

Prepared for:



of Engineers

Alaska District



**Public Scoping Report** 

November 2014





# Alaska Stand-Alone Pipeline Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Public Scoping Report

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** 

November 2014

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- B: Public Scoping Meeting Notices
- C: Public Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheets
- D: Agency Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheet
- E: Comment Summary Report
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# **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

ADEC	. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	. Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADNR	. Alaska Department of Natural Resources
ADOT&PF	. Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
AGDC	. Alaska Gasline Development Corporation
AS	. Alaska Statute
ASAP	. Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline Project
CNG	. Compressed Natural Gas
Corps	. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ENSTAR	. ENSTAR Natural Gas Company
FSNB	. Fairbanks North Star Borough
LNG	. Liquefied Natural Gas
MMSCFD	. million standard cubic feet per day
NOI	. Notice of Intent
NPS	. National Park Service
SEIS	. Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
LISEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Introduction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Alaska District, Regulatory Division is preparing a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) to assess the impacts of constructing the Alaska Standalone Pipeline (ASAP) Project described in Section 1.2. The first step in the NEPA process is scoping [as required under 33 CFR 325, Appendix B (8)(e)], which provides an opportunity for the public and agencies to express their views and help identify issues to be addressed in the SEIS.

This document represents a public record and summary of the scoping activities. This scoping report summarizes the substantive comments that were received during the scoping comment period. Responses are not provided to individual comments at this stage in the development of the SEIS. Instead they are collected, read, and summarized in this report. Comments will be addressed throughout the Draft SEIS in appropriate sections, and will be considered when developing alternatives for the proposed action.

The next opportunity for the public to comment on the SEIS will be after issuance of the Draft SEIS. Comments received during the Draft SEIS comment period will be responded to and a Comment Analysis Report will be published on the project website (http://www.asapeis.com). In addition, the Final SEIS will include an overview of how public comments have been addressed. For additional information on future steps in the SEIS process, please see Section 3.0.

# 1.2. Purpose and Need

The ASAP Project will deliver North Slope utility-grade natural gas to Fairbanks, Southcentral, and as many other communities within Alaska as economically practical. The project will provide Alaskans with a stable, affordable, long-term supply of natural gas for heating and powering their homes and businesses.

The purpose of the AGDC, the sponsor of the ASAP Project, is established in Title 31, Chapter 25 of Alaska Statute (AS) 31.25.005.

AS 31.25.005 states that the Corporation shall, for the benefit of the state, to the fullest extent possible:

- ...develop and have primary responsibility for developing natural gas pipelines...and other transportation mechanisms to deliver natural gas in-state for the maximum benefit of the people of the state;
- when developing natural gas pipelines...and other transportation mechanisms to deliver natural gas in-state, provide economic benefits in the state and revenue to the state;
- assist the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Revenue to maximize the value of the state's royalty natural gas, natural gas delivered to the state as payment of tax, and other natural gas received by the state;

- advance an in-state natural gas pipeline...in a safe, prudent, economical, and efficient manner, for the purpose of making natural gas...available to Fairbanks, the Southcentral region of the state, and other communities in the state at the lowest rates possible;
- ...endeavor to develop natural gas pipelines ...to deliver natural gas...to public utility and industrial customers in areas of the state to which the natural gas...may be delivered at commercially reasonable rates; and
- endeavor to develop natural gas pipelines ...that offer commercially reasonable rates for shippers and access for shippers who produce natural gas...

The ASAP Project helps meet the statewide demand for improved access to an energy source that is clean, reliable, and affordable. These demands have intensified to such a level in the Fairbanks area that the Alaska State Legislature has enacted an interim plan to provide some Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) communities with Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) by truck until an in-state gas pipeline can be developed (AS 44.88.010(a)). Furthermore, Southcentral's energy infrastructure relies almost entirely on natural gas, with three of four residents using it to heat and power their homes and businesses. The Cook Inlet Basin is currently the sole source of natural gas consumed in the Railbelt, but production has generally declined over the past decade, as reported in Alaska Department of Administration Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Monthly Production Reports (2014). Existing natural gas demands could fail to be met in Southcentral by as early as 2018¹. Although recent drilling and development activity has occurred in Cook Inlet, new wells remain unproven and may not satisfy the long-term energy demands for residential and commercial use. The ASAP project can supplement or replace the natural gas currently provided by these fields.

