

# ARCTIC LINE A 'DISASTER'

## Stevens Lashes Out At Canada Routes, Backs El Paso Plan

Sen. Ted Stevens said today the Arctic Gas natural gas pipeline proposal would be an environmental disaster and the Alcan proposal wouldn't be much better.

Testifying today before the Council on Environmental Quality, Stevens said of the Arctic Proposal:

"These people would snake a pipeline from Prudhoe Bay across one of the great landscapes of the world, the Arctic National Wildlife Range. The line would then run across an equally breathtaking part of the world, the northern Yukon, to Canada's Mackenzie Delta.

"Some have appropriately compared splitting the Arctic National Wildlife Range by a 48-inch pipeline and haul road with slicing a razor blade across the face of the Mona Lisa."

Stevens added that the Alcan proposal, which would follow the trans-Alaska pipeline corridor to Fairbanks and then parallel the Alaska Highway, would face problems with unsettled native claims.

Stevens said Alaskans favor the El Paso trans-Alaska pipeline-tanker route, which would "mean a total of 96,900 man-years of work for residents of the state. The route will generate the highest amount of employment, offer the greatest amount of tax return and give more indirect economic activity to the state and the nation than any other proposal."

Stevens urged the council to study the record of liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers in Alaskan waters, and said it was a record "without blemish." El Paso's trans-Alaska pipeline system includes a liquefaction plant at Point Gravina, near Cordova, with the gas car-

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# Stevens Slams Lines Planned For Canada

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ried by tanker to Southern California for regasification and distribution through existing pipelines.

"Some people have raised the questions of the environmental risks involved in shore-based LNG facilities and LNG tankers," he said, adding that more LNG tankers have entered Alaskan waters to carry natural gas from Nikiski to Japan than in any other area of the United States and there have been no mishaps or environmental damage of any type.

Both the Kenai and Swanson River units on the Kenai Peninsula were producing gas at the time of the 1964 earthquake, Stevens said, and that was no damage to any gas well or any of the pipelines serving either of those areas. Nor was there any damage to the Chevron USA (then Standard Oil Co. of California) refinery or docks at Kenai as a result of the earthquake.

Stevens testified this morning at the start of two days of hearings by the Council on Environmental Quality regarding the three proposed gas pipeline routes from the North Slope. The hearings continue tomorrow at the Anchorage Westward Hilton Hotel, with representatives of a dozen environmental organizations among those scheduled to speak.

