

Military Pipelines in North Pole Vicinity

CANOL Pipeline

In support of military operations in the Alaska Interior during World War II, it would become necessary to facilitate delivery of large supplies of fuel to the Fairbanks area. One alternative was to truck fuel up the new Alaska-Canada (ALCAN) highway that was completed in November of 1942. Another was to ship fuel north to Seward on tankers and then by rail to Fairbanks. As a more efficient solution the 3-inch diameter CANOL (Canadian Oil) Pipeline was constructed between 1942 and 1944, connecting oilfields in the Canadian Northwest Territories to a refinery in Whitehorse. From there, delivery lines passed the product to Ladd Field, now known as Ft. Wainwright. Due to maintenance problems the CANOL pipeline was only operated at its full capacity for twelve months and sections were shut down as early as April of 1945 although the line from Skagway to Fairbanks continued in use until the Haines-Fairbanks pipeline was opened in 1955.¹

“A private contractor completed the physical removal of the CANOL Pipeline No. 4 on October 1974. However, private landowners and others had previously removed some sections of the pipeline. Prior to removal, some portions of the pipeline were buried during road maintenance and construction of private access roads. These sections were not removed by the contractor due to environmental considerations.”²

Right-of-way: The federal interest in the pipeline system located on public lands in Alaska was protected either by withdrawals made by Public Land Orders (PLO) or under principles of Instructions by Department of the Interior in 44LD513. In anticipation of the construction of the Canadian-Alaskan Military Highway (ALCAN), Public Land Order No. 12 dated July 30, 1942 was issued to protect the proposed road corridor by withdrawing a strip of land 40 miles wide, 20 miles on each side of the preliminary centerline. After the initial construction effort, PLO 270 was issued on April 5, 1945 to reduce the withdrawal to a strip of land 10 miles wide, 5 miles on each side of the highway centerline. PLO 386 dated July 31, 1947 further reduced the width of the Alaska Highway from the Canadian Border to its junction with the Richardson Highway at Big Delta to 600-feet, 300-feet on each side of centerline. In addition PLO 386 withdrew a 50-foot wide strip of land to be centered on the telephone line as constructed generally parallel to the Alaska Highway and a 20-foot wide strip of land to be centered on the pipeline (CANOL) that also had been constructed generally parallel to the

¹ The World War II Heritage of Ladd Field, Fairbanks, Alaska
http://www.usarak.army.mil/conservation/CR_LaddField_WWII.htm

² File No. 170.38.046 – CANOL Pump Station J – DEC Contaminated Sites Database

Alaska Highway. PLO 386 also secured the federal lands for many of the CANOL pipeline pump stations. PLO 601 dated August 10, 1949 again reduced the withdrawal for the Alaska Highway to 300-feet, 150-feet on each side of centerline and provided for a similar withdrawal for the Richardson Highway. No additional withdrawals for the CANOL pipeline were established under this PLO. Subsequent PLOs converted the highway withdrawals to highway easements.

The twenty-foot right-of-way for that portion of the CANOL No. 4³ pipeline, which ran from Big Delta to Fairbanks, was acquired by land notation under 44LD513⁴ principles (See BLM Case file F08691)⁵ The 1944 Property Map⁶ for the CANOL project indicates that the pipeline paralleled the Richardson Highway (Old Richardson) in area between the Chena River Lakes Flood Control project and Eielson Air Force Base.

On June 14, 1977 the Bureau of Land Management accepted relinquishment of the pipeline right-of-way and removed the 44LD513 notation for the CANOL line for the section from Big Delta to Fairbanks.⁷

Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline

The Haines pipeline was an 8-inch diameter pipeline that transported refined fuel from a deep-water port at Haines to Fort Greely, Eielson Air Force Base and Ladd Air Force Base. Construction occurred over 22 months from 1953 to 1955. 1970 investigations into pipeline deterioration led to the closing of the Haines to Tok section.⁸ The pipeline from Haines to Eielson Air Force Base was closed in 1973. The 27-mile section of the pipeline between

³ "Line No. 4 is of 3 inch welded pipe approximately 605 miles in length from Whitehorse, Y.T. to Ladd Air Force Base, Fairbanks, Alaska" Cited in letter from F.A. Smith, Chief, Management Support Office, Directorate of Supply Operations and noted in File 170.38.046, DEC Contaminated Sites Database.

