



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

## **BREAKFAST MEETING**

# **Thursday, September 18, 2008**

- 1) Call to order – Rick Rogers, President
- 2) Self Introductions
- 3) Headtable Introductions
- 4) Staff Report – Jason Brune, Executive Director
- 5) Program and Keynote Speakers:

**Developing NPR-A in an  
Environmentally-Responsible Manner**  
Ted Murphy, Deputy State Director for  
Resources, Bureau of Land Management

**Point Thomson Project Update**  
Craig Haymes  
Alaska Production Manager, ExxonMobil

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 2: Rick Van Nieuwenhuyse, President,  
NovaGold Resources

Please add my name to RDC's mailing list

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## RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

### **RDC Action Alert: MMS New Five Year OCS Leasing Program**

**Comment deadline September 15, 2008**

#### **Overview:**

The Department of the Interior is soliciting comments on the possible creation of a new OCS oil and gas leasing program for 2010-2015. The current Five-year Plan covers July 2007 to June 30, 2012. The Minerals Management Service (MMS) is accepting comments up to **Monday, September 15** on whether to begin a new plan for the 2010 to mid-2015 period. If the decision is made to prepare a new Five-Year Plan, the MMS will also prepare appropriate NEPA analysis documents. The public will have several additional opportunities to comment. The MMS in particular requests comments on areas that are restricted from leasing by Congressional Moratoria, but were removed from Presidential Withdrawal on July 14, 2008.

For Alaska, the new program would include the Beaufort and Chukchi seas, the North Aleutian Basin, and Cook Inlet. Alaska's offshore waters contain reserves estimated at 27 billion barrels of oil and 132 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The MMS believes the Chukchi Sea is the most promising offshore petroleum basin in the U.S. Improved and accelerated access to Alaska offshore waters in an environmentally-sensitive way could significantly improve the nation's domestic energy situation and provide economic stimulus to coastal communities and the state.

For additional information: <http://www.mms.gov/5-year/>

#### **Action Requested:**

RDC encourages its members to submit comments supporting the immediate development of a new Five-Year Plan. Beginning the planning process now could give the new administration a two-year head start in expanding offshore energy production at a time when high energy prices pose a serious threat to the economy.

Send written comments to:

*Ms. Renee Orr, 5-Year Program Manager  
Minerals Management Service (MS-4010)  
381 Elden Street  
Herndon, Virginia 20170*

Or submit comments online:

The MMS will accept comments submitted to its electronic public comment system. This system can be accessed at [www.mms.gov/5-year/5-YearProgramComments.htm](http://www.mms.gov/5-year/5-YearProgramComments.htm)

**Comment deadline September 15, 2008**

#### **Points to consider for your comments:**

- The MMS should move forward immediately with a new accelerated Five-Year Plan that opens prospective areas of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf to oil and gas exploration and development.
- With high energy prices threatening the national economy and the standard of living for many Americans, we must develop our vast untapped domestic energy resources. Most of the nation's oil and gas is located offshore – an estimated 86 billion barrels of oil and

420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Yet 86 percent of the OCS is off limits to development.

- Allowing appropriate access to these offshore resources is in our national interest as a means of improving energy security, diversifying supply, enhancing economic development and generating local, state and federal revenue.
- A new Five-Year Plan and congressional action to lift restrictions on offshore development would be important steps in the right direction toward the creation of a comprehensive national energy policy that utilizes a broad range of energy sources to secure our energy future.
- New oil and gas production will continue to be required in the foreseeable future to meet energy demand until alternative and renewable sources of energy become available on a broad scale. The health of our economy and our national security require utilization of both conventional and unconventional energy sources.
- Revenue sharing from the OCS with local communities in Alaska should be enacted to help address local impacts. Early consultation and conflict avoidance mechanisms should also be established.
- OCS development has an outstanding safety and environmental record spanning decades. Development has coexisted with other industries, including fishing in Cook Inlet, the North Sea and the Gulf of Mexico.
- New offshore development should occur within a strong regulatory regime. In Alaska, any leasing plan should require state-of-the-art oil spill response and consider mitigation and conflict avoidance measures to minimize impacts to other resource industries, traditional lifestyles and the environment.
- Reasonable stipulations to protect scientifically-verified, environmentally-sensitive areas should be incorporated in the plan.
- OCS production would provide many benefits, including new jobs in rural and urban areas, additional tax and royalty income to the states, new local sources of fuel and energy, and improved search and rescue operations.

