

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, December 1, 2011

1. Call to order –Tom Maloney, President
2. Self Introductions
3. Headtable Introductions
4. Staff Report – Rick Rogers, Executive Director
5. Program and Keynote Speaker:

**Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Moving Forward:
Final Regulatory Hurdle Cleared**

**Rick Mystrom, Economic Development Advisor
Matanuska-Susitna Borough**

Next Meeting: December 15: The Narrow Window of Opportunity, Commissioner Marc Luiken, Alaska Department of Transportation

Please add my name to RDC's mailing list:

NAME/TITLE: _____

COMPANY: _____

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

ACTION ALERT

Point Thomson Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Deadline for Comment: Tuesday, January 3, 2012

Public Hearings: Anchorage: Monday, December 5, Fairbanks: Wednesday, December 7

Overview:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has released a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for ExxonMobil's Point Thomson natural gas condensate development project. The DEIS presents five alternatives: no action (Alternative A), coastal pads with in-field gravel roads, (Alternative B), inland pads with a gravel access road to Prudhoe Bay (Alternative C), inland pads without a gravel access road (Alternative D), and coastal pads without in-field gravel roads (Alternative E).

Point Thomson is a remote field on the Beaufort Sea coastline 60 miles east of Prudhoe Bay and two miles from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The field contains an estimated 8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 200 million barrels of condensate. Point Thomson represents approximately 25 percent of the North Slope's known natural gas resources. Development of Point Thomson is essential to Alaska natural gas commercialization. Besides the operator, ExxonMobil, other major partners include BP, ConocoPhillips, and Chevron.

The project will use long-reach directional drilling from onshore pads to recover offshore resources. The proposed project includes three pads and five wells, with a central pad supporting production facilities, infield roads, pipelines, an airstrip, and a gravel mine site. A common carrier pipeline will be constructed for transporting hydrocarbon liquids 22 miles west to the Badami pipeline.

ExxonMobil put in its draft application for a wetlands permit in October 2009 to initiate the EIS process. The DEIS will be open for public comment until January 3 and public hearings are scheduled in December.

Action requested:

RDC encourages its members to participate in the process by submitting comments and presenting brief testimony in support of Alternative B at upcoming public hearings. Of the five design alternatives considered, Alternative B provides the safest, most environmentally-responsible solution for developing Point Thomson's resources in a timely, cost-effective manner.

Comments on the DEIS can be submitted at:

<http://www.pointthomsonprojecteis.com/comments.htm>

Comments can also be submitted by email: harry.a.baij@usace.army.mil

The DEIS is available for review at:

<http://www.pointthomsonprojecteis.com/index.html>

Testify at the hearings:

Anchorage, Monday, December 5, 6:30-8 p.m., Loussac Library

Fairbanks, Wednesday, December 7, 6:30-8 p.m., Wedgewood Resort Taiga Center

Kaktovik, Monday, December 12, 7:30-9 p.m., Marsh Creek Inn

Nuiqsut, Tuesday, December 13, 6:30-8 p.m., Trapper School

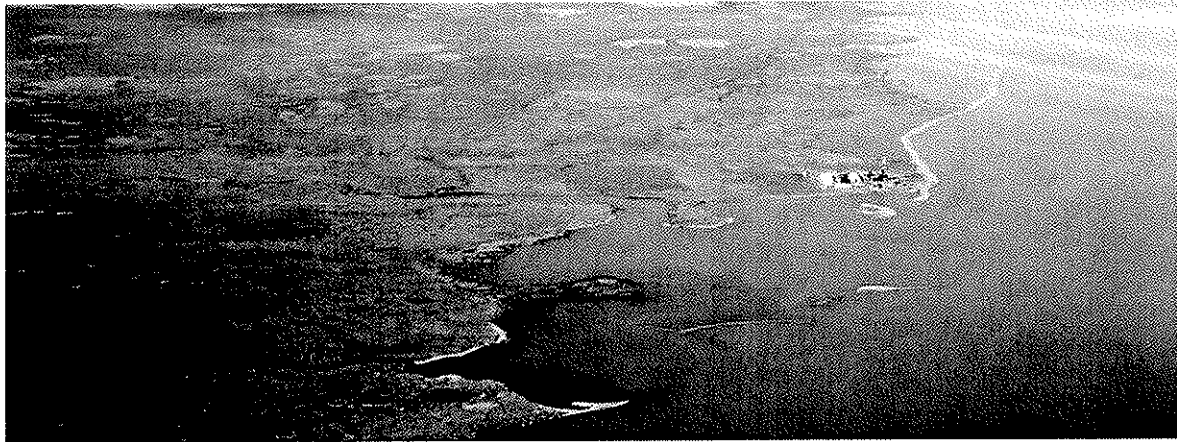
Barrow, Thursday, December 15, 6:30-8 p.m., Hopson Middle School

Points to consider in your written comments and verbal testimony:

- The proposed project is important to the state of Alaska and to Alaskans.
- Of the design alternatives considered, Alternative B provides the safest, most environmentally-responsible solution for developing Point Thomson's resources.

