



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, November 6, 2008

- 1) Call to order – Rick Rogers, President
- 2) Self Introductions
- 3) Headtable Introductions
- 4) Staff Report – Jason Brune, Executive Director
- 5) Program and Keynote Speaker:

**The Endangered Species Act Listing of the
Cook Inlet Beluga Whale: Rationale,
Impacts & What It Means For All
Activities In Cook Inlet**

Kaja Brix, Assistant Regional Administrator,
Protective Resources Division, Alaska Region,
National Marine Fisheries Service

Next Meeting: November 19-20, RDC 29th Annual Conference, Alaska Resources 2009, Dena'Ina Civic & Convention Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE

RELEASE

No. 08-174

**State of Alaska Disappointed in Federal Listing of Cook Inlet Belugas,
Citing Concern for Jobs and Families**

October 23, 2008, Anchorage, Alaska - Governor Sarah Palin today stressed concern about the economic impact of Friday's decision by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to list beluga whales in Cook Inlet as an endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

"This listing does not provide additional protection for the whales beyond what already exists under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and will require lengthy consultation for many activities now taking place or being planned in Cook Inlet," said Commissioner of Fish and Game Denby Lloyd.

"We are concerned for the health of this small population of whales," said Governor Palin. "We want to make sure that whatever is done to help them recover does so without creating a burdensome and unnecessary bureaucracy that will limit activities in Cook Inlet." A listing of endangered under the ESA requires designation of critical habitat, a recovery plan, and a review of all federally funded or permitted activities in Cook Inlet that might affect the whales.

This decision could have negative impacts on industries and development in and around Cook Inlet. Oil and gas development, commercial fishing, port construction, and many other projects could be affected and subject to delays and additional costs. The State of Alaska shares the concerns expressed by local governments and groups about the effect this listing will have on the local economy and will work with National Marine Fisheries Service as they consider designation of critical habitat to ensure these concerns are addressed.

Attorney General Talis Colberg said the state has not ruled out a legal challenge to the listing. "We disagree with the decision to list a species that is stable or increasing when NOAA has not analyzed its data on beluga calf populations or given the harvest restrictions time to work. It is especially troubling because NOAA's own models show only a 1 percent chance that the whales may go extinct within 50 years."

The State of Alaska advocated for protection under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) for the whales, and state biologists who have analyzed the available data believe that the restrictions in place under MMPA are working.

Between 1994 and 1999, the estimated population of belugas in Cook Inlet declined from about 650 to about 350. Both state scientists and NOAA agreed that the primary cause of the population decline was the unregulated subsistence harvest, estimated at between 166 and 338 whales.

In response to a state petition, NOAA limited the harvest severely in 2000, designating the population as "depleted" under the MMPA. A depleted designation allows the NMFS to manage the subsistence harvest at sustainable levels through cooperative agreements with Alaska Native Organizations.

It was expected that harvest restrictions would take time to show effects due to the slow reproductive cycle of belugas. "NOAA's own counts of belugas in Cook Inlet indicate that the species has been increasing since 2005," said Doug Vincent-Lang, ESA Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. "This is what we expected would happen starting six to seven years after the harvest was cut."

Since 2005, NOAA's counts show an increase of more than 30 percent in the population, from 278 to 375. In addition, Vincent-Lang said, a critical piece of information in assessing the potential for an increase in abundance is an estimate of the belugas' population age structure. "NOAA has done counts of beluga calves for several years, but has not yet analyzed the data. These counts need to be analyzed to increase our understanding of the factors that may be influencing survival and reproduction and the whales' potential rate of recovery."

Additionally, the listing decision is based on the assumption that the Cook Inlet beluga whales are a distinct population segment that does not mix with other stocks of belugas. Scientific analysis to determine whether this assumption is correct has not been completed, and should include the best available information.

Attorney General Talis Colberg said he will consult with Governor Palin to review the state's legal options.

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Contact: Doug Vincent-Lang, Endangered Species Act Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 907-267-2339

No good will come of it, not even for whales **POINT COUNTERPOINT: Should Cook Inlet belugas be declared endangered?**

By JASON BRUNE

(11/01/08 00:21:12)

"So tell me what you want, what you really really want? Yeah, tell me what you want, what you really, really want ..."

