

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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Senator Lisa Murkowski
Congressman Don Young
Governor Sean Parnell

BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, May 6, 2010

1. Call to order – Wendy Lindskoog, President
2. Self Introductions
3. Headtable Introductions
4. Staff Report – Jason Brune, Executive Director
5. Program and Keynote Speaker:

"Anti-Corruption" Initiative

Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League
Joelle Hall, Director of Operations, Alaska AFL-CIO
Ken Jacobus, Clean Team Alaska
Jason Cline, Clean Team Alaska

Next Meetings:

May 11 Luncheon: Larry Persily, Federal Coordinator, Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects

May 20 Breakfast: Kenai LNG Plant Export License Extension, Dan Clark, Manager, Cook Inlet, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.

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AN INITIATIVE CREATING AN ALASKA ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

Section (1) The laws of Alaska are amended to create a section to read as follows:

Public resources from any source not to be used or received to further any political agenda

(A) No public body, public officer, person in the employ of the state, any of its political subdivisions, any school district, or candidate for public office may, directly or indirectly, direct, permit, receive, require, or facilitate the use of tax revenues or any other public resources for campaign, lobbying, or partisan purposes, including payment of dues or membership fees of any kind to any person, league, or association which, directly or indirectly, engages in lobbying, campaigns, or partisan activity. No candidate, political committee, or political party may accept any contribution from any state, state agency, political subdivision of the state, foreign government, federal agency, or the federal government. A violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(B) Any person who knowingly spends or receives funds in violation of this section shall pay full restitution for the greater of the public cost or for the market value of any misappropriated resources. The second or subsequent violation by a public officer or employee shall render that person ineligible to hold public office or employment with the state or any of its political subdivisions for ten years.

(C) The provisions of this section do not limit public officials in the performance of their constitutional duties, and do not apply to:

- (1) Communications among and between a member and a staff member of a legislative body;
- (2) Comments by an elected official or communications from an elected official that are designated for constituents;
- (3) Appearances by a public officer or employee pursuant to a specific request to appear before a public body to provide information;
- (4) Communications between an elected or appointed public officer and a legislator or a legislative staff member;
- (5) A public employee acting in an uncompensated personal capacity, undirected in any manner by, and who does not purport to represent the interests of, a public employer; and

(6) An authorized employee of the office of the Governor, the Supreme Court, or the Alaska Department of Revenue, whose responsibilities are to assess the impact of proposals which affect the administration of government.

(D) *Definitions.* Terms as used in this section mean:

(1) "Direct, permit, receive, require, or facilitate the use of tax revenues or any other public resources for campaign, lobbying, or partisan purposes," includes (i) the use of public funds or credit, facilities, rights of access, equipment, supplies, or trademarks to influence any state, municipal, or school board election; (ii) undertaking, promoting, or distributing studies, surveys, analyses, descriptions, or other communications using public resources in a manner specifically calculated to induce support of, or opposition to, proposed legislation or ballot questions; and (iii) incurring any public administrative expenses or activities to allocate or designate portions of public employee income to entities that engage in lobbying activities, other than charitable organizations qualified as exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any other future tax code.

(2) "Campaign," includes (i) communications or expenditures related to the pursuit of a public office, either electoral or appointive; (ii) all lobbying activity; or (iii) efforts paid in whole or in part by public revenues or resources to coordinate or induce members of the general public or any segment thereof to directly influence legislative activity by communicating with members of a legislative body, supporting or opposing legislation, or supporting or opposing a petition drive or ballot question.

(3) "Lobbying," means attempts to directly influence legislative activity by communication with any member or employee of a legislative body, or with any government official or employee who may participate in the formulation of legislation.

(4) "Person," includes any individual, business entity, governmental entity, organization, committee, political party, campaign fund, and association.

(5) "Public officer or person in the employ of," includes any person who is elected, appointed, or employed by this state, or any political subdivision or school district in this state, including persons who are independent contractors or consultants hired by the state, a political subdivision, or school district in this state.

(E) This section applies to the State of Alaska, home rule and general law municipalities, and state, independent and municipal school districts, and State, municipal and school district officers, agents, and employees.

Section (2) The laws of Alaska are amended to create a section to read as follows:

Restrictions to reduce corruption relating to certain public contracts.

(A) No person may enter into a government contract if such person also employs, hires, or retains the services of a current or former legislator or legislative staff member who is less than two years removed from such public position. A person who knowingly violates

this prohibition is guilty of a class A misdemeanor and shall, in addition to other penalties, forfeit any contractual rights to any payment or reimbursement, and shall make restitution to the state in the amount of funds accrued during the period of violation. This subsection shall not apply to a bona fide position, trade, occupation, or profession in which a person engaged or obtained certification within one year prior to becoming a legislator or legislative staff member.

(B) Beginning on the date a government contract is awarded and extending until two years following the conclusion of that contract, no holder of the public office with ultimate responsibility for the award of the contract, no candidate for that office, and no person acting on behalf of either may knowingly solicit, accept, or direct a contribution from the holder of the government contract or an immediate family member of the holder. No candidate or other person may knowingly accept or make a contribution that is solicited or directed in violation of this subsection. A person who knowingly violates this prohibition is guilty of a class A misdemeanor and shall, in addition to other penalties, make full restitution to the donor and shall pay restitution in a like amount to the state. If the person has previously been convicted of violating this prohibition, the person shall be ineligible to hold public office or employment with the state or any of its political subdivisions for two years,

(C) Any person entering into a no-bid government contract awarded by the State or any of its subdivisions shall be considered a holder of a government contract and shall contractually agree to cease making, inducing, or soliciting contributions or independent expenditures, directly or indirectly, through any officer, employee, immediate family member of any officer or employee, vendor, or agent, to or for the benefit of any candidates for any elected office of the state or any of its political subdivisions, or to persons who intend to make such contributions within the state or any of its political subdivisions, for the duration of the contract and two years thereafter. The contractual agreement shall provide that any violation of this provision by the holder of the government contract shall, in addition to other legal consequences, result in forfeiture of any contractual rights to payment under the contract, and in payment of restitution to the state in an amount of not less than twice the amount of the contribution. Any person who knowingly violates this provision, or accepts contributions on behalf of a candidate or other entity in violation of this provision, shall pay restitution to the state in an amount not less than twice amount of the contribution. If the treasurer of any entity subject to such agreement obtains knowledge of a contribution made or accepted in violation thereof by that entity, then liability for the violation shall be also attributable to the treasurer unless the treasurer notifies the State of Alaska about the violation in writing within three business days of learning of such contribution. If a person has previously been determined responsible for violating this section, the person shall be ineligible to hold public office, any contract, or employment with the state or any of its political subdivisions for three years. The governor may temporarily suspend any debarment under this Subsection (C) during a declared state of emergency.

(D) A violation of Subsection (C) may be established and enforced by the filing of an action in the Alaska Superior Court. This action may be initiated by the State, any municipality or school district, any private group or entity, or any member of the public. If an action to establish and enforce the provisions of Subsection (C) is filed by a person

acting in a private capacity, or any other non-governmental group or entity, the claim may be prosecuted by the State or the person or entity initiating the action. Any person, government, group or entity that initiates an action pursuant to the subsection shall be immune from any claim or legal action for doing so.

(E) *Definitions.* Terms as used in this section mean:

- (1) "Contribution," means a purchase, payment, promise or obligation to pay, loan or loan guarantee, deposit or gift of money, goods, or services for which a charge is ordinarily made and that is made for the purpose of influencing the nomination, election, or selection of a candidate for public office, either elective or appointive, or for the purpose of influencing an initiative, ballot proposition, or question, including payment to another person for the purpose of that person's influencing the nomination, election, or selection of a candidate for public office, either elective or appointive, or for the purpose of influencing an initiative, ballot proposition, or question. "Contribution" does not include personal services rendered without compensation by individuals volunteering all or part of their time for these purposes.
- (2) "Government contract," includes any contract awarded by an agency or department of this state or any public body receiving state subsidy or authorized to levy taxes, for the purchase of goods or services for amounts greater than five hundred dollars, indexed for inflation per the Consumer Price Index after the year 2010. A contract for services includes collective bargaining agreements with a labor organization representing employees but not employment contracts with individual employees;
- (3) "Holder of the government contract," includes any party to the contract, including partners, owners of five percent or more interest, officers, administrators or trustees of any person who is a party to the contract, or, in the case of collective bargaining agreements, the labor organization and any political committees created or controlled by the labor organization;
- (4) "Holder of the public office with ultimate responsibility for the award of the contract," means any elected official who may award the contract or appoint an official responsible for awarding the contract, or any elected official of a public body where the contract is awarded by that public body;
- (5) "Immediate family member," includes any spouse, child, spouse's child, son-daughter-in-law, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, step brother-sister, step-parent, parent-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, guardian, and domestic partner;
- (6) "No-bid government contracts," includes all government contracts that do not use open, blind competitive bidding processes for procurement. Collective bargaining agreements qualify as no-bid government contracts if the contract confers an exclusive representative status to bind all employees to accept the terms and conditions of the contract;
- (7) "Person," includes any individual, business entity, governmental entity, organization, committee, political party, campaign fund, and association.

