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Fairbanks firm says there's high interest for it to build a gas pipeline

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FAIRBANKS — A Fairbanks firm says it's received strong interest as it looks to pipe natural gas from the North Slope to Fairbanks.

The company, Energia Cura, said Friday a market review gauging demand for natural gas from major energy consumers suggests demand could exceed 15 billion cubic feet per year.

That would represent an exponential increase in Fairbanks' natural gas supply.

Energia Cura co-owner Alex Gajdos said the review justifies a second stage, where the firm would re-run economic models and prepare to solicit estimates from design and construction firms.

The proposal, a buried pipe between the North Slope's vast gas fields and the greater Fairbanks area, would aim to feed major customers — power utilities, military bases or retail distributors, for example — who would also, under the firm's plan, hold equity in a line.

Gajdos said the company has contacted lawmakers to help review the prospect of working with state agencies to address permitting and right of way questions.

"The message we're sending here is that the best value to Alaskans for Alaska North Slope gas monetization is to keep it in state," Gajdos said Monday.

The firm's proposed line would hug the Dalton and Elliott highways to Livengood, where a major gold mine is planned, and then reach toward the northern edge of Fairbanks or to North Pole.

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