I rarely summon the Spice Girls, but in this instance, I had to. The listing of the beluga whales in Cook Inlet under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) leaves me wondering just that -- what do they really, really want?

Is it to stop dipnetting, sport, and commercial fishing in Cook Inlet?

Is it to double, or maybe even triple, our water/wastewater bills?

Is it to stop oil and gas exploration and development in Cook Inlet at a time when our supplies are dwindling?

Is it to raise the cost of goods throughout the state as most of what is shipped to Alaska comes through Anchorage ports?

Is it to stop economic growth and community development in the region?

Is it to give them a powerful weapon (the Endangered Species Act) for litigating any project or activity they don't like in and around Cook Inlet?

If so, they may ultimately succeed. All of these negative ramifications of the listing are likely to occur, with no added benefit to the belugas.

Under the Clinton Administration, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) determined belugas were adequately protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and should not be listed under the ESA. The courts upheld this decision.

In fact, NMFS identified the only cause of the population decline as an unsustainable subsistence harvest in the mid-90s. Indeed, over 300 belugas were taken between 1995-1998. Management plans have since been put in place to assure such an unsustainable harvest will never occur again, and as predicted, we're now seeing growth.

Baby belugas take 5 to 7 years to reach sexual maturity. In other words, some babies born when the whales were NOT listed in 2000 are just now able to reproduce. In fact, a study from 2001 by Litsky, which ironically is often cited by NMFS, predicted it would take 5 to 7 years after the unsustainable subsistence harvest stopped, before we would see growth in the population. As predicted, since 2005, we've seen a 35 percent increase.

Why would we list now? What do they really really want?

Just as election polls have a margin of error, so too do population estimates. In population biology, they're referred to as confidence intervals. In 1995, the scientists estimated the actual beluga population was between 200 and 1,100 animals. That's a pretty big range, and understandable when they're using only one annual aerial survey conducted in June as the basis for this estimate.

In 2008, they estimated the actual population somewhere between 210 and 600 animals. The agency's science is not sophisticated enough to give more precision and accuracy. Decisions of this magnitude should not be made with such limited science.

In addition, the scientists have not incorporated the age distribution of the belugas, even though such studies have been done. The age and number of calves are critical pieces of information in assessing the potential for further increases in the population. These data should have been analyzed prior to making an ESA listing decision.

NMFS also uses a methodologically different (and some would say technically flawed) survey from 1979 to set their desired population at nearly 1,300 animals. NMFS stated the belugas won't be downlisted from endangered to threatened until they've seen a population that surpasses 800 animals. Amazingly, in all of its population counts, NMFS has never once had a population estimate that surpassed even 700, so they may have set an unattainable goal. Getting off the endangered species list entirely will require an even larger population.

We all really, really want a healthy beluga population in Cook Inlet. But an endangered species listing at this time is unwarranted and will only lead to additional restrictions on activities in the Inlet with no added benefit to the belugas.

Small, unique population needs our help to survive

POINT COUNTERPOINT: Should Cook Inlet belugas be declared endangered?

By CRAIG MATKIN

(11/01/08 00:21:13)

In the face of strong political opposition, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recently declared the Cook Inlet beluga whale endangered.

Why such a dramatic move from a very conservative administration in the face of extreme pressure not to list?

Because the science supports the listing and it cannot be ignored.

The State of Alaska cites a recent NMFS model that indicates a low probability of total extinction for Cook Inlet belugas in the coming decades. However, the state fails to acknowledge the same model shows an 80 percent probability of decline, 26 percent probability of extinction in 100 years and a 54 percent probability that the population will be under 200 animals in 50 years. As a result, it may become too late to turn the tide for the belugas unless we move now.

Some appear willing to let the Cook Inlet beluga whale go extinct because beluga populations elsewhere in Alaska remain healthy. But these arguments ignore a central point: There is strong genetic evidence the Cook Inlet beluga whale is a very separate and unique population, and it has been for a very long time. No geneticist that has worked intimately with the data has said anything different. If the Cook Inlet belugas disappear, it's extremely unlikely they will be replaced by belugas from elsewhere.

