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COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Taken June 12, 2018
Commencing at 4:51 p.m.

Pages 1 - 106, inclusive

Taken at
Kaveolook School
Kaktovik, Alaska

Reported by:
Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

1 A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S

2 For United States Department of Interior:

3 Joe Balash
4 Assistant Secretary

5 Mike Gieryic
6 Solicitor

7 For United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land
8 Management:

9 Karen Mouritsen
10 Acting State Director

11 Nicole Hayes
12 Project Manager

13 For United States Department of Interior, Department of
14 Fish & Wildlife Service:

15 Greg Siekaniec
16 Alaska Regional Director

17 Joanna Fox
18 Deputy Refuge Manager

19 For EMPSi:

20 Chad Ricklefs
21 Project Manager

22 Amy Lewis
23 Public Involvement Lead

24 For SRB&A:

25 Paul Lawrence
 Senior Research Associate

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Taken by:

Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were taken at the time and place duly noted on the title page, before Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of Alaska.

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 MS. KAREN MOURITSEN: Hello, everyone. We
3 are going to get started. Thank you so much for coming to
4 this meeting about the oil and gas leasing program for the
5 coastal plain. And today we want to hear from you all.
6 We want to hear your comments about this project. We are
7 in the scoping portion of the project, which means we want
8 to hear your comments. So first if we could -- I'd like
9 to have an invocation. And Ida is going to do an
10 invocation for us.

11 (Invocation offered by Ida Angasan.)

12 MS. KAREN MOURITSEN: Thank you, Ida. So
13 I want to introduce people first. I'm Karen Mouritsen
14 with BLM, and I met a lot of you when I came here in
15 February. Joe Balash is our Assistant Secretary. And he
16 was here in February, also. Greg Siekaniec from the Fish
17 & Wildlife Service, Regional Director. Joanna Fox, Fish &
18 Wildlife Service. Nicole Hayes is with the BLM. She's
19 our project manager. In just a minute she's going to run
20 through a short presentation before we take comments from
21 you all. Chad Ricklefs is helping us. Amy Lewis --

22 MR. CHAD RICKLEFS: She will be back.

23 MS. KAREN MOURITSEN: She will be back.
24 And Paul is here assisting. And let's see. Mary Vavrik
25 is our court reporter, and Mary is going to record all the

1 comments you are saying. She would like you to say your
2 name first. And we don't have a microphone, so would you
3 like people to kind of come -- come up here and speak so
4 that she can hear you clearly and get your name and get
5 everything down that you are saying.

6 Let's see. Do we have anyone else to introduce?
7 Lieutenant Governor here and Mr. Cotten, our --

8 COMMISSIONER SAM COTTEN: Commissioner of
9 Fish & Game.

10 MS. KAREN MOURITSEN: Commissioner of Fish
11 & Game.

12 MR. MARK WIGGIN: And Mark Wiggin, Deputy
13 Commissioner, DNR.

14 MS. KAREN MOURITSEN: Okay. Good.
15 Welcome.

16 So Joe, would you like to say a few words before
17 Nicole does the presentation?

18 MR. JOE BALASH: So my name is Joe Balash.
19 I work now as the Assistant Secretary for Land and
20 Minerals Management in Washington, D.C. at the Department
21 of the Interior, but before I had that job, I lived up
22 here in Alaska for 30 years. One of the jobs that I had
23 up here was as the Commissioner for the Department of
24 Natural Resources, so I have spent a lot of time working
25 on natural resource issues, planning documents, lease

1 sales, those sorts of things.

2 And the purpose for tonight's meeting is to talk
3 about the leasing program for the coastal plain, and
4 that's going to be done in the context of an EIS. And
5 that's where we stand now. Nicole is going to walk
6 through some of the big important pieces of that EIS and
7 what that planning document and process is going to look
8 like.

9 But, you know, one thing that I'm sure you are all
10 quite familiar with is a lot of the controversy, a lot of
11 the emotion that surrounds this issue has been building
12 for many, many years. But you know, Congress has given us
13 at BLM a job to do, which is to hold a lease sale. And so
14 what we are trying to do is gather information from the
15 communities that are most affected.

16 When we kicked off this process, we had originally
17 scheduled Kaktovik for the first meeting because Kaktovik
18 is the community that is most directly impacted, closest
19 to the activity that may happen, and we wanted to listen
20 closely to the community here. Due to a death in the
21 community, however, we rescheduled to tonight.

22 And on Friday we are going to have another meeting in
23 Washington, D.C. It will be the final scoping meeting.
24 And there are a lot of voices out there across the country
25 and around the world that have an opinion about this. And

1 it's our job to listen to everything that everybody says.
2 But I want you to know that we are here to listen most
3 closely to what you have to say because you are closest
4 and most directly impacted.

5 We have spent time in Arctic Village and Venetie, as
6 well. They have concerns that we will be taking into
7 account. But considering proximity and the actual
8 location of your community, it's going to be critical that
9 we understand the kind of things that matter most to the
10 times of year that you hunt, that you go into the refuge
11 and conduct other subsistence activities so that as we put
12 together the conditions, the stipulations on leases, that
13 we are planning for and accommodating the things that
14 matter most to the residents here in Kaktovik.

15 And so hopefully this is just going to be one of many
16 conversations we have along the way. This is just the
17 scoping stage. There will be a draft EIS prepared. We
18 will come back to engage further with the community as
19 there is more substance to talk about. And I hope all of
20 you feel very comfortable telling us exactly what you
21 think about this and what you think we need to be
22 concerned about and watching out for.

23 So thank you for hosting us here in Kaktovik.

24 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Thanks, Joe. So as he
25 said, I'm Nicole Hayes. I'm the project manager for the

1 coastal plain oil and gas leasing program EIS. I'm very
2 sorry we are late. We got a little delayed with the
3 plane. So I appreciate your patience.

4 I'm going to go through the presentation fairly
5 quickly because the whole purpose of being here is for you
6 to come up and, like Joe said, share your comments about
7 the oil and gas leasing program. So I will talk about
8 what that process is and why we are here, what the
9 requirements are of both the Bureau of Land Management and
10 Fish & Wildlife Service.

11 I'll discuss what the NEPA process is. NEPA is the
12 National Environmental Policy Act. I'll walk through that
13 because the Environmental Impact Statement we are doing is
14 the NEPA process. I'll talk about subsistence and ANILCA
15 Section 810 because here in Alaska that's a critical
16 component of the evaluations that we do when we go through
17 the NEPA process.

18 And most importantly, I'm going to talk about how to
19 participate. Again, we want to hear from you. There is
20 many ways for you to provide input, and coming up and
21 having an opportunity to speak and have it recorded by
22 Mary is a great opportunity to share your thoughts,
23 concerns and recommendations.

24 So on December 22, 2017, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of
25 2017 was enacted. With this, the Secretary of the

1 Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management,
2 was given the responsibility to implement an oil and gas
3 leasing program within the 1002 area identified here --
4 it's called the coastal plain -- within the Tax Act to
5 implement this oil and gas leasing program within the 1.6
6 million acres of the 19.3 million-acre Arctic National
7 Wildlife Refuge.

8 Part of the requirements of the Tax Act is that a
9 lease sale be held within the first four years of
10 enactment of the Act, and then a subsequent lease sale be
11 held within seven years. Each of the lease sales that are
12 required to be held are to contain 400,000 acres of the
13 areas with the highest potential for hydrocarbons. So oil
14 and gas potential. Those are some of the main
15 requirements of the Tax Act.

16 There are some other provisions which require that
17 the department allow for up to 2,000 acres of surface
18 development. What we are analyzing and what we are
19 evaluating in our EIS is for a lease sale and any
20 additional activity -- and I'll touch on it a little bit
21 later -- would require a separate process, a separate NEPA
22 analysis.

23 So agency responsibilities for administering the
24 coastal plain oil and gas leasing program, the Bureau of
25 Land Management administers all federal mineral estate,

1 including the oil and gas under the Arctic National
2 Wildlife Refuge. We are responsible for developing a
3 leasing program, we conduct lease sales, and we approve at
4 a later date, again which requires a separate NEPA
5 analysis, applications for a permit to drill, potentially.

6 The Fish & Wildlife Service is responsible for
7 managing and administering the surface of the Arctic
8 National Wildlife Refuge, and they are a cooperating
9 agency. We are working closely with them because
10 obviously they know the resource, and we need that
11 information to help inform us and help make good decisions
12 when we are developing this Environmental Impact
13 Statement.

14 This slide shows the BLM oil and gas leasing and
15 development process. You will note that the star and the
16 highlight is for that first bullet, which is the leasing,
17 the EIS sales and lease issuance. That is what we are
18 going to be analyzing in our Environmental Impact
19 Statement.

20 The other steps, the geophysical, exploration,
21 applications for a permit to drill, operations and
22 production, inspection and enforcement, and reclamation
23 will be discussed because we have to have a reasonably
24 foreseeable development scenario to analyze in our
25 environmental document. However, the only thing that

1 would be authorized as a result of the EIS is a lease
2 sale. So that first phase is what we are focused on. If
3 there are applications in the future for these other
4 steps, then it would require a separate process, which may
5 be similar to what we are doing right now. Yeah. Any
6 on-the-ground disturbance, any activities that would
7 result in some sort of development would require a
8 separate NEPA analysis.

9 So you will hear me say NEPA a lot because the
10 National Environmental Policy Act is really long to say,
11 but that is what requires us to evaluate impacts to
12 resources and look at ways to offset or avoid, minimize
13 those impacts in our analysis.

14 So what initiated this process was the enactment of
15 the Tax Act on December 22nd. We officially kicked it off
16 with the Notice of Intent that was published on April
17 20th. The Notice of Intent says that BLM intends to
18 develop an Environmental Impact Statement for the oil and
19 gas leasing program. The scoping period is for 60 days.
20 This is a really critical part of the process because this
21 is when we are gathering input from all stakeholders.

22 So the scoping period currently closes on June 19th.
23 So today we are again interested in hearing your comments.
24 After the scoping period closes, we develop the scoping
25 report, and in that scoping report are all the issues that

1 were identified through the scoping process. So the
2 concerns that we need to analyze in the Environmental
3 Impact Statement are what's discussed in the scoping
4 report. And that's what we focus on in the EIS, the areas
5 to avoid, the conditions that we should be considering,
6 all the high priority resource areas. Those types of
7 things are the things that we are gathering through this
8 scoping process.

9 After we have that scoping report and we know the
10 important topics that we need to analyze, we will develop
11 the draft EIS, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
12 After that, that's another really important part of the
13 process because we take that draft EIS and we put it out
14 to the public for comment. We also do public comment
15 meetings to go over what's in the draft EIS and take
16 comments and receive input from the public again.

17 Based off of that public input, we revise that draft
18 EIS, and then we publish a final one. And after the
19 publication of a final EIS, we write a Record of Decision
20 and then would hold a lease sale.

21 As I mentioned, a really critical part of our
22 analysis that's separate from NEPA, but we do it
23 concurrently, is evaluation under Section 810 of ANILCA.
24 ANILCA is conducted concurrently, and it requires federal
25 agencies to consider impacts of our actions which would be

1 the lease sale and evaluation of subsistence uses. So at
2 the draft EIS phase, we do an initial 810 evaluation and
3 finding, which is attached to the draft EIS. If the
4 finding in that initial 810 analysis is may significantly
5 restrict subsistence uses, subsistence hearings are held.

6 As I mentioned, we have public comment meetings on
7 the draft EIS. We would wrap that up, so it may be the
8 same day one meeting after the next, but then we would
9 hold a separate subsistence hearing to get impacts on
10 those impacts identified in that initial subsistence
11 finding.

12 Once we receive all of that input, again we make any
13 edits or changes to that final determination, make up --
14 or to that initial determination, we make a final
15 determination, and that is appended to the final EIS.
16 Again, a very critical part.

17 So BLM has been given the responsibility to implement
18 the requirements of the Tax Act. The requirements require
19 that we hold lease sales within this coastal plain area.
20 So the things that we really want to know are: What are
21 the areas that we should avoid? What are the areas in
22 which we should have timing restrictions on to hold a
23 lessee to not be able to do anything during that time of
24 year? What are the really important resources? Do you
25 have recommended stipulations? All of that type of

1 information is really important for our decisionmaking and
2 will help form the development of the alternatives. Also,
3 lease tract size, where to offer -- where to offer leases
4 for sale. Those are really important. So if you have
5 those specific types of comments, we are very interested
6 in hearing them.

7 Cooperating agencies, to date we have seven of them.
8 We have other invitations that have been sent out, and we
9 just haven't received acceptance letters. But what
10 cooperating agencies are, they are agencies that have
11 specialized expertise or jurisdiction by law for specific
12 resources, and they help develop and inform the
13 Environmental Impact Statement. So they bring their
14 expertise to the table and help ensure that the accurate
15 and most -- best available information is in there. To
16 date we have Fish & Wildlife Service, of course.

17 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: Are we not
18 cooperating? Kaktovik is not listed there.

19 MS. NICOLE HAYES: We have sent an
20 invitation. We haven't received a response back. So we
21 are having a government-to-government consultation meeting
22 with Native Village of Kaktovik tomorrow, and that is
23 something that we could definitely discuss.

24 MR. GLEN SOLOMON: So I went over to one
25 of your testimonies like in Fairbanks and Anchorage, and

1 all of this is new to me right here. All the pictures
2 that I took of your guys' schedule and everything, and you
3 guys don't have Fish & Wildlife in there. So you guys
4 just added these ones in there?

5 MS. NICOLE HAYES: So Fish & Wildlife
6 Service was actually our first cooperating agency that we
7 had. The ones that have been added were the Native
8 Village of Venetie Tribal Government, the Venetie Village
9 Council and Arctic Village Council and the U.S.
10 Environmental Protection Agency, I think are new
11 acceptances. The State of Alaska was probably a couple of
12 weeks ago. So we have been updating the slides as we get
13 responses back, trying to make sure we are sharing the
14 most current information. I expect that this list may
15 expand, but as of today this is who has accepted or asked
16 to be a cooperating agency. So --

17 MR. GLEN SOLOMON: Because the last BLM
18 hearings that I went to, you guys didn't have Fish &
19 Wildlife with you guys.

