

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ANALYSIS AND PROPOSED DECISION
TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM RIGHT-OF-WAY LEASE AMENDMENT,
ADL 63574
SAGAVANIRK TOK RIVER BURIED SILL AT PIPELINE MILEPOST 28.3
& STORAGE AND STAGING AREA AT PIPELINE MILEPOST 39.7

Proposed Action: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), pursuant to Alaska Statute (AS) 38.35.070, received a request from Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC), agent for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) lessees, to amend the TAPS Right-of-Way (ROW) Lease, ADL 63574 to add State lands at two locations south of Deadhorse, Alaska.

APSC proposes to install a buried rock sill consisting of riprap along the east side of the pipe at Pipeline Milepost (PLMP) 28.3 to protect the pipe from flood events that may reduce pipe cover at a relic oxbow of the Sagavanirktok (Sag) River. The proposed addition is approximately 320 feet in length and 95 feet in width adjacent to the TAPS ROW boundary and contains approximately 0.7 acres.

Additionally, APSC has a continued need for use of a previously permitted storage and staging area adjacent to the TAPS ROW at PLMP 39.7, near Franklin Bluffs. The area would support TAPS maintenance and repair work in the Sag River floodplain. The proposed addition is approximately 2,620 feet in length and 120 feet in width adjacent to the TAPS ROW boundary and contains approximately 7.2 acres.

The proposed buried sill project and storage and staging area are described in more detail below in the Project Description section and project drawings are attached (Attachments A and B). Once construction activities conclude, the added ROW land will be surveyed and may include less acreage than approved for in this amendment.

The additional land is necessary to support the existing pipeline system as defined in AS 38.35.230(7) and authorized in the TAPS ROW Lease, ADL 63574.

Authority: AS 38.35.015 and the TAPS ROW Lease, ADL 63574.

Administrative Record: The TAPS ROW Lease, ADL 63574, and the associated ROW Lease Amendment case files constitute the administrative record.

Location: The proposed ROW addition for the buried sill is adjacent to the TAPS ROW at PLMP 28.3 and is located within the SE1/4 of Section 13, Township 6 North, Range 13 East, Umiat Meridian, containing approximately 0.7 acres.

The proposed ROW addition for the storage and staging area is adjacent to the TAPS ROW at PLMP 39.7 and is located within the SE1/4 of Section 9, SW1/4 of Section 10, NW1/4 of Section 15, and NE1/4 of Section 16, Township 4 North, Range 14 East, Umiat Meridian, containing approximately 7.2 acres.

The proposed ROW additions total approximately 7.9 acres, as depicted in Attachments A and B.

Background: The TAPS ROW lease was originally issued on May 3, 1974, for a term of 30 years. The lease was renewed for an additional 30-year term effective May 2, 2004. APSC is the agent for the TAPS ROW lessees: Harvest Alaska, LLC, ConocoPhillips Transportation Alaska, Inc., and ExxonMobil Pipeline Company LLC. These corporations have remained in good standing during the lease term and possess valid State of Alaska business licenses.

The Sag River is a dynamic, braided river with an expansive floodplain. The TAPS ROW and the proposed amendment areas are located on the west side of the river within the active floodplain. A number of revetment and erosion control structures have been constructed along the Sag River to protect the pipeline, such as buried sills, spur dikes, diversion dikes, buried channel weirs, rock vanes, and channel plugs. Several material sites are designated along the lower Sag River in the vicinity of the requested amendment areas; the some of which are in-river sites.

During pipeline construction, gravel pads were constructed south of the Franklin Bluffs. These pads were used, and continue to be used, as a camp and staging and storage area. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) has applied for the site under an Interagency Land Management Agreement (ILMA) for use as a maintenance station.

Application Public Notice: Public Notice of the ROW amendment request was posted on the State of Alaska Online Public Notice and Division of Oil and Gas Newsroom webpages on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. The Public Notice was sent for posting to the Tuzzy Consortium Library and the U.S. Post Offices in Utqiagvik and Prudhoe Bay. In addition, the Public Notice was published in the Anchorage Daily News on May 6, 2026 and in the Arctic Sounder on May 14, 2026.

Pursuant to AS 38.35.070, the following coordinate agencies were notified of the application and associated documents: Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, ADOT&PF, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. The following additional agencies were also notified of the application and associated documents: the Alaska Departments of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Public Safety, Revenue, and the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

The Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was provided with copies of the amendment application documents and Public Notice of the application and is reviewing the amendment request. If inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources occur during project activities, OHA must be notified to evaluate whether the resource should be preserved in the public interest pursuant to AS 41.35.070(d). Examples of cultural resource sites

that can be encountered include: historical cabin remains, adits, dredges, mining equipment, cultural depressions or pits, graves or cemeteries, tools, artifacts, and paleontological remains.

