

**MEMORANDUM**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER**  
**Southcentral Regional Office**

**TO:** Fredrick M. Thompson  
Acting Pipeline Coordinator

**DATE:** April 26, 2006  
**PHONE NO.:** 269-8563

**FROM:** Marcie Menefee  
Natural Resource Manager

**SUBJECT:** ANGDA Conditional Right of Way  
Lease Comments, ADL 229297

The Southcentral Region of the Division of Mining, Land and Water has reviewed the Commissioner's Analysis, Proposed Decision and Action of February 24, 2006 for granting a Conditional Right of Way Lease to the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority (ANGDA) for a natural gas pipeline between Glennallen and Palmer.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water is the steward of most public domain state land, including much of the area affected by this proposal (and the Nelchina Public Use Area). Many of the existing land-use authorizations within the project area were issued by this division, and most of the applications for future land use authorizations (including easements, leases, material sales, mining claims, and subdivision or recreational parcel land sales) will be processed through this division.

The Commissioner's Decision identifies the proposed location of the pipeline right-of-way as an important component of project mitigation because of its reliance on existing transportation corridors and previously disturbed lands. As identified in the Proposed Decision, "Construction activities will create the greatest potential for adverse effects to the environment and to people living in or traveling in the area." Close cooperation between the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office and the DMLW Southcentral Region office is recommended as the ANGDA right-of-way route is more narrowly defined in order to facilitate the identification of third party interests associated with specific existing or pending road and trail easements that may be disrupted by project activities. This coordination will also foster the exchange of information concerning other on-going, cooperative interagency efforts that Southcentral Region is currently participating in within the proposed pipeline right-of-way area, such as a current effort to identify and reserve easements on recreational access trails on public lands in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Early contact with the Southcentral Region office will assist ANGDA and the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office to realize the Commissioner's goal, as stated in the Proposed Decision, of minimizing negative socioeconomic and recreational impacts to the communities in the pipeline corridor.

A number of popular recreational trails (including some over 12 validated RS2477 rights of way) in the area receive heavy use year-round but particularly during summer and fall. Permanent improvements, such as access roads to the pipeline corridor, should require consideration and mitigation to minimize impacts to these traditional uses.