Natural gas will also help improve air quality in the Fairbanks area, which is adversely affected by widespread combustion of wood and coal. Fairbanks is currently classified as an air quality nonattainment area by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Fairbanks air quality non-attainment is described in detail in documents provided on the ADEC Division of Air Quality website: http://dec.alaska.gov/air/pm2-5\_ak.htm. Infrastructure for local gas distribution is currently being developed in and around Fairbanks, and a reliable supply of natural gas will result in cleaner air, as well as more affordable heating and electric power generation.

The ASAP Project will address these needs by providing up to 500 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) of utility-grade natural gas from North Slope gas reserves to in-state markets; thereby, meeting current and projected future in-state energy demands (AGDC, 2014b; Northern Economics, Inc., 2010), as well as helping to improve air quality in the Fairbanks area. Since the ASAP Project will transport utility-grade

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 2018 is the first year when gas supply needs for electric utilities and ENSTAR Natural Gas Company (ENSTAR) are not secured by gas purchase contracts in their entirety; whereas, utilities have historically held much longer-term gas supply contracts (10 to 20 years)

natural gas, it will be accessible to communities adjacent to the line that choose to tap into it and develop the required infrastructure for its use. The project will make expansion of commercial and industrial enterprises statewide possible. It will also provide a substantial number of jobs to Alaskans and economic benefit to the State of Alaska (SOA) through royalties.

A stable and reliable supply of utility-grade, lean natural gas is needed to meet the current and future demand of 500 MMSCFD as follows:

- 200 MMSCFD Cook Inlet area current demand
- 50 MMSCFD Cook Inlet area future demand (2030)
- 60 MMSCFD Fairbanks area future demand (2030)
- 190 MMSCFD Future commercial and industrial use (AGDC, 2014b)

The public benefit of the ASAP Project is the potential for delivery of a long-term, reasonably priced supply of natural gas to Southcentral, Fairbanks, and other Alaskan communities for:

- Heating homes, public safety facilities, military bases, and businesses;
- Generating electrical energy;
- Continuing economic stability and growth by supporting industrial users;
- Accommodating future population growth and increased commercial usage served by the existing ENSTAR's Beluga local distribution system, and for the Fairbanks– North Pole area and other Railbelt communities:
- Improving air quality in the Fairbanks area, which is currently classified as an air quality non-attainment area by ADEC and USEPA (see the ADEC Division of Air Quality website: http://dec.alaska.gov/air/PM2-5\_AK.htm);
- Promoting Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as a substitute for gasoline and diesel fuel used by cars and trucks in Fairbanks; for use by communities along the Parks Highway, including tour buses in Denali National Park and Preserve (DNP&P); and for use by Anchorage and communities on the Kenai Peninsula;
- Providing CNG for distribution to rural Alaska communities via the Yukon and Tanana Rivers and marine barges from Cook Inlet; and
- Facilitating the development of infrastructure to allow more economic development of mining and oil and gas projects.

The majority of Alaska has no long-term source of fuel other than heating oil. Alaska's North Slope has over 30 trillion cubic feet of conventional natural gas reserves. A pipeline is the safest and most efficient way to transfer this energy source and develop it for the maximum benefit of Alaskans. Failed proposals to commercialize Alaska's natural gas reserves have frustrated Alaskans for decades. The economic and commercial conditions have simply never materialized to allow those proposals to

advance beyond the feasibility stage. AGDC's Proposed Action meets the goal of providing a stable, long-term supply of clean, affordable energy to developed and developing markets within Alaska, including Southcentral, Fairbanks, and the Railbelt. Community, commercial, and industrial development in interior Alaska could all be facilitated with a reliable supply of natural gas. ASAP is expected to provide jobs, new business opportunities, and tax revenues for Alaska. Through the ASAP Project, new jobs will become available during both the construction and operational phases. The ASAP pipeline will also provide a clean and affordable energy source that is accessible to residents, businesses, government entities, and natural resource development projects throughout Alaska. The ASAP Project continues to refine alignment information so as to minimize and avoid environmental impacts where practicable.

