



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Attn: Coastal Plan Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS Comments1 message

Anne Seneca <Ceaak@consumerenergyalliance.org>

Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 5:09 PM

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

Cc: Anne R Seneca <aseneca@consumerenergyalliance.org>

To Whom It May Concern,

CEA is a nationwide association that represents citizens, families, and businesses in advocating for balanced policies that support access to affordable, reliable energy. In addition to our nearly 300 company and association members that represent nearly every sector of the U.S. economy, CEA's membership includes more than 500,000 individual citizens across Alaska and the entire country. From everyday citizens to truckers, manufacturers, farmers, and beyond, our members and the American public at large depend on access to affordable, reliable energy -- and the products it produces -- in order to meet daily needs, sustain and create jobs, and power the economy. It is the position of CEA-AK that in order to foster renewed economic growth and sustain a healthy way of life for Alaskans, we **must** develop our resources. The following are only a few major points to consider as BLM moves forward in decision-making regarding development of Alaska's coastal plain:

- The proposed oil and gas leasing program would allow development of no more than 2,000 acres of the 1.6 million acres of the coastal plain – part of the non-wilderness portion of refuge's 19 million acres. That is equivalent to just 0.01 percent of the entire refuge.
- Responsible oil and gas development in this fraction of the refuge will help ensure America's energy security for decades and allow Alaska – and our nation as a whole – to realize the benefits that come from expanding energy production in Alaska.
- While renewable energy is a growing part of America's energy portfolio, it is still projected to account for a minority of American energy production in 2040. New oil and gas production will be required to power America's economy and can serve as a bridge until renewable energy becomes a dominant energy source decades into the future.
- Energy production from the coastal has the potential to offset a decline in Lower 48 shale oil production, which is expected to commence in approximately a decade. Without limited oil development on the coastal plain, America will be forced to once again increase its reliance on foreign imports. With limited development in ANWR, America and Alaska can continue to grow the economy and reduce dependence on foreign oil.
- The U.S. Geological Survey estimates the coastal plain is North America's greatest prospect for conventional onshore oil production, with a mean likelihood of containing 10.4 billion barrels of oil and 8.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, as well as a reasonable chance of economically producing 16 billion barrels of oil.
- Alaska's economic lifeline, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), is now running at three-quarters empty. New oil production from the coastal plain has the potential to reverse throughput


in TAPS, a vital component of American energy infrastructure.

- Oil development on a fraction of the coastal plain would create thousands of jobs nationwide, generate billions of dollars in government revenue, keep energy prices for American consumers affordable, and further improve energy security for decades into the future.
- Since the non-Wilderness portion of the coastal plain is less than 60 miles from TAPS, development of energy resources there is one of the most environmentally-sound ways to increase oil production in Alaska.
- Thanks to continuing improvements in technology, practices, and oversight, the oil industry has demonstrated over the past 40 years that North Slope energy development and environmental stewardship can and do coexist. The industry has a proven track record of responsible development in sensitive areas, protecting the environment, wildlife and subsistence needs of local residents.
- Development of Native-owned lands on the coastal plain would provide significant economic benefits to Alaska Natives on the North Slope as well as throughout the state through direct payment of royalties and revenue sharing among the Alaska Native corporations and their shareholders.
- The coastal plain was specifically identified by Congress, pursuant to Section 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, for its potential for oil and natural gas resources. Oil and gas from the non-Wilderness Coastal Plain is an important resource for meeting our nation's energy demands and achieving energy dominance.
- Polls have consistently shown Alaskans overwhelmingly support responsible oil and gas development in the non-wilderness portion of ANWR. There is no valid reason why we should not be allowed to access the world-class resources within just a tiny fraction of the coastal plain.

Along with 67% of Alaskans, CEA-AK respectfully urges the BLM to continue supporting lease sales on the coastal plain.

Thank you for your consideration,

Anne Seneca

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