity and a 1,480 pound per square inch (psig) natural gas pipeline. The pipeline is a 733-mile long, 36-inch-diameter natural gas transmission mainline extending from the Gas Conditioning Facility near Prudhoe Bay south to a connection with the existing ENSTAR pipeline system in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. An approximately 30-mile-long, 12-inch-diameter lateral pipeline will connect the mainline to Fairbanks. The proposed pipeline will typically be buried with a minimum cover of 30 inches and a bottom-of-ditch depth of 6 to 8 feet except at possible fault crossings, elevated bridge stream crossings, pigging facilities, and block valve locations. The ASAP route will generally parallel the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) and Dalton Highway corridor to near Livengood, northwest of Fairbanks. At Livengood, the mainline route will continue south, to the west of Fairbanks and Nenana. The pipeline will bypass Denali National Park and Preserve to the east and will then generally parallel the Parks Highway corridor to Willow, continuing south to its connection into ENSTAR's distribution system at MP 39 of the Beluga Pipeline southwest of Big Lake. The Fairbanks Lateral tie-in will be located approximately 2.5 miles south of the Chatanika River crossing at MP 440 of the mainline. From the mainline tie-in point, the Fairbanks Lateral pipeline will traverse east over Murphy Dome, following the Murphy Dome and Old Murphy Dome Roads, and then extend southeast into Fairbanks. **A total of 21,237.34 acres (8,907.01 in jurisdictional waters of the U.S., including wetlands; and, 12,330.33 in uplands) would be impacted either permanently or temporarily by the proposed pipeline,**

aboveground facilities, access roads, and marine dredge or fill. The 8,907.01 acres of wetland impacts include 8,734.58 acres of impacts to freshwater habitat (categorized as palustrine emergent, palustrine shrub/scrub, and palustrine forest; and, pond, lake and intermittent waterbodies). The remaining 172.44 acres of jurisdictional marine impacts include discharges to 0.90 acres of intertidal and 171.54 acres of subtidal waters of the U.S..

Applicant: Alaska Gasline Development Corporation, c/o Mr. Michael Thompson, 3201 C Street, Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99503; mthompson@adgc.us

Project Purpose: The applicant has stated, “The Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline (ASAP) is Alaska’s in-state natural gas pipeline designed to develop an affordable, long-term energy solution for Fairbanks, the Southcentral region of the state, and other communities in the state consistent with Alaska Statute AS 31.25.005.

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

Other Environmental Review and Consultation Requirements: Other environmental review and consultation requirements include Executive Order 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, Executive Order 12898 Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation and Magnuson-Stevens Act Essential Fish Habitat.

- Endangered Species: The Corps has made a determination that the proposed project **may affect** listed species and their federally-designated critical habitat, identified within the Endangered Species Act. The Corps has initiated section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service.
- Essential Fish Habitat: The Corps has determined that the proposed project **may affect** essential fish habitat and is initiating consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service, under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- Historic Properties: The Corps has made a determination that historic properties exist within the permit area and may result in an **adverse effect** to properties as a result of the proposed project. The Corps has reinitiated consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office under 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. A programmatic agreement will be developed in consultation with SHPO and other consulting or interested parties for incorporating measures to resolve any unavoidable or adverse effects to historic properties and cultural resources. Additionally, the Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources

that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. Notification of invitation to participate in government-to-government consultation, additional opportunities to obtain project related information, request for participation in decision-making processes regarding the protected Tribal right or resources and opportunities to provide comments were provided by phone, email correspondence and hardcopy to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work. Additionally, consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander during the public comment period. The Corps will be available to conduct government to government consultations with all affected federally recognized tribes.

Application Location for Download: The permit application, including descriptions of proposed work and structures, plan and elevation drawings, type, composition and quantity of fill discharge by location, and other supporting information is available for public review at the project website: www.asapeis.com .

Draft SEIS Location for Download: A Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) has been prepared for this project and is also available for review. Notification of scheduled public meeting locations and dates have been provided by separate notification and are posted on the project website: www.asapeis.com .

To request a hardcopy of the application or the SEIS, please contact the Applicant, at: Alaska Gasline Development Corporation, c/o Mr. Michael Thompson, 3201 C Street, Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99503; mthompson@adgc.us

The Corps has been designated the lead federal agency and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources State Pipeline Coordinator's Office (SPCO) are participating as cooperating agencies in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) development process.

Comments: Comments can be submitted via the U.S. Postal Service to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CEPOA-RD, Ms. Sandy Gibson, P.O. Box 6898, JBER, Alaska 99506-0898 or also via email at: asapeiscomments@erm.com. We request that you include with your comments: (1) Your name, address, and affiliation (if any); (2) Be as specific as possible when stating your concern or comment and whether it is specific to the Draft SEIS, the permit application or both; and (3) Provide any background documents to support your comments, as necessary.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, water quality, conservation, economics, aesthetics, wetlands, cultural values, navigation, fish and wildlife values, water supply, and any other factors judged important to the needs and welfare of the people. 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). Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see 40 CFR Part 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

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.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the designated comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for public hearing and shall be submitted to the Corps, using the contact information referenced above.

- THE DEADLINE FOR PROVIDING COMMENTS IS AUGUST 14, 2017 -

District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers