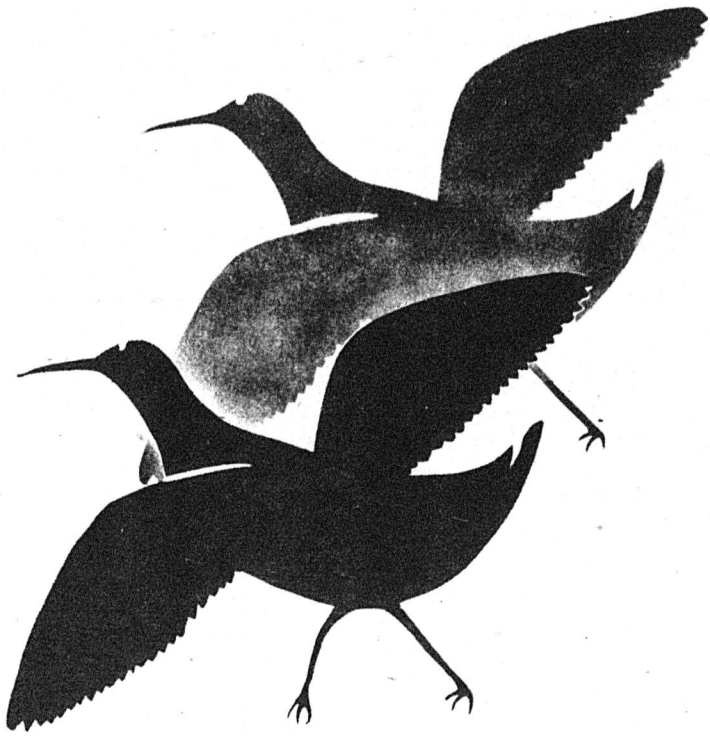


at the rush?



The spokesmen for the gas consortium, in attempting to show the need for the pipeline and its benefits, have repeatedly made several assertions which must be debated. First, we are told there are several reasons why the pipeline must be built without delay. They quote Ontario's Advisory Committee on Energy that Canada's frontier fuels will be required (for Canadian needs) by 1980. Projections of demand and calculations of reserves are quite complex matters, but there are many qualified people who would dispute the claim from Ontario. One factor not considered by Ontario is the very probable boost for exploration in Alberta as a result of higher, more realistic prices. (of course, we must all be aware that energy, once "used", is gone; as energy usage increases, we must keep finding more and more reserves annually; and we must expect reserves to become increasingly difficult to find.)

Recall now that the capacity delivery will be 1.64 Tcf per year, which is much greater than the total current Canadian demand. This means that the vast majority of the gas must be exported to the U.S. in order to make the pipeline feasible; even though half of the gas will be from Alaska, it is obvious that most of the Canadian gas will also be exported. Exporting resources such as Arctic gas in return for very low royalties is, in essence, exporting jobs and losing options for Canada's future.

The consortium argues that delays in the project mean escalating costs of \$250 million per year, but the flamboyant Kierans answers that the value of the gas is increasing "one hell of a lot faster" while it's in the ground. Also, they argue, a delay would risk "bunching up" of the needs for financing with other large schemes, such as James Bay or pipelines from the Arctic Islands. It is true that such a bunching up would put severe pressure on the Canadian dollar, but I doubt that Canada is really ready for any of these large projects, much less two or three!

With respect to environmental impact, we are told that everything is under control as they have been involved since 1967. However, most of their first three years were simply studies of feasibility, and their detailed studies, including pipeline test facilities, began in 1971. The results of all of their studies and they have done a lot) are being carefully guarded until their formal application is filed with the National Energy Board; their reason is that the uninformed public may use the results of individual studies out of context from other results and blow them out of proportion. But anyone who does that will be losing credibility, just as the consortium is now. There will be two sets of public hearings, the first by Indian Affairs over the right-of-way and the second by the National Energy Board. Just how "public" these hearings will be,

and their terms of reference, remain unclear.