**Comment deadline September 15, 2008**

Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.  
121 West Fireweed, Suite 250 Anchorage, AK 99503  
[resources@akrdc.org](mailto:resources@akrdc.org) Phone: 907.276.0700 Fax: 907.276.3887

September 18, 2008

Ms. Renee Orr  
5-Year Program Manager  
Minerals Management Service (MS-4010)  
381 Elden Street  
Herndon, Virginia 20170

**RE: In Support of New 5-Year Program**

Dear Ms. Orr:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is writing to express its support for the immediate creation of a new Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) leasing program for 2010-2015. Improved and accelerated access to offshore waters in an environmentally-sensitive way could significantly improve the nation's domestic energy situation and provide economic stimulus. Beginning the process now could give the new administration in Washington D.C., a two-year head start in expanding offshore energy production at a time when high energy prices pose a serious threat to our economy.

RDC is an Alaskan-based, non-profit, business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism and fisheries industries. Our membership also includes Native regional and village corporations, local governments, organized labor and industry support firms. RDC's mission is to help grow Alaska's economy through the responsible development of natural resources.

RDC supports expanded OCS development because it is confident operations can occur safely and with little impact to the environment. OCS development has an outstanding safety and environmental record spanning decades. Development has coexisted with other industries, including fishing in Cook Inlet, the North Sea and the Gulf of Mexico.

Moreover, OCS production would provide many benefits, including new jobs in rural and urban areas, additional tax and royalty income to the states, new local sources of fuel and energy, and improved search and rescue operations.

It is crucial that the government move diligently to increase and encourage oil and gas production given today's supply and price situation. With sharply higher energy prices, U.S. citizens need secure domestically-produced oil and natural gas to ensure our future energy security, maintain reasonable energy prices to power our vehicles, homes, schools and businesses, as well as help the farming and manufacturing industries remain competitive. Equally important, given recent hurricanes in the Gulf Coast, it is necessary the U.S. diversify its oil and gas production to other Federal waters.

With energy prices threatening the national economy and the standard of living for many Americans, we must develop our vast untapped domestic energy resources. Most of the nation's oil and gas is located offshore, an estimated 86 billion barrels of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Yet 86 percent of the OCS is off limits to development. This is not only unacceptable, it is appalling.

Allowing appropriate access to these offshore resources is in our national interest as a means of improving energy security, diversifying supply, enhancing economic development and generating local, state and federal revenue.

A new Five-Year Plan and congressional action to lift restrictions on offshore development are sensible steps forward toward the development of a comprehensive energy policy that utilizes a broad range of energy sources to secure our energy future. Such an energy policy must be based on reality – one that recognizes new oil and gas production will continue to be absolutely necessary in the foreseeable future to meet energy demand until alternatives and renewable sources become available on a broad scale.

While renewable energy will make up a growing part of the U.S. energy portfolio, they will not significantly reduce our reliance on foreign sources of oil in the near term, given they are projected to account for only 12 percent of our energy by 2030. The health of our economy and our national security will require utilization of both conventional and unconventional energy sources. No single approach is enough as we cannot drill our way to energy independence, nor can we conserve our way. America needs to pursue various strategies to secure its future energy requirements. New domestic oil and gas production is actually the bridge to new energy sources. New production will buy us the time we need to develop alternative and renewable energy sources that will eventually break our reliance on foreign oil – forever.

