June 6, 1977

Council on Environmental Quality
Executive Office of the President
722 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Members of the Council:

I would like to thank you again for the hearings recently conducted by the Council in Anchorage, Alaska on May 16 and 17. I sincerely appreciated the opportunity to testify on the environmental impact statements relevant to the transportation of natural gas from Prudhoe Bay to the lower 48 states. During my testimony on the 17th, members of the Council asked me to revise and extend certain of my comments. It is my pleasure to do so at this time, though I fully realize they may be received too late in your decision making process to be fairly considered.

In order to keep my comments relevant, the first part of this letter contains our three recommendations which were made to the Federal Power Commission in January of 1976 in response to their DEIS and were subsequently reported with the FPC response in Volume IV of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

As promised, I am recasting these recommendations in the context of your responsibilities under the Natural Gas Transportation Act of 1976.

The Fairbanks Town and Village Association for Development, Inc. wishes to reiterate its position that the Federal Power Commission, under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, have a responsibility and a duty to explore - in the language of established NEPA procedure - 1) methods of "enhancing the environment" and "mitigating adverse environmental effects" in the social, economic, political environment with care equal to that displayed for the physical environment; and 2) must, in a related way, develop alternatives and discuss the exercise of its responsibility to protect the public interest in municipalities and communities which will be subjected to significant short and long term effects as a result of construction and operation of an interstate natural gas