(F) This section applies to the State of Alaska, home rule and general law municipalities, and state, independent and municipal school districts, and State, municipal and school district officers, agents, and employees.

(G) Nothing in this section shall affect the right of the State to suspend, debar, or otherwise sanction government contractors as authorized by Title 36 of the Alaska Statutes and implementing regulations.

(H) The State of Alaska shall promptly publish a summary of each government contract in a searchable website accessible from a conspicuous place on its official website. Any holder of a government contract shall promptly prepare and deliver to the State of Alaska a true and correct "Government Contract Summary", in digital format as prescribed by the State, which shall:

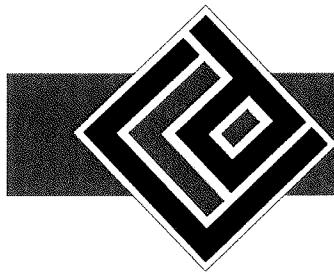
- (1) identify the names and addresses of the holders and all other parties to the government contract,
- (2) briefly describe the nature of the contract, including whether the contract was awarded based on a competitive bidding procedure or was a contract awarded with no bid, and goods involved or services performed,
- (3) disclose the estimated duration and end date of the contract,
- (4) disclose the contract's estimated amount, and apportioned sources of payment, and
- (5) disclose other relevant contract information as specifically required by the State of Alaska, including verbatim copies of all contract documents, to the extent disclosure would not violate federal or other state laws.

Section (3) Non-Applicability of Less Protective Laws

If any provisions of the Alaska Statutes or the Alaska Administrative Code conflict with this Act and are less restrictive or less protective of the public interest than this Act, then this Act shall apply.

Section (4) Severability

The provisions of this Act are independent and severable, and if any provision of this Act, or the applicability of any provision to any person or circumstance, shall be found to be invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected and shall be given effect to the fullest extent practicable.



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John Zager

May 5, 2010

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor, State of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

In the final hours of the legislative session, a \$750,000 appropriation was added to the capital budget for the Legislative Council to conduct an independent study of the potential large mine development in the Bristol Bay drainage. RDC writes to express its concern with this appropriation, and asks that you veto this unnecessary study.

Funding such a study will set a dangerous precedent for resource development projects across all industries in the state. Alaska's permitting system is among the most stringent in the world and companies have invested millions of dollars in this state with the understanding that they will be afforded the opportunity to navigate the rigorous permitting process in a manner that is both fair and consistent for all. If the Legislative Council were to conduct such a study, it would likely lead to a politically motivated conclusion, and thus mislead the public into questioning the integrity of the exhaustive permitting process that is already in place. This wouldn't be so bad if the study focused on the entire permitting process for all resource development projects in the state. However, this study appears to wrongfully target one industry and one specific project--Pebble.

Resource development projects in the state are all subject to strict permitting processes. In the future, will the Legislative Council conduct a special review on projects in the Tongass, rather than allowing the Board of Forestry to utilize its thorough process? Will it tailor a study of the crab fishery, rather than allow the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to continue its oversight of the industry? At what threshold will future studies like this be employed? If approved, this methodology will likely become a tactic used to oppose any project in the state faced with controversy.

With respect to the proposed study, the language is quite vague, leaving questions as to what exactly would be studied. There is no party designated to conduct the study, leaving an unknown entity accountable for the outcome. This lack of direction and accountability could subject the study to manipulation by parties with an agenda, either for, or against a project.

The use of capital budget funds for this study is inappropriate. RDC urges you to veto the Bristol Bay area study request section of the capital budget bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason W. Brune
Executive Director

Ex-Officio Members
Senator Mark Begich
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Congressman Don Young
Governor Sean Parnell

RDC ACTION ALERT
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Overview:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced it will develop a new Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the 19.5 million acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The Service is seeking public comments regarding the refuge and its uses, management, and future. Public meetings on the planning process are being held this spring in Alaska and in Washington, D.C.

In ANWR, 92 percent of the refuge is permanently closed to development. However, 1.5 million acres of the refuge's western coastal plain, known as the "1002 area," were excluded from Wilderness designation under the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). In 1987, after six years of environmental, geologic, and economic study required by ANILCA, the Department of the Interior recommended that the 1002 area be opened to responsible oil and gas development. An act of Congress is required for the 1002 area to be opened, and in 1995, Congress voted to open the coastal plain to exploration. Unfortunately, President Bill Clinton vetoed the measure.

The 1002 area on the coastal plain of ANWR, which accounts for only eight percent of the refuge, is estimated to contain upwards of 16 billion barrels of oil and 18 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Responsible development can and does occur in similar areas presently on the North Slope of Alaska. Today, Americans overwhelmingly support new oil and gas exploration and development on our soil and ANWR development should be part of our energy equation.

As part of the update to ANWR's CCP, the Service will conduct a review of the refuge lands to determine if additional acreage should be designated as federal Wilderness. The Record of Decision from this planning process could recommend the designation of the 1.5 million-acre coastal plain as Wilderness, an action that would permanently close America's most promising onshore oil and gas prospect to future development. Any proposed Wilderness designations would need to go before Congress for its approval. RDC members must show their support for keeping this area open to future potential oil and gas exploration and development.

Action requested:

RDC encourages its members to participate in the process by submitting comments and presenting brief testimony at upcoming public hearings urging the Service to manage the 1002 area in a manner which preserves the option of responsible oil and gas development in the future and opposing new Wilderness designations in ANWR. It is vital that the Service and the Obama Administration hear from Alaskans about how critical ANWR's coastal plain is to Alaska's future economy and the nation's energy security. Those wanting Wilderness status for the refuge will likely turn out in force at public hearings and can be expected to generate heavy write-in and email campaigns.

Public Meetings:

Fort Yukon, April 20

Arctic Village, April 26

Venetie, April 29

Washington DC, May 4, 1-4 pm, Department of Interior, Main Auditorium, 1849 C Street, NW
Anchorage, May 11, 3-9 pm, US Fish & Wildlife Service Regional Office, 1011 E. Tudor Road
Fairbanks, May 13, 3-8:30 pm, Morris Thompson Cultural Center, 101 Dunkel Street

Kaktovik, May 20

How to comment:

Online Submittal: <http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm>

Email: ArcticRefugeCCP@fws.gov

Fax: 907-456-0428

Mail: Sharon Seim, Planning Team Leader, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, 101 12th Avenue, Room 236, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

Points to consider in your comments or verbal testimony:

