Jan 1980  *Alaska From the Inside* reported that Alaska's Governor Jay Hammond planned to send a state representative to the February negotiation meetings between sponsors of the gas pipeline, the producer companies and the federal government. These meetings would work toward the signing of a letter of intent that would outline and clarify the participants' roles in the financing, construction and operation of the pipeline.

Jan 1, 1980 American Natural Alaskan Company (subsidiary of American Natural Resources Company) joined the Alaskan Northwest Natural Gas Transportation Co.

Jan 3, 1980 The U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the Federal Energy Regulatory Commissions' Order on Pipeline Design, setting the operating pressure at 1260 pounds per square inch.

Jan 11, 1980 The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission agreed to the project sponsors request that separate decisions on the prebuild facilities for the eastern and western legs be issued in order to expedite procedures necessary for completion of the western system by the end of 1980.

Jan 11, 1980 The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved Northwest Alaskan's application for import of 240 million cubic feet of Canadian gas daily, and sale of same to Pacific Interstate Transmission Company. Pacific Interstate was authorized to sell these daily volumes to Southern California Gas Company, according to the terms of the order.

Jan 11, 1980 FERC also issued a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Pacific Gas Transportation Company for construction of 160 miles of looped line between Kingsgate, British Columbia and Stanfield, Oregon. (the western prebuild section)


Session of the Eleventh Legislature. Again the Authority recommended that this report be accepted conditionally, and that the Legislature add 2 conditions: 1) that no bonds be sold unless this plan is amended and accepted by concurrent resolution, 2) that the amendments include definitive answers to all matters unresolved in this report.

Jan 16, 1980

HB 543 was introduced in the Alaska House of Representatives. The bill would have authorized the State to sell bonds for construction of a natural gas conditioning plant, not to exceed $2 million. The bill never made it out of committee.

Jan 18, 1980

The Canadian government approved a 30% increase in the price of natural gas exported to the United States. Effective February 17, the cost per 1,000 cubic feet of gas rose to $4.47 from $3.45. This brought the price of Canadian gas in line with world oil prices. It also made it one of the more expensive sources being imported by the U.S. at that time.

Jan 21, 1980

The Office of the Federal Inspector asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to lead a technical advisory group on arctic construction problems.

Jan 21, 1980

Canada's Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP) Panel on the pipeline was reactivated. E.R. Cotteril was the chairman.

Jan 22, 1980

Foothills Pipe Lines (Yukon) Ltd. announced that construction of the western leg prebuild would begin in summer, with initial deliveries of Alberta natural gas to United States markets scheduled to start November 1, 1980.

Jan 23, 1980

Foothills Pipe Lines (Yukon) Ltd., Alberta Gas Trunk Line Company Ltd., and Pan-Alberta Gas Ltd. issued a joint statement expressing their support of the prebuild proposal for the Alaska gasline system. In their statement, the companies announced their intention to proceed with commitments which must be made to meet the November 1, 1980 start-up date of the western prebuild portions. They were joined in this commitment by Northwest Pipeline Corporation, Pacific Interstate Transmission Company, and El Paso Natural Gas Company.

Jan 28, 1980

The sponsors of the Alaska Highway Pipeline Project announced a 1980 budget for the project of $127.5 million, almost triple the expenditures approved for 1979. Nearly $100 million of the amount budgeted would be spent on field programs in Alaska, and on engineering and pipeline design activities necessary to develop design and cost estimates for a mid-1980 filing before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
Jan 29, 1980  Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company submitted a final routing proposal to the Department of Interior.

Jan 30, 1980  The Joint Gas Pipeline Committee of the Alaska State Legislature released its Interim Report as required by SCR 22. Given the number of unresolved state and federal issues, the committee could not make a recommendation about State investment in the project.

Jan 31, 1980  The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, following discussions with Energy Secretary Charles Duncan, issued a supplemental order authorizing an upgrade from 38” to a 42” pipe size for the prebuild portions of the Western leg of the Alaskan gas project. It was felt that the larger pipe size would be more economical and efficient.

Feb 1980  The Northern Pipeline Agency received the report of the Vancouver Women's Research Centre outlining the potential impact of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline on women and their families in northern communities. Beyond The Pipeline

Feb 4, 1980  The State of Alaska issued a solicitation of interest for development of petrochemical projects in Alaska.

Feb 8, 1980  Representatives of the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission appeared before the Alaska State Legislature Joint Gas Pipeline Committee, the House Resources Committee, and Senate Resources Committee to present the results of the Prudhoe Bay field 3-Dimensional reservoir study, conducted by H.K. VanPoolen and Associates and Joe Green, Commission reservoir engineer. The study concluded that sales of natural gas could be made without significant loss to oil recovery in the Prudhoe Bay Field.


Feb 11, 1980  Martin Lipton issued his Information Memorandum: Advantages of the Double Overrun Pool Financing Plan for ANGTS. Under this concept the Alaska part of ANGTS, pipeline and conditioning plant, would be considered one project. The $11 billion basic cost and first overrun pool of $5.5 billion would be provided by the Sponsors and Producers without any U.S. Government participation. The Federal Government would guarantee a second overrun pool of $10 billion. The second overrun pool would be funded by project bonds guaranteed by the U. S. Treasury.

