Arresting TAPS Throughput Decline & Oil Tax Reform

Senate Finance
February 28, 2013
Juneau, Alaska

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The Trans Alaska Pipeline, 11 pump stations, several hundred miles of feeder pipelines, and the Valdez Marine Terminal constitute the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS).

At 800 miles long, the Trans Alaska Pipeline is one of the longest pipelines in the world; it crosses more than 500 rivers and streams and three mountain ranges as it carries Alaska’s oil from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez.

The U.S. Congress was instrumental in the approval and rapid development of TAPS. Congress approved construction of the pipeline with the Trans Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act of 1973.

The principle focus of this Act is as relevant today as it was in 1973: “the early development and delivery of oil and gas from Alaska’s North Slope to domestic markets is in the national interest because of growing domestic shortages and increasing dependence upon insecure foreign sources.”
• TAPS has transported over 16.3 billion barrels of oil and natural gas liquids since June of 1977. Production peaked at 2.2 million barrels per day in the late 1980s, representing 25% of U.S. domestic production

• Since its peak, however, throughput has steadily declined; today, TAPS is 2/3 empty and declining at an average of 6% per year

• TAPS throughput decline threatens economic disruption and the very existence of our pipeline

• We must encourage industry to invest in exploration and development of conventional and unconventional resources on state and federal land, onshore and offshore

• TAPS has plenty of capacity for increased throughput

• Most near-term critical economic issue facing the state

• Less oil in the pipeline year after year takes away revenue from future generations—the ultimate giveaway

• Reconfiguration, 1.2 million barrels/day
Oil Tax Reform
- Production History -

ANS Production

Source: Alaska Department of Revenue Fall 2012 Revenue Source Book: http://www.tax.alaska.gov/program/documentviewer/viewer.aspx?2682f
• TAPS throughput decline is the MOST URGENT issue facing the State’s economic future
• January 2011 TAPS shutdown

**Petroleum News, February 27, 2011:**
“Jan. shutdown puts TAPS close to brink:
Alyeska executives describe efforts to prevent freezing in pipeline after pump station oil leak in era of low oil throughput”

**WSJ, May 11, 2011:**
“Shrinking Oil Supplies Put Alaskan Pipeline at Risk”

“Now, dwindling oil production along Alaska's northern edge means the pipeline carries less than one-third the volume it once did—and the crude takes five times as long to get to its destination.

That leisurely flow means the oil is above ground longer and more exposed to Alaska's frigid weather; the crude sometimes arrives chilled to 40 degrees. As the flow and temperature continue to drop, experts say the risks of a clog or corrosion increase, as do the odds of ruptures and spills.”
Compared to most hydrocarbon basins, Alaska is relatively underexplored, with 500 exploration wells on the North Slope, compared to Wyoming’s 19,000.

USGS estimates that Alaska’s North Slope has more oil than any other Arctic nation

- **OIL**: Est. 40 billion barrels of conventional oil
  
  **GAS**: Est. over 200 trillion cubic feet of conventional natural gas

- Alaska has world-class unconventional resources, including tens of billions of barrels of heavy oil, shale oil, and viscous oil, and hundreds of trillions of cubic feet of shale gas, tight gas, and gas hydrates

  - Positive methane hydrate test production
U.S. ENERGY RENAISSANCE

• Global and U.S. hydrocarbon boom

• IEA World Energy Outlook 2012 – U.S. to overtake Saudi Arabia and Russia to become the world’s largest global oil producer by the second half of this decade.

• Financial Times, November 12, 2012 – “U.S. set to become biggest oil producer”
  o 2012 - $600 billion on exploration and production in oil and gas industry
  o 2013 projected - $650 billion on exploration and production in oil and gas industry
“The expansion has been spurred by record-breaking levels of investment, with about £40bn set to be ploughed into North Sea production in the next three years…”

“The surge in investment comes after the government relaxed the tax regime around North Sea development, prompting a record-breaking licensing round when the Department of Energy and Climate Change awarded 167 new licenses on 330 blocks last October.”

“Budget 2012: North Sea oil tax reforms ‘to lead to £50bn investment’: An extra £50bn could be pumped into the North Sea oil and gas industry thanks to a new package of tax reforms.”
OTHER BASINS HAVE TURNED DECLINE AROUND

"Tax Breaks Spur Record U.K. Oil, Gas Investment" – WSJ, 2/25/13

LONDON—Tax incentives have helped spur record levels of investment in the U.K.'s offshore oil and gas sector, which is set to recover from more than a decade of declining production and boost flagging government coffers in 2014.

