



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] COMMENTS - Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska

1 message

Rhett Winter <Rhett.Winter@iadc.org>

Mon, Jun 18, 2018 at 11:56 AM

To: "blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov" <blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov>

Comments Attached, please confirm good receipt and contact me with any questions, thank you!

Rhett H. Winter

Director, Government & Industry Affairs – Onshore

International Association of Drilling Contractors

713-292-1993 Ext. 235

979-218-2735 Cell



Representing the worldwide oil and gas drilling industry since 1940

*IADC's Houston office will be relocating to the following location in July 2018:

3657 Briarpark Drive, Suite 200

Houston, TX 77042



BLM Final Comments - EIS Coastal Plan Alaska.pdf

249K



International Association
of Drilling Contractors
10370 Richmond Ave., Suite 760
Houston, Texas 77042

P +1.713.292.1945
F +1.713.292.1946
www.iadc.org

June 14, 2018

Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office
(Attention—Coastal Plain EIS)
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

RE: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska
(Document Citation: 83 FR 17562, Document Number: 2018-08302)

Attn: Nicole Hayes (or To Whom It May Concern):

As an introduction, The International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC) is a trade association that represents the interest of drilling contractors, both onshore and offshore, that operate throughout the world, including Alaska.

The purpose of this letter is to provide comments to the April 20, 2018 Federal Register notice (83 FR 17562) regarding a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program in Alaska.

Typically, the purpose of a public commenting phase regarding energy and natural resources, is to gather information to be able to clearly illustrate and identify both all the benefits, and all the associated (or perceived) risks. As a result of a sound comparison with detailed information, the government can then move forward in good faith knowing they've considered all available options.

In the matter of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), known as the "1002 Area" or Coastal Plain region in Alaska, IADC firmly believes that the rewards and economic benefits far outweigh any associated risk with the development of the Alaska Coastal Plain. Therefore, we strongly favor the development and opening of the ANWR for *responsible energy production* that could potentially create thousands of jobs, and generate an estimated \$150 billion to \$296 billion in new federal revenue.

IADC believes the following points most strongly illustrate support for development of the ANWR, they also firmly reinforce and amplify those offered by industry stakeholders, the Alaskan government, not to mention the majority of Alaskans.

- With an estimated 10.4 billion barrels of oil, the area is considered the largest onshore oil prospect in North America.

- Opening the 1002 Area to responsible oil and gas development would generate new wealth and prosperity for Alaska and the nation, while also bringing many other substantial economic benefits. Drilling and production creates thousands of new jobs, and those jobs pay the types of wages that support families. It would also generate tens of billions of dollars in tax revenues.
- Advancements in technology allow for energy production to occur safely and with **minimal environmental impact**. Horizontal drilling allows for greater access to the reservoir by using a rig to drill down thousands of feet into the targeted production zone. The drill bit then probes thousands of feet horizontally through the shale. This approach efficiently recovers more oil or natural gas **with a smaller environmental footprint** than drilling multiple vertical wells. For example, new extended reach, horizontal drilling allows for one rig to cover a 28,000 ft radius—larger than the size of Washington D.C.
- Drillers are also getting more efficient at using the technology, cutting safe drilling time in half and doubling productivity. Used in combination with another technology — hydraulic fracturing — horizontal drilling is enhancing production flow rates in almost every play throughout the world.
- **Horizontal drilling also enables industry to design wells with control systems to protect groundwater throughout the life of the well.**
- Despite a work environment that involves heavy equipment, hazardous materials, high temperatures and high pressures, the oil and gas industry has a very strong safety record.
- Our industry's ability to operate safely and in an environmentally responsible manner in the Arctic has been demonstrated for five decades. Alaskan oil and gas operations have been a proving ground for drilling technologies that have steadily reduced both the footprint and the impacts of exploration and production activities.

IADC encourages further action and support of the planning and development for future lease sales in the Arctic NWR coastal plain, that will allow for safe and environmentally responsible drilling and production of the area's abundant resources. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding this notice and ask that they be given due consideration. Should you have any questions about any portion of this correspondence, please contact me by phone at (713) 292-1945 or email at Rhett.winter@iadc.org

Sincerely,

Rhett H. Winter
Director, Government & Industry Affairs – Onshore