No comments on the application have been received.

Project Description: The buried rock sill project site at PLMP 28.3 is located approximately 29 miles south of Deadhorse, Alaska, in the west side of the Sagavanirktok River floodplain, approximately ¼ mile northeast of Dalton Highway milepost 388.

APSC states in their application that the vegetation zone is open, grass, and low willow shrub community. The soils in the area are described as organic silt with some sand, gravel mixed with sand, numerous cobbles, and scattered boulders.

APSC proposes to field-fit a rock sill in the vicinity of the existing ROW boundary. A shallow trench would be excavated east of the Pipeline and filled with riprap. Voids in the rock would be filled with the excavated gravels. Any organic soils within the trench footprint would be removed first and segregated for final placement on top of the disturbed trench area. Excess gravels, if any, from the trench excavation would be spread out on a protected segment of the adjacent pipeline workpad. Equipment used on the project would include rock trucks, backhoe, and loaders. APSC has requested that the project begin between July 1 and October 31, 2026. The work is expected to take seven (7) days to complete.

APSC states in their application that all work would be within the original pipeline construction footprint and the area would revegetate naturally after project completion. No instream work is proposed; however, groundwater or an isolated pool of water may be encountered when excavating the trench. Dewatering would not be necessary and has not been requested. All fueling activities would be done inside the ROW and away from the active floodplain.

The proposed ROW addition at PLMP 39.7 is located approximately 40 miles south of Deadhorse, Alaska, in the west side of the Sag River floodplain, approximately ½ mile east of Dalton Highway milepost 377. The area is approximately ½ mile southeast of the “Franklin Bluffs Pad” and encompasses a portion of an existing gravel pad.

APSC currently holds a Land Use Permit, LAS 33568, authorizing use of the site for temporary storage of non-hazardous material and equipment in support of TAPS maintenance and repair work in the Sag River floodplain area. The permit became effective on August 23, 2021, and expires on August 22, 2026. The amendment area would continue to be used for the storage and staging of non-hazardous material and equipment, and no improvements are proposed for the site.

Title: The State of Alaska holds fee title to the subject land at PLMP 28.3 under general selection (GS) 1609, Patent No. 50-74-0107, recorded April 1, 1974, in Book 278, Pages 446 and 447, in the Fairbanks Recording District as Document Number 401-1974-003789-0. On June 19, 1992, the Bureau of Land Management issued a Water Acreage Credit to the State of Alaska for lands under navigable waters, recorded in the Barrow Recording District in Book 63, Pages 982 through

999, as Document Number 413-1992-000576-0. Patent No. 50-74-0107 was not changed to reflect the acreage credit.

Reservations: The United States excepts and reserves unto itself a right-of-way for ditches or canals and a right-of-way for railroads, telegraphs, and telephone lines.

The United States pursuant to Sec. 9(c) of the Act of December 18, 1971 (85 Stat. 688), reserved for the benefit of the Alaska Natives, payments into the Alaska Native Fund. The reservation would continue only until \$500,000,000 had been paid into the Alaska Native Fund from sources identified in Sec. 9 of the 1971 Act. This reservation no longer applies since the obligation has been fulfilled and final payment was made in 1980.

The State of Alaska holds fee title to the subject land at PLMP 39.7 under GS 1669, Patent No. 50-74-0096, recorded April 1, 1974, in Book 278, Pages 422 and 423, in the Fairbanks Recording District as Document Number 401-1974-003778-0. On June 2, 1992, the Bureau of Land Management issued a Water Acreage Credit to the State of Alaska for lands under navigable waters, recorded in the Barrow Recording District in Book 63, Pages 776 through 793, as Document Number 413-1992-000512-0. Patent No. 50-74-0107 was not changed to reflect the acreage credit.

Reservations: The United States excepts and reserves unto itself a right-of-way for ditches or canals and a right-of-way for railroads, telegraphs, and telephone lines.

The United States pursuant to Sec. 9(c) of the Act of December 18, 1971 (85 Stat. 688), reserved for the benefit of the Alaska Natives, payments into the Alaska Native Fund. As stated above, this obligation has been met and the reservation no longer applies.

Planning and Classification: The proposed ROW additions are within the North Slope Area Plan (NSAP), adopted on March 12, 2021, and fall within the Dalton Corridor Region. The ROW addition at PLMP 28.3 is within the Atigun-Sag River Unit (D-07), and the ROW addition at PLMP 39.7 is within the Potential Borough Selection and Dalton Highway Corridor Units (D-20 and D-01, respectively). Vegetation in these units consists of freshwater marshes, wet meadows, tussock tundra, and alder and willow shrubs. In the northern portions of these units, where the proposed additions are located, caribou, musk ox, polar bears, brown bears are present; and migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and seabirds, including federally threatened spectacled eider, are present in the summer months. Riparian shrub habitat is important for breeding passerines, and poplar groves provide necessary habitat for gray-headed chickadees.

