

1 COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

3 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

4
5 Taken May 31, 2018
6 Commencing at 5:00 p.m.

7 Pages 1 - 87, inclusive

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9 Taken at
10 Inupiat Heritage Center
11 1274 Agvik Street
12 Utqiagvik, Alaska

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20 Reported by:
21 Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

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

2 For United States Department of Interior, Lands and
3 Minerals Management:

4 Joe Balash
5 Assistant Secretary

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

8 Ted Murphy
9 Associate State Director

10 Nicole Hayes
11 Project Manager

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

14 Greg Siekaniec
15 Alaska Regional Director

16 Steve Berendzen
17 Arctic Refuge Manager

18 Hollis Twitchell
19 Natural Resource Specialist

20 For EMPSI:

21 Chad Ricklefs
22 Project Manager

23 Molly McCarter
24 Planner

25 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 MR. CHAD RICKLEFS: Okay we are going to
3 try and get started here. If folks want to find seats, we
4 can start some of the introductions here and walk through
5 the agenda before we open it up for presentation and
6 public comment period. So if folks want to find a seat,
7 that would be great.

8 Okay. Well, welcome to the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas
9 Leasing EIS scoping meeting. We are very happy that you
10 took the time to join us this evening. This is an
11 important project for all of you, as well as the folks
12 that will be presenting and listening tonight.

13 Before we get started, I'd like to walk through the
14 agenda for the evening as well as a few items to note
15 before we get started. Most importantly, we do have
16 restrooms across the hall from where you came in. We have
17 got an emergency exit here behind you and then also to
18 your right if we need to get out of this room quickly.
19 Hopefully folks have found the refreshments on the right
20 side of the room there. Feel free to enjoy some of the
21 snacks that we have available.

22 Most of you met Molly as you came into the room. She
23 is there to take sign-ins, so make sure if you did not
24 sign in this evening that you do that at some point before
25 you leave. That way we can get you on the project mailing

1 list and get your name accurately spelled for Mary, who I
2 will introduce here very shortly.

3 We also have a series of handouts at the table with
4 Molly that describe the project, as well as a comment form
5 which is very important for you to fill out comments if
6 you would like to supplement the public comments that you
7 present tonight. And Nicole and some of the other
8 presenters will walk through during the presentation some
9 of the other methods to submit comments, as well.

10 After some opening introductions and remarks, Nicole
11 will give a brief presentation, and then we will open it
12 up for public testimony at that point.

13 I think most importantly I'd like to introduce Mary,
14 our court reporter here this evening. Mary is here to
15 take your oral testimony as part of the official record.
16 So it's very important that when you do get up and speak
17 that you speak clearly, state your name. And we will go
18 through some of the other instructions when we move into
19 the public comment period. Mary would appreciate, if you
20 do have anything that you are speaking from this evening,
21 that you provide that to her before you leave. It helps
22 her get the information accurate in the record, as well.

23 So at this point I'd like to turn it over to Ted
24 Murphy, the Associate State Director for the Bureau of
25 Land Management. He will do some introductions, and then

1 we will move into the presentation with Nicole.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. TED MURPHY: All right. Thank you.
4 I'm Ted Murphy. I'm the Associate State Director for the
5 Bureau of Land Management of Alaska. Today we have with
6 us Greg Siekaniec, who is the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
7 Regional Director for Alaska. Hollis Twitchell is a
8 natural resource specialist. Steve Berendzen, the refuge
9 manager, as well as Nicole Hayes, who is the project lead
10 for the EIS for the coastal plain.

11 Joe Balash, our Assistant Secretary for Lands and
12 Minerals will be here on the next flight in coming, so in
13 his stead I'm kind of opening this for him today.

14 The scoping meetings are a critical part of the
15 Environmental Impact Statement development process. An
16 EIS doesn't happen in a vacuum. It requires robust
17 participation from the public so we can gather substantive
18 input from all aspects of the project. Secretary Zinke
19 takes this very seriously, as we all do.

20 We want Alaska's future to be bright, both
21 economically and ecologically. This process helps us to
22 ensure both of these facets of Alaska's future remain
23 vigorous for generations.

24 In many ways Alaska is a pioneer when it comes to
25 responsible energy development, and Alaskans appreciate

1 that there is a balance that should be achieved. Your
2 participation helps us to ensure when considering all the
3 facts as we move forward with the Environmental Impact
4 Statement.

5 The EIS process is not about one path at the
6 exclusion of another, development or the environment.
7 This is a question that can be developed and keep the
8 environment intact.

9 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Speak up.

10 MR. TED MURPHY: I know. I've got this
11 low voice. And so we find those answers through the EIS
12 processes, and we will base our future decisions on these
13 findings.

14 Nicole Hayes, again, is our project manager, and she
15 will take you through the next steps for the evening.

16 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Thank you, Ted. Can
17 you guys hear me?

18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Barely.

19 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Okay. I'll talk
20 louder. Is that better?

21 MR. CHAD RICKLEFS: Everybody see the
22 slides? I can turn off the lights, if you would like.

23 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Turn it off.

24 MS. NICOLE HAYES: So again, my name is
25 Nicole Hayes. I'm the project manager for the Coastal

1 Plain Oil and Gas Leasing EIS. I'm going to talk about
2 the NEPA process. My part of the presentation is really
3 quick because the point of being here is to hear from all
4 of you.

5 So can I get the next slide, please.

6 So I'm going to describe why we're here, the
7 requirements that BLM has for why we're here, agency
8 responsibilities, what the NEPA process is and how scoping
9 fits into the NEPA process; something that's really
10 important and critical here in Alaska, subsistence and
11 ANILCA Section 810 on how to participate.

12 So on December 22, 2017, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of
13 2017 was enacted. What this Tax Act stated was that the
14 Secretary of the Interior has the responsibility, acting
15 through the Bureau of Land Management, to implement an oil
16 and gas leasing program within the Arctic National
17 Wildlife Refuge. This map was specifically included in
18 reference within the Tax Act. It shows the 1002 area, or
19 what's referred to as the coastal plain in the Tax Act.
20 And what it requires BLM to do is implement an oil and gas
21 leasing program in a manner similar to NPR-A under the
22 Naval Petroleum Reserve's Production Act of 1976.

23 Some of the other requirements are that the BLM shall
24 hold not fewer than two lease sales, with the first one
25 being required to occur within four years of enactment of

1 the Act, and the second one is required to occur within
2 seven years of enactment of the Act. Also, each lease
3 sale is required to be no fewer than 400,000 acres of the
4 highest potential areas of hydrocarbon. So these are
5 requirements that BLM has to operate within.

6 Responsibilities for the coastal plain leasing EIS
7 fall with the Bureau of Land Management. We are the lead
8 federal agency for the Environmental Impact Statement. We
9 conduct the leasing program, and we hold the lease sales.
10 Fish & Wildlife Service administers the surface of the
11 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and they are a
12 cooperating agency in this process. It's really critical
13 that Fish & Wildlife Service, of course, is a cooperating
14 agency, as they have the expertise in the Arctic National
15 Wildlife Refuge. So we have been working closely with
16 them, and they will be working closely with us in
17 development of the EIS.

18 This slide shows all of the steps within the BLM oil
19 and gas leasing and development process. As you can see
20 at the top where the arrow is pointing, that's the phase
21 we are in. We are in the leasing phase, which includes
22 the EIS development, lease sales and lease issuance.
23 Other phases may occur, but they will require separate
24 NEPA analysis. So the Environmental Impact Statement that
25 we are doing for the lease sales will cover lease sales.

1 Any other activities pre and post lease, including
2 geophysical exploration, will require a separate NEPA
3 analysis.

4 So the other phases, just to walk through all steps
5 in the leasing and development process, it includes the
6 exploration, pre and post lease, applications for a permit
7 to drill, drill and exploration and the development,
8 operations and production, inspection and enforcement, and
9 reclamation.

10 Again, before -- if a project proponent were to come
11 in for development, one of the other requirements is that
12 the Secretary shall offer up to 2,000 acres of surface
13 area for development. That will not be authorized as part
14 of the lease sales that we hold. It would require
15 separate NEPA analysis.

16 I apologize. This is a really boring slide, but it's
17 an important one because it describes the NEPA process.
18 The National Environmental Policy Act is intended to help
19 public officials make decisions that are based on
20 understanding of environmental consequences and take
21 actions that protect, restore and enhance the environment.
22 A critical part of understanding the environmental
23 consequences is through this public involvement process,
24 which is why we're here today.

25 The project requirement was initiated with the

1 passing of the Tax Act on December 22nd. It can be
2 initiated with something like enactment of a law like in
3 this case or an application that comes in from a project
4 proponent. With initiation of this, we put out a Notice
5 of Intent saying that we intended to do an Environmental
6 Impact Statement for the coastal plain oil and gas leasing
7 program. That was published on April 20th, and that
8 initiates the scoping period.

9 The scoping period is what we are doing right now.
10 It's a 60-day scoping period, which started on April 20th
11 with the publishing of the Notice of Intent, and it goes
12 through June 19th. After the scoping period closes, we
13 will develop a scoping report. In the scoping report are
14 all the issues that were brought up during the scoping
15 period from the public where we were given information on
16 things that we should be analyzing in the EIS,
17 environmental impacts that we should be considering,
18 mitigation measures, alternatives we should be
19 considering.

20 After we develop the scoping report, we write a draft
21 EIS. The draft EIS is released for public comment. This
22 is another opportunity for the public to participate. And
23 then once those public comments are received and
24 addressed, we publish a final EIS, sign a Record of
25 Decision and conduct the first lease sale.

1 As I mentioned before, Alaska is unique, as most
2 people know. Subsistence and ANILCA Section 810 go hand
3 in hand. Subsistence is a section in our EIS, but the
4 ANILCA 810 process runs separately, yet concurrent.
5 Within the draft EIS it includes impacts to subsistence
6 uses and resources. That information is taken, and an
7 initial 810 evaluation is done to identify what sort of
8 subsistence use impacts may occur. If the initial
9 evaluation is that it may significantly restrict
10 subsistence uses, subsistence hearings are held. Again,
11 these are separate from the NEPA process, but they are
12 usually held at the same time.

13 So a public meeting may be held for the draft EIS.
14 That meeting would conclude, and then we would have a
15 subsistence hearing to receive input on how to mitigate or
16 minimize impacts for those subsistence uses.

17 Once those subsistence hearings are held, the final
18 determination is made, and it's appended to the final EIS.
19 So you see it runs concurrent, but they are completely
20 separate processes.

21 Decisions that we have to make are really -- we have
22 the requirements which have been spelled out for us, so we
23 have to operate within those parameters. But we need to
24 develop alternatives. And information that is really
25 helpful for us to hear from you are which lease sale

1 tracts to offer for sale or which areas to consider for
2 lease sales, which lease stipulations should we consider.
3 Are there areas that should be avoided or are high, you
4 know, important resources or sensitive? Are there timing
5 restrictions we should be considering? Are there best
6 management practices that we should be including? That
7 sort of input really helps inform our development of the
8 alternatives and the information we would look forward to
9 during scoping.

10 To date we have seven cooperating agencies: The U.S.
11 Fish and Wildlife Service, the EPA, the State of Alaska,
12 the North Slope Borough, the Native Village of Venetie
13 Tribal Government, Venetie Village Council and Arctic
14 Village Council. Cooperating agencies are agencies that
15 have jurisdiction by law or specialized expertise. We
16 work with them to develop the EIS. They help inform and
17 provide input onto what those -- where they have
18 jurisdiction or specialized expertise so that we can
19 develop a robust document.

20 This is our tentative schedule. As I mentioned, the
21 project was -- a leasing program was initiated with
22 passing of the Tax Act and with publication of the Notice
23 of Intent on April 20th. We are in the scoping period
24 now. This summer we anticipate developing alternatives
25 based off of the scoping information that we receive and

1 evaluating environmental consequences. This will be done
2 in conjunction with our cooperating agencies. We will
3 publish the draft EIS this fall. There will be a public
4 review in the fall/winter of this year, and then we
5 anticipate revising that EIS and publishing a final one in
6 the spring with potential lease sales occurring after
7 signing of the Record of Decision next spring and summer.

