



NEWS

DATE: Feb. 16, 2011

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT
Jennifer Thompson (202) 406-0815

Federal Coordinator releases project attention items updates

ANCHORAGE – The Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects released the first semi-annual attention items update to its First-Phase Consolidated Implementation Plan for both the Alaska Pipeline Project and Denali-The Alaska Gas Pipeline. In its continuing effort to monitor the progress of federal activities for an Alaska natural gas pipeline, the Office of the Federal Coordinator will prepare semi-annual updates in February and August to assist the project developers and the public in understanding permit requirements for the multibillion-dollar undertaking.

The implementation plan for the Alaska Pipeline Project and Denali-The Alaska Gas Pipeline were issued in May 2010 and June 2009, respectively. These first attention items updates highlight permit issues and updates priority items from the first-phase plans, identify critical work activities, and those items that are moving ahead without significant issues.

Examples of the issues highlighted in the updates are air quality/non-attainment/greenhouse gas regulations; climate change; cultural resources/prehistoric and historic properties; landowner and land access issues; ocean dumping of dredged materials; bridges; coastal zone management; scope of project alternatives/statement of purpose and need; and wetlands.

A 2006 memorandum of understanding initiated by the Office of the Federal Coordinator and signed by about two dozen federal agencies charges the federal gas line office with preparing and maintaining an implementation plan for coordinating federal permitting activities for the project. The 2006 agreement, the initial implementation plans for the Alaska Pipeline Project and Denali-The Alaska Gas Pipeline and the first updates are available at the Office of the Federal Coordinator website www.arcticgas.gov.

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

-end-