- Alternative B ensures a minimal environmental footprint by incorporating a combination of summer coastal barging, winter ice roads, aviation, and in-field roads. These features are essential to the project's safe and efficient operations.
- Through Alternative B, ExxonMobil will implement comprehensive mitigation measures to minimize impact on tundra, wildlife, aquatic resources, and subsistence activities.
- ExxonMobil works closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state agencies to ensure polar bears and other wildlife are fully protected. Coastal barge route is outside the main fall migration corridor of bowhead whales.
- The Point Thomson project will provide wide-ranging benefits to Alaska in the form of new business opportunities, jobs, and revenues.
- Approval of the Point Thomson project, as proposed in Alternative B, is vital to the development of this world-class resource and North Slope gas commercialization.
- Direct benefits to the State of Alaska from Point Thomson include training and jobs for Alaskans, new revenues to the state and local governments, increased throughput for the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline, and increased business activity and revenue for the private sector.
- Point Thomson is a highly-technical project with high costs. Unnecessary requirements that provide very little, if any, incremental environmental benefits, should be avoided as to not compromise the economic viability of the project.
- The in-field roads included in Alternative B have been carefully routed to minimize the gravel footprint and for the efficient pass through of water.
- Moving roads inland as proposed in Alternative C and D would increase the gravel footprint and be less effective in maintaining natural drainage patterns of the project area.
- Alternatives C and D would move project components inland and eliminate barging, which is an established and safe means of supply for North Slope communities, including Prudhoe Bay. ExxonMobil has conducted safe barging operations in accordance with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission Conflict Avoidance Agreement and in direct consultation with local whaling communities. 188 barging trips in support of Point Thomson have occurred with no impacts to marine mammals or subsistence.
- Alternatives C and D both result in inefficient logistical support and adds unnecessary challenges. Eliminating summer barging would result in increased costs, schedule delays, and increased tundra traffic.
- The 44-mile gravel road from Endicott to Point Thomson as proposed under Alternative C would create a much larger tundra footprint. Current North Slope experience at Alpine and Badami demonstrates that a gravel road is not necessary to support Point Thomson. However, not having a road connecting to Prudhoe Bay does make the combination of barging, ice roads, air access and in-field gravel roads essential.
- Alternative E would eliminate in-field gravel roads and shorten the airstrip. This alternative relies solely on helicopters and seasonally limited off-road vehicles for transportation to East and West pads for nine months of the year. There is no North Slope precedent for a production facility with such limitations. Moreover, inability to fly in poor weather introduces unnecessary safety risks for personnel, as well as emergency response limitations and operational inefficiencies.
- The longer runway in Alternative B provides better access in bad weather, reduces the number of flights by allowing larger aircraft for routine cargo shipments and allows for aircraft to transport larger equipment capabilities in the event of an emergency.

Point Thomson: Developing Alaska's Natural Gas Resources



What is Point Thomson?

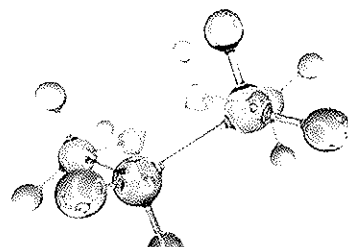
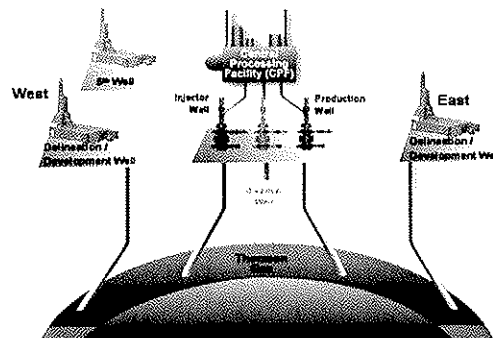
- Located 60 miles east of Prudhoe Bay and Trans Alaska Pipeline
- Remote project supported by ice roads, barging, air access and infield gravel roads
- Thomson Sand reservoir contains an estimated 8 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas and 200 million barrels of condensate (liquid hydrocarbons that saturate the gas)
- Represents approximately 25 percent of known North Slope gas resources
- Development of Point Thomson is essential to Alaska natural gas commercialization

The proposed project

- Long-reach directional drilling from onshore pads to recover offshore resources
- Three onshore pads and five wells:
 - Two wells and central processing facility (CPF) co-located on the central pad
 - Three delineation/production wells on the east, west and/or central pads
- Gravel mine
- 5,600-foot gravel airstrip
- Approximately 12 miles of infield roads
- Gathering lines from east and west pads to CPF and 12-inch diameter pipeline connecting CPF to the Badami Pipeline 22 miles to the west
- The project incorporates proven North Slope best practices and ExxonMobil world-class Arctic expertise