8 So far we have had -- this is our fourth scoping
9 meeting we have held. We have been to Arctic Village,
10 Fairbanks, Anchorage yesterday, and here today, of course.
11 June 12th we will be in Venetie, Kaktovik and then
12 Washington, D.C. We did live streaming Fairbanks and
13 Anchorage, so if you are interested in hearing what people
14 had to say in those locations, you should be able to go to
15 the BLM website and see those.

16 Again, the whole purpose of being here is to hear
17 from you. We want to hear what your issues, concerns,
18 ideas, thoughts are. And so you can provide public
19 comment today. Come up and speak. Mary will take your
20 comments for the record. You can go online. This link up
21 here takes you directly to our web form, or you could go
22 to our BLM website. You can send an email or mail and
23 send something to that address on the form. These forms
24 are located over at the table over here. If you choose to
25 fill out one of the forms here at the table, you can drop

1 it in the box and we will take your comment that way, as
2 well.

3 So with that, my presentation is done, and we are
4 going to open it for public comment.

5 MR. CHAD RICKLEFS: Can we take a couple
6 minutes to pull up the screen?

7 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Sure. We are going to
8 take a minute to transition, pull up the screen and sit
9 down.

10 MR. CHAD RICKLEFS: Okay. We will roll on
11 into the public comment period here. So as Nicole
12 mentioned, we would like to open up the floor and mic here
13 for anybody that would like to come up and start. We like
14 to have comments go five minutes, if we can stick to that.
15 We will have a blue card that indicates that you are
16 getting close to four minutes, and then when you get to
17 five, we will have a red card to indicate that you have
18 reached the end of your five-minute comment period. So at
19 this time, anybody who would like to come up and be the
20 first one, the mic is yours.

21 And Mary, are you ready?

22 THE COURT REPORTER: (Nods head.)

23 MR. GORDON BROWER: My name is Gordon
24 Brower. I work for the North Slope Borough for the
25 planning department as a planning director. And I oversee

1 the functions of the planning department, including its
2 regulatory processes for the North Slope Borough's land
3 management. And I just wanted to --

4 I also am the chairman for the Regional Subsistence
5 Advisory Council on the North Slope that look out and work
6 on regulatory processes for our animals, caribou, wolves,
7 fish, those kind of things. I have been involved with the
8 Regional Subsistence Advisory Council for well over 20
9 years now as a -- you know, a hunter and a provider.

10 It was important for me to seek nomination to get on
11 some of these kinds of boards and commissions because it
12 impacted subsistence. When you are -- when subsistence is
13 an issue, it's a matter of putting food on the table for a
14 good majority of the North Slope residents, and much more
15 so for the village residents.

16 So in terms of providing comments -- and I wanted to
17 try to get something a little bit more clear in my mind
18 that this leasing program is -- it's already a leasing
19 program. We are just here, to my understanding, to be
20 able to maybe provide some concerns that maybe you will be
21 able to address as you lease the 1002 area. It seems like
22 it was in the jobs act that this was a direct go to
23 leasing. And with that -- and I'm seeing some nods, so --

24 Anyway, with that, you know, the North Slope Borough
25 has seen development on the North Slope in the Prudhoe Bay

1 area for well over 40 years now. And working with the
2 State, the North Slope Borough has managed to use
3 policies -- about maybe 80 to 90 percent of North Slope
4 Borough land use policies are to protect subsistence
5 resources, the availability of those resources for
6 reasonable subsistence opportunity.

7 And so the North Slope Borough has had a task for --
8 for a long time to find a way to make sure that
9 development, exploration, and these types of activities
10 that would come with leasing the 1002 area, that they be
11 responsibly undertaken to make sure that the right to
12 subsistence is there, not to have unreasonable impedance
13 to those resources and to work with local villages, local
14 organizations, with the borough, the federal agencies so
15 that there is good communication.

16 And being able to carry out these responsibilities,
17 you have got to have really a communication network and
18 respect to work with each other.

19 And it's kind of annoying, all right, when you have
20 got a guy that's going to put up a blue flag, a red flag
21 and a yellow flag; you lose your train of thought when you
22 start doing that. It's unfortunate, but --

23 But I think the minimal comments that I wanted to
24 make is listen to the people. And I think for the longest
25 time the -- the North Slope has advocated for the 1002

1 area because there is also rights involved. I think the
2 village corporation and the regional corporation in these
3 areas may be the only ones that have been disenfranchised
4 from their lands and the ability to use their lands since
5 Native land claims in these areas. And I think it's
6 exciting to see the ability of landowners to be able to
7 look forward to what they had envisioned and how to use
8 these resources.

9 But keeping in mind there are a lot of resources in
10 this area that are traditional foods that -- the Porcupine
11 herd and Central Arctic herd, they are -- they need to be
12 monitored in a way that continues to provide these
13 resources for long-term subsistence use.

14 There is a lot of other things that I want to say in
15 terms of access, the waste management and all of these
16 things that come to mind, which would make it more
17 limited. I think we will have to write a letter or
18 something to that.

19 But thank you very much.

20 MR. CHAD RICKLEFS: Anybody want to speak
21 next?

22 MS. MOLLY MCCARTER: Come on up.

23 MR. GEORGE EDWARDSON: Good evening. My
24 name is George Edwardson. I'm the president of Inupiat
25 Community of the Arctic Slope Regional Tribal Government.

1 And before I start, I've got a question for you. That
2 400,000 acres you are putting up in that 1002 area, is
3 that over half of the 1002?

4 MS. NICOLE HAYES: The 1002 area is 1.6
5 million acres, so it's about a quarter.

6 MR. GEORGE EDWARDSON: About a quarter.
7 Okay. Well, so start off with, that's the path, the
8 migratory path of the Porcupine herd, the caribou herd,
9 and it's a very narrow route they have on the ocean side.
10 And the slope of the land is if anything happens on land,
11 it will be in the ocean. And what kind of protection do
12 you have for the ocean? And also that's the migratory
13 path of the birds, the ducks, the geese. When they
14 migrate, that is their route, too.

15 The snow geese used to be in the barrier islands
16 around Prudhoe Bay area, but when the industry got out to
17 the barrier islands, they chased them out of the islands
18 and the snow geese went over into Canada. I was over
19 there around 2000, and their Fish & Game was saying the
20 snow geese had overpopulated and had destroyed their
21 nesting areas. Now the snow geese are wandering around
22 looking for a place to nest now. And just because the
23 barrier islands were touched. You have to keep that in
24 mind.

25 The people living there, we are subsistence people.

1 We hunt. We eat caribou, the birds, the way we eat off
2 the ocean, and we have to make sure we protect our ability
3 to feed ourselves. When you look at that 1002 area, it
4 slopes into the ocean. You have got to keep that in mind.
5 You are going to violate the migratory -- international
6 migratory bird treaties. And are you allowing them to go
7 offshore directional from the land?

8 MS. NICOLE HAYES: We are not allowing
9 anything at this time. We are totally just taking
10 comments and getting input.

11 MR. GEORGE EDWARDSON: Okay. Just wanted
12 you to be aware over 60, 70 percent of us are subsistence
13 hunters, and once you stop the migration routes, where are
14 we going to eat? We were promised one time 12 pounds of
15 beef if they had an accident, and that never came through.
16 So what are you going to do for us if we can't feed
17 ourselves? There is three communities that depend on that
18 Porcupine herd.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. CHAD RICKLEFS: Anybody else that
21 would like to go up and speak, the mic is yours.

22 MR. JOHN LONG: I'm John Long, and I wrote
23 a question down saying will all this be done under old
24 laws or new laws? Is all this oil exploration under old
25 laws or new laws? You can't have one without the other.

1 MS. NICOLE HAYES: I don't know if my mic
2 is working. So currently we are -- was that just the
3 comment?

4 MR. JOHN LONG: Yeah.

5 MS. NICOLE HAYES: We are evaluating the
6 leasing EIS under NEPA and under the requirements of the
7 Tax Act. And so any input you have into that, that is
8 what we are wanting to hear.

9 MR. JOHN LONG: I don't get it. Like was
10 it done like under when Prudhoe was found, first found,
11 their laws will still be with the newer oilfield?

12 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Yeah, we are -- we will
13 be using existing laws.

14 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Can you get a
15 mic, please? I'm hard of hearing.

16 MS. NICOLE HAYES: So the evaluation is
17 being done under existing laws, but there has been no
18 activities authorized. This is for the leasing phase. So
19 we are looking for your input onto comments, concerns, any
20 recommendations you have about the leasing phase.

21 MR. CHAD RICKLEFS: Again, this is an
22 opportunity for anybody to go up and take an opportunity
23 to provide an oral comment if they would like. The mic is
24 open to anybody that would like to speak.

25 COMMISSIONER ANDY MACK: Hi there. My

1 name is Andy Mack, and it's great to be back in Barrow.
2 And I know what you are all thinking, which is how is
3 Roxanne doing, my wife. I get that question a lot when I
4 come up here. How is Roxanne and the boys.

5 So my name is Andy Mack. I'm the Commissioner of the
6 Alaska Department of Natural Resources. I'm joined by two
7 key employees at Natural Resources: Heidi Hansen, who is
8 the Deputy Commissioner, and Faith Martineau, who is the
9 Director of the OPMP Division.

10 We come not only to listen to presenters and to hear
11 people's comments, but also to share a message from the
12 governor and lieutenant governor. Our message is
13 three-fold. First of all, we want to be clear that we
14 have historically and presently supported the leasing
15 process in the 1002. Our second message is that we have
16 some appreciation for what we are asking the people of the
17 North Slope to do. And our third is that our expectation
18 is that the lease sales will include measures necessary to
19 protect subsistence.

20 While that may seem like a simple statement, it is
21 far from that. While every area of the North Slope is
22 different in some respects, leasing in the coastal plain
23 can and should continue to build on the science and
24 technology incorporated in the EIS work completed by DOI
25 and BLM for projects in the NPR-A.

1 The State of Alaska has always been a land of
2 extraordinary beauty with a bounty of natural resources.
3 Alaska was founded as a natural resource development
4 state. Our Alaska Statehood Act describes Alaska's
5 responsibility to protect fish and wildlife resources, as
6 well as to regulate mineral resource development.

7 As many folks in this room know, the expectations and
8 responsibilities have required a remarkable balance and,
9 in some cases, a sacrifice by the folks who live here on
10 the North Slope. As a result and as Alaskans we share the
11 obligation to maintain, conserve, and responsibly develop
12 those resources for the benefit of all our people.

13 While Congress originally considered and balanced
14 many competing interests in the passage of ANCSA and
15 ANILCA, there is now a new responsibility of the United
16 States Department of Interior along with us, the State of
17 Alaska as a cooperating agency, to determine how these
18 projected economic benefits can be pursued in a
19 responsible manner, one that protects wildlife and
20 subsistence values.

21 We believe the State and the borough's 40-year
22 success in regulating and managing the expansion of oil
23 and gas development on the North Slope shows that by
24 closely working with community members, we can chart a
25 responsible path forward for the 1002 area. Great strides

1 in technology, including extended reach drilling, make it
2 possible to produce a much greater percentage of
3 subsurface oil reserves from a single gravel pad, as
4 compared to the early days of North Slope development.

5 When Prudhoe Bay started in 1977, industry built a
6 65-acre gravel pad to develop each three to five square
7 miles of subsurface reservoir. It is now possible to
8 develop over 100 miles with a 20-acre pad.

9 Folks in this room can rightly be proud for demanding
10 that industry continue to improve and evolve so that
11 future generations of development result in fewer
12 disturbances.

13 Many of you know the State's commitment to the North
14 Slope Borough and the communities of the North Slope and
15 that it runs deep. From our vantage point, groups like
16 the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission provide the model for
17 how big decisions can lead to success stories for
18 subsistence hunters and gatherers, communities,
19 governments and project developers.

