



Official Business

25th ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Report on Washington D.C. Energy Trip March 7 to March 11, 2007

Wednesday, March 7

9 a.m.

- Senator Gene Therriault prepared information packets for distribution by members of the Alaska Legislature to help explain the Alaska Gasline Inducement Act. Information included a graphic from the Anchorage Daily News with an overview, comparison to last year's gas line effort, timeline, and map of the possible routes; and bullet points outlining goals, incentives and benchmarks.

9 a.m.-12 noon

- Senators Fred Dyson and Lesil McGuire met with Congressman Dave Reichert, Washington Eighth Congressional District; Congresswoman Cathy McMorris, Washington Fifth Congressional District; Congressman Denny Rehberg, Montana; and U.S. Senator Patty Murray, Washington; to answer questions about efforts in Alaska to get our gas resources to market for the nation.

2 p.m.

- Senators Therriault, Dyson and McGuire met with Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Suedeem Kelly, whose term on the commission expires in 2009, and who is well versed in Alaska gas pipeline issues.
- Senator McGuire met with Rep. Don Young at the Rayburn Building.

2:30 p.m.

- Senator Therriault spoke with Dennis Melvin, Director of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Legal Division, Office of Administrative Litigation, about the initial brief of the Commission trial staff in the Anadarko/Tesoro v. TAPS Carriers Docket OR06-2-000 that was released on February 16th of this year. Although Mr. Melvin was not able to discuss specifics about the open docket, he did explain the briefing process from this point forward.
- Senator Therriault spoke briefly with FERC Deputy Director Robert J. Cupina about the FERC Third Report to Congress on Progress Made in Licensing and Constructing the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline, released January 31, 2007. Senator Therriault discussed the concerns created by the report and ways to make sure that information is not taken out of context in the future.

SKILLED

RESPONSIBLE

CONSERVATIVE

3 p.m.

- Senators Dyson and Therriault met with FERC Commissioner Philip D. Moeller and staff to discuss the AGIA concept. They highlighted the State's efforts to honor the Congressional direction in H.R. 4837-36 to "promote competition in the exploration, development, and production of Alaska natural gas" from the North Slope basin. They applauded the Commission's findings issued in FERC order 2005, and discussed the FERC process for deciding the Anadarko/Tesoro v. TAPS Carriers Docket.

5:30 p.m.

- Senator Tom Wagoner arrived in D.C.

7 p.m.

- Senators Dyson, Therriault, Wagoner and McGuire met for dinner with Alberta Minister-Counsellor Murray Smith, who was appointed in January 2005 as the official representative of the province of Alberta to the United States. He leads the newly established Alberta Office in Washington, D.C, co-located in the Canadian embassy. Senators Dyson, Wagoner and McGuire discussed the development of the Mackenzie Delta pipeline in Canada and the ongoing First Nations issues. Senator Therriault spoke with Allen Wright, Executive Director and CEO of the COAL Association of Canada, regarding the energy needs for continued development of the Alberta Oil Sands.

Thursday, March 8**8 a.m.**

- Senators Dyson and Therriault had breakfast with Pacific NorthWest Economic Region members from Canada.
- Alaska attendees met to discuss the preparation and distribution of AGIA information packets. Coordinated the message and found a less expensive print shop and office supply store to prepare materials.

9 a.m.-12 noon

- Senators McGuire and Dyson attended more congressional meetings on Capitol Hill, meeting with Congressman Norman Dicks, Washington Sixth Congressional District; and New York Congresswoman Arlene Slaughter.

2 p.m.

- Senators Dyson, Wagoner and Therriault, and Representatives Ralph Samuels and John Coghill attended the Energy Council Executive Committee meeting to listen to the discussion regarding proposed changes to the by-laws regarding rotation of the chairmanship between members. A problem has developed when member states have been unable to appoint their Energy Council members due to partisan gridlock in time to take on the rotating chairmanship role.

3 p.m.

- Senators Therriault, Dyson and Wagoner participated in the Senate Minority press availability via telephone.

3:30 p.m.

- Senator McGuire attended PNWER meeting with Senator Ted Stevens.

4 p.m.

- Senators Dyson and Therriault assembled AGIA information packets.

5 p.m.