Among the benefits are mentioned jobs for northerners. Aside from construction jobs, the benefits of which are doubtful, there will be 150-400 permanent jobs created. The alternative of a railroad now comes to mind, since many more permanent jobs would be created. (One of the consortium's contracted researchers suggested this, but he "exceeded his terms of reference".) Many individuals and groups, especially the Canadian Institute of Guided Ground Transport, have suggested and are studying a railway to the Arctic. Many aspects of this alternative are attractive, and, if the decision is to open up the valley, then we should push for consideration of all possible methods.

The consortium claims that the amount of land which will be altered by the pipeline and compressor stations is only 40 square miles out of 1.5 million! This sort of expression is very misleading in several respects. For instance, several large construction camps and staging areas were not included. No mention is made of the probable hundreds of producing wells in the gas fields, along with a maze of small pipes leading to the large pipeline. How large an area might be affected by such things as SO₂, pesticides, or erosion of stream banks?

The Mackenzie River Valley and its Delta are, or were, magnificent wildernesses. Many people feel that the greatest long-term potential for northern "development" lies in tourism, as relatively undisturbed areas become more and more scarce in the South. Both the Valley and the Delta are unique areas, the latter especially productive biologically. But the maze-like Delta has already been marred by thousands of miles of often unsightly seismic lines, busy drilling rigs, staging areas, and gravel quarries. The Arctic is big country, with a great deal of on-going activity but a very inadequate land-use inspection system. We are just on the ground floor when it comes to inventories of the fish and wildlife; good base-line data, from which to predict or measure effects of development, come very slowly.

We need more time in order to make rational decisions about whether, how, and how fast the North should be developed. The native people, who should be our top priority, are drawing up what they feel are just claims of land, royalties, or other rights; some of these groups are being financed by the government. Why can't we slow down the exploitation a little, and use that time to learn more about the areas while allowing the natives to negotiate their claims? Why not?

Write to somebody important!

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Number 4 of the approval says, "The collected dust shall be disposed of in such a manner that it does not become re-entrained in the atmosphere by winds, etc." and no. 5, "The filter bags shall be cleaned and checked regularly to maintain a high dust collecting efficiency. Broken bags must be replaced immediately and if a pre-coating material is used it shall be one exhibiting a low health hazard in the event of a broken bag." No mention is made of who will enforce these regulations or who will determine whether a certain material constitutes a health hazard.

Edmonton Power Rossdale Generating Station

Colorless nitrogen oxide (NO) is formed whenever a sufficiently high temperature is reached during a combustion process in air. Brown nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) will be formed if there is sufficient oxygen, and when the temperature is not too high. In any case it will be formed after the NO is emitted into the atmosphere. It is worth pointing out that NO₂ is much more toxic than NO.

The Rossdale power plant has six low-pressure boilers, three high-pressure boilers, and two gas turbines. When operating at near capacity, the two gas turbines provide not only the largest source of NO₂ but also the largest source of mixed nitrogen oxides (NO_x) per hour, particularly (as of 1965) turbine number 6.

At that time turbine 6 produced 233 pounds of NO_x per hour; turbine 7 produced 148. The two high-pressure boilers then in operation (8 & 9) produced respectively 139 and 145 pounds per hour. The concentration of NO_x in p.p.m. in the emissions from the gas turbines is less, averaging 150-180 p.p.m. compared to 200-350 p.p.m. for the high-pressure boilers.

Insofar as we can determine, no public Provincial Department of the Environment approval for levels of emissions has been laid down for the Rossdale Station nor is there any consistent monitoring of stack emissions. The air pollution approval in existence applies to the stack heights for the three high pressure units.

CONCLUSIONS

There is no information on the local air pollution problem arising from automobile emissions. There are no emission standards or approvals for several of the industries expected to be large-scale polluters relevant to the City of Edmonton, such as Chemcell or Fiberglass Canada. There also appears to be no set pattern for approval standards for the oil refineries as mentioned earlier. There is no enforcement of air pollution standards in respect to incinerator emissions and there is also no approval known to us regulating emissions from the Rossdale Power Generating Station.