20 MS. NICOLE HAYES: We didn't have Fish &
21 Wildlife Service with us?

22 MR. GLEN SOLOMON: The one in Fairbanks
23 and Anchorage, I think.

24 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Yep. We have had them.
25 They have been with us. We are relying heavily on Fish &

1 Wildlife Service, so they are coming with us.

2 So this is the tentative schedule that we have. As I
3 mentioned, the Notice of Intent kicked off the
4 Environmental Impact Statement process. It started April
5 20th, and it goes through June 19th. So please, if you
6 want to provide written comments, please provide it by
7 that date.

8 Over the summer we are going to be developing
9 alternatives, evaluating environmental consequences, and
10 this fall publishing a Draft Environmental Impact
11 Statement. Again, this is also another opportunity for
12 public comment of everyone, of all interested
13 stakeholders. And then we would revise that in the
14 winter/fall or the winter time frame and then publish a
15 final EIS in the spring, signing a Record of Decision in
16 the spring or summer of next year.

17 I should also mention throughout the process, we are
18 conducting government-to-government consultations with
19 those tribes and ANCSA corporations that are most directly
20 affected by this project. The government-to-government
21 consultations, they go on throughout the process. And a
22 tribe or the council of a tribe can request consultation
23 or provide input at any time. So we do have two main
24 periods in which we are gathering comments for the public.
25 There are other opportunities specifically for

1 government-to-government relationships in which to provide
2 input into the process.

3 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: If we wanted to
4 request a lesser air traffic time when the herds are
5 migrating through, we do that through our local tribal
6 entity to coordinate higher up?

7 MS. NICOLE HAYES: You can do that. You
8 can write it in a scoping comment. You can -- you can do
9 it multiple ways but, yes, I mean, that is definitely one
10 way, but providing it in a scoping comment is a great way,
11 also.

12 We have -- as Joe mentioned, seven scoping meetings
13 scheduled, and this is the sixth of seven. We will be in
14 Washington, D.C. on Friday to conduct a scoping meeting,
15 and that will conclude the scoping meetings, with the
16 scoping period wrapping up June 19th.

17 There are many ways to submit comments. Today coming
18 up and getting your voice heard on the record, regardless
19 of what your thoughts, issues, concerns are, is a really
20 great way to provide input. Mary is going to get every
21 word you say down on the record, and that will be part of
22 the scoping report.

23 Another way is to go to this link. It's in the
24 handout. If you didn't grab a handout -- and submit
25 comments directly online. You can email it to that email

1 address up there or mail it to the mailing address right
2 here. And again, comments are accepted through June 19th.

3 So this is the end of my presentation. It's really
4 short because we want to hear from you. So I hope people
5 want to come up and comment.

6 So the floor is open. It's really informal. We just
7 ask that if you want to come up and share comments,
8 concerns, issues, that you just come up to the front so
9 Mary can make sure to get everything you say on the
10 record.

11 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: Your Environmental
12 Impact Statement, when is that research information
13 gathered?

14 MS. NICOLE HAYES: So the Environmental
15 Impact Statement is based off of the best available
16 information.

17 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: Right, the best
18 available. Is that from the '80s? Is that from the '90s,
19 2000s?

20 MS. NICOLE HAYES: I guess it will depend
21 on the resources. So we are just in scoping, and we are
22 gathering information right now.

23 Please come up and --

24 MR. ROBERT THOMPSON: I right now I have a
25 question. Is Environmental Impact Statement and the

1 baseline study, is there going to be another -- there
2 should be another environmental statement. What you had
3 before was about 30 years ago, and climate change has
4 changed a lot of things. So will there be a totally new
5 Environmental Impact Statement or are they going to try to
6 resurrect the 30-year-old one?

7 MS. NICOLE HAYES: This is a completely
8 new Environmental Impact Statement.

9 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: We can request and
10 demand a new Environmental Impact Statement to be
11 gathered?

12 MS. NICOLE HAYES: We are creating a new
13 Environmental Impact Statement. But again, we are really
14 here because we need to know what to analyze. We want to
15 hear your comments and concerns.

16 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: Right. We don't want
17 outdated research information used for these new
18 operations or developments. We want new research
19 information.

20 MS. IDA ANGASAN: I'm going to come up.
21 Somebody has to start, so it might as well be me.

22 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Thank you, Ida.

23 MS. IDA ANGASAN: Don't be scared. I know
24 you guys will say something afterwards. I want you guys
25 to come up here and say something. I'm going to go with

1 impact A right now. You know, things have been addressed.
2 They haven't been addressed. And we need to tell them
3 what we want and what we need at this time. We are going
4 to be impacted with the oil and gas over there, and we --
5 we need to hear from you guys. Don't just stand there and
6 don't just sit there and not say something because if you
7 don't say anything, I'm not going to listen to you. You
8 have to come up here and say something.

9 So what I'm talking about is our schools. We have a
10 great school here and everything. Our roads need -- our
11 roads need to be fixed. Our community, we have potholes
12 in our island and everything else that we have here. And
13 we need housing. We really need housing for our
14 communities. Also we need a new search and rescue
15 building. Our Native Village offices that we have in that
16 old Fish & Wildlife building is so old it's falling apart.
17 It was given to us by Fish & Game -- thank you very
18 much -- at one time. So we need a new Native Village of
19 Kaktovik meeting -- or building.

20 And there are houses in this place that are moved
21 from our -- from the old village to up here, and they are
22 all broken down and whatnot now. And then the houses that
23 were built long ago, they need renovations. And lots of
24 people that are elders and those that are living in them,
25 they need to be repaired. I know because my father lives

1 in one.

2 And then what else is there? We need elder care. We
3 need recreation for all. Our children need to have better
4 recreation than what they have. That -- the area that
5 they have right now is -- I see part of it is new, but we
6 need a new place, a new safe place for our children to
7 have their recreational areas outside when they are out
8 there. And we need a new playground. So we could have a
9 new playground with a baseball field or the playground
10 with all new things and whatnot. We need a new church
11 building. I know that.

12 And then we need to have three- and four-bedroom
13 houses, not just the little tiny box that we have down
14 there that are built up there which the wind could blow
15 away, I'm sure, and so -- which is dangerous for families
16 when they have to climb up the stairs. That's a long 13
17 steps to go up those stairs because I counted them. I
18 have been up there before, so --

19 And what else is there? But we also need to listen
20 and hear. But you guys have to listen to us. And we want
21 to -- and you -- and the village of -- you guys have to
22 tell them what we need. I'm just part of it. You guys
23 are younger than I am, so all of you need to say
24 something. So I don't know what else to say.

25 So thank you. If I hear something else -- if I -- if

1 I think of something else, I'll say it.

2 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: One comment on top of
3 yours, Ida, I would like to see our old orange
4 streetlights back. These new streetlights we have are not
5 good visibility to see polar bears walking through town,
6 and that's regular. We need our old lights back. I don't
7 know if that comes from the oil money, from the borough.
8 That's one -- one on top of Ida's.

9 MS. IDA ANGASAN: I forgot one other
10 thing. We need more airlines. Our airlines -- and then
11 when the airlines do get filled up and everything, our
12 stores are hurting. That -- that impacts our way of
13 living in our community because we end up with no milk, no
14 cereal, you know. Stuff -- vegetables, fresh vegetables.
15 When you order fresh vegetables, they are so rotten when
16 they come in, it's pathetic. So anything else you guys
17 want to say? Go for it.

18 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: More airlines.
19 Agree.

20 MS. IDA ANGASAN: And we also need to get
21 an impact on -- alcohol and drugs will be flowing in. We
22 know that. So if there is a -- I know the North Slope
23 Borough needs help with the police department and whatnot,
24 but we need help. It will flow in, the drugs, alcohol.
25 It's always here. But we need better improvements on how

1 to keep it out of here.

2 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: We would like to see
3 a terminal at our airport.

4 MS. IDA ANGASAN: I think I have a big one
5 where we are talking about the gas line from Point Thomson
6 to here, but that's not only the biggest one. The biggest
7 one is we need better information about the rifles and
8 hunting stuff that the hunters have when they are going
9 hunting in between -- how far can you hunt from certain
10 areas of the oil and gas place? That needs to be set.
11 And our clinic needs improvements. I know there are some
12 areas in it that needs help. Our fire department is new,
13 just about, but it also needs help.

14 And the improvements in the water plant. Lately our
15 generators have been going out. I don't know if it's a
16 new part of the generation or not or the generator or not,
17 but it's -- we need many new things. Senior center. And
18 I don't know.

19 There is ways to get funding for these, and I know
20 the oil and gas people will listen. They can hear us.
21 And you guys need to say something about this. Please.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. ROBERT THOMPSON: My name is Robert
24 Thompson. I've lived here for more than 30 years. I have
25 a concern if this were to happen, where will we be able to

1 do our subsistence hunting? We are guaranteed those
2 rights under ANILCA. Nobody has told me so far if we will
3 be able to hunt in this proposed oil field. That has got
4 to be decided because that is what we are guaranteed by
5 another law.

6 I'd like to know about what they are going to do with
7 Veteran's allotments. Senator Murkowski has a bill to
8 allow Veterans that's hurt in Vietnam to get allotments
9 within this area. I'd like to know if that's included
10 with this because this is a new thing after her bill -- it
11 hasn't been passed yet, but it's pending.

12 I believe we should have Environmental Impact
13 Statement to include human health. In other places they
14 haven't did that. When they have a mishap and something
15 happens, the oil companies will say, we don't know what --
16 what those people's health were. They have an increase in
17 respiratory problems in Nuiqsut. The oil companies will
18 say, well, they smoke too many cigarettes. We shouldn't
19 have to have that happen here. Before this starts they
20 should determine what our health concerns are and a
21 baseline of everybody here. Their health should be
22 inventoried so when later on you get a spill or emissions,
23 they can't come back and say, well, you smoke too much.

24 There is communities in this world where people don't
25 live to be old because of the pollution. There is a place

1 in Canada, they don't have any elders, there is so much
2 pollution. That could happen here. What's happened in
3 Prudhoe, you go into one small area, they say this is
4 environmentally good. It's okay. The next year it's
5 another one. Pretty soon you have 1,000 square miles with
6 industrial activity.

7 I don't know that there is a baseline here to
8 determine air quality, but that is important before you
9 start. Shell Oil already got called on that with
10 emissions for their drill fleet. So this is very
11 important. I don't think anybody can argue with it. And
12 I think the people that are proposing it because they are
13 interested in the money, should support this also because
14 we all need to be concerned about health. And if it gets
15 adversely affected, it's got to be able to -- we can prove
16 it, not that we are smoking too much.

17 And I'd like to see some something related to
18 cumulative impacts. There again, we have had these
19 industrial activities. I've seen black smoke come through
20 here from the Prudhoe Bay area. Nobody is monitoring
21 these permits. So we have got to be very sure that there
22 are people to monitor every permit that's put out. And we
23 should have people here trained to know that. I mean,
24 this -- this is going on. We can't just have them doing
25 it their way. That's been going on a lot.

1 Previously there was offshore wells drilled. Nobody
2 here knew about it. And once we know, then we can do
3 something, but we definitely have to have somebody here
4 knowledgeable to monitor what is going on.

5 Okay. Another concern I have is that the private
6 holdings, which are considerable, the holdings of Arctic
7 Slope Regional Corporation are held to the same standard
8 as everyone else. They can't be having their own
9 environmental issues. It's got to be consistent with the
10 larger plan. That's a concern because they might say it's
11 private land, we can do it our way, but they still have to
12 have -- allow monitoring and some oversight on this
13 because they are going to be part of this, and the
14 industrial pollution that could come up there has got to
15 be consistent with what's acceptable for human health.

16 I'd like to see a timeline on this. It seems like
17 this is just moving along to get this done before Trump
18 gets out of office so we can approve all of this. I don't
19 know. It just seems to me it should be a longer timeline
20 for study or comments.

21 And the fact that the baseline study was done 30
22 years ago, that should be given serious consideration
23 because now we don't have any more musk ox. The polar
24 bear are in peril. There should be concern about these
25 animals. The polar bear, by some studies, could be

1 extinct in my lifetime, and there may be two musk ox left.

2 So these things have got to be addressed. And with
3 more than -- every endangered or threatened species should
4 have a serious review. You have got 19 endangered or
5 threatened species. Every one has to be addressed, not --
6 I asked about -- before about the ivory gull. Oh, we will
7 have a biologist make a report on it. That's not
8 sufficient because they don't know what's causing the
9 decline. So if there is a decline in some of these
10 animals, they have got to determine why and how to address
11 it to mitigate it.

12 That's what the Environmental Protection Agency is
13 about and the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. The
14 Trump Administration is trying to do away with these.
15 These are what can determine how this is compatible with
16 us. If we do away with all these protections, we don't
17 have anything. I mean, that's what the goal is, it looks
18 like.

19 So these should be all out in the open. It shouldn't
20 be do away with that Act so we can have our way. That is
21 what the oil industry -- they are not honorable people.
22 They are not people. They are just a for-profit
23 corporation, the same way with Arctic Slope Regional
24 Corporation. They don't represent the people. They
25 represent a corporation that is in business to make money.

1 They have joint ventures at this moment with Chevron,
2 Texaco and British Petroleum.

3 So they should not be considered a voice of the
4 people here in Kaktovik. They surely have a right to
5 speak, but it should be very clear who they are speaking
6 for. I don't want that corporation to speak for me. I'm
7 not part of it. But they have a tendency to do that. So
8 that should be very clear in any of these activities who
9 is presenting it and for what, because when you've got
10 for-profit corporations, their concerns are different than
11 a lot of the rest of us. They are in the business of
12 making money, and some of these environmental issues just
13 get in the way.

14 So that's what I got to say now. And I've probably
15 got a little bit more, but I'll come back. Thank you.

16 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: Thank you, Robert.

17 MR. EDWARD REXFORD, SR.: Okay. My name
18 is Edward Rexford, Sr. I'm the president of our tribal
19 government here. Also the land manager for our local
20 corporation. And I'm glad you folks made it in after
21 the -- our funeral, and I'm glad you accommodated our
22 community.

23 Our concerns, our tribe and our people here have been
24 put in a hard spot after PLO-82, which was a military
25 withdrawal of the Arctic, and that impacted our people

1 where they had to prove independent use to be eligible for
2 a Native allotment. And the date they used for our people
3 was 1934. Remember, PLO-82 was in 1943. So our people
4 here has been used and exploited not by, you know, our own
5 government. It's been the Air Force with the three forced
6 relocations with no apology to this day.

