



P.O. Box 196660

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-6660

TELEPHONE (907) 787-8700

February 2, 2009

APSC Letter No. 17799

E1- 16420
Rec'd 2/25/09

Mr. David Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 34658 [Abstract] or N. 35468 [DEIS notice]
Alaska Railroad Northern Extension

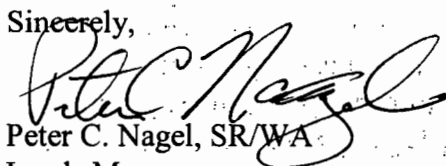
Dear Mr. Navecky:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the subject Draft Environmental Impact Statement, issued on December 12, 2008 on behalf of the Applicant, the Alaska Railroad Corporation. Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (Alyeska) provides these comments on behalf of the owners of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) as their agent.

The DEIS describes a project that may run adjacent to TAPS for a segment and states that a) the project will cross TAPS, b) the project's construction would have to be closely coordinated with Alyeska and c) the project would meet all industry standards to ensure safety and minimal disruption to pipeline operations. We add that the project must be compatible with TAPS safety and integrity, including environmental impacts and that due to several factors, including variations in pipeline construction, further analysis is required to determine the best location for a TAPS crossing. If any TAPS compatibility concerns cannot be resolved, Alyeska reserves the right to object, on a site- or detail-specific basis, to the proposed design and construction of the rail extension project.

We look forward to participating in the success of this important project. If you have any questions or need other information, please call me at 787-8170.

Sincerely,


Peter C. Nagel, SR/WA
Lands Manager

cc: Tom Brooks, Assistant Vice President, Alaska Railroad Corporation
Mike Thompson, Alaska State Pipeline Coordinator
Jerry Brossia, USBLM Authorized Officer