



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

## BREAKFAST MEETING

### Thursday, October 16, 2008

- 1) Call to order – Phil Cochrane, Vice President
- 2) Self Introductions
- 3) Headtable Introductions
- 4) Staff Report – Jason Brune, Executive Director
- 5) Federal Legislative Update – Chris Fluhr,  
Republican Chief of Staff, Committee on Natural  
Resources, U.S. House of Representatives
- 6) Program and Keynote Speaker:

**Polar Bears And Other Things With Big  
Teeth: EPA's Proposed CO2 Rules**

Rob Gordon, Senior Advisor for Strategic  
Outreach, The Heritage Foundation

Next Meeting: Special Breakfast Meeting: Wednesday, October 22, Hotel  
Captain Cook, 7 am: ENERGY & THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, Sean  
O'Keefe, former administrator, NASA and former Secretary, U.S. Navy

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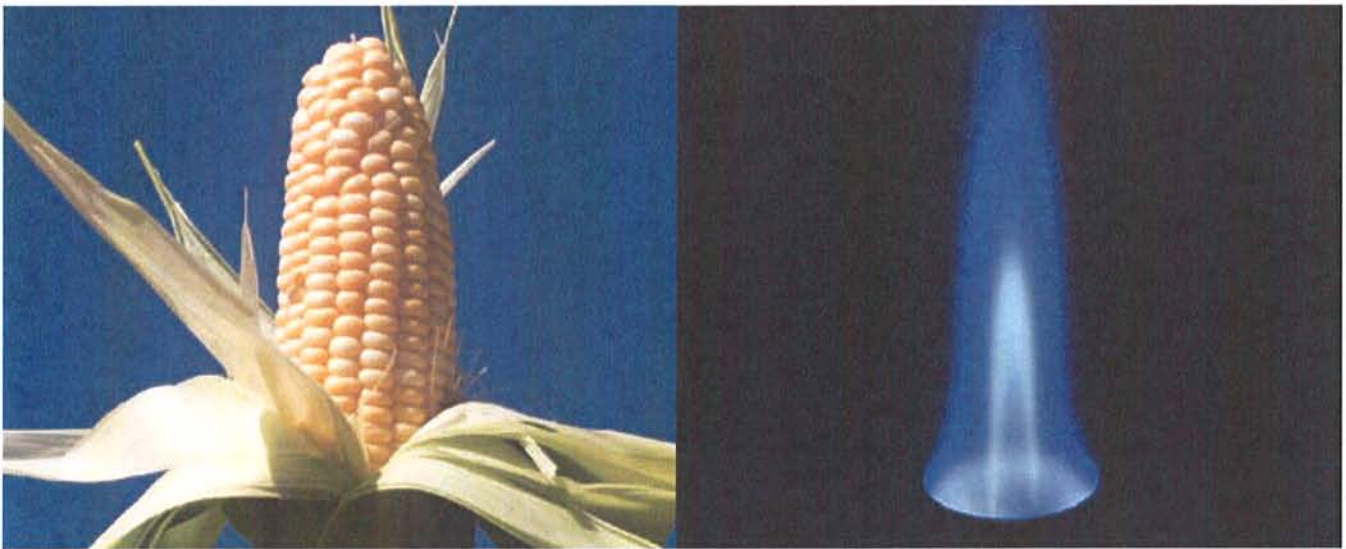
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# The Reality of Renewables

By Rob Gordon



In explaining why the United States has failed to tap its own energy resources, China's *People's Daily* explains: "The underlying reason is for environmental considerations." According to the Chinese paper, "It would be a joke to say the US is short of oil." The American public has figured out the joke's been on them and is demanding that Washington do something. But the joke—or really, myth—of exhausted supplies is not the only bogus information in the public energy discussion. Another fallacy is that we can simply opt for a "sustainable" economy based on renewable energy.

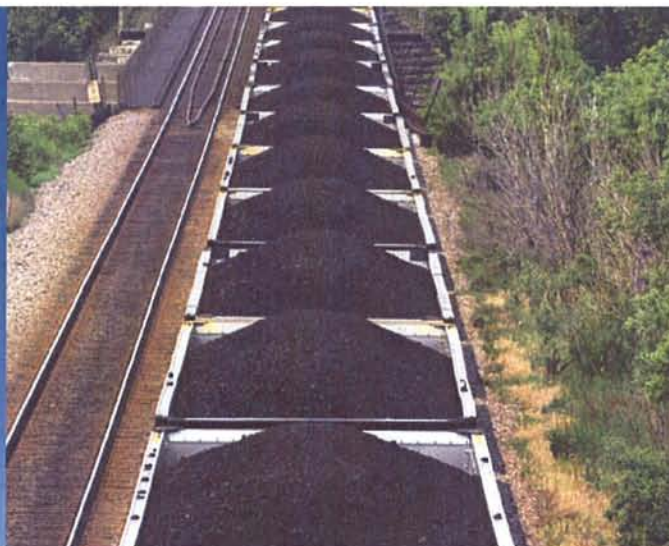
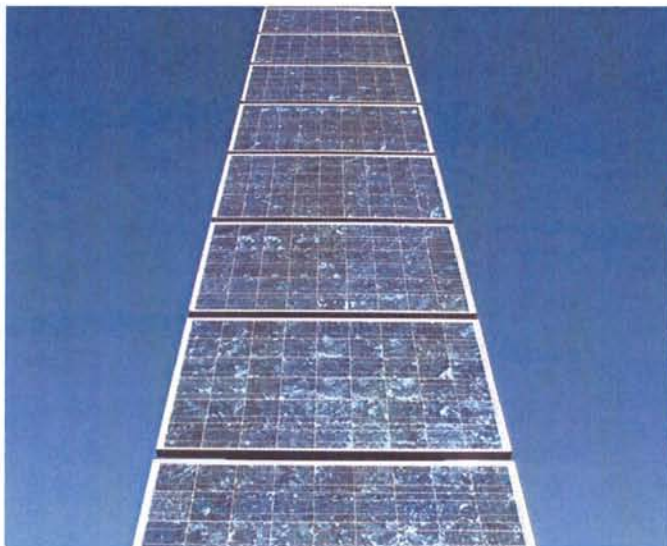
As Ben Lieberman notes in his article starting on page 4, government efforts to pick winners and losers among energy alternatives has been a fool's errand. Many in Washington, D.C., however, are bowing at the altar of renewable energy.

