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Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives Community & Regional Affairs

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HOUSE BILL 517

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE CURT MENARD


165 E. Parks Hwy.
Wasilla, Alaska 99687
(907) 373-2878

P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-2679



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Members of the House Committee
on Community and Regional Affairs

FROM: Representative Curt Menard 

DATE: March 14, 1990

RE: HB 517 - Appropriation for Mat-Su Gas Pipelines

HB 517 is in answer to concerns brought to my attention by numerous Valley residents.

1. Many homes and businesses in the areas which would be served by these lines were built at a time when gas service appeared imminent. These structures are now being heated with propane or electricity at a cost far above other fuel sources.
2. The Valley's real estate market, more so than any other area of the state, is slowly struggling out of a crisis situation. The availability of gas will greatly increase the value and desirability of homes now sitting empty, many of which are either in foreclosure or on the brink of foreclosure.
3. Reduced energy costs will stimulate development and that will boost the entire Valley economy.
4. Conversion to natural gas can reduce energy costs by up to 70%. This translates into savings for every taxpayer in the Valley as schools, fire stations, libraries and public facilities take advantage of energy savings.
5. Ground water pollution is a serious problem; each year, as underground fuel storage tanks age, so does the chance that they will develop a leak. The availability of gas provides property owners and developers with an important alternative.

This bill is in direct response to consumer requests. Thank you for your attention to my comments. I am available at any time for your questions.

Representing the
Matanuska-Susitna Borough



Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
Member
Special Committee on Tourism
State Affairs Committee
Budget Committee

**APPROPRIATION BILL FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF NATURAL GAS PIPELINE
EXTENSION PROJECTS**

Description of Extension Projects:

1. Palmer to Sutton A natural gas pipeline of approximately 13.8 miles from ENSTAR Natural Gas Company's (ENSTAR) Palmer gate station to Sutton, with a lateral line to the Palmer Correctional Facility. \$2,970,000.
2. Palmer -- Knik River (Palmer Butte) A natural gas pipeline of approximately 9.3 miles from Palmer to the Butte area which would cross the Matanuska River and generally follow the Old Glenn Highway. \$1,700,000.
3. Big Lake A natural gas pipeline of approximately 9.9 miles from Knik-Goose Bay Road to the Big Lake area, which would run .6 miles along Vine Road, 7.3 miles along Hollywood Road, and 2 miles along Big Lake Road. \$1,940,000.
4. Meadow Lakes - Houston School Area A natural gas pipeline of approximately 11.9 miles along Vine Street and the Parks Highway, which would terminate at the Houston high school and the senior center. Natural gas service would be available to the Meadow Lakes area. \$2,200,000.
5. Point MacKenzie Port A natural gas pipeline of approximately 13.3 miles from ENSTAR's transmission line to the proposed Point MacKenzie Port. \$4,950,000.

**RESIDENCES, BUSINESSES, AND OTHER
BUILDINGS POTENTIALLY SERVED
BY EACH PROJECT**

Palmer to Sutton

Residences: 315

Businesses: 15

Schools: 1

Other: 2 (Palmer Correctional Facility, 2 fire stations, and library)

Palmer -- Knik River (Palmer Butte)

Residences: 660

Businesses: 40

Schools: 1

Other: 3 (2 fire stations and plant material center)

Big Lake

Residences: 1050

Businesses: 55

Schools: 1

Other: 4 (2 shopping malls and 2 fire stations)