⁴ Prior to the enactment of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, there was no general statutory provision for the setting aside of rights-of-way for Federal agencies, and the Bureau of Land Management customarily employed the procedures set out in the 44 LD 513 (Page 513, Volume 44 of Land Decisions of the Department) Instructions to accomplish that purpose. The principle underlying the Instructions is that the construction of a Federal facility on public lands appropriates the lands to the extent of the ground actually used and occupied by that facility and for so long as the facility is used and occupied by the United States. (See "Highway Rights-of-Way in Alaska – 2013, John F. Bennett, PLS, SR/WA)

⁵ Cleanup Chronology Report for CANOL Pump Station J – DEC Contaminated Sites Database - File No. 170.38.034

⁶ Property Map Richardson Highway Big Delta to Fairbanks, Alaska – Office of Real Estate Director, Alaskan Department, Anchorage, Alaska – November 18, 1944 – File No. N-51F-828

⁷ File No. 170.38.046 – CANOL Pump Station J – DEC Contaminated Sites Database

⁸ The Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline – Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands April - 2003 (This is a well-documented history of the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline)

<http://www.usarak.army.mil/conservation/files/pipelinenewbfredo.pdf>



Fairbanks and Eielson was retained to supply Eielson with the product delivered to Fairbanks by rail from Anchorage.⁹

Right-of-way: On January 20, 1953, the Corps of Engineers requested BLM that pursuant to 44LD513, “...a notation be placed on the tract books of lands affected by the 50-foot right-of-way for linear pipeline from the border of Canada to Ladd Air Force Base, Alaska.”¹⁰ See BLM case file F-010143 citing the 44LD513 basis and the authority to remove the notation and close the case file dated July 11, 1984. The on-line abstract does not indicate the width of the right-of-way; however, the notation is still shown on the BLM Master Title Plat for T2S, R2E, FM in the Southeast ¼ of Section 13 (Patent 1149166) and on the MTP for T2S, R3E, FM in the Southwest ¼ of Section 18 (Patent 1199206). The notation is “F10143 44LD513 25””. Right-of-way width notations on federal master title plats are generally stated as half widths, so a notation of 25’ means the ROW is 50-feet in width, 25-feet on each side of centerline.

The two patents referenced above contain a specific reservation as follows: “*Excepting however, from this conveyance that certain right-of-way and all appurtenances thereto, constructed by the United States, through, over, or upon the land herein described, and the right of the United States, its officers, agents, or employees to maintain, operate, repair, or improve the same so long as needed or used for or by the United States.*” While the reservation calls for a “certain right-of-way” as opposed to a “certain pipeline”, the 44LD513 notation on the master title plats clarifies that the reference is associated with the BLM F-10143 case file for the Haines-Fairbanks pipeline right-of-way.

Using the “Eielson CANOL Figure” received from Michael Baker Jr., Inc. on December 12, 2014, the cyan line color is defined as being the “MAPCO Eielson Pipeline”. In the Moose Creek area, the MAPCO line is a portion of the Haines-Fairbanks pipeline and uses the same right-of-way corridor. Viewing the figure and starting from the north then heading southeast, the MAPCO pipeline crosses the proposed IGU gas distribution line in 6 locations. Also starting from the federal lands at the north end (top of figure) and heading southeast, the line crosses through four federal homestead patents:

- Hill, John J. – Pat No. 50660341 – Lot 1, Sec 29, T2S, R3E, FM
 - Patent reservation: “*Reserving unto the United States those certain telephone lines, pipelines and railroad spur lines in Lots 1, 3, 6, 10 and 17 said Section 29 and all appurtenances thereto, with the right of the United States, its officers, agents or*

⁹ Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline Design, Construction and Operation – Special Report 77-4 February 1977