Feb 12, 1980  A Washington Post article reported that in a confidential memo to the Secretary of Energy dated January 30, special counsel Martin Lipton accused John McMillian, chairman of Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Co. of
refusing to negotiate financing details with the oil companies that own the gas. Lipton, the attorney for the pipeline consortium accused Lipton of being guilty of a gross distortion of facts. Lipton was hired by the DOE specifically to try to find a way to bring McMillian's group and the gas producers together on financing. He proposed that the producers build the Alaska portion of the pipeline with ownership to be acquired by a federal pipeline corporation (Fedline) once it was finished. (Washington Post, Tuesday February 12, 1980  D7)

Feb 12, 1980 In a memorandum to all ANGTS parties, Martin Lipton announced that he would terminate his full-time activities as special advisor in respect to a ANGTS. He would continue to be available on a part-time basis to provide advise.

Feb 13, 1980 The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce agreed to finance 75% of the cost of the pre-build portion of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline project in Canada.

Feb 13, 1980 Pan Alberta Gas Ltd., the purchasing agent for Foothills Pipe Lines (Yukon) Ltd., applied to Canada's National Energy Board for additional natural gas exports to the United States under the pre-build proposal. Pan Alberta Gas Ltd. received 1.8 trillion cubic feet of the total exports authorized by the National Energy Board in December 1979.


Feb 15, 1980 The Department of the Interior stated that it would provide a detailed response, by April, to Northwest Alaskan's final routing proposal for the Alaskan segment, which had been submitted on January 29. In the interim, the Department of the Interior informed the company it could continue to plan and make cost and design estimates on the basis of the January 29 proposal.

Feb 16, 1980 The Department of Energy issued interim approval of the $4.47 per 1000 cubic feet price for Canadian natural gas.

Feb 19, 1980 The National Energy Board began public hearings to approve financing of the Canadian pre-build sections of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline.

Feb 19, 1980 Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company’s contractor, The Drilling Company, began work on the borehole drilling program.

Feb 26, 1980  The first major gas pipeline route drilling began, to gather soil samples on the southern right-of-way of the route in Alaska.

Feb 27, 1980  HB 911 was introduced in the Alaska House of Representatives at the request of the Governor. The act would have made a special appropriation of $1,115,000 for state participation in negotiations for the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System pipeline and determining the feasibility of a gas liquids transportation system. The bill never made it out of committee.

March 1980  The Gas Pipeline Study Committee of Commonwealth North issued its report evaluating the potential development of a petrochemical industry in Alaska and the pipeline options. They recommended that the State should develop a strategy to promote petrochemical development opportunities regardless of the outcome of the Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Co project. They recommended that legislation be passed to do a feasibility study for construction and operation of a gas liquids line from the North Slope, and sale of gas liquids to petrochemical producers. State financial participation in North Slope gas projects should be examined.

March 3, 1980  The Honorable H.A. (Bud) Olson was appointed Minister of State for Economic Development and Minister responsible for the Northern Pipeline Agency, replacing the Honorable Robert de Cotret.

March 10, 1980  Office of the Federal Inspector News reported that the first federal oversight contract for the gas pipeline had been announced by the Federal Pipeline Inspector's Office. Unified industries was awarded a long-term contract for engineering and environmental support services by the Department of Transportation.

March 11, 1980  Natural Gas Conditioning And Pipeline Design: A Technical Primer For Non-Technicians, With Special Reference To Hydrocarbons From Prudhoe Bay And The Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline was released. It was prepared for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, by Connie Barlow of Arlon Tussing and Associates Incorporated.

March 11, 1980  The National Energy Board determined that the pre-build was in the public interest, and granted Foothills Pipe Lines (Yukon) Ltd.'s request for depreciation of pre-build facilities during the period of export of Alberta gas. The NEB also changed in the incentive rate of return structure.
March 11, 1980  Canada's National Energy Board authorized natural gas export of 710 bcf for the western leg and 2,047 bcf for the eastern leg of the natural gas pipeline. Export licenses were issued July 17, 1980.

March 12, 1980  Pacific Gas Transmission Company received a right-of-way grant from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to construct a prebuild portion of the western leg of the gasline project on federal lands. This is the first such grant issued to the project.

March 12, 1980  William Stoops and Adam Seiminski of the Washington Analysis Corporation issued an analysis of the financing restrictions established for the Alaskan gas pipeline which concluded that "it is virtually certain that the ANGTS will never be built under the arrangements" as described in their report.

March 18, 1980  Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company met with representatives of the North Slope producing companies (Exxon, ARCO and BP-Sohio), the State of Alaska, and the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C., to discuss joint participation in a private financing plan for the project. Producers and sponsors agreed to try to develop an operating agreement for the design and engineering phase of the project (Phase I) by mid-April. They also agreed to define the key issues involved in formulating a financing plan and to establish a timetable for resolution of those issues (Phase II).

March 18, 1980  National Energy Board of Canada began rehearings on Canadian gas exports.

March 19, 1980  The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission directed its staff to permit OFI to inspect Trans-Alaska Pipeline System rate investigation documents. Alyeska Pipeline Service Company agreed to allow OFI access to the documents.

March 21, 1980  The Alaska State Legislature passed CSHCR 60, conditionally accepting the Gas Pipeline Financial and Alaska Impact Plan, and continuing the Gas Pipeline Financing Authority for another year. Legislative Resolve #4

March 31, 1980  The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission delegated authority to the Office of the Federal Inspector to attach conditions to the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity on a system-wide basis, to preserve cultural resources.

April 1980  The San Francisco Field Office of the Federal Inspector opened. The office directive was to monitor the construction of the Western Leg.
April 1, 1980  The Federal Inspector signed an order extending the time frame within which management plans were to be filed by sponsors of the prebuild portions of the eastern and western legs of ANGTS. The Presidential Decision required the plans be filed before FERC.

April 2, 1980  The Canadian National Energy Board issued Order NPO-2-80 amending subsection 20(3) of the Northern Pipeline Act to allow prebuilding of the southern Canadian portions of the pipeline (Condition 12 of schedule 3.) This order did not become effective till July 17, 1980, when it was approved by the Governor in Council.

