April 17, 2006

Dear Dept of Natural Resources,

I am writing with several concerns on the proposed ANGDA 24" gas pipeline from Glennallen to Sutton, for the purpose of taking natural gas to the Anchorage area. My concerns are as follows:

1) Caribou & sheep habitat: ANGDA proposes to go behind Sheep Mountain. It would also go along Squaw, Caribou, Chitina & Boulder Creeks, traversing some of the best habitat in the area for Dall Sheep. Will this open new access ATV vehicles in an already overused area? What is your justification for deviating from the road?

2) Recreation: This deviation (going behind Sheep Mountain) goes through a highly scenic hiking route. ATV traffic impairs wilderness experiences. It is important to understand if construction of the gas line leads to motorized recreation a negitive effect on the wilderness experience ~~can~~ will occur. Wildlife and habitat would also be negitively impacted. Look at Eureka, once prime caribou habitat, now snow machine habitat.

3) How will a gas pipe line effect soil temperatures. Larger diameter pipelines thaw the permafrost, resulting in erosion and siltation that harms fish. "Frost jacking" can also effect fish causing their eggs to die. ANGDA claims a 24" line is too small for these impacts to

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occur. Will the state do an independent verification of this claim? Will you do a fish resource plan?

4) Will ANGDA fund a Citizen's Oversight Group? This definitely needs to in place before a pipeline is allowed. This group would see the project through from beginning to end (design / construction / operation). There should be an environmental subcommittee (to oversee issues like wildlife, ~~erosion~~ erosion, and stream crossings) and a socio-~~environ~~ economic sub committee (to deal with issues like local hire, job training, and cultural resource protection, ensuring that maximum benefit flows to Alaskan communities.) The group should be funded and staffed, have independent science advisors, and be independent of ANGDA's control. Will this happen?

I look forward to your reply concerning these issues.

Sincerely,

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