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Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, December 2, 2010

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

The BLM, NPR-A & Other Energy Issues
 Robert Abbey, National Director, U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Next Meeting: December 16: Report on Port of Anchorage Expansion, Bill Sheffield, Port Director

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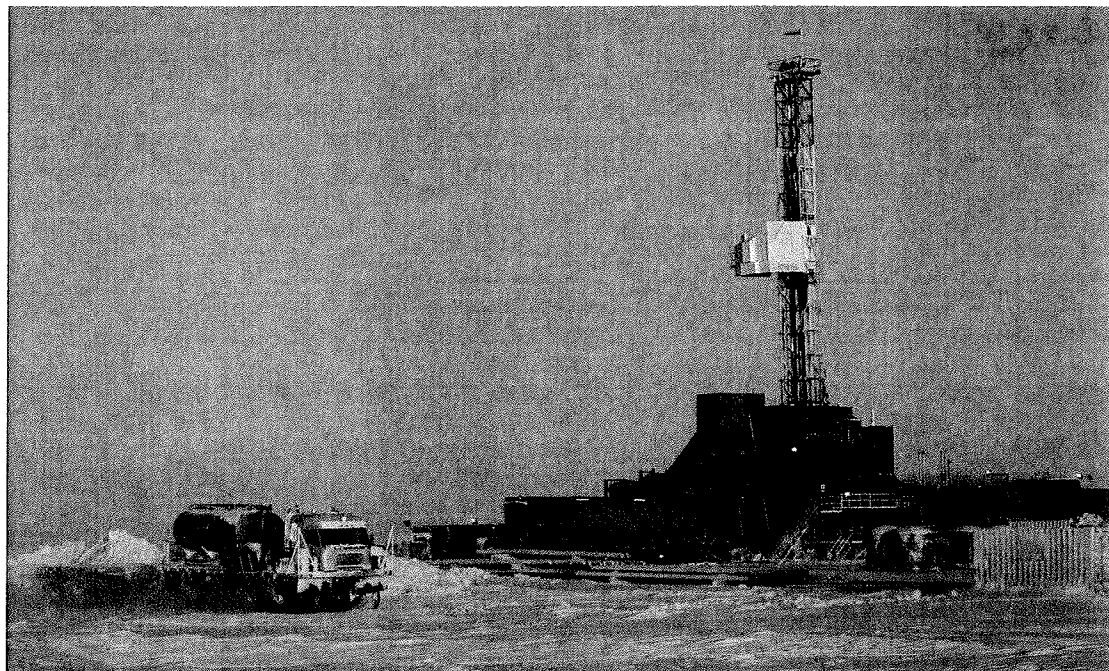
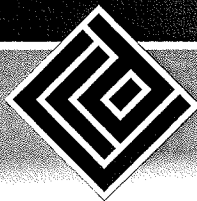
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RESOURCE *review*

akrdc.org

A periodic publication of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

November 2010



A new resource assessment by the USGS estimates NPR-A may contain only a tenth of the oil previously thought to exist below the frozen tundra. However, the agency believes the energy reserve contains prolific world-class natural gas deposits. ConocoPhillips, Anadarko and Talisman (FEX) bought leases and embarked on an aggressive exploration campaign over the past decade in NPR-A. At left is ConocoPhillips' Noatak exploration well in 2007.

NPR-A energy assessment met with alarm

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) believes the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A) contains only one-tenth of the oil previously thought to exist there, basing its sharp downward revision on new data derived from disappointing exploration results in the 23-million acre reserve over the past decade.

USGS now estimates NPR-A contains 896 million barrels of oil, a 90 percent reduction from its 2002 estimate of 10.6 billion barrels. The new assessment indicates 53 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered conventional natural gas within NPR-A and adjacent state waters. That is 8 trillion cubic feet less than the 2002 estimate of 61 trillion cubic feet, but still more than double the 24 trillion cubic feet of gas discovered at Prudhoe Bay.

By comparison, the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) is estimated to contain about 10.5 billion barrels of oil while federal waters in the nearby Chukchi and Beaufort Seas may hold up to 29 billion barrels of oil and 209 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Interestingly, the USGS acknowledged that the largest potential for undiscovered oil lies in Northeast NPR-A near Teshekpuk Lake, where little to no exploration has occurred. These highly prospective areas, covering 649,000 acres, have been deferred

from leasing by the federal government with the endorsement of environmental groups who have fought to block energy development in the area. An additional 1.57 million acres in Northwest NPR-A have also been deferred from leasing.

The federal agency now believes natural gas is the dominant energy resource in NPR-A. The highest potential for gas is in structural plays in South NPR-A.

The USGS says the new data indicate an abrupt change from oil to more gas prone resources in the reserve. Consequently, USGS said many of the newly drilled wells show an abrupt transition from oil to gas just 15 to 20 miles west of the Alpine field, located outside the northeastern boundary of the petroleum reserve.

NPR-A has been the focus of significant oil exploration during the past decade with discoveries made by ConocoPhillips in the northeastern part of the energy reserve, west of Alpine.

(Continued to page 4)

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This edition sponsored by: **Carlisle Transportation Systems & ExxonMobil**

Shear magnitude of NPR-A revision questioned

(Continued from page 1)

The sharply revised estimates for NPR-A have been received with some alarm by Alaskans. Some geologists have questioned the shear magnitude of the revisions, given no recent drilling has occurred in the Teshekpuk Lake area or over some of the most prospective acreage high on the Barrow Arch. (Virtually all of the North Slope's commercial discoveries have been near the coast and north of an area known as the Barrow Arch.)

Moreover, the release of the new projections coincide with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) launching of a new planning process for the reserve, leaving some to question the timing of the USGS projections. The new plan will cover the entire reserve and determine which areas will be open to development. It will supersede other planning efforts of the past 15 years.