Investment in offshore oil and gas projects is forecast to rise to a record level of at least £13 billion ($19.6 billion) this year, up from £11.4 billion last year which at the time was the highest in more than 30 years, according to an annual report published Monday by industry body Oil & Gas UK.

"This year and next we expect record levels of investment and that's a relief when you look at how much production has fallen. It will be a catch-up from a long period of underinvestment," said Mike Tholen, Oil & Gas U.K. economics and commercial director and one of the authors of the report.

North Sea oil and gas production is vital for the U.K. economy. Shutdowns at several key fields were a major reason for the 0.3% contraction of economic output in the last quarter of the year, according to the Office for National Statistics. Extractive industries, the bulk of which is oil and gas, contribute 2.4% of total U.K. gross domestic product, the ONS said.

Increasing output would also be significant for tax receipts and jobs in a sector that last year employed 440,000 people.

The 45 projects that were approved in 2011 and 2012 will over time produce more than 2 billion barrels of oil and gas and generate £100 billion for the economy and an additional £25 billion in production taxes, the report said.

The investment will also help U.K. energy security by reducing hydrocarbon imports at a time of higher international oil and gas prices.

"Too often we've been seen as part of the problem, rather than part of the solution because production output had fallen. But we're stopping the decline and increasing output and that will have a more positive impact on the U.K. economy," Mr. Tholen told The Wall Street Journal.

The higher investment in new projects and redevelopment of older fields would help bring another 500,000 barrels of oil equivalent a day on stream by 2017, taking output to as much as 2 million barrels of oil and gas a day by 2017 or earlier.

This compares to 1.55 million barrels of oil equivalent a day in 2012 and 1.45 million to 1.5 million barrels a day expected for this year, Mr. Tholen said.

The upturn expected in 2014 is significant, as oil and gas production from the U.K. continental shelf has been declining since a peak of 4 million barrels of oil equivalent a day in 1998 to 2000 due to natural decline rates at mature fields, high development costs and a wave of punitive taxes over the past decade, most notably a surprise tax increase in 2011.

BP BP.LN +1.60%PLC's April 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico also prompted a wave of shutdowns as companies reassessed safety procedures.

Over the past year, the U.K. has introduced a raft of tax breaks in an attempt to mend bridges with the oil and gas industry after the 2011 tax increase hurt investment and raised concerns about the future of the sector.

In total, companies are planning capital investments of almost £100 billion in new projects and redevelopment of old fields. Of this, £44 billion are already approved and under development and another £30 billion have a better than 50% chance of approval over the next few years, the report said.

Investments include Statoil ASA's STO:OL +1.55%±€4.3 billion Mariner field, Talisman's ±€1.6 billion plan to boost production at Montrose/Pitroaith, GDF Suez's GSZ.FR +1.60%±£1.4 billion for gas development at Cyrus gas and Dana Petroleum's £1 billion to develop its Hans/Barra fields.

Exploration for new oil and gas reserves is also expected to reverse a trend of decline with more than 130 wells forecast to be drilled over the next three years, up from about 21 wells a year from 2009-2012.

Easier access to finance and pressure to meet commitment dates set in licenses is helping to drive higher exploration rates, Mr. Tholen said.
• Field discovered in early 1970s by BP; purchased by Apache in 2003
• Contains estimated 4.2 to 5.0 billion barrels of oil in place
• Production peaked at over 500,000 Bpd, but by 2003, had declined to 40,000-45,000 Bpd
• Apache has “beaten the curve” by adding reserves, production, and value
• Have returned over 400% of their original 2003 investment
Other Basins Have Turned Decline Around
- Historical Oil Production -

How Did Our Competition Fare When Prices Spiked?
**Secure Alaska’s Future—Oil** is the State’s comprehensive strategy to increase TAPS throughput to one million barrels a day.

I. Enhance Alaska’s global competitiveness and investment climate

II. Ensure the permitting process is structured and efficient

III. Facilitate and incentivize the next phases of North Slope development

IV. Promote Alaska’s resources and positive investment climate to world markets
Relative Competitiveness

Governor Parnell’s 2013 State of the State: “Our problem is not below the ground. Our problem is above the ground.”

- The missing piece is meaningful tax reform
- “Our state’s prosperity has always rested on natural resources. Tonight, that foundation is at risk, not because we are running out of oil, but because we are running behind the competition.”