7 Also medical experiments has been done on our people,
8 the iodine radiation experiments. And the other villages
9 got compensated for being guinea pigs in that experiment,
10 but Kaktovik was left out. It seems like our community is
11 always left out for justice and human rights activities
12 that happen in our area.

13 Unfortunately, we are here today to try to speak up
14 for our community and not let outside folks talk -- talk
15 about us and how we should be living. It's been happening
16 far too long. Our own government has faulted our people,
17 has abused our people.

18 So now we finally have permission to make money with
19 our own corporation lands. Imagine that. They -- after
20 land claims, all the corporations in Alaska. Now,
21 Kaktovik, they left us out because the land exchange they
22 have. Now we can finally develop our own corporation land
23 and make money out of our own property. Now that the U.S.
24 is saying we can finally do this, now we have the other
25 side, the environmentalists, saying we can't do this.

1 What's wrong with this picture? Human rights violations.
2 Genocide.

3 I know I get riled up when this kind of meeting
4 happens, but a lot of folks don't know our history and
5 what our people have to go through, the sacrifices we had
6 to make for this country. Now we are finally able to make
7 money from our own corporation property. I think we have
8 lots of stuff that our community needs here.

9 There is a guide that's in this place that the city
10 did in collaborating with the tribe in the past to have a
11 say at what happens and what kind of development happens
12 here.

13 And a little history. Our tribe, before land claims,
14 we had 23 million acres of land past the Canadian border
15 to the Continental Divide up to Prudhoe Bay. After land
16 claims happened, what happened? They gave us 92,000
17 acres. Less than 000.1 percent. I don't think that's
18 justice. That's the greatest rip-off our government has
19 done to our people. 23 million acres. All the minerals,
20 all the gold in the mountains, all the oil. So they just
21 give us 92,000 acres.

22 Are we going to be used as pawns in the future, or
23 are we going to stand up for our people? That's what it's
24 coming to. We are put in a hard spot. Our tribe, our
25 corporation, our city, we all have to work together to

1 help our people.

2 And access to our Native allotment in-holdings, we
3 have in-holdings past the 1002, past the wilderness into
4 the refuge. We will have to have access to our
5 in-holdings through the oil fields. And that's a priority
6 that needs to be worked on.

7 And the other one is the village health assessment.
8 I'm glad Robert brought that up. That's going to have to
9 be done so there won't be no excuses in the future. And
10 we have to be involved in the process, the decisionmaking,
11 where the buffer zones are for our hunting areas, our
12 traditional land use areas. They are all recorded. And I
13 will be providing that for the record at a later date.

14 And also Fish & Wildlife Service, two people came in
15 the past to try to create the National Wildlife Refuge
16 here. They adopted a city council and they told the
17 people here that it's to protect the caribou. But they
18 didn't tell our people, the city council, that if it's a
19 wildlife refuge, our rights would be impacted. Now the
20 wildlife refuge is putting restrictions on who can go, how
21 we can go to our property, by what means.

22 And also the closed state of allotments, I mentioned
23 that. There's over 25 people here that were denied their
24 Native allotments.

25 And also our community is still waiting to hear about

1 the impact aid that our community has been promised.
2 Hopefully we can see that coming in the future and
3 hopefully -- otherwise our community will be run over. We
4 are going to need impact aid for the community. And those
5 are very important.

6 So I think we need to enter into a
7 government-to-government or a -- to manage the wildlife
8 refuge. Other tribes can do it. We are the only tribe in
9 the wildlife refuge here. We need to be part of the
10 management system that are fighting our people. We need
11 co-management for an equal voice.

12 And I'll be providing the list of names of the close
13 allotments that apply, the history of the access that was
14 promised to our people to the allotments with Fish &
15 Wildlife and the city's negotiations in the past. All
16 that can be provided. And the traditional land use areas
17 we use to subsist all the way into the mountains, that
18 also will be provided at a later date.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. IDA ANGASAN: Thank you, Eddie.

21 MS. ADRIENNE TITUS: Hi, everyone.

22 (Speaking in Inupiaq.) Before I get started, I just want
23 to look around the room and acknowledge each and every one
24 of you that are of this land, that are of this place. I
25 acknowledge the trauma that you carry, the hurt that we

1 have seen, our ancestors that are inside us. I'm Inupiaq.
2 I was raised on the land. You are my people.

3 This is really hard for me to get up here today
4 because I know that you guys want reparation. I've seen
5 all of you before in Fairbanks. I know that you want to
6 carry your people in a good way.

7 So who am I to get up and ask questions about
8 drilling or development, to challenge technology and
9 corporate efforts, to stand here and condemn oil companies
10 and Alaska Native corporations for desecrating the land?
11 But who am I not to ask these questions? My grandchildren
12 depend on my voice and my legacy, my grandparents' legacy.
13 To not question the rules and the regulations put into
14 place that determine how clean the water and air are, but
15 in reality they are there to determine how dirty we can
16 make it before it's unsafe or unhealthy for consumption
17 for us all.

18 Alaska is 24th in the world when it comes to oil
19 reserves. We have thousands of gallons discovered in
20 places that have already seen destruction, but restraint
21 is what we lack. Another day, another dollar. When did
22 we all become owners of the land? It has always owned us.
23 We have always been indebted to the place that has kept
24 our people since time immemorial.

25 Who am I to question fake technology? What part of

1 the shaking the earth and drilling into the core, setting
2 seismic waves through the waters that scare the sacred
3 beings that give themselves to us, the beings that have
4 sustained our people of the north since time immemorial?
5 What part of seismic testing, digging and drilling makes
6 it safe or okay, not just for animals, but for us, for our
7 land.

8 Money is the end goal, not health or security for the
9 people of the north. Who is to determine our wealth?
10 Poverty has only recently been introduced to the Native
11 communities. For thousands of years people have subsisted
12 from the land and oceans and rivers of Alaska.

13 It was a hard life, but it had none of the
14 frustrations and stigmas of poverty. For the people, we
15 were never poor. Living from the land sustained life.
16 The sharing created a bond between people that helped
17 ensure survival. Life was hard then, but people found
18 life satisfying. Today it's getting easier, but it's no
19 longer satisfying. Since when does one way of life have
20 to die so another can live?

21 In closing, I reiterate the words of Mary Ann Wharton
22 [ph]. I can't stress enough. The cost of development is
23 the land. No money can buy it back, can repair it to the
24 way it was before.

25 I ask that BLM conduct a human impact study, and the

1 correlation with not just the land, but also the animals
2 that have been used for thousands of years to sustain our
3 relationship with our land. I ask that the EIS be
4 completed in an entirety with the consideration of climate
5 change and how it has progressed twice as fast than the
6 rest of the world. The stories that carry our
7 grandparents' legacies must not stop here with oil
8 derricks and pipelines.

9 I ask that you remember the struggle your people have
10 endured to get you this far and the fight that you have in
11 you to make reparations for the wrong that has been done
12 and end the cycle of colonization and assimilation that
13 has individualized our once intergenerational homes and
14 communities. Our children and their children depend on
15 us.

16 I ask that you continue in the way of your ancestors
17 and defend all that is sacred, the sacred things that have
18 sustained indigenous people since time immemorial: The
19 land, the water, the animals. Please remember your sacred
20 duty to take care of yourselves because those people that
21 live inside of you must live on for tens of thousands of
22 years. Long after we join our ancestors, our descendants
23 will. We want to be remembered as good ancestors. Our
24 people have worked together to make our communities thrive
25 for thousands of years. I encourage each and every one of

1 you to take those thoughts with you as I leave this
2 meeting today. Keep in mind that oil dispersement
3 chemicals don't work in Arctic waters, that the closest
4 rescue center is over 1,000 nautical miles away, and that
5 even when a murder occurs in our villages, or when there
6 are things that we need immediate response for, it takes
7 days on end for one person. Think about what's going to
8 happen to this land if there is an oil spill and the
9 response that's going to come along with it.

10 I feel this place. I got off the plane yesterday,
11 and I could feel the air and the land and people, the
12 ancestors that live here. I hope that you keep that all
13 in mind as well as you continue on with this, whatever
14 decisions that you make.

15 Guyana.

16 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: Thank you for that
17 message. May I ask where you are from?

18 MS. ADRIENNE TITUS: Unalakleet. My
19 grandparents are Alma and Roland Ivanoff and Jenny and
20 Charlie Blatchford.

21 MR. ROBERT THOMPSON: Okay. I'd like to
22 bring up one more point. On this issue presented that we
23 have to do this oil development in the 1002 because we
24 have such a strong need for it, I know of 90 billion
25 barrels of oil on the North Slope separate from the

1 refuge. They have only extracted 17 billion in 40 years.
2 So there is plenty of oil. There is foothills. Headlines
3 say 17 billion barrels. There's 12 billion more in
4 Prudhoe beach. It goes on. They haven't even started on
5 the petroleum reserve, which I'd rather they didn't
6 extract that, but it's available, separate from the Arctic
7 Refuge.

8 So what is driving this is some corporations that see
9 the need for making more money. But I think some of the
10 things that a lot of us care for is, you know, to keep it
11 as is.

12 So I think as part of this environmental assessment,
13 Frank Murkowski said, do not be misinformed. Let's honor
14 that and determine if there is, in fact, possibly 90
15 billion barrels that can be extracted without going into
16 the refuge. That is one of the facts that should be out
17 there because everybody is acting like this is the last
18 oil we have got. We will be riding bicycles if we don't
19 develop. We can use this to help Shishmaref. All kinds
20 of things are attributed to this little bit of oil here,
21 but there is plenty of oil in other places. In the state
22 of Alaska, I believe the foothills, I think that belongs
23 to the State. So it would probably be in their better
24 interest to exploit -- I don't say develop. I say
25 exploit. It's more of a correct term.

1 But those are the things that should be looked at to
2 see if this is actually necessary to extract this.
3 Because we should know that the next step is offshore. If
4 they get a foothold onshore, Shell Oil has leases offshore
5 here towards the Canadian border. When they asked Frank
6 Murkowski why they weren't -- and the State of Alaska has
7 got land, that they could not develop because the Arctic
8 Refuge is not developed. If they develop the refuge, it's
9 going to be a pipeline to accommodate the offshore
10 interests. That's a fact. Frank Murkowski again said,
11 when he was asked why didn't the state leases sell, when
12 we get ANWR they will.

13 So the people who value whaling, give that very
14 serious thought why we should allow this because it is a
15 stepping stone to offshore.

16 I don't think they really care about 10,000 Native
17 people on the North Slope. There is people in this world
18 that would run right over us, and if they can make money
19 offshore, that is what will happen. So those of us that
20 value whaling, we ought to take that into consideration.

21 And if this oil is told to go ahead, could they put
22 in a stipulation that they will not go offshore? That
23 would probably appease some people. Not me. I don't want
24 to see any of it. We got along for 10-, 12,000 years
25 without this oil, and I'm sure we can keep on without it.

1 So I hope this is considered by the Environmental Impact
2 Statement.

3 MR. DENNIS STACEY: Is there a sign-up
4 list for the remarks?

5 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Nope. It's just
6 whoever wants to come up. There has been some great
7 testimony already.

8 MS. IDA ANGASAN: I'm going to say
9 something again. Ida Angasan, NVK. Thank you, this lady
10 from Unalakleet, for what you said. I appreciate that.

11 I'm looking at bullet No. 7, for instance, require
12 that those who buy leases in 1002 are required to attend
13 cultural and environmental seminar by Kaktovikmiut. How
14 about it says "mandatory"? We hear mandatory many times
15 from all the other organizations. I think instead of
16 saying "require," we should say "mandatory." They have to
17 come here to listen to us first. Those that are buying
18 the leases in the 1002 area, they have to be mandated.

19 And I also have one more. No. 10, community trails,
20 the campsites, subsistence use sites by the community of
21 Kaktovik should be identified and protected in the EIS.
22 And should -- where it says "should," it should be
23 "mandated." Should be mandated. "Should" should be taken
24 out of there and say "will not be included in the lease
25 sales." Protected in the EIS and mandate not to be

1 included in the lease sales. Those are Native allotments
2 many of us have.

3 And that's -- that's what I have to say right now. I
4 just want to say mandate. Those are not required.
5 Mandate them. Everybody else says it, you know. We need
6 to start looking out for ourselves. This is Kaktovikmiut.
7 We live here. But we also have to be responsible for our
8 being in Kaktovik, our whaling, our hunting, our fishing.
9 We have to be responsible for everything that we have and
10 own in Kaktovik ourselves. Be responsible for yourself,
11 your parents, your children, your grandchildren. Be good
12 to one another.

13 Quyanaq.

14 MR. DENNIS STACEY: Good evening. My
15 name's Dennis Stacey. I'm currently working and living
16 here in Kaktovik. I'm a long-term resident of Alaska.
17 Been a 40-year resident. I've worked in resource
18 development across Alaska in many places in mining and oil
19 and gas, and frankly I think that we can have a win/win
20 situation with the development of the 1002 area. KIC and
21 ASRC are major stakeholders within the 1002 area. And I
22 think that they are generally in favor of development.

23 In Petroleum News last week I saw that ASRC and KIC
24 have committed to a 3-D seismic survey of the area over a
25 couple of winters. So that tells me they are interested.

1 But there is also a provision of Alaska Native Claims
2 Settlement Act, 7(i) provision, that mandates sharing
3 revenues from natural resource development with other
4 Native corporations. NANA has done this with Red Dog.
5 Sealaska did it with their timber. And I think other
6 Native corporations have done it, also.

7 But oil development has brought prosperity to Alaska
8 and to a lot of the communities, such as Barrow and
9 Nuiqsut where I've worked. And I think it can be
10 beneficial nearby here, too.

11 There was a lot of concern that the development of
12 the North Slope oil fields would harm the caribou, and I
13 believe caribou have thrived alongside the oil
14 development. It has not destroyed the caribou.

15 A couple of winters ago I worked on the Point Thomson
16 project and saw lots of caribou there, and we also saw a
17 lot of wolves that spring in 2016. But there have been a
18 variety of habitat enhancement projects that I think can
19 happen here if the stipulations within the refuge permit
20 it.