20 The Department of Natural Resources for the last
21 several years has worked with the borough on a range of
22 issues through a Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU
23 obligates our agency to share information, to deliberate
24 on critical issues, and I think the key point is that when
25 we see the benefit to the borough, we change courses.

1 Our initial focus under the MOU was on proposed
2 onshore activity. We have expanded that to any proposed
3 activities in either the Beaufort or Chukchi Seas. Our
4 recent work includes collaboration on a variety of
5 projects. Some, like the recent permitting for GMT1,
6 include sharing information about measures needed to
7 safely conduct activity around the village of Nuiqsut.

8 In many cases, standards proposed by the borough have
9 been adopted by the State for protecting subsistence
10 activities.

11 More recently we recollaborated on efforts to provide
12 community-based infrastructure. The Arctic Strategic
13 Transportation and Resource Plan is a partnership to
14 support the borough's communities as they consider their
15 future and how to build infrastructure to improve
16 community access and bring down the cost of living in the
17 Arctic.

18 We have made significant progress over the past year
19 as we have thought about and tried to outline what
20 Alaska's North Slope will look like in 20 years.
21 Responsible development of nearly 17 billion barrels of
22 North Slope crude has certainly fueled our state's
23 economy. Governor Walker and Lieutenant Governor Mallott
24 are confident that opening the 1002 of ANWR could
25 similarly promote additional decades of economic growth in

1 an environmentally responsible manner.

2 I'd like to thank you again for allowing me to share
3 this message. I look forward to hearing others' comments
4 which will assist not only the federal agencies but us as
5 State agencies in our careful deliberation on how an oil
6 and gas leasing program could be implemented.

7 I wanted to add a personal note that while I lived
8 here in Barrow -- and I was very proud to be a resident of
9 Barrow for three years -- we grappled at that time -- or
10 the communities grappled at that time with the prospects
11 of offshore, the prospects of continued activity in the
12 NPR-A. And in many days, in many meetings it seemed like
13 it was way too much. There is a lot going on right now.
14 There is a lot being proposed for the 1002 and a lot being
15 proposed in the NPR-A. And the thing that I want to
16 impart on the folks who are here listening is that we will
17 commit, we will stand by, and we will listen to the
18 communities and the people who live in those communities
19 that have to live with the decisions that we as agencies
20 make about your future.

21 Thank you for your time.

22 MR. CHAD RICKLEFS: Any of the folks that
23 just walked into the room, we are in the public comment
24 period. We are opening up the mic for anybody that would
25 like to present any public testimony at this time. So

1 feel free to work your way to the microphone if you would
2 like to make a public comment this evening.

3 MR. FREDERICK BROWER: Good afternoon.
4 Good evening. Frederick Brower, Executive Director of the
5 Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope. And my question is
6 more of the processes. Through the public meetings that
7 you guys are doing and through this scoping meetings, are
8 you guys implementing and inputting and listening as far
9 as TEK information, traditional ecological knowledge? I
10 know it's kind of a newer thing these last five to ten
11 years, but a lot of the information that is provided as
12 far as due processes such as these type of lease sales or
13 any type of agreements with the federal government and
14 Native villages or corporations is a new thing that
15 they're trying to implement as far as traditional
16 ecological knowledge. Are you guys including that into
17 your guys' processes?

18 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Yes. We definitely
19 want that sort of input. So if you have that kind of
20 input to provide, we are very interested in it. That will
21 be included in our EIS.

22 MR. FREDERICK BROWER: I know you guys
23 have a few more meetings to go. I think that would be
24 great, something that you could input into your
25 presentations because that is a big thing. The federally

1 recognized tribes across Alaska, such as Venetie, the
2 Native Village of Barrow, Native Village of Kaktovik, they
3 are the original groups that was part of the Alaska Native
4 Claims Settlement Act, along with the Native corporations
5 and the regional corporations.

6 Having that type of input or even that type of
7 information into your presentations will get people
8 thinking to -- in that sense.

9 And my final question is into the NEPA process with
10 the new current presidential administration under
11 President Trump, is there any changes to the NEPA process
12 from, say, ten years ago to today? My concern would be
13 that if there is -- the process has changed in a way in
14 favor of either development or moving projects along
15 versus a more regulatory type of process where -- in other
16 words, has there been any changes to the process with the
17 NEPA process?

18 MS. NICOLE HAYES: There has been no
19 changes to the laws that mandate NEPA or the laws that we
20 are required to follow, such as ESA, Endangered Species
21 Act or Section 106 consultation under the National
22 Historic Preservation Act. All of those are still the
23 same and will be included in the EIS.

24 MR. FREDERICK BROWER: So President Trump,
25 within the last -- since he got in, as far as his

1 deregulation, some of the processes with the EPA, is that
2 affecting this project or the -- these type of meetings
3 moving forward in regards to the development and/or
4 environmental concerns that may be arising out of the
5 communities? I know -- the laxation as far as the EPA
6 into some processes of establishing projects or looking
7 into things where it may impact the environmental.

8 MS. NICOLE HAYES: I can't speak for
9 another agency, but we are following all existing laws and
10 regulations. Though one thing that we have had is the
11 Secretarial Order regarding timelines for evaluation of
12 NEPA documents, that has been something that has been
13 implemented, but it's not a new regulation. It's
14 something consistent with CEQ regulation, the Council on
15 Environmental Quality. But I can't speak to another
16 agency's regulations.

17 MR. FREDERICK BROWER: Thank you.

18 MR. CHAD RICKLEFS: Again, if anybody else
19 would like to speak, feel free to make your way to the
20 microphone. Again, we're here this evening to listen to
21 your public input. And then also, as this gentleman just
22 alluded to, if you have any data information that you
23 would like the BLM to consider throughout the
24 Environmental Impact Statement analysis, we are welcome to
25 receiving that data, and you can send that information in

1 to us through Nicole, and we will make sure that that
2 information is evaluated throughout the Environmental
3 Impact Statement.

4 If you want a mic, we can bring a mic to you, if you
5 would like.

6 MR. BOB HARCHAREK: No, that's fine. I
7 actually probably don't even need a mic. I'm Bob
8 Harcharek. I'm the retired mayor of the City of Barrow,
9 which doesn't exist anymore. It's now the City of
10 Utqiagvik. For the past 20, 25 years, various agencies,
11 including yours, have held numerous meetings, most of the
12 time in this room.

13 I came in at the tail end of George Edwardson's talk.
14 I guess I want to emphasize, you know, in a strong way,
15 the comments that George made about subsistence that
16 exist, and then you tie it together with what the last
17 speaker just said about traditional knowledge. Your
18 response was if you have any of this knowledge, send it to
19 us.

20 Pardon the expression, but -- I'll be a little more
21 polite. Have you as an agency looked into the
22 documentation of other previous meetings, not necessarily
23 by your agency, but other agencies on, you know, the
24 subsistence activities in the Slope, the traditional
25 knowledge part? Boy, it's been repeated over and over

1 again. Most of the time it's been ignored. Speakers tell
2 it and say it, but who knows what. Because when there was
3 exploration going on in our area by Ikpikpuk River, it was
4 interesting because the people who were doing the
5 exploration did not follow the guidelines and rules of
6 where to go and how to cross rivers and such.

7 And one of my major concerns is, okay, you have got
8 the borough. Andy Mack explained very well the State's
9 role. I'm very familiar with the borough's position on
10 these activities. But then throughout that whole area you
11 have residents of Barrow that have allotments. And not
12 just of Barrow, but in Kaktovik there are allotments, I
13 think 50 acres or 150 acres. I don't remember the number.

14 But as this proceeds even in the exploration phase or
15 the lease phase, are those individuals who have these
16 allotments, are they going to be asked or use the
17 information that they have gathered? There is a lot of
18 people that have more than the 30 years' experience that I
19 have. And there is traditional knowledge. That is very
20 important.

21 But the knowledge of each of these allotment owners,
22 these people that use that resource, are their feelings,
23 desires and concerns included? I mean, are you trying to
24 get them -- get those before any action takes place? It's
25 exciting what's happening, but also from a cultural

1 standpoint, it's dangerous. And it's just -- okay. You
2 have got a couple more meetings to go. You are going to
3 get this information. Are you going to make a conscious
4 effort to gather the details from the -- from the people
5 that have these allotments and the people George Edwardson
6 was talking about the resources, but is there just -- you
7 know, in a scoping meeting like this, I think it would be
8 imperative that you seek that information from the
9 concerned parties.

10 For example, if you have a lease, potential lease
11 areas or a particular interest in -- is this going to be
12 out of the blue? You can identify specific areas that you
13 are going to put up for lease sale.

14 And with the last question -- I know I'm rambling,
15 but with the Secretary of Interior position on
16 development, you said you are following the regulations
17 that are established, but to what degree? I mean,
18 Secretary Zinke -- there is a broad spectrum. You could
19 reasonably go through regulations, or at the other end you
20 could find the wiggle room to get more of what you want.

21 And I'm speaking out of concern, you know. There is
22 a worry there, you know. Prudhoe Bay happened long before
23 I came here but, you know, a current development, you need
24 the input of people that are going to be impacted and
25 affected, and that includes the allotment holders, the

1 people that have cabins.

2 Thank you. I'm not sure what kind of answer you are
3 going to get because I rambled, but thank you.

4 MS. KELLEN SNOW: Kellen Snow, for the
5 record. In 2014 and in 2015 I worked as a subsistence
6 advisor for ASRC, and we were up by Smith Bay by my
7 uncle's cabin and, you know, it's supposed to be nothing
8 touches the ground, no spitting, no trash, no spitting
9 anything. And I was working at Lake 654, and I went there
10 and there was poop and pee everywhere by the guys that
11 were working there, and I had to shut down the whole --
12 shut down the work until they got that cleaned up.

13 And I'm just wondering, are you guys going to have
14 subsistence advisors like that because it's -- it's really
15 important that you guys do.

16 MS. NICOLE HAYES: If and when we get to
17 that phase, we -- authorized activities typically requires
18 subsistence advisors, but again, that is important input.
19 And we are just looking at the leasing phase now, so there
20 wouldn't be any on-the-ground activity.

21 MS. KELLEN SNOW: Okay. Thank you.

22 MR. GEORGE EDWARDSON: Can I add
23 something? It's me again. And what Bob Harcharek was
24 saying, we have over 1,200 Native allotment applicants
25 that are in, we have submitted to BLM, and we have been

1 waiting for over pretty close to 40 years to get them
2 processed. Now, if you are going to go and have lease
3 sales, you better take care of the landowners first. You
4 got no business trying to sell land and ignore -- ignoring
5 our property. And thanks, Bob.

6 MR. BOB HARCHAREK: You are welcome.

7 MR. GEORGE TAGAROOK: I'm the other
8 George. Tagarook. Former resident, former mayor of
9 Kaktovik, '70s, '80s and '90s.

10 The coastal plain is sensationalized by groups of
11 people that are living thousands and thousands of miles
12 away from Kaktovik or the coastal plains. I remember when
13 Ronald Reagan went to Kaktovik to sign the papers for an
14 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge status, we didn't know
15 which refuge he was talking about.

16 There is two areas of statuses. There is Arctic
17 National Wildlife Refuge. The 1002 coastal plain was set
18 aside by Congress back in the '60s. And we were -- we
19 thought that the other Arctic National wildlife was the
20 one that we were signing out for. But apparently it was
21 trying to get the 1002 area, which is the Arctic National
22 Claims Settlement Act [sic] 1002 area, which was set aside
23 by Congress for future oil and gas development.

24 And we campaigned back in the '80s and '90s with the
25 senators in D.C. I walked the halls with our consultants,

1 our mayor. I was mayor back in the '90s when the
2 legislation or the senators opened up Arctic National
3 Wildlife Refuge or the coastal plain for oil and gas
4 exploration and development later. And President Clinton
5 vetoed the bill.

6 And my question is, the original writing of the 1996
7 opening of the 1002 area, is that something you guys are
8 going to research? We have documents with some of the
9 hearings that we did in D.C. They had hearings in
10 Fairbanks back in the '90s. And maybe you guys should do
11 some research since this opening of coastal plains was
12 vetoed by President Clinton. That's the last I'm --
13 anything has opened up.

14 And you want to convey a message to Donald Trump,
15 Kaktovik, or the people of Kaktovik, have been waiting 40
16 some years to get their Alaska Native Claims Settlement
17 Act properties, which is over 100,000 acres. And it takes
18 an act of Congress to develop any activity in that area
19 because it's the Arctic National Wildlife status. And I
20 think Fish & Wildlife controls that -- that status area.

21 We shouldn't be getting permits for hunting, touring,
22 or any guiding. Other people are making millions of
23 dollars doing that in the Arctic National Wildlife side of
24 the spectrum, and us locals have to apply for permits, you
25 know. But we have been doing this for thousands of years.

1 I mean, doing the business like guiding, river rafting.
2 Now locals have to get a six-pack license just to take
3 people out polar bear viewing, which we did for so many
4 years without even having a permit.

5 I think that issue with our Natives down south, the
6 Gwich'ins, they live on the south side of the refuge.
7 Back in the '80s when we first started trying to open the
8 1002 area, which is within the Arctic National Wildlife,
9 we offered them opportunities for jobs. We offered them
10 opportunities to get their reservation to plug in with our
11 local areas and with no success. They were already bought
12 in by the sensationalized environmentalists. I call them
13 terrorists because they are thousands and thousands of
14 miles away, and we live within the coastal plains.

15 And it's about time that the president, which I don't
16 think anybody likes except me, maybe, has balls enough to
17 open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for, you know,
18 the people on coast, not the interior Gwich'ins.

19 I don't mean to say this harshly, but we have been
20 neighbors for thousands and thousands of years. We hunt
21 the same caribou they do, and the caribou calve in Canada
22 last few years, and it's not always on the coastal plain.

23 They have to do some research on that 1996 Senate --
24 I forgot what number it was, but the senators that we
25 fought hard for, us local residents with the help of -- I

1 think so I remember Andy Mack. That name sounds familiar.
2 Yeah. There were several -- we had KIC representatives.
3 We had the city of Kaktovik.

4 Kaktovik is the only village that is within the
5 coastal plains, and it's not where -- we sit on an island.
6 And it's only, what, 30 -- 30 to 40 yards from the
7 mainland. We should be the islanders, but we call
8 ourselves Kaktovikmiuts.

9 I got interrupted when -- my crazy thoughts I lost.
10 But I'm speaking from my heart, you know. Local
11 corporations that has been not developed -- I'm not a KIC.
12 I'm UIC. I was born and raised here in Barrow, but my
13 grandparents and my mother, I think, owns 300 shares with
14 UIC. I mean, KIC. That's the corporation that had fought
15 hard for oil and gas development on their property, you
16 know, a little over 100 -- 100,000 acres.

17 And it's a really sensationalized issue when we were
18 starting to debate on it back in the '80s and '90s. We
19 had opposition from the environmentalists that live 10,000
20 miles away, bringing people in testifying that they -- we
21 had people testify in Washington, D.C. that they were
22 locals, but actually they were not locals from the coastal
23 plains. Yeah.

24 I think if you guys look back at the last Senate
25 opening of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, some of our

1 comments should be included on there. And some of the
2 documents that the Kaktovikmiut has documents about this
3 thick [indicating] that was submitted to that hearing.
4 It's a chronological paper that we use. It's not
5 written -- I mean, it's written, but it's -- it's the
6 heart of the people.

7 It was frustrating at first, but they told us back in
8 '96 that it was going to be opened. Clinton vetoed the
9 bill, so we had to redraft. And I'm glad Donald Trump is
10 opening this issue up again. We have been -- we have been
11 waiting for so many years. I think the stars are aligned
12 now. Stevens worked hard on it, Don Young, Murkowski, and
13 that Senator Sullivan. I think if we get all the
14 higher-ups, maybe instead of waiting 20 to 30 years to
15 develop, we already have the technology to
16 up [indiscernible] after this hearing maybe six months,
17 one year. At least give Kaktovik that chance.

18 I appreciate your comments. Thank you.

19 MR. CHAD RICKLEFS: For those that just
20 walked in, remember to state your name before you talk so
21 we get it in the record. Thank you.

22 MR. DELBERT REXFORD: Hello. For the
23 record, Delbert Rexford, ASRC shareholder, UIC
24 shareholder, Native Village of Barrow tribal member,
25 Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope tribal member,

1 Inupiaq. Lived here all my life. And I see a lot of
2 colleagues here, Representative Lincoln and Commissioner
3 Mack.

4 Under the provisions of ANCSA, a land exchange was
5 made. I served on the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
6 Resource Commission for nearly 11 years. And in those
7 nearly 11 years, we attempted to put management --
8 subsistence management plans in place so that the people
9 of Kaktovik could have access to their renewable
10 resources. This was a part of the land exchange for 1002
11 lands in anticipation of oil and gas development. It's
12 been locked in.

13 The environmentalists have been a very powerful force
14 in preventing development. And yet in the economically
15 suppressed zones in the communities, there is
16 multigenerations of families living under one roof. A lot
17 of them are living on welfare that both the United States
18 and Alaska fund. And yet we have nonrenewable resources
19 that are locked up that need to be made available so that
20 our people, the Inupiaq people that are shareholders of
21 ASRC in all eight villages have employment and the
22 economic opportunity.

23 Since the discovery of oil in Prudhoe, we have had
24 the distinct advantage of taxing authority in order to tax
25 infrastructure that has built schools, roads, airports,

1 health clinics, all the public services in each and every
2 community. And the tax base, once it's developed there,
3 will provide additional revenues not only to the borough,
4 but also to the benefactors of Arctic Slope Regional
5 Corporation as shareholders. Time and time again effort
6 is made to make sure that it's culturally sensitive and
7 environmentally sound development.

8 In the '70s there was huge footprints. Hundreds of
9 modules went to Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay, Milne, Kuparuk and
10 all the other oil fields. That's where we generate
11 revenue from for our kids to go to school, job placement,
12 career development, and self-governance.

13 We need additional revenue base because of the
14 declining revenues of the North Slope Borough. Since 1968
15 technology has changed, enhanced technology, directional
16 drilling in the manner in which the industry does
17 exploration, development and production. The receding ice
18 provides an opportunity for maritime -- increased maritime
19 travel through the Northwest Passage and through the
20 Russian waters. China set a record route reducing the
21 route by nine days through the Russian waters, and this
22 will continue to increase.

23 We are good stewards of the land. We have been
24 inherently as Inupiaq people, and we look forward to that
25 continued responsibility, not only today, but into future

1 generations. This is our land. We value it. We treasure
2 it. It's sacred to us. And with the leadership that is
3 in place, I know it can be culturally sensitive and
4 environmentally sound development. We just want to be
5 given that opportunity to prove that we can do it in that
6 manner. As a shareholder, I speak. I'm also with UIC
7 currently as president and CEO. But I come here to speak
8 as an ASRC shareholder of record.

9 Thank you for this opportunity to address the panel.
10 And we hope, we sincerely hope, that ANWR will be allowed
11 to be developed to provide economic growth, wealth, and
12 future employment for our Inupiaq people. Thank you.

13 MR. QAIYAAN HARCHAREK: My name is Qaiyaan
14 Harcharek. I'm a hunter, whaler, harpooner, trapper,
15 anthropologist. I'm also an ASRC shareholder, UIC
16 shareholder, Native Village of Barrow, ICAS. I'm part of
17 all that too. Different generation, obviously.

18 I want to start off mentioning just the name of your
19 program you have here. It's the coastal -- the coastal
20 plain leasing program. Why not -- why be so deceiving or
21 so general? Why not call it what it is? It's the ANWR
22 1002 leasing program. I think if we did that, this room
23 wouldn't be filled with only industry folks or ASRC folks
24 or corporations. But it would be filled with many
25 individuals from the community, or maybe not.

1 I also want to begin with some wise words from the
2 North Slope Borough's first mayor. Oil and gas is no new
3 thing among us. Not many people realize that our people
4 have been heating their homes and cooking their food with
5 oil for thousands of years. There are oil seeps
6 throughout our region. And on our way to our hunting
7 camps, we would cut oil-saturated tundra into logs.
8 Returning from camp in the fall, we would collect these
9 bricks of congealed pads of tundra and burn them, much
10 like the same way that urban homeowners use artificial
11 particle logs from the supermarkets for their fireplace.
12 We also have traditionally used coal for fuel.

13 It is estimated that Arctic Slope region contains as
14 much as one-third of the coal reserves in the United
15 States. We Inupiat can prove aboriginal use for both our
16 oil and our coal for thousands of years. We had this fuel
17 in such abundance on our land that it attracted national
18 attention at a time when the United States and our
19 political leaders were trying to extend American political
20 and economic influence to other parts of the world.

21 In the early part of the century, our federal
22 government created several Naval petroleum reserves as
23 part of an effort to ensure that our Navy had access to
24 fuel for its ships without asking us, for it was our land.
25 Our federal government took from us 23,400,000 acres of

1 land, an area roughly the size of the state of Indiana
2 without any compensation and designated to the Naval
3 Petroleum Reserve No. 4. I share that because ANWR is
4 another -- essentially another area of land taken from our
5 people. And as folks have mentioned, ASRC and other folks
6 have wanted access to it.

7 I don't come here for or against it. Being an ASRC
8 shareholder, eventually we will see benefits of it down
9 the line if it happens. Business-wise it's genius. Tax
10 cuts for the multibillion-dollar corporations and it's on
11 our land. That's a no-brainer. But at what cost are we
12 looking to develop more of these lands?

13 My concern -- I also have many concerns, as others
14 had mentioned, the whales and animals going by. Camden
15 Bay is the gathering waters and extremely important area
16 for bowhead whales. All the drainage from anything of
17 that area is going to flow into there.

18 When I was a kid and prior to me being -- I was born
19 in 1981. This room was filled with hunters, community
20 members, parents, children. We don't see that anymore.
21 You folks had mentioned for traditional knowledge to be
22 sent to you. Just within your agency you should have
23 40-plus years of documented traditional knowledge from
24 testimony from our people. All that information is still
25 relevant in those areas. I think -- I think utilizing

1 what's already on record is very important.

2 I would really like to see -- and a huge concern of
3 mine is before we allow access to industry, we should
4 allow access to our hunters from Nuiqsut and Kaktovik to
5 utilize ANWR as they should. They have restricted access.
6 They are not allowed to use four-wheelers at certain
7 times. They can only go in certain areas. They can't
8 even get to somebody's camp that these folks talk about.
9 And yet we want to go and drill and we don't allow access
10 for our hunters. So I hope that's looked into.

11 As I mentioned, I'm not taking a side for or against
12 1002 lands. I'm going to save my fight for the NPR-A and
13 the development that's encroaching on our hunting lands in
14 our backyard. As one mentioned, there is a lot going on,
15 whether it's 1002 in ANWR or NPR-A. I don't believe there
16 is any reason we should be encroaching elsewhere expanding
17 our oil fields when we could develop some of the areas
18 that were already recently discovered that are close to
19 the infrastructure already.

20 Again, I hope we look at providing access to our
21 hunters into some of these lands that weren't allowed
22 since ANWR was created. And again, I stress the
23 utilization of the 40-plus years of local knowledge and
24 testimony that our people have given as -- whether it was
25 for Prudhoe Bay, whether it was for Greater Moose's Tooth

1 1, whether it's for -- near the Ikpikpuk River and for
2 ANWR. It's all relevant, just different geographic
3 location. I think we as a state and our Native
4 corporation should be looking at other avenues of -- look
5 for other ways to make money.

6 We talk about global warming and we being at ground
7 zero here in our communities. You know, this is going to
8 perpetuate all of that.

9 So I appreciate you folks coming here, and again,
10 utilizing the 40 years of testimony. And I also think you
11 folks should be going to other -- many other communities,
12 not just the eight or so you have listed.

13 Guyana.

14 MS. NICOLE HAYES: We are going to take a
15 ten-minute break, but before we do that, I did want to
16 clarify because many comments have been made about using
17 existing information. That is a huge part of the NEPA
18 process. So we absolutely intend to use information
19 that's available out there, documentation that's available
20 out there. That's part of the EIS process. But if you
21 have something that perhaps is not documented, we would
22 definitely like to hear that. We are also doing
23 government-to-government consultation in many villages in
24 the communities, and we are getting verbal input that way,
25 as well.

1 So just for clarification, you don't have to send
2 something in that's already existing, but you could point
3 something out in case if you think we may miss it.

4 So ten-minute break. We will resume at 6:40.

5 (A break was taken.)

6 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Thank you, everyone,
7 for coming back, and thank you everyone who has provided
8 comments so far. We hope more of you will come up to
9 speak. It's really good input to our EIS process.

10 Before we get started with more public comment, I
11 wanted to introduce our Assistant Secretary for Land and
12 Minerals Management, Joe Balash. He came on the recent
13 flight, so he just got here.

14 MR. JOE BALASH: Good evening. First, I
15 just want to apologize for being late to the meeting. I
16 had a commitment in Anchorage this morning and couldn't
17 take the morning flight. But I did want to say thank you
18 for hosting this meeting here in the heritage center. And
19 I am disappointed I missed the beginning of the meeting.
20 I know that many of the leaders and elders were able to
21 speak at the beginning. And fortunately we do have Mary's
22 transcripts here, and I'm able to go back and review those
23 comments for myself.

24 One of the things that I take very seriously in this
25 job -- for those of you who don't know, I've lived here in

1 Alaska for 30 years. My last job here in the state was as
2 a commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.
3 And I take great pride in the manner in which we are
4 conducting this particular process to gather input and
5 testimony from the people that are going to be most
6 directly affected by this.

7 There are a lot of big national voices and big
8 conversation going on by people who don't necessarily have
9 a stake in what's going on up here. And so we are paying
10 very, very close attention to the input and concerns of
11 the people most directly affected by this program, and I
12 look forward to continuing to take a very personal
13 approach and participation in these meetings and the work
14 being done by the team here.

15 So thank you again. And I'll let you guys get back
16 to the program.

17 MS. NICOLE HAYES: So the mic is open if
18 anybody wants to come up and speak.

19 MR. JOSEPH LEAVITT: Joseph Leavitt,
20 lifelong resident of Barrow, presently wildlife director
21 for Native Village of Barrow. And I just want to comment
22 on a few things. Especially I want to see -- when you
23 build your pipelines, I want to see caribou have access to
24 cross the pipelines. And even our hunters are -- you
25 know, our relatives over in Barter Island, they also need

1 access to their hunting grounds. That's -- you know,
2 that's one of the biggest concerns I got is when the
3 caribou can't get across -- when they are doing their bug
4 relief and trying to get across to the ocean for bug
5 relief, a lot of them will run till they die trying to get
6 away from caribou [sic] -- and you know, that's always a
7 -- that's always been my concern.

8 And our hunters, like our people in Nuiqsut, they are
9 almost completely surrounded by pipelines. I just don't
10 want to -- there has to be better planning for our hunters
11 to go out and do their hunting on their traditional
12 hunting grounds.

13 And another thing is, even when you are barging up
14 your modules for production, even our whalers as far as
15 Barrow need protection not to scare our whales away. And
16 you know, you have to be in a -- join the CAA agreement to
17 protect our whalers or else we are going to go out 70, 50
18 miles out and, you know, that gets very dangerous when you
19 are a whaler in a small boat.

20 That's the kind of concerns I got. And I've said
21 this before. Somehow it always ends up coming back and
22 haunting us. And that's a couple of comments I got.
23 Thank you.

24 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Thank you. Anyone
25 else?

1 MR. ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Good evening, and
2 welcome. My name is Arnold Brower, Jr. I'm going to
3 speak for myself. I'm Executive Director for the Alaska
4 Eskimo Whaling Commission, and I'm sure the commission
5 will have their paperwork -- written comments in. Tonight
6 I want to speak for myself.

7 I'm an elder in the community. I retired from the
8 North Slope Borough. I have been a subsistence hunter all
9 my life. We can take some things that Warren Matumeak and
10 Noah Itta had talked about before near the Teshekpuk area.
11 We have gone this far as almost a point of no return in
12 subsistence. We don't have dog team and stuff, but we do
13 depend on snowmachines a lot now. So those concerns are
14 that there has to be protection for subsistence rights in
15 especially Kaktovik area. I have family over there,
16 relatives, and it's important to create something for
17 them.

18 In -- whaling is hunting to provide our family for
19 nutritional and dietary needs. So in the same way that
20 caribou is a supplement to our diet, so funds have to be
21 put aside for care for that to -- so that research impacts
22 on wildlife can be already funded. There won't need to
23 try to get funding, but they must have funding to
24 continuing research on the recruitment rates, calving of
25 caribou in that area. Reindeer and caribou has been the

1 most contentious issues in ANWR. But they have thrived.

2 But we all know that brucellosis is probably the most
3 dangerous thing that can decimate a caribou stock,
4 reindeer stock in the tundra. So for those reasons, here
5 a biologist can care for those kind of issues on behalf of
6 the caribou. There would be funding mandates already. So
7 that kind of adherence to wildlife monitoring has to be
8 done by in this program.

9 And the people have to be involved, just like the
10 whaling captains are involved in the CAA, conflict
11 avoidance agreement, for bowhead whaling so that each
12 village have created a whaling subsistence zone in
13 Kaktovik, Cross Island and now Barrow so that there is a
14 cooperative arrangement with vessel traffic controls so
15 that people have -- villages that have quota, they are
16 provided quota.

17 And this is very important to understand. In spite
18 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, in spite of the
19 Endangered Species Act, we are allowed -- we are
20 privileged to sustain our culture, to sustain our villages
21 with whale. And that cannot be infringed upon or
22 diminished because a barge has to deliver. They can
23 deliver the next day after our quota is met. It will
24 accomplish the same thing. But in that subsistence zone,
25 we have to adhere to that so that people, Inupiaq people,

1 just so their dietary needs can be caught, can be
2 harvested. In the same way we are looking at the caribou,
3 you must be mindful, the government must be mindful of
4 that to protect it.

5 So that subsistence hunting, we know right now today
6 it's not feasible to go get caribou because they are
7 fawning. They are calving. This is an area that we don't
8 have to go to look for caribou in this season. But those
9 are the adherences that need to be done, however schedule
10 that they can be done. So those require for collaborative
11 effort to have funding already.

12 Now, we were a little bit late because Trump
13 Administration out of nowhere approved ANWR without us
14 having to put in a -- maybe .005 percent of the funds
15 would be dedicated to wildlife management, our
16 [indiscernible] education, those things. But those can be
17 funded like that. It doesn't take the budget of the
18 United States, but it takes some money out of the lease
19 sales and revenues from ANWR to do that.

20 I speak like that because I have a concern. In 50
21 years when the oil is depleted here, we will have to do a
22 different EIS to put another pipeline that will displace
23 more land away from the natural resources, caribou,
24 reindeer, musk ox. But it is prudent to use the existing
25 infrastructure -- for example, Point Thomson -- to use

1 that infrastructure right now without having to do another
2 EIS and make another pipeline that's going to displace
3 more property, more grazing area for caribou. This is
4 very important.

5 The caribou, as we know, eats lichen. And lichen
6 takes quite a while for it to reproduce. So that space
7 is -- large space is needed for caribou to have adequate
8 nutritional needs met, too. For those reasons I speak
9 that there should be -- there must be funding allocated,
10 set aside for wildlife research, wildlife monitoring and
11 collaboratively co-managing perhaps these kind of
12 renewable resources.

13 Drilling on land, production on land is more
14 feasible. It will not infringe upon endangered species
15 like bowhead whale, which we depend on so much. That's
16 what we fight so hard for to get our quota since 1977. So
17 I speak that I am more in favor of onshore development
18 than offshore development because it's -- once you put a
19 footprint in the water, you have a permanent displacement,
20 deflection, whether it's caribou or -- I mean, whales or
21 the krill that it depends upon, it will no longer be there
22 because there will be a drill, manmade island for drilling
23 oil offshore.

24 So those kind of things I'm thinking about to speak
25 rather in favor of ANWR development. As we have seen near

1 Nuiqsut, the footprint of these things are getting
2 smaller, and then you can do multiple sidewinding
3 drilling, maybe 20, 30 other drilling in diagonal drilling
4 from the same spot. So I think that that would alleviate
5 more than one drill site per several square miles. Up to
6 six to twelve miles, I understand, you can drill sideways
7 from the same hole. So those things will keep a footprint
8 smaller so that the caribou and wildlife will have more
9 ground for feeding.

10 I speak in favor of ANWR rather than the offshore
11 because offshore -- our bowhead whale gives us tonnage of
12 whale meat for nutritional and so critical for our
13 cultural and traditional lifestyle and our Inupiat way of
14 life.

15 And thank you for the opportunity. Thank you for
16 coming to Utqiagvik and Qujana.

17 MS. NICOLE HAYES: Thank you. Does anyone
18 else want to speak? We are here until 9:00.

19 MR. GORDON BROWER: Good evening. Earlier
20 I spoke. My name is Gordon Brower. And I was advised to
21 that the time limit is now off and I don't have to hurry
22 up with the comments. And you earlier -- when we first
23 began you set the stage on setting probably how we should
24 be commenting here because this is a leasing program.
25 It's not whether it's not going to happen. It's maybe how

1 we should help craft and provide the guidelines and maybe
2 the concerns that should be raised during a lease.

3 Among the other things that I expressed earlier in my
4 comments, I wanted to add that, you know, the North Slope
5 Borough has a responsibility to provide waste management,
6 the landfills, the water, wastewater treatment facilities.
7 And this area is very important in that I heard the word
8 mentioned a little while ago about maybe unfunded
9 mandates. And this is an area that needs some address, I
10 think, with the local government, with the State and the
11 federal government as federal lands become more open. And
12 some of them have restrictions.

13 I don't know if ANWR -- you can cite a landfill in
14 there nor these kind of things that need to be discussed.
15 I bring these to light because the North Slope Borough has
16 a responsibility under certificate of public convenience
17 to provide -- it's about mandatory to provide waste
18 management, and being that the North Slope Borough is the
19 only landfill in Prudhoe, Prudhoe Bay and the Oxbow
20 landfill.

21 There was an issue several years ago. We had to deal
22 with the State quite quickly to convey lands to the
23 borough because the Oxbow was feared to close because it
24 had filled up. And we need the ability to provide waste
25 management services and need additional lands to be

1 conveyed to the borough to provide continuing need for
2 waste management.

3 Now, you put Prudhoe Bay and then you put the border
4 up to, I think the Canning river, right? That's the
5 separation between State and federal and ANWR, and you
6 have got Point Thomson there. That's about 60 miles to
7 the landfill. And you put another mix of the 1002 area,
8 and you can see the border right there on these maps. You
9 are putting an additional 70 miles. So easily 100 miles
10 to the waste management issues that need to be dealt with
11 with the next development stage.

12 And where there is people, where there is industry,
13 you are going to have waste. And we need to find a way to
14 address that in a way where it's not going to be
15 disproportionately weighed onto the local government.
16 Just to keep in mind that the borough has matured. The
17 oil fields have matured. Our bonding capacity back in
18 the '80s is not the same as what we have in the year 2018.
19 Our ability to bond for infrastructure was almost
20 unlimited, maybe, back in that day. Now we are struggling
21 to maintain infrastructure. The schools and all of those,
22 it nearly, if not, swallows all of the capital needs, the
23 capability to bond for the borough.