The lands within Unit D-07 are designated as Habitat/Materials/Public Recreation-Dispersed (Ha/Ma/Rd), which converts to a classification of Wildlife Habitat Land/Material Land/Public Recreation Land. The management intent of this Unit is to protect wildlife habitat and subsistence values, water quality, material resources, and public recreation opportunities. Authorizations issued involving long-term uses are to consider potential impacts on moose wintering habitat, musk ox concentrations, Dall sheep concentrations, and caribou calving and migration corridors.

The NSAP states that DNR shall consult with ADF&G prior to authorization issuance, as well as with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service where polar bears are present.

The lands within Unit D-20 are designated as Habitat/Transportation Corridor, which converts to a classification of Wildlife Habitat Land/Transportation Corridor Land. The management intent of this Unit is to maintain transportation and pipeline development and maintain important harvest and subsistence opportunities. Authorizations must also consider potential impacts on the habitat and harvest values and include general mitigation measures that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate any potential negative effects. DNR shall consult ADF&G regarding authorizations involving uses that may impact musk ox concentrations.

The lands within Unit D-01 are designated as Habitat/Public Recreation-Dispersed/Transportation Corridor, which converts to a classification of Wildlife Habitat Land/Public Recreation Land/Transportation Corridor Land. The Unit is to be managed as a utility and transportation corridor to facilitate transportation of oil and gas resources from the North Slope to facilities in other areas of the state and to support subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering, recreation, and sport hunting opportunities. Linear transportation and infrastructure projects are appropriate within the unit. Impacts to fish and wildlife habitat values and harvest opportunities are to be minimized. Decisions related to development shall consider potential impacts on the habitat and harvest values and include stipulations, conditions, and measures that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential negative effects. DNR shall consult ADF&G regarding authorizations involving uses that may impact polar bear and brown bear denning sites, core musk ox habitat, Dall sheep concentration areas, mineral licks, and anadromous waterbodies. All uses should also consider potential impacts on migratory waterfowl and promote protection of water quality. Continuity in existing transportation and pipeline operations shall be provided for consistent with the public and industrial needs, and opportunities for subsistence and other beneficial uses shall be maintained. Heritage sites shall be protected.

Lands within Units D-20 and D-01 have been identified by the North Slope Borough (NSB) as potential municipal entitlement selections. The NSB has since relinquished the selected lands within the proposed addition at PLMP 39.7 (ADL 414835).

State and Federal agencies will be provided with the opportunity to comment on the Analysis and Proposed Decision for the ROW Lease amendment, and APSC is required to adhere to all local, state, and federal regulations regarding the protection of wildlife and the environment. APSC must adhere to all stipulations outlined in the TAPS ROW Lease, as well as approved quality assurance, surveillance and monitoring, and wildlife avoidance and interaction plans and programs. With these measures in place, the proposed ROW Lease amendment complies with the management intent of the NSAP.

Under 11 AAC 96.014, for the North Slope Area (ADL 50666), all state lands are designated in the Umiat Meridian as “special use land”. This designation as special use land requires that, in addition to permitting requirements under 11 AAC 96.010, a permit is required for motorized vehicle use, unless that use is for subsistence purposes or is on a graveled road. The requirement for a permit or authorization would be fulfilled through the issuance of the proposed TAPS ROW

Lease amendment. This requirement does not prohibit the development of lands within the Umiat Meridian and does not prohibit the proposed action.

The Alaska Legislature designated the Dalton Highway corridor a special use site or Legislatively Designated Area (LDA) under AS 19.40. Pursuant to AS 19.40.200(a), the state may not dispose of state land within five miles of the highway right-of-way. However, AS 19.40.200(b)(4) states the prohibition on disposal of state land under (a) of this section does not apply to a disposal for lands necessary for exploration, development, production or transportation of oil or gas in this area. This designation does not prohibit the proposed ROW amendment, which is in support of TAPS.

Decision Public Notice: Notice of this Analysis and Proposed Decision for the lease amendment request will be published in the Anchorage Daily News, posted on the State of Alaska online Public Notice webpage, and on the Division of Oil and Gas Newsroom webpages on June 10, 2026. This Notice will also be sent for posting in the Tuzzy Consortium Library in Utqiagvik (Barrow) and the U.S. Post Offices in Prudhoe Bay and Utqiagvik on June 10, 2026, and published in the Arctic Sounder on June 11, 2026. Written comments must be received by close of the comment period which is at 5:00 p.m. on July 10, 2026.

If public comment indicates the need for significant changes in the proposed decision, additional public notice will be given on or after July 13, 2026. If no significant change is required, the proposed decision, including any minor changes, will be issued as the final decision of DNR after July 13, 2026, without further notice.