- Congress excluded the “1002 area” from ANWR’s large Wilderness block in a compromise struck under ANILCA. The compromise doubled the size of the Arctic Refuge and designated 8 million acres Wilderness. Congress also mandated a study of the 1002 area’s environment and petroleum resources. In 1987, the Department of the Interior concluded oil development would have minimal impact on wildlife and recommended Congress open the coastal plain to development.
- Upwards of 16 billion barrels of oil and 18 trillion cubic feet of natural gas are estimated to lie within the 1002 area of ANWR.
- Responsible oil and gas development of the 1002 area of ANWR would provide a safe and secure source of energy to the nation, create hundreds of thousands of jobs throughout the country, and refill the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, which is operating at one-third its original capacity.
- With advances in technology, it is possible to develop the coastal plain’s energy reserves while directly utilizing very little (potentially only 2,000 acres) of the 1.5 million acres in the 1002 area. Such development would allow access to energy Americans need without any significant disturbance to wildlife.
- Wildlife populations have all remained stable or grown over the 35-year period of oil development on the North Slope. For example, the Central Arctic caribou herd at Prudhoe Bay has grown from under 5,000 animals in the 1970s to more than 66,000 animals today, an indication that wildlife and development can coexist.
- The 1002 area of ANWR must continue to be excluded from Wilderness designation.
- There is no need for additional Wilderness designations in ANWR, given 92 percent of the refuge is already closed to development.
- Alaskans strongly oppose a Wilderness designation on ANWR’s coastal plain. In fact, 78 percent of Alaskans support oil exploration on the in the 1002 area. Every Alaskan Governor and every legislature and elected congressional representative and senator from Alaska have supported responsible development. The North Slope Borough, the regional government for the entire Alaskan Arctic, also supports responsible development, as well as a strong majority of residents in Kaktovik, a village within the coastal plain.
- Alaska already contains 58 million acres of federal Wilderness, an area larger than the combined size of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire. Alaska accounts for 53 percent of America’s federal Wilderness areas.
- A federal Wilderness designation over the 1002 area would forever place off-limits North America’s most promising onshore oil and gas prospect to development and destroy the agreements made when ANILCA became law.
- If the 1002 area was designated Wilderness, the nation will continue to import billions of barrels of oil from foreign sources. Every barrel of oil not developed domestically is a barrel of oil imported from abroad, often produced under weaker environmental standards than those enforced in Alaska.

Testimony of Carl Portman
Deputy Director, Resource Development Council for Alaska
Before US Fish & Wildlife Service
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan
May 4, 2010
Washington, D.C.

Good afternoon. My name is Carl Portman, Deputy Director of the Resource Development Council for Alaska. I am a life-long Alaskan, raised in Fairbanks and I currently live in Anchorage. I have been involved with the issue of the Coastal Plain of ANWR, also known as the 1002 area, since the ANILCA compromise of 1980 and I am here today to remind the agency of the promises and compromises that were made to the State of Alaska over 30 years ago.

RDC is an Alaskan business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's resource development sectors.

Today, I am advocating for the State of Alaska's and, indeed, our nation's interests in recommending the 1002 area of ANWR be opened to responsible oil and gas exploration and development, as was recommended by the Department of Interior and Congress in the 80s and 90s. RDC is strongly opposed to new federal Wilderness designations in ANWR and the mere implication of such consideration is inconsistent with promises that were made in ANILCA.

We strongly support the Obama administration's goal to decrease dependence on oil by sharply increasing renewable energy production. However, it is still projected that fossil fuels will account for over 65% of this nation's energy consumption in 2025. Where will this oil come from? New oil production is required until we fully transition to new energy sources decades from now.

The 1002 area was excluded from ANWR's Wilderness designation in a compromise struck under the 1980 Alaska Lands Act. In exchange, Congress doubled the size of the Refuge and designated eight million acres outside the 1002 area as Wilderness. In recognizing the 1002 area's enormous oil and gas potential, Congress mandated a study of its petroleum resources, as well as its environmental values. In 1987, the Department of the Interior concluded that oil development would have minimal impact and recommended the 1002 area, which accounts for eight percent of the refuge, be opened.

A federal Wilderness designation over the 1002 area would forever place off-limits North America's most prolific onshore oil and gas prospect and would mean abandoning the 1980 compromise. This is unacceptable.

Alaska already contains 58 million acres of federal Wilderness. This is larger than New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire combined. In fact, my state accounts for over half of America's

federal Wilderness areas. We don't need more Wilderness in Alaska. We are sufficiently protected. What we do need is more economic opportunities and if the 1002 area is opened, not one acre of federal Wilderness would be disturbed.

With advances in technology, it is possible to develop the 1002 area's energy reserves while directly utilizing only a fraction of the area. This can be accomplished without significant disturbance to wildlife. In fact, wildlife populations have grown or remained stable in other areas of the North Slope where oil development is already occurring. At Prudhoe Bay, the central arctic caribou population has grown from 5,000 animals in 1970 to more than 66,000 animals today. Development and wildlife do co-exist in Alaska.

78 percent of Alaskans statewide strongly support exploration and development in the 1002 area of ANWR. Local residents and the Inupiat people who actually live adjacent to the 1002 area overwhelmingly support development.

Oil development in the 1002 area would provide a safe and secure source of oil for the nation for decades. It would create thousands of jobs throughout the country. And, it would refill the Alaska pipeline, existing infrastructure that is currently operating at only 1/3rd of its capacity. It would also enhance the prospects of a gas pipeline from the North Slope to the Lower 48.

Finally, given recent events in the Gulf of Mexico, opponents of offshore oil and gas development are calling for an end to new exploration and development pretty much everywhere. They are seizing on this national tragedy to rally against possible future development, not just offshore in the OCS, but onshore in the 1002 area, despite the fact there are significantly different characteristics between onshore and offshore development. I ask, if we don't drill here in America, where will we drill?

In conclusion, the 1002 area of ANWR should not only continue to be excluded from Wilderness designation, but it should be opened up to responsible onshore oil and gas exploration and development. My state's economy depends on it. We can have oil and gas development in a very small area of ANWR while maintaining the special values of the refuge.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Wilderness or oil? Service seeks views on ANWR's future

PLAN REVISION: Coastal plain could be designated off limits to development.

By ERIKA BOLSTAD
ebolstad@adn.com

(05/05/10 09:53:52)

WASHINGTON -- The three-decade-long fight over whether oil companies should be allowed inside the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is taking on a new wrinkle that could lock up the refuge for good.

The wrinkle is the idea of declaring the refuge's coastal plain -- a swath coveted by environmentalists and oil companies alike -- a wilderness, which would place it off-limits to development.

That idea is under consideration as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service updates its plan for managing the 19.6 million-acre refuge in the northeast corner of Alaska.

Fish and Wildlife has launched a two-year revision of its plan and is now taking public testimony on what the refuge's future should be.

The South Carolina-sized refuge is composed of three parts. The southern half is designated as a refuge. Above that is an 8 million-acre mountainous section that is wilderness. And north of that lies the 1.5 million-acre coastal plain -- an area a little larger than the Municipality of Anchorage that Congress set aside in 1980 for further study.

Those who lead Alaska and who represent the state in Washington, D.C., argue the coastal plain holds billions of barrels of oil, making it one of the nation's best prospects for new onshore oil discoveries. Its development, they argue, could provide additional energy security for the nation as well as drive Alaska's economy for years to come.

Environmentalists note that the coastal plain -- a calving ground for a massive caribou herd -- and the rest of ANWR are unlike any other part of the American landscape, arguing they should be a wilderness, unspoiled by man.

CLASHING VOICES

The voices of both sides were present at a Interior Department hearing Tuesday in Washington. The hearing is part of the two-year Fish and Wildlife review of ANWR's management that includes the controversial question: Should the agency recommend that Congress designate more of the refuge as wilderness, including the coastal plain?

For those who want to see the refuge remain undeveloped, the answer is yes.

"Our members are dedicated conservationists," said David Jenkins of Republicans for Environmental Protection.

"They see oil drilling in Prudhoe Bay and Alaska's North Slope, and they know that vast expanses of Alaska's Arctic have also been made available for such development," Jenkins said. "They've come to the same conclusion the Eisenhower administration came to 50 years ago (when it created ANWR): that protecting the Arctic refuge provides much-needed balance."

But most Alaskans believe the coastal plain should be developed, countered Carl Portman of the Resource Development Council for Alaska.

"In all due respect, we do not need more wilderness in Alaska to sufficiently protect it," Portman said at the hearing. "We can have oil and gas development in a very small area of ANWR while maintaining the very special value of the refuge."

IS A NEW VISION NEEDED?

Although much of the focus of the hearing was on whether to allow oil and gas development in the coastal plain, Fish and Wildlife Service officials emphasized Tuesday that their aging refuge management plan needs updating regardless of the wilderness question. The last plan, completed in 1988, doesn't address a number of emerging issues at the refuge, including the effects of climate change.

The agency also said the old plan fails to take into account a state-federal subsistence management program or the opening to the public of the Dalton Highway, the gravel road linking Interior Alaska to the North Slope oil fields west of ANWR.

"It's time to ask the public what their vision for the future of the Arctic is," said the refuge's manager, Richard Voss. "It's time to take a longer look ahead, basically."