April 7, 1980  HB 993 was introduced in the Alaska House of Representatives. The bill was to establish the Alaska Gas Liquids Authority and repeal the Alaska Gas Pipeline Financing Authority. The bill never left committee.

April 8, 1980  Canada’s National Energy Board issued Order PO-6-RH-2-9 setting new dates for hearings on Foothills Pipe Line (Yukon) financing issues, resulting from the April 2 action of the Board.

April 10, 1980  Canada’s National Energy Board issued Board Order GH-4-80 setting public hearings on financing of the prebuild sections. The hearings began April 29, 1980. This was a result of the amendment of section 20(3) of the National Energy Board Act.

April 10-16 1980  Representatives of the producers’ and sponsors’ technical staffs met to review all technical engineering, scientific and audit data developed by the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline Project. This meeting was to serve as a backdrop to financing negotiations.

April 15, 1980  The Honorable Marc Lalonde, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, announced a three-month freeze on the border price of Canadian natural gas exported to the United States. This freeze postponed the price redetermination till October 1, 1980.

April 15, 1980  Exxon, Atlantic Richfield and Standard Oil of Ohio (companies owning the Alaskan gas) agreed to match the $75 million to $100 million already spent by Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company for preliminary design and engineering work. The companies also agreed to match future costs of design up to $500 million.

April 19, 1980  Foothills Pipe Lines (Yukon) Ltd. was granted approval by Senator Olson for the procurement of approximately $20 million of turbomachinery for the eastern leg of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline. Approval was also granted for the purchase of large diameter valves and fittings for the prebuild sections.
April 21-25, 1980  Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Co. held meetings in 6 gasline corridor communities, Talketna, Northway, Dot Lake, Tok, Tanacross and Delta Junction, to discuss the socioeconomic profile being done of those communities.

April 23, 1980  Joseph Chomski released his report *Alaska Gas Pipeline: Failure to Resolve Fundamental Legal Problems Portends Much Additional Delay*, to the Joint Gas Pipeline Committee of the Alaska State Legislature. The report focused on the legal restrictions placed on development of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline, and the impact those restrictions were having on the existing situation, and the pipeline's future.

April 24, 1980  The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved, in principle, plans to construct the eastern leg of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline. This 1,116 mile portion of the pipeline extended from Monchy, Saskatchewan to Ventura, Iowa.

April 25, 1980  The Department of Energy announced that an agreement in principal had been reached between the North Slope Producers, ANGTS Sponsors and the State of Alaska on a joint operating agreement for design, engineering and cost estimation for the Alaska Leg of the pipeline and the gas conditioning plant. Financing discussions continued.

April 28, 1980  The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Northern Border Pipeline Co. for the eastern leg pre-build, involving 811 miles and $1-1.2 billion in cost.

April 28, 1980  The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announced a new gas import pricing policy which would cap in dollar terms the amount the United States would pay to Canada under the "take" or "pay" provisions of contracts which supported the eastern leg of the prebuild system.

April 29, 1980  Canada's National Energy Board commenced hearings to determine whether Foothills Pipe Lines (Yukon) Ltd. could meet financing conditions imposed under the Northern Pipeline Act, as amended by Order NPO-2-80, to take into consideration the prospect of prebuilding the southern sections of the pipeline. These were also known as the Condition 12 Hearings. *In the matter of the National Energy Board Act and the Northern Pipeline Act: and in the matter of a public hearing with respect to condition 12 (1) of schedule III of the Northern Pipeline Act: hearing held in ... Ottawa, Ontario.*

April 30, 1980  Canada's National Energy Board recommended the government approve applications made by Pan-Alberta Gas Ltd. for licenses to export natural gas to the United States and an application by Consolidated Natural Gas
Limited for an amendment to its natural gas license adding Monchy, Saskatchewan as an export point.

April 30-May 1, 1980  Landowners of the first 77 miles of the western leg of the pre-build segment of the pipeline in Alberta presented their route objections to the Northern Pipeline Agency. The hearings were chaired by William A. Scotland, the Agency's Deputy Administrator and Designated Officer.

May, June 1980  The Bureau of Land Management in Alaska, through the Office of the Federal Inspector one-window, issued permits for Northwest to build four construction flycamps.

May 2, 1980  The Northern Pipeline Agency approved contract awards to the Steel Company of Canada (STELCO) and Interprovincial Steel and Pipe Corporation Ltd. (IPSCO) for the supply of 1.4 million tons of line pipe at an approximate cost of $2 billion, for Foothills Pipe Line.


May 8, 1980  The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued an order adopting EEO/MBE conditions for U.S. companies involved with ANGTS. These conditions were published May 12.

May 9, 1980  Canada's National Energy Board issued its decision approving a full cost-of-service tariff. This tariff would also need to be approved by FERC in order to pass the charges on the U.S. customers.

May 12, 1980  The Trans-Alaska Pipeline experienced a gasket failure resulting in an oil spill at Pump Station 10.

May 12, 1980  The Equal Employment Opportunity Regulations for the project were published in the Federal Register.

May 12, 1980  The Canadian government sent H.A. Olson (Minister for the Northern Pipeline Agency), Geoff Edge (NEB vice-chairman) and Mitchell Sharp (Northern Pipeline Commissioner) to Washington to obtain assurances that the Alaska leg would be completed. They returned without any formal commitment by the U.S. Government. They were told that the project sponsor and producers were about to enter an agreement on sharing costs of the pipeline and conditioning plant design, and that Congress was almost ready to assure that the project would be completed.

