

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
LINEWIDE CORROSION INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES

APPLICANT:

ALYESKA PIPELINE SERVICE COMPANY
1835 S BRAGAW STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99512

RIGHT-OF-WAY APPLICATION
FF088241
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. BPM 92-010

PREPARED BY:

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ALASKA STATE OFFICE
BRANCH OF PIPELINE MONITORING
411 W. 4th AVENUE, SUITE 2B
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

May 6, 1992

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, ALASKA
BRANCH OF PIPELINE MONITORING (983)

I. NEPA REQUIREMENTS

(A) Introduction

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (Alyeska) has requested authorization for additional work area outside the granted right-of-way to facilitate repair of corroded pipe at 31 locations along the pipeline. The work will be authorized by temporary use permits under the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act, 97 Stat. 584 (1973). This assessment addresses activities at all of the sites which will be excavated during the period May 1992 through April 1993.

(B) Issues

Joint Pipeline Office staff members have raised the following issues and concerns: (1) fish passage, and (2) river bank stability and potential erosion.

(C) Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, Policies, Plans or other Environmental Analyses

The statute that applies to this proposed action is the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act. Alyeska holds a Federal right-of-way grant for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). The project area is located within the inner Utility Corridor on lands managed by BLM. The relevant planning document is the Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved on January 11, 1991. Other sites are on BLM managed land covered by the Southcentral Management Framework Plan (1981) in the Delta to Valdez area. The proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan as required by 43 CFR 1610.5.

Four (4) environmental impact statements have been completed for three separate pipeline projects and for the BLM RMP, each of which cover the application area. Information describing the existing environment is available in these documents.

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

(A) Purpose and Need for Action

The applicant has been directed by BLM to investigate corrosion and has decided to repair the pipeline in place. There is inadequate space within the 54 foot wide right-of-way for pipeline excavation, and equipment operation. Additional work area is needed as a consequence of the September 12, 1990 amendment to 8 ACC 61.010, subchapter 05.162(G) of the Alaska Construction Code which decreased the slope required for excavation to 1.5 to 1.

(B) Proposed Action

The applicant has requested 200' x 300' area at each dig site to facilitate pipe repair work. This will allow pipeline excavation, water discharge areas, laydown areas for materials, and access. Overburden and excavated materials may also be temporarily stockpiled within the permit areas. A list of site locations is included as Appendix A to this document.

A permit under AS 16.05.870 or .840 may be necessary from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to authorize work in waters which support anadromous fish.

(C) No Action Alternative

The no action alternative would be denying Alyeska's request to utilize the public lands. If the proposed action can be mitigated through standard operating procedures, denying of a permit (no action alternative) would be inconsistent with Bureau policy formulated in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) (43 USC 1701). FLPMA directs the Secretary of the Interior to manage the public lands on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield.

Without the additional area, the applicant will be forced to violate a state statute or be otherwise unable to repair the corrosion on the pipeline. In the long term this may result in lowering of pressure in the pipe (slowing oil movement) or potential hazard to the pipe and the environment with the increased possibility of an oil leak.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

(A) Introduction

The affected environment for the area of the proposed action is adequately discussed in the following documents: Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Utility Corridor, Alyeska's Oil Spill Contingency Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Trans-Alaska Gas System.

(B) The following critical elements of the human environment are subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation or Executive Order. These critical elements have been analyzed for the proposed action and no significant impacts are likely to occur:

<u>Critical Elements</u>	<u>May Be Impacted</u>	<u>Can be Mitigated</u>
1. Air Quality	No	
2. ACEC's	No	
3. Cultural and Historic	No	
4. Farmland, Prime or Unique	No	
5. Floodplains	No	
6. Nat. Amer. Rel Concerns	No	
7. Paleontological	No	
8. Threatened/Endangered	No	

<u>Critical elements</u>	Impacted	Mitigated
9. Visual Resources	Yes	Yes
10. Waste, Hazardous/Solid	No	
11. Water Quality	No	
12. Wetlands/Riparian Zones	No	
13. Wild & Scenic Rivers	No	
14. Wilderness Values	No	

No ACECs are affected.

There is no reasonably foreseeable restriction to subsistence activity or effect on the availability or productivity of resources for subsistence use which will result from the proposed action. Substantial benefits to subsistence resources would occur if the sites were successful in the rapid containment of spilled oil.

No refueling or storing of hazardous materials would occur on site.

No wilderness values would be affected by the proposed action.

Temporary degradation of visual quality of some of the sites which are visible from the Dalton or Richardson Highways may result from excavation activities and material stockpiling.