Their goal, Voss said, is to determine whether they're meeting the wildlife and natural diversity management mandates of the refuge as well as their responsibilities as wilderness stewards.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed a vision statement that concludes with this concept: "Through responsible stewardship, this vast wilderness is passed on, undiminished, to future generations."

THE WHITE HOUSE POSITION

If the Interior secretary ultimately recommends that Congress designate the coastal plain as wilderness, changing that designation later would be difficult at best.

There is little precedent for retracting wilderness designations by Congress.

It remains unclear whether the White House is interested in additional wilderness protection, but the Fish and Wildlife Service emphasized Tuesday that politics won't have anything to do with their decision. The agency is working on its own timetable and is in the midst of updating all the master plans for Alaska refuges.

Last month, though, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar reiterated the Obama administration's overriding approach to ANWR. It "is not on the map for exploration or development," Salazar said at the time. "It never has been under President Obama and it hasn't been for me as secretary of Interior."

Alaska's congressional delegation submitted a joint letter Tuesday objecting to any additional wilderness designations. Any study of the future management of the refuge should also include the oil and gas potential of the coastal plain, said Sen. Mark Begich, D-Alaska.

"The last time they had exploration of any kind was 1988," Begich said. "If they're going to do this study, they should have that as part of the equation."

Begich also is working within the Senate Budget Committee to shift funding for the study away from the Fish and Wildlife Service. Instead, Begich said, he'd prefer the money go to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for a long-needed survey of public lands that are part of settlement claims by the state and Native Alaskans.

Alaska Gov. Sean Parnell is expected to submit his objections at the May 11 hearing in Anchorage, said John Katz, who represents the governor's office in Washington, D.C. The governor's office believes "the coastal plain has been studied and restudied," Katz said, and should be open to exploration.

"We believe the oil and gas resources can be developed safely using the best available technology," Katz said.

Find Erika Bolstad online at adn.com/contact/ebolstad or call her in Washington, D.C., at 202-383-6104.

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RDC Action Alert:

Support Usibelli Coal Mine's Extension to Exploration Permit for Wishbone Hill

Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. has applied for a two-year extension to the existing exploration permit for the Wishbone Hill Project located northeast of Palmer. If approved, exploration activities would include drilling up to 20 holes to study area geology, most of which will be sealed upon completion except for a few possible well monitoring locations.

The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently reviewing the application. The Department will take public comments until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 14, 2010.

A public meeting will be held at the Sutton Elementary School, 4 Wright Way, Sutton AK 99674, on Wednesday, April 28, 2010.

5:00 – 6:00 PM Question and Answer Session

6:00 – 7:30 PM Public Testimony

Send written comments to:

Mr. Russell Kirkham

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Div.of Mining, Land and Water

550 W 7th Ave

Anchorage, AK 99501

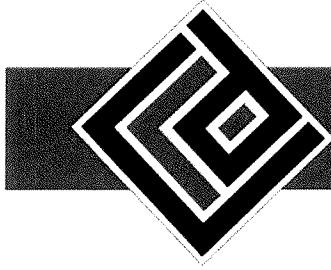
Fax: (907) 269-8930

Email: Russell.kirkham@alaska.gov

Points to consider for your comments:

- This is an extension of an existing permit. Neither the permit, nor the exploration testing is new.
- This permit has been in place since 1986, and has been renewed every two years.
- Over the past 30 years, there have been about 250 exploration holes drilled. Over the next two years, Usibelli plans to drill fewer than 20 additional holes.
- Overall, the extension of this permit will support a vital economic development project in our community.
- Usibelli has said that between 75-125, good family-wage jobs will be created should the project come to fruition.

Comment deadline is Friday, May 14, 2010



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Congressman Don Young

Governor Sean Parnell

May 3, 2010

Ms. Renee Orr, Chief Leasing Division
Minerals Management Service 4010
381 Eldon Street
Herndon, VA 20170-4817

Re: 2007-2012 Five year Outer Continental Shelf Program

Dear Ms. Orr:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the 2007-2012 five-year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) program. RDC urges the Minerals Management Service (MMS) to move forward expeditiously with the remanded 2007-2012 program to ensure timely and appropriate action on existing leases.

RDC is a statewide membership-funded organization founded in 1975. Our 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.

RDC specifically supports:

1. The decision to retain current leases in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas;
2. Cook Inlet lease sales in the current five-year plan;
3. Holding lease sales as scheduled to provide certainty and consistency.

However, RDC opposes withdrawal of lease sales that were to occur in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas under the 2007-2012 program. These lease sales and subsequent exploration activities should be allowed while additional studies are conducted. Moreover, RDC does not support withdrawing the North Aleutian Basin from future lease sales. There are 23 local governments and Aleutian tribal councils in favor of oil and gas exploration in the North Aleutian Basin. A stringent permitting process

and mitigation measures would protect commercial and subsistence fisheries in the region, where communities are shrinking.

RDC supports offshore exploration in the Alaska OCS because it is confident operations can occur safely. However, since recent events in the Gulf of Mexico, opponents of offshore drilling are calling for a freeze on new exploration and development in Alaska and elsewhere. RDC sharply disagrees with such a call because there are important distinctions between drilling in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the relatively shallow waters offshore Alaska. In the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, exploration would occur in water approximately 150 feet in depth, compared to 5,000 feet or more in the Gulf. The wells being drilled in the deep waters of the Gulf are also significantly different than those that would be drilled in Alaska, not only in water depth, but down-hole pressure. The Horizon well was drilling in 5,000 feet of water to a depth of 18,000 feet. The pressure encountered in the Horizon wells and others like it in the Gulf is multiple times greater than in Alaska where wells would be drilled to a depth of 10,000 feet. With the lower pressure, the safety margin in Alaska drilling is much greater and drillers would have significantly more time to identify and respond to a down-hole event. In addition, because of the much lower down-hole pressure, the weight of the drilling mud remaining in a well would effectively shut off the well in the highly unlikely event of an incident. Moreover, the relatively shallow water depth would allow blowout preventers to close much more rapidly than those in deep water.

There has never been a blowout in the Alaska or Canadian Arctic. Thirty wells have been drilled in the Beaufort and five in the Chukchi – all without incident. These wells were drilled in the 1980s, utilizing older technology compared to what exists today.

Advances in technology provide an additional measure of confidence in Alaska drilling. Energy development in Alaska is subject to in-depth analysis by federal law, a stringent permitting process and oversight by state and federal agencies. In every instance, development is preceded by extensive studies. The North Slope and the offshore are now perhaps the most studied energy basins in America. MMS has spent more than \$300 million on studies in Alaska and in the past decade the agency has funded over 250 studies here, with the majority of those focused on the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.

RDC recognizes that subsistence whaling is vitally important, both economically and culturally to North Slope villages, and that commercial fishing historically has been the primary industry in the North Aleutian Basin. Industry and government working together have the ability to protect subsistence and fishery resources while producing needed domestic energy for the nation. Strong regulatory oversight, combined with other mitigation measures, can be employed to protect all resource and subsistence users.

To help address local socio-economic impacts, RDC strongly supports sharing federal royalty payments from production in federal waters with coastal states and local communities. Such a measure is critical to local Alaska communities in the Arctic and the North Aleutian Basin. Revenue sharing would significantly benefit local communities and facilitate a healthy partnership among federal, state and local agencies.

The responsible development of potentially immense oil and gas deposits in the Arctic would significantly boost Alaska's economy, extend the life of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, improve

the economic viability of the proposed natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to the Lower 48 and reduce America's reliance on foreign energy.

A comprehensive energy plan for the nation must include Alaska, which accounts for over 30 percent of the nation's technically recoverable oil and gas resources. The Alaska OCS is an important future source of U.S. energy supply with an estimated 27 billion barrels of oil and 132 trillion cubic feet of natural gas potentially in place. By comparison, total production from the North Slope over the past 32 years has been approximately 15.5 billion barrels. In addition, the potential recoverable reserves offshore Alaska is more than all the current total proven U.S. oil reserves of approximately 21 billion barrels. Alaska would have the ninth largest oil resources in the world – ahead of Nigeria, Libya and Norway – if access is granted to these potential reserves.