May 12-15, 1980  A workshop on environmental protection of permafrost terrain was held in Fairbanks. No formal proceedings were produced.
May 13, 1980  Pacific Gas Transmission Co. announced the award of western contracts for prebuild support services to International Engineering Corporation for materials procurement, and Bechtel Inc. for preparation of construction plans and specifications.

May 15, 1980  The Department of Energy extended indefinitely its February 16, 1980 interim approval of the Canadian natural gas price of $4.47.

May 29, 1980  Canada's National Energy Board reopened the public hearings on tariffs and tolls to be charged by Foothills Pipe Lines (Yukon) Limited. The purpose was to determine what effect the recently approved early start of date the tariff should have on the incentive rate of return.

June 1980  The State of Alaska received proposals from six companies to study the potential for development of an in-state petrochemical industry, using royalty gas. The companies were Earth Resources Co. of Alaska/Mitsubishi, Alaskan Arctic Resources Study Group, Alaska Interior Resources Co, Phillips Petroleum, Nissho-Iwai Consortium, and Dow/Shell Consortium. Dow/Shell Consortium was eventually selected to complete the project.

June 2, 1980  Public hearings were held in Claresholm, Alberta to consider applications made by Foothills Pipe Lines (Alta.) Ltd. to acquire additional land rights along the route of the western leg of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline in Alberta.

June 4, 1980  Amos "Mo" Matthews became Director of the Alaska Office of the Federal Inspector. Matthews was the Alaska State Pipeline Coordinator during the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Project, April 1978-July 1979. He had also been Senior Vice-President of the Alaskan Arctic Gas Pipeline Company.

June 5, 1980  Canada's National Energy Board issued its decision to modify the incentive rate of return scheme to take the prebuild of parts of the pipeline into consideration.

June 6, 1980  W.J. Levy Consultants submitted a report to the Alaska Legislative Council, Changing Perspectives on the Alaskan Highway Natural Gas Pipeline. The report noted that there had been major changes in government outlooks on the pipeline, and prospective cost of delivered gas since the project had been initiated. It stated that some fresh and uninhibited thinking was called for.
June 10, 1980  The United States and Canada formally agreed on procedures for use by both countries in approving contracts for the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System goods and services.

June 12, 1980  Northern Pipeline Agency issued an order adding the socio-economic and environmental terms and conditions for Alberta, and South BC to Schedule III of the Northern Pipeline Act. This order was approved by the Government Council on July 3, 1980. The order rescinded all prior terms and conditions established before the NEB, and replaced them with the new terms and conditions.

June 12, 1980  Alaska Superior Court issued an injunction barring exploration on the State tracts leased in December 1979, in the Joint State/Federal Offshore Oil and Gas Lease Sale, until Alaska’s Department of Natural Resources completed a study of development impact on the North Slope Eskimos.

June 13, 1980  On rehearing, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission finalized their January 11, 1980, Western Leg Order, but provided for an additional 30-day rehearing on the Northwest Energy’s western delivery system.

June 16-18, 1980  Public hearings were held in Sundre and Cochrane, Alberta on applications made by Foothills Pipe Lines (Alta.) Ltd. to acquire additional land rights along the western leg of the pre-build portion of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline.

June 18, 1980  W. Winston Mair, presiding officer of the British Columbia public hearings, submitted his report to the Northern Pipeline Agency. The report, titled Forgotten Land, Forgotten People, outlined proposals for dealing with the concerns respecting the pipeline project that were expressed by residents during the hearings.

June 19, 1980  Northwest Alaska Pipeline, the Prudhoe Bay gas producers and, pipeline sponsors reached an agreement on Phase I (engineering), and a tentative agreement on Phase II (equity participation and financing) of the project. A letter of intent was signed by Northwest, Atlantic Richfield Co., Exxon Corporation, and Sohio Alaska Petroleum Co.

June 19, 1980  A Joint Statement of Intention was signed between Alaskan Northwest Natural Gas Transportation Co and the gas producers to work together to develop a financing plan. This was followed by a series of meetings in 1980.

June 20, 1980  The Cooperative Agreement for Design and Engineering of Alaska Gas Pipeline and Conditioning Plant was executed between Alaskan Northwest Natural Gas Transportation Co. and the Prudhoe Bay Natural
Gas Pipeline producers and the State of Alaska. It established a joint entity to continue the design, engineering and construction for the North Slope gas conditioning plant. The agreement was commonly called the Design and Engineering Agreement.

June 20, 1980 An agreement between the Prudhoe Bay Natural Gas Pipeline producers and the State of Alaska set up a process to develop private financing for the construction of the Alaska leg of the pipeline. It anticipated substantial participation by the North Slope gas producers.


June 20, 1980 The Office of the Federal Inspector announced creation of a Citizens' Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC). Their charter was published in the Federal Register.

June 21, 1980 Prime Minister Trudeau met with President Carter at the Venice Economic Summit to discuss Canadian concerns about the U.S. commitment to construct the Alaska leg of the pipeline. Carter had not read his briefing notes and was unable to respond. Trudeau took this as a sign of the indifference with which the U.S. viewed the issue. (report from Northern Perspectives, and Bob Blair's Pipeline)

June 27, 1980 The U.S. Senate unanimously passed SR 104 stating that the natural gas pipeline system was a priority of the U.S. government. This resolution, and the July 1st resolution of the House of Representatives, was made in response to Canadian government requests for additional assurances of U.S. commitment to building the entire system.

June 27, 1980 The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued an order granting permission to Northern Natural Gas Co. to import an additional 100,000 cubic feet of gas per day from Canada.

