



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

1689 C STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
PHONE 279-4578

*Then from
1/22/71*

March 8, 1971

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P. J. ...*

Integrity, Pride in Heritage, Progress

Mr. Boyd L. Rasmussen
Director
Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

The enclosed comments, supplementing my oral presentation of February 17, 1971, are submitted for inclusion in the record of the Interior Department hearings on the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline Proposal and the January 1971 Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Department of the Interior under Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

In my statement of February 17, I pointed out that the January 1971 draft Stipulations contain no provision requiring the permittee to compensate persons living in the areas traversed by the pipeline or dependent upon those areas for their very existence for losses that would befall them in the event of some sudden catastrophe or in the event the ecological balance which supports human life in the area is upset. I pointed out also that the Native people know much more than anyone else how the land, animals and plants live together and that they could, therefore, supply information, suggestions and assistance unavailable from any other source and that provision should be made requiring consultation with the Native people on means and measures for protecting and restoring subsistence and other natural resources.

The enclosed provisions for changes in the Stipulations will remedy these two deficiencies. They will supply what is now lacking in the report which is, for all practical purposes, silent upon the impact of the pipeline upon the Native people and others living in the area who will be most affected thereby. The enclosed provisions will provide consideration in human terms of the terrible possibilities of loss and of what is to be done to relieve human suffering and to meet human needs in the event of an accidental spill or of long-term changes in the ecological balance brought about by the very existence of the pipeline.

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