The National Marine Fisheries Service delayed its decision so it could conduct one more beluga survey this summer, to ensure there was not a statistically detectable change in the population trend. Unfortunately, the survey only reinforced the scientific evidence that the whale population is not increasing anywhere near the growth rate needed to move toward recovery.

Instead, according to a sophisticated analysis conducted at the National Marine Mammal Laboratory, the population is still most likely declining. Other marine mammal experts have reached a similar conclusion.

It's no coincidence the highly respected scientists at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature put the Cook Inlet beluga on their "red list" of critically endangered populations. The expert agency charged by Congress with overseeing the nation's marine mammal stocks -- the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission --- has argued for years to list them as endangered.

What makes the situation so compelling is that the 300 to 400 surviving whales include a small number of reproductive adult whales -- about 200 whales, according to IUCN scientists. Only a portion of these are reproductive females. Belugas concentrate seasonally in one of several shallow areas of northern Cook Inlet and are subject to stranding -- sometimes in mass -- so this is a perilously small number of whales to depend on for recovery. Any natural or human-induced catastrophic event, even if localized, could have serious consequences.

Population growth -- including producing young that survive to adulthood -- is a slow process for these small-toothed whales. It's no exaggeration that every reproductive adult is important to the Cook Inlet belugas' recovery.

That's why it's so important to step away from unfounded fears that a listing will stop industry and human activity, and to focus on what we can do now to ensure the beluga whale remains a vibrant part of the Cook Inlet ecosystem for years to come.

Contrary to oft-repeated arguments, the record shows endangered species designations do not hamper responsible development. It is time we acknowledge the validity of the findings of the National Marine Fisheries Service biologists and work together as concerned Alaskans to save this whale. Let's fund the additional science needed to better understand these unique whales and to identify and protect the habitat needed to ensure the beluga has a fighting chance.

Craig Matkin is co-director of North Gulf Oceanic Society in Homer. He is a whale biologist with more than 30 years experience studying marine mammals in Alaskan waters.

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EPA News Release

Contact:

Christine Psyk, EPA/Seattle, 206-553-1906, psyk.christine@epa.gov

Mark MacIntyre, EPA/Seattle, 206-553-7302, macintyre.mark@epa.gov

Lynn J. Tomich Kent, ADEC/Anchorage, 907-269-6281, lynn.kent@alaska.gov

EPA Authorizes the State of Alaska to Assume Water Quality Permitting Authority

(Seattle, Wash. – October 31, 2008) Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's (ADEC) application to run the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program in the state.

The NPDES permit program, a key part of the federal Clean Water Act, controls water pollution by regulating sources that discharge pollutants to waters in the United States. EPA officials noted that while today's official approval gives the State of Alaska responsibility for water quality permitting, EPA will continue its government-to-government relationship with Tribes as it oversees the state's permitting program.

By seeking and accepting the NPDES program, Alaska's environmental regulators gain the authority to both write wastewater discharge permits for local businesses and industry, and enforce those permits to insure compliance with permit conditions.

"Alaska has achieved a significant milestone," said Elin Miller, EPA's Regional Administrator in Seattle. "Today, Alaska joins 45 other states that control water quality permitting for local waters. With that privilege comes the responsibility to administer a robust, well-funded program that produces strong, water quality-based permits. Hanging in the balance are Alaska's waters, which are among the most pristine in the United States."

-more-

“Our permits and efforts to protect water quality will be worthy of our tremendous water resources and their unique value to Alaskans,” said Larry Hartig, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). “We are particularly looking forward to making the permit program work for our rural residents who often have great interest and much to contribute when it comes to protecting water quality. Their voices must be heard. We also appreciate EPA’s efforts in helping us reach this important goal, along with the support of the state legislature, the public work group that helped us, and the many, many Alaskans who have contributed.”

Alaska's authority to write permits will be phased-in over three years, while EPA will continue to write permits for those facilities that Alaska has yet to assume. Permits previously issued by EPA will remain in effect and become State APDES permits, administered and enforced by the ADEC.