Any new Five-Year Plan must include revenue-sharing from the OCS with local communities in Alaska and elsewhere to help address local impacts. Early consultation and conflict avoidance mechanisms should also be included in the plan. New offshore development should occur within a strong regulatory regime. Any leasing plan should require state-of-the-art oil spill response and consider mitigation measures to minimize impacts to other resource industries, traditional lifestyles and the environment. Reasonable stipulations to protect scientifically-verified, environmentally-sensitive areas should be incorporated in the plan.

In closing, I urge the MMS to move immediately forward with a new Five-Year Plan and expand access to the OCS off Alaska and the Lower 48. RDC also supports congressional action to lift congressional moratoria.

Sincerely,

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
for Alaska, Inc.



Carl Portman  
Deputy Director



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

August 18, 2008

Attn: Nina Kocourek  
Office of Water and Watersheds, Mail Stop OWW-130  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Sixth Ave Ste 900  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

RE: State of Alaska's application to administer the NPDES program in Alaska

Dear Ms. Kocourek:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing to express its support for the approval of the application by the State of Alaska to administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program in Alaska, pursuant to Section 402 of the Clean Water Act.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) is the lead agency that would administer APDES, a phased permit program to assume primacy over a period of five years. APDES would be subject to EPA oversight, including continuous monitoring and ultimate enforcement authority. ADEC has done an exemplary job of developing all aspects of the APDES program, and did so by fully involving the public, ensuring a beneficial and successful outcome. The agency has, and will continue to provide for, extensive opportunities for public input, including rural and Alaska Native perspectives, as outlined in the released Public Participation Document. This document ensures all Alaska water users benefit from the program, including subsistence users, the general public, and industry.

Alaska is one of only five states in the union that currently does not have primacy over NPDES. RDC recognizes that for a state to obtain primacy over the program, the requirements must be at least as stringent as the EPA's, and the State's application exceeds those requirements. In light of Alaska's unique resources and characteristics, the regulated community will benefit from the local perspective brought by state administration of this program.

RDC members have a large stake in ensuring clean water standards in Alaska waters. Indeed, nearly every industry in Alaska has permits under the Clean Water Act, and therefore has a high interest in accessibility to qualified regulators that are familiar with Alaska's distinct circumstances. Alaska's program provides for that accessibility.

The State of Alaska is appropriately equipped with the financial resources and personnel needed to administer the APDES program. The state has demonstrated an ability to responsibly manage and protect Alaska waters, and it is for that reason RDC urges the EPA to approve the application for the State to assume primacy administration.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

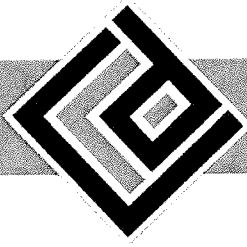
Sincerely,

Deantha Crockett  
Resource Development Council

Ec: Sharon Morgan, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

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# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

August 5, 2008

Members of the Alaska Legislature  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Members of the Alaska Legislature:

Adequate and reliable supplies of energy and delivery are fundamental to economic and responsible resource development throughout the state. While RDC recognizes the need for targeted, short-term energy relief for those Alaskans most in need, it is imperative long-term, sustainable solutions be at the forefront of anything the Legislature does.

We recognize the cost of energy, especially diesel fuel and home heating fuel, are having a significant impact on Alaskans, especially rural Alaskans. However, as the deadline for this special session draws near, we feel it is imperative several points of consideration be brought to your attention:

1. The Legislature's focus should be on long-term solutions, not short-term payouts. Efforts to encourage conservation, develop new technologies, and diversify the energy portfolio should be paramount. We eagerly await the long-term energy plan forthcoming from Steve Haagenon of the Alaska Energy Authority and the Palin Administration. We look forward to working on this important piece of legislation next session.
2. RDC understands the need to help Alaskans during this time of high energy costs, especially in rural Alaska. We support increased funding for programs such as Power Cost Equalization and encourage the development of similar programs to help with home heating fuel. Unlike across the board payments, these programs target Alaskans most in need.
3. Coupled with the Permanent Fund Dividends, which are predicted to be approximately \$2,000 per Alaskan, a family of 4 stands to receive nearly \$13,000 from the State of Alaska if the \$1,200 "energy rebates" are passed. Given the recent decrease we have seen in federal dollars to Alaska, coupled with the Palin Administration's goal of decreasing the need for federal earmarks to Alaska, this distribution of cash is not likely to be taken well by the Congress when additional funding requests are brought forward.

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4. \$2.6 billion was recently spent on federal leases in the Chukchi Sea by Shell, ConocoPhillips, StatoilHydro, and others. Currently, these leases do not incorporate revenue sharing, which will require an act of Congress. Again, it will be difficult to justify implementing revenue sharing for these leases if the state is handing out significant sums of money to each resident, regardless of need.
5. Taxes have been increased on the oil industry three times in the last three years. Despite a significant increase in oil prices, the Lower 48 is seeing a greater increase in investment dollars than Alaska, potentially as a result of this new tax structure. Indeed, the pipeline is 1/3<sup>rd</sup> full and throughput continues to decrease at nearly 6% per year. Distribution of these surpluses without sustainable, long-term solutions to Alaska's energy problems will not go unnoticed.
6. It should be noted that windfall revenues from increased oil prices are already being incorporated into the Permanent Fund as 25% of all royalties are paid directly into the Permanent Fund, thus resulting in potentially higher dividends.
7. Alaskans may come to expect additional "energy rebates" in the future, especially if the large surpluses we are experiencing this year continue. Ultimately, well-intentioned social programs may compete with future energy rebates.
8. Suspending the motorfuel tax has diverse support AND opposition from members on the RDC Board. However, where there was consensus is that if action is taken, long-term solutions must be considered.
9. The state needs to provide a climate that encourages local energy development, be it natural gas/coalbed methane, geothermal, wind, hydro, coal, tidal, or others. The state must foster these opportunities and protect its interests. Too often, as local communities work to develop their energy resources, they have been squelched by the vocal minority opposition (for example, coalbed methane in the Mat-Su on state land).

Energy prices have had a profound impact on Alaskans, particularly in rural Alaska over the last several years. Indeed, short-term statewide energy relief may be a foregone conclusion, given this is an election year, with the primary three weeks away. However, any short-term action must consider the wide range of energy costs throughout Alaska and focus on those Alaskans in dire need. Outside the context of a long-term energy plan, short term fixes will be unsustainable and will bring with them a host of unintended consequences.

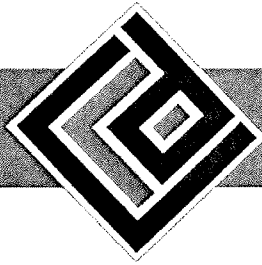
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Jason Brune  
Executive Director  
Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.





# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

July 7, 2008

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Jason W. Brune

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Mr. John Goll  
U.S. Minerals Management Service Alaska OCS Region  
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500  
Anchorage, AK 99503-5823

Attn: Sale 214 CALL

Dear Mr. Goll:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is writing to express its support for Lease Sale 214 in the North Aleutian Basin Planning Area.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

RDC supports increased access to the American Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and the proposed lease sale in the North Aleutian Basin. Given the threat rising energy prices pose to America's economy and the lifestyles of our citizens, it is imperative the Minerals Management Service (MMS) expand access to federal waters to ensure adequate supplies of oil and gas to U.S. consumers. Otherwise, industry will be forced to produce from existing mature areas where production is peaking and supplies are declining.

While RDC strongly supports a lease sale in the North Aleutian Basin, leasing should move forward only after proper local stakeholder consultation, planning, and environmental analysis is undertaken. Any leasing plan should consider conflict avoidance measures to minimize impacts to other resource industries and subsistence harvesters. Reasonable stipulations to protect scientifically-verified, environmentally-sensitive areas should be incorporated into the plan. Final plans should ensure industry's footprint is minimized and that biological resources, traditional lifestyles, and the environment are protected.

