



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

September 17, 2026

Submitted via: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/Participate-Now/?id=a160d07b-9fa1-f111-b8dc-001dd802f839&ppid=9660d07b-9fa1-f111-b8dc-001dd802f839>

Serena Sweet
Lands, Realty and Pipeline Branch
Alaska State Office
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Re: Trans Alaska Pipeline System Right-of-Way Renewal Environmental Assessment; NEPA No. DOI-BLM-AK-9410-2026-0009-EA

The Resource Development Council for Alaska (RDC) appreciates the opportunity to submit scoping comments to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding Alyeska Pipeline Service Company's (Alyeska) application to renew the federal right-of-way authorization for the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) for an additional 30 years.

RDC is an Alaskan statewide, non-profit professional trade association founded in 1975. Our diverse membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's fishing, tourism, forestry, mining, and oil and gas industries and includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to advocate on behalf of these industries and encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

RDC supports timely approval of the requested right-of-way renewal which would otherwise expire on January 22, 2034. Continued use of TAPS reflects nearly 50 years of operating experience, integrity management, spill preparedness, environmental safeguards, and relationships with communities and stakeholders along the route. As BLM considers Alyeska's application RDC encourages the agency to utilize previously published environmental reports to establish baseline environmental conditions given the long history and responsible management of the infrastructure. When developing this EA, BLM should focus on how operations and environmental management has changed over time and what actions Alyeska has taken to address such changes through monitoring, risk analysis, and development of mitigation processes.



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Since operations began in 1977, TAPS has transported more than 19 billion barrels of oil. In 2025, it carried an average of approximately 463,000 barrels per day. For the first time in many years, Alaska is seeing increased North Slope oil production through TAPS. Production from projects such as Nuna and Pikka, as well as potential future production from federal and state lands, depends on reliable pipeline access. Without TAPS, North Slope oil would lack a comparable route to reach refineries and marine transportation at the volumes needed for sustained development, which would result in disastrous economic impacts to local communities, the State of Alaska, and the nation.

In addition, timely renewal of the TAPS right of way aligns with the objectives set out in Executive Order 14153, Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Energy Potential, which prioritizes the long-term viability of TAPS as an energy corridor of critical national importance. TAPS is vital to America's energy security, serving as the primary transportation link between oil production on Alaska's North Slope and the Valdez Marine Terminal. Its continued operation ensures domestic production can reach U.S. markets and improves America's ability to respond to disruptions in global energy markets. Renewal would provide the long-term regulatory certainty needed to support continued operation, maintenance, safety improvements, and investment in this critical infrastructure.

For these reasons, RDC respectfully requests that BLM complete a focused and efficient environmental review and approve the requested right-of-way renewal for an additional 30 years.

Sincerely,

Connor Hajdukovich
Executive Director
Resource Development Council for Alaska



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