Key things to know

- The proposed Point Thomson project (draft EIS Alternative B) provides the safest, most environmentally responsible solution for developing Point Thomson's resources in a timely, cost-effective manner
- The proposed Point Thomson project ensures a minimal environmental footprint:
 - Summer coastal barging, winter ice roads, aviation and infield roads are essential to operate safely and effectively
 - Comprehensive mitigation measures minimize impact on tundra, wildlife, aquatic resources and subsistence activities
- The Point Thomson project provides wide-reaching benefits to Alaska in the form of revenues and jobs
- Approval of the Point Thomson project, as proposed by Alternative B, is critical to developing this world-class resource and securing Alaska's energy future



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Project mitigation measures

Polar bears

- Robust marine mammal and wildlife protection plans recognized by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a North Slope industry best practice
- Project design and operational features implemented to protect bears and humans

Other marine mammals

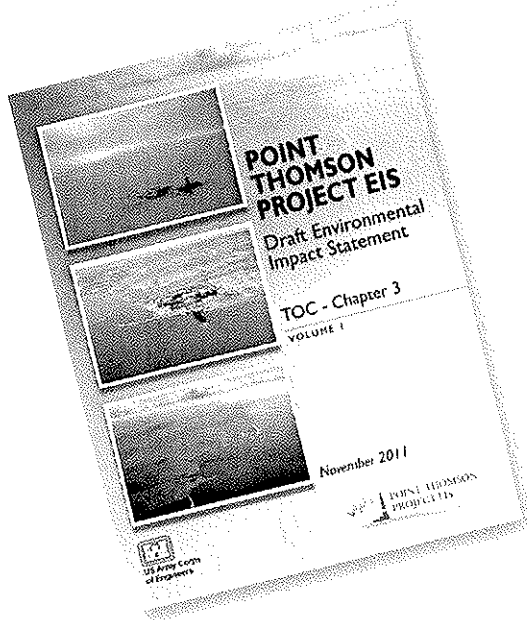
- Coastal barge route is located inside barrier islands and away from the main fall migration corridor of bowhead whales
- Sea ice road routes primarily on grounded sea ice or onshore, avoiding ringed seals habitat

Hydrology

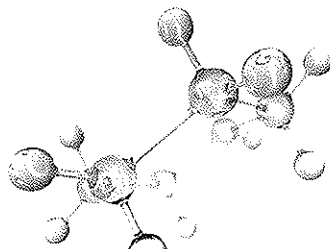
- Infield roads routed to minimize gravel footprint and to efficiently pass water flows
- Increased use of bridges to minimize backwater depths and ensure fish passage

Subsistence activities

- Kaktovik community input on design aspects:
 - Pipelines elevated at least 7 feet above tundra for caribou migration
 - Pipelines textured and coated to reduce glare and contrast



For more information
please visit exxonmobil.com



Benefits to Alaskans

- Training and jobs for Alaskans
- Revenues for Alaska:
 - Municipal/local government
 - North Slope Borough
 - State of Alaska
- Opportunities for Alaska businesses, including native corporations
- Increased throughput for Trans Alaska Pipeline
- Continued community investment



How you can help

- Completing the Environmental Impact Statement and obtaining all necessary permits is critical to the success of Point Thomson.
- Comments can be submitted by filling out the form at: <http://www.pointthomsonprojecteis.com/comments.htm>
- Comments can also be submitted by phone at 907-644-2074 or by e-mail: harry.a.baij@usace.army.mil

Dates and locations to provide verbal comments at public meetings:

- **Anchorage** — Z.J. Loussac Library
Monday, Dec. 5, 2011
(Open house: 4 - 6 p.m.; public comment: 6:30 - 8 p.m.)
- **Fairbanks** — Wedgewood Resort Taiga Center
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011
(Open house: 4 - 6 p.m.; public comment: 6:30 - 8 p.m.)
- **Kaktovik** — Marsh Creek Inn
Monday, Dec. 12, 2011
(Open house: 6 - 7 p.m.; public comment: 7:30 - 9 p.m.)
- **Nuiqsut** — Trapper School
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011
(Open house: 4 - 6 p.m.; public comment: 6:30 - 8 p.m.)
- **Barrow** — Hopson Middle School
Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011
(Open house: 4 - 6 p.m.; public comment: 6:30 - 8 p.m.)

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RDC Action Alert:

Proposed 2012-2017 Five-Year Plan for Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program Attend Anchorage and Fairbanks Public Hearings!

Overview:

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will hold a series of public hearings in early December to provide an opportunity for Alaskans to comment on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Proposed Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2012-2017. The Alaska hearings will gauge public opinion on the development of offshore oil and gas resources. These hearings are important and could well determine Alaska's economic course for decades to come. Economic studies have confirmed OCS development has the potential to sustain Alaska's economy for generations.

The proposed five-year program includes 15 lease sales in six offshore areas. In Alaska, those areas include a Beaufort Sea sale in 2015, a Chukchi Sea sale in 2016, and a special interest Cook Inlet sale in 2013. The Department of the Interior said the proposed lease sales take into account lessons learned from the Deepwater Horizon incident and are "an important step...toward safely expanding oil and gas production on the OCS." The plan defers from leasing areas where there are subsistence uses and sensitive environmental issues. Specifically, subsistence whaling areas near Barrow and Kaktovik will be excluded from leasing, the same areas that were deferred in the 2007-2012 program. In the Chukchi, there will be at least a 25-mile near-shore buffer area excluded from leasing. Additional deferral areas may be added to the design of individual lease sales.

