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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Office of Energy Projects

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Alaska Gasline Development
Corporation Project No. CP17-178-000
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ALASKA LNG PROJECT
Draft EIS

Inupiat Heritage Center
5421 North Star Street
Utqiagvik, Alaska 99723

Monday, September 9, 2019

The public scoping meeting, pursuant to notice, convened
at 5 p.m. Before a Panel:
JAMES MARTIN, Project Coordinator, Federal Energy
Regulatory Commission
JENNIFER LEE, Environmental Resources Management

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 [6:03 p.m.]

3 MR. MARTIN: Okay, I think we're going to go
4 ahead and get started now. It's about three minutes after
5 six, thereabouts. The transcript for tonight will be
6 recorded by a court reporter, and all of the comments made
7 will be put into the FERC docket, which is a public docket.

8 So first of all, thank you; appreciate being able
9 to come here tonight and speak with you. First, I'd like to
10 introduce the folks that are here. To my right is Jennifer
11 Lee, and Jennifer is with ERM, this contractor supporting
12 FERC. To my left is Earl Williams from the Bureau of Land
13 Management. Earl's going to be talking a little bit later.
14 At the back table we have Patty Troche, she's also from ERM.

15 So while I'm talking about the back table, I'll
16 just go through some of the things that we have available
17 back there. First of all, there's a mailing list sign-up
18 sheet, and that mailing list sign-up sheet is if you would
19 like to receive a copy of the final EIS, and did not receive
20 a copy of the draft. If you received a copy of the draft,
21 then you don't need to add your name to that; but if you
22 didn't, and you'd like a copy of the final, please add your
23 name and address to that.

24 There's also a speaker sign-up sheet back there
25 that, if you'd like to give verbal comments tonight.

1 There's a form for providing written comments, if you prefer
2 to provide written comments either tonight or at a later
3 date. There are instructions on how to provide written
4 comments, both in writing and electronically. There are
5 copies of the Notice of Availability that we issued for the
6 Draft Environmental Impact Statement that we're here tonight
7 to talk about.

8 And finally we have a summary that's tailored to
9 the region of the impacts that were disclosed in the Draft
10 EIS.

11 So the purpose of tonight's meeting is pretty
12 simple: We're here to get comments on the draft that we
13 issued. The draft was issued on June 28th, and we provided
14 a 90-day comment period, which expires on October 3rd.

15 Now, October 3rd is coming up pretty quick, and
16 we will take comments after October 3rd, but as we get
17 closer to the issuance of the final, it gives us less time
18 to respond to the comments; so I'm going to ask that you
19 provide those comments as close to October 3rd as possible.

20 So we issued the Draft EIS on June 28th, and it
21 was distributed to everyone that was on our mailing list.
22 We sent hard copies to folks that requested hard copies, to
23 the subsidence communities, and to libraries along the
24 pipeline corridor.

25 Moving forward, I'd like to give a little bit of

1 background of the process so far. So the proponent for the
2 project first requested entry into our prefiling process
3 about five years ago, September of 2014. We worked on the
4 project for about two and a half years before it went into
5 application phase, and during that period we had a number
6 of outreach activities and a number of back and forth with
7 the Applicant; and those outreach activities included a
8 series of open house meetings sponsored by the project
9 proponent, and also scoping meetings sponsored by the
10 Commission. We did a total of 12 scoping meetings.

11 With regard to our review of the project, the big
12 part of the prefiling process is reviewing draft sections of
13 the application and providing comments back to the
14 applicant so that they can revise the document and provide a
15 more complete application to the Commission.

16 Some of those questions were generated by our
17 team and some of them came from stakeholders, and others
18 came from our cooperating agencies group, which included
19 BLM, Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, U.S. Coast Guard,
20 National Marine Fisheries Service, the Fish and Wildlife
21 Service, the National Park Service, Department of Energy and
22 the Department of Transportation.

23 In April of 2017, AGDC filed its formal
24 application for the Alaska LNG Project. Tonight we're
25 hoping to get comments on the Draft EIS, and there are two

1 ways that you can do that: One is verbally, that would be
2 the easiest, if you just provide your comments tonight. I
3 would ask that you come to the podium, state your name. If
4 it's a name that we might have difficulty spelling, that you
5 spell it out for us; and if you have an affiliation, tell us
6 what that is.

