

President of Alyeska Pipeline Co. Comments

BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, April 2, 1973 — E. L. Patton, President of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, today made the following statement after the Supreme Court's announcement that it would not review a lower court ruling that enjoins the Secretary of the Interior from issuing permits necessary for construction of the trans-Alaska

pipeline.

"The effect of the Supreme Court denial this morning is that the case is remanded to the Federal District Court in Washington, D.C.

"The Supreme Court action makes it necessary for the Congress to amend the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, to clearly

establish the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to permit use of land outside of the permanent 54-foot right-of-way for construction and other purposes.

"The environmental issues left undecided by the Appeals

Court will require resolution by the courts or the Congress."

Patton expressed hope that the obstacles to construction of the 789-mile crude oil pipeline would be removed in time for work on the line to begin at an early date.