<http://acwc.sdp.sirsi.net/client/search/asset/1027605>

¹⁰ Decisions of the Department of the Interior, Doyon, Ltd. 5 AN CAB 77 – Decided October 10, 1980

- employees to maintain, operate, repair, or improve the same so long as needed or used for or by the United States.”*
- See Moose Creek Acres (Plat 69-4001; 5.27.69; FRD)
 - The plat indicates a 50-foot wide (25' each side of centerline) *“Easement for Pole Line, Buried Communications Cable, and Fairbanks – Haines High Pressure Pipeline”* running through Lots 2-4, Block 4, Lauesen Avenue, Lots 5 & 6 of Block 5 and Baker Road. The easement appears to be an as-built existing location.
 - Brink, Richard B. – Pat. No. 1211134 – N1/2 NW1/4 Sec 28, T2S, R3E, FM
 - Patent reservation: *“Excepting however, from this conveyance that certain pipeline and all appurtenances thereto, constructed by the United States, through, over, or upon the land herein described, and the right of the United States, its officers, agents, or employees to maintain, operate, repair, or improve the same so long as needed or used for or by the United States.”*
 - Cardero Subdivision 1st Add. (Plat 77-113; 8.31.77; FRD)
 - The 50-foot pipeline easement appears to nick the northeast corner of Lot 6 of Block 1 and is labeled *“Easement for Pole Line Buried Communications Cable and Fairbanks-Eielson High Pressure Line.”*
 - Cardero Subdivision 2nd Add. (Plat 78-64; 4.12.78; FRD)
 - The plat indicates that the pipeline easement runs southeasterly through Lots 7 & 8 Block 2 and continues through Eastern Street and is labeled the same as on the Cardero Subdivision 1st Addition plat.
 - Cardero Subdivision 3rd Addition (Plat 85-103; 6.18.85; FRD)
 - The plat indicates a 50-foot wide (25' each side of centerline) and is labeled as a *“50' Easement for Pole Line, Buried Communications and Fairbanks-Eielson High Pressure Pipeline.”* The easement runs southeasterly through Baker Road, Lots 7-9 of Block 3, Moose Creek Avenue, Lots 3-5 of Block 1 and continuing through Mildred Avenue.
 - Both Cardero Subdivision 2nd and 3rd Additions contain the following note:

“Notes on Fairbanks-Eielson High Pressure Pipeline – The roadway surface of streets in the subdivision must maintain a minimum clearance of four feet above the pipeline. All surfaces within the road rights-of-way (including drainage ditches) must maintain a minimum clearance of three feet. Within the lots of the subdivision, the ground surface must be a minimum of three feet above the pipeline in any area which is within fifty feet of any building. No underground structures shall be



installed within 12 inches of the 8" POL pipeline. Absolutely no buildings or structures are to be erected within the pipeline right-of-way, and access along the pipeline right-of-way for maintenance purposes must not be interfered with or in any way impaired.

Where the clearances specified above cannot be maintained, the pipeline must be protected by a separate casing which will be designed to protect the pipe in accordance with 49 CFR 195 covering the transportation of liquids by pipeline. In this regard, it is suggested that each instance requiring such special protection be handled by the Corps. Of Engineers, Alaska District on a case-by-case basis so that the express comments of the Petroleum Directorate can be obtained."

- Dehls, August F. – Pat No. 1195079 – Lot 3, Sec 28, T2S, R3E, FM
 - Patent reservation: Same as Brink
 - See Frito Subd. (Plat 59-192.829; 9.15.59; FRD)
 - The plat indicates a 50-foot wide corridor labeled as "U.S. Gov't Easement Pipeline & Communications Cable" running southeasterly through Lots 1-20 of Block 2.