Meadow Lakes -- Houston School Area

Residences: 850

Businesses: 35

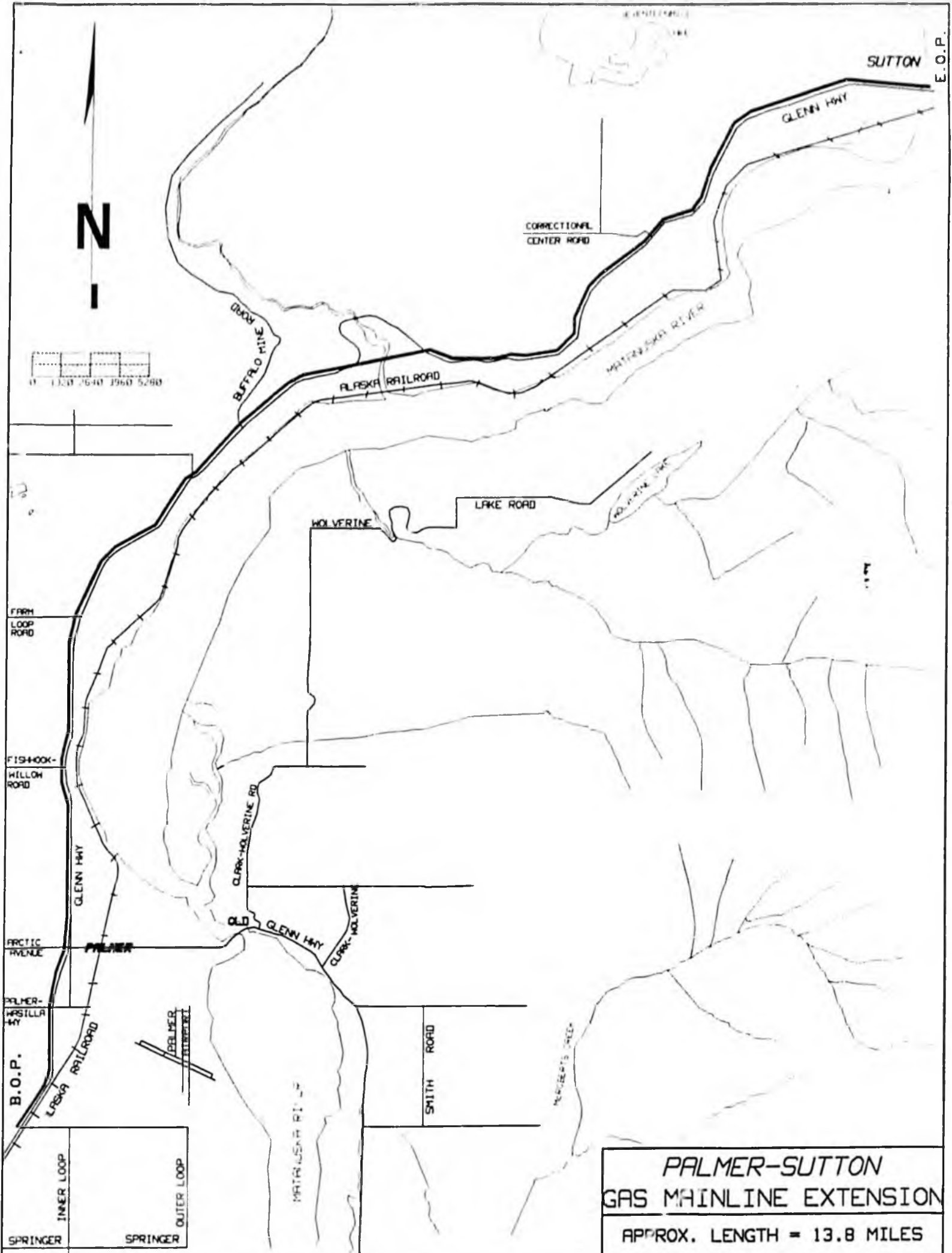
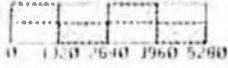
Schools: 1

Other: 5 (3 shopping malls and 2 fire stations)