# 1.3. Description of the Project Area

The project area spans from Prudhoe Bay in northern Alaska to Point MacKenzie in southcentral Alaska. Beginning in Prudhoe, the pipeline corridor generally parallels the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System and the Dalton highway northwest of Fairbanks. At Livengood the corridor continues on the west side of Fairbanks and Nenana. The corridor bypasses Denali National Park and Preserve to the east and generally parallels the Parks Highway to Willow. Southwest of Big Lake, the corridor connects to ENSTAR's distribution system at MP 39 of the Beluga Pipeline. A lateral line to Fairbanks runs east along Murphy Dome and ends on the west side of University of Alaska Fairbanks.

# 1.4. Description of the Scoping Process

Scoping activities began on August 1, 2014 when the Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the *Federal Register* (79 FR 44758) and ended on October 14, 2014. Appendix A provides a copy of the NOI.

The aim of the scoping process is to invite potentially affected and interested individuals, agencies, and groups to help:

- Identify concerns about the proposed action;
- Define a range of alternatives;
- Determine and define the scope of issues to be examined;
- Identify other environmental and consultation requirements;
- Identify related environmental documents being prepared; and
- Identify potentially interested parties.

Central to the scoping process is presentation of the proposed action and preliminary alternatives for public comment related to the scope of the SEIS.

Public comment helps further define the scope as well as develop alternatives considered in the impact analysis.

A basic principle of public participation is reporting back to stakeholders about the process in which they take part. In keeping with a transparent process, this scoping report has been posted on the project website (http://www.asapeis.com) and those who are included in the project email list received an email notification of such posting.

Public comments were received through October 14, 2014 and are summarized in this Scoping Report. Project scoping materials are included as appendices and include:

- Appendix A: Federal Register NOI
- Appendix B: Public Scoping Meeting Notices
- Appendix C: Public Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheets
- Appendix D: Agency Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheet
- Appendix E: Comment Summary Report
- Appendix F: Scoping Meeting Transcripts
- Appendix G: Scoping Meeting Comment Submissions

#### 1.4.1. Public Scoping Meeting Notices

Public notices for scoping meetings were announced in the following newspapers. The public notices outlined the general purpose of the scoping meeting, meeting times and locations, and the agenda of the meeting. Public notices were published 14 days in advance of each meeting and again 7 days prior to the meeting date. Public service announcements were also made several times leading up to each meeting on local radio stations listed in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1. NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO STATIONS

Newspaper Notices	Dates of Publication	
Alaska Dispatch News	August 4 & 11, 2014	
1001 Northway Dr. Anchorage, AK 99508		
907-257-4200		
Arctic Sounder	August 21 & 28, 2014	
PO Box 241582, Anchorage, AK 99524		
907-770-0820		
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner	August 4 & 11, 2014	
PO Box 70710, Fairbanks, AK 99707		
907-456-6661		
Radio Station Public Service Announcements		
KUAC fm	KIAM am/fm	
312 Tanana Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99775	PO Box 474, Nenana, AK 99760	
907-474-7491	907-832-5426	
KBRW am/fm	KTNA fm	
1695 Okpik St. Barrow, AK	PO Box 300, Talkeetna, AK 99676	
907-852-6811	907-733-1700	

# 1.4.2. Public Scoping Meetings

Public scoping meetings were held in 16 Alaska communities. Meetings were held between 5:30pm and 8:30pm, except for in Anaktuvuk Pass where the meeting was held between 1:00pm and 4:00pm to accommodate community activities, and Anchorage where the meeting was held between 6:30pm and 9:30pm. Table 2 shows the dates, locations, dates and meeting times of the meetings.