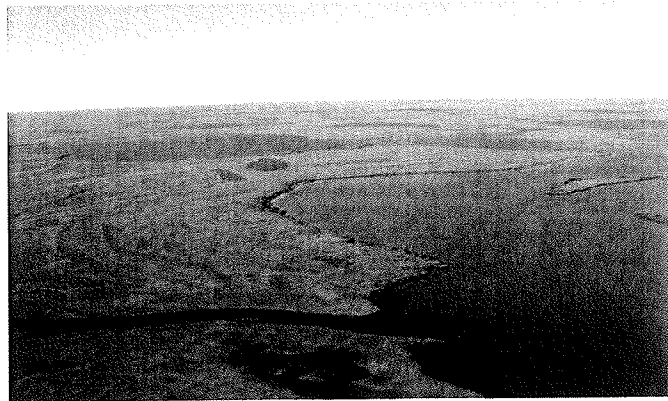
The State of Alaska is concerned the lower projections could provide BLM with cover to curtail future lease sales. This is a concern to Kevin Banks, Director of the Division of Oil and Gas, who noted the state would share with the federal government revenues from new oil production in NPR-A. The state would also benefit from increased throughput in the oil pipeline, which is running at one-third of its peak flow set in 1988.

Alaska geologist Ken Boyd said that since the USGS was apparently able to use some of the new data from recent exploration and 3D seismic surveys in its recent assessment, additional credence should be given to the results. "That said, they are extrapolating these new data over a huge area – 23 million acres," Boyd said. "There is one part of NPR-A that does not have any new data and it is the area some believe may be the most prospective. For a variety of reasons – some environmental and some political – the northeast corner of NPR-A has not been included in any of the recent lease sales."

Boyd said "until the northeast acreage has been made available for lease and exploration is allowed to take place, I don't believe the full story of NPR-A has yet been told. Unless and until this area is open for exploration, I think any evaluation remains incomplete."

Geologist Richard Garrard called the new

USGS has cited disappointing exploration results and other data in sharply cutting its estimate of potential oil reserves in NPR-A. However, no drilling has occurred in the Teshekpuk Lake area where approximately 649,000 acres of prospective lands have been deferred from leasing.



resource assessment "controversial" and said that "before the new numbers can be taken seriously, some independent audit by other organizations should be considered." Garrard said such an effort might be undertaken collaboratively by representatives from the various federal agencies, the state, and industry.

Garrard asked: "Did the USGS have access to all of the available 3-D seismic or recently drilled wells? Did they have sufficient time to interpret these data? What new technical studies have they conducted? Did they consult with all of the various operators who have been active in NPR-A?"

If the latest USGS numbers are correct, then the assessment should represent a major concern for Alaska, Garrard said. "Alternatively, if the USGS was under pressure to issue a new number without having access to all of the data or time to conduct a thorough analysis, then the possible political ramifications could be concerning," he added.

Winners and losers

Environmental groups want permanent protection for coastal areas of the energy reserve, and the sharply lower oil projections could make it easier for the Obama administration to justify permanent closure of currently deferred areas to oil exploration.

However, the lower oil projection for NPR-A could strengthen the case for exploration in the Chukchi Sea, considered the most promising unexplored offshore oil and gas basin in North America.

Even if the projections for oil ultimately prove accurate, the potential gas resources in the energy reserve are immense and

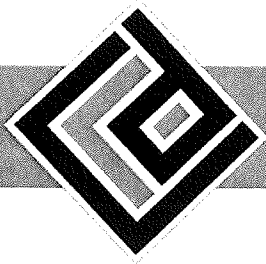
developing them could greatly improve the long-term economic viability of the proposed gas pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Lower 48 markets.

Garrard believes the reserve's potential for oil is still quite good, but getting it out of the ground economically will be challenging due to the lack of infrastructure in the remote frontier area. As for the gas resource, until a pipeline is built from the North Slope southward, a major discovery in NPR-A isn't much better than a dry hole, a USGS scientist noted.

With regard to the new planning process launched earlier this fall by the BLM, RDC urged in its scoping comments that all of NPR-A should be open to oil and gas leasing, as well as mineral entry. Moreover, RDC said the BLM should establish transportation corridors within NPR-A to facilitate future oil and gas development in the OCS and resource development in South NPR-A.

"With climate change and polar bear critical habitat issues to be introduced into the new planning process, it is highly likely that anti-development forces will use these and other issues to demand the removal of additional acreage from exploration," RDC warned. "Those who oppose new oil development in the Arctic are likely to demand permanent Wilderness protection of much, if not all, of the petroleum reserve's coastal plain, thus blocking future oil and gas exploration and development inside an area specifically intended for oil development."

RDC's comments on the new plan, known as the Integrated Activity Plan, is available at: www.akrdc.org/alerts/2010/nraplanningcomments.html.



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

September 8, 2010

Ms. Julia Dougan
Acting Alaska State Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
222 W. 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504

Re: New IAP/EIS for National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

Dear Ms. Dougan:

On behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC), I am writing to comment on the preparation of a new Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A).

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

As stated in our earlier comments on NPR-A, RDC believes full oil and gas leasing should occur across the petroleum reserve. In addition, RDC supports opening NPR-A to mineral entry, as well as industrial mineral and coal leasing. Moreover, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) should make provisions for transportation corridors within NPR-A to facilitate future oil and gas development in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and potential resource development in South NPR-A and elsewhere.

Oil and gas development

Three decades of oil and gas activity in the Arctic clearly demonstrate that industry has the capability to operate throughout Alaska's North Slope while maintaining high standards of safety and environmental sensitivity. Advances in technology have greatly reduced industry's footprint, allowing for the preservation of more surface acreage within the oil fields for wildlife habitat. In addition to technological advances, scientific studies conducted since 1998 have greatly improved the agency's knowledge of the biological resources within the petroleum reserve.