21 For example, with the ASRC mine site, a million acres
22 of overburden was stripped a couple winters ago and put
23 back into the pit to reclaim it. But that kind of a hill,
24 in my experience, has been real beneficial for caribou in
25 summertime to get up on those hills to get out of the bugs

1 and get some wind. And I think that a variety of habitat
2 enhancements like that could be very possible to do;
3 fisheries enhancements from gravel pits and also waterfowl
4 enhancements, too. And perhaps off-site mitigation
5 outside the refuge and compensation for harm to wetlands
6 there.

7 But my understanding is that the direct impact to the
8 land would be 2,000 acres or less. And with directional
9 drilling, a lot of development can take place from very
10 isolated pads. And the oil fields I've worked in, such as
11 Alpine, have a real high environmental threshold for
12 maintaining the land. And the stipulations in 1002 area
13 should be every bit as strict, if not more so, than the
14 NPR-A.

15 Anyway, I think it can be a win/win. And what we are
16 here for tonight, as I understand it, is we are taking
17 comments on what should be concerned or considered in your
18 EIS. And so these are some of the things that I've
19 thought of. And I have some written comments, but I don't
20 have them ready to submit tonight. So I'll be sending
21 those in.

22 Anyway, thank you for coming to Kaktovik, and
23 appreciate that.

24 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Thank you.

25 MR. ROBERT THOMPSON: I'd like to comment

1 on the gentleman's statement. He talked about 7(i). The
2 corporation, when they acquired it, excluded 7(i). So you
3 are wrong about 7(i) being -- just getting shared wealth
4 with the rest of the state, Natives. And also concerning
5 the environment, I've seen changes made to requirements.
6 Like for ice roads, the climate is getting warmer, so they
7 changed the standard. There's industrial people that work
8 in the oil field lobbying and got it changed. It's going
9 to change some more, and they will change it again.

10 Now they are talking about snow roads. I don't know
11 what they are and I don't know if they have been proven to
12 work anywhere. But they want to be able to get access to
13 this, and they don't really care if they have to do
14 something. They are talking about -- is there enough
15 water for ice roads? They can't use ocean water. So that
16 is something that's got to be addressed. In the
17 Environmental Impact Statement, can they do what they
18 propose? I brought this up at a previous meeting. They
19 said, oh, we will just build snow fences. We'll melt the
20 snow and make ice roads. That's never been done. But
21 they will tell us that just to get their foot in the door
22 and get what they want.

23 And we want to be very careful because they are in
24 the business of making money, not doing what's right for
25 all of us.

1 So these environmental rules and regulations and
2 things, procedures, have got to be watched because
3 industry, they'll do as little as they can to get by.

4 I've seen presentations by how this oil industry
5 operates in other countries. South America, they have no
6 concerns. There will be flaring going on in the middle of
7 villages with kids playing around it. Pipes will be
8 laying on the ground. We have it a little better than
9 that. People fault the environmental community, but it's
10 because people are watching them.

11 When I first came here, the seismic was going on
12 offshore. We didn't know what it was. We would hear
13 sonic booms out there. They are going to do it their way
14 as much as they can, so people here better be aware and be
15 able to be knowledgeable in how to -- how to watch them
16 and what to watch and be there to do it. If they are 40
17 miles out there somewhere, we don't see it. So there
18 better be some people here to get training to watch
19 industrial activity because --

20 Okay. All the permits that they do on the North
21 Slope are done with -- with permits. They get permits for
22 that. But they don't have people to monitor their
23 permits. So every permit that they have here should have
24 somebody from -- the State or wherever allows the permit
25 to happen, they should have somebody there watching to

1 make sure they do it. Like flaring is not supposed to be
2 going on. They do it as much as they feel like because
3 there is nobody there. When Hickel was governor, people
4 started to try and enforce these regulations. They just
5 fired the people.

6 So we have got to be careful that whatever
7 environmental regulations and rules, that there is a way
8 people here could know that they are being followed
9 because before they do something, they have got to have
10 those permits. But they disregard them in many cases.
11 Every time I've gone by Badami, there is flaring going on.
12 When I went through Badami, I stopped there, and they
13 asked me, do you have firearms or alcohol. I said, I have
14 a firearm. He said, well, I have to take it.

15 So when you talk about a benign landholder, and when
16 they assert their right with security people and emphasize
17 this is our area, we got control of it, well, that gets a
18 little -- I get tired of that. I live here. I shouldn't
19 have security people telling me what to do. I've heard
20 people in this village say we can sneak around; they won't
21 catch us. We shouldn't have to sneak around. We should
22 have the right to go wherever we always did and that
23 should be entered into this Environmental Impact Statement
24 because that seriously affects us if we can't.

25 And I also have concerns related to why BLM is

1 handling this rather than Fish & Wildlife. I've dealt
2 with Fish & Wildlife, and I don't know how that's going to
3 change. Maybe you can address how this will change now
4 that we have a new person -- new agency administrating
5 this land that we live on. So that's got to be -- just so
6 we know. If I want to get a permit to operate in a refuge
7 and BLM is now handling it, what's going to change, you
8 know? There's a lot of things we need to know.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: Can I ask you to
11 reintroduce yourself, your name and who you are with?

12 MR. DENNIS STACEY: Yes. My name is
13 Dennis Stacey. I'm here representing myself. I'm
14 currently working for UIC Science here on the remediation
15 project at the hangar, but they have no input in what I'm
16 saying here. My employer is elsewhere on the North Slope
17 within AFC and Nanuq and Houston Contracting.

18 But the gentleman brought up the snow roads, and I
19 can speak to that from firsthand experience. Ice roads
20 were built to the end of ConocoPhillips' drilling areas
21 last winter, and then there was a snow road built all the
22 way to Barrow to provide overland access beyond there.
23 But the villagers in Nuiqsut have used the ice roads going
24 into Nuiqsut and the Colville River ice bridge for many
25 years now. So they have overland access through the

1 winter to get heavy supplies and things into the village
2 for building and other things.

3 ConocoPhillips also brought in natural gas for the
4 village. The village of Barrow enjoys natural gas from
5 the Barrow gas field. Most villages don't have that.
6 Fuel is very expensive. I know it's extraordinarily
7 expensive around here. You are at the end of a very long
8 logistic chain.

9 But I think it would be possible to have snow roads
10 coming in here, too, in the winter from the ice roads that
11 would be brought into the 1002 area, but I have no input
12 on that. But I don't see why it wouldn't be possible.
13 But the North Slope Borough is the administrator for a lot
14 of these permits, and they go out and inspect the
15 reclamation at the end of the season. They inspect the
16 ice roads and gravel pits. ASRC sold a lot of gravel to
17 ConocoPhillips for their project, for example.

18 Anyway, I think it's a beneficial thing. There is
19 local employment for people in the village there. But
20 these are things for you to have input on.

21 I'm a visitor here, although I am working here and
22 living here at the present time. But I'm also in Alaska,
23 and Alaska would benefit from development within ANWR. I
24 think that's a true thing. So the question is, can we do
25 the development in a way that doesn't hurt the

1 environment, is good for the local communities and Alaska
2 in general, and provides more energy security for the
3 United States, also.

4 So anyway, these are reasonable questions, and people
5 can have differences of opinion about them. But it's
6 worth keeping an open mind on these things, but certainly
7 have reasonable stipulations to protect your interests
8 here, too. You are the local stakeholders. You are the
9 local village. So your input here -- BLM is here because
10 they administer the mineral estate for the federal
11 government. The Fish & Wildlife Service does not do that.
12 So that's the reason BLM is here taking these comments
13 because they are the leasing agency.

14 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: Have they selected
15 any potential sites where they want to develop at? What
16 I'm getting at is I'm concerned about our coastal access
17 for hunting caribou in a boat. There are safe, sheltered
18 places where we can park, and there's places we can't park
19 because of the ocean waves.

20 MS. NICOLE HAYES: So that's the kind of
21 input we are looking for. Those are the specific type of
22 comments and concerns that would be really helpful for us
23 to know about. So we haven't made any decisions.

24 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: Okay. Right offhand
25 the one I'm thinking about is our POWD area to our

1 Kanniniivik area. That's our coastal hunting from the
2 boast. It's a safe shelter where we can land. Campsite.

3 MS. NICOLE HAYES: So we have some maps
4 outside the room. When we are done, it would be helpful
5 if you could mark that on the map.

6 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: Eddie has got his
7 maps here.

8 Another one to think about is our akpik place, where
9 going to pick our akpiks.

10 MS. IDA ANGASAN: Berries.

11 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Please, if there is
12 other people that want to come up and speak, I mean, we
13 are hear to listen. So we are all ears. And we have
14 appreciated everybody that shared information with us
15 tonight. It is extremely helpful.

16 MR. GLEN SOLOMON: Hello. I'm Glen, Glen
17 Solomon, resident of Kaktovik, whaling captain, and also
18 ASRC representative for our village, for my people. We
19 have been fighting over this for over 40 years to develop
20 on our own land. We have been surrounded by federal and
21 State land, and all we could do is just look at our land;
22 no development, no nothing. And here everybody get a
23 chance to develop on their land like the Gwich'in people.
24 They leased out 180,000 of their acres for oil and gas
25 lease on the Eagle Plains, and caribou migrate through

1 there, through the Eagle Plains and also through the --
2 what is the Dempster Highway that they have.

3 And we just want to have a chance at the table where
4 we could develop our resources to make profit, to make
5 profit off our land like everybody else. Like they got
6 trees and everything like that. What we got? We just got
7 the minerals that's in the ground, and that will build
8 infrastructure for our people, that create jobs for our
9 people, and also dividends for our people.

10 So it will really help our people out a lot because,
11 you know, what we use for whaling, we use gas and oil.
12 What we use to go hunt caribou, we use gas and oil. So we
13 have this right to develop on our own land like everybody
14 else has the right on their land. We have the right to
15 develop on our land, also.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: My name's Charles
18 Lampe. I'm also a whaling captain. I grew up with Glen.
19 I grew up with everybody here. I'd like to thank the BLM
20 for coming and listening to the voice of Kaktovik because
21 a lot of times the voice of Kaktovik, the people here from
22 Kaktovik, gets overshadowed and overlooked by louder
23 voices, from environmental groups, from people that
24 haven't stepped foot, spent one day here in Kaktovik, that
25 know what the people need, that know what our lives are,

1 that what we go through every year, every day, daily life.
2 Live one winter here and you will see exactly how hard our
3 life is. You have no idea.

4 More people walk into a MacDonald's in Anchorage in
5 one week than will ever set foot up here in ANWR, but the
6 environmentalists want to praise it as this great place
7 that should never be touched. We touch it. We go up
8 there. We are the ones who hunt. We are the ones who
9 live. Our family, our ancestors lived up there. They
10 taught us respect for the land. They taught us respect
11 for everybody else, our family people, that come in, the
12 whales that we catch, the fish that we eat.

13 Roland, you go out, you hunt. Glen, you go out, you
14 hunt, you feed our entire community. And we are blessed
15 with that. But we have people that are not from here,
16 from different states, from different countries, from
17 Washington, D.C., from governments down here in Alaska
18 that tell us what we can and cannot do on our land. That
19 isn't right. It's been like that for far too long.

20 I love our land. I love our community. I love the
21 way of our life, but I talk to people like Isaac, like
22 Ida's father. He -- he tells people about how hard it
23 used to be, about how, you know, he had to get his own
24 wood. How hard it is just to even get water, keep
25 yourself warm in the wintertime. He says he wouldn't want

1 to go back to that. You know, that way of life was hard.

2 What we have now, we have to develop. That's the way
3 we were taught. We use what we have to make our lives
4 better. And we love our land. There is nobody that can
5 tell you different.

6 And you know, the biggest thing that I want to get in
7 this EIS is the impact of our community, of our people.
8 You know, since the Air Force has been here, I mean, for
9 the last, what, 70 years or so, I mean, we have seen an
10 uprise in cancer. And you know, I mean, they dumped drums
11 and stuff. We have no idea what they are. And on our
12 beaches, on our shores, they displaced our village
13 numerous times, no -- no apologies, no, you know, I'm
14 sorry, no reparations. But we live with that. We have
15 thrived through that.

16 I have seen -- you know, my kids, I have a
17 three-year-old and a 13-year-old. And I moved out for a
18 few years, and I moved back here after my daughter was
19 born because I want this to be the place where she grows
20 up because I know she's safe here. Her family is here.
21 Her grandpa is here. All of us, you know, we live
22 together. We watch out for each other.

23 People talk about the bears, put more emphasis that
24 the bears are more -- more important than we are, the
25 people, you know, and that isn't true. I mean, the bears

1 didn't start really coming around -- I remember when I was
2 a kid, we would play out all the time, and we didn't have
3 a care in the world about a bear, but now, you know, we
4 have polar bear patrol looking out for bears and, you
5 know, I mean, it's like kind of a nuisance for us, but --

6 You know, we have people coming in that -- in the
7 summertime that -- people and families used to be able to
8 go out and if they needed to make money and they had a
9 boat, they were able to take people out and show them the
10 bears, make a little money for their family, but because
11 of regulations there is, I think, five people now, if I'm
12 correct -- five or six people now that have licenses to
13 take people out to view bears that -- you know, I mean,
14 they have a monopoly on it, and there is nothing that
15 anybody else can do. You know, that provided money for a
16 lot of families here that weren't able to work or get jobs
17 from the borough or KIC.

18 And I mean, I know it's hard sometimes to get by.
19 And that's why we help each other. That's why we hunt.
20 That's why we fish. You know, if anybody needs help, I
21 mean, we are a community. We are a family. We help each
22 other.

23 I have been a KIC board member. Unfortunately our
24 past president, Phillip Tikluk, Jr., passed away. And I
25 was on the board before him, and I got -- I got voted out,

1 which was fine with me. And the board brought me back,
2 and it was an honor to come back in his position.

3 And I know how much he fought for this. I mean, I
4 went in meetings with him. I was part of the AIO group,
5 the Arctic Inupiaq Offshore group, and part of a voice
6 with Phillip. And he was so adamant about us being able
7 to develop our land, to use our land, to use what, you
8 know, the government gave us that was already ours, but
9 after they gave it to us, they were like, well, you can't
10 do anything with it because it's a refuge now, so you
11 can't drill on your land. You can't, you know, make a
12 pipeline. You can't do anything with your land. You
13 can't even go on your land with a four-wheeler in the
14 summertime because it's protected, because it's a wildlife
15 refuge.