Point McKenzie Port Project

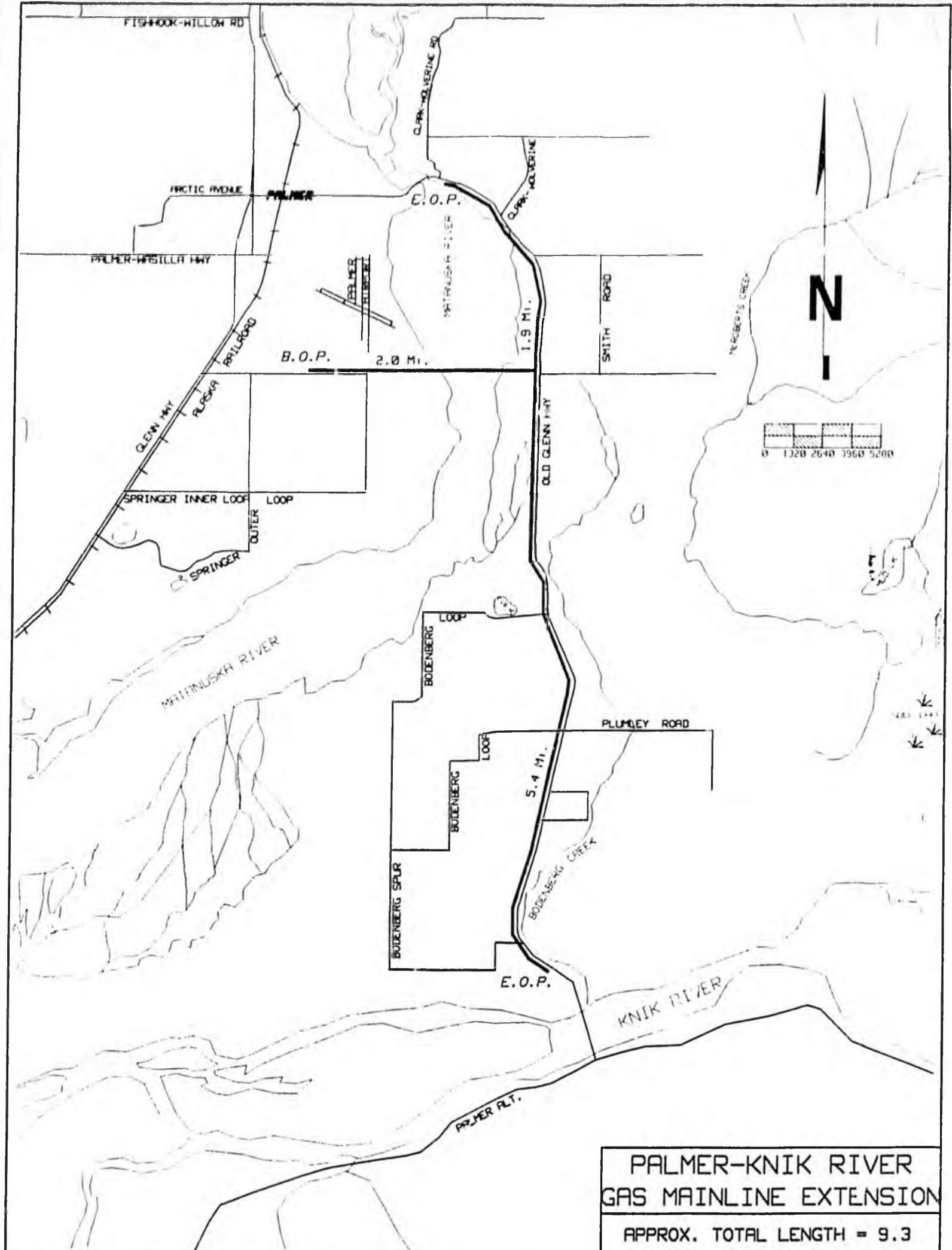
Other: Port Buildings, Economic Development Projects, and
University of Alaska Agricultural Experimental Station

