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[EXTERNAL] scoping comments for the 1002 area

1 message

Dennis Stacey <dstacey@gci.net>
To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Sun, Jun 17, 2018 at 6:32 PM

My scoping comments regarding Coastal Plain leasing are attached in pdf format.

2 attachments



Dennis Stacey ANWR scoping comments.pdf
52K



ATT00001
1K

Email: < dstacey@gci.net >

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June 12, 2018

Department of the Interior/BLM
Coastal Plain Leasing Scoping Team
Email: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Re.: ANWR scoping comments

Thank you for coming to Kaktovik to receive scoping comments and present information about potential oil and gas leasing in ANWR. I have lived in Alaska for over 41 years and I am familiar with many of the issues surrounding oil and gas exploration and development in ANWR, NPRA and elsewhere on the North Slope.

- The shareholders of ASRC and Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation (KIC) have private surface and mineral rights within the area, and are the stakeholders with the most direct interest in the mineral resource development of the area, as well as the subsistence resources. ASRC and KIC have filed a 3-D seismic exploration plan for the 1002 area according to a recent press release in Petroleum News, 6/10/2018. They are obviously in favor of responsible exploration and development of their land. The results of the 3-D seismic survey and the leasing program will help guide future development.
- The actual area proposed for development and surface disturbance is quite small in this huge landscape; 2,000 acres in ~ 20,000,000 acres. The history of oil and gas development elsewhere on the North Slope shows that caribou populations have thrived alongside of oil development. Development in the 1002 area can create a very beneficial win-win situation for the people of Alaska, the Native people of the North Slope and Native people elsewhere in Alaska, and the citizens of the United States. The economic and employment benefits are potentially huge.
- Oil and gas development can provide an enhanced tax base for the North Slope Borough, royalty revenues for local Native Corporation shareholders, and revenue sharing with other Alaska Native Corporations under the 7(i) provisions of ANCSA. The North Slope Borough and Alaska native communities have huge, unmet social needs that may be funded by these revenues.
- The State of Alaska may receive income from oil and gas leasing and development with ANWR. This flow of oil will help prolong the life of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.
- The US taxpayer stands to earn significant income for the US Treasury from leasing, taxes, royalties, and income taxes paid by workers employed on the projects and support industries.
- The oil produced from the area can help improve energy security for the United States and our allies.
- Environmental stipulations for exploration and development should follow best modern practices like those that are being used in the NPRA.

• **KEY POINT: The Department of the Interior planning should consider possible opportunities for habitat enhancement of the area in conjunction with oil and gas development.** For example:

- If a gravel resource is developed within the area it may be possible to create wildlife habitat enhancements by creating artificial hills from overburden stripping that caribou can use to help avoid flies and mosquitoes. Caribou frequently seek windy raised areas like hills and gravel pads in oil fields to escape insect pests. During 2016 the ASRC mine site near Nuiqsut had an overburden pile of more than one million cubic yards that was over 100' high. Reclamation stipulations required this material to be reclaimed and put back into that pit.
- Gravel pits may be useful as fishery enhancement ponds. This has been done elsewhere in Alaska, for example on upper Quartz Creek on the Kenai Peninsula.
- Another possible mitigation with gravel pits is the creation of micro-islands in shallow ponds for duck nesting sites to afford some protection from foxes. This was done in the E-Pit reclamation in the northern Kuparuk oilfield.
- Other creative and/or compensatory mitigation inside and outside of the refuge should be considered.

Thank you for your consideration of these scoping comments.

Sincerely,

/s/ J. Dennis Stacey