24 So those are just some of the concerns that I think
25 opening and leasing in ANWR we are going to need to come

1 to a head of how waste management has to be dealt with. I
2 suspect that's going to start to be an issue as we move
3 westward, as well, as into NPR-A. We need to -- we need
4 serious discussion on the ability to manage the
5 revenues -- the revenue -- the generation of waste.

6 Some of the other things that I thought were
7 important, and I think Arnold talked about them, others
8 talked about them, about subsistence. And the North Slope
9 Borough is -- and its policies is -- probably 90 percent
10 in its land use policies are geared to either enhance
11 subsistence availability, maintain it, don't prohibit it.
12 We have a serious responsibility to the -- to the
13 communities to make sure that subsistence needs are met.

14 And lately we have been having concerns because of --
15 for various reasons -- I don't know all of the reasons --
16 the area biologists and stuff -- the fluctuation and major
17 decline in caribou herds, the Western Arctic herd,
18 Teshekpuk heard, Central herd. The only one that has
19 maintained or is actively growing is the Porcupine herd
20 that is in ANWR periodically. The point being, you know,
21 that 10, 15 years ago at 490,000 animals in the Western
22 Arctic herd and today at 220,000, that's maybe half the
23 size of that herd, and 38 communities that that herd is
24 feeding. And it graces 38 communities in its migratory
25 path. And a few of them on the North Slope are blessed

1 with that herd.

2 One of the concerns that was raised by Anaktuvik Pass
3 was the caribou are not here. And we have heard that for
4 several years. Sometimes they do come and a lot of times
5 they didn't come. And on more than one occasion, the
6 other communities are supplementing nutritional needs for
7 the community by providing caribou and fish and at local
8 expense to provide that to Anaktuvik Pass.

9 This is just an example of -- you know, when the herd
10 shrinks -- and when it was great, the outer periphery of
11 that herd would be so great that 75,000 of those animals
12 was just the outer periphery that grazed that community.
13 And 75,000 is an incredible size to look at. But when the
14 herd is from 490,000 down to 220,000, one-half the size,
15 that outer periphery now does not grace the community in
16 its normal way. It may be -- in some years it -- the
17 shrunken size of its movement didn't allow for the caribou
18 to pass through one of our villages.

19 The concern was did they -- they are not coming.
20 They are just late. But information was already had that
21 they radio collared information that they have already
22 crossed through the neighboring pass. It was just that
23 the size of the herd had shrunk.

24 Long story short -- and I've expressed this many
25 times under the Regional Advisory Council meetings about

1 subsistence resources and needs of communities, the food
2 security issues that come with dependency on these kinds
3 of resources. It might be time to start thinking
4 differently.

5 At one point the -- the village of Nuiqsut was
6 contemplating the very issues that people were fearing
7 were going to happen. The decline of the herds, the
8 ability to provide food on the table were being talked
9 about. And the community of Nuiqsut actually back in 2004
10 had discussed the -- a way to supplement those needs by
11 creating another way, like reindeer herding programs or
12 fish hatchery, for fear of these industrial impacts could
13 provide the same food security issues. So look at those
14 kind of things as concerns and ways to mitigate some of
15 the concerns.

16 I raise these kinds of topics because we have worked
17 with Prudhoe Bay for the last 40 years and watched the
18 caribou have its peak, have its peak during development
19 time, continued to fluctuate up and then go back up and
20 down through industrial development periods on the North
21 Slope. So use that information, as well. I mean, that is
22 good information.

23 The issues surrounding that, the borough had major
24 concerns about migratory movements. The underlying
25 eventual ways to mitigate that was the things that I think

1 Mr. Leavitt earlier kind of explained was the ability for
2 snowmachines as snow accumulates at these pipelines and
3 development issues, accommodate the subsistence users.

4 The other concern that I think we are seeing is not
5 realizing 1002 is way over there. And we are -- and we
6 are having difficulty for close areas, like NPR-A and the
7 State lands with the climate change impacts of
8 accessibility. We didn't get tundra travel opening for
9 foothills -- maybe it's a record year this year. Just
10 take a look at those records, the ability to -- for
11 industrial operations to occur, you have to have met the
12 tundra criteria for opening. And the upper foothills
13 didn't open till, I think, March.

14 The other -- we know these very intimately now
15 because we have been doing a project called community
16 winter access trail by the North Slope borough. And we
17 didn't get to do Anaktuvik Pass and connect that with the
18 winter access trail project because of the climate issues.
19 And even though we had the permits earlier in November or
20 December, it was just the climates that held back.

21 So that's another thing is because of the distance
22 from infrastructure, there is going to be access issues
23 for 1002 because it's a very remote, far area.

24 But if you look at the North Slope Borough's efforts
25 in doing comprehensive plans, village plans, the -- the

1 concerns raised by communities of wanting to have a better
2 life, reduce the cost of living, the cost of goods,
3 energy, energy needs, you need to look at those kinds of
4 things.

5 And one of the underlying type of infrastructure that
6 would provide energy, cost of goods going down was
7 all-season year-round access. And those are the types of
8 things that need to be looked at and the 1002 being
9 probably the furthest areas from infrastructure that we
10 need to work together. And a lot of the community
11 comprehensive plans are suggesting it's time to look at
12 these issues more comprehensive, not just for resource
13 development and availability of these resources to put
14 energy into the pipeline for the State coffers, but for
15 the everyday folks that need to live in our communities
16 and make them affordable to live in.

17 Those are just the -- some of the other comments I
18 thought in looking at your leasing program. If you know
19 these concerns, you are going to write something up
20 because energy -- before I stop, I took the time to read
21 some literature that is actually a speech by Eben Hopson
22 on the natural gas rate and what the government should
23 charge Barrow for natural gas. And it was very
24 enlightening to read some of this old stuff. Those are
25 very relevant today. He was actually not just advocating

1 for the energy needs of Barrow, but for Atqasuk and
2 Wainwright. He was thinking about all of the people. And
3 when we are dealing with energy in these areas, we live in
4 the most extreme climate on the United States. There
5 should be some level of comprehension or development of
6 local energy security that every drop of these resources
7 not just be pumped out to China to sell it to China, to
8 sell it to Japan, refine it in the Lower 48, but the
9 ability to use these recourse for the residents and use on
10 the North Slope.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. CRAIG GEORGE: Thank you. For the
13 record, my name is Craig George, and I'm speaking as a
14 citizen of Barrow, Utqiagvik. Anyway, I'd like to preface
15 my comments with sort of an introduction here. But you
16 have heard a lot of excellent comments and advice tonight.
17 And I hope it's being carefully considered. There is a
18 lot going on, as we heard. And clearly working with the
19 local governments, the cities, local people is the way to
20 go in this development. They should have the strongest
21 voice, but that's not necessarily easy. And it takes
22 time.

23 We have heard about traditional knowledge. I'd like
24 to say a word about that. We have used that effectively
25 in our research over the years. But again, that takes

1 time. It's typically not written down. You learn
2 essentially by living in the community and taking notes,
3 paying attention. The Inupiaq word is maliq, to follow.
4 Anyway, you learn by following, but it takes time. It's
5 certainly been a tremendous benefit to the research
6 program that we have -- North Slope Borough has conducted
7 on bowhead whales over the years. And the community
8 involvement with the scientists has, without any question,
9 been an excellent program.

10 Just a couple other things here. So as you have
11 heard from a number of people, learn a great deal about
12 how to mitigate the effects of oil and gas development on
13 wildlife from the Prudhoe Bay experience. And these
14 should obviously be applied to ANWR.

15 Just a few specifics. The science of fish mitigation
16 is pretty well developed. Breached causeways, bridges and
17 culverts over ephemeral streams. Keeping oil out of the
18 important waterways, of course, is important. The large
19 river crossings in the 1002 area will go over some of the
20 most important Dolly Varden fish habitat in the state, so
21 that will have to be done very carefully. And just to
22 call out to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game Habitat
23 Division, generally get very good advice from them.
24 Science based. We typically use their approach in regard
25 to these things.

1 The science on caribou mitigation has advanced quite
2 a bit. Raised pipes. I think it was Gordon that pushed
3 for the seven-foot elevation of the pipes. Let's see.
4 Reduced traffic during, you know, crossing periods. Road
5 pipe separations, there is quite a bit of research on
6 that. But -- and Arnold Brower mentioned the -- actually
7 the conflict avoidance agreement, this is a time/area
8 closure specifically for offshore and bowhead mitigation.
9 And -- but those kind of concepts can be used, as well.
10 And, well, with something like caribou, as well.

11 But I'm still surprised by the behavior -- some of
12 you may know there is a paper published on some
13 interactions with the Western Arctic caribou as they move
14 down along the coast and encounter with the Red Dog Mine
15 road, and there are some significant delays of over a
16 month that were unanticipated. So caribou are
17 complicated. But I'll get back to that in a minute.

18 I think Mr. Leavitt mentioned that caribou has to be
19 free to move to the coast during insect relief periods.
20 It's pretty obvious. So I think like the worst thing you
21 can probably do to caribou is restrict movement. If they
22 move freely, they seem to do reasonably well, but they
23 have to get to areas that -- you know, the important areas
24 in different parts of their life history. And hunter
25 access is a big -- a big issue that I'm going to get to in

1 a minute.

2 And caribou harvesting at Kaktovik is actually
3 interesting because a lot of it is boat access along the
4 coast in summer east and west of the village. There is
5 quite a bit, I think, of information on that that should
6 be looked at very carefully. I'm doing the easier stuff
7 here.

8 Polar bear mitigation, I think there has been quite a
9 bit of science on that. There is high densities of polar
10 bears denning in the 1002 lands but, again, that can be
11 mitigated. The use the FLIRs to identify den sites and
12 this sort of thing has been quite successful, but they
13 will have to be very diligently enforced in this area
14 because of the high densities.

15 Increased predators in oil fields is a major issue.
16 We have heard a little bit about that. Landfills. I
17 think Gordon mentioned landfills as a problem. And that
18 does increase predators, Arctic fox, ravens, that sort of
19 thing. And I think the bird folks would tell us that some
20 of the biggest impacts on nesting birds are from an
21 increase in these ground predators. So you have to take
22 very strict measures to prevent the increase in these
23 sorts of predators and their effect on the dumpsters and
24 landfills and all this.

25 Let's see. Okay. Talk about people. We have

1 learned quite a bit about mitigation of wildlife, but
2 still struggling with mitigation for the communities and
3 people. That's a bigger challenge for some, Mr. Leavitt
4 and others and Gordon. As you probably know, there is
5 extensive areas east of Nuiqsut in the Prudhoe/Kuparuk
6 complex that were formerly hunted but essentially not
7 hunted now by those residents, and it's one of the more
8 significant impacts of oil and gas. So hopefully we can
9 learn from the Nuiqsut experience about what to do and not
10 to do.

11 Of course, the solutions are a little unclear. But
12 hunter access is a major issue. And over there there is a
13 lot of complications, but there are some effective tools:
14 Buffers, time/area closures as mentioned earlier; the CAA
15 concept can be used on land. And also with offshore
16 barging, I'm glad that Arnold Brower mentioned if there is
17 large sea lifts, that could have a significant effect on
18 whaling. Kaktovik is a whaling community. But it could
19 affect all the coastal communities involved.

20 And then coordinating biological studies, one of our
21 biggest complaints in the summer is aircraft associated
22 with wildlife research -- it's a little embarrassing being
23 a wildlife biologist, but that's a fact. In fact, in the
24 1002 research period of the mid '80s, if any of you were
25 around, that was one of the big complaints by local people

1 was very intensive wildlife research in that area that
2 wasn't well coordinated with the communities.

3 And then another kind of delicate subject there is
4 1002 lands are, as you know, an important recreation area
5 for off-Slope users, and some of us on-Slope users
6 occasionally float the rivers in the refuge there, and we
7 learn a lot about wildlife mitigation. Development will
8 have an effect on the wilderness character of some of
9 these lands and the aesthetic impact. And I have no idea
10 how you mitigate that. But there may be some models that
11 you can look at.