RDC understands and recognizes the concerns local government, other resource users, and industries such as fishing have regarding offshore activities in Alaska. Subsistence is vitally important, both economically and culturally, to the region, and fishing is the foundation of the Bristol Bay economy.

### **New Offshore Development Can Occur Without Significant Impacts**

RDC is confident offshore leasing, exploration, development, and production can occur without significant impacts to the environment and other resource users. The oil and gas industry in Alaska and elsewhere has proven its ability to produce energy in an environmentally-safe and efficient manner. OCS development has an outstanding safety and environmental record spanning decades. Development has coexisted with other industries, including fishing, in the North Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and Cook Inlet. The National Academy of Science has determined that less than one percent of all oil entering the seas is from drilling and exploration activities.

RDC believes MMS and the oil and gas industry take environmental considerations seriously. In fact, MMS has funded nearly \$300 million for environmental studies related to Alaska waters. Since 2000, it has had 30-40 active environmental studies each year offshore Alaska, totaling over \$45 million. Eleven more studies have been commissioned this year, and work is underway to adapt an ice-ocean circulation model of the Bering Sea to the specific oceanographic conditions within Bristol Bay. This study will aid in determining necessary actions to protect the area.

In addition, MMS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are collaborating in a multi-year study of the distribution, relative abundance, and habitat use of the North Pacific right whales in the Bering Sea. MMS is planning to begin three new studies that will focus on subsistence activities, salmon life cycles, juvenile fish, and the settling behavior of the red king crab. Other studies will include a wide variety of seabirds and waterfowl including critical habitat for the Steller's eider.

All of this activity and research gives RDC a high level of confidence that oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development can occur in the North Aleutian basin in an environmentally-responsible manner.

### **OCS Development Would Benefit Local Communities and Alaska**

Expanded access to Alaska's offshore, including the North Aleutian Basin, in an efficient and environmentally-sensitive way, would not only significantly improve the nation's domestic energy situation, it would provide economic stimulus to coastal communities and the state, and generate scores of new jobs for local residents. It would also serve as an important new local source of fuel and energy. In addition, industry's presence would likely lead to improved search and rescue operations as has been the case in other offshore areas of Alaska and the Lower 48.

Benefits to local communities and the state would be enhanced should MMS include a revenue sharing component with Alaska and local communities in its leasing plan. Areas most directly affected by oil and gas development should be allocated a share of the government revenues it generates. RDC strongly supports local revenue sharing and we encourage MMS to advocate for such a component.

### **Meeting Future Energy Needs Will Require Increased Access To OCS**

Currently, 86 percent of the OCS is off limits to development. Yet most of the nation's oil and gas is located offshore – an estimated 86 billion barrels of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Onshore, 60 percent of the lands that have potential as domestic sources of oil and gas are presently closed to leasing.

Meeting future U.S. energy demand will require increased access to onshore and offshore areas containing oil and gas deposits. In fact, given the impact high energy prices have on Americans, our

economy, and national security, RDC would argue that MMS and other government agencies have a moral obligation to develop domestic sources of energy, both onshore and offshore. Offshore areas were placed off limits 25 years ago under an entirely different energy and regulatory picture than exists today. For the sake of America's economy and energy security, it is imperative the U.S. reverse this policy and geographically diversify its domestic energy supplies. After all, every barrel of oil not developed in America will simply be imported from overseas where environmental regulations are often weaker and emissions from production activities are higher than from domestic operations.

### **Conclusion**

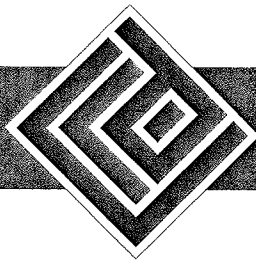
In conclusion, RDC is confident offshore leasing, exploration, development, and production can occur without significant impacts to the environment and other resource users. While some insist that conservation and alternative energy sources are a better choice to new oil and gas activity offshore, the transition period to new sources of energy will be lengthy. In the meantime, the U.S. has no choice but to boost conventional domestic energy production both offshore and onshore. It is not an either/or situation, but a three-legged stool supported by conventional, preferably domestic, energy production, stronger conservation measures, and an eventual transition into alternative sources as they become technically and economically feasible.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Portman', written in a cursive style.

