



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Transportation
and Public Facilities

SOUTHEAST REGION
DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES
Preconstruction

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December 10, 2012

Mark Earnest, Manager
Haines Borough
P.O. Box 1209
Haines, AK 99827

RE: Project 69924 Haines Fairbanks
Pipeline Removal over the Chilkat River

Dear Mark Earnest:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) proposes to remove the above ground portion of the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline and Pipeline Bridge near Milepost 24 of the Haines Highway. The project location is within Section 29, Township 28 South, Range 56 East, Copper River Meridian on the Skagway B-3, US Geological Survey Quadrangle Map.

We request your comments on the proposed action, particularly in regard to potential impacts to resources under your jurisdiction. Comments on the proposal from resource and regulatory agencies and the interested public will assist us in preparing the project's environmental documentation.

Purpose & Need

The purpose of the project is to remove a potential hazard to

1. the Chilkat River Bridge (Bridge Number 0742) on the Haines Highway, and
2. navigation on the Chilkat River.



Currently, the above ground portion of the Haines Fairbanks Pipeline (Pipeline) and Pipeline Bridge over the Chilkat River is:

- deformed due to foundation failure of the pipeline bridge, and
- is in imminent danger of failure causing collapse of the pipeline and pipeline bridge structure.

The Pipeline is very close to the Chilkat River Bridge and collapse could damage the bridge. If the Pipeline collapses into the Chilkat River it would also cause a severe impediment to navigation.

Background

The Haines Fairbanks Pipeline was used by the US Army from 1955 to 1970 to transport petroleum products. The 8 inch diameter, heavy gauge, steel pipeline ran from the bulk fuel storage tanks on Lutak road near Haines to the terminus at Fort Wainwright near Fairbanks. The pipeline route paralleled the Haines Highway then along the Alaska Highway to the Richardson Highway to its terminus at Fort Wainwright near Fairbanks.

In 1968, the US Army Petroleum Distribution Office reported fuels being transported through the line were:

- Diesel Fuel, Grade DFA
- Aircraft Turbine & Jet Fuel, Grade JP-4
- Automotive Combat Gasoline, Grade 95C
- Aviation Gasoline 115/145

The section of the Pipeline from the Haines Terminal to point 42 miles northward was buried except for the Chilkat River crossing near MP 24. Eleven pairs of piles support the Pipeline across the Chilkat River. Nine of these are driven 21 feet below river bed at 50 feet on center. The pile assemblies were fabricated using the same 8-inch diameter, heavy wall steel pipe as the pipe used to build the Pipeline. The pile assemblies are 2.5 feet on center with a 4.5 inch diameter steel cross member welded 1.5 feet below the top of the piling. Additional cross bracing consists of a 4.5-inch diameter pipe welded 8 feet below top of the piles. Sacrificial timber piles, driven upstream of each Pipeline pile support structure, have been destroyed by ice and debris. Current details of the crossing are shown on the attached Figure 1. Engineering details are shown on the attached as-built drawing.

When the Pipeline was shut-down for the last time it was pigged, then alcohol was pumped through to clean residuals, and then water was pumped through the pipe and finally air. After shut-down the Pipeline has been used, intermittently, as a conduit for electrical and communications cables. The portion of the pipeline that crosses the Chilkat River has been deemed, by the utility companies, as not suitable for use due to the risk of Pipeline failure. Active utilities have been moved to conduits under the Chilkat River highway bridge.

Proposed Action

DOT&PF proposes to:

- Cut, cap and remove the above-ground portion of the Haines Fairbanks Pipeline across the Chilkat River (see photos 1 and 3, figure 1, attached).
- Remove abandoned utility lines within this segment of the Pipeline.
- Remove the eleven Pipeline pile support structures (see photo 2 figure 1 and as built drawing, attached)
- If necessary, pile stubs may be cut at the bottom of the river.

It is anticipated the piling can be removed with a vibratory hammer hung from a crane. The crane would be operated from either the Chilkat River Bridge or the river ice in January or February 2013.

If the pile supports cannot be removed beneath the river bed the pile would be cut flush with the river bottom.

The duration of construction is anticipated to be less than two weeks.

Anticipated Project Impacts

Fish and Wildlife

- DOT&PF and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) conducted an eagle nest survey in May of 2012. There were no eagle nests within 660 feet of the project. All work would be complete before March 2013. Consequently no work would be performed during the eagle breeding season. A USFWS Bald Eagle Disturbance permit should not be required.
- The Chilkat River is an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) cataloged anadromous fish stream (AWC # 115-32-10250). Work beneath ordinary high water would be in accord with an ADF&G Fish Habitat Permit.

Right of Way

- All work would be within DOT&PF Right of Way. However, access to the worksite may require a temporary construction permit/easement.

Cultural and Historic Resources

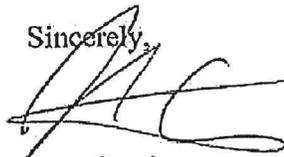
A cultural resource survey was performed in 2006. The Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline was evaluated as part of that survey and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) determined the Pipeline to be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Consultation with the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology will be conducted prior to completion of environmental documentation.

