
Modification Of Land Freeze By Secretary

Secretary Hickel has signed the order officially modifying the land freeze in Alaska as the first step toward granting a permit for oil pipeline connecting the North Slope and the Port of Valdez.

"While this action does not constitute approval of the right-of-way application by Trans Alaska Pipeline System, we are prepared to grant a permit when all geological and engineering conditions have been met by the applicant insuring the protection of the environment," the Secretary said.

Both House and the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committees have reported to the Secretary that they do not object to such modification of PLO 4582 which was imposed in Alaska pending settlement of land claims by Alaska Natives.

The text of the order signed is as follows:

"PLO 4582 of January 17, 1969 withdrawing all unreserved public lands in Alaska for determination and protection of the rights of the Native Aleuts, Eskimos, and Indians of Alaska is hereby modified to permit:

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Modification . . .

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"1. The granting of rights-of-way under the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920 for an oil pipeline system including, but not limited to, pumping plant sites, access facilities, terminal facilities, catch basins, and any other structures reasonably necessary or convenient for transportation of oil by pipeline from fields in Northern Alaska to deep water port in the Gulf of Alaska.

"2. The issuance of any other permit or right-of-way as may be reasonably necessary or convenient for the construction, maintenance, or operation of the oil pipeline system described in paragraph one above.

"3. The sale of forest products and mineral materials as may be reasonably necessary or convenient for the construction, operation, or maintenance of the oil pipeline system described in paragraph one above."