

Governor William Egan Hails Pipeline Construction Permit

Governor Said 'Momentous and Tremendous News for Alaska'

JUNEAU — Governor William A. Egan today hailed the Interior Department's decision to issue a construction permit for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline as "momentous and tremendous news for Alaska" and said it is a "great day" for the nation as well.

"I am really pleased," Egan said. "I was confident that after the long years of study and scientific input which have gone into the pipeline project, that a favorable conclusion would be reached. But the fact of a favorable conclusion is tremendous news for Alaska. This is a great day for Alaska and for the nation itself."

The Governor added, "I can appreciate all the hours and days of work which went into this

momentous decision, both on the part of the Interior Secretary and all the many others who have worked so long and hard on it."

Now, Egan said, "we enter into the legal phase. I am confident that the injunction and lawsuits will be resolved at an early time so that construction can begin on this largest project of all times."

He said the project "will be a model for the world as far as environmental safeguards are concerned, both as to the construction period and as to steps which will be taken to insure environmental protection in the transporting of oil to American refineries. This will be diligently monitored, utilizing the best navigational technology known to man."

He added "a word of caution, however" that there are some "very serious lawsuits involved" and "there is always the likelihood that such litigation may extend over a frustrating, lengthy period."