N



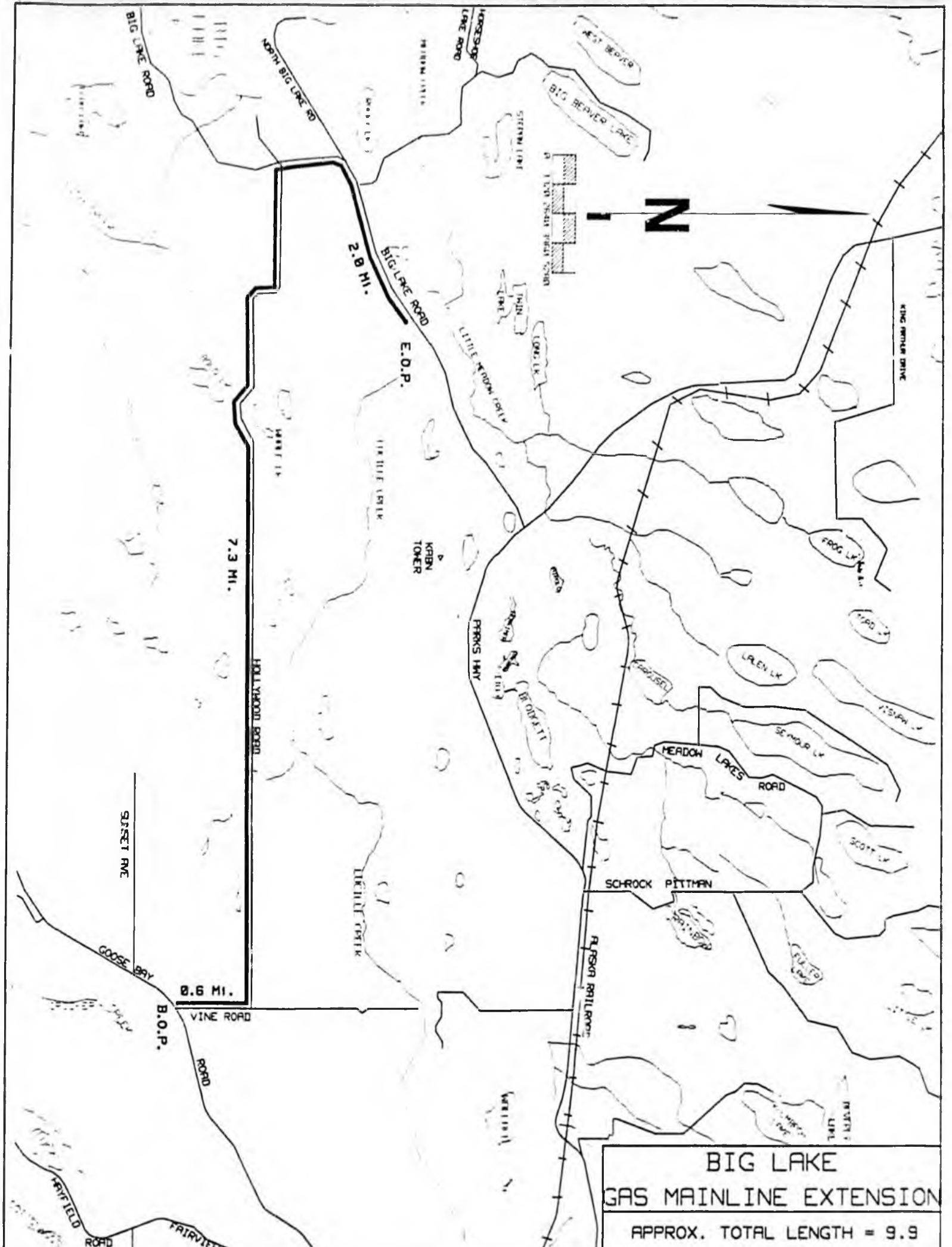
E.O.P.