Analysis: AS 38.35, the Alaska Right-of-Way Leasing Act, sets forth the procedures by which certain ROW leases are granted by the State of Alaska and the conditions under which they can be amended. Pursuant to AS 38.35.010, it is the policy of the state that development, use, and control of a pipeline transportation system make the maximum contribution to the development of the human resources of this state, increase the standard of living for all its residents, advance existing and potential sectors of its economy, strengthen free competition in its private enterprise system and carefully protect its incomparable natural environment.

Pursuant to AS 38.35.015, the Commissioner has the power to grant leases of state land for pipeline ROW purposes. The Commissioner found it to be in the best interest of the residents of the State of Alaska to issue the TAPS ROW Lease, ADL 63574, on May 3, 1974, and the Renewal and Amendment of the ROW Lease effective May 2, 2004. The terms, conditions, stipulations, and reservations contained in the TAPS ROW Lease, ADL 63754, will apply to these lands if added to the Lease.

AS 38.35.020(a) requires the applicant to obtain a ROW lease for state land from the Commissioner for pipeline purposes. At PLMP 28.3, the buried pipeline crosses a relic oxbow of the Sag River just south of an existing revetment. Recent flooding inundated the larger floodplain and reduced the pipe cover in this location. The proposed buried sill will protect the pipe from similar flood events in the future. The storage and staging area at PLMP 39.7 is an existing gravel pad, remote from other infrastructure, and next to the pipeline and its driveline. The amendment

area would provide APSC with a favorable location where materials extracted from the nearby in-river designated material sites and equipment can be staged and stored for pipeline projects and maintenance in the lower Sag River floodplain. The proposed amendment areas are necessary for the maintenance and integrity of TAPS and are consistent with the original purpose of the lease.

Erosion control structures and storage and staging areas are addressed under Stipulation 1.1.1.36 of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline ROW Lease, ADL 63574 that defines “Related Facilities”, as “... those structures, devices and improvements and sites, the substantially continuous use of which is necessary for the operation or maintenance of the Oil transportation pipeline, including ... (8) retaining walls, berms, dikes, ditches, cuts and fills, including hydraulic control structures; ... (9) storage buildings and structures, and areas for storage of supplies and equipment”.

Because the sites are outside the existing ROW boundaries, they require an additional disposal of interest in state land beyond what was included in the original terms of the TAPS ROW Lease, ADL 63574. An amendment to the lease is required when there is a disposal of interest in state land or resources beyond what was reviewed and approved during the original adjudication.

Findings: The proposed project and ROW Lease additions are integral to the protection of TAPS. The buried rock sill and storage and staging areas are considered “Related Facilities”, as defined by the lease, and will be managed under the lease. The proposal to add the above-described land to the TAPS ROW Lease, ADL 63574, is consistent with the lease. The terms, conditions and stipulations contained in the TAPS ROW Lease, ADL 63574, adequately address and protect the interests of the State of Alaska. The buried rock sill project at PLMP 28.3 will protect the buried pipeline from potential exposure during flooding events. The storage and staging area at PLMP 39.7 will facilitate and improve preparedness for response to flood events and pipeline projects and maintenance in the lower Sag River floodplain.

An as-built survey is required for the amendment to identify the additional ROW areas and to depict the locations of the buried rock sill and storage and staging area in relation to the control line survey of the TAPS ROW. The as-built survey is to be submitted for review and acceptance by the Commissioner, pursuant to Section 1(e) of the TAPS ROW Lease, ADL 63574, as amended.

The addition of these lands to the lease does not constitute a significant amendment to the lease; since the impact on state resources will be negligible and the project does not conflict with or significantly change the existing use of the land. Approval of the request for the amendment to add the described land is consistent with state statutes and the terms of the lease. The lessee is required to secure all necessary permits or authorizations required by other local, state, and federal agencies.

Proposed Decision: I find that the request to amend the Right-of-Way Lease for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, ADL 63574, to include the lands described in this proposed decision is in the best interest of the state and does not constitute a significant amendment to the lease.

If no significant change is required due to public comment or objection, then the proposed decision, including any minor changes, will be issued as the final decision of the Department of Natural Resources on or after July 13, 2026, without further notice.

DocuSigned by:


6/10/2026

Anthony Strupulis P.E.
State Pipeline Coordinator

Date

Attachment A: Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, 2026 Rivers and Floodplains Improvements, Lower Sag River – MP 28.3 Grade Control & ROW Location and Vicinity Map, Dated March 30, 2026, Plates 1 and 2 (2 Pages)

Attachment B: Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, Gravel Storage Stockpile TAPS MP 39.7 Plan, Dated January 27, 2021, Plate 1 (1 Page)