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Given NPR-A was specifically designated by Congress for the production of energy resources and the need for new oil production has increased, it is important BLM provide access to NPR-A's best prospects. North Slope oil and gas deposits have occurred almost exclusively within a 25-mile strip of the Beaufort Sea coastline – a geologic structure known as the Barrow Arch. Acreage within this area could hold significant deposits and should be open to development.

RDC believes it is unnecessary for BLM to defer or withdraw highly prospective acreage in NPR-A from potential future lease sales. Areas withdrawn in previous planning processes are considered to be among the most oil-rich in NPR-A. These withdrawals and new ones would only serve to significantly reduce ultimate recovery of oil from the petroleum reserve with little or no benefit to the environment and wildlife. If BLM removes the best prospects from future leasing, there is unlikely to be significant industry interest going forward in the petroleum reserve. (BLM need only look at the results of the most recent lease sale, which clearly demonstrated industry disappointment in what was offered).

RDC is concerned with the alarming trend over the past 15 years of “locking up” potential oil-rich lands in NPR-A. Through the previous planning processes, 219,000 acres under Teshekpuk Lake were withheld from leasing and 430,000 acres north and east of the lake were deferred until 2018. In addition, 1.57 million acres in Northwestern NPR-A were deferred from leasing until 2014. Most recently, 170,000 acres south of Teshekpuk Lake were removed from the August 2010 lease sale because of migratory and caribou habitat concerns. We are very much concerned that the trend is clearly toward less leasing and less access. Much of the most prospective acreage within the Barrow Arch has now been removed or deferred, including those closest to potential future production. It is important to remember this is a petroleum reserve, not a wildlife refuge.

RDC understands the new plan will incorporate the most current information and develop management goals, objectives, and actions that would be consistent across the entire NPR-A. We also understand the planning effort will help identify management actions to mitigate impacts to resources from oil and gas leasing and other activities that may occur in NPR-A. It is our hope that such efforts will prevent future permitting issues, like the one at CD-5 where ConocoPhillips Alaska has hit a stone wall in advancing its project.

With climate change and polar bear critical habitat issues to be introduced into the new planning process, it is highly likely that anti-development forces will use these and other issues to demand the removal of additional acreage from exploration. Once areas have been removed from a sale or deferred from leasing, a dangerous precedent has been set. Assuredly, special interest groups will challenge any reinstatement in the future. Moreover, those who oppose new oil development in the Arctic are likely to demand permanent Wilderness protection of much, if not all, of the petroleum reserve's coastal plain, thus blocking future oil and gas exploration and development inside an area specifically intended for oil development.

RDC recognizes coastal areas of the petroleum reserve contain large populations of waterfowl and caribou and are coveted by local residents for subsistence hunting. However, a variety of protective measures, operating procedures, standards, and stipulations are employed to mitigate impacts of energy development on other land uses and resources in areas where development currently occurs on the North Slope. We urge BLM to provide access to NPR-A's

prospective acreage while providing reasonable measures to mitigate impacts. These measures should be both technically and economically feasible.

RDC strongly encourages the BLM to move forward with a comprehensive and consistent plan for NPR-A that will allow oil and gas exploration across the petroleum reserve's most prospective lands while mitigating potential impacts on the environment, wildlife, and other resource users. BLM should craft a plan that encourages access, expansion of important infrastructure into the petroleum reserve, and plants the seed for industry interest in future lease sales. Such a plan is vital and most appropriate to encourage energy exploration and production inside a petroleum reserve – and access for development of offshore resources in the OCS – at a time when there is an ever-increasing need for new domestic energy production.

In fact, BLM has a moral obligation to open NPR-A's highly prospective acreage to exploration, given the nation is now importing 60 percent of the oil it consumes and the threat high energy prices pose to Americans. Moreover, new energy production from the petroleum reserve is essential to maintaining a viable trans-Alaska oil pipeline, which is now operating at one-third the volume reached 20 years ago. It is unreasonable to expect state lands to continue to support the oil pipeline when most of the North Slope's remaining 20 billion-plus barrels of oil is located on federal lands. If much of the coastal areas of NPR-A are removed from exploration, then most of the energy reserve's potential will be gutted and industry interest and investment will move beyond Alaska.

Industry has invested significant resources into a large 3-D seismic program in NPR-A and considerable additional resources have been invested to interpret data and prepare for competitive bidding. This investment could be at risk, depending on the final determinations of the new planning process.

In the best interest of Alaska and the nation, RDC urges BLM to refrain from deferring highly prospective lands from development and move forward with clear and transparent actions that open NPR-A to its intended use – responsible oil and gas exploration, development, and production. Continued deferral and withdrawal of prospective lands is detrimental to improving the North Slope exploration investment climate and ultimate production. Such action will only serve to increase America's reliance on foreign oil, weaken our economy, and jeopardize national security.

Interestingly, had sensitive wildlife and wetland areas along the central North Slope coastal plain been withdrawn from exploration in the 1960s, there would have been no discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk, and other North Slope oil fields. Alaska would not have the economy and public infrastructure it has in place today, and the nation would have been forced to import at least an additional 16 billion barrels of oil over the past thirty years at a staggering cost. Instead, North Slope oil fields have elevated Alaska's economy over the past 30 years and the Central Arctic caribou herd has grown from 5,000 animals in 1970 to over 65,000 today. Development can be and is done right in Alaska.

We hope the new plan signals to resource industries that federal land in Alaska is open for business.

Minerals and coal leasing

Given the outstanding track record of the mining industry in the arctic and sub-arctic, the technological advances of the past decade, and the increasing need for strategic minerals, RDC also supports opening NPR-A to mineral entry, as well as industrial mineral and coal leasing. In addition, RDC encourages BLM to make provisions for transportation corridors to facilitate future resource development.

