

Six Pipeline Application Permits

Six applications for permits relating to construction of the trans-Alaska petroleum pipeline are being processed by the Alaska District Engineer.

One is concerned with building a dock at Prudhoe Bay; the others pertain to the installation of the 48-inch diameter pipeline under or along major rivers. All are north of the Alaska Range. Additional applications are under consideration.

These types of construction come under the scrutiny of the Corps of Engineers which is the agency responsible for the administration of Federal laws for the protection and preservation of navigable waters.

The environmental impact statement of the pipeline filed by the Department of the Interior with the Council on Environmental Quality on March 20, 1972, covers the environmental aspects of the proposed construction.

No further action need be taken, therefore, on the projects in that regard. Corps deliberation relates to the effect which the physical presence of the proposed structures may have on navigation.

In that connection the Alaska District Engineer welcomes any comments or questions on the proposed works.

Atlantic Richfield Company wishes to build a gravel-fill approach extending 3,500 feet offshore, leading to one or two barges moored at the end which will serve as the dock. The gravel will come from upland State-owned sources.

The company says the dock, on the northwest shore of the Bay, is essential to the development and operation of the Prudhoe petroleum field. Material required to construct a gas

reinjection system will be transported over the dock.

The other five permit applications are from the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, three being river crossings. The firm proposes to entrench its concrete coated pipe below the beds of the Gulkana, Salcha and Tanana Rivers.

The pipe will be buried deep enough to preclude any interference with navigation on the streams.

Crossing beneath the Gulkana will be about a mile northwest of the settlement of Sourdough on the Richardson Highway. The Salcha will be crossed approximately 12 miles north of Birch Lake and 6 miles northeast of Harding Lake.

The Tanana crossing is planned about a mile northwest of Big Delta and 50 feet upstream from the Richardson Highway bridge.

Alyeska proposes to place hydraulic control structures of gravel protected by riprap at two places where their pipe will lie at the edges of the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River a few miles south of the former mining community of Coldfoot.

The structures are intended to counter possible erosion action from river and ice movements. Again, the Corps considers the possible impact on navigation.

Persons wishing further information concerning these proposed construction projects may phone the Permit Section of the District's Construction Division at 279-4123.

May 17, 1974 is the deadline for receiving responses to the notices of these applications the District has mailed to many interested organizations and individuals.