July 1, 1980 Alaskan Northwest Natural Gas Transportation Co. filed its application for the final Certificate of Convenience and Necessity and for the Presidential Permit to build and operate facilities on the border, for the Alaska leg of the pipeline before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. On August 1st, FERC published notice of the application and established expedited procedures for its consideration. It also stated that the final certificate could not be issued till Northwest submitted a financing plan.

July 1, 1980 Alaska Northwest Natural Gas Transportation Co. filed its Supplemental Right of Way Application with the Department of Interior. This was a supplement to the original 1977 application.
July 1, 1980  U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution affirming Congressional support of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline System. The Senate passed the resolution June 27th. Senate Concurrent Resolution 104, 96th Congress Second Session was published in the Congressional Record 126 H.5942. (July 1, 1980)

July 3, 1980  The socio-economic and environmental terms and conditions to be applied to Foothills Pipe Lines (South B.C.) Ltd. and Foothills Pipe Lines (Alberta) Ltd. in building the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline were passed by Canada's Governor-in-Council.

July 9, 1980  The Priorities and Planning Committee of the Canadian Cabinet met to discuss the prebuild issue. They deferred making a decision till the political consequences could be accurately gauged.

July 14, 1980  Alaska North Slope gas producers (ARCO, Sohio, Exxon) and U.S. pipeline sponsors of the gasline established a Design and Engineering Board, and advisory committees for continued design and engineering of the Alaska leg of the pipeline and the conditioning plant. The State of Alaska was represented on the Board by the Lieutenant Governor.

July 15, 1980  The Federal Right of Way Grant and Stipulations for the eastern leg of the project were submitted for review to the U.S. Congress.

July 16, 1980  "FERC application weighs more than a ton." Alaska From the Inside reported that Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Companies' application for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity weighted 1½ tons and consisted of 600 volumes plus 100 bound sets of drawings. This was not for one set of the application materials. It encompassed all the sets of the application that were distributed to the all the government agencies reviewing the application.

July 17, 1980  In a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau, President Carter stated that the United States government had taken a number of major steps to ensure that the U.S. portions of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline were completed expeditiously. Carter assured Trudeau that the U.S. Government remained committed to the project, and was satisfied that the entire pipeline would be built. This was an important assurance since Condition 12 of the Northern Pipeline Act prohibited the commencement of construction on any part of a pipeline until it had been established that the entire pipeline was financeable.

July 17, 1980  The Canadian Cabinet announced approval of pre-building the Canadian southern segments of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline (from Edmonton, Alberta to the continental U.S.) pending findings on the financial
feasibility of the line. The government accepted United States assurances on the timely completion of the whole system within its territory, and approved the National Energy Board amendment to Condition 12 of the Northern Pipeline Act with respect to financing of the pipeline. They also approved a recommendation made by the Board authorizing Pan-Alberta Gas Ltd. to export an additional 500 billion cubic feet of gas through the pre-build section.

July 17, 1980  
Energy Minister Marc Lalonde, speaking in the Canadian House of Commons, said that if the U.S. Congress and the President of the United states were not to live up their word about to pipeline being built, "it would probably be the greatest breach of faith committed by the United States on Canada in the last 200 years." House of Commons Debates, Vol. III, 1st Session, 32nd Parliament.

July 18, 1980  
President Carter issued a statement reiterating his support of ANGTS, and expressing pleasure with the Canadian Government's approval of its prebuild segment of the system.

July 18-19, 1980  
The Alaska Natural Gas Task Force held a public meeting for all of the companies that had submitted proposals for the development of a petrochemical industry in Alaska, based on royalty gas, to present their proposals to the Task Force and the public.

July 19, 1980  
Alaskan North Slope gas producers and U.S. pipeline sponsors established a design and engineering board and three advisory committees to continue design and engineering of the Alaska Gas Pipeline and conditioning plant. John G. McMillian was chairman of the board. The State of Alaska was represented by Lt. Governor Terry Miller. The three committees were a technical committee, an audit committee, and an accounting committee. The board included the 11 consortium members of Alaska Northwest Natural Gas Transportation Company, Atlantic Richfield Co., Exxon Co. USA, and Standard Oil Co. (Ohio). Phillips Petroleum joined the board in October.

July 21, 1980  
Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Co. began a trench stability test program near Goldstream Creek in Alaska.

July 22, 1980  
Senator Olson, Minister of the Northern Pipeline Agency, stated he was satisfied Foothills Pipe Lines (Yukon) Ltd. had met the revised requirements on the financing of the gas pipeline in Canada. That was to prove that financing had been obtained for the prebuild section, and was obtainable for the rest of the project.
July 22, 1980  The Northern Pipeline Agency announced the acquisition of additional land rights by Foothills Pipe Lines (Alberta) Ltd. in the Sundre and Cochrane, Alberta areas had been approved.

July 24, 1980  Northern Natural Gas Co. announced the formation of Northern Plains Natural Gas Co., to be the managing partner of Northern Border Pipeline Co. on the Eastern Leg of the Pipeline.

July 25, 1980  The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission released its final Environmental Impact Statement on the location of the sales gas conditioning plant. Prudhoe Bay Project Final Environmental Impact Statement. Prudhoe Bay was selected as the best site for the conditioning plant.

July 25, 1980  The final British Columbia Environmental Terms and Conditions were issued by the Northern Pipeline Agency. This document included both socio-economic and environmental concerns.

July 26, 1980  Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Co. filed its 33 volume application for a final certificate of convenience and necessity, for the Alaska Leg of the pipeline, with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. At the same time it filed an application for right-of-way across federal lands with the Department of Interior. This was the application that the newspapers reported as weighing more than a ton on July 16th.

