

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas 1
Denali - Alaska Gas Pipeline LLC
Docket No. PF08-26-000

June 25, 2008

Bud E. Fackrell, President
Denali – Alaska Gas Pipeline LLC
MB 4-3
PO Box 196612
Anchorage, AK 99519

Re: Approval of Pre-Filing Request

Dear Mr. Fackrell:

Thank you for your letter, filed June 16, 2008, requesting use of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) pre-filing review process for Denali - Alaska Gas Pipeline LLC's (Denali) planned Denali Project. We encourage natural gas pipeline companies to use this voluntary process because we believe that beginning the Commission's review of most proposals prior to the receipt of the application will greatly improve our ability to identify issues early and address them in our environmental review document. Because an Alaska natural gas transportation project will likely require multiple field seasons to develop an application, use of the pre-filing process will ensure completion of the environmental impact statement (EIS) within the legislated timeframe. Therefore, I am granting Denali's request and instructing staff to begin working on your proposal.

Denali plans to construct an Alaska natural gas transportation system, as defined by Section 103 of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act, which would consist of a 48- to 52-inch-diameter pipeline system between the Alaska North Slope and Alberta, Canada, capable of transporting about 4.0 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas. Denali also plans to construct a new gas treatment plant on the Alaska North Slope.

Your letter states your intention to file an application in August 2011. The complexity of this project calls for initiating the Commission's pre-filing process as early in the development of the application as possible. Commission staff and stakeholder involvement early in the process should help to identify issues and study needs that would

otherwise potentially delay submittal of the application. Therefore, I am waiving the filing requirements and timelines stipulated in section 157.21(d) and (f).^{1/} During the pre-filing process, we will work with Denali and all stakeholders to resolve issues as they arise, ensure the collection of necessary information, and develop the appropriate timeframes for the submittal of that information and the application.

When Denali files its application with the Commission, we will evaluate the progress made during the pre-filing process, based in part on our success in resolving the issues raised during scoping. Once we determine that your application is complete we will establish a schedule for issuance of the EIS, consistent with Section 104 of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act, and for the issuance of all other federal authorizations.

Denali has committed to fund a third-party contractor to assist the Commission in the development of the EIS. Our staff will notify Denali when it requires the assistance of a contractor. At that time, we will select a third-party contractor to work under the direct supervision and control of the Commission staff. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Boyle at (202) 502-8839.

Sincerely,

J. Mark Robinson
Director
Office of Energy Projects

cc: Public File, Docket No. PF08-26-000

¹ Under section 375.308 (z) of the Commission's regulations, the Director of the Office of Energy Projects can make modifications to and grant waivers of the pre-filing procedures on a case-specific basis.