Carl Portman  
Deputy Director  
Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

Founded 1975

Executive Director  
Jason W. Brune

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**Ex-Officio Members**

Senator Ted Stevens  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Congressman Don Young  
Governor Sarah Palin

June 5, 2008

Mr. Tom Lonnie  
Alaska State Director  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
222 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504

Re: NE NPR-A Supplemental Final IAP/EIS Comments

Dear Mr. Lonnie:

On behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC), I am writing to express disappointment with the Final Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) for the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NE NPR-A).

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism and fisheries industries. Our membership also includes Native regional and village corporations, local governments, organized labor and industry support firms. RDC's mission is to help grow Alaska's economy through the responsible development of natural resources.

Specifically, RDC is disappointed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) deferred from leasing for at least ten years approximately 430,000 acres in the onshore areas to the north and east of Teshekpuke Lake. As you know, this is contrary to the previous decision made by BLM for the proposed October 2006 lease sale in this area. The regulations proposed in the Draft Supplemental IAP/EIS under "Alternative D" adequately addressed environmental, subsistence and cumulative impact issues. Therefore, RDC believes it was unnecessary for BLM in the final IAP/EIS to defer additional highly prospective acreage from potential future lease sales.

As we have consistently stated in earlier comments regarding NPR-A, RDC believes full leasing should occur in the planning area. Three decades of oil and gas activity in the Arctic clearly demonstrate that industry has the capability to operate throughout Alaska's North Slope while maintaining high standards of safety and environmental sensitivity. Advances in technology have greatly reduced industry's footprint, allowing for the preservation of more surface acreage within the oil fields for wildlife habitat. In addition to technological advances, scientific studies conducted since 1998 have greatly improved

the agency's knowledge of the biological resources within the planning area.

Given NPR-A was specifically designated by Congress for the production of energy resources and the need for new oil production has increased, it is important BLM provide access to the Northeast planning area's best prospects. North Slope oil and gas deposits have occurred almost exclusively within a 25-mile strip of the Beaufort Sea coastline. Acreage within this belt that could hold significant deposits, should be open, not closed to development.

The area deferred in the FEIS is considered to be among the most oil-rich in NPR-A. RDC recognizes this area contains large populations of waterfowl and caribou and is coveted by local residents for subsistence hunting. However, a variety of protective measures and stipulations outlined in both Alternative D and C in the previous Draft Supplemental IAP/EIS would have mitigated impacts of energy development on other land uses and resources in the planning area. Both alternatives would have retained the setbacks around streams and lakes provided by the 1998 IAP/EIS and established new setbacks north and east of Teshekpuk Lake.

In its earlier comments on this issue, RDC supported Alternative C in the Draft Supplemental IAP/EIS, but also noted Alternative D had merit as a reasonable compromise that would provide access to much of NPR-A's most prospective acreage while providing measures to mitigate impacts. RDC noted, "Alternative D should be adopted as the Preferred Alternative, should Alternative C be eliminated in the decision-making process." However, RDC must now take exception to the modified Alternative D, where deferred acreage has nearly tripled from the original 219,000 acres, despite the many protective measures and restrictions provided under the draft supplemental alternatives.