16 You know, that seeing that and hearing that -- we
17 see, like, Nuiqsut, we see other places like Barrow and,
18 you know, anywhere else down in the Lower 48, they don't
19 tell you you can't do this to your land. They don't --
20 they might with some things, but I mean, like, with us, we
21 have never had the opportunity to develop what is ours.
22 We have had so much taken away from us that finally we
23 have hope that we can do something. We can make something
24 of our land.

25 I've worked in the oil field before. I've seen

1 Prudhoe. I've seen how clustered and everything it is.
2 I've worked in Alpine. I know how it's spaced out.
3 Directional drilling is way less of a footprint. It's the
4 safety and the environmental aspect of it is a lot more
5 strenuous than it has been or ever was in the past.

6 And there is going to be an impact no matter what,
7 but we can make sure that us as a community, the people of
8 Kaktovik -- not anyone else, not people from Fairbanks,
9 not people from Anchorage, not people from other
10 villages should be able to come in and tell us, the people
11 of Kaktovik, what we can or can't do with our land. They
12 have no say in it. They shouldn't, you know; but they do.
13 Because of the media, because of other publications,
14 because of environmental groups, because of government
15 issues, our voice is -- is drowned out. And I'm just glad
16 that you guys actually came up and gave people the
17 opportunity to speak. And we have people here from other
18 places that don't live here that came up here just to
19 speak against this.

20 And you know, I respect that, but you don't live
21 here. You know, this isn't where you live your whole
22 life. This isn't where you spend your winters. This
23 isn't where you raise your kids. This isn't -- you are
24 going to get on a plane, you are going to leave, and then
25 what? You can go to a store. You can buy a loaf of

1 bread. You can buy a gallon of milk.

2 Our store went without eggs, milk, bread; essentials,
3 you know, things for weeks, you know, on end because we
4 have one airline that can't fly it up. Or during the
5 wintertime we get storms and they can't get planes in
6 here. We don't have a road system. We don't have a barge
7 system. Even in the wintertime, I've advocated for an ice
8 road just so we can get supplies here during the
9 wintertime when a plane can't come in or when stuff isn't
10 able to be transported here and make it a little bit
11 easier.

12 But it's kind of nerve-wracking coming up here. I
13 mean, I love my hometown. I love my people. I love my
14 family. I love all -- you know, it's just finally being
15 able to have the opportunity to develop land that is ours
16 and making sure that we have a say in it, you know, not
17 everybody else. It isn't everybody else. It should be
18 us. We have a say. We should work side by side with the
19 oil companies, with the government to make sure that our
20 land is protected, to make sure that in every way possible
21 our environment is protected, our animals are protected.

22 And not only that, but the way of life that we live,
23 hunting. We shouldn't be forced not -- I mean, there is
24 going to be certain spots -- like with a pipeline going
25 in, there's going to be certain spots where we can't hunt.

1 With drill pads, there are going to be certain
2 restrictions about firearms around it. And that's fine,
3 just as long as we are able to go where we need to go to
4 hunt.

5 I mean, my sister worked in Deadhorse for a long
6 time, and she was able to trap foxes and things there to
7 make hats and everything. And she spent more than half
8 her life there working. And you know, I mean, people in
9 Nuiqsut, they still hunt, they still get caribou, they
10 still get wolverines, they get wolves.

11 With the right -- with the right -- what's the word
12 I'm looking for -- with the right arrangement and the
13 right opportunities to work hand in hand with the oil
14 companies and the government and, you know, BLM and the
15 Fish & Wildlife Service, to make sure that our voice is
16 heard, that Kaktovik's voice is heard.

17 Barter Island, this is where we live. This is our
18 hometown. This is going to affect us. It's not going to
19 affect -- it might be sad that ANWR is open. It might be
20 sad that there is an oil rig there. But if you live
21 someplace else, you get on a plane or you see it on TV, it
22 doesn't affect you. It might affect your emotions, but it
23 doesn't affect you. It affects us. It affects our
24 children. It affects me. It affects my future. It
25 affects their future.

1 And after everything is said and done, all the oil is
2 gone, you know, we will be there to make sure that
3 everything is cleaned up. We will be there to make sure
4 that everything is tried to put back the way it was
5 because no matter what anybody says, we love our land. We
6 respect our land. And we don't want to see it hurt, but
7 we need to come together to make sure that we are heard.

8 And thank you again for letting us -- but like I
9 said, the main thing is we need a health study, a
10 baseline, to make sure what kind of impacts we have, you
11 know.

12 And I guess that's it. So thank you again for coming
13 and listening to us.

14 MR. JOE BALASH: So why don't we take a
15 five-minute break and stretch our legs a little bit, maybe
16 get some fresh air. And we will come back and see who
17 else might want to say something.

18 (A break was taken.)

19 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Okay. We're going to
20 go ahead and get started again. I just want to remind
21 people, this is your opportunity to share with us.
22 Everybody has shared some really great comments. We want
23 to continue to hear them. Please feel free to come up and
24 speak. Don't be shy. So the floor is open again. So if
25 you want to come up and talk, we are here to listen.

1 MR. JOE BALASH: So one of the things that
2 was part of the legislation that authorized the leasing
3 program was a limitation on the number of surface acres
4 that can be disturbed for drilling pads, for pipelines and
5 potentially roads. And I've had conversations with Mayor
6 Brower in Utqiagvik about the ASTAR program and the desire
7 on the part of folks to start looking at year-round gravel
8 roads to communities in the borough.

9 And so a question I would have and appreciate some
10 feedback on is whether a road in the 1002 area to support
11 the development is something that the people in the
12 community would welcome or oppose. And maybe you haven't
13 thought about that, but I think that's something that
14 would be well worth understanding on the front end here.

15 I did note the comment about, you know, there is no
16 road access and there is not really barge access. Well,
17 you know, in order to conduct exploration, somebody is
18 going to have to move some pretty big and heavy equipment
19 into the area. And there is going to need to be some way
20 to land that. And so, you know, if there are better
21 places than others for something like that, those are the
22 kinds of things that your local knowledge would be very
23 helpful to us.

24 And one thing to consider is, you know, if somebody
25 puts in a barge landing, you know, it doesn't mean it's a

1 one-time only location for them to use and them only. If
2 it's something that the community would like to see made
3 available for use here, where would you want it? Those
4 are the kind of things that we can start to build into the
5 program so that after a company gets their lease, if they
6 want to bring equipment in, where they bring it, how they
7 bring it, what time of year. You know, those are all the
8 kinds of stipulations and conditions that we can build
9 into the program.

10 And your -- you are the people who know best, you
11 know, where that should be and where that should not be.
12 So you know, if you have thoughts on that, we would love
13 to hear it.

14 MR. DENNIS STACEY: How many acres are
15 authorized for disturbance?

16 MR. JOE BALASH: So the federal law limits
17 the surface disturbance to 2,000 acres. And, you know,
18 the language used in the Tax Act is not exhaustive. So
19 there will probably need to be some interpretations about,
20 okay, how do you count those acres, which specific
21 footprints are going to count against that acreage. To
22 the extent that there may or may not be surface
23 disturbance on the KIC/ASRC lands, you know, does that
24 count against the 2,000 or not, you know.

25 So those are the kinds of things that we will be

1 fleshing out here along the way. I think there is
2 certainly a reasonable interpretation that any surface
3 disturbance on the ASRC portion of land doesn't count
4 against the 2,000-acre limitation on federal land.

5 I'm sure that some other lawyer is going to interpret
6 that differently and test us but, you know, those are the
7 kinds of things that -- you know, we can't tell KIC and
8 ASRC where to put a barge landing, but if there are parts
9 of the federal acreage that you know would be a bad place
10 for a barge landing, then it would be good for us to know
11 that.

12 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: One comment on your
13 barge landing. I'd like to see a more appropriate barge
14 landing here in Kaktovik. Last year during our whaling
15 time we got a barge landed where we pull up our whale.

16 MR. JOE BALASH: Okay. And that's close
17 here, close by here?

18 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: Yeah, to service our
19 village.

20 MR. JOE BALASH: Okay.

21 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: Where we pull up our
22 whales when we do our fall whale hunt, we get three whales
23 a year, and we usually use that part of the beach to pull
24 up the whale to divide amongst the community. And
25 unfortunately, that's the spot where the barge comes in to

1 deliver fuel and vehicles and equipment and whatever is
2 needed. That's usually where they dock.

3 And from what it sounds like, the remediation project
4 that they have going on right now with the hangar, they
5 are asking if they can use that portion of the beach to
6 dock and unload all the contaminated gravel and steel and
7 everything. And we are fighting it, but I don't know
8 exactly how much of a say we have on whether or not it's
9 going to be able to be off limits for them.

10 So a barge landing would be nice. I mean, we can do
11 a road to the other end to the island where it's pretty
12 much open ocean. There is a spot there that a barge
13 landing would be nice or, you know, some place other than
14 where we pull up our whales.

15 Also with the ice road deal, the infrastructure for
16 the beginning -- I worked on Alpine when it was first in
17 construction, so I've worked on, like, the runway and the
18 first pad that was built there. It's mainly done in the
19 wintertime, so ice roads can be built so heavy trucks can
20 haul gravel from mine sites. The majority of pretty much
21 all of the construction for gravel pads and stuff is done
22 during the wintertime. And we have never really had an
23 ice road here. We have Rolligons that come that deliver
24 supplies every once in a while, but not very often.

25 But an ice road, I think the North Slope Borough may

1 have in the works right now to start doing ice roads every
2 winter to each of the villages, which would be really
3 nice. We would be able to get more groceries and vehicles
4 and fuel or whatever we need a lot easier and better
5 access to be able to leave, you know, during winter. You
6 know, during the summertime it wouldn't matter, but during
7 the winter it would really help, so --

8 MR. JOE BALASH: So the mention of the
9 fall whaling activity sparks something for me, which is,
10 you know, typically the equipment for exploration gets
11 moved in seasonally, right? So if you imagine the barge
12 traffic that may be increased for that, what kind of
13 activity or limitations on activity need to be considered
14 so that there is not interference with your fall whaling?

15 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: We kind of have
16 something in place right now with Bowhead Transportation
17 and Carlisle.

18 MR. GLEN SOLOMON: What he's really
19 talking about is we work with the oil companies to
20 determine on when we do do our fall whaling hunt so
21 everything goes at a halt. And they had to write a
22 contract on that and sign it and everything. But Bowhead
23 Transportation don't want to sign that contract or
24 anything like that. So whenever they come and go as they
25 please while we are doing our hunting, we would like to

1 see that put to a stop because once the oil industry says,
2 okay, we will put it at a stop, how long you need and
3 everything, and once we get done with our whaling hunts,
4 they get back into production or whatever they are doing
5 and everything like that, seismic and everything like
6 that. It's just everything is put to a halt.

7 But we would sure love to see Bowhead Transportation
8 do that, also, because, you know, it was kind of
9 disturbing last year where we would be out there seven,
10 eight miles out and seeing a barge out there and calling
11 them on the radio and saying you guys are not supposed to
12 be out here but, you know, they never signed that contract
13 or anything. And I'd sure love to see that.

14 And also I would really love to see a road system out
15 of here because, you know, it would bring more
16 infrastructure to our community and also it would lower
17 the cost of plane tickets, the cost of freight, groceries
18 coming into our village because, you know, you go to the
19 store here and buy a gallon of milk for, like, \$20 and,
20 you know, like if you are down there Anchorage, you buy a
21 gallon of milk for, like, \$5. Try buy a loaf of bread for
22 \$5 where you buy them for, like, a quarter, 75 cents to a
23 dollar, but it's pretty spendy because the high price of
24 Ravn, it really takes a toll on our village because, you
25 know, they are the only airlines that come into our

1 village.

2 We brought it up at AFN so many years and nothing has
3 ever been done with it. And you know, like you said,
4 having other airlines come through here, but Ravn has
5 monopolized the whole North Slope where they set the price
6 and everything. It's pretty harsh because we ask for
7 lower prices on airline tickets, and what they do, they
8 higher up the prices and everything like that and also the
9 freight. It's like 2.50, \$3 for a pound, and that's
10 pretty rough.

11 Thanks.

12 MS. LILLIAN LAMPE: My name is Lillian
13 Lampe, and I'm here working in the community, and I travel
14 the villages. I'm originally from Nuiqsut, and I've
15 experienced that, the environmental impact to our
16 community. The benefits are great. It really helps the
17 community. I just -- I know BLM doesn't do -- Fish &
18 Wildlife to do studies for you. And I would suggest that
19 the Native village in your community get resources to hire
20 a company that will -- what do you call that? Yeah, that
21 will help do your studies. And they do it every year.
22 And they are real good because they studied our fish, and
23 then they give those statements back to us with BLM, ASRC.
24 And there is a lot of good things about it.

25 But the thing I'm concerned about is the water

1 resource. If they are going to build ice roads, I don't
2 know how much -- you know, the lakes you have around the
3 communities, if they are going to build ice roads, make
4 sure they study those because they have fish. And they
5 are the healthiest fish in there other than the river and
6 the ocean because nothing probably gets into those lakes.
7 But they are really good fish. That's what we found out
8 in our years. And they just need to do more studies on
9 how deep the lake is. And there is fish in there. And I
10 just wanted to bring that up.

11 The impacts that we have are great. And the
12 mitigation, the funds, you know, whatever your community
13 wants. I just want to say that make sure you get all
14 mitigated for what your community needs because we have
15 those mitigations, as well. We got natural gas. We
16 have -- we don't have cheaper prices in the store because
17 our corporation got a business with AC store, and they are
18 expensive. But it really helps to get things into your
19 community, especially if there is -- if you wanted to
20 build your own homes because that's what we struggle for.

21 Those are our impacts. Homes for the -- you know,
22 for your grandkids. I have grandkids. They need a home.
23 They are not going to live in my 20-, 30-year-old home.
24 It's not going to last.

25 But those kind of statements are very crucial, and it

1 will help you. And the benefits are good. Our hunting,
2 it's deterred [sic], but you know what? We still can
3 hunt. We have those rights. We still can hunt the food
4 that we eat, but they need to follow through when -- when
5 we ask for something to protect our food, our land, our
6 resources, they have to follow those. And I hope that,
7 you know, those things will be in place before.

