

that ought to be imposed on any right-of-way if such a pipeline were to be built.

This is Volume I of the report of the Inquiry. Volume II, which is in preparation, will be available this summer. It will contain terms and conditions to be imposed if a pipeline is built.

Key recommendations

- Judge Berger said: "I recommend that no pipeline be built and no energy corridor be established across the Northern Yukon along either route." This means that the report rejected both the coastal and interior routes proposed by Arctic Gas to bring gas from Alaska to the United States.

- He said if the pipeline were built along the coastal route and an energy corridor established, "I foresee that, within our lifetime, the Porcupine caribou herd (one of the last great caribou herds in North America), will be reduced to a remnant." "The preservation of the Porcupine caribou herd is incompatible with the building of a gas pipeline and the establishment of an energy corridor through its calving grounds."

- The Arctic Gas pipeline and energy corridor along the interior route in the Northern Yukon "would have a devastating impact on the people of Old Crow," Judge Berger said. "All the people in the village told me they are opposed to the pipeline. They fear it will destroy their village, their way of life, and their land."

- The report recommended that a national wilderness park be established in the Northern Yukon contiguous to Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Range "to protect the wilderness, the caribou, birds and other wildlife." "Oil and gas exploration, pipeline construction and industrial activity must be prohibited within the park and the native people must continue to have the right to hunt, fish and trap."

Alternative proposal

Regarding the alternative proposal to carry Alaskan gas along the Alaska Highway route across the southern Yukon, Judge Berger said: "Some of the concerns about wildlife, wilderness, and engineering and construction that led me to reject the corridor across the Northern Yukon do not appear to apply in the case of the Alaska

Possible Pipeline Routes for Northern Gas



Highway route. It is a route with an established infrastructure. In my view, the construction of a pipeline along this route would not threaten any substantial populations of any species in the Yukon or in Alaska. But I am in no position to endorse such a route: an assessment of social and economic impact must still be made and native claims have not been settled."

Judge Berger views the Mackenzie Delta-Beaufort Sea area as a "major petroleum province in the making" and regards the pipeline as the trigger for expanded oil and gas exploration and development. He rejected the Arctic Gas proposed route across the Mackenzie Delta in order to protect the Delta's unique ecosystem, the birds and the white whales.

- Judge Berger recommended a white whale sanctuary be established in west Mackenzie Bay to protect the calving grounds for the 5,000-strong white whale herd.

- Another key recommendation is that "a period of ten years will be required

in the Mackenzie Valley and Western Arctic to settle native claims, and to establish the new institutions and new programs that a settlement will entail. No pipeline should be built until these things have been achieved." But solely from an environmental point of view, Judge Berger said, "I have concluded that it is feasible...to build a pipeline and to establish an energy corridor along the Mackenzie Valley, running south from the Mackenzie Delta to the Alberta border."

"The pipeline companies see the pipeline as an unqualified gain to the North" but "it is an illusion to believe that the pipeline will solve the economic problems of the North," the report said. The Arctic Gas project has been described as one of the greatest construction projects, in terms of capital expenditure, ever contemplated by private enterprise. The Arctic Gas pipeline would require 6,000 construction workers north of 60, a huge infrastructure of wharves, warehouses and airstrips, and fleets of