



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Scoping comments on Coastal Plain leasing1 message

Stephen Mishkin <smishkin@comcast.net>

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 11:37 AM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

To BLM officials:

Here are some preliminary issues that need to be discussed in the EIS:

1. Please explain how a provision approving oil leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge ended up in the unrelated "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017."

2. Why are scoping hearings being held only in Alaska (and a few days ago in Washington, D.C.)? I object. I want the opportunity to present my views in person. A hearing needs to be scheduled in Seattle. It would attract thousands of participants. I ask that you schedule such a meeting before moving forward in the process. Proposed oil exploration in the Arctic Refuge affects many people outside of Alaska. You need to hear (in person) from the rest of the nation.

Now for my substantive comments:

1. What impact will oil leasing have on the polar bears that have been gathering in record numbers in recent years in Kaktovik?
2. How will you limit the "footprint of production and support facilities" to 2,000 acres?
3. How will those 2,000 acres be measured? The correct way to measure is to draw a line around all of the development sites and count the entire area inside as part of the "footprint" of production.
4. "Potential alternatives" must include no leasing at all. Most Americans oppose drilling in the Arctic Refuge, and that should be foremost on the minds of those of you charged with implementing this oil leasing provision.
5. What steps will you take to protect the fragile tussock tundra of the Coastal Plain?
6. How has Coastal Plain ecology changed in the last few decades due to the dramatic warming of Alaska? How is it likely to change in the next few decades?
7. How will permafrost be affected by exploratory oil drilling in the Coastal Plain?

Please notify me as soon as the EIS is released.

Sincerely,

Stephen Mishkin
Olympia, Washington