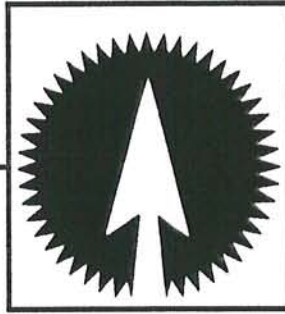
In conclusion, RDC finds it disturbing BLM would essentially close additional attractive areas for energy exploration and production inside a petroleum reserve at a time of sharply rising energy prices, and when there is an ever-increasing need for new domestic energy production. In fact, we would argue BLM has a moral obligation to open these areas to exploration, given the deteriorating domestic energy situation and the threat high energy prices pose to Americans and the economy. In addition, industry has invested significant resources into a large 3-D seismic program in this area and considerable additional resources have been invested to interpret data and prepare for competitive bidding. Apparently this investment may be all for naught, once again signaling to resource industries that Alaska is an expensive and politically-challenged state to do business.

In the best interest of Alaska and the nation, RDC urges BLM to reconsider its recent decision to defer additional highly prospective lands from development.

Sincerely,

Carl Portman  
Deputy Director

# Alaska Forest Association, Inc.



111 STEDMAN STREET, SUITE 200  
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901  
Phone: 907-225-6114  
Fax: 907-225-5920  
E-mail: afa@akforest.org

September 15, 2008

Honorable Ted Stevens  
Stevens for Senate  
P O Box 100879  
Anchorage, AK 99510

Dear Senator Stevens:

*Sent to all 5 major House & Senate candidates  
All are confirmed.*

The Alaska Forest Association (AFA) would like to thank you for agreeing to participate in our candidate's debate which is being held as part of our annual meeting in Anchorage. The debate is scheduled for October 16, 2008 at the Anchorage Marriott Downtown from noon until 2:30 pm. The debate will have two segments. The first will be from 12:30 to 1:30 and will focus on the U.S. House candidates. The second segment will be from 1:30 to 2:30 and will feature the U.S. Senate candidates. This debate is being co-sponsored by the Resource Development Council, the Alaska Miners Association and the Oil & Gas Alliance. At past debates, attendance has exceeded 250.

The debate format will be similar to other debates AFA has hosted in the past. It will focus on natural resource development related questions. There will be a series of written questions provided prior to the debate, prepared questions that will be asked at the debate and, if time allows, random questions from the audience and questions from the candidates themselves. Debate rules and times to respond to questions will be provided to you prior to the debate.

Any questions regarding the debate should be directed to the debate moderator, John Sturgeon (562-3335) or the AFA office in Ketchikan (225-6114). If you or your staff would like an industry specific briefing by any or all of the sponsoring organizations prior to the debate, please contact us.

Sincerely,

John Sturgeon  
Debate Moderator

# STAND UP FOR ALASKA.

Do you believe that one proposal should threaten an entire industry, jobs, and future revenue for Alaska communities?

YES  NO

Do you believe special interests from the Lower 48 should dictate how Alaskans develop our resources?

YES  NO

Do you believe rural Alaska has too many good-paying jobs?

YES  NO

Do you believe an arbitrary and untested proposal should replace Alaska's thorough, science-based laws that already protect Alaska's fish, air, human health, and pristine water?