8 And then the -- the base for -- like if they are
9 going to drill somewhere and they -- they won't have an
10 airport. If something emergent happens, Barter Island has
11 got to be the base because you have an airport. It will
12 help. I just wanted to bring that up. I think I got a
13 lot more. But I care about my communities. I work for my
14 communities in all the eight villages on the Slope. And I
15 come to meetings like this. And I went to Point Lay
16 meeting, too, as well. And I'm here today, so I just want
17 to voice out.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: As far as the airstrip
20 and the airline about flying workers in or the
21 infrastructure for that, I know there has been concern
22 from a few residents about not having Kaktovik as a
23 central hub because we don't want the influx of people
24 coming in just to go to work and having to go through
25 Kaktovik all the time, that people have to come in and out

1 of Kaktovik. We would rather have it the way it was kind
2 of set up at Alpine where they have their own air strip
3 there or like a central hub like Kuparuk or Deadhorse
4 where they can fly in there without affecting Kaktovik so
5 much and use that as more of a drop-off place for the
6 workers and have them either helicoptered out or flown out
7 with a smaller flight to the different fields.

8 But it would be nice to get more airlines flying up
9 here, like Glen and a few other people said. Ravn has a
10 monopoly on our little village. We spend \$700 round trip
11 per person to fly to Fairbanks to take our kids on
12 vacation or shop or, you know, just to get out of the
13 village for a while.

14 But during the summer months we have a lot of
15 tourists that come in, and they take up the flights every
16 summer from, I want to say, end of July, beginning of
17 August till the bears leave or till it freezes over, till
18 November.

19 And we have a lot of people with health issues, you
20 know, people that have to go out for dental or medical
21 issues that -- I know it's hard for them to get a flight
22 out.

23 But that isn't the worst thing. The worst thing is
24 if you get a flight out and your stay is made longer
25 because you have more appointments that weren't scheduled

1 or something happens, either you get weathered out, you
2 can't get a flight back home, so you are stuck in
3 Fairbanks or Anchorage during the peak season of tourism
4 where the prices for a hotel or car rental double or
5 triple where low-income families here aren't able to pay
6 for that, but because of the one airline with flights
7 booked daily, not able to get back home, we have seen a
8 lot of people get stuck in Anchorage or Fairbanks on --
9 for medical reasons and just have no place to live or no
10 food to eat and rely on communities. We pull together as
11 a community and make sure that that person has a place to
12 stay or food to eat or relatives in town that will help
13 them out.

14 But we need more -- more emphasis on getting more
15 airlines or different ways of people to either travel back
16 and forth or get goods that we need just for daily living
17 here. You know, it's -- like I said, it's hard living up
18 here, and it costs a lot. Yeah, we make a lot of money.
19 We make high wages, but those wages are offset because of
20 how expensive things are.

21 Natural gas would be great. I mean, that would help
22 so many people in this community with heating alone, even
23 just to get a natural gas pipeline or a natural gas well
24 drilled here to help offset the cost of fuel because we
25 have our fuel barged in. What is it, \$7 a gallon for

1 diesel for gas, and for residential -- I mean, it costs an
2 arm and a leg just to stay warm during the winter. And
3 for us to be able to get a natural gas pipeline or natural
4 gas to help heat the homes would benefit our community so
5 much. Even if that's all that came out of this, I mean,
6 that would be worth it.

7 But you know, it's -- it's going to be hard the next
8 10, 15 -- it's not going to happen right away. It's not
9 going to be developed in a year or two or five or
10 whatever. It's not going to happen right away. We are
11 going to be affected slowly. And we as a community need
12 to make sure that we are taken care of. Not only us, but
13 our future generations are taken care of and that our
14 voice is heard and that it isn't overshadowed by outside
15 entities or other groups that think they know what's best
16 for us here when they don't even really come and
17 experience what we live through every -- every day, every
18 year, every week.

19 You know, it's -- it's disheartening hearing comments
20 on TV and radio from people who will never, ever step foot
21 here. But, you know, I've traveled to Washington to
22 advocate for the opening of ANWR so we can develop our
23 land, and just having people there that haven't even
24 stepped foot in Alaska have a say in whether you can
25 develop your land or use your resources, they have more of

1 a say than we do, and we live here.

2 You know, that's the hardest thing. You know, people
3 telling you no, telling you you can't do what you want to
4 do with your resources to better your family and your
5 community, that's the hardest thing. They gave us this
6 land. They took the land away, then they gave us a little
7 bit back and told you you can't do anything with it. You
8 know, it took an act of Congress just for us to be able to
9 have these talks, you know, and that's amazing. I never
10 thought that was going to happen, you know, not in my
11 lifetime, but it has.

12 I'm not a Trump supporter or a Hillary supporter.
13 I'm just for us. I mean, this is to benefit us as a
14 people, as a community. And you know, it's going to --
15 it's going to benefit not only us. It's going to benefit
16 the North Slope Borough by the tax revenue that they get.
17 It's going to benefit Alaska from the Trans-Alaska
18 Pipeline. It's going to keep oil flowing. It's going to
19 keep TAPS going.

20 I'd rather have it onshore than offshore. I'm
21 against offshore. I'm a whaler. I know, you know, how
22 difficult it would be for, you know, an oil spill to be
23 cleaned up. I'd rather have it onshore where we would be
24 able to at least contain it and deal with it.

25 But you know, having -- I remember growing up. I'm

1 42 years old. I remember growing up and watching my dad
2 go house to house with a water truck filling everybody's
3 water tank so they have water to bathe, to cook, you know,
4 to clean their house. We remember walking -- having to
5 use the bathroom in a bucket and picking that bucket up
6 and walking it outside. It was one of the daily, weekly
7 chores that we have to remove our own human waste into a
8 55-gallon drum so it could be dumped out in the sewage
9 lagoon. We remember those days. I'm not that old. But
10 our kids, I don't want them to have to experience that.
11 They can experience that when they go camping, but as far
12 as having flushing toilets and running water, I don't want
13 to deal with that. We get that because of the tax revenue
14 from the North Slope Borough. And this would add to that.

15 This building that we are sitting in with the new
16 gym, flush toilets, a lot of the jobs that we work is a
17 benefit from oil discovery and oil production. And, you
18 know, just having that become a possibility on our own
19 land is something I'm looking forward to hopefully seeing
20 and for wishing in the near future.

21 So thank you.

22 MS. ALLISON WARDEN: I'm a -- I don't live
23 here. I live in Anchorage. I was born and raised in
24 Fairbanks. I'm one of those Inupiaqs that probably
25 couldn't survive a winter up here, and I definitely

1 couldn't afford to live here. I would if I could, but it
2 definitely takes a certain kind of toughness that -- I
3 could do it, but --

4 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: You got family here.
5 You could do it.

6 MS. ALLISON WARDEN: For a while, I was
7 involved with the environmental organizations, Sierra
8 Club. People saw me coming around. I thought it was good
9 because I got to see how they operate and how they talk
10 about our people when the people aren't in the room. Got
11 to go to Arctic Village. I -- being that deep into those
12 organizations and those big NGOs really woke me up in
13 terms of how our people are viewed by these big, huge,
14 multimillion-dollar corporations. I think it would be a
15 lot easier if Inupiaqs weren't here for a lot of
16 different -- because we are left out of the conversation
17 or even just left out of the whole narrative a lot of
18 times.

19 I have so many stories. And I -- of where I was
20 just, like, are you serious? No mention of the Inupiaq at
21 all in certain narratives. At all. You know, at big,
22 huge lobbying sessions to try to -- and I just saw how the
23 money works and how the environmental organizations
24 utilize their big, huge bases of people who want to
25 protect wilderness and have this romanticized idea of what

1 wilderness is, like C.C. says who has never been here and
2 how they sell this idea of this place that's pristine and
3 all these things.

4 And it was -- it was really hard. You know, I let
5 it -- I was like, I don't work with the Sierra Club
6 anymore. I don't even -- I don't know if anyone is here.
7 But I know someone is here from them, but I don't even
8 want to talk to them. And the Wilderness League, they are
9 like the worst, you know. And another eye-awakening
10 moment was when I was in a meeting at the White House or
11 something, and I was just there -- they were like, hey, do
12 you want to go to this thing? I was like, I'll go listen
13 in and see what they are saying. And the Gwich'in were
14 lobbying for their area not to be wilderness and for our
15 area to be wilderness. And so that was one of those
16 moments where I was, like, whew, you know. It's things
17 like that.

18 But I'm glad I went through it because I can talk to
19 you guys about it. I can talk to the people here about
20 what I've seen. It was really hard. I think there is
21 grassroots organizations that are indigenous. So I mean,
22 that doesn't -- what I've said is that the power is in the
23 people who live here. I don't live here. And I made that
24 clear all the way. I don't live in Kaktovik. My voice
25 doesn't -- what matters is the people who live there. The

1 power is in the tribes. The power is in the people who
2 live here.

3 And I'm -- it makes me happy to hear that the people
4 who live here are standing up for what they need and what
5 they want and how they want to do it. I think it's a
6 unique opportunity for the people here who live here to
7 come together. I have a list from my uncle and say this
8 is what we -- this is how it's going to happen and this is
9 what we demand, you know. And I see -- you know, it's --
10 I had a really hard time today because I was, like -- my
11 uncle gave me this list, and I was, like, I agree with
12 everything on here.

13 And I could just talk to any of you about my
14 experiences working with the big NGOs and how they use the
15 polar bear's emblem of this place, how the -- there is
16 just a lot of money. There is a lot a lot of money behind
17 these big, huge organizations, and there is no voice from
18 the Inupiaq.

19 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: They have all the
20 money, and none of it comes here.

21 MS. ALLISON WARDEN: None of it comes
22 here. And I did try to tell them -- I was like, if you
23 want to change people's minds here, then make all the
24 houses green and live off totally solar. I said, get a
25 natural gas pipeline here. Do this concrete action. Get

1 it so -- you know, natural gas so people don't have to pay
2 diesel. So I was a challenging person for them to work
3 with because I would call home and talk to people and ask
4 what was really going on and what people wanted. It's
5 hard because I'm one of those people that will get my
6 feelings hurt, you know, not seeing the place the way it
7 was or is now.

8 But I believe in my cousin and the leadership that's
9 in place right now. Yeah, I was -- I just had my own --
10 you know, I decided to put all my energy towards art. So
11 I have been doing art exhibitions in museums and things
12 like that. I travel all over the world doing my art
13 because I -- there was no place for me within that fight
14 because I don't live here.

15 So you know, that's just some things I wanted to say.
16 You know, my uncle at one point when I came here with the
17 Sierra Club gave me this great book called In This Place,
18 a Guide for Those Who Would Work in the Country of
19 Kaktovikmiut. And I thought that was really important to
20 read because it comes from the people and the land here.
21 Yeah.

22 I think it's important for you guys to have the
23 conversations, the direct -- I think -- I don't know. For
24 some reason, like with the environmental organizations,
25 they never came here. They weren't coming here to talk to

1 the people for -- and when I had that film festival here,
2 that was the first time in 20-plus years that they even
3 tried to engage with the community directly, except for --
4 but they were doing all this lobbying and gathering of
5 signatures and all this other stuff to protect the refuge,
6 but without actually talking to the people here.

7 So that was really -- you know, you could only see so
8 much of that, you know, until you are, like -- you know,
9 it's really hard. It doesn't -- it's not right.

10 And so I think the more that you guys have direct
11 conversations and the more people in the village that get
12 involved and actually work on what it's going to look like
13 and -- I mean, this -- and also retributions [sic] for
14 things that went wrong. There is Native allotments that
15 were never -- that aren't -- aren't rectified. People
16 don't -- my mom is one of them. She doesn't have her
17 Native allotment. There is -- you know, there are so many
18 impacts that happen and we haven't gotten reimbursed for
19 any of them. The experiments that were done on us, on our
20 people when they were kids.

21 Nobody signed up to be a refuge. And that's what I
22 had been saying when I was in the environmental belly. I
23 was, like, nobody ever signed the paper to be a refuge.
24 So it was something that kind of landed on us, and then it
25 restricted a lot of the ways that people use their land

1 traditionally. And it's frustrating, I know, for the
2 hunters not to be able to go on four-wheelers like their
3 cousins do in Barrow. It's crazy that you have to get
4 some kind of permit to go in the ocean, a fancy Coast
5 Guard permit. All the regulations around here.

6 But the power is in the people, and it's always been
7 in the people and the people who live here. I live in
8 Anchorage. I have land here. I would love to build on
9 it. I would love to live here. I take care of my mom now
10 in Anchorage. So she's there.

11 There is something else I wanted to say. But I think
12 my cousin will say a lot. I just wanted to say to the
13 people here in Kaktovik, I've seen the whole everything of
14 these big, huge environmental organizations. I was way up
15 deep in it, and I was -- my whole -- I was just so
16 disheartened. And when I needed them the most, you know,
17 they just cut me off without any warning and weren't there
18 for me when I needed them. And just like now they are
19 doing the things that in a way that they -- there is no
20 learning that happens because I tried to talk to them and
21 teach them how to even come into the community in the
22 proper way, and there is still no learning, even now.
23 There is no learning. And I'm talking about the
24 environmental groups. It's just not --

25 An example is CNN is here, and they didn't have any

1 warning, no proper protocol, nothing. And the president
2 of -- or the west chair of Sierra Club, Dan -- you guys
3 might have seen him here before. He brought them here,
4 and he knew that he was supposed to -- he knew all the
5 things he was supposed to do, but he did it anyway. And
6 the trips they have taken so many people up the river, the
7 Sierra Club, the famous people. They don't even come into
8 the village or spend any money. I mean, I've seen it all,
9 you know, and I'm glad I saw it.

10 You know, it's -- it's a big business. It's a big
11 business, both sides. And yeah, and it's selling the idea
12 of this wilderness. And I just -- it's not wilderness.
13 It's your home. It's the home of my ancestors. It's -- I
14 just -- it's been pretty --

15 Anyway, I just wanted to say that the power is in the
16 people here, and it's up to them. All the power is in
17 what they have to say. They know the specifics of what
18 needs to be done. I think the whole community, you know,
19 needs to get involved with like -- okay, because they --
20 you know like the baseline health study, I think that's a
21 great idea and baseline for all the animals. I really
22 can't say because I don't -- I don't know. But I agree
23 with what my uncle is saying. Yeah.