Calling some proponents of renewable energy fanatics isn't itself a disparagement of renewable energy. Renewable sources have a part to play

in meeting our energy needs. The fanaticism comes from those who seek to cut crucial energy sources that are somehow “bad” (fossil fuels, nuclear, and even hydropower) and peddle the myth that a renewable energy panacea where “good” energy like biomass, wind, and solar replace “bad” is just around the corner.

Energy, whether it’s the sort favored by renewables fanatics or not, is great stuff. It has

natural gas, and coal—have that some of the touted renewable sources don’t is that they are energy-rich: Each drop of oil, chunk of coal, and wisp of gas is packed with energy. They are also portable. They can be taken where they are needed and used there. And they are reliable: We know coal will burn to make electricity, natural gas will ignite to heat our water, and gas will combust to drive our engine’s



created a world in which people have longer lives, the ultimate environmental metric. Physicists define energy as the capacity to do work. As such, it is the oxygen of economic growth. We could save a lot by doing less work—what economists call recession. But while a “sustainable”—read “smaller”—renewables-fueled economy might seem like nirvana to some, it’s not for most Americans. The reality is that if Washington follows the fanatics rather than a secure and affordable energy supply, our policies will generate a mirage that vanishes as we try to compete with a tighter, more expensive, and perhaps less reliable energy supply in an increasingly competitive global economy.

No energy source is good or bad. Each presents different considerations and has different attributes making it more or less efficient. What the much maligned fossil fuels—oil,

pistons. Those characteristics make these on-demand energy sources. But the future of our energy supply is increasingly in question.

Right now our energy supply is caught between the twin pincers of policies that stymie the most important and efficient energy sources and policies that push the substitution of the less efficient “good” renewables. Subsidies and mandates for “good” energy sources and restrictions on “bad” sources—drilling moratoriums, taxes or caps on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions—are common Washington stock-in-trade. And a majority of states have already adopted policies pushing technologies like wind and solar. Despite this political meddling and the hype over renewables, some of the shine is starting to dull.

Ethanol’s political wheels have started to come off—if they haven’t already rolled across the median. Ethanol is kind of a “fossil fuel

light.” Fossil fuels are the original biomass energy sources. Geologic processes—immense heat and pressure over time spans—converted biomass into rich energy sources. We are somewhat trying to emulate that process with renewable biomass, but doing so consumes quite a bit of energy itself. And while the fuel produced may be portable and reliable, there are a number of other problems such as the fact that the resources used to make ethanol have alternative uses. Instead of growing corn for ethanol, farmers could grow crops for food or fiber, or the land could be set aside for wildlife habitat. The loss of land for these uses is a real cost—one that consumers in particular have been feeling in the form of higher food prices.

Peaking under wind energy’s hood reveals some squeaks and rattles portending of stormy weather like the biomass squall. While wind-generated power has rocketed upward in absolute terms, its relative contribution was still less than 1 percent of the net electricity we generated in 2006. And that little bit isn’t cheap. Professors Bernard Weinstein and Terry Clover at the University of North Texas report that for every \$100 million of investment, wind-power developers received over \$74 million in federal tax credits and other benefits, not to mention additional corporate income tax breaks and local property tax abatements in Texas. Just how sustainable is that?

The answer is iffy—but relatively better than it would be for solar. Pointing out any of the freckles and warts of solar is taboo to renewables fanatics. But just like the myth of exhausted fossil fuels, the myth of an imminent solar panacea has got to go.

Sun worshipers point out that the Earth is

bathed in sunlight. Perhaps one year’s worth is double the energy packed into all the Earth’s coal, oil, natural gas, and mined uranium. Such factoids are batted about while touting the potential for technologies like photovoltaic panels to capture solar energy. But we can’t blanket the Earth with the panels. Approximately 71 percent of the Earth is covered with

water, and Antarctica and forests comprise about one-third of the rest. Do fanatics of renewables really want to replace our forests with solar panel farms? Other areas still are too far north or too far south to capture solar energy efficiently. But what really matters is all the sunshine that escapes the photovoltaic panel itself. After decades and millions of dollars, photovoltaic panels

can’t efficiently collect much more than about 10 percent of the sunshine that hits them. This is not to say that there isn’t solar energy to be tapped, just that there’s even more hype.

There are sufficiently sunny places, but they’re not always where you need them. And as the three rules of real estate say, location matters. Solar energy isn’t really portable, and the greater the distance between where it’s collected and used, the more is needed. It’s just a law of physics. Energy is lost when it’s transferred over power lines—actually, a lot of it. So plunking solar panels in the Arizona desert to power New York City isn’t such a hot idea.

This reality is one of the reasons many solar advocates focus on distributed generation, i.e., putting things like photovoltaic panels close to where the captured energy will be used. Yet, according to Severin Borenstein, Director of the University of California Energy Institute at Berkeley, the cost of electricity generated from photovoltaic panels located near the point of

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consumption is too large for solar panels to be competitive. His analysis shows that even when plausible estimates of the value of reducing greenhouse gases are included, “it does not come close to making the net social return on installing [photovoltaic panels] today positive.”

Photovoltaic panels require a fair amount of space. Unlike relatively energy-rich fossil fuels, uranium, or even a flowing river, solar energy

wind now has far more potential than solar, it suffers from many similar problems.

It would be great if technological breakthroughs change these realities. And some entrepreneurs certainly are trying. According to Dow Jones Venture Source, investment by venture capitalists in U.S. companies was down about 12 percent in the second quarter compared to last year. Despite the down tick, renew-



is diffuse. To meet U.S. electricity needs with solar panels we'd have to blanket thousands of square miles. That's a huge footprint compared to the three square miles or so needed to tap the immense quantities of energy resources in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Then there's the weather. Even in places where there's lots of sunshine, solar isn't 100 percent reliable. You can be sure, though, that the sun doesn't shine at night, which means that solar power must be backed up by some other source.

The bottom line is that these realities, not energy executives, are to blame for keeping the adoption of solar energy so limited. Solar power's contribution to our net electricity generation in 2006 is measured not in tenths but hundredths of a percent—about one one-hundredth of 1 percent to be precise. And while

able energy set a record with 26 deals pulling \$650 million, and solar companies accounted for the top three second-quarter deals.