Not developing these reserves and those elsewhere in the U.S. OCS makes no sense from an economic and energy security stand point. A recent report from the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners revealed that not developing America's domestic offshore resources could lead to a dangerous energy crisis. American oil production is projected to decrease by 9.9 billion barrels within the next 20 years, nearly a 15 percent annual decrease from current levels. Meanwhile, imports of oil from OPEC are projected to increase by 4.1 billion barrels, nearly 19 percent – and at a cost of \$607 billion.

The cost of not developing additional U.S. reserves would put a huge burden on the economy, resulting in the loss of 13 million jobs in energy intensive industries and a decrease in real disposable income of \$2.34 trillion. Gross domestic product would decrease by an estimated \$2.36 trillion.

Given its potential for immense recoverable reserves and enormous economic benefits to the state and nation, the Alaska OCS should be opened to responsible development. The Alaska OCS has the potential to sharply increase throughput in the oil pipeline, which is currently operating at one-third of its peak capacity reached in the late 1980s. Without new significant discoveries of oil, the pipeline could be uneconomic to operate at some point after 2020. In addition, OCS gas reserves would significantly improve the long-term economic viability of the proposed gas pipeline from the North Slope to the Lower 48 – a clean energy priority project of the Obama administration. To become a reality, the pipeline requires additional gas reserves beyond what has already been discovered onshore.

With its enormous potential reserves, the OCS can sustain Alaska's economy for generations, creating tens of thousands of jobs and generating hundreds of billions of dollars in federal, state and local government revenues. Currently there are more than 108,000 Alaskan jobs tied to the discovery, production and shipment of Alaskan oil and natural gas, accounting for more than 15 percent of Alaska's population. According to a University of Alaska study, OCS production could provide an annual average of 35,000 additional jobs within the state for 50 years and \$72 billion in new payroll.

RDC and many Alaskans share President Obama's view that America needs to conserve more and put new emphasis on renewable and alternative energy. By doing so, the nation can ultimately break its reliance on foreign oil. Yet while America must conserve more and move toward renewable energy, it still needs to pursue new oil and gas production, given the fact it

will take decades before renewable energy becomes a dominant energy source. Even with the Obama administration's goal to decrease dependence on oil, it is projected that fossil fuels will still account for two-thirds of this nation's energy consumption in 2025.

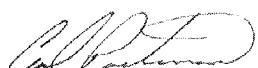
Where will the oil come from to meet this demand? The OCS is the most logical choice, given its immense potential. If not the OCS, then where? For every barrel of oil not developed domestically, the nation will have little choice but to import another from overseas – where weaker environmental regulations often apply. Given economic and geopolitical concerns, that barrel should be produced here in the U.S. – under American laws, regulations and oversight, and by American workers.

Given demand for energy will rise as the economy recovers, America must continue to pursue new oil and gas development, even as the nation slowly transitions to the new energy sources of the future. Increased emphasis on renewable energy should not preclude or require less oil and gas development. America needs more of both to offset declining production and reduce its reliance on foreign oil. Development of OCS oil and gas resources will buy America the time it needs to develop the alternative and renewable energy resources that will someday assist in the nation achieving energy independence.

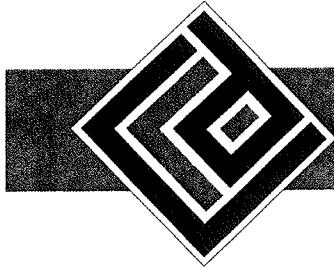
It is vital that our nation's abundant energy resources be fully utilized for compelling economic and energy security reasons. RDC encourages MMS to immediately finalize and move forward with the 2007-2012 program, including the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas lease sales originally scheduled under this program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the 2007-2012 OCS program.

Sincerely,



Carl Portman
Deputy Director



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April 23, 2010

Ms. Helen Clough, Project Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS-231
Anchorage, AK 99503

Re: Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange

Dear Ms. Clough:

For over a decade, the Resource Development Council (RDC) has consistently advocated for a road link between King Cove and Cold Bay. RDC strongly believes that a road corridor from King Cove to the all-weather airport at Cold Bay is in the public interest. In our view, this is a public safety and human rights issue, which should be given the highest priority.

RDC is a statewide business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism, and fisheries industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

The proposed land exchange would involve the removal of only 206 acres within the Izembek Wilderness for the road corridor and 1,600 acres of federal land within the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. In exchange, the federal government would receive more than 43,000 acres of land owned by the State and approximately 13,000 acres of land owned by the King Cove Corporation near Cold Bay and adjacent to the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge. Overall, the exchange would add more than 56,000 acres to the Izembek and Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuges and designate 43,000 acres as Wilderness.

Clearly, this exchange would provide a net gain for the national wildlife refuge system while providing a vital public safety and human health access corridor for King Cove residents to Cold Bay and its all-weather

airport. The land trade is more than fair and the road would be narrow and unobtrusive. The road will be closed to commercial traffic and mitigation strategies will allow it, the environment and wildlife to coexist. The road would solve the community's perennial problem with access to the outside world, especially in poor weather conditions.

Meanwhile, the marine link between the two communities has not solved King Cove's transportation challenges in reaching Cold Bay and its airport. The hovercraft requires a substantial subsidy, which cannot be sustained. Moreover, poor weather conditions can prevent the operation of the hovercraft, while the entire reason for improved access is largely because of the region's weather. The road has always been the community's first choice because it provides residents with the greatest amount of security, mobility, peace of mind and quality of life.

The spirit of this proposed land exchange would recognize and honor with equal regard the human side of conservation, alongside wildlife and wilderness. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must acknowledge local needs and the fact that current transportation infrastructure does not meet these needs. The EIS should conclude that the proposed road, with appropriate mitigation strategies to limit impacts, would best meet human health and safety needs.

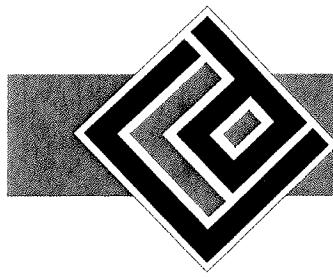
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on a land exchange that is so critical to the future health and welfare of local residents.

Sincerely,

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
for Alaska, Inc.



Carl Portman
Deputy Director



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April 23, 2010

Mr. Ray Burger
Division of Mining, Land & Water
Resource Assessment and Development
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1050
Anchorage, AK 99501-3579

Re: Susitna Matanuska Area Plan

Dear Mr. Burger:

The Resource Development Council Development Council (RDC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft Susitna Matanuska Area Plan. RDC's comments begin with the following premise: the plan should implement the state's constitutional and statutory policies to develop its resources, making them available for maximum use, and consistent with the overall public interest. The planning area has vast natural resources, including timber and minerals, and responsible development of these resources would diversify and expand the local and state economy, create new jobs and generate additional government revenues.

RDC is a statewide business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism, and fisheries industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native corporations, local governments, organized labor and industry support firms. Our purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

In addition to making natural resources available for maximum use, the plan must ensure resource management allows for the sustained yield of renewable resources such as timber harvesting, that environmental concerns are balanced with development opportunities to support the local and state economy, and that public access to state land is provided. Moreover, the plan must protect valid existing uses and rights

and preserve multiple use resource development opportunities on lands most suitable for development.

Forestry:

Extensive forest resources exist within the planning area. In fact, approximately 685,000 acres have been classified “Forestry” in this plan. RDC supports designating forestry as the primary use on these lands. Considering the fact that trees are a renewable resource and that the region and state economy would benefit from a more diverse economy, the plan should encourage the sustained-yield harvest of these lands. Such harvests would also improve forest health and vigor.

Harvesting timber resources in the Susitna Valley on a sustained yield basis would provide for important economic opportunities and stability in the forest products industry. A critical factor for such stability is the designation of large blocks of forest lands for timber harvesting, which this plan proposes.

Moreover, the plan recommends consideration be given to the creation of a state forest in the planning area. RDC supports this concept of a “working forest” as it would provide a more vigorous approach to the management of forest stands and represent a long-term commitment to maintaining a significant timber supply. A working forest should emphasize active management of forest lands to provide wood for commercial and personal uses.

Another factor in building stability in the forest products industry is a reasonable regulatory and permitting regime that allows for economic timber sales. In our view, there is no need for additional, restrictive standards beyond what is already in place under current riparian protections and state law. As a result, the plan should not impose additional requirements on forest harvesting.

