



# News Release

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## **Federal Coordinator Hires Deputy Federal Coordinator**

May 6, 2009, Washington, D.C. – Federal Coordinator Drue Pearce, Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects (OFC), is pleased to announce the addition of Vice Admiral Thomas Barrett, USCG (Ret.), currently Deputy Secretary of the Department of Transportation, as her Deputy Federal Coordinator. No stranger to Alaska, Barrett lived in the State for 14 years which included being the Coast Guard Commander from 1999 to 2002. As Deputy, he will work together with the Federal Coordinator to direct the activities and authorities vested in the OFC and also manage the critical Alaska field office.

“It is with great pleasure that I announce the addition of Vice Admiral Tom Barrett to the OFC team,” said Federal Coordinator Pearce. “I’ve had the pleasure of working with Tom for nearly 20 years, both in Alaska and the lower 48 as we each served Alaska and the United States of America in various roles. Vice Admiral Barrett brings leadership, experience, and incredible energy to this new challenge which is so crucial to the long-term energy security of the United States and to the State of Alaska. I greatly admire his ability to unite diverse agency and civilian personnel to pursue a common goal. Tom and his lovely wife Sheila had been looking forward to moving home to Alaska when he left DOT, which afforded me the exciting opportunity to work alongside an incredibly talented man.”

Vice Admiral Barrett, USCG (Ret.) has served since August 8, 2007 as the Deputy Secretary of Transportation. Before serving as Deputy Secretary, he was the first Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and directed the agency's national program for protecting against risks to life and property inherent in the transportation of hazardous materials in commerce and the transportation of liquid, natural gas, petroleum, and other hazardous liquids by pipeline. He will join the Office of the Federal Coordinator May 26, 2009.

“The Alaska natural gas pipeline is a project that has been 30 years in the making. As President Obama has said, moving forward with this project is part of a comprehensive energy strategy. The United States has an abundant source of natural gas on Alaska’s North Slope that we should deliver to Alaskans and Americans in the lower 48 states,” says Barrett. “This pipeline is not just an Alaska project but is a vital national infrastructure project. Tens-of-thousands of good jobs will be created through the life of the project and clean energy will be delivered to Americans. I look forward to working with Drue and the project stakeholders to make the Alaska natural gas pipeline a reality.”

The OFC has also hired an Environmental Engineer, Christa Gunn, who works in the Alaska field office. She comes to the OFC with 10 years experience in the energy and environment sectors working as a civilian with the United States Air Force. Most recently she served as the Natural Resources and Asset Optimization Flight Chief at Nellis AFB in Nevada. Ms. Gunn has extensive experience with National Environmental Policy Act, including coordinating environmental assessments and as a program manager

on multiple environmental impact statements. She has a Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering/Pollution Control and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science and Management. Ms. Gunn works in the Permits, Scheduling and Compliance division of the OFC.

William Doyle, Director of Permitting, Scheduling & Compliance said "We welcome Christa Gunn aboard as an Environmental Engineer. Her strong skill set and experience working stateside and overseas as an energy and environment expert for the Air Force is invaluable. She is experienced with the NEPA process, government-to-government consultations, and expediting construction projects. She was part of the team who established the largest PV solar array in the United States at Nellis AFB."

Lastly, the OFC is pleased to announce that the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) has awarded a lease for space at the 188 Northern Lights building in Anchorage, Alaska. The OFC is looking forward to moving into this space as a tenant in the Fall 2009. Currently, the OFC Alaska office is renting space from the Joint Pipeline Office (JPO) at 411 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and can be reached through the JPO main switchboard, (907) 257-1300.

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