July 28, 1980  The Procurement Program developed by Foothills Pipe Lines (Yukon) Ltd. for construction of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline project was approved by Senator Olson, Minister responsible for the Northern Pipeline Agency.

July 28, 1980  The Manpower Plan developed by Foothills Pipe Lines (Yukon) Ltd. for 1980 construction of the western leg of the pipeline in Alberta and southeastern British Columbia was approved by the Northern Pipeline Agency.

July 28, 1980  The Northern Pipeline Agency approved the socioeconomic plans developed by Foothills Pipe Lines (South B.C.) Ltd. for construction of the gas pipeline in southern British Columbia. The plans outlined business opportunities, opportunity measures, employee orientation, and public information programs.

July 28, 1980  The Opportunity Measures Plan developed by Foothills Pipe Lines (Alta.) Ltd. for construction of the western leg in Alberta was approved by Canada’s Northern Pipeline Agency.
July 28, 1980  The Northern Pipeline Agency approved the plan for the protection of traditional harvesting and native cultural areas developed by Foothills Pipe Lines (Alta.) Ltd. for construction of the entire 1,312 km (755 mile) section of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline in Alberta.

July 28-Aug 1  SOHIO announced assignment of several company officials to the ANGTS Alaska leg to manage pipeline engineering and relative activities, the gas conditioning plant.

July 29, 1980  The Northern Pipeline Agency issued the formal notice to proceed with the pre-build section in Canada, to Foothills Pipe Lines(South BC). The company immediately began to clear the right-of-way between Caroline Junction, Alberta and Kingsgate, British Columbia.

July 30, 1980  The Federal Right-of-Way Grant and Stipulations for the Western Leg of the project were submitted for review to the U.S. Congress.

Aug 1, 1980  FERC published notice of the Northwest's application for certificate of convenience and necessity, and established expedited procedures for its consideration. It also stated that the final certificate could not be issued till Northwest submitted a financing plan. It directed the Alaskan Delegate to proceed with technical conferences on the other issues. Technical conferences were held between September 3 and October 16, 1980.

Aug 1, 1980  The Information Plan and EEO Plan developed by Foothills Pipe Lines (Alberta) for construction of the Alaska Highway pipeline in Alberta was approved by Canada's Northern Pipeline Agency.

Aug 1, 1980  Effective this date, Foothills Pipe Lines (Alberta) Ltd. had received all engineering approvals required for construction of their pre-build section of the western leg of the pipeline.

Aug 1, 1980  Tetco Four Inc. (subsidiary of Texas Eastern Corporation and Transwestern Pipeline Company) joined Alaskan Northwest Natural Gas Transportation Co.

Aug 1, 1980  Texas Gas Alaska Corporation (a wholly owned subsidiary of Texas Gas Transmission Corporation) joined the Alaskan Northwest Natural Gas Transmission Co., the consortium planning to build and operate the Alaska section of the gas pipeline.

Aug 1, 1980  TransCanada Pipeline Alaska Ltd. (subsidiary of TransCanada Pipelines Ltd.) joined the Alaskan Northwest Natural Gas Transportation Co.
Aug 1, 1980 Columbia Alaskan Gas Transportation Corporation (subsidiary of Columbia Gas System) joined the Alaskan Northwest Natural Gas Transportation Co.

Aug 1, 1980 The Office of the Federal Inspector contracted Williams Brothers Engineering Co. to evaluated the Certification Cost Estimate submitted by Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Co. in July 1980.

Aug 5, 1980 Foothills Pipe Lines (South B.C.) Ltd. was authorized by the Designated Officer, William A. Scotland, to commence construction on their section of the western leg of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline in the Flathead Ridge area in southeastern British Columbia.

Aug 5, 1980 The Environmental Plans and Procedures Manuals developed by Foothills Pipe Lines (Alberta) Ltd. and Foothills Pipe Lines (South B.C.) Ltd. for construction of the western leg of the pipeline were approved by the Northern Pipeline Agency.

Aug 6, 1980 The Office of the Federal inspector issued an order clarifying which parts of the western leg were to be considered upgrades of existing systems and which parts would fall under jurisdiction of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Act. Upgrades of the western leg would not fall in the jurisdiction of the Office of the Federal Inspector, or the U.S./Canada agreement, or the terms and conditions set by the "Presidents Decision". This order was published in the August 13 Federal Register.


Aug 8, 1980 Effective this date, Foothills Pipe Lines (South B.C.) Ltd. had received all engineering approvals required for construction of the pre-build portion of the pipeline in southeastern British Columbia.

Aug 8, 1980 Foothills Pipe Lines (Alberta) Ltd. was authorized by the Designated Officer, William A. Scotland, to commence construction of the western leg of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline in the area between Chain Lake Park and the Old Man River.

Aug 13, 1980 Pacific Gas Transmission Co. announced that it had awarded $60 million in contracts for pipe to Kaiser Steel of California, Bethlehem Steel of Pennsylvania. They expected to begin construction on their portion of the Western Leg of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Project early winter 1980.

Aug 13, 1980 Pacific Gas Transmission Co. announced its acceptance of the Federal Regulatory Commission Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to
construct the 160 mile "pre-build" section of the western leg of the pipeline from Kingsgate, British Columbia, to Stanfield, Oregon.

Aug 14, 1980
Construction began on the prebuild section of the pipeline in southwestern Alberta.

Aug 19, 1980
The Department of Interior transmitted its Right-of-Way Grant for the Alaska leg of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Project to Congress for approval. DOI added two conditions to the grant. First, the grant stated that the Alaska Gas Pipeline must be separated from the Trans-Alaska Oil pipeline by 200 ft, rather than the 80 ft in the sponsors proposal. The second condition provided for a mutual indemnification agreement between Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline owners covering damages which might occur in the corridor. The increase of spacing meant that ANGTS could not use the TAPS work pad and would have to build a new one. This in turn required new cost estimates and work pad design.

