

# Do we really need it?

America now uses more than fourteen million barrels of oil per day. We produce less than ten million barrels. And the gap gets greater with every year. To make up the difference, we are forced to depend on imports from politically unstable areas.

That's why the discovery of vast reserves of oil on Alaska's North Slope means so much to this country. Development of these reserves will go far toward alleviating our nation's energy and petrochemical deficit. North Slope oil will also bring economic blessings to the State of Alaska—it'll mean jobs and opportunity for all Alaskans—particularly Native Alaskans. In short, the oil is a boon.

The big hurdle is getting the oil to market. The job could be done with tankers, but feasibility studies on alternate delivery methods showed the best solution had to be a pipeline—stable, controlled, monitored and stationary—safe

To do that job, in August of 1970, seven major oil companies with North Slope holdings formed Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. The new company has broad responsibilities—to design, build, operate and maintain an 800-mile pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez, an ice-free port in Southern Alaska. The line will have an eventual capacity of two million barrels per day. The cost will exceed one billion dollars, making it the most expensive single project ever undertaken by private industry.

We accept the fact that some 205 million Americans will be looking over our shoulders to make sure we do the job right. We know environmental problems must be faced—and solved—before the project can proceed. It will take a great deal of care and a great deal of money, but we know we can build the pipeline without significant damage to the land or to the wildlife.

We've already spent millions of dollars in finding out whether or not the pipeline could

be built without damaging the environment. We've conducted experiments in the north with both warm and cold pipe. We've studied the wildlife—its breeding and migratory habits. We've carried out far-reaching botanical experiments to determine the best methods for reseeding and restoring the tundra. We've even examined our entire proposed route to make sure that we will not disturb areas of archeological importance. In short, we've done our homework.

Now we think it is time to move ahead. We need permission to use a right-of-way 54 feet wide and approximately 800 miles long. We must touch a wilderness, but we will touch it as carefully and as gently as possible.

In subsequent messages, we shall explain our proposed route, our research and our stringent pipeline safety precautions. If, in the meantime, you'd like more information, write us: Public Affairs Division, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, 1815 South Bragaw Street, Anchorage Alaska 99503

**Alyeska Pipeline Service Company**