Alaska plans to phase-in the permit program as follows:

Phase I (Upon delegation): Domestic Wastewater, Timber Harvesting, Seafood Processing.

Phase II (One year after delegation): Federal Facilities, Storm water, Pre-Treatment.

Phase III (Two years after delegation): Mining.

Phase IV (Three years after delegation): Oil and Gas, cooling water, all remaining facilities.

As part of the authorization agreement, EPA:

- Retains oversight of State’s program;
- Retains the right to review any permit;
- Retains the right to object to permits that are not protective and/or inconsistent with the Clean Water Act;
- Retains the right to federalize a State permit if the State does not adequately address EPA’s objection(s);
- Retains enforcement authority over all dischargers;

- Reserves the right to withdraw Alaska's NPDES authorization if the State is not meeting Clean Water Act requirements; and
- Will conduct periodic program reviews

EPA will issue a notice in the Federal Register on or around November 10, 2008, informing the public that Alaska's application for authorization to run the program has been approved.

#

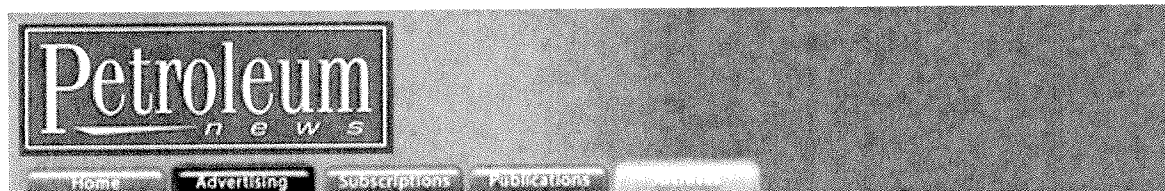
For more information about EPA's NPDES discharge program, visit:
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/index.cfm>

For more information about Alaska's NPDES Program, visit EPA's Region 10 NPDES website:
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/NPDES+Permits/Permits+Homepage>

Or visit ADEC's website to view Alaska's NPDES Authorization Application and other related documents: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/npdes/index.htm>

For more information about EPA's work in Alaska, visit:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/Homepage.NSF/Citizens/Alaska>



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

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 S U B S C R I B E

CLICK BELOW FOR A MESSAGE FROM OUR ADVERTISERS.





November 6, 2008

Members of the Resource Development Council

Re: Stockholm Junior Water Prize Sponsorship Request

Dear RDC Members,

Alaska Water Wastewater Management Association (AWWMA) will be hosting the U.S. National Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition in Anchorage, June 25-27, 2009. The Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) is the most prestigious international youth award for high school water science research. Its purpose is to increase students' interest in water-related issues and research and to sensitize them, as future leaders, to global water challenges.

In the United States, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and its 37,000 members, such as AWWMA, organize the U.S. national, state, and regional SJWP competitions with support from ITT Industries, the Coca-Cola Company, and Delta Airlines. National support provides the majority of funding for the event, while the local committee is responsible for a portion of the funding as well. AWWMA is comprised of membership from the water and wastewater industry throughout Alaska. A number of utilities, including Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility, are working together to support the SJWP competition.

Alaska's resource industries are dependant on reliable clean water, and water quality issues are central to the successful development of those resources. Objective research on these issues is vital to the future of Alaskan industry, and the experience gained by student participants in the contest will help prepare them for productive careers.

Among the many obligations of the local SJWP committee are providing transportation for student competitors and their teachers upon their arrival in Anchorage, from the airport to the University of Alaska Anchorage where they will be staying during the weekend; providing coaches and judges for the competition; and create a yearbook capturing memorable moments from the event for students to cherish for years to come. It is our goal, as well, to help WEF defray travel costs for those WEF Member Associations who may otherwise be unable to support a student's travel to Anchorage for the competition.

We need your help in building tomorrow's leaders in science and industry. Your sponsorship of \$1,000 or greater would result in local and national publicity and media coverage, in addition to signage at the event and in recognition in the yearbook. Please see our Partnering Opportunities brochure for more details.