- Portman, Robert J. – Pat No. 50680176 – Lot 1, Sec 28, T2S, R3E, FM
 - Patent reservation: "Subject to: 1. Those pipelines, telephone line, powerline, and railroad and all appurtenances thereto, constructed by the United States through, over or upon the land herein described and the right of the United States, its agents or employees, to maintain, operate, repair, or improve the same so long as needed or used for or by the United States."
 - See Alice Ann Subdivision (Plat 86-37; 3.24.86; FRD)
 - The plat shows the centerline of the pipeline running southeasterly through Parcel "B" and is labeled "Approximate Location of the Haines-Fairbanks Pipeline".
 - See Alice Ann Replat Parcel B (Plat 94-59; 5.19.94; FRD)
 - The plat shows the pipeline centerline on the west end of Parcel "B" as being coincident with the southerly boundary of Tax Lot 2867 aka "Portman Property".

While all of the patent reservations apply to the Haines-Fairbanks pipeline, they are all stated in several different manners leaving some ambiguity as to what was the nature of the pipeline right-of-way. This lack of uniformity was noted in a 1979 Department of Interior letter

regarding the Northwest Alaskan Pipeline proposal to acquire portions of the Haines-Fairbanks pipeline as a part of their corridor.¹¹ *“Turning next to the former public lands that have been patented subject to rights-of-way for the Haines-Fairbanks pipeline,... We do not believe that the rights-of-way excepted from the patents can survive the termination of the Haines-Fairbanks pipeline.”* The above referenced plats may refer to the pipeline corridor as an “easement” interest but the federal interpretation is that a 44LD513 notation is not so much a property interest as it is mechanism to protect federal facilities while they are still in use by the federal government. Once the use is terminated, the 44LD513 notation is released. As a result, the federal position is that a 44LD513 “easement” cannot be transferred from federal management to a third part, including the State or any other private party.

MAPCO-Eielson Pipeline

The MAPCO (now Flint Hills Resources) refinery in North Pole was built in 1977 to coincide with completion of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline and taps directly into the pipeline. Jet fuel is delivered to Fort Wainwright and Eielson AFP by the Haines pipeline.

“Fort Wainwright historically had two distinct pipelines that provided fuel to Ladd Army Airfield. The first pipeline was the CANOL line. The CANOL line supplied fuel to the EBHTF, FFT and fuel facilities on Fort Wainwright from approximately 1940 to 1955. The second pipeline, the Haines to Fairbanks Pipeline, was built in 1955 and operated until 1971, when the Haines-Eielson portion of the pipeline was closed and it became the Fairbanks-Eielson Pipeline until 1990. The Fairbanks-Eielson pipeline route was from the Mapco refinery in the city of North Pole directly to the FFT where fuel was distributed. The section of the pipeline between Fort Wainwright and the Mapco refinery was decommissioned in 1992.”¹²

“The Haines-Fairbanks pipeline was constructed from 1954 to 1955. The only active portion of this pipeline, now called the Fairbanks-Eielson Pipeline, runs between Eielson Air Force Base and the Mapco refinery in North Pole.”¹³

Military Pipeline Summary

The Moose Creek portion of the IGU Phase II project will include several crossings of the old military petroleum pipeline corridors. The CANOL right-of-way corridor along the Old Richardson Highway has been removed from the BLM records and no longer exists.

¹¹ June 15, 1979, DOI Asst. Secretary for Land and Water Resources (Guy R. Martin) to Paul E. Goulding, Acting Administrator, General Services Administration.

¹² Explanation of Significant Differences – Operable Unit 3 – Fort Wainwright, Alaska – September 2002

¹³ EPA Superfund Record of Decision – Fort Wainwright 1996

A 50-foot wide “easement”, 25-feet each side of centerline for the Haines-Fairbanks pipeline still exists over private lands in the project area as a result of several homestead patent reservations. These rights-of-way are still in effect and the pipeline is still operational having been incorporated into the current MAPCO-Eielson pipeline.

The applicant and holder of the initial 44LD513 right-of-way for the Haines-Fairbanks pipeline was the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army, Alaska District. These rights-of-way have been preserved through patent reservations and noted on subsequent subdivision plats and the beneficiary (owner) continues to be the Corps of Engineers. At some point in the future when the Corps of Engineers decides to terminate the use of the pipeline, the 44LD513 patent reservations will be released.