- Senators Dyson, Wagoner and Therriault; Representative Kurt Olson; and other Alaska attendees met in Senator Wagoner's hotel room with Drue Pearce, Federal Coordinator, Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects. Discussed Ms. Pearce's new job title and her efforts to set up the Federal Coordinator operation. Touched on current perceptions on Capitol Hill of Alaska gas issues.

6 p.m.

- Senators Dyson, Wagoner, Therriault attended Energy Council opening reception at the Madison Hotel and invited all Alaskans to gather later in Wagoner's hotel room to exchange information from meetings, distribute AGIA information packets and touch base with Commissioner Pat Galvin.

7 p.m.

- Senators Therriault, Dyson, Wagoner, McGuire and Federal Coordinator Drue Pearce had dinner with Anadarko Alaska Public Affairs Manager Mark Hanley. Continued discussion of Alaska natural gas issues. Compared notes from today's meetings.

10 p.m.

- Senators Therriault, Wagoner, Dyson, Charlie Huggins; Representatives Ralph Samuels, John Coghill, Kurt Olson, Harry Crawford, Lindsey Holmes, Scott Kawasaki; and Revenue Commissioner Pat Galvin discussed opportunities to engage in conversations about AGIA and Alaska natural gas in general. Compared notes on meetings with FERC commissioners and other federal officials. Discussed potential differences in message from federal officials to Governor Palin and members of the Legislature.

Friday, March 9**8 a.m.**

- Beginning of Energy Council.

9 a.m.

- Following Energy Council opening breakfast speaker, Senator Therriault and Commissioner Pat Galvin traveled to the Hart Office Building for a meeting with Senator Jeff Bingaman, Chairman of the Senate Energy Committee and select members of his staff. Generally discussed the AGIA proposal and previous Congressional and FERC action. Follow up meeting with Senator Bingaman's assistant Deborah Estes.

- Senators Wagoner, McGuire and Dyson attended Energy Council morning remarks by Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski.

10 a.m.

- Senator Therriault and Commissioner Galvin attended speech by FERC Chairman Joseph Kelliher discussing the concept of a North America market for natural gas and the need for both Alaska gas and imported LNG to meet future demands. Chairman Kelliher brought up his meeting with Governor Palin and his support for the AGIA concept.
- Senator Therriault met with FERC Commissioner Marc Spitzer and staff. Generally discussed the AGIA proposal and previous Congressional and FERC action.
- Senator Therriault had lunch with Chairman Kelliher to discuss Alaska issues and FERC process.

1 p.m.

- Senators McGuire and Wagoner met with staff from Congressman Don Young's office to discuss Governor Palin's Alaska Gasline Inducement Act and the Washington state container tax bill.

2 p.m.

- All Alaska attendees participated in a press conference for national and state reporters. Generally commented on the importance of meeting with federal agency personnel, elected officials from other states, territories and provinces and members of Congress. Discussed the meetings we participated in and the questions we were asked.

3:30 p.m.

- Senators Wagoner, Dyson, Therriault, Alaska State House representatives and members of PNWER attended meeting at the Canadian Embassy to give a presentation on the AGIA proposal to Paul Connors, Canadian Energy Counsellor with the Office of Economic and Trade Policy; and Roy Norton, Canadian Minister for Congressional, Public and Intergovernmental Affairs. Answered questions on AGIA and asked questions about the First Nations issues.

5 p.m.

- Attended Alaska reception hosted by Alaska producers, explorers and independent pipeline companies.

Saturday, March 10

7:30 a.m.

- Attended Energy Council breakfast address: Energy and China/North American Relations.

9 a.m.

- Attended presentation by General Charles "Chuck" Wald (Ret.), National Commission for Energy Policy, on security problems being experienced by oil and gas companies operating in various parts of the world.

9:30 a.m.

- Senators Wagoner and Therriault distributed AGIA information packets in preparation for Alaska Revenue Commissioner Patrick Galvin's Energy Council presentation.

10:15 a.m.

- Commissioner Galvin presentation on AGIA.

10:45 a.m. – 12 noon

- Attended Energy Council presentations on Oil and Gas Differentials and Markets for Carbon Credits.

12 noon

- Senator Wagoner participated in the Center for Legislative Energy and Environmental Research University Advisory Board Seminar.

Sunday, March 11

8:30 a.m.

- Senator Dyson attended Energy Council working breakfast and business session.