

LUPC Granted Leave to Intervene

Burton W. Silcock, Federal Co-chairman of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission, announced last month that the commission has been granted leave to intervene as a party in the Federal Power Commission's consideration of the application of Arctic Gas Pipeline Company for permission to construct and operate a pipeline for the transportation through Canada of natural gas produced at Prudhoe Bay.

The FPC's approval came in an order dated Dec. 19, 1974. As grounds for its ruling, the FPC found that the Planning Commission had shown sufficient interest in the Gas Arctic proceedings, that the commission's intervention would not delay the proceedings, and that participation by the commission "may be in the public interest."

The Planning Commission originally moved in late June for leave to intervene. In its petition, the commission cited its statutory authorization, the expertise of commission members and staff, and its previous experience in land use and environmental matters as reasons for granting its request to participate.

The Planning Commission's petition did not take a position in favor of, or in opposition to, any of the routes that have been proposed thus far for transporting Prudhoe Bay natural gas to market.

The commission indicated, however, that a position would be formulated after further study of relevant resource information and after additional public input has been obtained from interested citizens and user groups.

Commenting on the FPC's ruling, Co-chairman Silcock said, "I am pleased that our petition, which reflects a unanimous decision by the Planning Commis-

sion that we should seek to intervene, has been granted.

"It now remains for us to determine the exact nature of our input to the FPC and to do, the

analysis which is necessary to arrive at a well-reasoned position concerning the competing applications for operational authority."