Aug 20, 1980
Banister Pipeline (mainline contractor for the Alberta western leg segment) began construction on the prebuild section in Alberta.

Aug 26, 1980
The Federal Government of Canada and Province of Alberta signed an agreement in principal, providing for consultation and cooperation on matters relating to the construction and operation of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline.

Aug 27, 1980
Canada's Governor in Council approved the transfer of powers under several acts administered by other departments of the Canadian Government to the Northern Pipeline Agency. The agency assumed responsibility for pipeline related provisions under the Northern Inland Waters Act, the Territorial Lands Act, the Migratory Birds Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Canada Wildlife Act.

Aug 28, 1980
North Dakota Public Utilities Commission held hearings on the routing of the eastern leg through that state; 28th in Stanley, 29th in Bismark.

Sept 1, 1980
Pacific Gas Transportation Co. began construction of the western leg of the gas pipeline at Antioch, Oregon.

Sept 3, 1980
Northwest Pipeline Corporation began construction on the western leg in Oregon and Idaho along already existing right of ways. This section was considered part of the upgrade of existing pipelines rather than new ANGTS construction.

Sept 5 1980
Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Co. submitted its affirmative action plan to the Office of the Federal Inspector.
Sept 8, 1980  A Citizens Advisory Committee was formed to advise the State of Alaska Office of the Pipeline Coordinator, on socioeconomic matters. It went under several names: Interim Socioeconomic Committee, State Socio-Economic Advisory Council, Impact Information Center (IIC) Advisory Boards.

Sept 9, 1980  A Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Governor of Alaska and the Dow/Shell Consortium, who had been selected to conduct a study on the feasibility of development of an in-state petrochemical industry based on royalty gas supplies. The Governor announced his selection of Dow/Shell at the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce meeting that day.

Sept 12, 1980  The North Dakota Public Service Commission rejected the project sponsors application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility along the route approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC.) They offered an alternative route, which they viewed as environmentally superior. On September 26, FERC and the Federal Inspector filed suit against this action, challenging the authority of the PSC to change the route. Their claim was that the FERC Certificate of Convenience and Necessity had precedence over state regulation, and that the PSC decision constituted undue burden on interstate and foreign commerce.

Sept 19, 1980  The Northern B.C. Advisory Council was established to advise the Northern Pipeline Agency on matters related to the pipeline project in Northern British Columbia. The council consisted of non-governmental people who represented public interest in the area. Patrick Wash, mayor of Fort St. John was appointed chair. The order is cited as "Northern British Columbia Advisory Council Order" or "Order Respecting the Appointment of the members of the Northern British Columbia Advisory Council." The increase of spacing meant that ANGTS could not use the TAPS work pad and would have to build a new one. This in turn required new cost estimates and work pad design.

Sept 24, 1980  The Federal Government of Canada and Province of Alberta signed an administrative agreement providing for consultation and cooperation on matters relating to the construction and operation of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline. They had signed a Principal Agreement to cooperate on August 26, 1980.

Sept 26, 1980  The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Office of the Federal Inspector filed a civil action against the North Dakota Public Service Commission for rejecting the project sponsors route which had been approved by FERC. They asserted that the action was unconstitutional because it violated the supremacy and commerce clauses of the Constitution.
Sept 27, 1980  Representatives of the Canadian and U.S. Governments and project sponsors attended the Commemorative Weld Ceremony at Burton Creek, Alberta. This ceremony marked the beginning of construction of the western Canadian section of the pipeline.


Oct 1980  The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released its Final Environmental Impact Statement: Prudhoe Bay Oil Field Waterflood Project. This project was designed to increase the pumping pressure for both oil and gas from the field.

Oct 1980  Matthew Berman and Eric Myers released their report Estimated State And Local Revenue From The Alaska Highway Natural Gas Pipeline Project.

Oct 1980  The Northern Pipeline Agency began publication of Pipeline: a Report of the Northern Pipeline Agency. This newsletter was issued monthly to all organizations interested in The ANGTS pipeline project in Canada.

October 2, 1980  The Office of the Federal Inspector issued a report identifying the major outstanding design issues of the pipeline. This report was done by OFI contractor Unified Industries. Summary Report on Major Outstanding Design Issues, Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System

Oct 3, 1980  Foothills Pipe Lines (Yukon) Ltd. and Pan-Alberta Gas Ltd. filed a motion to intervene on the suits against North Dakota's Public Service Commission. They claimed that North Dakota's position was contrary to the purpose of the 1977 President's Decision and the International Agreement on Principal between Canada and the U.S. They claimed that action would delay construction and thereby increase capital costs, and jeopardize financing arrangements.


Oct 8, 1980  Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Co. announced the selection of Ralph M Parsons Company for the design and engineering of the gas conditioning plant.
Oct 15, 1980  The State of Alaska Office of the Pipeline Coordinator put out a call for bids on a study on subsistence along the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline Route. Due to a disagreement with Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company over the reimbursability of the project, the contract was not let.


Oct 17, 1979  Anchorage Daily News reported that the owners of the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline had sent a strongly-worded letter to the Department of the Interior, expressing their doubt that a chilled gas pipeline could be built safely near the oil line.

Oct 20, 1980  North Dakota Public Service Commission filed a response in the District Court in Bismark to the FERC/OFI complaint, asking for dismissal on the grounds that ANGTA did not expressly preempt North Dakota's sovereign right to establish a corridor within the boundaries of the state. It further alleged that the President's Decision selected only a general route, leaving the State the authority to specify the siting of the pipeline.