Additional information about the SJWP can be found online at the SJWP website, www.StockholmJuniorWaterPrize.org. I will contact you very soon to discuss any interest that AWWU might have in this opportunity, or you can email or call me any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angie Monteleone".

Angie Monteleone
Executive Director
AWWMA

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carrie Bohan".

Carrie Bohan
SJWP Committee Chair
AWWMA



*The Stockholm Junior Water Prize is the most prestigious youth award for a high school science research project.
This program is proudly offered by the Water Environment Federation.
The 2009 National Competition is hosted by Alaska Water Wastewater Management Association.*

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize in Alaska!

THE COMPETITION

The Stockholm Water Foundation founded the International SJWP. HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden is the patron of the prize with support from ITT Industries, The Coca-Cola Company and Delta Airlines. The SJWP competition is open to projects aimed at improving the quality of life through improvement of water quality, water resources management, water protection or water and wastewater treatment. In the United States, WEF and its member associations (MAs) organize the U.S. national, state, and regional SJWP competition choosing state winners from projects entered into one of hundreds of regional International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) affiliated science fairs and other local science fairs held across the country.

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) is the most prestigious international youth award for a high school water science research project. Its purpose is to increase students' interest in water-related issues and research, and to sensitize them - as future leaders -



*Madison Nolan & Hannah Wilson,
2008 Alaska State Winners*

In 2008, AWWA sponsored two students from Juneau Douglas High School to compete at the National SJWP in Orlando. Joyce Chai took home the top honor in Orlando and went on to win the international prize as well during her visit to Stockholm in August, 2008. There's no better time to be involved in the US National SJWP competition!



*Joyce Chai,
2008 US & International
SJWP Winner*

THE 2009 EVENT

Alaska Water Wastewater Management Association (AWWMA) has been selected by the Water Environment Federation (WEF) to host the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) National Competition in June of 2009. We anticipate welcoming fifty students and teachers to Anchorage for the competition. In addition to presenting their projects, students will have the opportunity to tour the Seward Highway, Scenic Byway and All American Road, on the way to cruising Prince William Sound from Whittier; experience the tradition of Native Alaskan dancing and games demonstrations; and tour the inner workings of H2Oasis water theme park, all while getting a feel for college life by living on campus at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

The weekend will culminate in an awards ceremony in which one winner will be announced to represent the United States in Stockholm, Sweden in August 2009 at the international competition where he or she will vie against students from 30 countries. For more information on SJWP, go to www.awwma.org or www.sjwp.org.

PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES

WEF and AWWMA need your help to make the 2009 competition as successful as possible. Please consider the becoming a partner in our quest for greatness. Partnering opportunities are available at all levels.

WHY YOUR ORGANIZATION SHOULD PARTNER

No single resource impacts every day life around the globe quite so uniformly as water. From Alaska to Texas, North America to Africa, human dependence on water touch all of us each day. *Here is a chance for your organization to make a difference locally and globally.*

REASONS TO SUPPORT THE 2009 SJWP COMPETITION

- ◆ *In the very near future, these same students will be your potential employees!*
- ◆ *Student research for the SJWP competition is often cutting edge and may benefit your organization down the road.*
- ◆ *The 2008 US National SJWP winner went on to win the International Competition as well. By sponsoring at the national level, you will also be providing support at an international level.*

PARTNERING LEVELS

GENERAL

Artesian – (\$5,000) Logo on sponsor signage on display in the exhibit hall and registration; Logo placement on inside front cover of awards program; Option to provide a full-page PDF ad for use in the electronic yearbook; Option to provide single sheet flyer or promotional item for welcome bags; Mention of sponsorship in AWWMA press release

Rainmaker – (\$2,500) Logo on sponsor signage on display in the exhibit hall and registration; Logo placement on inside back cover of awards program; Yearbook acknowledgement; Option to provide single sheet flyer or promotional item for welcome bags

Aqua Associate – (\$1,000) Logo on sponsor signage on display in the exhibit hall and registration; Option to provide single sheet flyer or promotional item for welcome bags

OTHER

Yearbook – 100 memory sticks of no less than 1GB (with your company's logo if you so choose)

Transportation – Provide transportation for students and teachers from the Anchorage Airport to the University of Alaska Anchorage campus.

