

Minutes from 8/6/04 MAG teleconference.

Participating – Jeff Jacobsen, City of North Pole; Lori Backes, FNSB; Dave Dengel, City of Valdez; Bill Walker, City of Valdez; Buddy Brown, TCC; Randy Hoffbeck, DOR; Jason Bergerson, NSB; Rick Ross, City of Kenai; Robert Venables, Haines, Pete Halgren, Delta Junction.

Brian Rogers, Nadine Hargesheimer

Resolution #3, Access to gas, was distributed at the beginning of the teleconference. There was general discussion about the resolution.

FNSB and City of Valdez brought up the issue of HB290 (21st legislature) and whether that would further complicate access to natural gas for in-state use. A recommendation was made that Bill Walker draft a “whereas” addressing HB290 issues relative to the resolution for the next MAG meeting.

The requested locations of the four takeoff points were discussed. Jeff Jacobson recommended adding three “whereases” describing the need for access to gas for Haines, Yukon River, Fairbanks and Delta. Robert Venables agreed to draft the whereas regarding Haines, Nadine will draft appropriate whereas for the others. Lori Backes suggested changing “requesting” in the resolution title to “advising”.

It was agreed that amendments to resolution #3 will be brought to the MAG meeting on 8/27 for further discussion.

The discussion then moved to whether it was appropriate for municipalities, either individually or representing themselves as MAG members, to discuss issues such as access to gas for in-state use at various public forums. It was noted that access to gas is an issue that affects almost all Alaskans and it might be appropriate to expand the discussion, specifically at upcoming AML meetings. It was also stated that no one in the group wished to “burn any bridges” by such action. Randy Hoffbeck was asked if any of the resolutions passed by the MAG were being passed on to the Governor or cabinet members. Randy Hoffbeck agreed to check and get back to the group. In the meantime, any municipality representing itself as such was free to discuss natural gas pipeline issues, but not yet represent MAG views.

Agenda items for the August 27th meeting were discussed. Brian Rogers agreed to make available to MAG members a draft report by August 23rd for discussion at the 8/27 meeting. Other agenda items are to be the modified Resolution # 3 and training and local hire for gasline construction.