**PALMER-SUTTON
GAS MAINLINE EXTENSION**
APPROX. LENGTH = 13.8 MILES

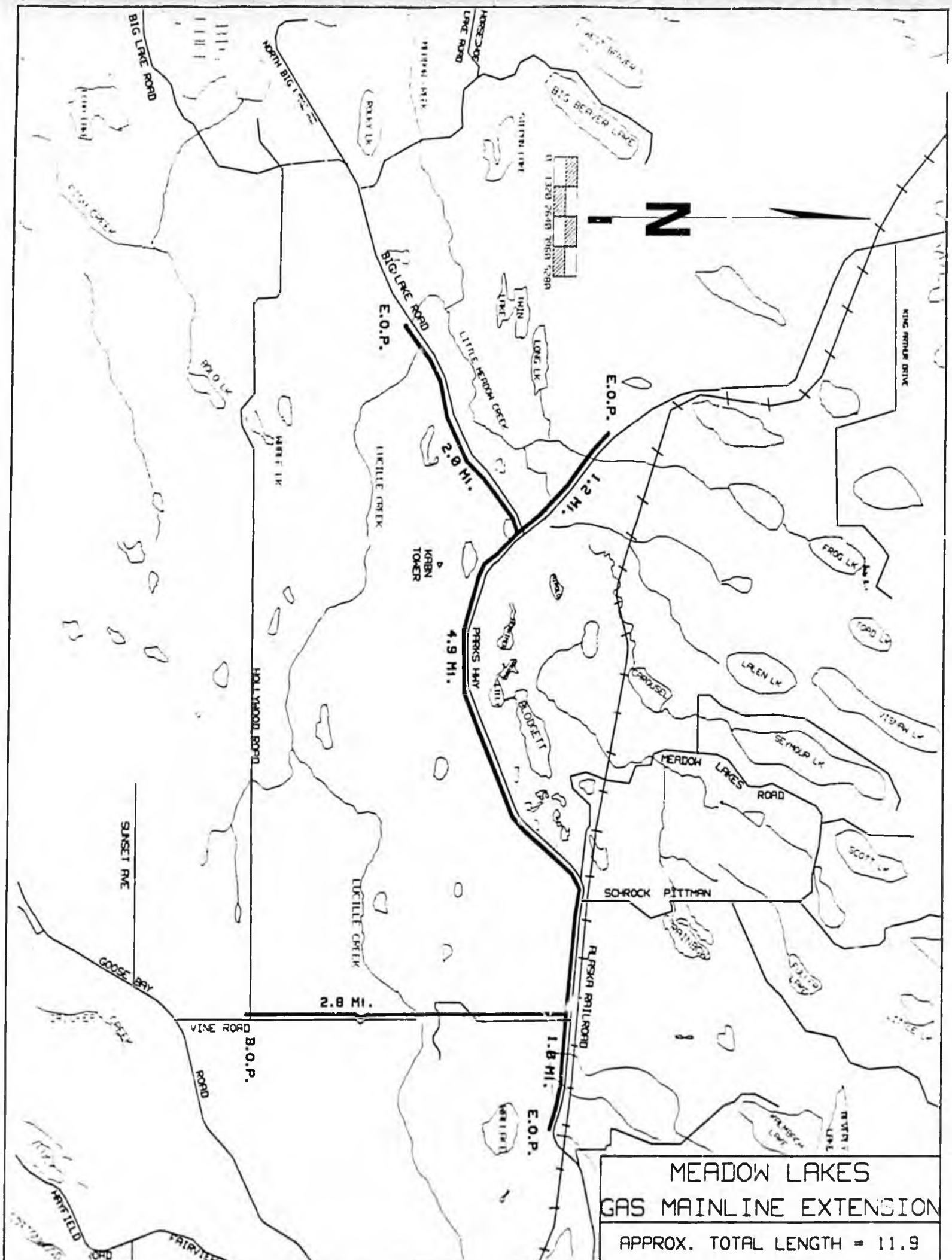


**PALMER-KNIK RIVER
GAS MAINLINE EXTENSION**

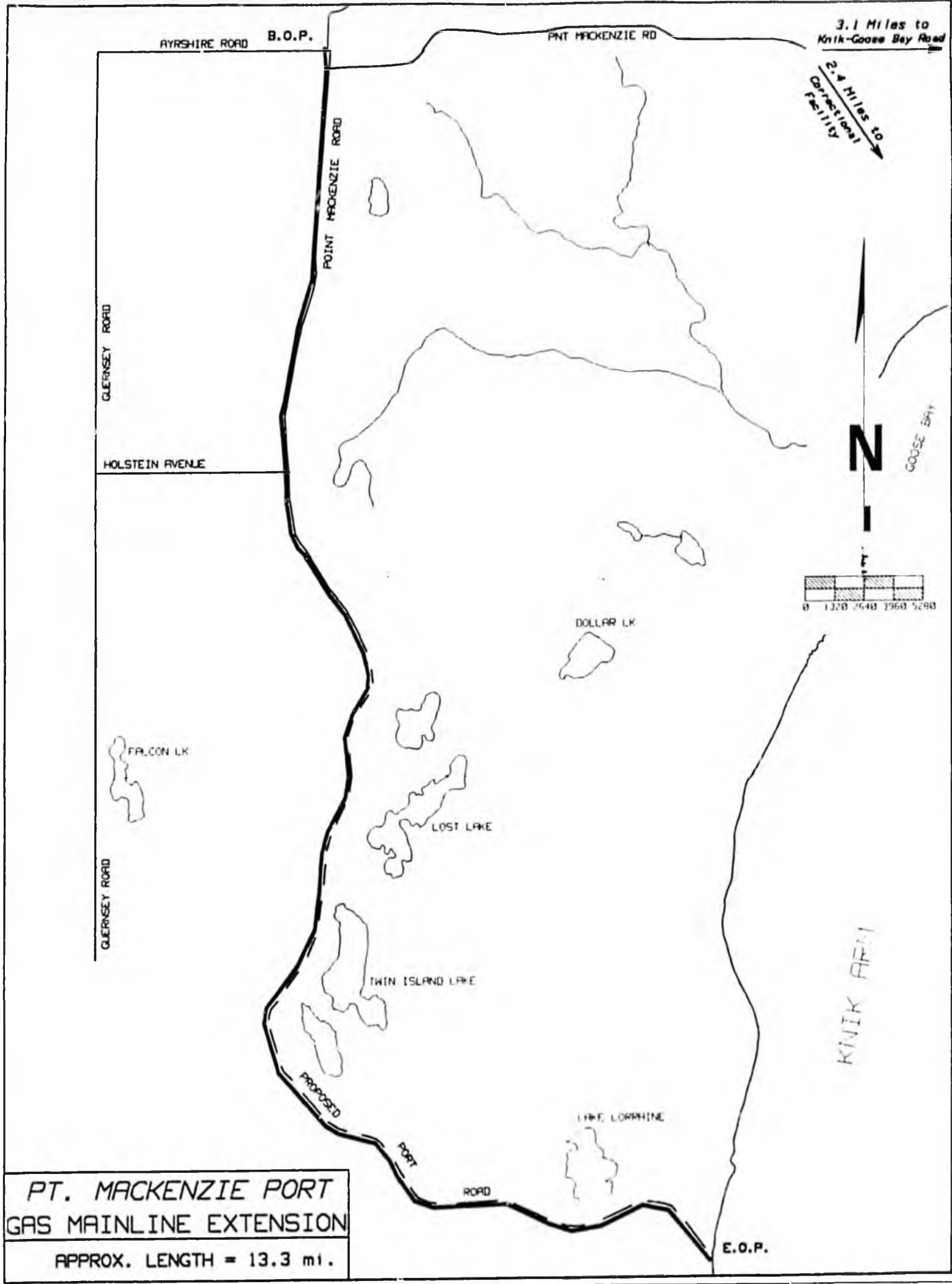
APPROX. TOTAL LENGTH = 9.3



**BIG LAKE
GAS MAINLINE EXTENSION**
APPROX. TOTAL LENGTH = 9.9



MEADOW LAKES
 GAS MAINLINE EXTENSION
 APPROX. TOTAL LENGTH = 11.9



**PT. MACKENZIE PORT
GAS MAINLINE EXTENSION**

APPROX. LENGTH = 13.3 mi.



Requested by: Administration
Prepared by: Administration

CITY OF WASILLA

200 E. HERNING AVE.
WASILLA, ALASKA 99687
PHONE: (907) 373-9050
FAX: (907) 373-0788

RESOLUTION NO. WR90-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF WASILLA, ALASKA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 517 AND FOR THE USE OF RAILBELT ENERGY FUND MONIES IN THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH.

WHEREAS, Representatives Curt Menard and Ron Larson have cosponsored House Bill 517; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 517 will provide for expenditure of Railbelt Energy Fund monies to benefit the residents and businesses of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

WHEREAS, the construction of the natural gas pipelines, as specified in House Bill 517, will have a positive economic impact on residents and businesses in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and therefore the City of Wasilla; and

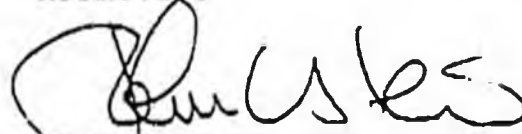
WHEREAS, reduced energy costs will spur growth and boost the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wasilla is committed to supporting economic growth for the residents of Wasilla, the Borough and the State of Alaska.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wasilla City Council urges passage of House Bill 517 and commends Representatives Menard and Larson for their efforts on behalf of the community.

I certify that a resolution in substantially the above form was passed by a majority of those voting at a duly called and conducted meeting of the governing body of the City of Wasilla this 26th day of February, 1990.