Kudos (and huge profits) to the entrepreneurs who develop the next big energy source. As soon as a renewable or another energy source becomes competitive, those who want to make a buck supplying it will do so. However, at best, policies that mandate renewables and stymie other energy sources complicate the task of figuring out just what energy sources and technologies would truly be the most efficient. At worst, built upon the idea that a renewable panacea is just around the corner, such policies will generate more problems than energy and seriously threaten a secure future for all Americans.

*Mr. Gordon is Senior Advisor for Strategic Outreach at The Heritage Foundation.*

# The Great Leap *Backward*

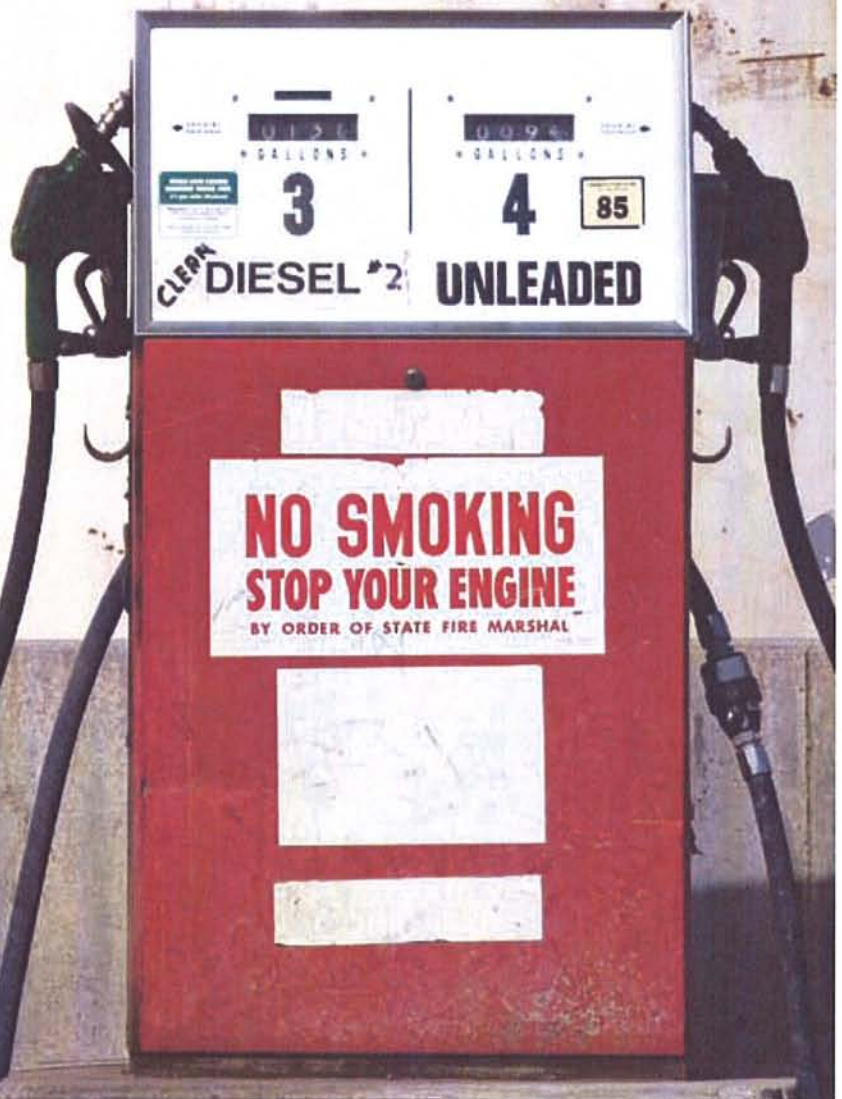
'70s Energy  
Policies  
Will Make Us  
Poorer

By Ben Lieberman  
and Nicolas Loris

4

What We Believe

THE INSIDER • JULY 08



America is currently facing energy challenges reminiscent of the 1970s. Unfortunately, rising gas prices have policymakers repeating the mistakes from that decade—mistakes that took a bad situation and made it worse.

Then, as now, good energy policy is easy to distinguish from bad energy policy: Good policy leads to more supplies of affordable energy; bad policy leads to less. Chief among the good policies is expansion of domestic oil production, and chief among the bad are windfall profits taxes, price controls, and federal subsidies and mandates for alternative energy sources. These bad ideas were tried before and backfired, and they will do no better this time around.

#### **BAD IDEA #1: WINDFALL PROFITS TAX**

Criticizing big oil companies and their big profits is very popular in Congress right now. But experience has shown that hurting big oil is not the way to help consumers, and ideas like the windfall profits tax that have failed before should not be given a second chance.

The windfall profits tax is an excise tax on oil that kicks in when its price exceeds some predetermined level. For example, Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) introduced the Windfall Profits Rebate Act of 2005, which would have imposed a 50 percent tax on the price of oil above \$40 per barrel. Given that the price of a barrel of oil is about \$125 today, Sen. Dorgan's bill would have increased the price to \$187.50.

Of course, there is a considerable populist appeal to taking more in taxes from big oil at a time when they can most easily afford it and giving the proceeds to taxpayers when they

are straining to pay high energy costs. But the last time it was tried, the windfall profits tax backfired badly. It discouraged expansion of domestic energy supplies and led to increased oil imports. According to a 1990 Congressional Research Service study, the windfall profits tax in place from 1980 to 1988 “reduced domestic oil production from between 3 and

6 percent, and increased oil imports from between 8 and 16 percent.” These unintended consequences were among the reasons why the windfall profits tax was repealed in 1988 and why similar bills should not be introduced today.

#### **BAD IDEA #2: PRICE CONTROLS**

The market price of gasoline is the price at which supply and demand are bal-

anced. Currently, that price is uncomfortably high, largely due to inflated crude oil prices in the face of strong U.S. and global demand for gasoline.

Price controls were tried by the federal government in the 1970s, and the consequences were disastrous. The experience showed that attempts to force gasoline prices below market levels invariably result in shortages. Expensive gas gets replaced by scarce gas.

Indeed, federal price controls would artificially lower the price of gas. Yet, those old enough to remember waiting in long gas lines—and stations sometimes running out before their turn—will get a real feeling of *déjà vu* if policymakers introduce similar measures. Gasoline price gouging legislation introduced by Congress would have the same effect as price controls, as would efforts to crack down on oil speculation. Both policies ignore the tight supply–demand situation and instead

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seek to punish market actors over current prices. Neither tries to deal with the underlying problem of inadequate supplies by expanding those supplies.