24 So that's my story. I still make art. I do make
25 art. I'm going to make an art show around, you know,

1 things. I used to make art around the -- around -- I had
2 a show where I had both sides, both voices of for and
3 against opening the refuge, and it was a show. Both sides
4 were represented in different characters, but I stopped
5 making art around it. I was done. I was just like done
6 with all of that. So I made a ceremonial house, Inupiaq
7 ceremonial house instead. I am going to make a show
8 around -- but I'll be back in September with some artists
9 to look at polar bears. They are artists from Iceland.
10 And they are going to make art. So that's the first time
11 I'm taking a group to look at the bears. It's hard --
12 it's hard to come here and -- my mom and I are here. She
13 is here six weeks and I'm here until I pack up her whole
14 house and move her back down to Anchorage with me.

15 So anyway, I'm willing to talk to anyone personally
16 about what I saw and how it felt to be in those spaces and
17 how much the Inupiaq voice was not even on the radar,
18 especially with the big, huge campaigns and all different
19 kinds of ways.

20 I was in Paris and they wanted to do a video of me
21 for the climate change meetings, and they were, like, why
22 do you support protecting the refuge. And I was, like --
23 I looked at them. I was, like, I don't support protecting
24 the refuge. So I think they always get surprised. I was,
25 like, I don't believe in the refuge. The refuge happened

1 and landed. It's not something people would have agreed
2 to if they knew what was going on. I don't think any of
3 our ancestors would have agreed to the designation of land
4 and how everything happened. So that was wrong from the
5 get-go.

6 And you know, you have got to understand the impacts
7 that have been here haven't been here that long. You
8 know, the Boston whalers didn't come here. We were
9 protected pretty much from the outside until, you know --

10 I just want to share a story about my great
11 grandfather Akootchook who I'm named after. My mom always
12 told me that he would only let officers into the village,
13 and he would taste everything before he would let
14 people -- he would taste everything before the other
15 people could eat them. So that's just something to think
16 about is that he was -- when the military first came, not
17 just any soldier could come into the village. It was only
18 officers or higher. So he protected the village as much
19 as he could from just all the officers just anybody
20 running free, and he did the taste test.

21 So we have the ability to get retribution [sic], I
22 think especially for the experiments that were done and
23 for the -- everything. There are so many things that just
24 have been done that are so wrong. I think this is a
25 moment to talk about those things and bring them out and

1 make sure that they are all handled and the money is going
2 to that.

3 I hate to see how it might look, but I appreciated
4 what C.C. said about the people that will still be here to
5 deal with it as it goes. So it's hard. Yeah. I don't
6 know. I just -- I just wanted to share that.

7 I want to share another story because I was in
8 Gwich'in territory and I was in Arctic Village, and they
9 said, you know, every time you guys have a medevac late at
10 night, we see that plane come over. We see it because
11 they -- and they say, we pray for you guys whenever we see
12 that medevac plane. And that really touched my heart. So
13 there is real people who live there. I just think they
14 should have come up and -- I don't appreciate that there
15 has been no effort from their part to come here and meet
16 the people and come to the land. I tried when I was with
17 the Sierra Club to get a charter of Kaktovik people there
18 and Gwich'in people here, but there was no funding for
19 that from the environmental organizations. There is no
20 funding for all my ideas that I thought might be good, and
21 they were healthy. Yeah. It's hard. So I just walked
22 away from those. But I'm still in --

23 You know, anyway, I have been talking a long time.
24 Thank you.

25 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: Is this the only

1 meeting that BLM is going to have up here in Kaktovik?

2 MR. JOE BALASH: This is the only scoping
3 meeting, but we will be back, I'm sure, to have
4 government-to-government meetings with and consultation
5 with KIC and ASRC. So eventually there will be a draft
6 Environmental Impact Statement prepared, and when that is
7 complete and ready for publication, it will go out for
8 public comment, and we will come back and have a public
9 meeting on the draft EIS. It will contain all the
10 different alternatives, different ways of doing the
11 leasing. And so yes, we will come back for that.

12 And you know, as far as the dialogue on how to -- how
13 to prepare that EIS, you know, that is something that I
14 think it's really important for people to understand that
15 the tribe is able to engage us and talk to us, regardless
16 of what the comment deadlines are. So you know, the tribe
17 can talk to us at any point along the way. And you are
18 not just another stakeholder. You have a special
19 relationship with the federal government that we have to
20 honor.

21 And, you know, I am personally committed to engaging
22 on this project. That's why I'm here today. And I will
23 be back again in the future. I'm able to come up to
24 Alaska roughly once a quarter to do these kinds of
25 meetings in communities and with the various governments.

1 And so if we need to talk more frequently than that, it
2 may have to be by phone or video conference but, you know,
3 we are here to be available and accessible to make sure we
4 are getting the right input and understanding from the
5 community.

6 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: Make sure before you
7 guys come up the next time for better advanced -- more
8 information for the community about when you will be
9 coming up and a different time for your meetings. I know
10 you guys planned it for the afternoon, which is not a good
11 time because a lot of the community works, and we don't
12 get off till 5:00, a lot of the majority of the community.
13 So it would be better to have the meetings at a later
14 time, say 6:00. 6:30.

15 MR. JOE BALASH: Okay. Ida says no.

16 MS. IDA ANGASAN: Would you define
17 scoping, please. Define scoping.

18 MR. JOE BALASH: So scoping is one of the
19 phases for us under the National Environmental Policy Act.
20 When we are considering a federal action, we have to take
21 into account the impacts associated with that action, and
22 we have to look at what are the likely impacts under a --
23 if somebody comes to us with an application for a project,
24 let's say, or if we as the government are initiating a new
25 program like this one, we have to analyze the impacts and

1 we have to look at different ways of accomplishing the
2 purpose of the action.

3 And so in this case what we are looking at is how to
4 conduct the lease sales that Congress has told us we need
5 to conduct. So we will look at the various descriptions
6 and conditions, but this phase we are in right now is
7 where we are identifying all of the issues, all of the
8 elements that we will study in the EIS document so that
9 when this draft comes out sometime maybe later this year,
10 we will have looked at all of the things that people raise
11 in these meetings or in these comments.

12 And it's important -- you know, you don't have to say
13 in front of everybody here what it is you think we need to
14 look at. You can write it down on one of the comment
15 cards. You can send us an email. All of that gets
16 compiled together, and we, after the comment period
17 closes, prepare what's called a scoping report.

18 MS. IDA ANGASAN: Thank you.

19 MR. GLEN SOLOMON: I have one more, too,
20 to add onto that is infrastructure because, you know, we
21 have all these -- our old artifacts and everything that
22 are -- that are somewhere else, and we would love to have
23 a museum here so we could bring all our artifacts here.
24 And you know, that would make a job for somebody to take
25 care of the museum and also somebody there to tell them

1 our tradition, our knowledge of the past and everything
2 like that, how Kaktovik became Kaktovik. I thought I'd
3 put that out to you.

4 Thanks.

5 MR. MATTHEW REXFORD: Hello. My name is
6 Matthew Rexford, and I'm the president of Kaktovik Inupiaq
7 Corporation. I'd like to first of all thank you folks for
8 coming to Kaktovik to hear what the people here have to
9 say. There is a lot of good input that was shared today.
10 And I just wanted to reiterate also that I'm lifelong
11 resident of Kaktovik. All the gravel roads you see, the
12 runway, the lights, the power, the electricity, the
13 running water, this school, our clinic, public safety
14 officers, the buildings, North Slope Borough, all of this
15 is the benefits of development in our region on the North
16 Slope. And we see those benefits and live with those.

17 And I like what has been brought up previously, that
18 the Bureau of Land Management should read In This Place.
19 It's a City of Kaktovik document that they worked on in
20 the '90s all about the coastal plain of the Arctic
21 National Wildlife Refuge and history on what the people
22 and leaders in those days have produced and recorded.
23 It's a guide for those who would work in the country of
24 the Kaktovikmiut. Kaktovikmiut are the people, the
25 traditional people, the tribal people who have lived here

1 and have always lived here.

2 And I would also say that you should include
3 recommendations that those who would participate in any
4 lease sale for the coastal plain, that they review those
5 documents, as well, because that's what pretty much --
6 essentially what those documents are for, for those who
7 would like to work in the country of Kaktovikmiut, any
8 organization, any business.

9 And to ensure that the Kaktovikmiut are an integral
10 part of this process, their voices should be heard, as you
11 heard them, above those who do not live on or near the
12 coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

13 And I like the idea of a village health assessment.
14 And that should be a part of this process, as well, to
15 provide a baseline measure of the health of the community
16 and to assure that we are not negatively impacted.

17 And I would like to say that BLM should ensure that
18 any adverse effects to the wildlife and subsistence
19 resources are thoroughly studied and protected.
20 Indigenous knowledge from the community members should be
21 incorporated into any environmental and/or wildlife
22 studies conducted in the coastal plain, and the
23 Kaktovikmiut should be consulted on how these studies are
24 conducted.

25 We see some scientific studies with poor planning.

1 Once the polar bears was listed as a threatened species.
2 That mandated the United States government to
3 scientifically study the polar bear. And that scientific
4 study was highly invasive. They used a helicopter to dive
5 bomb every single polar bear in the state of Alaska that
6 they encountered on that study. Dart gunned them, every
7 single one. Tranquilized them, did not assure that the
8 bear was not -- no longer had the tranquilizing effects
9 before they left them. So yes, the people should have a
10 say in how the research is conducted.

11 And I would recommend to the Fish & Wildlife Service
12 to enter into a comanagement arrangement with the
13 community of Kaktovik for that very reason.

14 There should be a thorough review of closed and
15 pending Native allotments, especially those closed with
16 the withdrawal of the military Public Land Order 82 from
17 Barter Island.

18 The community needs to be provided access, especially
19 all-terrain vehicle, in the summer and fall months across
20 land on the coastal plain and into the wilderness areas of
21 the refuge for hunting, fishing, camping and subsistence
22 use sites. Support should be provided to the community,
23 especially the Native Village of Kaktovik, to assist in
24 their capacity to effectively participate in this process
25 and to provide a tribal impact liaison.

1 Impact aid has not been addressed. It was brought
2 up, and Kaktovik needs to know that they will receive
3 assistance for their community.

4 The community desires to have access to natural gas,
5 for reasons previously stated. And the -- another issue
6 is the roads. That is another tough issue that our
7 community has spoken on and about. And I see the benefits
8 of having a road to Kaktovik, along with a bridge,
9 perhaps.

10 During the polar bear tour seasons, folks can be --
11 won't have an available flight for some -- some folks
12 longer than three weeks before they could come back into
13 the community, and they left for medical purposes. And
14 that's a hardship on our people. It's a life, health and
15 safety concern and issue.

16 Thank you for being here. Thanks.

17 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: Way to speak strong,
18 Matthew.

19 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: How much more weight
20 is given to the voice of the people who are actually from
21 Kaktovik and live in Kaktovik? How much more of an effect
22 or how much -- is our voice more heard, or rather than
23 listening to environmental groups or people that don't
24 live here, how much more do you value our opinions, or is
25 there more of a value of our opinions in your ears and

1 eyes? And what you will bring back to Washington and to
2 the people that you guys answer to and work for? How much
3 will our words really matter to you is what I want to
4 know.

5 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: They work
6 for the government.

7 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: I'm not speaking to
8 you. I was speaking to them.

9 MS. IDA ANGASAN: We want to hear what
10 they have to say.

11 MR. JOE BALASH: So everything about this
12 is going to be reviewed and probably challenged in the
13 courts. And so I will tell you that we have to consider
14 the input and comments of everybody who comments in this
15 process.

16 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: I understand that.

17 MR. JOE BALASH: But, you know, the Deputy
18 Secretary and myself came here in February to let the
19 community know that this process was going to begin, that
20 we were going to be coming back for scoping. And the
21 reason we did that is because we know the impacts that are
22 going to be felt and the consequences of this program are
23 going to be felt most directly by the people who live here
24 and nearby. So we are paying very close attention to what
25 the people here have to say. And we want to take every

1 bit of that into account as we develop this document and
2 this program.

3 So of course we are going to have to weigh the
4 comments of everybody, but -- but when it comes to
5 identifying those things that matter most that are
6 specific to the locations here and the outlying areas, you
7 know, it's your knowledge that is -- is going to instruct
8 us the best. That's probably the safest way for me to say
9 that.

10 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: Okay.

11 MS. IDA ANGASAN: Thank you. I'm going to
12 stand up again. My name is Ida Angasan. I'm with NVK.
13 My father, my dad is Isaac Kupaak Akootchook. He retired
14 from the DEW line, ITT. And he's 96 years old, alert and
15 well and everything. He doesn't go much of anywhere
16 except to KIC and ASRC meetings, you know. Those are his
17 biggest events, you know, and I think that's very -- he
18 likes that.

19 And I've known my dad to say change is coming.
20 Change is happening. When we don't like the change, we
21 have to think about it, think of our mind and what we
22 think about it and how are we going to process it. And he
23 says oil companies have improved. Oil can be drilled
24 onshore. He emphasized onshore, but not offshore. How
25 are you going to clean the icebergs? How are you going to

1 clean the gas and the oil from the icebergs out there?
2 Has anybody ever in their life has oil companies gone out
3 to the ocean and cleaned icebergs? Anyone?

4 My dad and my uncles, my cousins, they built that DEW
5 line up there back in the '50s and '60s. You know who
6 your dad is. You guys know who your parents are, your
7 grandparents. They built that DEW line. They built their
8 own houses out of scraps, plywood scraps that they found
9 in the dump that the DEW line people dumped into the end
10 of the old runway down there. It's full of scraps, metal
11 and iron. And everything is rusted. And that's still a
12 -- what do you call that? Help. It's a --

13 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: Environmental
14 hazard.

15 MS. IDA ANGASAN: It's an environmental --
16 it's a hazard. It is. How would you like to live with
17 metal and with all that stuff down there? But that's how
18 they built their own places. We would wake up in the
19 morning to go to school. It was cold. Has any of you
20 ever wake up to a cold house to go to school? Have you
21 walked to the school in the winter in the blizzards and
22 anything in your life? That's the way we lived. And then
23 my dad says we chopped wood. We pack water. You see that
24 water lake we have? We lived down there. We used to --
25 they used to pack water from there to our houses, you

1 know. They had to scrape for five-gallon buckets and
2 stuff like that, make their own yokes with whatever string
3 or rope you can find, you know, and make a yoke.