Oct 27, 1980  Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Co. submitted its revised cost estimates to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as part of its application for right-of-way over Federal lands in Alaska. This revision was based on the changes in proximity of the TAPS oil pipeline and the proposed gas pipeline required by the Department of Interior. The reroute and workpad design added approximately $252 million to the Certificate Cost Estimate.

Oct 27, 1980  South Dakota filed a motion before the District Court in Bismark asking the court to rule that North Dakota had not violated the supremacy clause of the constitution and did not unduly burden interstate commerce when it denied Northern Border's request for certification of the eastern leg route through the state.

Oct 30, 1980  Lazard Freres & Co. issued its first quarterly report to the Alaska State Legislature. The report concentrated on efforts to develop a viable financing package for the pipeline. They reported that the meetings of 1980 were making minimal progress.

Nov 1, 1980  The Northern British Columbia Advisory Council met for the first time, in Fort St. John.

Nov 6, 1980  The Fairbanks North Star Borough passed ordinance 80-20-BBB setting aside $100,000 for a study of possible petrochemical plant sites in the borough.

Nov 17, 1980  The Office of the Federal Inspector reported that Alyeska Pipeline had created a new unit, ANGTS Relations, to effectively deal with the increasingly significant concerns relative to the design, planning and construction of the ANGTS pipeline in proximity to the TAPS pipeline.

Nov 18-20, 1980  The Environmental Protection Agency held public hearings in Alaska on the issuance of Air Quality Permits for seven compressor stations in Alaska.

Nov 19, 1980  U.S. Congress approved the Right-of-Way Grant over Federal Lands, for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System.

Nov 20, 1980  Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company announced that it was expanding its frost heave testing program with the addition of 7 test sites along the gas pipeline route in Alaska.

Nov 20, 1980  The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission concluded a series of technical conferences dealing with Northwest's proposed certification cost and schedule estimate, center point values, and some incentive rate of return matters. The conferences covered both the July and October submissions of Northwest.

Nov 26, 1980  Alaskan Northwest Natural Gas Transportation Co. and Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. finalized a mutual liability and indemnification agreement. This agreement delimited liability for accidents involving both pipeline, or damage to both pipelines. The agreement was one of the two conditions required by the Department of Interior before the Right-of-way was granted. The other was that the pipelines be separated by at least 200 feet, instead of the proposed 80 feet. The agreement was executed in December.

Dec 1, 1980  John McMillian, President of Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company, and Cecil Andrus, Secretary of the Interior, signed the 30 year Grant of Right-of-Way over Federal Lands in Alaska, for the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System. Lands selected by native corporations in accordance with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and lands pending selection approvals were excluded from the grant. Grant of Right-of-Way for the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Systems Alaska Segment, Serial Number F-24538

Dec 1, 1980  Alaskan Northwest Natural Gas Transportation Co. and Alyeska Pipeline Co. executed their Mutual Agreement of Liability and Indemnity. This
agreement defined and limited the liability of the respective parties to each other.

Dec 1, 1980  Pacific Gas Transmission Co. filed their final cost estimates with the Office of the Federal Inspector, for the first phase of the western leg of the pipeline.

Dec 3, 1980  Northern Border Pipeline Co. filed their final cost estimates with the Office of the Federal Inspector, for the first phase of the eastern leg of the pipeline.

Dec 8, 1980  A Memorandum of Agreement between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the State of Alaska's Historic Preservation Officer, and the Federal Agencies was ratified.

Dec 8, 1980  The Office of the Federal Inspector issued a Notice to Proceed to Pacific Gas Transmission Co., authorizing construction of the first phase of the western leg of the pipeline.

Dec 8, 1980  The Dow-Shell Group issued its first progress report studying the feasibility of a petrochemical industry in Alaska. Reports were issued the 8th of each month thereafter till the ninth and final report August 8, 1981. This study included a pipeline to bring gas liquids from the North Slope to petrochemical development sites.

Dec 10, 1980  A consortium of 28 banks signed an agreement with Northern Border Pipeline Co. to provide a loan of $1.055 billion to begin work on the eastern leg.

Dec 10, 1980  The state of Alaska Office of the Governor issued Policy Analysis Paper no. 80-18, Draft Socioeconomic Stipulations Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System. It was a working draft including state agency revision.

Dec 10, 1980  Public hearings began in South Dakota on Northern Border Pipeline's Application before the South Dakota Public Service Commission, for right-of-way across state lands.


Dec 15, 1980  FERC staff filed comments on incentive rate of return, center point, and cost estimate. They proposed center point and cost contingency figures lower than Northwest's application. Northwest replied to those comments on December 22, 1980.


Dec 18, 1980  Doyon Ltd. (Alaskan Native Corporation) withdrew from the Dow Shell Study Group. Doyon charged Dow of not addressing Native Alaskan's issues.

Dec 19, 1980  The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued an order delegating the authority to review and approve ANGTS costs, to the Office of the Federal Inspector. This order became effective Dec 29, 1980, when it was published in the Federal Register.

Dec 22, 1980  Pacific Gas Transmission Co. announced signing $160 million loan from a consortium of nine U.S. banks, for initial phase of western leg construction. The consortium was led by Bankers Trust Co.

Dec 26, 1980  A leaky check valve in the Trans-Alaska Pipeline was discovered. Approximately 5000 barrels of oil were spilled. The valve was replaced and oil flow continued by January 2nd.


Dec 29, 1980  The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission order delegating the authority to review and approve ANGTS costs, to the Office of the Federal Inspector became effective with its publication in the Federal Register.