Material Sites:

The state should continue to make available to public and private users sufficient, suitably located materials sites to meet long-term economic needs for material resources. The gravel industry is a major component of the regional economy and is key to affordable residential and commercial construction. The new plan should encourage the development of new material sites, not hamper such efforts.

Subsurface Resources:

Areas considered to have mineral potential and for which mining is considered an appropriate use, should remain open to mineral development. The plan should not create any new mineral closing orders beyond those imposed by the 1985 plan. In order to

preserve future development opportunities and expand the economy, all remaining state-owned lands outside the 1985 closures should remain open to mineral entry.

Oil and Gas Resources:

Oil and gas resources are likely present within the planning area. The land use designations of the plan are multiple use in character and should not preclude future oil and gas development. As with development of forest and mineral resources, new oil and gas exploration, development and production would enhance the region's economy and create new jobs.

Coal Resources:

While coal potential within the planning area is generally considered low to moderate, recent advances in technology and changes in the economics of extraction may increase this level to high in those areas where coal is buried at depth. This plan should not impose requirements on coal exploration and extraction beyond those cited in statute and regulation. All areas, except those within areas closed to such activity in legislatively designated areas, should remain open to coal leasing, exploration, development and extraction.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Susitna Matanuska Area Plan.

Sincerely,



Carl Portman
Deputy Director



Peg and Jules Tileston Award

A joint award of The Alaska Conservation Alliance and the Resource Development Council

Nominations are due by May 15, 2010

The Alaska Conservation Alliance and the Resource Development Council (RDC) both agree that economic development and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive goals. The Tileston award was created to acknowledge individuals and/or businesses that create solutions and innovations advancing both goals. The “Tileston Award” is named in honor of two long-time Alaskans, Peg and Jules Tileston, who worked on seemingly different sides of conservation and development issues but who always agreed “that if it is in Alaska, IT MUST BE DONE RIGHT!”

Opposites may attract, but it takes communication, patience, respect, and a healthy sense of humor to create a sustainable, lasting, and constructive relationship. Peg and Jules Tileston have these qualities in abundance. Married for over 50 years and with three children, Peg and Jules learned how to balance their divergent perspectives successfully—and, in the process, develop a better definition of what’s “Right” for Alaska—by talking together, respectfully hearing what the other had to say, and finding common ground on which both could agree.

With such different career tracks and professional interests, an outside observer could wonder at the lasting success of Peg and Jules’s marriage. Jules studied biology, geology, and ecology as an undergraduate and graduate student, while Peg majored in physical education and history. After working with the Department of Interior leading the wild river studies in Alaska, Jules went on to serve as the Deputy State Director for Lands and Renewable Resources for the Bureau of Land Management, where, among other items, he was the BLM Lead for federal exploration of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. At the same time, Peg was on the National Board of Directors for the Sierra Club, co-founded and served as board president of Trustees for Alaska, was one of the “founding mothers” of the Alaska Center for the Environment, and co-founded the Alaska Conservation Foundation. In the 1980s and ‘90s Jules worked with the Department of Interior during planning and construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System and later served as director of the Division of Mining and Water Management for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Meanwhile, Peg continued to serve on the ACE and ACF boards as well as the Alaska Women’s Environmental Network steering committee, and started a weekly electronic calendar of conservation-related events called “What’s Up.” Questions on topics such as where and how mines should be permitted and the Trans-Alaska Gas System EIS process prompted spirited discussions. As the Tileston children agree, it made for interesting dinner table conversation. And yet in spite of—or perhaps because of—the Tileston’s contradictory experiences and perspectives, the issues worked on by one were improved and advanced because of the other’s input.

The conservation community and the development community stand to learn from the example set by the Tilestons. We will get further by working together starting early in the process; by engaging in open, honest, and—above all—respectful dialogue; and by identifying together the overarching vision of how a successful project can and should balance environmental conservation and responsible resource development.

As Alaskans we may occasionally disagree on how things should happen, but, like the Tilestons, we can all agree that if it is in Alaska, IT MUST BE DONE RIGHT.

2009 joint recipients: Kinross – Ft. Knox and the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game; City of Unalaska with Alyeska Seafoods, Westward Seafoods, and Unisea Inc.

2008 recipient: Alaska Board of Forestry



Peg and Jules Tileston Award

A joint award of The Alaska Conservation Alliance and the Resource Development Council

Nominations are due by May 15, 2010

Nomination forms can also be found online at tilestonaward.com.

Vision: Conservation and Business Working Together

Purpose: To recognize that economic development and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive goals. To encourage partnerships and solutions that fuse economics and environmentalism and make Alaska a place we wish to live.

Criteria: The following criteria will be used to determine award recipients

1. Crafted a solution to a resource management or development issue seen as a win by the development and conservation community;
2. Designed a project to avoid, minimize or innovatively mitigate an environmental effect (impact or consequence) while maintaining its economic viability;
3. Pioneered or advanced a technological solution to address a conservation concern.

Nomination questions:

Project/Solution Name _____ Nominator's Name _____

Description of Project/Solution (500 words maximum) _____

Explain how this project/solution benefits economic development in Alaska (250 words maximum): _____

Explain how this project/solution benefits conservation in Alaska (250 words maximum): _____

People, communities, corporations, and others directly and indirectly affected by this project/solution: _____

Persons who can attest to economic and environmental benefits of this project/solution: _____

Attach letters of recommendation (if available).

Questions? Contact:

Caitlin Higgins, Alaska Conservation Alliance, Executive Director (907) 258-6174, caitlin@akvoice.org
Jason Brune, Resource Development Council, Executive Director (907) 276-0700, jbrune@akrdc.org

[print](#)

Shell says Gulf offshore oil disaster won't slow Arctic exploration

by Christopher Eshleman / ceshleman@newsminer.com

04.29.10 - 02:50 am

Correction: Oil is spilling out at a rate of about 5,000 barrels per day. An incorrect measurement was given in the original story.

FAIRBANKS — Royal Dutch Shell said it doesn't expect a high-profile offshore oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico to slow its summer Arctic exploration plans, but a Fairbanks environmental group is urging greater caution before allowing work in northern waters.

The days-old Gulf spill, unplugged as of late Wednesday despite efforts by multimillion-dollar cleanup teams, occurred weeks after Shell and ConocoPhillips said they would increase exploration in the Chukchi sea and surrounding Beaufort waters. The companies hold hundreds of exploratory leases in the Arctic. Early this month, Shell, which holds most of those leases, secured important air quality permits from the Environmental Protection Agency for exploration in the Chukchi and Beaufort.

Shell spokesman Curtis Smith in Anchorage said the company still needs a few other environmental permits but doesn't expect major issues as it nears the start of its \$300 million exploration plan.

"We don't have any reason to believe those outstanding permits will be impacted by recent events in the Gulf of Mexico," Smith said by e-mail.

Janice Hastings, a Seattle-based deputy air quality manager for the EPA, said the permits would be effective once they clear early May appeal deadlines.

One month ago, Shell's chief executive for U.S. operations said the company was ready to begin exploration this summer with two or three test wells, a game plan Smith confirmed Wednesday. He said the company is working with regulators, who he said "understandably want to be reassured" safety measures are in place near the company's exploration sites.

"It's important that we have these conversations now so that Alaskans can continue to share our confidence that drilling in the Alaska offshore can be done safely and responsibly," Smith said.

The company's plans will likely now meet tougher public scrutiny of oil drilling in coastal waters. Crude was still leaking from an underwater pipeline in the Gulf of Mexico at a rate, as of mid-Wednesday, of 5,000 barrels per day. The pipe had been attached to a BP-leased oil rig that foundered last weekend after an explosion. Responders are considering controlled burns today as the slick approaches the coast of Louisiana, saying the environmental risk associated with a controlled burn is less than the potential damage if the oil slick widened and reached shore.

Pam Miller, an arctic specialist with the Fairbanks-based Northern Alaska Environmental Center, said groups like hers want to know more about how offshore development in the Arctic would impact wildlife such as walrus, bowhead whales, migratory birds and polar

bears. She said many felt the federal government's 2008 leasing program was rushed and think the Gulf of Mexico accident reinforces calls to study the potential complications that would come with trying to mop up oil spills in icy, moving waters.

"We think there should be a time out from leasing and drilling," Miller said. "We should take a cautious, science-based approach to development."

