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Contents

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Alaska LNG – Now or never for North Slope gas

On December 1, Bill Walker was sworn in as Alaska's new governor. The future of the Last Frontier's vast gas resources featured heavily in the hard-fought gubernatorial race, during which Walker expressed doubts about the current agreement with North Slope gas producers. The deal with Alaska LNG partners ExxonMobil, BP, ConocoPhillips and TransCanada – which will construct the pipeline – was brokered by Walker's predecessor Sean Parnell, who conceded defeat after a knife-edge election. This followed six months in which the partners (which now include the state of Alaska), began pre-FEED work, filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), signed an MoU with Japan, and obtained authorisation from the Department of Energy (DoE) to export LNG to countries with free-trade agreements with the US. Encouraging progress following several decades of failed proposals; Gas Strategies asks whether North Slope's moment has finally arrived, or whether it is again destined for disappointment.

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