



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL]

1 message

Matthew Rexford <matthew.rexford@gmail.com>
To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 5:52 PM

My name is Matthew Rexford. I am a lifelong resident of Kaktovik and have grown to realize the positive impacts that money from the oil & gas industry has had on my community through improvements in infrastructure, public safety, health care, and education (including higher education and career and job training). Our local economy heavily relies on the oil and gas industry and the opportunities it provides including jobs, investments, shareholder earnings, and oil and gas support industries. Development of Native-owned lands on the coastal plain would provide significant benefits to Alaska Natives on the North Slope and throughout the state through ANCSA Corporation revenue sharing.

I understand that the scoping stage of this process helps the Bureau of Land Management and cooperating agencies to determine the issues that should be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement, and I appreciate the opportunity to provide my comments to this process in to ensure that potential future development is done in a way that is respectful of our culture and environment.

I believe that as you move to create the draft Environmental Impact Statement, the following issues should be of particular focus:

- The BLM should read "In This Place: A Guide for Those Who Would Work in the Country of the Kaktovikmiut" *and* include recommendations that those who would participate in any lease sales for the Coastal Plain review the document.
- Village Health Assessment should be a part of this process to provide a baseline measure of the health of the community to ensure that the health of Kaktovik is not negatively affected should any development occur.
- Ensure that the Kaktovikmiut are an integral part of this process – their voices should be heard above those who do not live on or near the 1002 area.
- Ensure that any adverse effects to wildlife and subsistence resources are thoroughly studied and protected.
- Indigenous Knowledge from community members should be incorporated into any environmental and/or wildlife studies conducted in the Coastal Plain and the Kaktovikmiut should be consulted in how these studies take place.
- Recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Service to enter into a co-management arrangement with the community of Kaktovik in the management of the Coastal Plain and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge more broadly.
- Require that those who buy leases in the 1002 area attend cultural and environmental seminar given by Kaktovikmiut.
- There should be a thorough review of closed and pending Native allotments – especially those closed with the withdrawal of the military (Public Order 82) from Barter Island.
- Community needs to be provided access, especially All-Terrain Vehicle in the summer and fall months, across land on the Coastal Plain for hunting, fishing, camping, and subsistence use sites.
- Community trails, campsites, and subsistence use sites used by the community of Kaktovik should be identified and protected in the EIS and should not be included in a lease sale.

- Support should be provided to the community, especially Native Village of Kaktovik, to assist in their capacity to participate effectively in this process. This should include, if the community desires, BLM hire of local resident of Kaktovik to facilitate meetings and work to communicate between local entities and the BLM/DOI
- Impact Aid has not been addressed; Kaktovik needs to know that they will receive assistance for their community.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rexford