Requested action:

RDC members are strongly encouraged to attend the Anchorage and Fairbanks hearings. Environmental groups are planning large rallies one hour in advance of both hearings and have instructed their members to oppose all lease sales. One recent environmental group alert begins with: "Step aside, Wall Street: The biggest giveaway yet is planned for the oil industry. President Obama is proposing to open vast areas of pristine water in the Arctic Ocean to risky offshore drilling. Oil companies like Shell will make billions, and the public and wildlife will shoulder the costs."

Please do not allow non-development activists to speak on your behalf. In addition to attending the hearings, you may submit written comments on the Draft PEIS until **January 9, 2012**. Comments may be submitted online at <http://ocs5years.is.anl.gov/involve/index.cfm> or as letters directed to: J.F. Bennett, Chief Division of Environmental Assessment, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4042, Herndon, VA 20170-4817. Even if you provide written comments, please present brief oral testimony (three-minute limit) at the Anchorage and Fairbanks hearings. Your attendance is vital!

For those who do not have the time to draft their own comments, feel free to use the sample text at the link below: <http://consumerenergyalliance.org/calls-to-action/tell-the-obama-administration-that-we-need-jobs-and-thoughtful-access-to-offshore-resources/>

Public Hearing Schedule:

Fairbanks, Thursday, December 8, 7-10 p.m., Westmark Hotel, 813 Noble Street
Anchorage, Friday, December 9, 7-10 p.m., Wilda Marston Theatre, Loussac Library, 3600 Denali Street
Other hearings are scheduled across the North Slope, including: Wainwright, Dec. 5; Nuiqsut, Dec. 6; Kaktovik, Dec. 7; Kotzebue, Dec. 12; Point Hope, Dec. 13; Point Lay, Dec. 14; and Barrow, Dec. 16.

Points to consider for your testimony

- The Proposed 2012-2017 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program must move forward in an efficient manner. The new leasing program must not further exclude areas offshore Alaska from responsible oil and gas development.
- While the BOEM has allowed additional lease sales in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas near the end of the proposed five-year program, there is concern that operators may be discouraged from future investment, given the significant delays that current lessees have undergone in their attempts to explore Arctic waters. BOEM must first proactively support exploration of current leases and then take deliberate steps to ensure future lease holders can develop their leases in a timely manner and with certainty in the permitting process.
- In establishing a robust leasing program, BOEM should move forward in a manner that encourages new investment in offshore development – an investment that will create new jobs, generate billions of dollars in economic activity, and allow for the delivery of much-needed energy to American consumers.

- The Alaska OCS constitutes one of the world's largest untapped energy resources with an estimated 27 billion barrels of oil and 132 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in place. By comparison, total production from the North Slope since 1977 has been approximately 15.5 billion barrels. Essentially, Alaska holds the eighth largest oil reserves in the world ahead of Nigeria, Libya, Russia and Norway.
- The Chukchi Sea is considered the nation's most prolific, unexplored offshore basin in North America.
- The Alaska OCS could produce one to two million barrels per day, boosting current U.S. production by 20 to 40 percent. At today's oil prices, slashing imports that much would reduce the nation's trade deficit up to \$65.7 billion a year. Last year, when oil averaged \$78 a barrel, the U.S. sent \$260 billion overseas for crude, accounting for nearly half of the country's \$500 billion trade deficit.
- 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, reduce America's reliance on foreign energy, create tens of thousands of new jobs and generate hundreds of billions of dollars in federal, state, and local government revenues.
- According to a new study by Northern Economics and the University of Alaska, an annual average of 54,700 new jobs would be created and sustained through the year 2057 from the Alaska OCS, with 68,600 during production and 91,500 at peak employment. A total of \$145 billion in new payroll would be paid to employees through the year 2057, including \$63 billion to employees in Alaska and \$82 billion to employees in the rest of the U.S.
- A total of \$193 billion in government revenue would be generated through the year 2057 if oil averages \$65 a barrel, with \$167 billion to the Federal government, \$15 billion to the State of Alaska, \$4 billion to local Alaska governments, and \$6.5 billion to other state governments. Government revenue would be much higher with higher oil prices.
- In the Arctic, industry has invested significant resources to develop comprehensive response plans in the event of an oil spill. In Alaska, Shell currently maintains a highly specialized fleet and specialized containment equipment, as well as a large workforce of highly trained people.
- Deepwater wells are far more technically complex than the shallow-water, low-pressure conditions in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. This provides a greater margin of safety in Alaska. Even so, robust well control and oil spill prevention systems have been enhanced with learnings from the Deepwater Horizon tragedy.
- There has never been a blowout in the Alaska OCS or the 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.
- The North Slope and the offshore are now perhaps the most studied energy basins in America. The federal government 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.
- Access to Alaska's OCS resources may be a key element in the economic feasibility of the proposed natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to the Lower 48, one of President Obama's top energy priorities. Additional gas reserves beyond those already discovered are needed to make the project economic.
- For every barrel of oil America refuses to develop domestically, it will have little choice but to import an equal amount from overseas – where different environmental standards often apply.
- Sharing federal royalty payments from production in federal waters with coastal states and local communities is critical, as it significantly benefits local governments, promotes national economic interests and generates additional, new federal revenues by increasing state and local participation. Such sharing facilitates a closer partnership among federal, state and local agencies.
- While we strive to develop renewable sources of energy, we will still rely on oil and natural gas for transportation, electricity, manufacturing, consumer goods and other uses that are part of our everyday lives. Even more, our economy depends on the millions of jobs and billions in revenues offshore production generates.

