

WHITTIER PIPELINE SUPPORTED

8 Anchorage Daily Times
Tuesday, Feb. 23, 1965

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ARTIST'S CONCEPTION of proposed extension to municipal marine terminal — tanker berth general cargo.

Military Project Is Endorsed By Chamber Board

Directors of the Greater Anchorage Chamber of Commerce gave unanimous support today to a \$5 million military petroleum pipeline between Whittier and Anchorage.

Although the Chamber is supporting a city bond issue to build a new petroleum dock here, Claire Banks, Chamber manager, said, he feels the Chamber's board believes that the local economy cannot be placed ahead of the expressed needs of the military in this area.

Col. V. M. Witter, assistant chief of staff for supply and logistics, Alaskan Command, detailed the military's pipeline proposal to the board this morning.

The board then adopted the following motion: "In view of the presentation (Witter's) and in view of the apparent long-term general benefit and very sound protective reason, move the board approve construction of the pipeline."

Last week the board heard pipeline opposition from speakers representing the Chamber's port committee and labor.

Witter mentioned ice damage in Cook Inlet to military facilities and said the military regards Anchorage as a seasonal port compared to ice-free Whittier.

He said the pipeline had been under consideration since before the March 27 earthquake and that the recent Standard Oil fire in the Port of Anchorage industrial park has caused the military to "take a closer look at the thing."

He said the pipeline could offer "insurance" to the City of Anchorage in future years and cited a recent example of a private petroleum firm borrowing 95,000 gallons of fuel from the military because of a fuel shortage here.

Witter also cited the possibility of strikes or other marine labor problems and the city's preferential berthing agreement with Sea-Land.

He said the pipeline would be

paid over a seven-year period. The military "can't afford" to pay the per-barrel throughput charge in Anchorage, he added.

The City of Anchorage Port Commission has taken no stand for or against the pipeline, however, the Anchorage City Council has asked that additional study be given to the military's plans.

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Port To Get New Fenders

The Anchorage Port Commission has approved the purchase of nine fender pilings at a cost of \$31,500 — the first step in getting the Port of Anchorage municipal terminal ready for springtime operation.

The commission also directed the port staff to go ahead with planning for the addition to two-to-four 12-inch fuel lines at the dock, at a cost estimated between \$35,000 and \$78,000.

A temporary petroleum dock used before the winter ice locked in cannot be repaired, a spokesman said, making necessary the pipeline addition to the port dock.

The nine fenders to be placed at the dock face will protect vessels rising on an income tide from being caught under the dock.

The fuel lines, if eventually approved, will be added to one existing 10-inch and one existing 12-inch line already there. These two lines belong to the Shell Oil Co. and only the 10-inch is available for use by all fuel ships.

The commission, meeting Monday, also discussed the possibility the pipeline cost might be financed from port bond issues scheduled to be voted on March 9. It also was suggested that oil companies might be willing to contribute to the cost.

Two engineering firms were approved for work on the port additions. The commission recommended that the city manager negotiate with these firms—Tippetts - Abbott - McCarthy-Stratton and Earl and Wright—and select one to do the work.

The firm chosen for the project also will design and build the port's proposed north extension and the new permanent petroleum dock.