#### TABLE 2. DATES AND LOCATIONS OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

<u>Date</u>	Location	Venue	Venue Address
August 18, 2014	Healy	Tri-Valley Community Center	Usibelli Spur Rd Healy, AK 99743
August 19, 2014	Nenana	Nenana Native Village Tribal House	PO Box 369 Nenana, AK 99760
August 20, 2014	Cantwell	Cantwell Community Hall	Cantwell, AK 99729
August 21, 2014	Talkeetna	Talkeetna Alaska Lodge	23601 Talkeetna Spur Rd Talkeetna, AK 99676
August 25, 2014	Willow	Willow Community Center	PO Box 1027 Willow, AK 99688
August 26, 2014*	Anchorage	UAA Consortium Library, Room 307	3211 Providence Dr. Anchorage, AK 99508
August 27, 2014	Kenai	Quality Inn	10352 Kenai Spur Highway Kenai, AK 99611
August 28, 2014	Seward	KM Rae Building at UAA-Seward Campus	125 Third Ave Seward, AK 99664
September 2, 2014	Fairbanks	Westmark Hotel	813 Noble St Fairbanks, AK 99701
September 3, 2014	Wiseman	Community Center of Wiseman	Wiseman, AK
September 4, 2014	Minto	Tentatively scheduled at Minto Lake View Lodge	Lake View Rd Minto, AK 99758
October 8, 2014*	Anaktuvuk Pass	Anaktuvuk Pass Community Center	Anaktuvuk Pass AK 99721
September 11, 2014	Bettles/ Evansville	Evansville Community Hall	
September 15, 2014	Trapper Creek	Trapper Creek Community Park Facility	East TC Park Circle
October 2, 2014	Barrow	Inupiat Heritage Center	5421 North Star Street Barrow, AK 99723
September 18, 2014	Nuiqsut	Kisik Community Center	PO Box 89148 Nuiqsut, AK 99789

<sup>\*</sup> The meeting was held from 6:30 to 9:30pm.
\*\* The meeting was held from 1:00 to 4:00pm.

#### 2. COMMENT ISSUE SUMMARY

The analysis of public scoping comments was a multi-stage process that included coding, sorting, and summarizing public comment submissions into categories based on common themes. The goal of this process was to ensure that each substantive comment pertinent to the Draft SEIS was analyzed. Substantive comments constitute assertions, suggested alternatives or actions, data, background information, or clarifications relating to the Draft SEIS document or its preparation. Analysts then assigned each substantive comment to an issue category as shown in Table 3.

A second review of the comments within each issue category was conducted to identify specific subcategories. These subcategories were then synthesized into succinct "Comment Summary Statements" that intend to capture the particular concern within each issue category. Comment Summary Statements are not intended to replace actual comments. Rather, they summarize for the reader the range of concerns on a specific issue. A total of 78 submissions were received in addition to verbal comments made during scoping meetings. In addition, during the 2012 FEIS process a small number of comments were received from stakeholders that were not addressed because the Corps did not sign a final Record of Decision. These comments from 2012 have been included in this report for consideration as the project progresses and are identified in Appendix E as 2012 comments.

# 2.1. Source of Scoping Comments

Comments submitted during the scoping process came from the following sources:

- Public scoping meetings
- Agency scoping meetings
- Federal recognized tribes scoping meetings
- Written comments received by U.S. mail to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CEPOA-RD, P.O. Box 6898, JBER, AK 99506-0898
- Via email to asapeiscomments@usace.army.mil. A link to it was also provided on the project Web site at http://www.asapeis.com

# 2.2. Issues Identified During Scoping

In all, 26 issues were raised by stakeholders during the scoping process. These issues are defined in Table 3. Table 4 is an index for those who submitted comments to locate which summary statement represents comments submitted (in Appendix E). To use the index, please find the last name of the commenter, then review those issue codes listed next to their name to see how comments were summarized in Appendix E. Appendices F and G provide the complete emails, letters and transcripts with verbal comments that were submitted to the Corps during the Scoping period.