Deadline for Comments: January 9, 2012



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Teresa Imm
Bill Jeffress
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John Lau
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Dan Sullivan
Peter Taylor
Michael Terminel
Jan Trigg
Ex-Officio Members
Senator Mark Begich
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Congressman Don Young
Governor Sean Parnell

November 9, 2011

Ms. Sharon Seim
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
101 12th Avenue, Room 236
Fairbanks, AK 99701-6237

Dear Ms. Seim:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is writing to express its opposition to Alternatives C and E in the Draft Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The 1002 area of ANWR should not only continue to be excluded from Wilderness designation, it should be opened to responsible oil and gas exploration and development. RDC strongly opposes any alternative that encumbers future oil and gas development on the coastal plain. The Service should develop a new alternative that recommends opening the 1002 area to oil and gas exploration and development.

RDC is an Alaskan business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism, and fisheries industries. Our membership includes all of the Alaska Native Regional Corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

RDC is advocating for Alaska's and, indeed, our nation's interests in urging the Service to recommend to Congress that the 1002 area be opened to responsible oil and gas exploration and development, as was recommended by the Department of Interior over 20 years ago. RDC is strongly opposed to new federal Wilderness and wild and scenic river designations in ANWR and the mere implication of such consideration is inconsistent with promises that were made in ANILCA. In our view, any such designations are in violation of the "no more" clauses in ANILCA and the intent of the 1002 area and Alaska statehood.

The 1002 area was excluded from the existing 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 wildlife and environmental values. In 1987, the Department of the Interior concluded oil development would have minimal impact on wildlife and recommended the 1002 area be opened. In 1995, Congress voted to open the area to exploration, but President Clinton vetoed the measure.

Under ANILCA, the Service has a mandate to periodically revisit the issue of oil and gas development within the 1002 area. In our view, the mandate is clearer than the authority the Service claims to have on revisiting the wilderness suitability and wild and scenic river eligibility issues. In addition, there has been considerable improvements in oil and gas exploration and development technology that has greatly reduced industry's footprint in the many years since the original study was completed. These improvements would make it possible to develop the 1002 area's energy reserves while directly utilizing only a fraction of the area.

We now have a Draft CCP that proposes several alternatives that include new Wilderness designations for ANWR while refusing to even consider oil and gas development in the 1002 area. The mere fact that an alternative requires legislative implementation, such as oil and gas activity in the 1002 area, does not automatically establish it as beyond the domain of what is required for discussion and consideration in the CCP.

Moreover, ANILCA provides that the purpose of Section 1002 "is to provide for a comprehensive and continuing inventory of the assessment of fish and wildlife resources....an analysis of the impacts of oil and gas exploration development and production, and to authorize exploratory activity within the coastal plain." The statute goes on to provide that the Secretary of the Interior must provide Congress with recommendations "with respect to whether further exploration for, and the development and production of, oil and gas within the coastal plain should be permitted and, if so, what additional legal authority is necessary to ensure that the adverse effects of such activities on fish and wildlife, their habitats, and other resources are avoided or minimized."

Therefore, in our view, the Service is required by statute to evaluate the impacts of oil and gas exploration. In addition, it is a violation of NEPA not to do so, given the law provides that federal agencies must "study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action in any proposal which involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources." There is certainly a conflict over competing uses of the 1002 area. As a result, the Service must consider oil and gas development as an alternative.

As noted earlier, any action that would preclude oil and gas development in the 1002 area would be in conflict with congressional intent surrounding Alaska statehood. Alaska became a state based on the congressional intent that through development of its natural resources it would be able to sustain its economy and pay its own way. Early statehood bills failed in Washington, and ultimately it was the discovery of oil that convinced Congress Alaska could sustain itself as a state.

Maintaining the option for future oil and gas development in the 1002 area is of vital importance to Alaska and anyone who is truly supportive of increasing domestic energy production and reducing foreign imports. A federal Wilderness designation over the 1002 area would preclude development of North America's most prolific onshore oil and gas prospect and compromise Alaska's economy

for generations to come. Expanded federal Wilderness in ANWR would also violate the “no more clause” of ANILCA. Alaska contains 58 million acres of federal Wilderness, which is more than half of all congressionally-designated Wilderness in America. Not a single acre of this Wilderness would be disturbed by oil and gas activity in the 1002 area.

