



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Scoping Comment from Fairbanks

1 message

Marcy Nadel <mnadel10@gmail.com>

Wed, May 30, 2018 at 8:42 AM

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

Hello BLM Coastal Plain Scoping Group,

Thank you for taking our comments, I attended the Fairbanks hearing last night but was unable to testify. I don't get off work until 5pm, at which point public statement acceptance had already been open for two hours. There are many others in similar situations, please hold a second scoping hearing in Fairbanks. Below is the statement I prepared.

My name is Marcy Nadel, I'm here tonight representing myself. There are abundant reasons to oppose drilling in this sacred, beautiful place. You have heard tonight from Native leaders and tribal members who have spoken to the human rights implications of development in and near the calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd. Please take the testimony of those who are born and raised Alaskan, who come from a lineage of thousands of years of Alaskans, from long long before this land we inhabit was a state, particularly to heart. I am concerned that these voices are not being heard, and am asking for an extension to the public scoping period and translation into, at a minimum, Gwich'in and Inupiat, to allow for more input from those who will be the most impacted.

Many tonight have used the phrase responsible development, but I haven't heard anyone provide a definition. I work in environmental remediation, which can mean responding to oil spills on the North Slope. Of course no one plans to spill, but somehow it keeps happening.

Unfortunately, I responded to a 4,000 gallon diesel spill in the Village of Kaktovik, immediately adjacent to the proposed lease sale area. The release was caused by a winter storm that created white out conditions. Weather on the coast of the Beaufort Sea is severe and unpredictable, winds in excess of 35 miles per hour are common. Responding to a spill in these conditions requires impeccable planning, troubleshooting on the fly, persistence, and is very very expensive. Every minor task is complicated by limited infrastructure. Even so, it is never possible to recover all that was spilled.

To me, responsible development means preventing spills, because once they do happen they are irreversible. As someone with first hand knowledge of spill response on the North Slope, in my opinion logistical challenges inherent to the location of the Refuge make it impossible to respond quickly and adequately. If oil spills in this remote, undeveloped land are inevitable, the only responsible thing to do is to not drill.

Following the Deepwater Horizon tragedy I read about a copy paste error in BP's spill response plan, that described how to mitigate the effects spilled oil on walrus. They met the requirement by preparing a response plan, but they didn't meet the spirit of the law because no one read the entire plan. This is what you are doing by rushing the EIS process, you are meeting the requirement of the law only.

I urge you to include a comprehensive, realistic assessment of the impacts of oil spills from exploration, drilling, processing, and transportation at each of the proposed locations on the land and its inhabitants in your EIS. Please take the time to meet with tribal governments, and extend the scoping period so you can hear from more Alaskans. When you do so, when you do more than just check the EIS box, I expect you will find that the risks outweigh the benefits and recommend a no action alternative.

Thank you for your attention.

5/30/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - [EXTERNAL] Scoping Comment from Fairbanks

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