

# **Former Arctic Gas supporters Throw weight behind ALCAN gas line**

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Michigan Wisconsin Pipe Line Company; Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America, a subsidiary of Peoples Gas Company; Pacific Lighting Gas Development Company; Northern Natural Gas Company; Pacific Gas Transmission Company; Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company and Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation, the United States participants in the Arctic Gas project, will support the Alcan Pipeline Company for transportation of Alaskan natural gas to the lower United States.

The companies have attempted, through the Arctic Gas Project, to bring natural gas produced in northern Alaska to consumers throughout the United States at the least cost, in the largest quantity and with the least environmental impact. A concept of joint transportation of Alaskan gas with Canadian gas was an integral part of that Arctic Gas Proposal. However, the route proposed by Arctic Gas has now been rejected by the National Energy Board of Canada.

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# Alcan Gas Line . . .

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The companies are most grateful for the large amount of support developed for the Arctic Gas Project, and recognize an obligation to their supporters and consumers to advise them of their views on the preferred course of action by the United States at this time.

First, the companies are convinced that Alaskan gas must be made available to lower United States consumers at the earliest possible date to alleviate, to the extent possible, the critical gas supply problem the nation faces.

Second, after careful and intensive reevaluation and reconsideration of the relative merits of the Alcan project and the El Paso project, they have concluded that the Alcan project is superior, and better serves the best interests of the United States consumers. Alcan provides an overland, all pipeline route which is environmentally preferable and more economic than the LNG system proposed by El Paso. It will deliver gas to the western United States by a western leg and to the middle west and eastern areas by the Northern Border eastern leg. The Alcan route also offers possible access to northern Canadian reserves to buttress Canada's ability to maintain present levels of gas export to the United States, which the El Paso project would forfeit.

The companies will consult with and assist Alcan's management to seek to insure selection of the Alcan project by the President and the Congress. The companies also look forward to participating in the planning, construction and operation of the Alcan project.