***Gas for Alaskans***

Faced with crippling energy costs throughout Interior Alaska and dwindling Cook Inlet natural gas reserves in the Southcentral region of the state, Alaska’s Legislature created the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC) in 2010 to pursue the design and permitting of the Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline (ASAP) project. Through development of infrastructure to treat and transport North Slope natural gas, the Legislature envisioned the ASAP project providing affordable, low-carbon, energy security to Alaskans for residential and industrial use.

The ASAP project consists of a natural gas conditioning facility at Prudhoe Bay, a 733-mile, 36-inch pipeline to Southcentral Alaska, a 30-mile, 12-inch lateral line connecting the mainline to Fairbanks, and additional offtakes for in-state use.

After the commencement of regulatory work on the ASAP project, Alaska’s major North Slope producers – ExxonMobil, BP Alaska, and ConocoPhillips – proposed a larger diameter pipeline and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facility. AGDC joined the Alaska LNG project joint venture in 2014.

Alaska LNG is an integrated gas infrastructure project with three major components: a gas treatment plant at Prudhoe Bay, an 807-mile, 42-inch pipeline to Southcentral Alaska with offtakes for in-state use, and a natural gas liquefaction facility at tidewater in Nikiski to produce liquefied natural gas for export.

Against the backdrop of the 2014-2016 decline in oil prices, the joint venture producer partners sought ways to reduce the overall cost of supply and approached the State of Alaska to assume control of the project. The state agreed to take the lead and has since restructured Alaska LNG as a midstream infrastructure project that will procure, treat, transport and liquefy North Slope natural gas on an integrated basis.

*Two projects that will provide gas for Alaskans, but only one will be built*

The primary mission of AGDC is to maximize the value of North Slope natural gas resources through the development of infrastructure necessary to treat and transport the gas. AGDC elected to continue advancing both projects on parallel paths to have an alternative to deliver gas to local markets. The ASAP and Alaska LNG projects share many similar characteristics, including buried pipelines, a common mainline alignment for over 80 percent of the Alaska LNG route, and access to natural gas for Alaskans and beyond.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is expected to soon issue a Record of Decision (ROD) for the ASAP project’s Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The resulting federal familiarity with the ASAP project will set the stage for AGDC to build a natural gas pipeline from Alaska’s North Slope to in-state markets and better position the larger Alaska LNG project for regulatory approval.

The ASAP and Alaska LNG projects are nearing final investment decisions. With a ROD for the ASAP project expected in early 2019, AGDC is now focusing on advancing the Alaska LNG project through the regulatory process. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is scheduled to issue the Alaska LNG project’s draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in February 2019, and the Notice of Availability of the Final EIS in November 2019. In April 2019, FERC will be hold public meetings throughout Alaska to hear residents’ thoughts about the project.

*Demand in Alaska and Abroad*

Strong market demand for clean, affordable natural gas is propelling an Alaska natural gas pipeline project forward. Alaskans need access to low-carbon, affordable fuel and LNG customers across the Asia-Pacific region want energy security and price stability. Anchored by the Alaska North Slope super basin’s proven gas supply, both ASAP and Alaska LNG will satisfy local energy needs and provide potential export opportunities.

Obtaining permits to construct both the ASAP and Alaska LNG projects will provide Alaska with options. State leaders will evaluate project alternatives and advance a design that presents the lowest risk and maximum benefit to Alaskans.

*Local Support*

Equally important as permits and commercial contracts is local support. The success of an Alaska natural gas pipeline project depends on the backing of the projects most important stakeholders: Alaskans.

In October 2018, the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) unanimously passed a resolution supporting an Alaska gasline project. The resolution, sponsored by ASRC, CIRI, Doyon, and AHTNA Native Corporations, calls for AFN to work with AGDC “to ensure cooperation between Alaska Natives and their respective economic interests to provide to AGDC subject matter expertise and support services to advance” an Alaska gasline project. The resolution is a significant statement of support, which AGDC greatly appreciates.

AFN and other organizations throughout the state, including business and labor groups, support an Alaska natural gas pipeline project because it will generate a significant economic and employment opportunity in Alaska. The Alaska LNG project will create 12,000 construction jobs and 1,000 permanent operations jobs.

*Engage with AGDC*

AGDC wants to hear from you. If you or your organization would like to learn more about an Alaska natural gas pipeline project, its benefits, or how to become involved, including becoming a member of the Alaska Gasline Coalition, please visit [www.agdc.us](http://www.agdc.us) or contact AGDC Director of Alaska Native Affairs Donna Bach at 907.222.7418 or [dbach@agdc.us](mailto:dbach@agdc.us).