

# BLM, State will sponsor joint hearings on gas pipeline impact

The Alaska natural gas pipeline and how it will affect Alaskans and the environment will be discussed at a series of public meetings in four Alaska communities next month.

The meetings, announced jointly by Gov. Jay Hammond and Curt McVee, Bureau of Land Management state director, are to be held August 7-15 in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Tok and Barrow to solicit the public's suggestions on proposed stipulations related to the construction and operations of the pipeline.

Hammond and McVee said an initial draft of the proposed environmental, technical and social/economic stipulations has been prepared by state and federal agencies. However, the stipulations will not be considered final until Alaskans have had an opportunity to comment on them.

Hammond emphasized that they are open to modification, and that ideas and suggestions are being solicited from all Alaskans.

Actual construction of the Alaska natural gas pipeline is scheduled to begin in the spring of 1980. The Alaska portion

of the line, to be constructed by Northwest Alaska Pipeline Co., will run from Prudhoe Bay to the Canadian border southeast of Northway.

The first public meeting will be in Anchorage at 7:30 p.m., August 7 in the Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum, 121 W. 7th Ave. The second meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. August 9 in Fairbanks at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 520 5th Ave. The Tok meeting will be at 1 p.m. August 10 in the Tok Multi-Purpose Recreation Center. The fourth meeting, scheduled August 15 in Barrow, will begin at 2 p.m. in the Borough Administration Building.

Copies of the draft gas pipeline stipulations are available from the Bureau of Land Management or the State of Alaska Pipeline Coordinator's Office in Anchorage, the Community Information Center in Fairbanks, the Upper Tanana Development Corporation in Tok or the Administration Building in Barrow.

Both Hammond and McVee urged Alaskans to review the proposed stipulations and to present their comments, either written or oral, during the public meetings.