

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

To: John F. Bennett, PLS, SR/WA
Chief Right of Way Agent
Northern Region

Date: February 11, 2014

Thru: John H. Huber, Jr., P.E.
Regional Utilities Engineer
Northern Region

File No.:

Tel No.: X5403

From: Sue Slifer
ROW Agent - Utilities
Northern Region

Subject: Fairbanks Natural Gas
Request to place main
inside Access Control –
Richardson Highway

Fairbanks Natural Gas (FNG) has approached the Department with a request to allow a buried six-inch (6") HDPE gas main within the Richardson Highway right of way between 18th Avenue and 16th Avenue. Their request is attached.

The access control line in this area is at the right of way line. From approximately 180 feet south of 18th and continuing south the access control line is at 10 feet from the right of way line. This location of the access control line was established by the South Fairbanks Expressway project. Under this project the 23rd Avenue off-ramp to Cushman Street was constructed.

FNG was granted a utility permit amendment this spring allowing them to extend their gas main construction within the Richardson right of way, north from previous construction. The majority of this construction will be outside access control except for the last 85 feet to allow them to reach a PUE, at which point the permit amendment requires they exit the right of way into the PUE. The PUE currently has non-utility encroachments on it, which FNG would need to remove or have removed to continue its line to 18th.

FNG desires to continue their gas main construction to 16th Avenue where they can exit the Richardson right of way and continue in City of Fairbanks rights of way.

FNG has explored obtaining easements for their facilities north of 18th Avenue. Continuing west along 18th to Cushman Street there are no through streets or alleyways. There is a building encumbering a possible easement alignment adjacent the Richardson (Lot 10A, Block 1 Mitchell) and a paved parking lot to the north (Lot 2, Block 4, Gateway—Northland Hub). The Hub building encumbers most of the southern part of its lot. Placing the gas line in the Cushman Street right of way is not a viable option since it is already crowded.

17 AAC 15.131 (a) gives the department the authority to allow longitudinal facilities within controlled-access limits of a department right of way. The department's FHWA approved Utilities Manual 3.00.00 (f) states the commissioner or his delegated

representative may change, modify or deviate from department policies. The February 1988 FHWA regulatory change allows the department to make a decision on longitudinal facilities within the state's freeway rights of way without obtaining FHWA approval as long as the FHWA has approved the accommodation policy set by the state. 23 CFR 645.209 (c)(2)(v) allows for utility strips to be established along the outer edge of the ROW by locating a utility access control line between the proposed utility and the traveled way. Service connections would not be allowed from a longitudinal utility placed within controlled access limits. Copies are attached.

I believe FNG has made a reasonable case for consideration of its request to place an additional 555 feet of its gas main inside controlled access on the Richardson Highway. This would start from the point where the recent amendment requires FNG to leave the ROW and extend north to 16th Avenue where the line would exit the ROW.

Attachments: As stated

Approve/Disapprove

Approve/Disapprove

John H. Huber, Jr., P.E.
Regional Utilities Engineer
Northern Region

John F. Bennett, PLS, SRWA
Chief, Right of Way
Northern Region