### **BAD IDEA #3: PICKING WINNERS AND LOSERS AMONG ALTERNATIVES**

During the 1970s and early 1980s, there were many attempts by the federal government to pick winners and losers among emerging energy alternatives—synthetic fuels, solar, ethanol, and others—and tilt the playing field in their favor. Virtually all turned out to be big disappointments.

Several recent bills would either subsidize or mandate alternative fuels and/or vehicles. However, the 30-plus-year history of federal attempts to encourage such alternatives includes numerous failures and few, if any, successes.

Indeed, many of the recipients of tax breaks and incentives in the bills have been subsidized for decades—ethanol since 1978, for example—originally with the promise that they would become viable within a few years and then go off the dole and compete in the marketplace. But this has never happened. Instead, Congress just passed a huge expansion of the ethanol mandate, essentially forcing Americans to use more of it even as it continues to be heavily subsidized. Wind and solar are doing no better competing without government help.

Even after decades of special tax breaks, alternative energy still provides for only a small fraction of America's energy needs. According to the Energy Information Administration, for example, wind and solar energy account for less than 3 percent of America's

electricity because of their high costs and unreliability. Further, the overall percentage of electricity attributable to renewable sources is not expected to increase by 2030, according to the Energy Information Administration.

After all these years, Washington has failed to grasp the serious economic and technological shortcomings of these energy alternatives, which is why they needed special treatment in the first place. Federal efforts to pick winners and losers among energy sources—and lavishing mandates and subsidies on the perceived winners—have a dismal track record relative to allowing market forces to decide the direction of energy innovation.

### **WHAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO**

Those who don't know energy policy history are condemned to repeat it. There are many energy bills currently pending before Congress, and they fall into two general categories: (1) those that seek to increase domestic energy supplies, and (2) those that seek scapegoats and diversions instead. Policymakers should recognize the failures of past energy policies that led to some of the most dismal and frustrating years for American consumers and instead focus on ways to increase the supply of energy domestically.

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*Mr. Lieberman is Senior Policy Analyst in Energy and the Environment and Mr. Loris is a Research Assistant in the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation. This article is adapted from their paper "Energy Policy: Let's Not Repeat the Mistakes of the '70s," Heritage Foundation WebMemo No. 2004, July 28, 2008.*



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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Governor Sarah Palin

October 14, 2008

Ms. Kathy Means

Division of Oil & Gas

550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 800

Anchorage, AK 99501-3560

Re: Extension of ADL 390079 Nenana Basin Exploration License No. 1

Dear Ms. Means:

The Resource Development Council writes to express support of the three-year extension to the license for Nenana Basin Exploration (ADL 390079) held by Doyon Limited, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, and Usibelli Energy, LLC.

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

Gas development in Interior Alaska provides a greatly needed resource in a region that relies heavily on high priced heating fuel. The proximity of the exploration basin to Nenana and Fairbanks allows for use of existing infrastructure and a practical market for the gas.

Additionally, gas production would provide other benefits, including new jobs in rural and urban areas, and additional tax and royalty income to the state.

The \$2.5 million work commitment has been met and the joint landowner – the University of Alaska, has concurred with this proposal. RDC supports and believes it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to extend the license, allowing three years of further exploration.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Marleanna Soto

Projects Coordinator

Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.



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Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Congressman Don Young  
Governor Sarah Palin

October 14, 2008

Public Comments Processing  
Attention: 1018-AT50  
Division of Policy and Directives Management  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 222  
Arlington, VA 22203

Re: Proposed Rule on Interagency Cooperation Under the Endangered Species Act  
(73 Fed. Reg. 47868) (FWS-R9-ES-2008-0093)

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing to express its support for the Proposed Rule on Interagency Cooperation Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as published on August 15, 2008. RDC supports the more detailed comments of the American Petroleum Institute (API) submitted in response to the Proposed Rule, as well as the comments of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association. We believe the Proposed Rule should be promulgated as a final rule.

RDC is an Alaskan-based, non-profit, business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism and fishing industries. Our membership also includes Native regional and village corporations, local governments, organized labor and industry support firms. RDC's mission is to grow Alaska's economy through the responsible development of natural resources.

RDC understands that the proposed regulations are partly in response to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report in 2004 which found that despite improvements, the ESA consultation process "remained contentious between the Services and action agencies." The report noted that the consultation process remained "burdensome."

The Proposed Rule would reduce the number of unnecessary consultations and maximize limited agency resources. Such action would improve the efficiency and the effectiveness of interagency consultations.

RDC supports the clarifications pertaining to the definitions, as well as the clarification of the appropriate causation standard to be used in determining the affects of agency action. We also support the minor procedural changes to “informal” consultations.

Moreover, RDC agrees with the Service that “there is no requirement to consult on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions’ contribution to global warming and its associated impacts on list species (e.g. polar bears).” The proposed regulations appropriately clarify that the ESA consultation process is not required for every federal action that may have GHG emissions. Such a requirement goes far beyond the intent of the ESA and would have far-reaching implications for America’s economy and industries, ranging from oil and gas to agriculture and transportation. It would place a heavy burden on American business and the regulatory agencies. In fact, it would result in far more consultations than current agency resources could sustain. Ultimately, such a requirement would impact the standard of living for most Americans.

In conclusion, RDC encourages the Service to promulgate the Proposed Rule into a final rule. We very much appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this issue.

Sincerely,

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
For Alaska, Inc.



