



ALASKAN FRONTIER
555-907
09 MAR 2019 PM 11



Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513

99513-750413



Helen D. Nienhueser
2561 Lovejoy Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Re: Arctic Refuge Oil and Gas Leasing EIS

Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing EIS
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513

Dear BLM:

My preference is that the Arctic Refuge remain undeveloped and wilderness forever. I have floated several rivers in the Refuge, through the coastal plain. Any development on the coastal plain will severely impact that experience. It will no longer be a wilderness experience. There should be one tiny corner of the Earth that remains wilderness so that future generations will have an opportunity to experience it; the Arctic Refuge is that corner.

But I understand that you are following direction from Congress to open the coastal plain to oil and gas leasing. Given that, it is incumbent on you to do a careful and thorough job of analyzing the effects of oil and gas exploration and development on the wilderness, the viewsheds, the caribou, the Alaska Natives who depend on subsistence resources in the Refuge, and the many birds that nest there in the summer. Instead you have rushed this EIS process.

One of the topics that is dealt with inadequately is water. Water is scarce there, wildlife depend on it, and you have not taken the time to figure out how much water will be used and to analyze, based on good, current data, how that will affect wildlife, birds, and the Gwich'in people.

Another area dealt with inadequately is the 2000 acre surface development limitation. Elevated pipelines and gravel mines certainly are surface development. Look at what is there now, imagine an elevated pipeline or a gravel pit and tell me with a straight face that this is not surface development! And do you seriously think reclaimed land is the same as what is there now? (Time scale matters on this issue. How long will it be before the footprint of man is erased? Certainly more than one lifetime...)

Given the options apparently on the table, my obvious choice is Alternative D2. But I urge you to withdraw this EIS and take the time to get current information and thoroughly analyze the impacts and their effect on the environment (including the Gwich'in people, the caribou, polar bears, the bird life, and human recreational use).

Sincerely,



Helen Nienhueser