PARTNERSHIP COST IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PARTNERING, PLEASE CONTACT:

Carrie Bohan, SJWP Committee, 2009SJWP@awwma.org or (907) 957-1833.

PARTNERING PLEDGE

2009 SJWP NATIONAL COMPETITION Anchorage, Alaska JUNE 25-27, 2009



Organization: _____

Contact Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Partnering Level:

General

- Artesian Rainmaker Aqua Associate

Other

- Yearbook Transportation

Payment may be made by check or credit card.
Please make checks out to Alaska Water Wastewater Management Association (AWWMA)

Mail This Form and Checks To:

AWWMA
PO Box 244141
Anchorage, AK 99524

Rescuing Liberty



November 5, 2008

3900 Lennane Drive, Suite 200 • Sacramento, CA 95834 • (916) 419-7111

Dear AMA/RDC Member:

We hope you will consider making a generous contribution to Pacific Legal Foundation this year. PLF is busier than ever in Alaska working on our behalf to enable the prudent development of Alaska's natural resources. Highlights include:

Mining. The United States Supreme Court agreed to hear Kensington Mines appeal which seeks to overturn the Ninth Circuit's ruling on the regulation of mine tailings. PLF, on behalf of the Alaska Mining Association, filed a friend of the court brief arguing that the ruling is not supported by the Clean Water Act and could cripple the development of new mines and resource industries throughout the United States.

Wetlands. After succeeding before the United States Supreme Court in its representation of John Rapanos over the regulation of his isolated wetlands, PLF continues to fight in the lower courts for a proper interpretation of that decision. PLF will continue to represent landowners until the Corps recognizes that its ability to regulate wetlands is constrained by both the Clean Water Act and the United States Constitution.

PLF attorneys are representing the Fairbanks North Star Borough over the Corps' determination that it can regulate isolated permafrost wetlands. The Borough seeks to build a playground on a small parcel of property without the unnecessary burdens that the Corps would impose through the permitting process. The Corps, however, is claiming that the Borough has no right to even challenge the Corps' authority until the Borough first wastes tens of thousands of dollars on a complicated permit process—a process that the Corps has no right to demand. PLF is vigorously disputing the Corps elevation of catch-22 to an art form.

Implications of Endangered Species Act Listings Attributed to Global Warming. The listing of the polar bear is a back door means for global-warming alarmists to stifle virtually every aspect of American life, all while the global population of polar bears has nearly tripled since the 1960s. Thanks to this listing, we expect the environmentalists to file a flurry of lawsuits to block oil drilling, refinery building, coal mining, electric generation, and virtually anything in the United States emitting greenhouse gases, with no added benefit to the bears. PLF recently has filed a lawsuit challenging the polar bear's listing. PLF also continues to challenge other erroneous listing of species, "critical habitat" designations, and the impacts caused by ESA regulations.

PLF is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that takes cases in support of private property rights, economic freedoms, and balance in environmental regulation. Please show that you support the Alaska resource industries and PLF's work in Alaska by making a contribution today to PLF.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Steven C. Borell.

STEVEN C. BORELL, P.E.
Executive Director
Alaska Miners Association

Handwritten signature of Jason W. Brune.

JASON W. BRUNE
Executive Director
Resource Development Council of Alaska

Handwritten signature of James S. Burling.

JAMES S. BURLING
Director of Litigation
Pacific Legal Foundation

Handwritten signature of James L. Cloud.