Carl Portman  
Deputy Director

# AMA Registration Form

**ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION  
Convention and Trade Show  
November 3 – November 9, 2008**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP**

Individual Member .....\$95.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Professional Member ..... \$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Operator .....\$250.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student .....\$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Corporate.....Call AMA office for information \_\_\_\_\_

**CONVENTION REGISTRATION**

Member Registration .....\$160.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Non-Member Registration .....\$210.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Registration.....\$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Surchage after Oct.15, 2008.....\$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Wednesday, November 5**  
 Luncheon .....\$32.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Thursday, November 6**  
 Mining District Breakfast.....\$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Luncheon..... \$32.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Friday, November 7**  
 UAF School of Mines Breakfast ..... \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Luncheon ..... \$32.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Banquet ..... \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total A** \_\_\_\_\_

Alaska Miners Association  
 3305 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 105  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
 Ph: (907) 563-9229 Fax: (907) 563-9225  
 Email: [ama@alaskaminers.org](mailto:ama@alaskaminers.org)  
 Website: [www.alaskaminers.org](http://www.alaskaminers.org)



**Short Course #1 (Nov. 3 - Nov. 4 in the Sheraton Hotel)**  
 "Ultramafic Mineral Deposit Models"  
 Pre-Registration .....\$300 \_\_\_\_\_  
 After Oct 15 .....\$350 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Rate ..... \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

(Registration Fee Includes Lunch)  
 I want Continuing Education Credits (fee paid at class) yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

**Short Course #2 (Nov. 3 - Nov. 4 in the Sheraton Hotel)**  
 "Water Management for Mining"  
 Pre-Registration .....\$300 \_\_\_\_\_  
 After Oct 15 .....\$350 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Rate ..... \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

(Registration Fee Includes Lunch)  
 I want Continuing Education Credits (fee paid at class) yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

**Short Course #3 (Oct. 31 – Nov. 4 in the Sheraton Hotel)**  
 "Certified Mine Safety Professional (CMSP)"  
 Pre-Registration .....\$1825 \_\_\_\_\_  
 After Oct 15 .....\$1900 \_\_\_\_\_

(Registration Price Includes Lunch and Fee for Certification Exam)  
 I want Continuing Education Credits (fee paid at class) yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

**Short Course #4 (Nov. 10 in the Sheraton Hotel)**  
 "MSHA Surface Refresher"  
 Pre-Registration ..... No charge \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Pre-registration is required. Lunch is not included)

**Total B** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total A** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Grand Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Method:**  
 Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ M.O.# \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. # \_\_\_\_\_  
**To pay by credit card :**  
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 4. Name on card (please print): \_\_\_\_\_  
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**NEW THIS YEAR**  
**FAX, MAIL, OR REGISTER ONLINE AT**  
**[www.alaskaminers.org](http://www.alaskaminers.org)**

**Deadline for Pre-Registration is October 15, 2008**

**Save Money with Pre-Registration!**

Register early and pay a reduced registration fee. To take advantage of this reduced fee you must return the following registration form to the AMA office on or before October 15, 2008. Members of the AMA qualify for an even greater reduction for convention registration. Non-members may take advantage of this lower rate by joining the AMA when they register.

## Student Poster Session

Students interested in mineral exploration, engineering, operations, management, economics, reclamation, environmental permitting and other subjects pertinent to the mining industry are invited to present their research and technology posters to attendees. This is an excellent opportunity for students to discuss career opportunities and challenges with professionals in multiple disciplines. Poster sessions will be held on **Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.**

Space is limited. For information contact Sarah McClay at (907) 947-7724 or [smcclay@millrockresources.com](mailto:smcclay@millrockresources.com).

## AMA Short Courses

Short courses are open to all (need not be an AMA member and need not be registered for the convention).

### Short Course #1:

#### Ultramafic Mineral Deposit Models

**Instructor:** Dr. Michael Zientek, USGS

**Time:** 8:30am – 5:30pm, Mon - Tues Nov 3 - 4.

**Cost:** \$300, \$350 after Oct 15. Fee includes lunch.

Enrollment is limited to 55 participants. **Optional fee payable at class** for University of Alaska Continuing Education Credits. A Comprehensive overview of the geology of PGE, Ni-Cu and Cr deposits associated with mafic and ultramafic rock sequences. Geochemistry, mineralogy, petrology and grade and tonnage models for these deposit types will also be discussed. **Location:** Sheraton Hotel

### Short Course #2:

#### Water Management for Mining

**Coordinator:** Bill Jeffress – SRK Consulting Engineers and Clyde Gilespe, Coeur Alaska.

**Time:** 8:30am – 5:30pm, Mon - Tues Nov 3 - 4.

**Cost:** \$300, \$350 after Oct 15. Fee includes lunch.

Enrollment is limited to 70 participants. **Optional fee payable at class** for University of Alaska Continuing Education Credits. **Location:** Sheraton Hotel

Mine Hydrology and water management will cover all aspects of collection, compilation and evaluation, hydrologic studies,

water quality studies, and characterization of mine materials that may affect water quality throughout the mine life cycle – exploration, development, operation, and closure.

### Short Course #3:

#### Certified Mine Safety Professional (CMSP) – Training and Certification

**Instructor:** International Society of Certified Mine Safety Professionals

**Time:** 5-days, 8:30 – 5:30, Friday – Tuesday, Oct 31 through Nov 4. **Cost:** \$1825, \$1900 after Oct. 15. Price includes lunches and the fee for the certification exam. **Optional fee payable at class** for University of Alaska Continuing Education Credits. This short course provides credits toward National Certification. The examination for certification will be conducted at the conclusion of the class, fee for exam included in course price. **Location:** Sheraton Hotel

### Short Course #4:

#### MSHA Surface Refresher

**Time:** 8:00am – 5:00pm, Sat Nov 8.

**Cost:** Free – Pre-registration required. Lunch not included.

**Location:** Sheraton Hotel

### TRADE SHOW

Attend the Trade Show during the convention. Many mineral industry suppliers will participate.

#### Open to the public

Wednesday, November 5, 8:00am – 6:30pm

Thursday, November 6, 8:00am – 5:00pm

Friday, November 7, 8:00am – 2:00pm

### ROCK & MINERAL SHOW

Rock and mineral displays. Trade, buy and sell.

#### Open to the public

Friday, November 7, 5-9pm; Saturday, Nov 8, 10-5pm;

Sunday, Nov 9, 10-4pm in the Yukon and Kuskokwim

Rooms 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at the Sheraton Hotel.

## Technical Sessions

### Wednesday Morning, November 5

#### Agency Geologic Investigations

Updates by USGS, BLM, and DGGs scientists on Alaska work programs in progress or completed during the past year.

### Wednesday Afternoon, November 5

#### Exploration Project Highlights

An overview of various early stage exploration projects from around the State of Alaska. The session will include project talks on Southeast, Southcentral, Interior, Southwest, Western and Northern Alaska.

### Thursday Morning, November 6

#### AMA Session: Issues Affecting Alaska Miners

This session will update miners on current industry issues.

### Thursday Afternoon, November 6

#### Alaska Exploration Projects

Presentations will give highlights of 2008 exploration activities in Alaska and updates on specific properties.