7 Alternatively, as I mentioned earlier, we have a
8 form at the back where you can provide written comments, and
9 another form that tells you how to provide comments through
10 our web page. In all cases, it's important to make sure
11 that the docket number is referenced. The docket number is
12 like the name on a folder in a file cabinet someplace that
13 has way too many files, and the only way that we can make
14 sure that your comments get to the right place is by
15 including the docket number.

16 So this project's docket number is CP17-178.
17 That number is on the Notice of Availability at the back,
18 and it's on the cover of the Draft EIS and on every
19 issuance by the Commission.

20 As I mentioned earlier, we're hoping to get your
21 comments by October 3rd. So what happens next? After the
22 comment period ends, we'll begin preparing the Final
23 Environmental Impact Statement. We're planning on issuing
24 that in the spring of 2020; and when that is issued, it will
25 be forwarded to our commissioners. Right now we have three

1 commissioners, and they will make the decisions on whether
2 or not to authorize the project, using not only the
3 environmental impact statements that we generate, but also
4 other factors.

5 And that's about all that I have. I'd like to
6 now turn it over to Earl Williams from the Bureau of Land
7 Management to talk about their role and process.

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Jim. As Jim mentioned,
9 I'm with the BLM, and we are a cooperating agency with this
10 environmental impact statement. The BLM has received a
11 right-of-way application for a pipeline to cross federal
12 lands, and the BLM is authorized under the Mineral Leasing
13 Act to issue a grant of right-of-way for a pipeline for
14 natural gas or oil.

15 Our involvement with the EIS included providing
16 edits, or comments and edits to the administrative draft
17 document and producing an appendix, which is the
18 preliminary system analysis under Section 810 of ANILCA.
19 That preliminary analysis found there may be potential
20 impacts to subsistence resources, and accordingly we are
21 holding this hearing to ensure our full compliance under
22 Section 810 of ANILCA.

23 One of the things I have to do is read a
24 statement into the record, so if you'll bear with me, I'll
25 get that started. [reading:]

1 My name is Earle Williams and I am a Project
2 Manager with the Bureau of Land Management. I am reading
3 this statement into the record to let you know that this
4 public meeting is also a subsistence hearing.

5 Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands
6 Conservation Act, or ANILCA, requires the BLM to evaluate
7 the effects of its actions on subsistence uses and to hold
8 public hearings if it finds that subsistence use may be
9 significantly restricted.

10 The Alaska LNG project is seeking a right-of-way
11 from the BLM to allow for the construction and operation of
12 the buried pipeline across public lands. In reviewing this
13 application, the BLM must consider the potential effects to
14 the environment and the potential impacts to the subsistence
15 resources and uses on public lands. The ANILCA 810
16 evaluation done for this project assessed the potential
17 effects to the proposed alternatives and the cumulative case
18 on subsistence use, and is included as an appendix in the
19 Draft EIS.

20 In the evaluation, the BLM finds that the
21 cumulative case may result in a significant impact to
22 subsistence uses. These potential impacts may include
23 reductions in the availability or abundance of caribou.

24 This hearing is being held to provide you an
25 opportunity to make comments on the preliminary subsistence

1 analysis for the Alaska LNG project. All comments are
2 welcome, but we especially would like to hear your thoughts
3 regarding mitigation measures that could be applied to
4 minimize impacts to your subsistence use.

5 The comments you provide will be considered in
6 the preparation of the final EIS and the BLM's Record of
7 Decision. You may provide your comments here tonight or
8 submit them in writing. Please submit any written comments
9 to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by the close of
10 the comment period.

11 MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Earl.

12 Well, that's the end of the procedural part; now
13 is when we request comments. We had one person sign up;
14 Solomon?

15 I think he may have walked out.

16 So would anyone else in the audience like to
17 provide comments tonight?

18 Please come forward and state your name for the
19 record.

20 MR. BROWER: Good evening, my name is Gordon
21 Brower. I'm a resident and I'm also a Director of Planning
22 and Community Services for the North Slope Borough.

23 First of all, there's a huge conflict going on
24 right now. There's a whaling captain's meeting going on. A
25 lot of important people, you know, the whaling captains are

1 having a fall whaling captains meeting as we speak now.
2 That's beside the point, it's just important to note that
3 there probably would have been a few more interested folks
4 that would have provided some comments.