# 2.3. Comment Summary Statements

Appendix E presents comment summary statements developed from substantive comments received during the scoping period. Summary statements are organized by general issue and in alphabetical order.

TABLE 3. Comment Issue Codes and Associated Definitions

Issue Code	Issue	Description
ACC	Access to Land/Property	Comments that discuss property/land access.
ACK	Acknowledged	Acknowledges the receipt of the communication that may be related to another topic other than the proposed ASAP project.
AIR	Air Quality or Emissions/ Climate Change/ Green House Gases	Comments related to air quality, air emissions, climate change, or green house gas (GHG) emissions.
AKN	Alaska Native Issues	Comments on the analysis of the cultural and social impacts of the alternatives on Alaska Natives.
ALT	Alternatives	Comments that support or reject the preferred alternative or suggest new alternatives and alignments.
EFF	Effects of the Proposed Project/ Analysis of Effects	Comments on the potential effects of the proposed project, analysis of effects (including direct, indirect and cumulative) or the methodology developed to analyze the alternatives.
ECO	Economy	Comments regarding economic impacts of project.
EDI	Editorial	Comments providing suggestions for improving the organization and readability of the document as well as accuracy of the content.
ENG	Engineering / Project Design	Comments discussing project engineering, project design (including gas composition) and proposed changes.
FISH	Fish	Comments regarding fish and fish habitat.
HAZ	Hazardous Material	Comments regarding potential risks related to hazardous materials or handling of hazardous materials associated with the proposed project.
HIA	Health Impacts	Comments related to health impact assessment in the NEPA process or concern about health impacts.
INA	Inadequate Information to Assess Effects/Unclear Information	Comments stating the information provided in the analysis of the alternatives and the potential effects of research is inadequate, inaccurate or confusing.
LNG	LNG pipeline	Comments comparing ASAP to the LNG pipeline project.

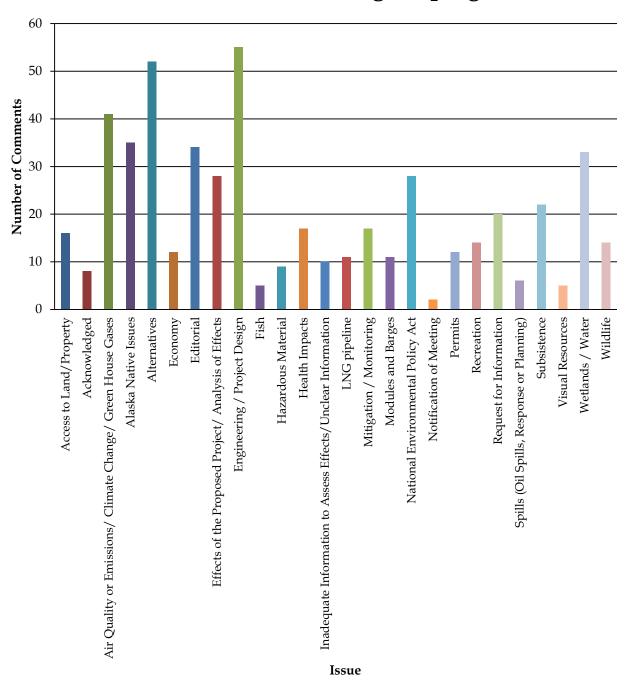
TABLE 3. Continued...

