

Introduced by: Mayor, Assembly
Date: 08/09/22
Action: Adopted
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2022-046**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ALASKA LNG PROJECT, REQUESTING
TIMELY COMPLETION OF FEDERAL REVIEW AND PERMITTING PROCESSES,
INCLUDING A DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY EXPORT LICENSE, AS BEING IN THE
BEST INTERESTS OF LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL ENERGY SECURITY AND
RESILIENCY**

- WHEREAS,** the history of Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC) dates back to 2009 when declining Cook Inlet gas supplies caused concern in communities throughout Southcentral Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2013 the Alaska State Legislature formally established AGDC to advance an in-state natural gas pipeline; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2014 the mission and authority of AGDC expanded to include having primary responsibility for developing an Alaska liquefied natural gas (LNG) project on the state’s behalf; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2016 AGDC assumed 100 percent of the responsibility to progress an Alaska LNG project to build the infrastructure necessary to monetize North Slope natural gas resources; and
- WHEREAS,** in April 2017 AGDC filed its application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to construct and operate the Alaska LNG project; and
- WHEREAS,** in May 2017 FERC deemed the application complete; and
- WHEREAS,** this project has undergone a comprehensive review, resulting in more than seven years of analysis, many public meetings, and impact assessments that total close to 6,000 pages when looking at both the Department of Energy (DOE) and FERC processes; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2020, FERC issued its authorizations for the AGDC’s project, but the authorizations have since been appealed by environmental groups to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, the parties to the appeals – FERC, AGDC, and the environmental groups finished their briefings in February 2022 with oral arguments scheduled for September 14, 2022; and
- WHEREAS,** in August 2020 the DOE issued a final, unconditional order authorizing the Alaska LNG project to export LNG; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2021, the DOE granted a request for rehearing of a final order to Alaska LNG Project for the purpose of conducting two Alaska-specific environmental studies; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2022, the DOE issued a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) supporting the export authorizations previously granted, consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, and addressing potential environmental impacts associated with natural gas production on the North Slope of Alaska as well as a life cycle analysis calculating the greenhouse gas emissions for LNG exported from the proposed Alaska LNG Project; comments on the draft are due by August 15, 2022, and a virtual public hearing was held on July 20, 2022; it is anticipated that the DOE will finalize the SEIS by November 14, 2022, and issue a final decision on the requested export authorizations by February 13, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough finds that a comprehensive substantial analysis has been completed and the required ‘hard look’ review standard has been met; and

WHEREAS, a DOE export license is critical for long-term economic viability of the Alaska LNG Project; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief, a DOE export license will also lead to improved air quality in the state by providing an economic way to decrease greenhouse gas emissions that result from higher emissions sources of energy production; and

WHEREAS, the SEIS shows greenhouse gas emissions will be higher without the Alaska LNG Project than with it under each of the scenarios evaluated; and

WHEREAS, the DOE should complete the SEIS process and uphold the August 2020 DOE order allowing an export license for the Alaska LNG Project; and

WHEREAS, based on the information in the FERC Environmental Impact Statement, and on AGDC’s web site, the Alaska LNG Project could create up to 10,000 jobs during design and construction, with approximately 1,000 permanent operational jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska LNG will increase Alaska jobs, expand revenue for natural gas exports, and provide critical energy security;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Alaska LNG Project is a benefit to the Alaska economy, Alaska air quality, and Alaska and Federal Energy Security and Resiliency. The assembly finds that the Alaska LNG Project’s plant and marine terminal in Nikiski, Alaska is in the best interests of the residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the assembly continues to fully support all aspects of the Alaska LNG Project.

SECTION 2. That state and federal agencies are urged to conclude that the required ‘hard look’ analysis has been met. This assembly specifically requests that the DOE complete the SEIS process and uphold its order allowing an export license for the Alaska LNG Project.

SECTION 3. That applicable regulatory agencies and decisionmakers should recognize that time is of the essence and that expeditiously moving this project forward is in the best interests of local, state, and federal energy policy and security.

SECTION 4. That copies of this resolution be sent to U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan, Alaska’s U.S. Congressional Representative, Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy, the Alaska State Legislature, Secretary Jennifer Granholm U.S. Department of Energy, and President Biden.

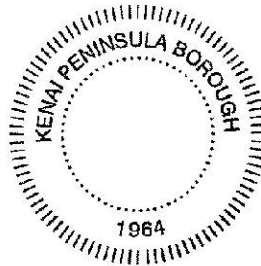
SECTION 5. That this resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 9TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2022.


Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:


John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Bjorkman, Chesley, Cox, Derkevorkian, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Tupper, Johnson
No: None
Absent: None