This is an interesting time for this debate to be occurring, given chronically high unemployment and critical structural problems with the US economy, including staggering government debt and an alarming trade deficit, largely a result of imported oil. What we do need is more economic opportunities and increased domestic oil and gas production. Opening the 1002 area to responsible oil and gas development would be a big step in the right direction, providing a huge and lasting stimulus to the economy and billions of dollars in new revenues to the federal government – all with virtually no expense to government!

Oil development in the 1002 area would provide a safe and secure source of oil for the nation **for decades**. It would create tens of thousands of jobs throughout the country and refill the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), existing infrastructure that is currently operating at only one-third of its original capacity.

The biggest threat to Alaska’s economy is the sharp ongoing decline in TAPS throughput, which has fallen from 2.1 million barrels per day (bpd) in 1988 to an average of 568,000 bpd from January through August of this year. Four years ago, more than 734,000 bpd were flowing through the pipeline. Both President Obama and Governor Sean Parnell have stated that increasing TAPS throughput is a national priority and in the nation’s best interest.

With advances in technology, it is possible to develop the 1002 area’s energy reserves 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. One example at Prudhoe Bay shows the central arctic caribou population has grown from 5,000 animals in 1970 to more than 66,000 animals today.

Oil and gas development can and does coexist with wildlife in America’s national wildlife refuges. In fact, there are numerous examples, including the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in Southcentral Alaska. This refuge is heavily visited by Alaskans and by tourists from across the world, yet it is the site of the first major discovery of oil and gas in Alaska. Oil and gas production have been occurring within the refuge for more than 50 years, and wildlife populations have remained healthy.

Alaskans statewide strongly support exploration and development in the 1002 area of ANWR. In fact, polling has consistently shown that more than 70 percent of Alaskans support development of energy resources beneath the 1002 area. In addition, the Alaska Federation of Natives, the North Slope Borough, and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation support development. Local residents and the Inupiat people who actually live adjacent to the 1002 area also support development. This support should be given considerable weight and should convince the Service to keep the 1002 area free of any federal Wilderness designation.

With regard to wild and scenic river designations, RDC remains opposed to additional designations in ANWR, which already includes three designated rivers. As with the wilderness proposals, we

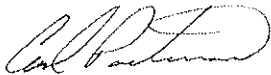
consider additional designations excessive and unnecessary as current management practices already provide sufficient protection of river corridors.

In conclusion, the 1002 area of ANWR should be opened to responsible oil and gas exploration and development. RDC strongly opposes any alternative that encumbers the potential for oil and gas development on the coastal plain. The Service should develop a new alternative that recommends opening the 1002 area to oil and gas exploration and development. Such action would create thousands of jobs, stimulate the economy, reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, and generate much-needed ongoing revenues to the federal government.

Section 1002 of ANILCA was created in the spirit of compromise by members of Congress, as was the "no more clause," which implied "enough is enough" with regard to Alaska's vast conservation system units and federal Wilderness designations. A Wilderness designation across the 1002 area would not only violate this compromise, it is unnecessary and is not in the best interests of America.

Sincerely,

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
for Alaska, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Portman". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Carl Portman
Deputy Director



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Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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November 14, 2011

Mr. Russell Kirkham
State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land and Water
550 W 7th Ave Suite
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Kirkham:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) writes to express its support for an application by Usibelli Coal Mine for the renewal of permits 01-89-796 and 02-89-796 to mine coal at the Wishbone Hill Mine.

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 Wishbone Hill project, located on State, Mental Health Trust, and private land five miles west of Sutton, has been permitted every five years since 1992.

As you are aware, the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) enforces stringent regulations overseeing mining activities statewide that effectively protect the environment, wildlife, and human health. The Wishbone Hill permit application closely follows these regulations. Usibelli Coal Mine holds an outstanding record for operating mines in Alaska, and began instituting reclamation efforts before it was required by law to do so.

Upon operation, the mine is estimated to produce 500,000 tons of coal each year and provide between 75-125 jobs, helping diversify the economy in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough as well as the State.

The Wishbone Hill permit application outlines an extensive reclamation plan, including the enhancement of wildlife and recreational habitat as post-mining priorities. These environmentally-sound practices combined with the economic benefits the mine would provide make for a win-win situation in the Matanuska-Susitna region.

