

Interesting Rumors Have 'Em This Way

RUMOR: The Trans Alaska Pipeline System is going to dissolve and possibly a new group will be formed. TAPS, which consists of several oil companies, has planned to construct a \$900 million, 800-mile pipeline to carry oil from Prudhoe Bay on the North Slope to Valdez on the gulf of Alaska. The group, however, has been unable to secure the necessary construction permits from the Secretary of the Interior.

RUMOR: The recent state authorization for TAPS to build a haul road along the proposed route of the 800-mile pipeline was a carefully worked-out move between Gov. Keith Miller, Sen. Ted Stevens, and Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel. Having done their legal research, they took the action to get the heat off Hickel who has been under pressure to issue construction permits for the pipeline and the haul road.