



JOINT PIPELINE OFFICE

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Joint Pipeline Office NEWS RELEASE

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Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Right-of-Way Renewal EIS Scoping Period Extended, Fairbanks and Barrow Meetings Rescheduled

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – October 4, 2001

The Bureau of Land Management Joint Pipeline Office (BLM-JPO) confirms that the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) Renewal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) public scoping comment period is extended to October 19, 2001. Further, BLM-JPO announces the rescheduling of two public scoping meetings cancelled last month in Fairbanks and Barrow. The meetings are part of the public involvement process supporting the development of the EIS on renewal of the right-of-way for the TAPS. The public is invited to provide information and comments on specific issues they believe should be addressed in the EIS. Comments are being taken by letter, e-mail, FAX, world wide web, phone voice message, and at six public meetings, four of which occurred last month in Glennallen, Valdez, Delta Junction and Anchorage and at the two meetings which are scheduled in Fairbanks and Barrow.

The EIS will address environmental, social, subsistence and economic impacts resulting from renewing the TAPS right-of-way. BLM and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources in the JPO are closely cooperating in the TAPS renewal effort. An application was filed with the State and Federal governments on May 2, asking that the right-of-way be renewed before the current lease and grant expire in 2004. The draft EIS is scheduled for publication in July 2002 with a final EIS to be published in November 2002. Argonne National Lab is assisting BLM-JPO in developing the EIS.

The rescheduled public scoping meetings will be held in these locations:

- Fairbanks, Alaska – Wednesday, October 10, Bureau of Land Management Northern Field Office, 1150 University Avenue from 3:00pm until 5:00pm and from 7:00pm until 9:00pm.
- Barrow, Alaska – Friday, October 12, Inupiat Heritage Center, 5421 North Star Street, from 3:00pm until 5:00pm and from 7:00pm until 9:00pm. KBRW Radio in Barrow will broadcast the meeting.

Public scoping comments may be provided at the meetings and by:

E-mail comments: tapseis@anl.gov

Toll-free FAX 1-866-386-7350

World Wide Web Comment Form tapseis.anl.gov

Toll-free voice message 1-866-386-7331

Written comments (must be received by October 19, 2001) BLM TAPS Renewal Scoping
Argonne National Laboratory EAD/900
9700 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, IL 60439

A complete description of the EIS scoping process and other information may be found at tapseis.anl.gov. Copies of the right-of-way renewal application are available at the JPO TAPS Renewal web site <http://www.tapsrenewal.jpo.doi.gov>.

The BLM and ADNR are the lead agencies in the Joint Pipeline Office (JPO), a consortium of seven State of Alaska and six Federal agencies that oversee the TAPS. Additional information is available at the JPO web site <http://corecom.net/JPO>.