5 On the AK LNG, there was another project. I
6 don't know if it was called the bullet line or if this is
7 the bullet line project itself. It seems like there was two
8 competing natural gas projects a few years back. And I
9 think that both of them could not probably go forward and
10 try to compromise and do one of these gas line projects.
11 So, I don't know that the other one is still being reviewed
12 or not or if it's gone away.

13 So, that's just one of my questions I had before
14 I made some comments here. The comments, I'm just reading
15 parts of the outline about material sourcing and things like
16 that. I don't know how much new material sources you're
17 proposing to site within the North Slope Borough, but I just
18 want to comment that we are working with DNR with the North
19 Slope Borough in developing regional mining concepts to
20 limit the pot rolling and material sourcing along the haul
21 road. The Borough has selected sites along the haul road
22 and our concept of regionalizing material sources, has been
23 embraced by the Corps of Engineers.

24 So, it's important to note that when the project
25 siting for materials sourcing, think to work with the local

1 government in looking at these along with DNR. It's a way
2 of adhering to North Slope Borough policies to consolidate
3 and minimize impacts to the environment, where you're not
4 just picking the site and saying, 'This is my material
5 source' when there are plans in the region to work to
6 minimize these types of material sourcing. I just, I
7 thought it was important to note that.

8 The other concerns I have, and I don't know
9 exactly what comments you're looking for, but it's important
10 to note that the North Slope Borough, many of the villages
11 are serviced by diesel, a very dirty home heating fuel often
12 spilled and contaminating areas, and it seems to me that
13 projects like this should look at the Arctic up here to help
14 supplement or provide alternative clean fuel like natural
15 gas. And to look at all of these resources and just to hear
16 a giant vacuum sucking sound coming out of the North Slope
17 without benefiting folks that could benefit.

18 There are times like communities, like Utqiagvik
19 Pass, where we've gone to emergency rationing because the
20 fuel is flown in. I think on a monthly basis for home
21 heating fuel throughout the winter season. And it would be
22 greatly beneficial to look at natural gas, which is not very
23 far off the way from these areas, and use these resources of
24 the state to benefit the residents. I think that's an
25 important feature to making sure projects like these look at

1 in-state use of the resource of the state. And if you were
2 to put all the communities combined in these subsidies that
3 the local government has to provide for even affordable
4 living, you're looking at about \$20 million annually to
5 subsidize fuels to our communities with home heating fuel.

6 It's important, when we live in the most extreme
7 climate up here, to have a level of energy security of fuel
8 that does not run out and able to be used locally. And I
9 think those are important. I don't think we're going to go
10 back in time and live off peat moss saturated in crude oil
11 that's just laying on the ground and at one point that's how
12 we lived up here, too. We used oil seeps to heat homes.
13 And most everybody has running water. Flush toilets. Not
14 everybody, but we're getting there, on the North Slope. I
15 think it's important to recognize those types of needs as
16 these mega projects move forward. And in terms of caribou
17 and other resources like that we are very heavily dependent
18 on subsistence resources. I want to encourage you to look
19 at the comprehensive plans for each community like Utqiagvik
20 Pass, their area of influence in these areas. They have
21 defined their subsistence use areas and the area of
22 influence is defined as the traditional and contemporary use
23 of the land immediately outside the village district
24 boundaries to provide for subsistence needs for communities.
25

1 And recognize the area of influence to make sure
2 adequate mitigation measures -- to continue the subsistence
3 life-style. The villages are more heavily dependent on
4 terrestrial resources from wolves, wolverines, caribou, for
5 everyday food on the table. I've been a, I am also a
6 regional advisor, federal regional advisor councilman. On
7 the federal RAC. I serve as a chairman of the Regional
8 Subsistence Advisor Council. And it's important because we
9 often hear of other uses of the lands that conflict with
10 traditional uses. It's been said more than once to make
11 sure we don't pass on arguments between competing users
12 because that's, we're trying to make sure we pass on a
13 healthy traditional subsistence experience to the next
14 generation, and not arguments. We want to make sure those
15 things are good to be passed on for the socioeconomic well-
16 being of our communities. They are very heavily dependent
17 on subsistence resources.