Natalie Lowman, a spokeswoman for ConocoPhillips Alaska, declined to comment on the Gulf of Mexico spill's implications for offshore activity in the Arctic Ocean.

ConocoPhillips paid \$506 million in 2008 for development rights in the Arctic, bids Lowman said cover 98 leases. Shell paid more than \$2 billion for offshore leases two years ago.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski said it will take months to understand the accident and its implications for offshore exploration in the Arctic and elsewhere. The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, on which Murkowski is ranking Republican, will hold a hearing next week on federal Outer Continental Shelf development plans. Murkowski said in a statement that she'll seek more information there.

But the long-term policy implications of the Gulf of Mexico spill remain to be seen, Murkowski said.

"As we look to expand exploration off our nation's coasts, it's critical that we take every possible precaution to guard against similar accidents," Murkowski said. "It's imperative that we find out everything we can about what went wrong on the Horizon."

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Gulf of Mexico catastrophe could delay Alaska offshore oil search

by Dermot Cole/News-Miner

05.03.10 - 02:13 am

The oil catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico could delay the effort to explore for oil and gas in shallow waters off the northwest coast of Alaska, even though Shell has most of its permits in hand.

The company said it has not been told to stop its summer exploration program, but it's hard to imagine the federal government will rush the final authorization the company needs while this nightmare unfolds.

The political opposition to new offshore development will gain momentum as the BP disaster continues. It will be as hard to stop as the oil spurting out of the ocean floor.

To give Shell its final blessing now, Obama administration officials might have to convince themselves there is no chance they are creating a "Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job" moment for the president. They might say, "Let's take another look at your plan."

While the oil industry and proponents of drilling argue that development in 200 feet of water in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas is a different world than the Gulf of Mexico, where the water is a mile deep, those debating points are not going to win hearts and minds when anger rules.

The Alaska plan will be linked in the national political debate to oil-covered animals on the coast of Louisiana. In terms of public perception, this disaster is going to be worse than the Exxon Valdez, and not just because 11 people died in the explosion and 17 were injured.

The ruptured tanker did its damage in one strike against the rocks. In this case, the industry and government stand by, apparently helpless, while the ruptured pipes spew oil for days, weeks or months.

As long as gasoline is available for cars, facts and figures about the history of offshore drilling will not be the decisive elements.

For Alaska, there could be long-term consequences. BP, one of the three main oil companies in Alaska, said a disaster like this was almost impossible. The economic and political costs to BP will be enormous.

Meanwhile, the campaign to use the 50th anniversary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a reason to push for a wilderness designation on the coastal plain, thought to be the best onshore oil prospect in the United States, will be boosted by this disaster.

The long-term future of the trans-Alaska pipeline depends upon offshore oil development, and that future is going to be more uncertain now. This doesn't mean Shell will never drill, but it will face more scrutiny than before.

In a 2007 document titled “Shell’s Beaufort Sea Exploratory Drilling Program Oil Spill Response,” the company detailed its plans to ensure safety and minimize the risks of spills in the Arctic.

Future debate about the risks from offshore development will have to change because of the BP disaster.

It might be a rare event, but so was the Exxon Valdez.

Mentioning the safety record of all the other tankers that traveled Alaska waters without spilling a drop didn’t help the oil industry in 1989, just as the statistics on offshore safety won’t control the public policy debate now.

“As reported by the National Academy of Sciences (2003), only 1 percent of the oil discharges in North American waters are related to the extraction of petroleum; and only a fraction of this is from drilling operations,” Shell said in its 2007 report on safety precautions for the Arctic.

“Shell has an excellent record in the Gulf of Mexico for drilling operations. For example, in 2006 the total spill volume was 1.4 barrels, including all reportable spills down to drops of oil capable of producing mere sheens on the water. In 2005, the total spill volume from Shell’s facilities was 329 barrels of which 325 barrels were related to a single Hurricane Katrina-related incident.”

The company went on to state that about 900 new wells are drilled in the Gulf of Mexico each year and there had been no major spills from U.S. exploration or production platforms since 1973.

While much is uncertain, it’s safe to say that we already can see one lasting consequence of the spill for Alaska: The industry can no longer highlight operations in the Gulf of Mexico as evidence that there is little to worry about.

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Anchorage Daily News

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Our view: Cruise tax

This deal should work

(04/22/10 23:35:39)

More Alaska ports -- especially Juneau and Ketchikan -- will have money for major harbor and dock projects from the cruise ship passenger tax. The cruise industry will get a reduction in that tax -- but not until 2011, allowing the state to collect at the current rate of \$46 a head this year, worth \$39 million. The final deal on the cruise ship tax turned the bill into a boon for Ketchikan and Juneau, which now will collect not only their own head taxes, but \$5 from the state as well. That should cover their waterfront needs in accommodating the cruise industry.

Five other cruise ports will share in the state's take at \$5 a head, their totals depending on the number of passengers who call.

Senate Bill 312 gives the cruise industry some of what it wanted and keeps a decent tax take for Alaska's ports, with the busiest rightly getting the largest share. The bill clarifies that the money collected is to be used within shouting distance of the waterfront, as federal law requires. The bill keeps intact the principle established by the 2006 cruise ship initiative that Alaska can and will require a profitable industry to pay its way here and protect our environment.

At the same time, the bill eases the tax burden to encourage the cruise industry to restore and increase Alaska cruise traffic, which makes up most of the tourism industry here.

Opponents of any change in the cruise ship head tax rightly argued that the economy had much more to do with declining numbers than did Alaska's tax, which most passengers didn't notice. And they argued industry and some lawmakers were trying to defy the voters' will.

Yes, the economy was far more responsible for fewer cruisers than our head tax. But we should only tax for the services and facilities we need to accommodate the cruise trade and offset its immediate impacts. It appears we can both cut the tax and care for ports. That's a deal everyone can live with.

And the initiative's heart remains strong. Lawmakers have the constitutional authority to repeal an initiative after two years. In this case they have not and should not. They've amended the initiative, keeping the taxing authority, pollution controls, Ocean Rangers and a shipboard gambling tax worth about \$6 million that will now go to the ports fund.

The cruise industry got its tax cut and the assurance that tax money will go to serve the ships and their passengers. Now we'll see how the industry responds.

BOTTOM LINE: Cruise ship head tax cut looks like a fair deal.

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What is Alaska Business Week?

Alaska Business Week is an exciting and unique weeklong summer program for Alaska high school students brought to Alaska by the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce. Following the curriculum of the long-running Washington Business Week program started in 1976, it provides participants with an intensive week of 'discovery learning' on a university campus where students experience college life. There are similar programs established in 22 other states including Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Pennsylvania. It should be noted this program is also offered as a curriculum in certain public high schools in the Seattle area as a requirement of graduation.

The program includes a simulated "corporate" environment replicating some of the challenges and opportunities of life after high school, raising students' awareness of career choices, workplace issues, teamwork, money management, networking and more.

More details about the program:

A 'Company Advisor', is loaned to the program for the entire week and participates by acting as a mentor to a 10-person student "company". These student companies compete for the bottom line as they manage their production, marketing and finance decisions, as well as respond to issues pertaining to personnel, the environment and corporate responsibility. The program transforms students as they gain confidence in public speaking, working with a diverse population, and facing real life business challenges. At the end of the week, companies and students are recognized for their achievements.

Date of the program: August 8 – 14, 2010

Location: University of Alaska Fairbanks campus

Capacity: Limited to 100 Alaska high school students, grades 9 - 12

Deadline to apply: June 1, 2010

Cost of program: Tuition is set at \$325 for one-week program; total cost of program per student is \$1,050. The remainder of the tuition is provided by the generous sponsorship of businesses throughout Alaska. Some needs-based funding is available.

Note: transportation to and from Fairbanks is not provided.

Benefits:

To students and high schools: Many students come into the program with little or no knowledge of the various aspects of running a business; by the end of the week, they have discovered their strengths and weaknesses, their (hidden) talents, and their leadership potential. Something seems to 'click' during the week that makes them

realize why math and English classes are so important and what it will take to make it in the real world. It is inspirational to witness the transformation of these students from teenagers to future leaders all in the course of one short week. The students come away from the program re-energized to learn.