RDC acknowledges that before the mining of minerals and coal can occur, an act of Congress would be required to open NPR-A to mineral entry. We strongly encourage BLM to advance such a recommendation.

Specifically, the northern foothills of the Brooks Range have significant potential for base metals discoveries similar to the rich zinc and lead ores found at Red Dog Mine. It is well known that the region also holds significant deposits of copper and iron, as well as some of the most significant coal deposits anywhere in the world. In fact, America is called the "Saudi Arabia of coal," partly because of the reserve base inside NPR-A.

NPR-A should be managed with a true multiple use philosophy, allowing for the coexistence of development, recreation and subsistence uses. RDC opposes new single-purpose, highly-restrictive conservation units in NPR-A, given its energy and mineral-rich lands and potential future development. Moreover, Alaska already has an overwhelming majority of the nation's public lands closed to development. Environmental concerns and habitat issues can be adequately addressed through lease stipulations and the permitting process.

Decades of mining activity clearly demonstrate industry has the capability to operate throughout the arctic and sub-arctic while maintaining the highest standards of safety and environmental sensitivity. New advances in technology have reduced the footprint of development, allowing for greater consolidation of facilities and the preservation of more acreage within development zones for wildlife habitat.

The mining industry has proven it can explore and develop potential reserves in a way that minimizes impacts on the environment, traditional subsistence activities and cultural resources. Industry has taken the best practices and technology of the past 30 years of arctic development in both Alaska and Canada and has applied them to the latest generation of mineral development. This has led to a new and higher standard for responsible development and has reduced industry's footprint in sensitive areas.

Conclusion

The discovery and development of new oil, gas, mineral and coal deposits in NPR-A will benefit Alaska, local communities and the nation. Everyone who lives in Alaska will gain from new discoveries through the state and local revenues derived from production. These revenues will help sustain important state services to residents. Industry activity will also provide new job opportunities for local residents and boost the local economy. Development of new energy and mineral deposits will also enhance the nation's economy and security.

NPR-A is an 80-plus year-old petroleum reserve — specifically set aside because of its energy and mineral potential. Access to the entire NPR-A should be accommodated. Thank you for your consideration of our comments and concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Portman', written in a cursive style.

Carl Portman
Deputy Director

State reaffirms opposition to more wilderness areas in ANWR

Governor Sean Parnell reaffirmed his opposition to any plan or wilderness review process that further encumbers the potential for oil and gas development on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

"It is incredible that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wants to increase Wilderness designation and lock up 11 billion barrels of oil," Parnell said. "Through a detailed letter from Attorney General Dan Sullivan, and through other correspondence, my administration has repeatedly questioned the legality of this maneuver by the federal government, and yet we have not even received a response concerning the legally suspect course that Fish and Wildlife is choosing to follow."

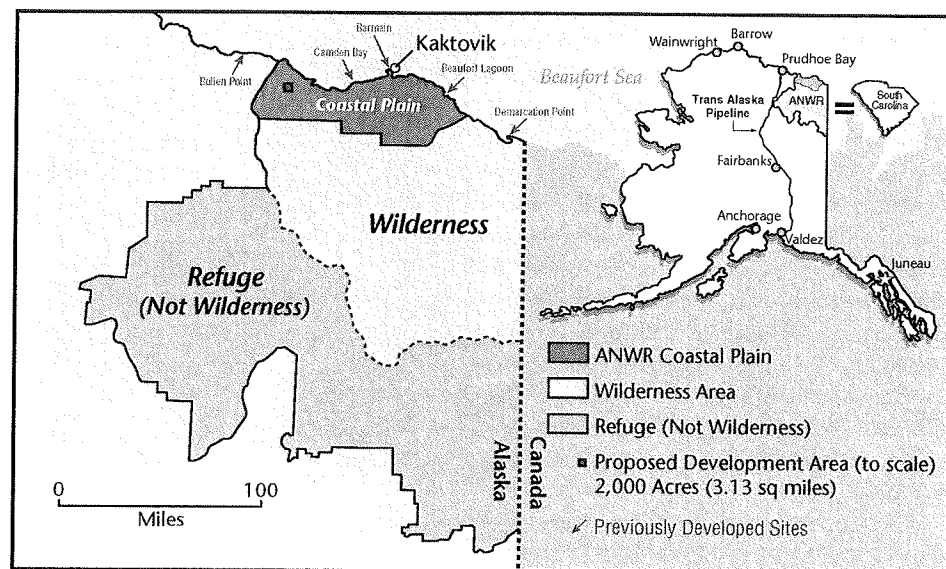
Oil and gas development in the 1002 area of the coastal plain would provide a secure onshore domestic supply of energy for the nation, create tens of thousands of jobs throughout the country, and ensure the continued operation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System for years to come.

The governor noted that oil from ANWR could help meet U.S. demand for 25 years or more and that development is compatible with the protection of wildlife and their habitat.

"We think we have strong legal options to prevent these unwarranted federal actions," Parnell said.

Parnell's comments come in response to the Service's announcement that the agency will conduct wilderness reviews for three Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) for potential inclusion within the National Wilderness Preservation System. These three WSAs encompass almost all refuge lands not currently designated as Wilderness.

If the wilderness reviews lead to a recommendation to give wilderness status to any of the WSAs, the recommendation would require approval by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Secretary of the Interior, and the President. If a



Source: Alaska Department of Natural Resources

recommendation receives support of all of these parties, the President would submit it to Congress, which alone has the authority to make final decisions on any proposed wilderness designations.

The wilderness reviews are expected to be completed by February 2011. The Service plans to release a draft revised plan for ANWR, which will include the wilderness reviews, for public review and comment in March 2011. The Service plans to issue the final plan and record of decision, incorporating any recommendations arising from the wilderness reviews, in May 2012.