APPROVED:


John C. Stein, Mayor

ATTEST:


Erling P. Nelson, CMC
City Clerk



RESOLUTION 90-09



HOUSTON, ALASKA
A BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON, ALASKA IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 517 ENTITLED "AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PAYMENT AS GRANTS TO THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH FOR CONSTRUCTION OF GAS PIPELINE PROJECTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Houston is in agreement that the gas pipeline needs to be brought up into these areas, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Houston built the Mid-Valley Senior Center in anticipation that when gas was brought to this area it could easily be converted to use the natural gas, and;

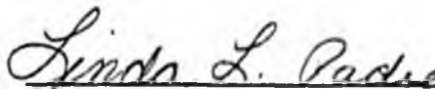
WHEREAS, the City Council would also like consideration in bringing the gas pipeline on into the business core area which is located at approximately mile 57 of the Parks Highway.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Houston is in full support of House Bill No. 517.

ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of Houston, Alaska this 22nd day of February, 1990.


Thomas F. Baird, Mayor

ATTEST:


Linda L. Padie, City Clerk



HOUSTON CHAMBER of COMMERCE

February 21, 1990

The Honorable Curt Menard
Alaska State Representative
Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: House Bill 517

Dear Curt,

The Houston Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has been notified that you have co-sponsored legislation which would utilize Railbelt Energy Funds to build the natural gas line to serve Mid-Valley Senior Center and Houston High School. We strongly endorse this legislation as it will use Railbelt Energy Funds for an energy related project as well as open the entire Houston area for natural gas installation on an accelerated time table.

Sincerely,

Patrick Peters
President



CHURCH OF GOD STATE OFFICE

ALASKA - B.C.

1348 Bennington, Anchorage, AK 99508

907-272-4847

March 9, 1990

Rep. Eileen MacLean
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: House Bill 517

Dear Ms. MacLean:

You are to be commended on the work done on House Bill 517
and this is to let you know you have our full support.

Sincerely,

Tom Grissom
Overseer, Church of God
Alaska & B. C.
1348 Bennington
Anchorage, Ak. 99508

Representative Eileen MacLean,

3-7-90

Regarding House Bill 517

I am for construction of natural gas pipelines to be run from Palmer to Sutton with the lateral line to the Palmer Correctional institute. It will help cut cost of energy to the owners by a considerable amount. It will make property values to increase which will create more tax revenues in the future.

Representatives Menard and Larson are to be commended for their efforts to get this bill through the House. Good luck.

Sincerely,
Pat Johnson
5000 Caprice Dr.
P.O. Box 505
Palmer, Ak 99645

March 6, 1990

Representative Eileen MacLean
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Ms. Eileen MacLean:

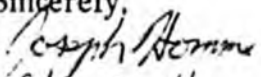
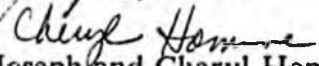
We are writing in support of the proposed natural gas pipeline which would run along the Glenn Hwy from Palmer to Sutton. We have lived in the Valley all our lives, and have paid exorbitant electric bills for years. The opportunity to have access to a gas pipeline is a very exciting prospect for us.

The money that we would save on electricity costs would amount to a minimum of \$1,200.00 per year. Of course, we would like very much to take advantage of the incredible savings!

Please consider us very much IN FAVOR of the natural gas pipeline to Sutton.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Joseph and Cheryl Homme
P.O. Box 3364
Palmer, Alaska 99645
745-4616 - hm
745-9252 - wk

(Corner of Farm Loop and Spring Creek Farm Roads)

Mar 12, 1998

Att: Eileen

We are in
favor of house bill
517. Please support!

Thank you

Alton + Gene O'gard

March 1, 1990

Representative Eileen Maclean
Alaska State Legislature

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 517

While I am in favor of most methods of decreasing the cost of living for all ALASKANS and especially those that would directly affect my own cost, I have to oppose HOUSE BILL 517.

The total cost of HOUSE BILL 517 figures out to be \$13,764 million dollars. This \$13,764 million ends up in the ENSTAR, bottom line. It's an addition to ENSTAR'S growth. I am not a stock owner in ENSTAR, nor is the STATE of ALASKA. We should not be giving ENSTAR this money.

If a low interest loan of some kind could be found where the STATE could recover this money I would be for it. Maybe a P.U.D. could be formed to own these lines that ENSTAR does not want to build with their own money. ENSTAR is a for profit corporation which is fine, but not from a \$13,764 million dollar grant from the STATE.