JAMES L. CLOUD
Chairman, Pacific Legal Foundation
Board of Trustees

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Alaska Resources 2009

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GCI
Global Land Services, Inc.
Golder Associates, Inc.
H.C. Price Company
Halliburton Energy Services
Hartig Rhodes Hoge & Lekisch
Hawk Consultants LLC
HDR Alaska, Inc.
Hecla Greens Creek Mine
Hotel Captain Cook
Koncor Forest Products
LGL Alaska Research Associates
Marathon Oil Company
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
Mikunda Cottrell & Company
Minerals Management Service
NC Machinery
Nabors Alaska Drilling, Inc.
Northern Air Cargo
NovaGold Resources
Pacific Seafood Processors Association
Petro-Canada
Petro Star Inc.
PIP Printing
Port of Anchorage
Port of Tacoma
Providence Health Services Alaska
Security Aviation, Inc.
Shaw Alaska
Sealaska Corporation
Sourdough Express Inc.
Southeast Stevedoring
STEELFAB
Temsco Helicopters & Cruise Line Agencies
Of Alaska
Totem Ocean Trailer Express
UIC Oilfield Services
Ultra Star Exploration LLC
UNIVAR USA
URS Corporation
Walsh Sheppard
Weaver Brothers, Inc.
Weston Solutions
Wilder Construction
The Wilson Agency

RDC Annual Conference – Alaska Resources 2009

Exhibitor List

Advanced Supply Chain International
AERO-METRIC
Alaska Airlines
Alaska Business Monthly
Alaska Communications Systems
Alaska Earth Sciences
Alaska Executive Search
Alaska Journal of Commerce
AMEREF
APEX
Arctic Power
ASRC Energy Services
Canadian Mat (Alaska) Inc.
CH2M HILL
Clarion/Hawthorn Suites
Compositech
Delta Leasing LLC
Denali - The Alaska Gas Pipeline
Dowland Bach Corporation
Era Helicopters
ERM
ExxonMobil
First National Bank Alaska
Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center
Government of Canada
Immersive Video Solutions
Mapmakers Alaska
Minerals Management Service
MWH
NMS
North Star Terminal & Stevedore
Northern Economics
Pebble Limited Partnership
Petroleum News
Petroleum Systems Integrity Office
TTT Environmental Instruments and Supplies
Tutka LLC
US Travel
Weston Solutions
WorkSafe, Inc.

Resource Development Council's 29th Annual Conference
Alaska Resources 2009
November 19-20, 2008 Dena'ina Convention Center, Anchorage

Wednesday, November 19th

- 7:00 a.m. **Registration/Check-in/Exhibits Open**
Eye-Opener Breakfast
- 8:00 **Opening Remarks**, Rick Rogers, RDC President, Vice President, Land and Resources, Chugach Alaska Corporation
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**
Max Easley, Vice President, Alaska Commercial Team, BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.
Jim Bowles, President, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Roberto Dall'Omo, 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?**
Moderator: Phil Cochrane, Vice President, RDC, Vice President, External Affairs, BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.
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**
Moderator: Rick Rogers, President, RDC
Peter Coleman, Vice President, Americas Region, ExxonMobil Production Company
- 1:30 p.m. **Ballot Initiatives: Past, Present and Future**
Moderator: Eric Fjelstad, RDC Executive Committee member, Partner, Perkins Coie LLP
Vic Fischer, Delegate to the Constitutional Convention
Representative Lindsey Holmes
Representative Ralph Samuels
- 2:30 **Canadian Energy Initiatives & The Environment**
Kevin Stringer, Director General, Petroleum Resources Branch, Natural Resources Canada
- 3:00 **Gourmet Break – Sponsored by Marketing Solutions**
- 3:30 **The Alaska Offshore: Opportunities, Challenges and Local Issues**
Moderator: Tiel Smith, RDC Board Member and Manager, Land and Resources, Bristol Bay Native Corporation,
Peter Slaiby, General Manager, Shell Alaska
Randall Luthi, Director, U.S. Minerals Management Service
Mayor Edward Itta, North Slope Borough
Sharon Boyette, Development Director, Aleutians East Borough

