



## USIBELLI COAL MINE, INC.

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April 18, 2006

Mr. Fredrick M. Thompson  
Acting State Pipeline Coordinator  
411 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

**RE: Relocation of Alaska Natural Gas Authority's (ANGDA) Proposed Right- Of- Way (ROW) for a Gas Pipeline (ADL 229297)**

Dear Mr. Thompson,

Over the last decade Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. (UCM) has actively pursued development of a coal mine in the Wish Bone Hill area near Moose Creek. A ten volume permit issued by DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water (State and Federal Permit) for the Wish Bone Hill mine (WBH) is actively maintained along with numerous other permits. UCM maintains many active coal leases as well as owning private property to support WBH mine project. This property will be developed as coal markets demand. It is important to understand that this is a unique coal deposit as it is the only high grade bituminous coal deposit that is commercially viable within 100 miles of this area. The WBH mine is also reserve limited, so every ton of coal is needed to make this project commercially viable. UCM has a large investment in this property and will continue to work diligently towards developing it into a mine.

Please refer to the attached map which depicts ANGDA's original proposed ROW and the two new proposed ROW. The original ANGDA proposed ROW crossed UCM's proposed main haul road corridor for the mine. Large surface mining equipment will be using this road. ANGDA's two new proposed Moose creek crossing realignment options go directly across UCM's proposed coal mine area. These realignment options would completely kill this mining property! Therefore, UCM must formally object to these new ROW options.

Another concern is that blasting vibrations from the mining process may directly affect the gas pipeline depending on the separation distance. The proximity between the mine and the gas pipeline (public utility) is used to regulate the mine on the amount of explosives allowed to be used during mining. This issue may adversely affect the mining process if too restrictive.

UCM would like to meet with ANGDA ROW planning group to discuss possible options to mitigate the proposed gas pipeline routes around this important natural resource.

Alan Renshaw, PE, PLS  
Chief Engineer Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.

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