Fish passage may be temporarily disrupted in areas where streams or river channels are excavated. Appropriate permits from ADF&G may be required.

(C) Mitigation

1. Prior to commencement of surface disturbing activities, permit area limits shall be staked.
2. Access shall be limited to the workpad and existing roads.
3. The use of settling ponds is not recommended due to the disruption of the riparian habitat and disruption to river channels within the floodplain. Alternate methods of ensuring compliance with water discharge quality standards for suspended solids may involve discharge into inactive existing river channels and discharge onto upland areas.
4. All material stockpiling will be arranged to minimize disturbance to vegetated areas as well as active river channels.
5. No fuel storage will be allowed on site.
6. No trash storage will be allowed on site.
7. The permittee shall submit a restoration plan (or plans) with recommendations for each site by June 15, 1992. The plan(s) shall address surface stabilization, stream channel protection or restoration, and revegetation. The plan(s) are subject to approval by the BIM Authorized Officer, and are to be implemented beginning in June, 1992.

(D) RESIDUAL IMPACTS

No long term residual impacts are expected to occur.

IV. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Persons and Agencies Consulted.

Stan Bronczyk, BLM (983)
Perry Francis, BLM (983)
Phil Brna, ADF&G
Gary Stackhouse, USF&WS

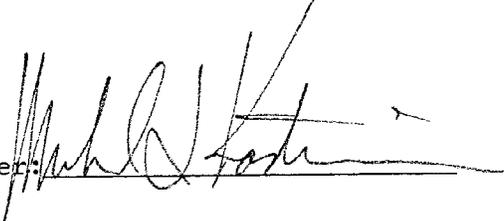
V. ANILCA REQUIREMENTS

Section 810 Subsistence Evaluation

This action is not likely to cause any significant restriction to the subsistence resources of the area.

VI. LOCATION REFERENCES

Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Prudhoe Bay to Valdez, Alaska Construction Record Drawings, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, AL-00-G100, as revised, 1/92.

Prepared by: 

Date: 5/6/92

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND DECISION RECORD

Decision: It is my decision to grant a permit authorize corrosion repair work utilizing additional temporary work area at each of 31 sites along the pipeline. Individual site requirements, including additional mitigation if necessary, will be incorporated into the Field Memos written for each location. These actions are authorized pursuant to the Pipeline Authorization Act, 87 Stat. 584 (1973). A rental fee based upon fair market value appraisal will be collected for the permit.

I have selected the proposed action as the environmentally preferred alternative provided with the mitigation measures identified in this environmental assessment.

Finding of No Significant Impact: Based upon the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that the impacts on the human environment are not expected to be significant and that an environmental impact statement is not required.

The evaluation and finding done to comply with Section 810 of ANILCA found no significant restrictions to subsistence use.

Rationale for the Decision: The decision to allow this proposed action does not result in undue or unnecessary environmental degradation, will not restrict subsistence activity or resources, and is consistent with PLO 5150 which has withdrawn the area for use as a utility corridor. Additionally, the proposed action is necessary to ensure the safety of the pipeline system.



Chief, Branch of Pipeline Monitoring

5/6/92

Date

Appendix A:

Proposed Dig locations:

Pipeline milepost

Stationing

181.91	9603+00 to 9605+90
184.04	9716+10 to 9718+59
184.50	9740+59 to 9743+08
184.98	9766+02 to 9768+51
185.19	9776+71 to 9779+20
185.95	9816+56 to 9819+04
187.48	9897+90 to 9900+37
190.40	10051+75 to 10055+38
190.77	10071+75 to 10073+94
207.92	10977+22 to 10979+51
215.31	11367+47 to 11370+08
479.32	25306+67 to 25309+15
549.48	29011+50 to 29013+99
550.34	29056+75 to 29059+05
550.57	29068+69 to 29071+19
570.74	30134+06 to 30136+53
571.44	30170+84 to 30173+10
573.60	30285+06 to 30287+30
591.08	31208+19 to 31210+65
591.82	31246+73 to 31249+18
592.48	31282+84 to 31284+54
593.77	31350+06 to 31352+26
598.93	31622+23 to 31624+45
599.51	31652+60 to 31655+08
599.81	31668+78 to 31671+26
599.88	31672+36 to 31675+06
600.34	31696+80 to 31699+28
747.17	39449+15 to 39451+63
755.47	39887+92 to 39889+41
756.80	39957+93 to 39960+20
758.68	40057+10 to 40062+07