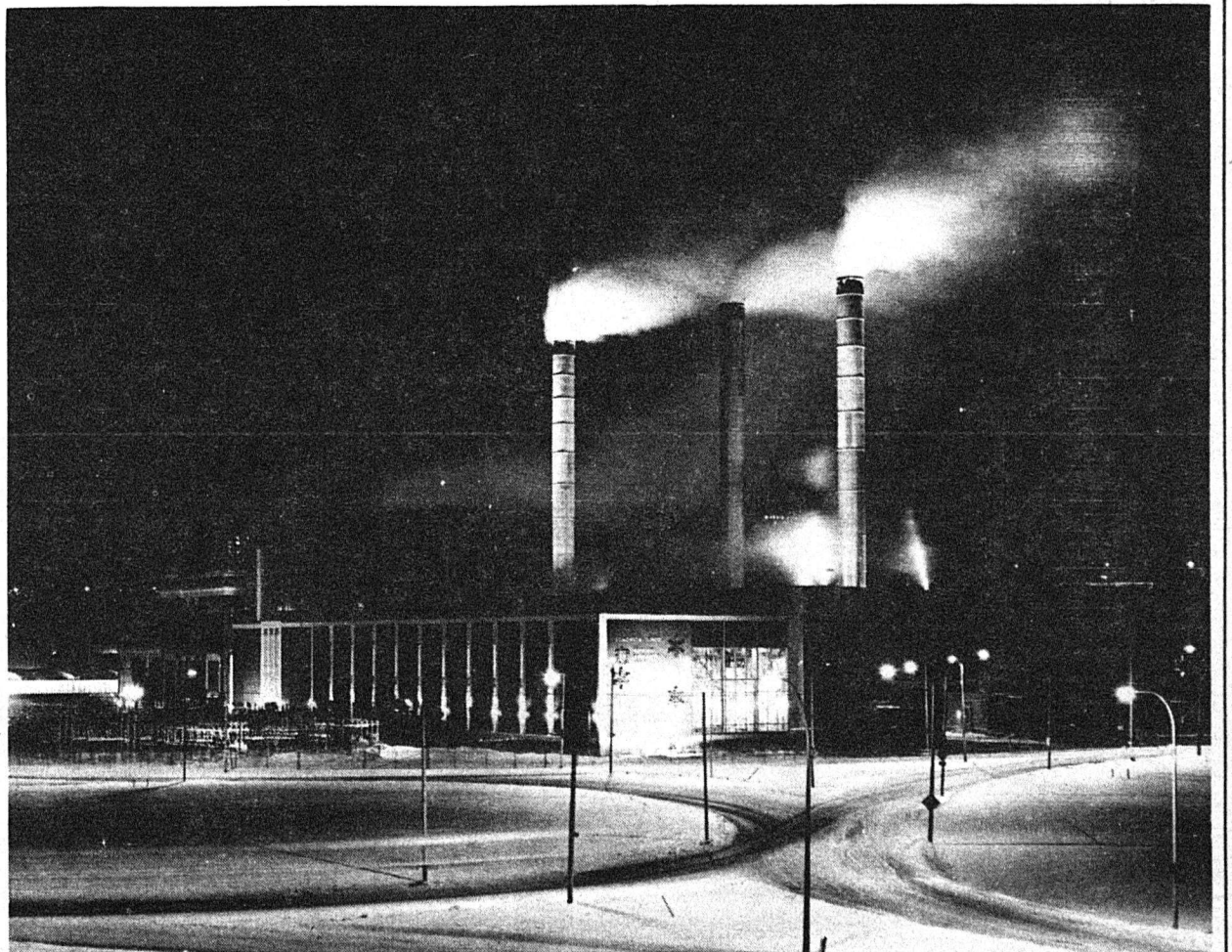


photo by Vic Post