### Friday Morning, November 7

#### Water Management for Mining

Overviews of water management issues, concerns, and responsibilities for exploration and mining operations in Alaska.

### Friday Afternoon, November 7

#### Development and Mine Operations

Current mine development projects will be discussed as well as updates on selected mining operations.

## Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship opportunities are available at a variety of levels for the convention, short courses, coffee breaks, student poster sessions, and other events. Sponsors receive personal recognition at the event and they receive promotion through the convention website and convention materials. For more information contact Sharon Cox at the Alaska Miners Association.

# AMA Schedule of Events

	Monday Nov. 3	Tuesday Nov. 4	Wednesday Nov. 5	Thursday Nov. 6	Friday Nov. 7	Saturday Nov. 8	Sunday Nov. 9
<b>Breakfast</b>				Mining District Breakfast 7:00am	UAF School of Mines & Friends Breakfast 7:00am		
<b>Morning Session</b>	<b>Friday Oct. 31 thru Tuesday Nov. 4</b>  Short Course #3 Certified Mine Safety Professional (CMSP)  8:30am-5:30pm  <b>Sheraton Hotel</b>	Short Course #1 Ultramafic Mineral Deposit Models	Short Course #1 (Continued)	Agency Geologic Investigations  8:00-11:00am	AMA Session  Issues Affecting Alaska Miners  8:00-11:00am	Water Management for Mining  8:00-11:00am	Short Course #4 MSHA Surface Refresher  8am-5pm  <b>Sheraton Hotel</b>  <b>Rock &amp; Mineral Show (10:00am-5:00pm)</b> Yukon and Kuskokwim Rooms
<b>Luncheon</b>		Short Course #2 Water Management for Mining	Short Course #2 (Continued)	Luncheon	Luncheon	Luncheon	
<b>Afternoon Session</b>		Short Course #3 (Continued)	Short Course #3 (Continued)	Exploration Project Highlights  2:00-5:00pm	Alaska Exploration Projects  2:00-5:00pm	Development and Mine Operations  2:00-5:00pm	
<b>Evening</b>			Suppliers Cocktail Reception 5:00-7:00pm	History Night 7:00-9:00pm	Miners' Banquet 7:00pm		<b>Rock &amp; Mineral Show</b>  10:00am-4:00pm  Yukon and Kuskokwim Rooms  <b>Sheraton Hotel</b>

## Special Events

### Attention Prospective Trade Show Exhibitors!

Please call AMA. Various suppliers to the mining industry are represented at the trade show.

### Trade Show Silent Auction: Rock Specimens from Alaska

Donations accepted! Contact Anita Williams at [awilliam@alaska.net](mailto:awilliam@alaska.net).

### Suppliers' Reception

Meet your friends and view the trade show exhibits at an opening mixer from 5:00-6:30pm on Wednesday, November 5. A ticket good for one drink is included in your registration packet. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided courtesy of the trade show exhibitors. Cash bar.

### Mining District Breakfast

Have breakfast with your friends and hear the latest news from various mining districts around Alaska. The breakfast will be held at 7:00am, Thursday November 6. Space is limited.

### History Night – Alaska Mining Hall of Fame –

#### “The Kennecott Story”

The induction of new members will be held at 7:00pm, Thursday November 6. Open to the public.

### UAF School of Mines & Friends Breakfast

Obtain the latest news on activities in the UAF School of Mineral Engineering. Attend breakfast with fellow alumni and school supporters at 7:00am Friday, November 7. Space is limited.

### Miners Banquet

The AMA Convention wraps up with the Miners' Banquet on Friday evening at 7:00pm. Dinner, entertainment, the AMEREF Raffle drawing, presentation of awards, and visiting with friends combine for an exciting evening. No host cocktails available at 6:30pm.

## Rock and Mineral Show

Displays of rocks and minerals from around Alaska. Trade, buy and sell. Open to the public. Friday, November 7 (5:00-9:00pm), Saturday, November 8 (10:00am-5:00pm), and Sunday, November 9 (10:00am-4:00pm) in the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rooms.

## Sheraton Hotel Arrangements

**Book by October 15** and the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel will provide rooms at the special rate of \$105 (single or double). Reserve your room early. **You must contact the Sheraton Hotel directly for room reservations.** When calling, state that you are attending the Alaska Miners Convention to receive these special rates.

### Sheraton Hotel

401 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 276-8700

Within Alaska, call toll free: (800) 478-8700

### Or Register on line at

<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/akminers08>

## ITC Travel Arrangements

**ITC Travel** has obtained special fares from Alaska Airlines up to 10% off excursion fares excluding all other promo's for convention attendees. These rates are effective from Oct. 31 through Nov.12. To take advantage of these special rates, you must purchase your tickets through ITC Travel by calling 907-561-7722. Mention you are a conference attendee for the Alaska Miners Association Convention. CMB 0458 e-code. "International travelers" must have picture ID with Birth Certificate, Citizen Certificate, or current Passport.

### ITC Travel

4101 Arctic Blvd., Ste. 107  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Phone: (907) 561-7722 or call toll free (877) 561-7975

[www.itcalaska.com](http://www.itcalaska.com) Email: [info@itcalaska.com](mailto:info@itcalaska.com)

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NOAA Fisheries

### National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Regional Office

#### NOAA Fisheries News Releases

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##### NEWS RELEASE

September 25, 2008

[Sheela McLean](#), Public Affairs

(907) 586-7032

#### **COOK INLET BELUGA POPULATION HOLDS STEADY FROM 2007**

The Cook Inlet beluga whale population has held steady from last year's count of 375 animals, based on NOAA's Fisheries Service latest annual survey.

NOAA's Fisheries Service scientists conducted aerial surveys in early June during fish migrations, when belugas concentrate near river mouths, including the Susitna and Little Susitna rivers, Knik Arm, and Chickaloon Bay.

NOAA's Fisheries Service scientists flew over upper Cook Inlet on seven days between June 3 and 12, manually counting the belugas while taking photographs and video of the whales.

Scientists later carefully examined the images to provide a more complete estimate of the total number of beluga whales in the inlet.

When scientists reanalyzed the 2008 survey observations, the population estimate remained the same as last year —375.

In 2007, NOAA's Fisheries Service accepted a petition to list the Cook Inlet beluga population as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. A final determination following completion of the population status review is due in October.