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

Sincerely,

Deantha Crockett
Projects Coordinator

Alaska Resources Conference

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Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

2011 Alaska Resources Conference
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2011 RDC Raffle Prize List

Drawing held Thursday, November 17, 2011
at the conclusion of RDC's Annual *Alaska Resources* Conference

Seven-Day Caribbean Cruise for Two

Donated by Holland America Line
Won by Susan Childs

Two Round Trip Tickets

Donated by Alaska Airlines
Won by Yolanda Hill

40-lb. Case of Frozen

Alaskan Red King Crab
Donated by Westward Seafoods
Won by Local 375

Chainsaw

Donated by Koncor Forest Products
Won by Jason Brune

Two Round Trip Train Tickets between Anchorage-Denali, two-night stay at McKinley Chalet Resort, Tundra Wilderness Tour, Cabin Nite Dinner Theater and Rafting for Two

Donated by the Alaska Railroad Corporation and ARAMARK
Won by Bev Bingham

\$150 Cabela's Gift Card

Donated by HDR Alaska
Won by Doug Morris

Map of Alaska Oil & Gas Activities

Donated by Mapmakers Alaska
Won by Liz Lynch

Copy of Alaska Gas Pipeline Timeline

Donated by Mapmakers Alaska
Won by John Sturgeon

Logo Gear

Donated by Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.
Won by D. Pennington

Logo Wet/Dry Bag

Donated by Totem Ocean Trailer Express
Won by Bruce Harland

Behind the Scenes Tour for 10 People

Donated by Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
Won by Keith Silver

Fleece Jacket

Donated by URS Corporation
Won by Randy White

Half-Day Sailing Lesson on Resurrection Bay

Donated by A Taste of Adventure, LLC
and Willow Environmental, LLC
Won by Laura Edmonson

Puffin, Octopus, or Marine Mammal Animal Encounter

Donated by the Alaska SeaLife Center
Won by Bill Popp

One Year Family Membership

Donated by the Alaska SeaLife Center
Won by Delbert Parr

Set of 4 General Admission Tickets

(8 sets total)

Donated by the Alaska SeaLife Center
Won by Mike Miller, Barry Jackson, Keith Silver, Tom Ulrich, Susan Bell, Mike Martin, Jason Brune, and Wanda Lewis

Jon Van Zyle Canvas Print

Donated by Marathon Alaska Production LLC
Won by Byron Mallott

\$500 Gift Certificate for Alyeska Resort

Donated by Global Diving & Salvage
Won by Jeanine St. John

Gold Nugget Necklace and Earring Set

Donated by Millrock Exploration Corp.
Won by Colleen Starring

Logo Coffee Tumblers

Donated by PacRim Coal LP
Won by Chris Maynard

Logo Fleece Jackets

Donated by Mikunda Cottrell
Won by Local 375

Two Night Stay for Two People

(Four packages total)

Donated by Alpine Creek Lodge
Won by Local 375, Sheryl Stone, Susan Bell, and Steve Stuart

Silver Fishing Charter for Four

Donated by Sports Den and Parker Horn Co.
Won by Portia Babcock

Gray Whale Watching Tour for Two

Donated by Kenai Fjords Tours,
a CIRI Alaska Tourism Company
Won by Lora Reinbold

Two Full-day Snowcat Passes for Backcountry Boarding/Skiing with Chugach Powder Guides

Donated by Fugro
Won by Karen Cougan

Logo Wear

Donated by ARCADIS
Won by Keith Silver

\$100 Gift Certificate to Superstar Bakery, One year Subscription to Alaska Business Monthly, bottle of SIMI Cabernet

Donated by Alaska Business Monthly
Won by Casey Chatwell

Gift Basket

Donated by Morris Communications
Won by Bob Barndt

32" Sony Flat Screen TV

Donated by MWH
Won by Dan Snodgrass

Executive Putter Set

Donated by Alaska Textiles
Won by Lisa Parker



George Schmidt Memorial Raffle & Silent Auction to benefit Alaska Resource Education
Grand Prize - HOLLAND AMERICA CRUISE FOR TWO - Won by: Glynis Smith
RUNNER UP PRIZE - \$500 CASH - Won by: Gene Pool

Drawing was at the conclusion of the Alaska Miners Association Convention Banquet on November 11, 2011

