DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMISSIONER’S DECISION

ADL 63574

Trans-Alaska Pipeline Right-of-Way Lease Amendment
Cathodic Protection Field – Flood Repairs
Sagavanirktok River
Pipeline Milepost 18.5

This decision is intended to complement and update the Analysis of Amendment Application and Proposed Decision dated October 8, 2014.

Proposed Action: Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC), agent for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) lessees, has requested an amendment to modify the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Right-of-Way Lease, ADL 63574, to add land at pipeline milepost 18.5 along and within the floodplain of the Sagavanirktok (Sag) River. The purpose of this amendment is to re-establish the original bank of the westernmost side channel of the Sag River to protect the existing cathodic protection field from further erosion. The bank was eroded during the 2014 spring break-up. A series of low-profile rock sills will be installed that will extend into the channel from the existing bank line, and the spaces between the sills will be filled with clean gravel.

The proposed land to be added to the right-of-way is generally described as:

SW4 Section 33, Township 8 North, Range 14 East, Umiat Meridian, those lands south of TAPS Access Road 134 AMS-3B adjacent to the west bank of the Sagavanirktok River and the existing TAPS right-of-way boundary at the cathodic protection field near PLMP 18.5, containing 8.10 acres, more or less as depicted on Attachment A labeled “X314-10X TAPS MP 18.5 Sagavanirktok River Cathodic Protection Field – Flood Repairs Plan, Plate 2, Sheet 2 of 4, Date 08/18/14.”

Authority: AS 38.35.015 and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Right-of-Way Lease, ADL 63574.

Public/Agency Notice: Coordinate agency notice of the application was sent to the Alaska Departments of Environmental Conservation, Labor and Workforce Development, Transportation and Public Facilities, and the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, as well as Alaska Departments of Fish and Game and Natural Resources Northern Region Office and the Bureau of Land Management. Notice of the amendment application was published in the Anchorage Daily News, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, and on the State of Alaska Public Notice website and the State Pipeline Coordinator’s Office (SPCO) website on September 4, 2014.
Public Notice of the “Analysis of Amendment Application and Proposed Decision, Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Lease Amendment - ADL 63574, PLMP 18.5, Sagavanirktok River Cathodic Protection Field – Flood Repairs” was published in the Anchorage Daily News and the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner newspapers and on the State of Alaska Public Notice website and the SPCO’s website on October 9, 2014. A copy of the Public Notice was also sent to the Post Offices in Prudhoe Bay/Deadhorse, Coldfoot, and Fairbanks Main Branch.

A copy of the Analysis of Amendment Application and Proposed Decision was distributed to each of the agencies listed above, as well as the North Slope Borough Mayor and the Planning & Community Services Director.

The public notices provided interested parties the opportunity to object to the application before 5:00 p.m. on November 3, 2014, and to comment on the proposed decision before 5:00 p.m. on November 7, 2014. No objections or comments were received from the agencies or the public.

**Discussion:** The request for the authorization to install these buried low-profile rock sills and to re-establish the original bank on the westernmost side channel of the Sag River is consistent with the original purpose of the lease. This additional interest in state land requires an amendment to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Right-of-Way Lease, ADL 63574, and will be subject to all terms, conditions, and stipulations contained in the lease, as discussed in the Analysis of Amendment Application and Proposed Decision, dated October 8, 2014.

**Final Finding and Decision:** I confirm the findings of the Analysis of Amendment Application and Proposed Decision. The proposed amendment is consistent with the original intent of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Right-of-Way Lease, ADL 63574, and is necessary to protect the integrity of the pipeline.

Pursuant to Section 1.d.(ii) of the TAPS Lease, approval by the Commissioner and acceptance of such approval by APSC of the final as-built survey of the project as a release of all interests of APSC in all lands not included in the final as-built survey.

Joseph R. Balash  
Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources