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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT  
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## **Richards joins Office of the Federal Coordinator as Deputy**

Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects Larry Persily today announced the addition to the agency of Frank Richards as the deputy federal coordinator.

Richards, deputy commissioner at the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, will join the federal gas line office by the first week of January. He will succeed Thomas Barrett, who is leaving the agency to take over as president of the Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. Richards will manage the Alaska field office in Anchorage and oversee the activities of federal interagency and technical teams.

Richards is a registered professional engineer with broad engineering, transportation, management, budget and legislative experience. He has worked 19 years at the state Transportation Department, with 10 years in the private sector as an engineer on energy, infrastructure, and mining developments, including the Red Dog mine and Bradley Lake hydroelectric projects.

“Frank Richards has 25 years of proven project-management experience in Alaska,” Persily said. “He is well respected within the industry and well versed on the gas pipeline project. He will be a solid addition to our staff.”

As the Transportation Department’s deputy commissioner for highways and public facilities, Richards was responsible for Alaska’s surface transportation assets, including projects in support of Alaska’s resource development goals. Richards worked with many of the Alaska gas pipeline project stakeholders over the past five years, planning for the road and bridge improvements that will be needed during gas line construction.

”I am committed to work diligently and collaboratively with the pipeline projects and federal agencies to advance this critically important project to reality so that Alaska’s vast natural gas resources can supply abundant, clean energy to North American markets,” Richards said.

Congress established the Office of the Federal Coordinator in 2004 to expedite and coordinate federal permitting for a pipeline to deliver natural gas from Alaska's North Slope to U.S. markets. The office coordinates with more than 20 federal agencies, the Canadian federal, territorial and provincial governments, the State of Alaska, tribal governments and other stakeholders.

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