



Center for Strategic & International Studies
Washington, DC

**Drue Pearce,
The US Federal Coordinator,
Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects**

Biography

Drue Pearce was raised on Cloverland Farm in White County, Illinois. She graduated from Indiana University, holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University and graduated from The Executive Program at the University of Virginia, Darden School of Business.

Pearce taught high school biology and chemistry after graduating from university. Named Curator of Education for the Louisville ZOO, she later moved to City Hall and was Director of the City's SUMMERSCENE program for the City's youth. She moved to Fairbanks, Alaska in 1977 and went to work for the Alaska National Bank of the North.

She was elected to the Alaska State House in 1984 and to the State Senate in 1988. She served twice as Senate President, twice as co-chair of the Finance Committee and chaired the Senate Rules Committee.

Pearce served as Chairman of The Energy Council in 1993-94. Venezuela, Alberta, Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Newfoundland & Labrador are international affiliates. She led delegations to Bolivia and Mexico to discuss their affiliating with the Council, to a Latin American Oil and Gas Ministers (OLADE) meeting in Costa Rica, to Venezuela for meetings of the Latin American Oil and Gas Nationalized Company Presidents (ARPEL), and presided over the entrance of Venezuela as an international affiliate. Pearce also served as the American Co-Chair for the U.S. West Coast – Russian Far East Business Commission Ad Hoc Working Group.

On June 18, 2001, Senator Pearce resigned her Senate seat and was sworn into service as Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton's Senior Advisor for Alaska Affairs. Drue provided counsel in the development of the Department's policies affecting Alaska.

Drue represented DOI and the Secretary as a Federal Trustee to the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council; as a member of the Department of Transportation's Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee; and as the Department of the Interior representative to the Arctic Council. She also served as policy coordinator for the Department's efforts to be prepared for permitting and construction of an Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline.

On December 13, 2006, Pearce was sworn in as the first Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects by Vice President Dick Cheney. The Fiscal Year 2005 Military Construction Appropriations Bill established the position of Federal Coordinator to coordinate activities by federal agencies with respect to the permitting and construction of a pipeline to bring North Slope gas to markets in the Lower 48. The Office of the Federal Coordinator is an independent office within the executive branch. Pearce will report directly to the President. Her appointment was subject to the approval of the U. S. Senate, which confirmed her August 4, 2006.

Drue, her husband, Michael, and daughter, Tate, now share a bicoastal commute between her D.C. duty station and their Alaska home.

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