NOAA's Fisheries Service declared the Cook Inlet beluga population depleted in 2000 under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The population, however, has not recovered as hoped. Alaska native groups have been allowed to hunt the whales under co-management agreements with NOAA's Fisheries Service, with restrictions on how many whales could be taken in a given year. Between 1999 and 2007, hunters took five beluga whales for subsistence in Cook Inlet, down from 308 between 1995 and 1998. There was no subsistence hunt for beluga whales in 2008.

Cook Inlet belugas are one of five beluga populations recognized within U.S. waters. The others are Bristol Bay, eastern Bering Sea, eastern Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea.

The Cook Inlet beluga population estimates since 1994 are:

1994: 653  
1995: 491  
1996: 594  
1997: 440  
1998: 347  
1999: 367  
2000: 435  
2001: 386  
2002: 313  
2003: 357  
2004: 366  
2005: 278  
2006: 302  
2007: 375  
2008: 375

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov). To learn more about NOAA Fisheries in Alaska, visit [alaskafisheries.noaa.gov](http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov) or: [www.afsc.noaa.gov](http://www.afsc.noaa.gov).





# NEWS BULLETIN

September 29, 2008 --- Vol. 14, No. 94

September 2008

## Lawmakers revive gas reserves tax initiative

A group of state lawmakers have revived a measure to tax Alaska natural gas reserves.

Rep. Harry Crawford, D-Anchorage; Rep. David Guttenberg, D-Fairbanks; and Rep. Beth Kertulla, D-Juneau recently filed paperwork for a proposed ballot initiative to levy a 3-cent tax for every thousand cubic feet of known gas reserves in large fields in Alaska.

The measure is nearly identical to one filed several years ago by Crawford, Guttenberg and then-Rep. Eric Croft, D-Anchorage. Following a lengthy and expensive public relations effort by oil companies and vigorous debate on both sides of the issue, voters opposed the measure by a ratio of nearly 2-to-1 during the 2006 elections.

Both measures serve the same purpose: to prompt lessees to develop North Slope natural gas resources. Those resources currently remain stranded because the infrastructure to carry Alaska gas to markets in the Lower 48, Canada or overseas does not exist.

Since the previous ballot measure failed, though, two proposals for building that multi-billion dollar pipeline have made significant strides. A state-sponsored effort by the Canadian pipeline company TransCanada, and a BP and ConocoPhillips joint venture called Denali both plan to hold open seasons on separate pipelines in 2010.

Crawford told Petroleum News on Sept. 29 that he would cancel the new reserves tax if the North Slope lessees committed gas to a pipeline that met the set of 20 requirements, or "must haves," set out by the state under the Alaska Gasline Inducement Act.

As the licensee under that act, only TransCanada is required to meet those 20 must haves.

The measure filed last week would apply to all units created since 1990 and known to contain at least 1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas of proven, but unproduced reserves.

Under that definition, the measure would certainly cover the gas contained in the Prudhoe Bay and Kuparuk River units, but the sponsors believe the measure would not cover the Point Thomson unit because of a recent state decision to terminate the unit.

ExxonMobil, the unit operator at Point Thomson, is challenging that decision in court.

The new measure would allow leaseholders to reclaim the entire tax through annual credits. The previous measure included a similar provision, but stopped reimbursing companies after 2030. The newly proposed measure contains no such deadline.

See full story in Oct. 5 issue of Petroleum News, available to subscribers online at noon, Friday, Oct. 3 at [www.PetroleumNews.com](http://www.PetroleumNews.com)

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## Registration

### To Register

Please take advantage of the special Early Bird Rate! Register before Friday, November 7, 2008 to qualify.

RDC members \$300, Non-members \$375  
(Includes Individual Membership for 2009)

RDC members \$350 and non-members \$425  
(As of Monday, November 10, 2008)

Please note that if you or your organization are sponsoring the conference, you may be entitled to complimentary registrations and will not be required to register online. Please visit the sponsor page to see the list of current sponsors or contact RDC staff for assistance.

Register online at [www.akrdc.org](http://www.akrdc.org) or return this form to:  
Resource Development Council, 121 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 250,  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Fax: (907) 276-3887.

No refunds after Friday, November 7, 2008. Participant substitution is permitted, please call staff with changes. For additional information, call RDC at 276-0700.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(As it appears on the credit card statement)

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment:

Conference Registration by November 7, 2008  
(\$300 member, \$375 non-member) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Registration November 10 & later  
(\$350 member, \$425 non-member) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional donation to Producers Challenge Grant  
in support of AMEREF \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

VISA/MC/AMEX#: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
(As it appears on the credit card)

### Hotel Information:

Hotel Captain Cook: \$115/night. Visit [www.captaincook.com](http://www.captaincook.com) and enter code rdc2009.

Clarion/Hawthorn Suites: \$85/night. Call 274-1000 for Clarion and 222-5005 for Hawthorn, or email [reservations@chenegahotels.com](mailto:reservations@chenegahotels.com) and specify RDC Conference Rate.

Marriott Downtown: \$119/night. Call 800-228-9290 or visit [www.marriott.com/ancdt](http://www.marriott.com/ancdt) and specify code RDCRDC.

Sheraton Anchorage Hotel: \$99/night. Call 276-8700 and specify RDC Resource Development Council.



121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 250  
Anchorage, AK 99503-2035

Multiple lists are used for this mailing.  
Encourage new attendance by passing  
duplicates of this brochure to colleagues.

Resource Development Council's  
**29th Annual Conference**

**Alaska Resources 2009**

# Alaska at 50

November 19-20, 2008  
Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center, Anchorage

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Alaska Resources 2009

# Alaska Resources 2009 Alaska at 50

RDC's 2008 conference, *Alaska Resources 2009*, will provide timely updates on new projects and prospects. Hear directly from industry experts and government policy makers. Critical issues will be addressed impacting Alaska's oil and gas, mining, and other resource development sectors.

More than 600 people are expected to attend the conference, including decision-makers across all resource industries and economic sectors, as well as Native corporation executives, state legislators, federal, state, and local government officials, and educators. RDC's conference is Alaska's most established and highest profile resource development forum of the year.