- 4:30 **Solutions to Alaska's Energy Crisis: A Long-term Approach**
Steve Haagenson, President, Alaska Energy Authority
- 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. **Exhibits Open, Eye-Opener Breakfast in Exhibit Area**
- 8:00 **The TransCanada Pipeline Proposal: 2009 and Beyond**
Moderator: Wendy Lindskoog, Senior Vice President, RDC, Assistant Vice President,
Corporate Affairs, Alaska Railroad Corporation
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 Stoel Rives LLP**
- 10:30 **Foreign Investment In Alaska: What Would We Do Without It?**
Moderator: Karen Matthias, RDC Board member, Consul, Government of Canada
Greg Baker, President, Westward Seafoods
Karl Hanneman, Director, Corporate Affairs – Alaska, Teck Alaska
Paul Henry, Chief Operating Officer, Anglo American U.S.
- 11:30 Networking Break
- Noon **Keynote Luncheon:**
Alaska Native Corporations:
2008 In Review, A Look At The Year Ahead
Moderator: Rick Rogers, President, RDC
Sheri Buretta, Chairman, 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?**
Moderator: Don Baur, Senior Partner, Perkins Coie LLP
Kaush Arha, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Fish, Wildlife & Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service (Invited)
Dr. John Schoen, Senior Scientist, Audubon Society
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Cherise Oram, Senior Partner, Stoel Rives LLP and immediate past chair, American Bar
Association, Endangered Species Act Committee
- 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 for updates.

George Schmidt Memorial Raffle and Silent Auction in Support of AMEREF

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

Logo Apparel

Donated by Pebble Partnership

Logo Apparel

Donated by Barrick

Logo Vest & Cap

Donated by Alaska Miners Association

STIHL MS 180 C Chainsaw

Donated by Koncor Forest Products

\$100 Nordstrom Gift Card (Two)

Donated by Lynden

Generator

Donated by Construction Machinery Industrial LLC

\$50 Mayflower Catering Certificate

Donated by Chiulista Services Inc.

iPod Nano 8GB

Donated by GeoLogic

Handmade Mini Quilts (Two)

Donated by Carolyn Lyman

Handmade Beaded Tree

Donated by KC Jones

Signed "We're In" Print, Van Zyle, Murkowski, Stevens & Young

Donated by Gail Phillips & Kim Griffith

Gold Nugget

Donated by Silverado Gold Mines

Framed Sydney Laurence Print

Donated by Wells Fargo

Handmade Ivory Necklace & Earrings

Donated by Bering Straits Native Corporation

Handmade Ivory Spirit Mask

Donated by Bering Straits Native Corporation

Alaska Aces Tickets (4)

Donated by the Alaska Aces

Wet Dry Bag

Donated by TOTE

Framed Mary Ann Durham Watercolor

Donated by Jeanine Schmidt

Chess Sets

Donated by KC Jones

Petrified Wood Putter

Donated by RLM Tech

Assorted Logo Gear

Donated by Fairbanks Gold Mining Inc.

(List as of 11/05/08)

Assorted wine and juice

Donated by Evergreen Helicopters of Alaska

Handmade Wooden Seal Mask

Donated by Calista Corporation

Fleece Vest

Donated by HDR

Mendenhall Glacier Dog Sledding & Helicopter Tour for Two

Donated by TEMSCO Helicopter Services

Handmade Seal Skin Slippers

Donated by NANA Development Corporation

\$25 Gift Cards (Two)

Donated by Simon & Seafort's

Brunch Package & Overnight Stay

Donated by Sheraton Anchorage Hotel

H2Oasis Passes (Four)

Donated by Alaska Waterpark

Assorted Logo Gear

Donated by ASRC Energy Services

\$100 Gift Card

Donated by Allure Day Spa & Hair Design

Framed Print by Byron Birdsall

Donated by Northern Air Cargo

Framed Alyeska Bond Certificate

Donated by Jason Brune

Tower of Chocolates

Donated by Alaska Wild Berry Products

Assorted Logo Gear Items

Donated by Usibelli Coal Mine

\$50 Gift Card

Donated by Bear Tooth/Moose's Tooth

Gift Basket

Donated by ConocoPhillips

Emergency Kit

Donated by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company

Signed Todd Salat Print

Donated by Jeanine Schmidt

Framed Alaska Scenery Painting by D. Russell

Donated by Lee Clune

\$50 Fuel Cards (Five)

Donated by Tesoro Alaska Company

Women's Pink Toolbelt, Hardhat & Accessories

Donated by Fairbanks Gold Mining Inc.

Thank you for your generous support of AMEREF!

Prize list updated frequently, please visit www.ameref.org for updates or to donate a prize.