4 They built their own houses. They built their own
5 beds. They built everything of their own. Our parents
6 never went to school. My parents didn't. But they
7 learned to live with the change.

8 And when they -- when the DEW line dumped things into
9 the dump down there, our parents would go down there and
10 see -- find and see what -- if they could find something
11 that is useful to us, maybe a bowl or maybe plates or
12 maybe silverware or fork that was thrown away by the DEW
13 line people up there. To this day, I can say this: My
14 dad -- my mom and dad found a big set of soup bowls, but
15 they are thin ones. We call them soup bowls. They are
16 like plates, but they have these little things on them,
17 and they are glass. They don't shatter like today's
18 glass. Those were made long ago, and they -- my dad -- my
19 dad still has those. Those are from the dump that was --
20 that they went and got, you know, so --

21 Today what do we do? My dad says -- he says, come
22 over here. So I go with him to the kitchen sink, and he
23 says, look. He turns the faucet, and it comes on;
24 whereas, before we have to pack water from up there so we
25 could wash dishes with, wash our bodies with, wash our

1 houses with and everything else. You know, we used --
2 sparing water.

3 And I'm going to say this. Even though there is a
4 tub of water for there, we started with the babies first
5 and then went one, two, three, four, five -- there were
6 six of us, and we all used the same water so we could
7 bathe once a week. Once a week. What did they use for
8 diapers? Scraping the diapers with whatever we had. And
9 it's -- and that's how we used it.

10 And my dad says, go to the bathroom. What does he
11 do? He said, look. Press a button. What does it do?
12 All the -- you just flow it -- you know, the water picks
13 it up, and it goes onto the sewer water. That is the
14 easiest thing he said he's ever done in his life.
15 Whereas, before you get these honey buckets, buckets that
16 you use, you put the plastic in there and you had to go to
17 the -- make that 52-gallon drum and open it up and put the
18 waste -- the human waste in there. So -- anyways --

19 And our clothing. The women used the needle and
20 thread. Many of the women, and even men, you know, how
21 did they make our clothes? They -- they would sew fur and
22 calico and stuff, and order -- long ago they found
23 calfskin. They used that to make designs for their --
24 to -- maybe the designs for their clothing, and then they
25 used caribou. They would sew the caribous together so you

1 could have the clothing for your body and you stay warm.
2 The fur, the wolverine and the fur and the wolf and any
3 kind of fur you have, like this, you know, you put the
4 hood over you, it keeps you warm from the blizzards and
5 the wind. So it's -- everything is sewn by hand.

6 How many children do you have? Six. Six children to
7 sew for. Everything is sewed by hand by the women. Long
8 ago they used candle lights with seal oil, and the women
9 are sewing inside the igloo. Means the ice -- you know,
10 the snow, igloo.

11 Thank you. I'm not finishing it. I just have to say
12 that.

13 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: I heard him say almost
14 at every KIC meeting that he's had to live, learn, adapt,
15 but make sure that he takes care of his family and
16 community all the time. And progress is always moving
17 forward and never going back. And in the past was hard.
18 They were hard people. And the things that they have gone
19 through, the way of life that they lived is just almost
20 unimaginable. Now just think of how easy we have it.

21 And they still installed our core values of family,
22 land, animals, taking care of each other, taking care of
23 the land and making sure that our family and the land is
24 always taken care of. And you know, I'm truly grateful
25 for that. So -- I'm looking forward to seeing Isaac at

1 the meeting.

2 MS. NICOLE HAYES: So I think we have
3 until 9:00 p.m., so we probably have another half an hour
4 if people want to come up and share anything they haven't
5 shared yet.

6 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: Who are you
7 coordinating with here to notify the community of the
8 meeting? Who are you talking to to tell them that you are
9 coming for the meeting?

10 MS. NICOLE HAYES: So we have been -- we
11 sent out mailings to everyone we could find a P.O. box to.
12 We sent fliers out and notified online. We have had press
13 releases. I've contacted KIC and NVK and the city
14 council. I actually originally coordinated the meeting
15 with the city council and the community hall, but when
16 this got rescheduled because of the death in the
17 community, I think there is a council meeting tonight at
18 7:00, which is why we scheduled the meeting earlier to try
19 not to conflict with that.

20 So if there are other ways we should be reaching out
21 to the community, please pass it on and we will make sure
22 to do that next time.

23 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: See, a lot of us
24 didn't receive the notification of the meeting or the
25 place or time.

1 MS. NICOLE HAYES: You didn't get card
2 mailings?

3 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: No.

4 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Did anybody get card
5 mailings?

6 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: We haven't
7 had mail for two weeks.

8 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: That's a problem with
9 having only one airline coming in. They carry what they
10 want to carry, even if it is U.S. mail.

11 MS. NICOLE HAYES: They probably wouldn't
12 have had the updated date on it. That's good to know.

13 MR. JOE BALASH: Is there a way to let the
14 community know that people see or hear? Is there a radio
15 program or --

16 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: KBRW you can call. A
17 lot of people listen to it. There's a village liaison
18 that can get a hold of people either at the Native village
19 office or the Kaktovik Inupiaq Corporation office. You
20 can call the city and have somebody put out fliers. Just
21 word of mouth. That's how a lot of people probably found
22 out. Facebook.

23 MR. JOE BALASH: Is there a community
24 Facebook page?

25 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: Yeah. There is a

1 Kaktovik announcement page.

2 MS. NICOLE HAYES: That's good to know.
3 BLM has a Facebook page, too, or however that works.

4 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: Send a friend request to
5 Kaktovik announcements.

6 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Okay.

7 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: Like I said, a later
8 time for the meetings so everybody who has something to
9 say will be present and available for the meeting. Having
10 it at 3:00 in the afternoon -- have it later. Like a lot
11 of people get off work at 5:00 and they want to go home
12 and eat. We came here at 4:00, so a lot of us have been
13 here the whole time and haven't gone home to eat. So like
14 6:00, 6:30 you know, that would be -- that would be a
15 little bit better.

16 MR. JOE BALASH: Okay.

17 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: But again, I want to
18 say thank you for coming and listening to the concerns of
19 people from Kaktovik. Thank you.

20 MR. JOE BALASH: If it might be easier, we
21 can maybe all stand up and mingle outside and you can ask
22 us questions individually, if you like. You know, we have
23 got Fish & Wildlife Service, two people from the Fish &
24 Wildlife Service, at least two people from BLM, myself
25 from the headquarters in Washington. Our contractors are

1 all here. We have the Commissioner of Fish & Game, the
2 Deputy Commissioner of DNR and the Lieutenant Governor
3 from the state. They are cooperators on this, and we are
4 relying on their expertise to help inform some of our
5 analysis of decisionmaking. So you know, there is --
6 there is a lot of people here who you can talk to, and
7 maybe that would be a little easier if -- if you just want
8 to just talk. Mingle, yeah.

9 MR. DENNIS STACEY: I have a question,
10 Joe. How many acres are in ANWR itself in the refuge?

11 MR. JOE BALASH: As a whole, I think it's
12 19 --

13 MR. GREG SIEKANIEC: 19.3 million,
14 thereabouts.

15 MR. DENNIS STACEY: 19.3 million acres?

16 MR. GREG SIEKANIEC: Is that right,
17 Joanna?

18 MS. JOANNA FOX: That's right.

19 MR. DENNIS STACEY: So we are talking
20 about developing 2,000 acres?

21 MR. JOE BALASH: Well, the leasing that's
22 authorized is within the 1002 area, which is 1.6 million,
23 and then the -- so that's counting all of the subsurface
24 acreage. And the law limits our surface disturbance to no
25 more than 2,000 acres.

1 MR. DENNIS STACEY: Right. Okay.

2 MS. ADRIENNE TITUS: I have a question.
3 Does that 2,000 acres also include the infrastructure
4 that's going to be built, the roads to and from the pads
5 that are going to be constructed, as well?

6 MR. JOE BALASH: So the statutory language
7 refers to the pads and pipelines. So yes, those will --
8 those will count. The -- the statute, though, the
9 language is not exhaustive. And so, you know, that's
10 something that we will have to look at very closely and
11 make sure that, you know, we are counting things
12 appropriately along the way. And that's something we are
13 going to have to speak to in the EIS is how we will count
14 acreage and how a lessee would be able to get approval for
15 their surface disturbance. That's something that is going
16 to have to be contemplated up front so that lessees know
17 what it is they are buying when they buy a lease.

18 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: The 2,000 acres, is
19 that the final cap on how much will actually be leased
20 out, or will it be -- or does it have the possibility of
21 expanding in the future?

22 MR. JOE BALASH: So the 2,000 acres
23 doesn't limit how much gets leased. It limits how much
24 surface disturbance there can be.

25 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: That's a final cap

1 or --

2 MR. JOE BALASH: That's a cap that will be
3 in place. The agencies can't change that cap. Congress
4 can.

5 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: Okay.

6 MR. JOE BALASH: But if you are waiting
7 for Congress to do something, you might want to prepare
8 for a long wait.

9 MR. CHARLES LAMPE: Yeah. We have waited.

10 MR. GLEN SOLOMON: Who is the Fish &
11 Wildlife commissioner? This guy right over here?

12 MR. JOE BALASH: So the State Commissioner
13 is over here.

14 MR. GLEN SOLOMON: You are the State
15 Commissioner, huh? So you know Beth and Jason? They work
16 out of Fairbanks. Beth Lenart, she works for the area of
17 fish and wildlife biologists, Alaska Department of Fish &
18 Game. But anyway, she wrote me this letter. It was last
19 year. It's about the 50 radio-collared caribou that they
20 were working on on the Porcupine herd, and they were
21 saying there were some that was with the Central herd, but
22 most of them were still with the Porcupine herd. And the
23 studies that they were doing, they were flying below 500
24 feet, diverting the caribou more inland and calving
25 amongst the hills and also close towards -- close towards

1 the mountains. And she gave me all of the information and
2 everything. And so here is her letter:

3 Working out of Kaktovik right now to collect data on
4 where the Porcupine herd is calving and what portion of
5 adult cows are giving birth. This data was been collected
6 on this herd since the late 1880s and is important for the
7 international management of this herd. I have attached a
8 memo that has all this calving data since 1987 along with
9 population size estimates. Over the same time period this
10 year and next, we will be collecting more detailed
11 information on calving and movement that we hope will
12 allow us to estimate pregnancy rates and calving
13 distributions using only the movement data provided by the
14 GPS collars on the cows.

15 So I was going to ask, so has it been successful on
16 this situation on where they are migrating, where are they
17 calving at?

18 COMMISSIONER SAM COTTEN: Well, yes. Is
19 sounds like you also have some advice for us on how to
20 maybe not do things as far as diverting animals. But yes,
21 we have got some ongoing work to determine where the
22 calving takes place. It's -- this year we -- we have
23 assumed that the peak calving period was probably June
24 6th, a little later than normal, around June 2. We were
25 trying -- I was just looking at some maps out here. The

1 calving area was probably between the Kavik River and
2 Yukon Territory. There is another system over there. So
3 there is a broad range, a broad area where the calving
4 took place.

5 The four-year-old cows were exceeding their normal
6 rate as far as delivering calves. The three-year-olds,
7 you don't get as many of those, so the data was not as
8 good as with the four-year-olds, but that was a little
9 lower than normal. But overall, calving success was good
10 this year. And I think somebody else had mentioned
11 earlier that the population of the herd is up probably --
12 certainly in excess of 200,000 animals. So I'd be glad to
13 share all that data with you and, again, take to heart
14 your advice about how to advise our people to maybe
15 consider some different practices as far as flying low and
16 perhaps diverting the animals. So appreciate that.

17 And if you would like more information, we certainly
18 have it.

19 MR. GLEN SOLOMON: Awesome. Thank you.
20 They have my email address, so you can e-mail it to me if
21 you want.

22 COMMISSIONER SAM COTTEN: I'll see you at
23 the break and figure out how to do that.

24 MR. ROLAND WARRIOR: I'd like to hear what
25 you find out from that. That's conflicting from what I

1 remember hearing the last two or three years.

2 COMMISSIONER SAM COTTEN: I can share that
3 with everybody here. If you want to check with me, I'll
4 figure out how to email it to you immediately.

5 MR. GLEN SOLOMON: Thank you.

6 MR. JOE BALASH: Why don't we go ahead and
7 sort of end the formal part and the recording of the
8 meeting here, and we can continue to mingle and visit a
9 little bit before we have to exit the building. But I do
10 want to -- sir.

11 MR. BRUCE INGLANGASAK: What I'd like to
12 know is -- my concern is about who are these people that
13 come up with this bright idea of burying PCBs on our
14 beaches? Our DEW line is washing out. This island is
15 washing out. And we got God knows how many tons of PCBs
16 buried about 10, 20 feet above sea level and about 100
17 feet from the beach. And it's getting -- it's washing out
18 pretty quick. Who are these guys that come up with this
19 bright idea of burying the PCBs in the worst place
20 possible?

MS. NICOLE HAYES: Do you have a
21 contact with the Air Force? Have you --

22 MR. BRUCE INGLANGASAK: No.

23 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Because they should
24 have a project -- I mean, I can talk to you on break and I
25 could get contact information for the people that should

1 be responsible.

2 MR. BRUCE INGLANGASAK: Because I worked
3 for a shipping company in Canada for about ten years, and
4 we have hauled -- I can't remember how many DEW line sites
5 we hauled out from Canada. But we took all their garbage
6 out. Why is it different here and they bury their PCBs
7 here? And that's my biggest concern. PCBs are pretty
8 serious.

9 Thanks.

10 MR. JOE BALASH: I just wanted to say
11 thank you again and look forward to continuing to meet and
12 talk not only tonight, but later on in the year we will be
13 back again.

14 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: And one more
15 thing for you hunters or people who go out. There's maps
16 out there if you want to designate the places you hunt,
17 duck hunt or anything, please make sure you note your
18 trails routes on the map.

19 (Proceedings adjourned at 8:12 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, MARY A. VAVRIK, RMR, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth; that the proceedings were reported stenographically by me and later transcribed under my direction by computer transcription; that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings taken at that time; and that I am not a party to nor have I any interest in the outcome of the action herein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my hand and affixed my seal this _____ day of June 2018.

MARY A. VAVRIK,
Registered Merit Reporter
Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission Expires: November 5, 2020