Issue Code	Issue	Description
MIT	Mitigation / Monitoring	Comments related to mitigation and monitoring associated with the proposed project.
MOD	Modules and Barges	Comments related to barging and offloading Gas Conditioning Facility Modules at West Dock.
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act	Comments regarding the NEPA and SEIS process
NOTE	Notification of Meeting	Comments regarding notification issues.
PER	Permits	Comments on permits and the permitting process
REC	Recreation	Comments regarding recreation concerns
REP	Reporting requirements	Comments and suggestions for reporting data
RFI	Request for Information	Comments requesting information including maps, presentations, or descriptions of locations.
SPILL	Spills (Oil Spills, Response or Planning)	Comments related to potential oil spills, spill response or planning.
VIS	Visual Resources	Comments regarding visual/scenic resources.
SUB	Subsistence	Comments on potential impacts to subsistence activities
WAT	Wetlands / Water	Comments regarding wetlands, streams, rivers or associated vegetation.
WLD	Wildlife	Comments regarding potential effects on wildlife or wildlife related issues with the proposed pipeline.

Figure 1 presents the number of substantive comments raised by stakeholders on specific issues during the scoping process.

FIGURE 1. NUMBER OF COMMENTS ON ISSUES RAISED DURING SCOPING

# **Issues Raised During Scoping**



# TABLE 4. SCOPING COMMENTS BY ENTITY/LAST NAME OF COMMENTER AND ISSUE CODES TO REVIEW

Sender Name	Issue Codes to Review
Absher [2012]	ALT 43, 46, 47; ECO 12
ADEC Office of the Commissioner	EDI 15-18; EDI 19; EDI 20-23;
ADF&G	ALT 11-14; EDI 3-12; EFF 29; ENG 2-6; FISH 1; FISH 2; INA 2; MOD 2; PER 1; WLD 1-5
ADNR / Division of Parks and	
Outdoor Recreation	AKN 1; EDI 26; ADI 27; REC 3-5; VIS 2
ADNR / Mining, Land and Water	EDI 24
ADOT&PF	ACK 3; EDI 13; EFF 2-5; ENG 7-9; INA 3-5; NEPA 1; PER 2; PER 3
Ahnupkana	EFF 17
Ahtna, Inc. (Bovee)	ACC 13; AKN 27, SPILL 5; SUB 18, WLD 13
Ahtna, Inc. (Anderson) [2012]	ACC 16; NEPA 28; SPILL 6; SUB 21, 22; WLD 14
Ahtna, Inc. (Martin) [2012]	ACC 14-15; ALT 41; EDI 31-32; FISH 3; INA 9; NEPA 24-27; SUB 19
Akpik	ALT 32; AKN 2; LNG 6
Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission	
(Leavitt)	EFF 11; MOD 2; NEPA 6; SUB 1-7
Alaska Railroad (Lindamood)	PER 7
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	ENG FF
(Nagel)	ENG 57
Arterburn, C.	ALT 2; ALT 3; REC 1
Arterburn, M. & J. Bale	ALT 17; ALT 18;
	ENG 26-29; NEPA 9
Bihlet	RFI 1
Boelsma	VIS 3; ENG 32
Brillhart	ALT 17; ALT 18; ALT 39
Brower	LNG 2; NEPA 5; RFI 12-15
Bullock	ECO 4
Carlson	ENG 18
Carwile	ALT 22; ANG 15
Chan	ACK 1
Charles	ALT 19; ALT 20; EFF 6; REC 1; REC 9; RFI 5
Cole	NEPA 7; NEPA 21; VIS 3
Crosby	EFF 9; EFF 10; LNG 1; RFI 10
Dykstra	ENG 34
Eagleson	ACK 4; ALT 17; VIS 3
Edwardson [2012]	ALT 42, 44, 50, 51; PER 12; AKN 34
Environmental Protection Agency (Jen)	AIR 1-40; AKN 3-26; ALT 34-38; EDI 20; EFF 18-27; ENG 39-54; HAZ 1-9; HIA 1-17; INA 8; LNG 8-11; MIT 1-16; MOD 4-11; NEPA 10-21; PER 11; SPILL 1-3; SUB 12-17; WAT 1-27; WLD 7-11