Roundtrip for 2 ANC-FBX Donated by: Alaska Railroad Corporation Won by: Tony Barajas	Two Tractor Models Donated by: Yukon Equipment Won by: Goel McGibbon, Traci Mekeker	Volvo Excavator Concept Model Donated by: Construction Machinery Industrial (CMI) Won by: Ryan Eiden
\$50 Gift Card Donated By: Bear or Mooses' Tooth Won by: Stan Foo	Logo Apparel Donated by: Alaska Miners Association Won by: Mary Douerty	Hunters Basket Donated by: Frontier Supply Won by: Dave Mael
\$40 Gift Card Donated by: Bradley House Won by: Louise Hall	Logo Apparel Donated by: OtterTail Environmental Won by: Jen Adelman, Beth Klein	John Van Zyle Painting "Chickadee" Donated by: Marathon Oil Won by: Louise Hall
\$100 Sportsman Warehouse Donated by: RLM Won by: Midori Kobayashi	Sydney Laurence Print Donated by: Wells Fargo Won by: Jim Male	Jacket & Vest Donated by: Gold Canyon Mining Won by: Trisha Wooley
P & H 4100xPC Electric Mining Shovel Model Donated by: P&H Mine Pro Services Won by: Ken Gerondale	Alaska MilePost Gift Basket Donated by: Morris Alaska Media Group Won by: Lena Brommeland	Replica Models Donated by: NC Machinery Won by: Dave Hoeffel, Kurt Parkan
Chess Set Donated by: KC Jones Won by: Chris Rentele	Gift Card Donated by: Allure Day Spa Won by: Sarah Whicker	Framed Watercolor - Native Woman Donated by: Jeff Logan & Associates Won by: Michell
\$50 Gift Card Donated by: Intuitions Day Spa Won by: Bartyly Kleven	Minor Miner T-Shirts Donated by: Alaska Resource Education Won by: Dave Hoeffel, Kurt Parkan	Filled Cargo Bags, Coins, Gift Cards, Suit Cases & Logo Gear Donated by: Udelhoven Paul Sterk Won by: James Fueg, Delbert Parr, Rick McCaffrey, Matt Sever, Joe
.40 Troy Ounce Gold Nugget Pendant with Diamond Donated by: Oxford Assaying & Refining Corp. Won by: Jim Male	Logo Gear Donated by: Rain for Rent Won by: Paul Axelson, Gene Pool	14k Whales Tail Necklace & Earrings Donated by: MillRock Exploration Won by: John Shively
One hour ride on Tractor Simulator Donated by: Carille Transportation Won by: Sarah Whicker	Replica Models Donated by: NC Machinery Won by: Stan Foo, Traci Hekekey, Bill Cole	Logo Gear Donated by: PacRim Coal Won by: Duane Gibson, Neil MacKinnon, John Lukens
Ten Car Washes Donated by: Alaska Laser Wash Won by: Sarah Whicker	Alaska Railroad 5th Anniv. Framed Art Donated by: Brenntag Pacific, Inc. Won by: Tom Buntson	Logo Gear Donated by: Usibelli Coal Mine Won by: David Graham, Paul Sterk
Gift Basket Donated by: Great Harvest Bread Co. Won by: Fred Parady	Four Day Passes Donated by: Hilltop Ski Area Won by: Sarah Whicker	Logo Gear Donated by: Pebble Partnership Won by: Matt Cook, Jeff Foley, Rachael Petro
Caribou Framed art - Artist is N. Gates Donated by: Two Friends Gallery Won by: Fraser Adams	Barbara Lavalee Print Donated by: Artique Won by: Meredith Edwards	Alaska Railroad Print Donated by: Jeff Logan & Associates Won by: Jeff Norberg
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\$100 Gift Card Donated by: AS&G Won by: Gene Pool	Alaska Resouce Kit Speciman Donated by: Alaska Resouce Education Won by: Bartyly Kleven	Logo Gear Donated by: Donlin Gold Won by: Dave Graham
Volvo Laptop Backpack Donated by: Construction Machinery Industrial(CMI) Won by: Dave Thorp	Corporate Luncheon for Eight Donated by: Impressions Catering at ESS Won by: Johanne Whalen	Garmin Geko 301 Gift Basket Donated by: Accupoint Inc. Won by: Graham Neale
Native Doll - Seal Gut Lady with Fishing Pole by Ursula Daniyak-In Donated by: Calista Corp Won by: Holly Morris	Lg.Hand Made-Birch Basket by Mersy Cleveland Donated by: NANA Regional Corporation Won by: Fred Parady	Jacket and backpack Donated by: Sunshine Promotions Won by: Rick Solie
Dowland-Bach Stainless Multi Tool Donated by: Dowland-Bach Won by: Paul Axelson	32" Decorated Pre-Lit Christmas Tree Donated by: Anonymous Won by: Deedre Nicola, Louise Hall, Jerilee Musgrove	\$100 Gift Cert. 2 tickets Sound of Music/1 yr AK Business Monthl Donated by: Alaska Business Monthly Won by: Kati Capozzi
Santa Jingle Bell Rock(Retired Collectors Piece) Donated by: Anonymous Won by: Bill Cole	Volvo Loader Concept Model Donated by: Construction Machinery Industrial (CMI) Won by: Ryan Eiden	7 Day Houseboat Rental on Lake Shuswap Donated by: TA Marine Won by: Lena Brommeland
Lia Sophia Necklace Donated by: Marcy Newberry Won by: Molly Marler	Banana Splits for 4 Donated by: Tastee Freeze Won by: Sarah Whicker	Ingersoll-Rand 232TGSL- Thunder Gun Street Legal & 1/2" Driver Donated by: Construction Machinery Industrial (CMI) Won by: Ryan Eiden
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Tour for Two of Greens Creek Donated by: Hecla Greens Creek Mining Won by: Greg Beischer	15" Drum &Beater by Caroline Hendrixson (Haida) Donated by: Powtec Won by: Bill Burnett	Ride in a Haul Truck and Tour of Usibelli Donated by: Usibelli Coal Mine Won by: Sarah Whicker
Airfare for 2 and 5 days at condo Kauai, HI Donated by: Mike Belowich and Alaska Earth Sciences Won by: Joni Manuel	Fly-in Fishing Trip to Craig AK Donated by: Construction Machinery Industrial (CMI) Won by: Terry Williams	

Proceeds benefited Alaska Resource Education, a 501©(3) non-profit whose mission is to educate students about Alaska's natural resources.

www.akresource.org

Thank you!