12 And then something we haven't talked about is
13 consideration of demobilization. Someday all this, all
14 this hardware, will have to be removed. And we typically
15 don't discuss this, but it's something that should be
16 considered during -- if development goes away, how are you
17 going to get the stuff out there -- return the land to a
18 condition where it would be used by local people for
19 subsistence?

20 And it's funny, but I think a lot of us went back
21 to -- I think Qaiyaan read some of the words from Mayor
22 Eben Hopson from 1976. He was addressing the Berger
23 Commission, but I recommend everyone read that. It's
24 easily available online. And he really was a visionary.

25 And one of -- Qaiyaan read some quotes, but it's

1 something he said in '76. And he saw the pros and -- the
2 pros and cons of development. There is a lot of benefits
3 for the community, but he did say, I'm very concerned
4 about the long-term economic impact of oil and gas
5 development upon the Arctic community. We are riding the
6 crest of a high economic wave. He said that in '76. And
7 I fear where it will deposit us and how hard we will land.
8 And I think that speaks to this rehabilitation issue in
9 the future. We really want to think hard about just
10 balanced development that's referred to tonight. Think
11 about what the -- character of the land after -- post
12 development.

13 So I'm sorry to say the obvious here, but I really do
14 think there has been a lot of excellent comments this
15 evening. Thank you.

16 MR. HARRY BROWER: Good evening. My name
17 Harry Brower, mayor of the North Slope Borough. I wasn't
18 looking to provide any comment, but listening to the
19 people that have provided comments, I also want to welcome
20 you all to Barrow, Utqiagvik, my home town. And being
21 part of the North Slope Borough, I think I have to take on
22 a little bit of responsibility to provide some comments as
23 the mayor of the North Slope Borough.

24 This planning effort is just like starting all over
25 again when we did the NPR-A. But it's for a smaller area

1 and a more eastern area than what we were dealing with
2 within the BLM NPR-A planning efforts.

3 Again, welcome to Barrow. I was born here and raised
4 here in Barrow all my -- I'm a subsistence hunter. I'm a
5 whaling captain. I have a family of five and lived here
6 all my life. And the economics that we have identified
7 over time are somewhat unfair to our communities in terms
8 of the resource extraction that comes out of our ground,
9 shipped out to the Lower 48, then sold back to us at a
10 higher price.

11 You know, there is something not captured there in
12 the sense that needs to be studied, just like the wildlife
13 studies that need to be identified. The cost equation for
14 extraction of resources doesn't compensate for the people
15 that live in the Arctic.

16 I mean, there is resources that are going to be sold
17 elsewhere, internationally, nationally and so on, but
18 there is no methodical discussions of what about our
19 communities and the energy needs in that community. You
20 know, these are -- these are things our federal government
21 could be identifying with to make life much easier, just
22 like how it is on the West Coast, East Coast.

23 There is a lot of access to resources which we don't
24 have. You have had 200 years of learning experiences to
25 our infancy in developing our resources on the North

1 Slope.

2 You know, it's something that I have to indicate in
3 the sense that we -- we are definitely going to need some
4 help to improve our way of life. It's not that we are
5 wanting to fight for every little bit of land that's being
6 considered for oil and gas exploration. You know, it's
7 something that there should be a parallel in terms of
8 these resources being extracted and financial gain that's
9 being made out of that resource. There should be some
10 equation being factored into the area that's being
11 impacted for that resource, not just take ahold of it and
12 maybe we will think about you later. It should be right
13 from the get-go.

14 Revenue sharing. These needs are very important that
15 I have to comment about. And that's been needed. Without
16 that we wouldn't have this facility, you know. Without
17 the oil extraction, the gain from our federal government,
18 I think we would be meeting outside in a tent if it wasn't
19 for that.

20 Our life, safety and health issues and fire
21 departments, our infrastructure is getting old as we -- as
22 we are aging as people. And yet we don't have means to go
23 and identify what is it going to take to keep that
24 facility open for the next 25 years. We have to come
25 explain to you what our needs are. This is something

1 looking into the future.

2 I think the lease sales that are being proposed are
3 of importance. If there could be some language arranged
4 by our federal government supporting the need, it would
5 make it a lot easier.

6 I heard you comment a little bit just as I walked in
7 about there is a lot of opposition being generated from
8 outside of Alaska and in the United States and Canada and
9 that kind of influence -- influences that come from
10 elsewhere. And yet we are just starting to turn the page
11 for our people in developing an Environmental Impact
12 Statement and what it should entail in that.

13 These are things that we have gone through and
14 learned here on the North Slope within the North Slope
15 Borough and learned of ways to see the best way forward,
16 that surrounding the land, some importance to our
17 communities.

18 Access. Access is a problem since the federal
19 government took over and made Arctic National Wildlife a
20 refuge. Access has been a problem since then. Limited.
21 And the resources are not always stationary. They are
22 migrating out, and we have to have access to get to those
23 resources as well before they leave and when they return.
24 But that's been a difficult task.

25 So I make these comments just to give you a little

1 heads up on what potentials that could be included in the
2 development of the Environmental Impact Statement.

3 I think earlier I made comments of English is a hard
4 language to learn. There's some of these words that we
5 are not even familiar with that we don't even begin to
6 pronounce in the sense that we have to identify with and
7 learn what it really means. Some of these words are
8 defined -- have multiple definitions behind them that we
9 have to identify which specific definition are we looking
10 at.

11 Give some definitions to what you are asking for in
12 regards to what's -- what's the tax cuts and jobs are
13 going to mean. What does that mean to our people? Is
14 that a tax cut that we can write off on in terms of the
15 amount of people that come into the Arctic National
16 Wildlife Refuge for tax write-off for taxes that we send
17 something to the IRS? I don't know. You have to give
18 some definitions. You know, just a real brief explanation
19 doesn't identify what that Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2017
20 really means. I'm not sure if there has been a clear
21 explanation of what does that entail moving forward and
22 how does it affect this Environmental Impact Statement.
23 Whereas, even if there is a lease sale, how does that
24 affect that lease sale moving forward?

25 I think there needs some clearer definitions or

1 refinement in the communication schemes that need to be
2 had to be subjected to the people that will be affected
3 from this development or potential development and
4 exploration.

5 So I wanted to come in and support the comments that
6 the previous speakers spoke about. They have taken time
7 away from their families to come here -- so have you -- to
8 greet you here and provide some comments in regards to
9 what's being transpired through these communications.

10 You know, there is a couple of things I wanted to
11 identify within this -- the NEPA process. Is that
12 something that we are going to have to learn all over
13 again in terms of what we went through when we did the
14 NPR-A NEPA process, identifying critical habitat,
15 identifying boundaries outside the river, away from the
16 rivers, those kind of restrictions that it will impose on
17 the industry to keep from damaging the resources available
18 from within that watershed? These kind of things I
19 need -- we need some clear explanations on.

20 I think, you know, again, going through a refresher
21 course, so to speak, to what we have gone through and
22 learned from the NPR-A days and we continue to learn
23 through that process. There are things that are being
24 left behind that we keep restating, but it doesn't go
25 anywhere -- any further than what we -- when we identify

1 it. So there needs to be a means of going through a
2 refresher course to restate what's needed within our
3 communities.

4 You know, as the North Slope Borough, we see the
5 revenues from oil taxes. We are subjected to amount of
6 money that we could expend. And it's not easy to identify
7 those resources to be used for life, safety and health to
8 meet the needs of our people. Housing is a big issue at
9 this time. Very limited, overcrowded housing in all of
10 our villages. These are things that need to be
11 considered.

12 The access you are looking to identify with getting
13 into this specific site, the coastal plain, roads. Is it
14 just a winter access activity? It doesn't really say
15 anything to that fact. But developing access into the
16 1002 lands for all-season activity, I think that's
17 something that needs -- we need some help in getting some
18 clarification on.

19 And the legislation that got passed to open ANWR was
20 just that, just legislation to open it. It did away with
21 all the needs and concerns that were voiced by our
22 residents. They are all stripped away, and now we are
23 having to go through a whole new cycle of restating what's
24 of importance to our communities.

25 There is a couple more items I just picked on in

1 regards to the material that had been provided. The two
2 agencies; you have BLM dealing with the federal -- lead
3 federal agency for the EIS leasing program lease sales
4 specific to those few items. Then you have the Fish &
5 Wildlife Service to administer surface of Arctic National
6 Wildlife Refuge. What does that all entail when you are
7 indicating that U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is going to
8 administer surface of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge?
9 Does that mean there is no alteration to the access that's
10 been requested by the community of Kaktovik to have access
11 to the resources? Is that something that you could
12 consider? These are things that we have to identify, get
13 some refinement in the discussion points that you
14 provided.

15 The geophysical exploration, it seems to be a rehash
16 of what's already occurred. There is a lot of exploration
17 that went on, seismic activity in the Arctic National
18 Wildlife Refuge. What happened to all that information
19 that was gained from all that exploration? And it seems
20 like it's going to be reoccurring, maybe in the more
21 modern technology that's to be used for the geophysical
22 exploration. Is there some communications to what's
23 reoccurring in that sense?

24 The timing of activity. I think these are things yet
25 we still have to have communications on. I know you're in

1 the early stages of the scoping process.

2 And again, the importance of the comments that were
3 provided from our participants or attendees that came
4 here, I support their comments, and I really appreciate
5 the time given to speak this evening. Thank you.

6 MS. NICOLE HAYES: We still have an hour
7 and 20 minutes left.

8 MR. ROY AKOOTCHOOK NAGEAK, SR.: Good
9 evening. I must have a conflict of interest, but I'm
10 going to speak from the heart. I'm an employee of the
11 Bureau of Land Management for -- for NPR-A. I'm a natural
12 resource specialist in the Barrow office. But we are
13 talking about ANWR, so I could speak from the heart.

14 I just came back last Sunday to help bury one of my
15 uncles, Daniel Akootchook, the youngest one in the family.
16 My mom was the oldest one in the family, Rhoda. And there
17 was ten of them, and there is one left. Isaac Akootchook,
18 one of the older boys in the family is still alive. He's
19 over 95 years old. And my grandfather Andrew Akootchook,
20 who I'm named after my -- my name is Akootchook, the
21 Inupiaq name. For the record, N-A-G-E-A-K, Sr.

22 I want to talk something different from what we are
23 talking about. I want to talk about a story that my mom
24 told me. When she was like three or four years old, an
25 Inupiaq that was seen that was approaching from the west

1 after the whaling industry had almost decimated the
2 bowhead whale -- she was about three or four years old.
3 And my mom was born in 1913. So that must have been
4 around 1920. When people were running away from death,
5 there was just so many in the northwestern area all the
6 way up into Barrow and getting -- getting into Barrow and
7 passing Barrow. This was happening, and starvation was
8 happening within that region.

9 So my mom tells the story that she started
10 remembering his grand -- his father Akootchook taking her
11 hand. And it was in that region by -- that's got that big
12 valley that goes into the Interior. It's close to the
13 Canadian border. It's -- I forgot name of it.

14 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Demarcation?

15 MR. ROY AKOOTCHOOK NAGEAK, SR.:

16 Demarcation Point. There was a big settlement there and
17 there were a lot of people there at that time, Demarcation
18 Point. And it's got that big valley, Kaniqqat or one of
19 those valleys. And it's close to the shore. And they
20 went into the ANWR, now called ANWR, but there was no name
21 for it. But it was a haven of rest or a place where my
22 grandfather took the whole tribe. And I think it saved a
23 lot of people.

24 And my mom's parents, my grandmother, came from a
25 family that was a big family. And when I think about it,

1 after they found out that people have stopped dying and
2 they went back into the now called coastal plain, but it
3 was a country that the Inupiat lived in for centuries.
4 And my grandmother, Suzi Akootchok's parents couldn't
5 really spell their names, but they had such a big family
6 they called them Adam and Eve. And in a sense the family
7 said we are there starting, going different places,
8 starting to see if their relatives were still alive in the
9 western as far as NANA region. Because one of those
10 families that went to the region were brothers of -- and
11 sisters of people that survived in the ANWR country. And
12 their last names were [indiscernible] Chris. All the
13 Chris around Selawik and all that region. They came from
14 ANWR. And all the Gordons that went into Canada populated
15 that area.