The Service said its decision to review nearly all non-wilderness lands in ANWR for potential inclusion into the wilderness system, including the coastal plain, is in response to comments received nationwide during the recent comment period.

Currently, 42 percent of ANWR, including 500,000 acres of its eastern coastal plain, is already designated Wilderness. Overall, 92 percent of the refuge is closed to development. However, 1.5 million acres of the refuge's western coastal plain, the 1002 area, was excluded from the Wilderness

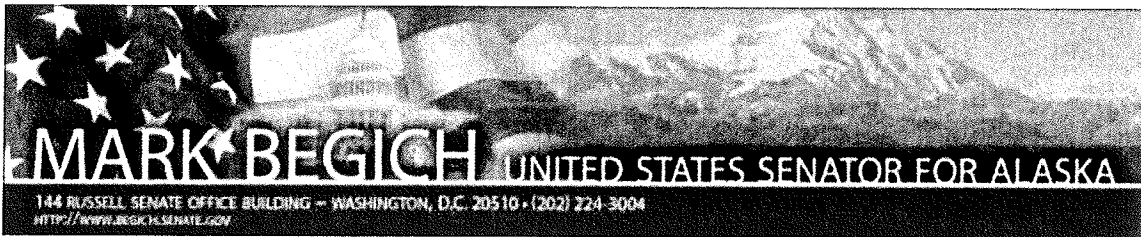
designation in a compromise struck under the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

In exchange, Congress doubled the size of the refuge and designated eight million acres outside the 1002 area as Wilderness. In recognizing the coastal plain's enormous oil and gas potential, Congress mandated a study of the 1002 area's geology and petroleum resources, as well as its wildlife and environmental values. In 1987, the Department of the Interior concluded that oil and gas development would have minimal impact on wildlife and recommended the coastal plain be opened to development.

Congress in 1995 voted to open the 1002 area to exploration, but President Bill Clinton vetoed the measure.

A federal Wilderness designation over the 1002 area, which accounts for only eight percent of the refuge, would forever place off-limits what is likely North America's most promising onshore oil and gas prospect.

RDC and Arctic Power vigorously oppose new wilderness designations inside ANWR and have testified in Washington, D.C., and Anchorage on the issue.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 1, 2010
2010-220

Contact: Max Croes, Deputy Press Secretary
(202) 224-9578 office

**Begich Cheers Interior Announcement to Clear the Way
for Beaufort Sea Oil and Gas Development**

Saying offshore development in Alaska's Arctic could lead to a revival in the state's oil and gas industry, Sen. Mark Begich today praised an announcement from the Obama Administration to green-light Shell's proposed oil development in the Beaufort Sea.

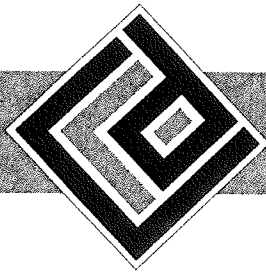
"This decision to clear the way for responsible oil and gas in Alaska's resource-rich offshore waters is great news for our state and the nation," Begich said. "It's unfortunate the development was side-lined by this spring's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, but I'm pleased the Obama administration took a hard look and made the right decision."

Begich was called by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar this morning, informing him of Interior's decision clearing the way for Shell to obtain its final permits to permit exploration in the Beaufort Sea next summer. The senator on Sept. 16 wrote President Obama urging his administration to set a "clear timeline and process" for the responsible development of Alaska's enormous oil and gas resources.

Begich noted that Shell has gone to great lengths to accommodate local concerns, such as imposing a timeout on development during the fall subsistence whale hunt, signing a Conflict Avoidance Agreement with the Eskimo Whalers Commission, staging enormous resources to prevent a spill or deal with one in the remote chance that it occurs and providing funds for additional scientific research. The senator commended tough negotiating by North Slope Borough Mayor Edward Itta for ensuring that subsistence resources are protected with any oil and gas development.

In his letter to the President, Begich said Alaska's huge oil and gas resources can be responsibly developed to help ensure the nation's economic and national security, provide jobs for Americans and affordable energy for the country.

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November 30, 2010

Mr. John Goll, Regional Director
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation & Enforcement
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99503-5820

Re: Lease Sale 193

Dear Mr. Goll:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Lease Sale 193. RDC urges the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation & Enforcement (BOEM) to affirm Lease Sale 193 as held in 2008. We believe the SEIS provides sufficient information and analysis to support a decision affirming the sale.

RDC is a statewide membership-funded organization founded in 1975. Our Alaskan 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 has a high level of confidence that exploration and development can occur safely in the Arctic and that mitigation measures can be put in place to address most concerns and minimize impacts to the environment, polar bears and other species, as well as subsistence. However, since recent events in the Gulf of Mexico, opponents of offshore drilling are calling for an indefinite ban on new exploration and development in Alaska. RDC sharply disagrees. Operating conditions in these waters are categorically different than those in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico and pose much lower risk. Moreover, the processes and safeguards in place today in Alaska should allow leasing and exploration activity to resume in the Alaska OCS.

Drilling in the Arctic offers distinct difference than deepwater exploration and development in the Gulf of Mexico. The pressure encountered in

deepwater drilling is multiple times greater than in Alaska where wells would be in very shallow water. In addition, the relatively shallow water depth in the Chukchi Sea would allow blowout preventers to close much more rapidly than those in deep water. The blowout preventers would also be directly accessible to dive teams, unlike the Gulf where any maintenance or repairs had to be accomplished by remote control vehicles. Another distinction is that many Alaskan offshore operations are seasonal in nature. For example, Shell has proposed conducting its exploratory drilling during the summer and fall open water season. Ice management vessels will be positioned on site to deflect any ice flows that could potentially approach a rig. There are also major differences between state and federal oversight and regulatory frameworks, as well as fundamental differences in the geology of the regions. All of these contrasts warrant special consideration in public policy decisions and should lead the BOEM to conclude that exploration should move forward in the area covered by Lease Sale 193.

