

BLM Technical Study Group for Oil Pipeline

A Bureau of Land Management Technical Study Group is to arrive in Alaska May 19th. The Study Group will be in the state through the end of June to develop stipulations for the proposed Alaska pipeline.

In making the announcement, Burton W. Silcock State Director for the BLM in Alaska explained "Federal and State agencies are concerned with emphasizing a planned approach to development in the state.

The recent announcement by Trans Alaska Pipeline Systems for the construction of the 800

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Study Group . .

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mile, 1 billion dollar, 48 inch pipeline from the Beaufort Sea to the Gulf of Alaska means that the Federal and State agencies have to make a special effort for the orderly development of this pipeline system on all lands in Alaska."

Stipulations will be needed for the right-of-way, gravel burrows, airports, access roads, pumping stations, river crossings, and dwellings to minimize the effect of these on natural resources.

Before any of these can be permitted, the provisions of the right-of-way must be prepared as soon as possible. The stipulations, as developed, will have an effect on the design of the pipeline and its supporting facilities.

In order to expedite this priority project, technicians from the Bureau's Portland and Denver technical centers have been assigned to Alaska. Specialists in the areas of fisheries, forestry, wildlife, Arctic ecology, soils, and watersheds are on the team.

The study group will be working closely with the State Department of Fish and Game and the State Division of Lands.

Additional coordination will be made between the Study Group and the U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Sport Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Commercial Fish, Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, the National Park Service, and military personnel in the state.

The objective of this effort is to develop stipulations and provide guidance for the prevention of damage to the frail Arctic lands and its resources. Conservation, development, protection, and management of the Federal and State land and water resources and their uses will be the basis for the stipulations.

Meetings are planned for user groups to discuss the stipulations as they are developed and as are foreseen on the lands in the state.