

**STATEMENT OF KLINT VANWINGERDEN
OMD ENGINEERING MANAGER
ALYESKA PIPELINE SERVICE CO.**

Anchorage
5/30/18

**BEFORE THE U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
REGARDING
THE COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM EIS**

**DENA'INA CENTER
600 WEST 7TH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, AK**

MAY 30, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the development of the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Environmental Impact Statement. I am Klinton VanWingerden, Operations Engineering Manager for Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. I joined Alyeska in 2008 as an electrical engineer, and have held a number of positions in the company since then, serving as Automation Supervisor, OM Engineering Manager, and the Glennallen Response Base Area Manager. I was born, raised, and educated in Alaska, with the support of my immediate family and extended family through the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program. I am proud to work for an Alaska company, having been born, raised, and educated in Alaska. As an Alaska Native (Aleut with roots from my Mother's home village of Old Harbor, Kodiak Island), I have a long heritage of working with Alaska to provide a sustainable and comfortable home for my family. My wife and I are now raising our own children here and continue working hard to build a brighter future for them in our great state. I spend much time enjoying the many epic outdoor activities Alaska offers including competing in the world's longest, toughest, snowmobile race - the Irondog. With Alyeska's support, I am able to engage with the community, through opportunities like this, speaking to the benefits of hard work, innovation, and perseverance. I'm both thankful and hopeful for the future here in our great state.

I am here representing Alyeska, the company that operates and maintains the 800-mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, transporting crude oil from Alaska's North Slope to Valdez, where it is shipped to market.

The environmental impact statement will consider and analyze the potential impacts of various leasing alternatives. According to the U.S. Geological Survey's most conservative scenario, the coastal plain contains 5.7 billion barrels of oil, and production on the coastal plain could "top out" at 560,000 barrels per day in 2039. And, the USGS mean estimate calls for 10.4 billion barrels of oil, and production could peak at 880,000 barrels per day in 2041. This is oil that would be transported through the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. Therefore, it is of particular interest and importance to the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

TAPS has safely delivered crude oil to meet the nation's energy needs for over 40 years. The ongoing success of this existing infrastructure and its role to the nation's energy security is directly tied to healthy levels of Alaska crude oil production. At the peak of Alaska's production in 1988, TAPS delivered 2.1 million barrels of oil per day, transporting some 24 percent of the nation's crude oil production.

We still have the capacity to safely deliver large volumes of oil through TAPS every day. Unfortunately, TAPS throughput has declined over the years. In 2017, the pipeline averaged 527,323 barrels per day, which is still about 6 percent of the nation's crude oil production. Lower throughput levels create serious challenges for the safe, long-term operation of TAPS. To keep the pipeline operating safely while moving lower throughputs, we have made significant investments to re-engineer and adapt the pipeline. The changing hydraulic profile on TAPS has triggered the replacement of our mainline pumps, in-station pipe replacement, additional piping for recirculation to heat the oil, added heat along the line, additional pigging and an additional pig launcher and receiver.

We are confident in our handling of these and other issues that have required significant attention and considerable resources and investment. However, these challenges will

grow if throughput continues to decline. The long-term solution to our operational challenges is for more oil to be delivered into TAPS from the North Slope of Alaska. Development of oil on the coastal plain would play a vital role in that long-term solution.

As we focus on ensuring the nation continues to benefit from the investment in the critical energy infrastructure of TAPS over the next several decades, we fully support environmentally responsible exploration and development efforts that could result in increased throughput into the pipeline. This includes efforts to produce oil from onshore, nearshore, and offshore areas of the North Slope of Alaska that would be delivered to the American people through the existing infrastructure of TAPS. As the Bureau analyzes leasing proposals for the coastal plain, we ask that you consider the on-going benefit TAPS provides for our nation's energy policy, and the importance the energy resources in the coastal plain may have to the pipeline's continued contribution to Alaska's and the United States' energy and economic security.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the preparation of the environmental impact statement for the development of the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program.