## Wednesday, November 19th

- 7:00 a.m.** Registration/Check-in/Exhibits Open  
**Eye-Opener Breakfast**
- 8:00** **Opening Remarks**  
Welcome, Mayor Mark Begich, Municipality of Anchorage
- 8:15** **Federal Updates on Alaska Gas Pipeline Projects**  
Senior Executive, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Invited)  
Drue Pearce, Federal Coordinator, Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects
- 8:45** **The North Slope: 2009 Outlook**  
Doug Suttles, President, BP (Exploration) Alaska Inc.  
Jim Bowles, President, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.  
Roberto Dall'Orto, President, Eni US Operating Company Inc.  
Frank Patterson, Vice President, Exploration, Anadarko Petroleum  
Martin Cohen, Exploration Manager, StatoilHydro
- 10:00** **Gourmet Break – Sponsored by ExxonMobil**
- 10:30** **First Independent on Alaska's North Slope: Now What's Next?**  
Ken Sheffield, President, Pioneer Natural Resources Alaska
- 11:00** **Cook Inlet Development Challenges and Opportunities: The Current Perspective**  
Steve Wright, Alaska Asset Development Manager, Chevron
- 11:30** **Networking Break**
- Noon** **Keynote Luncheon:**  
**The Future of North America Gas: Opportunity for Alaska**  
Peter Coleman, Vice President, Americas Region, ExxonMobil Production Company
- 1:30 p.m.** **Ballot Initiatives: Past, Present and Future**  
Vic Fischer, Delegate to the Constitutional Convention  
Representative Lindsey Holmes  
Representative Ralph Samuels
- 2:30** **Solutions to Alaska's Energy Crisis: A Long-term Approach**  
Steve Haagenson, President, Alaska Energy Authority
- 3:00** **Gourmet Break – Sponsored by Marketing Solutions**
- 3:30** **The Alaska Offshore: Opportunities, Challenges and Local Issues**  
Peter Slaiby, General Manager, Shell Alaska  
Randall Luthi, Director, U.S. Minerals Management Service  
Mayor Edward Itta, North Slope Borough (Invited)  
Mayor Stanley Mack, Aleutians East Borough
- 4:30** **Canadian Energy Initiatives and The Environment**  
Kevin Stringer, Director General, Petroleum Resources Branch,  
Natural Resources Canada
- 5:00** **VIP Networking Reception: Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center**  
**Hosted by Government of Canada, open to all conference attendees**

## Thursday, November 20th

- 7:00 a.m.** **Eye-Opener Breakfast**
- 8:00** **The TransCanada Pipeline Proposal: 2009 and Beyond**  
Tony Palmer, Vice President of Alaska Development, TransCanada
- 8:45** **The Pebble Project: 2009 and Beyond**  
John Shively, Chief Executive Officer, Pebble Limited Partnership  
Greg Baker, Board member, Pacific Seafood Processors Association
- 9:30** **Moving It Forward: Commercializing North Slope Natural Gas**  
Bud Fackrell, President, Denali: The Alaska Gas Pipeline
- 10:00** **Gourmet Break – Sponsored by Stool Rives LLP**
- 10:30** **Foreign Investment In Alaska: What Would We Do Without It?**  
Karen Matthias, Canadian Consul, Government of Canada  
Greg Baker, President, Westward Seafoods  
Karl Hanneman, Director, Corporate Affairs – Alaska, Teck Alaska  
Paul Henry, Anglo American
- 11:30** **Networking Break**
- Noon** **Keynote Luncheon:**  
**Alaska Native Corporations: 2008 In Review, A Look At The Year Ahead**  
Sheri Burette, President, Chugach Alaska Corporation  
Norm Phillips, President, Doyon Limited  
Chris McNeil, President, Sealaska Corporation
- 1:30 p.m.** **The Endangered Species Act:**  
**Should Alaska's Natural Resource Economy Be Listed As Endangered?**  
Don Baur, Partner, Perkins Coie LLP  
Lyle Laverty, Assistant Secretary, Fish, Wildlife & Parks,  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Invited)  
Dr. John Schoen, Senior Scientist, Audubon Society  
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Jeff Leppo, Seattle Office Managing Partner, Stool Rives LLP
- 3:00** **Financial Crisis and Global Economic Recession:**  
**Outlook for Alaska Resource Industries in 2009**  
Jonathan King, Principal, Northern Economics
- 3:45** **Send-off Reception: Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center**  
**Hosted by Council of Alaska Producers**

Agenda subject to change. Please visit [www.akrdc.org](http://www.akrdc.org) for updates.  
Sponsorship opportunities available: Call 907-276-0700, ext. 2



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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The Wilson Agency

Design: Salt+Light Creative

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# George Schmidt Memorial Raffle and Silent Auction in Support of AMEREF

(As of October 15, 2008)

Grand Prize drawing will be Friday, November 7, 2008 at the conclusion of the Alaska Miners Association Convention & Trade Miners Banquet, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. Some of the following donations will be in the Silent Auction, others as raffle prizes.

---

## **Grand Prize:**

Seven day cruise for two on Holland America Line  
*Donated by Holland America Line*

Assorted wine and juice  
*Donated by Evergreen Helicopters of Alaska*

Logo Apparel  
*Donated by Pebble Partnership*

Wooden Seal Mask  
*Donated by Calista Corporation*

Logo Apparel  
*Donated by Barrick Gold*

Fleece Vest  
*Donated by HDR*

Logo Vest & Cap  
*Donated by Alaska Miners Association*

Helicopter Tour  
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*Donated by Koncor Forest Products*

Handmade Seal Skin Slippers  
*Donated by NANA Development Corporation*

\$100 Nordstrom Gift Card (Two)  
*Donated by Lynden*

\$25 Gift Cards (Two)  
*Donated by Simon & Seafort's*

Generator  
*Donated by Construction Machinery Industrial LLC*

Brunch Package & Overnight Stay  
*Donated by Sheraton Anchorage Hotel*

\$50 Mayflower Catering Certificate  
*Donated by Chiulista Services Inc.*

H2Oasis Passes (Four)  
*Donated by Alaska Waterpark*

iPod Nano 8GB  
*Donated by GeoLogic*

Assorted Logo Gear  
*Donated by ASRC Energy Services*

Handmade Mini Quilts (Two)  
*Donated by Carolyn Lyman*

\$100 Gift Card  
*Donated by Allure Day Spa & Hair Design*

Prize list updated frequently, please visit [www.ameref.org](http://www.ameref.org) for the current prize list, or to donate a prize.