Sender Name	Issue Codes to Review
Fister	ENG 55;
Forsythe	ENG 17; RFI 8; RFI 9
Fox	ALT 31
Fulmer	ACC 3
Guttenberg	ALT 29; ALT 30; ECO 5-8; INA 7
Hamm	ALT 17; REC 15; VIS 2; VIS 3
Hasson	ACC 1
Herman	ALT 17; ALT 18; ECO 2
Hopkins	ALT 28; EFF 14; EFF 15
Ipalook	LNG 7
Jakob	ALT 17; AFF 29
Jonrowe	ACC 2; EDI 2; INA 1
Jonrowe	ACC 2; ALT 2; ALT 3; EDI 2; INA 1; REC 1
Knik Tribe (Charles)	WLD 12, WAT 28-33, AIR 41, SPILL 4, EFF 28, ENG 55, NEPA 22-23, ALT 40
Kowalke	ALT 20; EFF 7; REC 8
Madsen	ACC 1; EDI 1; RFI 3
Mailer	REC 2; ALT 15
Manzer	ACK 1
Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Krueger)	REC 5
Mat-Su Borough Planning and Land Use Department (Probasco)	ENG 14; NEPA 2; PER 8; RFI 6
Mayo [2012]	AKN 28, 29, 33; ECO 10, 11; SUB 20
McCain	ACC 7; ACC 11; ENG 19; NEPA 4
Mercier	ENG 21; ENG 21
Merrow	ALT 17; ECO 10; EFF 29; ENG 56
National Park Service (Frost)	ALT 26; ECO 3; EDI 28; EFF 12; ENG 23; NEPA 7; SUB 8
Nitzorski	ACC 4
Njeru	ACK 1
Nukapigak	ACK 6; ACK 7; ECO 9
Okonek	ACC 6; ALT 2; ALT 3; EFF 1; PER 9; REC 1; REC 2; VIS 1; WLD 1
Osowski	ACC 12; AFF 13; ENG 25; LNG 4; RFI 19
Oswald	ALT 17; HIA 4; HIA 7; HIA 9; EFF 5
Otter	ALT 2; ALT 3; REC 1; REC 2
Pearson	ACK 4; REC 2; REC 12
Phillips	ALT 9; ECO 1
Phillips	ALT 9; ECO 1
Pierre	ENG 1
Pipeline Hazardous Materials and Safety Administration (Nanney)	ENG 21; PER 6
Public	ACK 1

Sender Name	Issue Codes to Review
Radigan-Dicks [2012]	ALT 45, 52; AKN 30, 35
Reakoff, J.	ALT 39; EDI 30
Reakoff, J.	EFF 16; LNG 1; LNG 5; REC 14; RFI 20; VIS 5
Reakoff, K.	EFF 16; LNG 1; LNG 5; REC 14; RFI 20; VIS 5
Renfro	ENG 24
Richter	EDI 1
Robinson	VIS 3; ALT 40
Russell	ALT 15; ALT 16; EFF 5
Schirokauer	ACC 5; ALT 23; ENG 16
Schoppenhorst	RFI 7; VIS 3
Schwankl	ALT 9
Shahghasemi	ACK 1
Smolden, T. & C.	ALT 2; ALT 3; ALT 24; INA 6; REC 1; REC 11; RFI 2; RFI 17; RFI 18
Stevenson	ACK 1
Strasenburgh	ACC 8; ACK 1; ACK 5; ALT 2; ALT 27; LNG 1; NEPA 3; NOTE 2; REC 13; RFI 4; RFI 11; VIS 2; VIS 3; VIS 4
Sulkosky	ACC 3
Thomas	ALT 2; ALT 3; ALT 8; ALT 10; ALT 25; REC 1; REC 2
Thompson	ENG 32; ENG 33
Thorne	ENG 30; ENG 31
Toubman	EFF 28; VIS 3; REC 13
Trefon [2012]	EDI 33; FISH 4; MIT 17
Unidentified	ACK 8; ALT 33; ENG 22
Unidentified - Translated by Nukapigak	ENG 35-38; MOD 3; PER 10; SUB 9-11; WLD 6
Van Dyke	ENG 13
Wade	ACC 9; ACC; 10; ALT 4; ALT 5; ALT 6; ALT 7; ENG 1; LNG 3
Wade	ACC 9; ACC 10; ALT 2; ALT 3; ALT 4; ALT 5; ALT 6; ALT 7; ENG 1; LNG 3
Wade [2012]	INA 10; ALT 48, 49; AKN 31
Walker	ALT 17; NEPA 7; VIS 3
Willow Dog Mushers Association	
(Stitt)	REC 6
Winalski	RFI 16
Winnestaffer [2012]	AKN 32; EDI 34; FISH 5
Wittrock R.	ALT 21; EFF 8; REC 10
Wittrock, D.	ALT 21; EFF 8; REC 11
Wittwer	ALT 17; AFF 30
Wolfe	ALT 17
Wood	NOTE 1

