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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT
Jennifer Thompson (202) 406-0815

Public forum on natural gas markets Jan. 22

The federal coordinator's office for the Alaska natural gas pipeline will sponsor a public forum on gas markets Jan. 22 to help Alaskans better understand the supply-and-demand fundamentals affecting the proposed pipeline project.

The Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects will bring to Alaska several national experts on Lower 48 supply and demand including shale gas, the effect of federal clean air regulations on natural gas demand, and foreign markets for liquefied natural gas.

"We want to help Alaskans understand how an Alaska North Slope natural gas pipeline could fit into the North American marketplace," said Federal Coordinator Larry Persily. The forum will look at projections for 2020 and beyond, when Alaska gas could be entering the market. "It's important that Alaskans understand the same factors that gas producers are looking at as they consider whether to proceed with the multibillion-dollar project."

The forum is set for 1 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, at the University of Alaska Anchorage Fine Arts Building Recital Hall (Room 150). The event will be carried live on the web and broadcast at a later date on statewide public television. Panelists will include representatives with extensive experience in natural gas and financial markets.

"This is not a forum to push one project proposal over another, but rather to provide Alaskans with the facts and expert opinions as the state waits for its biggest project since the oil pipeline 35 years ago," Persily said.

The forum will be split into two one-hour sessions, with a 30-minute break at 2 p.m. with light refreshments sponsored by the Canadian Consulate in Anchorage. The forum is open to the public, and there will be time for questions. Seating will be limited, though overflow space will be available in the music room next to the recital hall for people to watch via closed-circuit TV.

Alaska public TV will stream the forum live, with the link at www.360north.org and the Federal Coordinator's website, www.arcticgas.gov. Webstream viewers can send in their questions by emailing info@arcticgas.gov. The forum will be broadcast at a later date on 360 North, the Alaska public TV channel that also carries Gavel-to-Gavel coverage of the Alaska Legislature.

Congress established the Federal Coordinator's office in 2004 to expedite and coordinate federal permitting for a pipeline to deliver natural gas from Alaska's North Slope to U.S. markets.

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