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. The federal government has spent more than \$500 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. Industry and government working together have the ability to protect subsistence 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.

While the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas are considered frontier areas, exploration activity has occurred there before. In fact, 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. Moreover, there has never been a blowout in the Alaska or the Canadian Arctic that has resulted in an oil spill.

Opponents of oil exploration have cited the lack of infrastructure in the Arctic as a reason not to drill in the region. However, it is important to note that additional infrastructure will be built to accommodate future needs once exploration and development activities move forward. The lack of infrastructure today is due directly to the fact that there has been virtually no ongoing development or commercial activity of any kind offshore in the Arctic. However, Shell has committed to stage extensive resources onsite to immediately respond to any incident. The company has also committed to building and staging in the region a pre-fabricated dome to place over a troubled well. Moreover, virtually all functions of Shell's operations will be monitored at remote sites off the rig, giving industry and government critical "real-time" data and allowing for early detection of potential problems. In addition, the Alaska Clean Seas consortium has substantial resources and experience in the Arctic and has done extensive mapping to identify sensitive areas. The consortium has also conducted extensive safety and oil spill drills in the Arctic and has active research programs dating back into the early 1980s.

It is important to note that not all questions and concerns regarding oil and gas exploration and development can possibly be answered and met. Not all risks can be eliminated. If the federal government insists that every concern and risk be eliminated, then it must be prepared to import virtually all the oil the nation requires to meet future needs. It must then also accept the consequences of a much heavier reliance on foreign oil, including soaring trade deficits, a weaker and more vulnerable economy, and compromised national security. Put another way, failure to move forward with OCS development in Alaska will put the state economy at risk, as well as the nation's security.

OCS oil and gas development is absolutely critical to Alaska's future economy. With the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) now running at one-third capacity, exploration blocked in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), and non-development activists working toward Wilderness designations in the National Petroleum Reserve (NPR-A), nothing less than Alaska's future economy is at stake.

The responsible development of potentially immense oil and gas deposits in the Chukchi Sea would significantly boost the economy and extend the life of TAPS. Without new federal oil production, TAPS could be uneconomic to operate at some point in the next decade.

Between ANWR, NPR-A and the Alaska OCS, there could be nearly 40 billion barrels of oil in place. By comparison, 16 billion barrels of oil have been produced on state lands across the North Slope in 33 years. The sustainability of TAPS and Alaska's economy will largely depend on some combination of oil production from these federal areas, which represent the nation's best onshore and offshore prospects for major discoveries.

If there is no oil and gas development in ANWR or in the Chukchi Sea, and the best prospects in NPR-A are ultimately taken off the table, the federal government must then accept the consequences, as outlined earlier in these comments. For Alaskans, our future will be bleak with the state losing 90 percent of its revenue base.

Not developing federal oil in Alaska makes no sense from an economic and energy security stand point, especially given the fact that America imports over 60 percent of its oil, and at a great cost. 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.

New production in the Alaska OCS would reduce America's reliance on foreign energy. The Alaska OCS is an important future source of U.S. energy supply with up to 29 billion barrels and over 200 trillion cubic feet of natural gas potentially in place. The potential recoverable reserves offshore Alaska is more than all the current total proven U.S. oil reserves of approximately 21 billion barrels. Alaska could have the ninth largest oil resources in the world ahead of Nigeria and Libya – if access is granted to these potential reserves. Moreover, 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 of the Obama administration. To become a reality, the pipeline requires additional gas reserves beyond what has already been discovered onshore.

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. OCS development would generate hundreds of billions of dollars in royalty and tax revenues to the state and federal governments and aid the nation's economic recovery by reducing the trade deficit and creating tens of thousands of new jobs. Indeed, OCS leases off Alaska's coast have already generated billions of dollars to the federal treasury.

The OCS can sustain Alaska's economy for generations. 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. Meanwhile, every barrel of oil that is not produced in the U.S. will be imported from abroad to meet our needs. Given economic, environmental and geopolitical concerns, America must produce more of the oil it consumes – under American laws, regulations and oversight, and by American workers.

It is vital that our nation's abundant energy resources be fully utilized for compelling economic and energy security reasons. RDC encourages BOEM to re-affirm Lease Sale 193 as held in 2008. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Portman', written in a cursive style.

Carl Portman
Deputy Director

Developing state's energy potential good for everybody

COMPASS: *Other points of view*

By CARL PORTMAN

(11/14/10 17:55:27)

Alaskans across the entire social and economic spectrum spoke out in force Tuesday, Nov. 9, in support of oil and gas development in Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf. They came to a public hearing in Anchorage with a sense of urgency, presenting compelling testimony in favor of affirming Lease Sale 193.

Alaskans demonstrated how much they care about their state's economic future and the confidence they have in the safe and responsible development of the potentially enormous oil and gas resources in the Chukchi Sea. The hearing was packed and some stood for three hours waiting to comment.

Two-thirds of those attending wanted to put federal agencies on notice that they are not going to sit back any longer as endless litigation, delays, and gridlock stymie future development. With ANWR off the table and future development in the petroleum reserve so uncertain, they see the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf as the last opportunity to reverse declining Alaska production. They understand that the sustainability of the Alaska economy will depend on some combination of oil production from these federal areas, which represent the nation's best onshore and offshore prospects.

The hearing was held to hear public comment on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Chukchi Sea Lease Sale 193 held in 2008. The SEIS provided new analysis as directed by a federal court in a July 2010 order. The SEIS concluded with a recommendation that the sale be affirmed.

Lease Sale 193 is the most successful oil and gas lease sale in Alaska's history, generating \$2.7 billion in high bids.

