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Modification to Haines-Fairbanks POL Pipeline -
Winter Operation's Conference

MEMO TO FILES

Engineer General

15 Jan 57

DBS/415/drm

THRU: Mr. George
Mr. England
Col. Gribble
Col. Kieffer

1. An Eng-MW letter dated 22 June 1956, subject: "Additions to Petroleum Pipeline System Haines-Fairbanks," directed that modifications of the equipment for the pipeline be made to provide for six additional scraper traps for improved scraper operations, to inclose the manifold shed of the Terminal Building at Haines and heat entire building, and to provide additional facilities for removal of water from the fuel and for removal of suspended matter.

2. In September the pipeline contract was modified to provide for enclosure of the manifold building and heat therefor, and to provide six additional scraper traps.

3. The price quoted by the contractor for the installation of the hay tanks and dehydrators was far in excess of the money available and that work was not included in the contract modification. After a conference with USARAL and the officials of the APPS, the QM operating agency, it was decided to review the operations of the pipeline in January 1957 to determine exactly what additional equipment, if any, might be required for removal of ice and other suspended matter, during operation in cold weather. In the meantime, plans were to be prepared in accordance with the letter of 22 June 1956 for review at the conference in January.

4. In accordance with the understanding between the District Engineer, USARAL, and the QMC, in addition to representatives of those agencies, representatives of the Chief of Engineers, NPD, Fluor Corporation and Williams Bros. were invited to attend the conference in January.

5. Mr. Chester Hawke, representing the Fluor Corporation, arrived on the afternoon of 7 January 1957, and Mr. Francis Ash of Tide Bay Company, representing Williams Bros., arrived on 8 January. Messrs. Homer Carey and Luke J. Fegan, representing the Chief of Engineers, and Messrs. George Kelleway and Robert Marshall, Jr., representing the NPD, arrived 9 January. A short conference was held with these gentlemen in the afternoon of the 9th to orient them to the general aspects of the matter to be discussed at the conference. On 10 January another conference was held in the morning to thoroughly acquaint all representatives of the District, OCE, NPD, the contractor and the designer with all aspects of the problems involved and the probability that the operating people might not desire to install the equipment as proposed in accordance with the letter of 22 June.

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6. Prints of the plans and specifications were assembled for review by any interested person, but it was rumored that the operating officials had come to the conclusion that additional equipment was unnecessary and they would request that in lieu of installation of this equipment the money therefor be spent for burial of the pipe. This conference was to explore these possibilities in order that the District forces would be prepared for any proposal the operating officials might advance. An estimate of the cost for burial of the pipe was prepared based on the prices bid by the pipeline contractor and other more recent information available to the estimating group.

7. The conference was held in Room 118 of the USARAL Headquarters Building on 11 January 1957. It was conducted by Colonel Keener, QMC, commanding officer of the Alaska Petroleum Products System, the operating agency. Colonel Ewbank, Chief of Staff of USARAL, was in attendance. In addition, there were members of Colonel Ewbank's staff, Colonel Keener's staff, civilian Consultants to Colonel Keener's staff, and a representative of the Alaska Command.

8. After the opening formalities were dispensed with, Colonel Keener stated the purpose of the conference, cited the instructions as outlined in the above referenced letter of 22 June, and then stated that in view of the winter's operation the hay tanks at Haines, Border, Tok and Donjek were not required, and informed the conference that a letter to this effect had been prepared and was at that time awaiting the signature of General Collins, CG USAFAL. He then went on to say that certain difficulties had been experienced during the summer months due to thermal expansion of the products and resultant pumping, that considerable ice had formed in the pipeline during the winter operation, and in order that a more uniform temperature might be obtained throughout the pipeline, thereby minimizing the thermal expansion and the formation of ice crystals, the operating officials proposed to bury the entire length of pipe. Colonel Keener did not have an estimate of the cost, but on behalf of Colonel Kieffer, Mr. George gave the conference the figure of approximately \$7,000,000. Subsequent discussion indicated that this amount was considerably in excess of what any of the operating officials had estimated.

9. The Chairman asked for comments regarding the use of the currently authorized funds for burial of the pipeline and was informed by Colonel Kieffer and Mr. Carey that the use of funds now authorized for hay tanks and dehydrators for burial of the pipeline was illegal, as the current funds were authorized for a specific purpose. Subsequent discussion indicated that USARAL would carry a request to higher authority for money for burial of the pipeline.

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10. The matter of winter operation of the Morlane strainers was discussed. The operating officials were aware of the fact that the strainers and blankets had been removed, and the product with the accumulated ice had been pumped without benefit of straining or ice removal. Although to date this operation has been satisfactory and done without damage to the pumps, the operating officials were cautioned by representatives of the District that removal of the blankets and strainers was not recommended and might result in injury to the pumps if continued, particularly if a large piece of metal should break off one of the pigs, or otherwise get into the pipeline.

11. The matter of additional facilities at Tok and Ladd were discussed and declared to be unnecessary; and the conference was informed that steps would be taken by the QMC to have these facilities deleted at the same time the additional facilities at the up-stream stations were deleted.

12. Prior to closing, the conference was informed that the operating agency intends to eliminate the check valves from the line and replace some of them with hand operated gate valves. Mr. England cautioned the group that before any action in this regard was taken the matter should be cleared with Canadian officials because at their request the line was over-valved in order to protect the fish and wildlife in the drainage valleys along the route.

13. The deficiencies of construction were mentioned and discussed. The conference was informed a letter requesting correction of four items would be forwarded upon approval by General Collins.

14. The plans and specifications which were taken to the conference remained unopened.

15. The conference adjourned at 1145 hours.

cc M&R
Engr Gen w/d

D. B. SLAWSON
Engineer, General