#### 3. SUMMARY OF FUTURE STEPS IN THE SEIS PROCESS

# 3.1. Development of Project Purpose and Need

NEPA requires an explanation for the purpose and need to which Corps is responding in proposing the alternatives. The purpose and need was presented during the scoping period and presented at the scoping meetings.

The purpose of the proposed action is to deliver North Slope utility-grade natural gas to Fairbanks, Southcentral, and as many other communities within Alaska as economically practical. The ASAP project can supplement or replace the natural gas currently provided by declining natural gas fields in the Cook Inlet Basin, currently the sole source of natural gas consumed in the Railbelt.

The need for the proposed project is rooted in the increasing statewide demand for improved access to an energy source that is clean, reliable, and affordable. In addition, it will also help improve air quality in the Fairbanks area, which is adversely affected by widespread combustion of wood and coal.

## 3.2. Description of the Affected Environment

A description of the affected environment is necessary in order to establish a baseline in which to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action and a reasonable range of alternatives. The description of the affected environment will be included in the SEIS and include a summary of existing scientific data available on all potentially effected resources.

#### 3.3. Formulation of Alternatives

Preliminary alternatives were developed for presentation to agencies and the public during scoping. With pertinent input solicited during scoping, the project team will refine the reasonable range of alternatives to bring forward for analysis in the Draft SEIS, building from those analyzed in the previous 2012 FEIS. Alternatives eliminated from further consideration and not brought forward for formal analysis in the Draft SEIS will be identified, along with justification for elimination. This step began in October 2014 and will continue through November 2014.

# 3.4. Analyzing the Effects of the Alternatives

After the alternatives have been developed and finalized, the potential effects of each alternative will be analyzed. This process is anticipated to begin in November 2014 and results will be presented in the Draft SEIS.

#### 3.5. Write and Publish the Draft SEIS

The results of the previous steps will be assembled in a Draft SEIS that will be published for a 60-day public review period. The Corps will publish a Notice of Availability in the

Federal Register, which will identify the timing of the review period, time and location of public meetings on the Draft SEIS, and the deadlines for submitting comments on the Draft SEIS. The project website will be updated and a project newsletter will be developed and distributed that also includes this information. Those who are on the mailing list will receive email notification of the availability of the Draft SEIS and newsletter. The Corps anticipates publishing the Draft SEIS and holding public meetings in spring/early summer 2015.

## 3.6. Issuing the Proposed Final SEIS

The Corps along with Cooperating Agencies will analyze and respond to substantive comments received in response to the Draft SEIS. These comments and responses will be assimilated and published in a Comment Analysis Report. The Corps may make changes in the SEIS reflecting comments received. The Corps and Cooperating Agencies will select a preferred alternative and present this to the public in the Final SEIS. The document will be published and public notices of the document's availability will be made. This step in the process also includes a 30-day comment period during which the public may submit comments on the Final SEIS to be considered by the Corps prior to publishing the Record of Decision. The Corps anticipates the NOA for the Final SEIS will be published in fall/winter of 2015 and subsequent Record of Decision will be published in spring 2016.

# 4. CONTACT

For further information regarding this Scoping Report or other aspects of the ASAP Project SEIS, please use the following contact information:

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