The Alaska OCS could hold up to 29 billion barrels of oil. In comparison, total North Slope production from state lands over the past 33 years has totaled 16 billion barrels. Access to the federal resources is critical, given TAPS is running at one-third of its 1988 peak and could be uneconomic to operate after 2020 without additional throughput. At that point, the state could lose 90 percent of its revenue base and much of its economy if the pipeline is forced to shut down prematurely.

It was very apparent Alaskans attending the hearing care deeply about the state's future economy and environment. Two especially compelling testimonies came from residents of Wainwright and Barrow. Both residents stated how important oil revenues are to their communities. Oil revenues, they said, provide jobs in the community, but also fund many infrastructure projects, including schools, roads, community buildings, and the very basic necessities.

Environmentalists responded by claiming a time-out is needed to conduct more studies. Others noted Alaska's North Slope and OCS are now perhaps the most studied energy basins in the U.S. In the past decade alone, over 250 studies have been funded, with the majority focused on the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. More than a half billion dollars have been spent on more than 5,000 studies since 1973. Others emphasized: 1. Alaska depends on energy production for the bulk of its economy; 2. The nation will import all the oil it does not produce domestically; 3. America continues to expand its percentage of

imported oil; 4. the OCS can sustain Alaska's economy for generations, creating 35,000 new jobs.

Shell has spent \$3.5 billion in pursuit of an Arctic exploration program and is ready to commit billions more. Yet it waits on an administration to establish an Arctic policy to allow the permitting process to proceed, and it waits upon the courts to review an endless barrage of litigation.

Many attending the hearing urged the Obama administration to move forward, expressing concern that the permitting process and incessant litigation are chasing American industries overseas and slowly sinking the American economy, while other nations benefit from our inactions and anti-business policies.

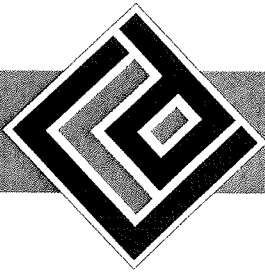
Energy development can occur safely in the Arctic, and mitigation measures can be put in place to address local concerns. Alaska has a bright future and has much to contribute to the nation with its abundant resources. All that is required are key decisions encouraging development of these resources. Nothing less than Alaska's economy is at stake.

Carl Portman is deputy director of the Resource Development Council for Alaska.

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RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

November 26, 2010

Cindi Godsey, Environmental Protection Agency
Tim Pilon, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Re: Reissuance of EPA NPDES permit and certification by State of Alaska for the Pogo Mine

Dear Ms. Godsey and Mr. Pilon:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) writes to express support for the reissuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to the Pogo Gold Mine, as well as the certification of the permit by the State of Alaska under the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES).

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 Pogo Gold Mine began operating in 2006 and has a projected 10-year mine life. Ore is processed onsite, with a budgeted 920,000 tons to be processed in 2010. Gold is acquired through a gravity recovery and flotation concentrate process in which all mill process water is recycled. A portion of the tailings are added to cement to form a paste and placed underground as backfill, and any remaining tailings are dewatered and placed in a drystack.

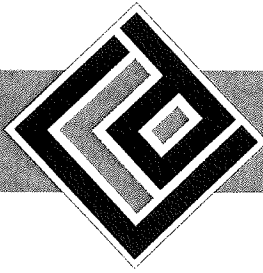
Water discharged at Pogo includes only mine drainage from the underground mine workings and surface runoff. The water first goes through a water treatment plant at the mill site, then is piped to a newly-installed, specialized treatment plant before it flows into the Goodpaster river. Consistent, thorough monitoring of the discharged water at several locations in the area has shown it to be within the limits set forth in the originally issued NPDES permit.

The Pogo Mine employs over 300 workers and provides for another 100 contractor jobs. They have made large advances towards increasing worker safety, with a 50% reduction in reportable incidents in 2009. Moreover, employee retention has greatly improved, with turnover having been reduced by 50%, providing for more experienced, knowledgeable staff. Also of great importance are the efforts made to reduce reportable spills at the mine site, resulting in a 55% reduction in the past year. Therefore, RDC wholeheartedly supports the reissuance of the Pogo Mine NPDES permit and the State of Alaska certification. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Deantha Crockett
Projects Coordinator

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Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve - GMP Amendment
Fairbanks Administrative Center
4175 Geist Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Dear Superintendent Dudgeon:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the National Park Service (NPS) on the development of the General Management Plan for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. Specifically, RDC writes to oppose additional Wilderness designations in the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

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.

RDC strongly opposes any new federal Wilderness designations in Gates of the Arctic, as such consideration is inconsistent with promises that were made in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

In 1980, with the passage of ANILCA, approximately seven million acres, or 83 percent of Gates of the Arctic, were designated as Wilderness. The NPS consideration for an additional one million acres is unacceptable. With 58 million acres of Wilderness, Alaska accounts for 53 percent of America's federal Wilderness areas. Alaska doesn't need more federal Wilderness. What Alaska does need is economic opportunity and access to develop our natural resources, as implied in the promises of ANILCA.

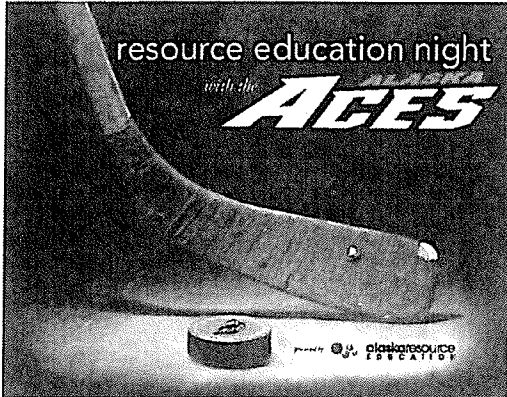
The one million acres the NPS is considering includes an area valuable to Alaska's economy and landowners, including Native entities. Designation of this area as Wilderness could forever block access to one of the world's largest and richest volcanogenic massive sulfide districts.

