

Federal officials set gas line meetings this week

Bureau of Land Management and Army Corps of Engineers officials have begun a series of meetings to prepare for an environmental impact statement on the proposed Trans-Alaska Gas System.

BLM spokesman Jules Tileston said the workshops and "scoping" sessions are to involve the public in identifying issues that should be examined further in the study process.

To be examined are potential im-

pacts of constructing and operating a 36- to 48-inch pipeline and related facilities from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez.

The meetings began Monday Dec. 8 in Barrow, continue Tuesday in Fairbanks, then proceed to the Glenallen High School gymnasium on Wednesday, Valdez City Council Chambers on Thursday, the Peninsula Borough Administration Office in Soldotna the following day, and conclude in the BLM's Anchorage District Office on

Saturday.

Workshops are from 2:30 to 5 p.m. each day, and scoping meetings are from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Tileston said the process is designed to determine the scope of the project and significant issues to be examined in the impact statement.

Also, he said, the meetings will enable concerned persons to tell the agencies whether significant issues, concerns and opportunities should be

addressed before or after the right-of-way and other permits are issued.

Tileston said he will accept written comments until Dec. 23. They should be addressed to him in care of the Trans-Alaska Gas System, Bureau of Land Management, 701 C St., Box 30, Anchorage 99513.

Questions about proposed Department of the Army permits may be sent to William Fowler, Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Box 898, Anchorage 99506-0898.