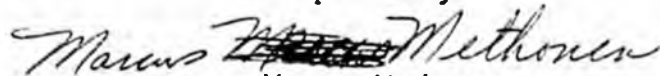
As to the proposed projects;

#1. Gas pipeline to Sutton; I believe the largest customer on this line is the STATE of ALASKA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, consequently the GENERAL FUND of the STATE should pay their fare share of the cost, not all the monies to come from the RAILBELT ENERGY FUND.

#3. This gas line is a duplicate of the gas line to the HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL, with the exception of the line to BIG LAKE. There are very few customers on HOLLYWOOD ROAD.

#5. While I am in favor of the proposed POINT MACKENZIE PORT, at the present time we are in a minority. So this project is ahead of our needs.

Respectfully



Marcus Methonen

P.O. BOX 521401

Big Lake, Alaska

99652

MAR 12 1990

March 1 - 1990

Representative Eileen Maclean:

We are against House Bill 517, all this bill will do is add extra money burdens on all property owners, just to serve a few.

We want you to vote no on House Bill 517.

Sincerely

17NO2E258004

Abney C. Lebeck

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE MACLEAN

NAME: KEN WIDMER
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: POB 878142
 CITY: WASILLA
 PHONE: 373-2222
 ZIP: 99687
 BILL NO: HB 517
 SUBJECT: APPROP: MAT-SU GAS PIPELINES
 MESSAGE: I URGE YOU NOT TO APPROPRIATE ANY MONEY FOR THE PORT AT
 POINT MACKENZIE. PEOPLE OF THE VALLEY HAVE VOTED THIS DOWN. THIS IS
 JUST ANOTHER BLACK HOLE.

POMID: 14135753
 DATE: 03/12/90
 TIME: 13:57:53
 LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

LARSON
 MENARD
 FOSTER
 PETTYJOHN
 DAVIS, C.
 KUBINA

KERTTULA
 SZYMANSKI

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE MACLEAN

NAME: LAWRENCE AND FLORA PUNCHES
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: PO BOX 521313
 CITY: BIG LAKE
 PHONE: 892-7326
 ZIP: 99652
 BILL NO: HB 517
 SUBJECT: APPROP: MAT-SU GAS PIPELINES
 MESSAGE: WE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO USE THE RAILBELT ENERGY MONEY TO FUND GASLINES
 IN THE MATSU BOROUGH. PLEASE PASS THIS LEGISLATION.

POMID: 14111232
 DATE: 03/12/90
 TIME: 11:12:32
 LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES

MENARD
 LARSON

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE MACLEAN

NAME: KIETH MAHOY
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: PO BOX 871187
 CITY: WASILLA
 PHONE: 892-8590
 ZIP: 99687
 BILL NO: HB 517
 SUBJECT: APPROP: MAT-SU GAS PIPELINES
 MESSAGE: WE SUPPORT HB517.

POMID: 14095105
 DATE: 03/12/90
 TIME: 09:51:05
 LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

MENARD
 LARSON

KERTTULA
 SZYMANSKI

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE MACLEAN

NAME: WILLIAM SULLIVAN
TITLE:
ADDRESS: HCO2 BOX 7569
CITY: PALMER ZIP: 99645
PHONE: 745-7561
BILL NO: HB 517
SUBJECT: APPROP: MAT-SU GAS PIPELINES
MESSAGE: PLEASE SUPPORT HB517.

POMID: 141602:6
DATE: 03/12/90
TIME: 16:02:56
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES

MENARD
LARSON

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE MACLEAN

NAME: MARY PSZNAK
TITLE:
ADDRESS: POB 1365
CITY: PALMER ZIP: 99645
PHONE: 745-3070
BILL NO: HB 517
SUBJECT: APPROP: MAT-SU GAS PIPELINES
MESSAGE: THIS SOUNDS WONDERFUL FOR THE PEOPLE WHO SAT AROUND AND WAITED FOR THE
LEGISLATURE TO TAKE CARE OF THEM. BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE OF US WHO PAID
FOR OUR OWN LINE EXTENSIONS? ARE YOU PLANNING ON REIMBURSING US FOR
WHAT IT COST US?

POMID: 141602:6
DATE: 03/12/90
TIME: 16:02:56
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

LARSON KERTTULA
MENARD SZYMANSKI
FOSTER
PETTYJOHN
DAVIS, C.
KUBINA