18 It's important to make sure these types of
19 projects address those in a way that is meaningful, and
20 including economic opportunities. North Slope Borough
21 policies in terms of economic opportunities, land use
22 policies include to where it's feasible and where it's
23 prudent to use the local businesses, regional corporations,
24 and village corporations to provide for economic
25 opportunities within their area of influence. Those are

1 important statements where it's prudent and where it's
2 feasible to do those things. So, it doesn't -- it's
3 important to recognize these things. They are ingrained in
4 North Slope Borough land use policies. And you will
5 encounter them when it comes time to permitting. If this
6 project ever makes it to a permitting application or a
7 regional or something like that, those policies should be
8 embraced.

9 It's the same as trying to make sure there's
10 affirmative action to minority groups and it's got to
11 recognize that we have an ICC up here; I think last year or
12 two years ago, a polar conference on the state of the Inuit
13 population, and they talked about it from Greenland to
14 Canada to Alaska through the circumpolar regions, a total
15 population of all Inuit combined is 169,000 people. And
16 after 10,000 years we've managed to make that many people up
17 here. So, it's important to recognize, I think, we're among
18 some of the most minority groups up here in the Arctic.

19 In any event, I just welcome you and just wanted
20 to provide for you little talking points, a few of my
21 comments and to where its these projects need to move
22 forward. It's important, I think, for applicants to visit
23 and dialogue with the North Slope Borough's mayor's office
24 as well.

25 I went to a meeting some time ago from a

1 different mayor when I was still a director at the time. It
2 was 2009. Mayor asked me, "Why didn't you go to Utqiagvik
3 Pass and see what's the gap over there. What's going on?"
4 And it was a roads to resources meeting and the village was
5 in an uproar. Their, the mayor didn't really know what was
6 going on as well and said, "Why don't you go up to Utqiagvik
7 and find out?"

8 I think having open, meaningful dialogue with the
9 local government is very important. I'd just like to say
10 that meeting I saw, the tribe in an uproar about caribou
11 movement in a potential road in a very contentious area of
12 traditional land use activities in the Utqiagvik area of
13 influence. It went actually to a point where the community
14 tribe chief pointed out, "Why don't we end this meeting this
15 way? We'll get our biggest wrestler and you get your
16 biggest guy from DOT and you wrestle. Whoever wins. If our
17 big guy wins the meeting is over and the project goes away."

18
19 I don't think that's very meaningful when there
20 needs to be a lot more engagement and dialogue for these
21 kinds of things that have the potential to impact
22 communities in this way. Especially communication. Thank
23 you very much. If I have anything more to say I would
24 probably add more. I'm not fully prepared. I learned of
25 this meeting and thought I should make a chance to provide

1 some comments. Thank you.

2 MR. MARTIN: Thank you very much for those
3 comments. If you have some other comments, you can pick up
4 one of the written comment forms and send it to us.

5 MR. BROWER: We work together for the North Slope
6 Borough Mayor and the law department, there's a wildlife
7 department, planning department and others. We try to
8 coalesce comments and put them together for the Mayor's
9 signature. But it's important to also provide additional
10 policy during comments as well. Thank you very much.

11 MR. MARTIN: Thank you.

12 Would anyone else like to provide comments
13 tonight?

14 AUDIENCE: We'd better wait.

15 MR. MARTIN: That's fine. I'm probably better at
16 reading than at speaking, too, as you can probably tell.

17 All right. Well, I guess that will close the
18 meeting, then, if any of you would like to talk, I'll stay
19 here at the table for a few more minutes, if you'd like to
20 come up and talk one-on-one, I'd be glad to listen.

21 And thank you so much for coming.

22 [Whereupon at 6:30 p.m., the verbal comment
23 session concluded.]

24

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1 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL REPORTER

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3 This is to certify that the attached proceeding
4 before the FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION in the
5 Matter of:

6 Name of Proceeding: Alaska LNG Project

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15 Docket No.: CP17-178-000

16 Place: Utqiagvik, Alaska

17 Date: Monday, September 9, 2019

18 were held as herein appears, and that this is the original
19 transcript thereof for the file of the Federal Energy
20 Regulatory Commission, and is a full correct transcription
21 of the proceedings.

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Dan Hawkins

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Official Reporter