16 Because an industry found that bowhead whale blubber
17 could be utilized for light, streetlights, heating. And
18 it was industry that almost decimated the whales at that
19 time. There was no control of what was taken from the
20 oceans of the Inupiat and the lands. I'm saying that
21 because a lot of people died from that. It's not like
22 today.

23 Today we could be more civilized in how we extract.
24 And we are lucky they find out where black oil was so they
25 stopped. It was too expensive to keep getting that

1 blubber, so they went back and black oil in a way was --
2 it came with time. And now today ever since the 1960s, we
3 have been impacted by black oil, but not a lot of people
4 are dying. It could be done in a more civilized and
5 social sensitive way for our people where they don't have
6 to die because a lot of people my dad's age saw a lot of
7 starvation, a lot of hunger and people dying.

8 My dad lost a wife and four kids, four boys from his
9 first family. It was real and it probably happened in the
10 rest of the state of Alaska and the Lower 48 when a lot of
11 deaths from starvation happened.

12 I used to have a dream. We left Kaktovik when I was
13 five years old and moved to Barrow because that's where my
14 dad was from, but my mother was from Kaktovik. And my dad
15 wanted to go back where it was much easier to live. In
16 each region there was a bigger BIA school. And when I
17 reflect on that, I left something in Kaktovik, and I
18 couldn't understand why.

19 There was a place that I kept dreaming about. About
20 two times a year I dream about this place. And it was so
21 beautiful. It was so beautiful and it was just covered
22 with gravel. And there was a soft slope going up. And
23 off in the distance, I could see mountains. And I used to
24 have that dream two times a year until one time I went to
25 Kaktovik and I -- and two of my cousins, Bert and Joe

1 Akootchook, the only living relatives now of my mom, took
2 me from Kaktovik.

3 And when you look at that map, right at the end of
4 that brown mark, there is a soft slope that goes to POWD.
5 There was a place called POWD, which was an old DEW line
6 site. And I wasn't thinking about anything. And I start
7 seeing this land that I had dreamed about before so many
8 years. I was in my mid 20s, and I was going through this
9 land, and I'm going, this is it. This is it. This is the
10 land that I used to dream about like two times a year.
11 And it just filled me up with some -- some form of -- I
12 want to call it appreciation of some form of a spiritual
13 connection to a land, and it made me happy.

14 Every time I go to Kaktovik -- you know how you have
15 your little aches and pains and you don't feel right.
16 When I go to Kaktovik, I feel right. I'm at home. And
17 that's how our Inupiaq people are. They are connected to
18 the land, the waters. And we have the spiritual
19 connection that people can't describe. I'm just saying a
20 little bit of it. But it gave me an inner peace, inner
21 peace that I can't describe. And that's how we are
22 connected to our lands.

23 When Prudhoe Bay was being developed and they started
24 talking about coastal plains and ANWR, again, I went over
25 there in August, and again, Bert and Joe took me to the

1 same area, but a little bit past. And we were looking for
2 caribou. And I saw a moose and we saw a moose close to
3 the beach. And I said, look at that moose. Let's go get
4 it. And both of them said, we can't. What? Look at that
5 moose. It's so close. We can't do it. Why? Why can't
6 we shoot at something that's just right there for food?
7 And they said, we can't. Fish & Wildlife says it opens
8 August 1st. Yeah, but it's July 30. It's like two days
9 away. But they were so scared of not getting that
10 caribou -- that moose, but I wasn't.

11 I grew up hunting. I grew up hunting like the old
12 way with no fear.

13 I remember the first time I went out all alone. I
14 must have been like 12 or 13 years old. And it was this
15 time of year, springtime, and the seals were coming in.
16 And I had -- my dad gave me three shots of .257 and he
17 told me try to make every shot count. And I went out
18 there with this harpoon with a hook on it, and then I saw
19 a seal come up, a young one, just right, and I shot it.

20 And my dad told me, you catch a seal, just leave it
21 on the beach. Nobody is going to get it if you put
22 something on top of it. And for the life of me, I tried
23 to look for something to put on top of it, and I couldn't
24 find nothing. So I walked towards Barrow until I find an
25 old Shasta can, Shasta pop can. And I ran back to the

1 seal and I put it on top of the seal. Then I went to
2 sleep after I went home. And Mom and Dad were already up.
3 And she said, where you catch that seal? Where is it? By
4 the gravel pit. The State gravel pit. It used to be a
5 big bluff, but now it's just all gravel, gravel pit.

6 And then when I woke up, I woke up to the smell of
7 boiling seal. And I went down, and one of the best things
8 my mom ever told me at that time, all she said was, my
9 hunter.

10 And ever since then, I found it with a freedom an
11 Inupiaq had 10,000 years ago or 5,000 years ago or 200
12 years ago. And that's what we don't want to lose as
13 development hits another part of the North Slope, because
14 it feels good to be a provider. And that's a feeling that
15 nobody is going to take away from us. If it does, then
16 you are killing our spirit. I'm happy. Things are going
17 the way that they always go when people work together for
18 development. When people work together to do things
19 right, and in the right frame of mind and everybody works
20 together, then it works instead of fighting each other.

21 Inupiaq values, look at it, avoidance of conflict.
22 Inupiaq values, if you look at what they are and study
23 them, it will show you that we can help in developing the
24 lands that we have hunted and lived on for a long time.

25 I always remember my father, me and my brother Ben,

1 he pointed to me, you be the hunter, and to Ben he said,
2 you will work. And ever since then, Ben has supported me
3 and my whaling activities and my hunting activities for
4 the family. When families work together, there is no
5 need -- it's just loving each other. And I think
6 developing Inupiaq land was helping each other. And
7 understanding each other, what our values are, will be
8 greater than having conflict every time you want to do
9 something. It's good. It's good for our people. It's
10 good if we do it right instead of having conflict.

11 And that's why the U.S. Fish & Wildlife being the
12 major overseer of what's going to happen -- somebody
13 mentioned NPR-A is different. BLM manages the land and
14 have arrangements made with the people to work together.
15 Hopefully U.S. Fish & Wildlife will have the same
16 management plans and the traditional knowledge and the
17 hunting areas that will be impacted to soften the impact.
18 But sometimes things get out of hand. But hopefully in
19 the beginning, meetings like this will help us to
20 understand each other, and that's what we need.
21 [indiscernible] with the understanding that comes from God
22 because we are not the ones that own the land. We are
23 just using it. Okay?

24 Thank you.

25 MS. NICOLE HAYES: We still have an hour.

1 We would love to hear from anyone else that would like to
2 speak.

3 MR. CHAD RICKLEFS: Would anyone else like
4 to come up and speak tonight? Otherwise the folks that
5 have been sitting up here listening to your comments will
6 be around to speak with anyone that would like to speak
7 with them.

8 I think at this point, this officially closes the
9 work that Mary has been doing, the court reporter. So
10 again, thank everybody for coming out tonight. We
11 appreciate all the comments that were presented, and we
12 look forward to working with the rest of you throughout
13 this EIS process.

14 Joe, would you like to say anything before we close?

15 MR. JOE BALASH: I just want to commend
16 the speakers we heard here tonight. Some of the specific
17 points that you have advised us to pay attention to will
18 be very helpful to the work that needs to be undertaken.
19 And it's pretty clear that you guys have done this before.
20 And you know, after 40 years of negotiating with oil
21 companies and working with governments, State and federal,
22 I think that your insights and a number of the things that
23 you have reported over the many years and decades is going
24 to be very helpful to our process. And I know that -- I
25 know that everybody on the team is dedicated to working

1 through all of the matters that are going to be in play
2 here.

3 So as we -- as we go through this process, as we go
4 through the development of the EIS itself, the borough is
5 a cooperating agency in this matter, so some of you, I
6 think, are going to have more opportunities to review some
7 documents and help us understand, you know, what needs a
8 little more attention and maybe where to find additional
9 information. So we look forward to working with you.

10 And this is just the beginning of a process. We are
11 going to be back. We will talk to the communities further
12 in greater depth. And the timing for that, at least -- at
13 least as we currently expect it, I expect it will be a
14 little darker around here. So we look forward to --

15 MR. GEORGE EDWARDSON: Before you can sell
16 it, you have to own it, and you have never bought it from
17 us. You heard how we own it from my Uncle Roy back here.
18 Before you can sell it, you have to buy it from us. We
19 own it. It's ours.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. JOE BALASH: Thank you, all.

22 MR. CRAIG GEORGE: Can I ask a question?

23 MR. JOE BALASH: Oh, yes.

24 MR. CRAIG GEORGE: You know, there is --
25 we have levered a lot tonight about the importance of

1 local input on the decision making. How do you weight
2 that with input and local recommendations against 300
3 million people in the Lower 48, whatever it is? How do
4 you find that balance and how equivalent are the voices?

5 MR. JOE BALASH: Well, we have to take
6 into account all of the comments that we receive. They
7 will all be cataloged, categorized through the process
8 here as we -- as we wrap up the spoken process that we
9 have spoken before that highlights those things.

10 But as far as the weighting goes, that's -- that's
11 something that is carried out by the decisionmakers in the
12 final analysis and the final decision that gets made at
13 the end of the process. I'm one of those people. And the
14 Deputy Secretary who came with me to this community in
15 February will also be one of those decisionmakers.

16 And we made a point of coming here to let people know
17 that while we have to listen to everybody, we are going to
18 be paying very close attention to the words and concerns
19 of the community and the people most directly impacted.

20 So, you know, I can't tell you that we will pay more
21 to other voices, other concerns, but we know that the
22 input that's going to be most relevant and most informed
23 is going to be that that comes from people in closest
24 proximity and those directly affected.

25 So we have spent time in Arctic Village already. We

1 will be going to Venetie talking with the residents there
2 who depend on the Porcupine caribou herd. And we will be
3 visiting Kaktovik also in June when we reconvene. I think
4 that's going to be in about two weeks. So we had
5 originally intended to start with Kaktovik. Our original
6 schedule basically started at the coastal plain and worked
7 out, going from Kaktovik to Arctic Village to Fairbanks to
8 Anchorage, but circumstances due to the passing of Roy's
9 uncle, you know, caused us to reschedule that.

10 MR. ROY AKOOTCHOOK NAGEAK, SR.: One of
11 the reasons the people in Kaktovik were traumatized during
12 World War II -- and I think some of you have heard that
13 story. When I went to Kaktovik, I drove around the
14 hangar, the only thing left on the spit. They were
15 tearing down the hangar the Air Force or the Army had put
16 in there in 1940s. And our people used to live there, our
17 families, my mom and them.

18 But during the war, the federal government, using
19 their military might, just kind of bulldozed all the
20 houses that they were living in and dislocated them
21 into -- on the beach -- on the high area it was marshy,
22 and they had to try to build houses on their own from some
23 of the scrap that was from the DEW line sites when they
24 were building. So that in a way the people in Kaktovik
25 were traumatized and the fear of the government was in

1 them. And they had to relocate another place because of
2 the erosion that was happening. But when our people in
3 the use of wartime things -- and at that time, too, in the
4 1950s every man that was available out on the North Slope
5 volunteered in the Army or the Alaska National Guard. And
6 they were very patriotic in their service for the country.
7 Even though they were a territory, they respected their
8 country that kind of took them over since. I don't know
9 what they called it.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. JOE BALASH: All right. Thank you all
12 again. Have a good evening.

13 MR. CHAD RICKLEFS: Don't forget, we have
14 extra comment forms if you need a form before you leave.
15 You can make your comment here. We will be around to
16 collect those. You can also email them in with the
17 information we provided earlier, as well.

18 Thank you.

19 (Proceedings adjourned at 8:13 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