RDC asks the NPS to remove the one million acres up for consideration for Wilderness in the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Marleanna Hall
Projects Coordinator



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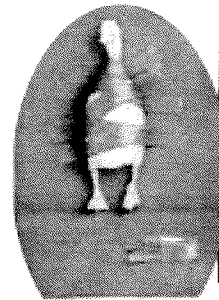
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- Permit requirements and process, with emphasis on the major permitting laws

→ **Bob Loeffler, Visiting Professor of Public Policy, ISER**
907-786-5449; bobl@uaa.alaska.edu



Bob Loeffler has over 25 years of government, management, and natural resources experience, including seven years as director of the Alaska Division of Mining, Land, and Water. He has a master's degree in Environmental Engineering (Stanford University), and a master's degree in City and Regional Planning (Harvard University).

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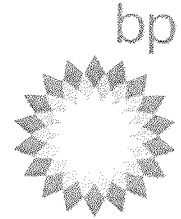


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Won by Robert Morse

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Donated by Alaska Airlines
Won by M. Todd

40-lb. Case of Frozen Alaskan Red King Crab

Donated by Westward Seafoods
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Chainsaw

Donated by Koncor Forest Products
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Two Round Trip Train Tickets between Anchorage-Denali

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Won by John Sturgeon

Gold necklace in shape of Alaska and gold earrings

Donated by Millrock Resources
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(3) \$50 Cabela's Gift Cards

Donated by HDR Alaska
Won by Nanette Stone, Allan Dolynny, and Tom Ulrich

Map of Alaska Oil & Gas Activities

Donated by Mapmakers Alaska
Won by Kip Knudson

(Four) Two-Night Stays for Two

Donated by Alpine Creek Lodge
Won by M. Frandsen, D. Ronberg, Carri Lockhart, and Matt Fagnani

Two-night stay for two, golfing, and golf balls at Birch Ridge Golf Course

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Won by Ken Ferguson

Two Patagonia Logo Jackets

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UCM Logo Gear

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iPad

Donated by ICF International
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(3) Case of Golf Balls

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One Year Individual Membership

Donated by Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
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Won by Bev Bingham

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(6) Set of Four Admission Tickets

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Resource Development Council's 31st Annual Conference

RDC would like to thank the many sponsors of Alaska Resources 2011, which drew 976 registrants from across North America. Without our many sponsors and members, RDC would not be able to do the important work of educating and advocating for the responsible development of Alaska's natural resources. To our generous sponsors and members, thank you for your support!

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Petrotechnical Resources of Alaska
Pioneer Natural Resources
Sealaska Corporation
Shell Exploration & Production
Statoil
Wells Fargo
Westward Seafoods
XTO Energy Inc.

General Sponsors

Alaska Airlines
Alaska Business Monthly
Alaska Laborers
Alaska National Insurance Company

AT&T

Barrick Gold Corporation
Chevron
Cruz Construction
Denali - The Alaska Gas Pipeline
Dowland Bach Corporation
ENSTAR Natural Gas Company
Harbor Enterprises/Petro Marine Services
Holland America Line
Kinross - Ft. Knox
Koniag Incorporated
LRS Corporation
Lynden
Morris Communications
MWH
North Slope Borough
NovaGold Resources
Peak Oilfield Service Company
Perkins Coie LLP
Petroleum News Alaska
Resource Data, Inc.
SRK Consulting (U.S.), Inc.
TEMSCO Helicopters/North Star Terminal
Udelhoven Oilfield System Services
URS Corporation
Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.

Underwriters

AECOM
AIDEA
Alaska Communications
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Alaska Railroad Corporation
Alaska USA Federal Credit Union
Aleut Corporation
American Marine Corporation
Anadarko Petroleum
Anchorage Sand & Gravel
ARCADIS-US
Associated General Contractors of Alaska
Beacon OHSS
Bering Straits Native Corporation
Bradley Reid + Associates
Brenntag Pacific, Inc.
Bristol Bay Native Corporation
Brooks Range Petroleum Corporation
Calista Corporation
Cardno ENTRIX
Chugach Electric Association
Chumley's Inc.
City of Unalaska
Coeur Alaska - Kensington Gold Mine
Colville Inc./Brooks Range Supply
Conam Construction Company
Crowley

Donlin Creek LLC

Dorsey & Whitney LLP
Doyon Family of Companies
Edison Chouest Offshore
Era Helicopters
ERM
Fairweather, LLC
First National Bank Alaska
Flint Hills Resources
Flowline Alaska
GCI
Golder Associates, Inc.
Granite Construction Company
Halliburton
Hartig Rhodes Hoge & Lekisch
Hawk Consultants LLC
HDR Alaska, Inc.
Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company
Hotel Captain Cook
International Tower Hill Mines
Key Bank
Koncor Forest Products
Marathon Alaska Production LLC
Mat-Su RC&D
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
Mikunda Cottrell & Company, CPAs
Municipal Light & Power
Nabors Alaska Drilling, Inc.
NC Machinery
Northern Air Cargo
Pacific Environmental Corporation
Pacific Seafood Processors Association
PacRim Coal, LP
Petro Star Inc.
Port of Tacoma
Price Gregory International
Rain for Rent
Salt+Light Creative
Savant Alaska LLC
Schlumberger Oilfield Services
Security Aviation
SolstenXP
STELFAB
Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo LLC
Teamsters Local 959
TerraSond Limited
Tesoro Alaska Company
Three Parameters Plus
Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Inc.
UIC UMIAC
Univar USA Inc.
USKH Inc.
Weaver Brothers Inc.
Weston Solutions
WorleyParsons