Request for Comments

We request your comments on the proposed action, particularly in regard to potential impacts to resources under your jurisdiction. If you have information that would assist us, please provide comments and information by **December 31, 2012**.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions or would like to request additional information, please contact Jim Scholl, Environmental Analyst, at (907) 465-4498 or by e-mail at jim.scholl@alaska.gov

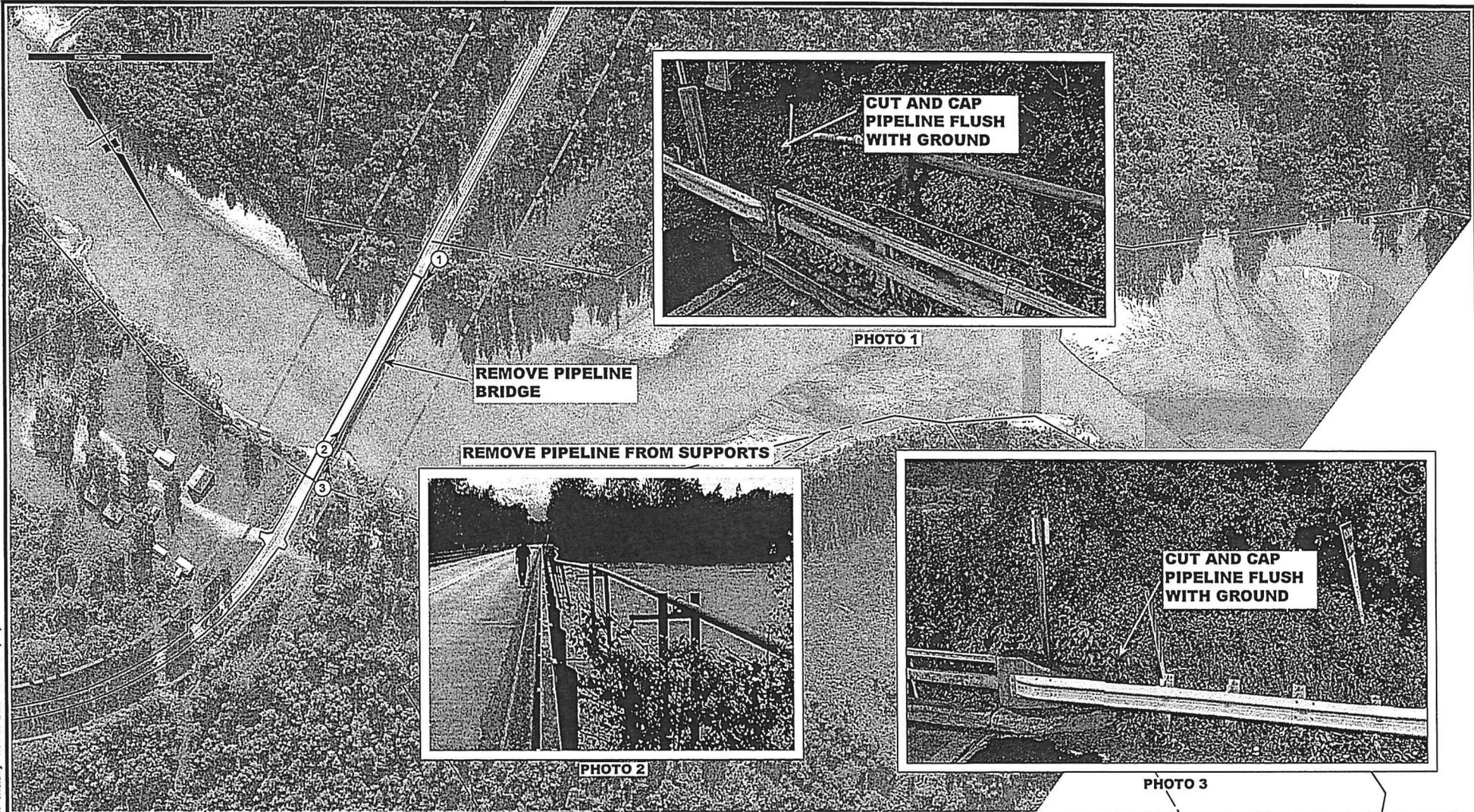
Sincerely,



JOHN BRANNETT FOR Jane Gendron
SE Region Environmental Manager

Enclosures: Location and Vicinity Map, Figure 1: Haines Fairbanks Pipeline Removal Plan,
1958 Pipeline As-built Plan

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	EXISTING ROW
	EXISTING EDGE OF PAVEMENT
	EXISTING BRIDGE
	PHOTO POINT

**HAINES - FAIRBANKS
PIPELINE REMOVAL PLAN**

SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 28 SOUTH, RANGE 58 EAST
Copper River Meridian, Alaska



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES	
Haines, Alaska	
DATE: NOVEMBER 2012	FIGURE 1