To employers and company advisors: The key to the success of this program is the active participation of committed company advisors who are on loan from their companies for one week. Their role is to mentor the students, from giving moral support, to guiding stimulating discussions, and allowing students to make their own decisions – and sometimes, mistakes. The goal is to simulate a work environment as closely as possible. Advisors are challenged to use their leadership skills and expertise to guide their young entrepreneurs to a winning strategy. This program provides more than what a ‘typical’ conference or seminar would offer an employee – a chance to use leadership and critical thinking skills, an insight into strategies of top companies through a lecture series, and a renewed sense of leadership capabilities and strengths.

To Parents: Students gain maturity and new skills over the weeklong program, discovering their sometimes hidden talents and strengths. At the end of the week, they are transformed into taking on leadership roles and realizing their potential for future endeavors. It is a surprising metamorphosis in many cases.

There are many ways you can actively participate in this worthwhile program:

- **Become a sponsor:**

- Founder's Circle - \$25,000+
- Fellow - \$10,000 - \$24,000
- Supporter - \$2,000 - \$9,999
- Sponsor a student - \$1,000
- Donor – any amount

In-kind support is gratefully welcomed. Contact the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce to see how you can contribute.

- **Get the word out – recruit students from your area of the state.**

- **Actively participate:**

- 100 Alaska high school students
- 10 company advisors loaned to ABW for the weeklong program
- 20 – 30 business leaders to act as panel judges and stockholders – 4 hours on Friday morning
- 3 student interns to assist with the program (paid positions)
- 10 Resident Advisors to supervise students in the dormitories (paid positions)
- 16 speakers – presentations by business leaders from businesses throughout Alaska and Washington

For more information: Contact the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce at (907) 586-2010 or email at: wayne@alaskachamber.com, or Ann Ringstad at ann.ringstad@gmail.com, (907) 474-5922

Download a fillable pdf at
www.alaskachamber.com
or please print or type legibly.
This Form May Be Copied.



STUDENT
2010

August 8 – 14, 2010
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

STUDENT INFORMATION

Last Name	First Name	Birthdate	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		
Home Mailing Address ()		City	County	State	Zip Code
Home Phone Number		Student Cell Phone Number ()		Student Email Address	
Parent/Guardian Name(s)		Parent Contact Phone Number ()		Parent Email Address	
High School Name		Academic grade you will complete in June 2010: <input type="checkbox"/> Freshman <input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior			
T-Shirt Size: <input type="checkbox"/> Sm <input type="checkbox"/> Med <input type="checkbox"/> LG <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL		Activities: <input type="checkbox"/> DECA <input type="checkbox"/> JA <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
Ethnicity (for statistical purposes only): <input type="checkbox"/> African American / Black <input type="checkbox"/> Asian / Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian / White <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian / Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic / Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____					

PROGRAM COST

Amount to be paid by Participant: \$325

Includes 6 days/nights of meals, lodging and program materials.

Total per student cost to operate the program is **\$1050**.

Contributions from Business Week sponsors cover **\$725** of that cost.

YOU PAY JUST \$325!!!

Transportation to Fairbanks is **not** provided.

REFUND POLICY

A full refund is given if you cancel by July 19, 2010.

A partial refund will be given if you cancel after July 19, 2010.
You will be refunded all but \$50.

Once the program begins, no refunds will be given except for valid medical reasons. If this is the case, your registration fee less \$100 will be returned.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please select a payment option:

- My \$325 registration fee is enclosed. (Please make check or money order payable to: *Washington Business Week*.)
- Please charge my credit card \$325 for the registration fee. (Your credit card statement will show: *Washington Business Week*.)
- I am requesting financial assistance. (Please complete the form on the back of this application.)

NOTE: If you wish to make arrangements for a payment plan, please contact the Registrar at: (800) 686-6442.

Card Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> M/C	<input type="checkbox"/> American Express	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover	Amount to be charged: _____
Account #:	Expires: _____				
Name on Card:					
Billing Address:					
City:	State:	Zip Code: _____			

SIGNATURES - REQUIRED

If accepted, I agree to make a sincere effort to push myself and grow during the week.

I give my support and express permission for my student to attend Alaska Business Week.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Alaska Business Week is a program of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce and The Foundation for Private Enterprise Education 501(c)(3). We provide equal opportunity to participate in all the rights, privileges, and activities sponsored by the organization regardless of the participant's race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin, religion, or sexual orientation. The Foundation does not discriminate in the administration of its educational scholarship policies and strives to provide every student full opportunity of participation in all scheduled activities.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

Our goal is to ensure that every student is given the opportunity to attend the program. Financial assistance is available to families who cannot afford the full \$325 registration fee. These funds are provided by our contributors and are limited. To request financial assistance, please completely fill out the information below. If information is missing, the application for financial assistance will not be considered. All financial aid applications must be received by June 1st (this may be extended if we still have funding available after this deadline).

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PARENT/GUARDIAN

Please complete the financial assistance application in its entirety or it will not be considered.

Indicate total monthly household income before taxes (excluding the applying student's income):

- Under \$2,000
- \$2,000-\$3,000
- \$3,000-\$4,000
- \$4,000-\$5,000

Number of family members supported by this income: _____

Does the student qualify for a school lunch program?

- Free
- Reduced
- No

Indicate the student's employment status:

- Year round
- During school breaks
- Not employed

Indicate the student's income: _____

Please indicate the maximum amount of the \$325 registration fee you feel you can afford to pay:

- \$275
- \$250
- \$200
- \$150
- \$100

If you wish to make arrangements for a payment plan, please contact the Registrar at: (800) 686-6442 or registrar@wbw.org. If none of these amounts is truly affordable, please contact the Registrar after you have submitted this application.

REQUIRED – Please explain why you would like to be considered for financial assistance. Include any special circumstances. (Attach an additional sheet if more space is needed.) PLEASE PRINT.

I hereby acknowledge that all the included information is truthful and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsification of any information regarding my financial status will disqualify my student from receiving financial aid.

Student's Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Confidentiality Statement: All information received by Alaska Business Week will remain strictly confidential.
Applying for financial assistance does not affect the decision on acceptance into Alaska Business Week program.

For office use only.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Date Received | Notes: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Database | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Payment Date | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Code of Conduct | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Medical/Photo Release | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Date App Completed | |



Alaska Coal Association

Presents the 18th Annual

Coal Classic

Golf Tournament



alaskaresource
EDUCATION

Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at Anchorage Golf Course

Breakfast, Registration & Hosted Driving Range 6:00 am, Shotgun Start 7:00 am

Proceeds benefit Alaska Resource Education (formerly AMEREF)

Alaska Resource Education is an industry-state partnership whose mission is to provide Alaska's students with the knowledge to make informed decisions related to mineral, energy, and forest resources.

Alaska Resource Education is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax ID #92-0117527

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$400 Breakfast Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Driving Range Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Beverage Cart Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 Hole Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$600 Lunch Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> Specialty Item Sponsor* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donate a door prize! | <input type="checkbox"/> Donate goodie bag items! |

Prize/item description: _____

*Item of your choice with your logo and AK Resource logo, given to each golfer. Call 907-276-0700 ext. 4 for details.

REGISTRATION FORM

\$1,000 Team (four golfers) \$300 Individual Golfer

Great prizes and lunch included!

Team Name _____

Golfers _____

Contact person _____

Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

VISA/MC _____ Expiration _____ 3 Digit Code _____

Return this form with your check payable to Alaska Resource Education
4141 B Street, Suite 402, Anchorage, AK 99503 • Fax 907-276-5488 • golf@akresource.org

To guarantee your slot, please register by Wednesday, June 2, 2010

**The Alaska Coal Association
Proudly Presents the 18th Annual
Coal Classic Golf Tournament
Wednesday, June 16, 2010
Anchorage Golf Course - 7:00 am Start**

Proceeds benefit Alaska Resource Education (fomerly AMEREF)

[Sponsorship Form \(pdf\)](#)

Sponsors (as of April 30, 2010)

Team Sponsors

ARCADIS US
Arctic Controls, Inc.
Barrick Gold Bulls
Chevron USA Inc.
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Construction Machinery Industrial LLC
First National Bank Alaska
Packers Pebbles
Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. (two teams)

Beverage Cart Sponsors

BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.
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Petro Marine Services
Tesoro Alaska Company
Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.

**Help make this event a success by
sponsoring today!**

Lunch Sponsors

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ExxonMobil
Kinross - Ft. Knox
Pebble Partnership
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Marathon Alaska Production LLC
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Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.