YES  NO

**THEN VOTE NO ON 4.**

YES  NO

***"It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest."***

- Constitution of the State of Alaska



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Mining



Tourism

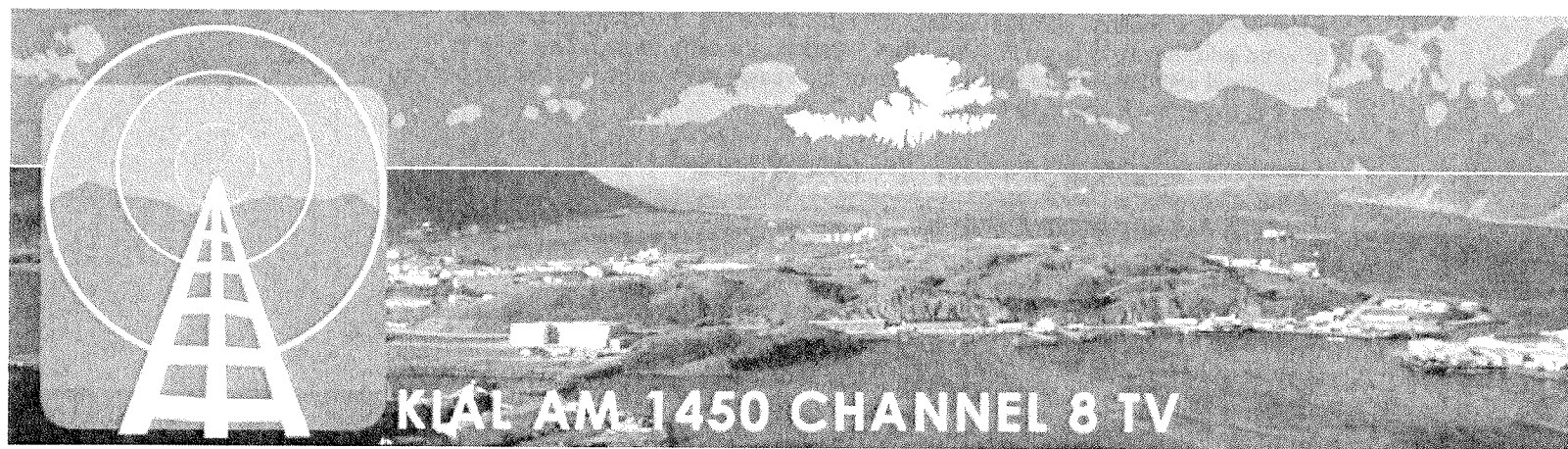


RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

[www.akrdc.org](http://www.akrdc.org)

Paid for by the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. ■ 121 West Fireweed, Suite 250, Anchorage, AK 99503  
Jason Brune, Executive Director ■ [resources@akrdc.org](mailto:resources@akrdc.org) ■ Phone: 907.276.0700 ■ Fax: 907.276.3887



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### Development leaders tour Unalaska

KIAL News

UNALASKA, AK (2008-09-09) Members of the Resource Development Council toured Unalaska last week to see what role the community can play in the development of Alaska's natural resources. The group included representatives from oil & gas, fishing, mining, tourism, and forestry industries. R-D-C executive director Jason Brune says the group tours a different community each year and looks at what roles the industries can play there.

"We use the information that we gather on trips like this to find out what commonalities the different industries have," he says. "For example, the fishing industry has permits that the mining industry has to get or the oil and gas industry."

RDC board member Marilyn Crockett is the executive director of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association. She says she sees Unalaska as a potential staging ground for exploration equipment for the Artic, Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, and eventually for the North Aleutian Basin.

"It could be anything from having seismic vessels here waiting for the ice to clear up north to staging of equipment -bringing it up and staging it over a winter season perhaps, waiting for the ice to clear. It could play any number of factors," Crockett says. "It's a whole new frontier area that the industry is beginning to move into and we think that this area could really play an important part in that."

But in order for the local fishing industry and the incoming oil and gas industry to successfully work together, Crockett argues, both industries must first focus on education.

"It's not just a one-way education, it's a two-way education. It's important for us to understand what's important to local residents how commercial fishery operations are conducted in AK's waters and the reverse is true," she says. "It's very important for those commercial fishing interests to understand how oil and gas industry operations are conducted."

Fishing industry representatives also toured the area. Stephanie Madsen of the At-Sea Processors Association says she's impressed by the improvements in local infrastructure, like the new cold storage facilities. She says the pollock industry is making improvements to help the industry as well by trying to reduce Chinook bycatch through new technology.

"We don't know any results yet, but it's kind of a revised flapper to try to take advantage of the behavioral differences between pollock and Chinook. Chinook are much stronger



swimmers than pollock so when pollock fall back in the net, the Chinook will stay forward and they tend to go to the surface," Madsen explains. "And so we tried to experiment with that and to use the power of the vessel to try to control the flapper and get it to move back and forth at will."

Chinook bycatch numbers are down 77 percent from last year.

The Resource Development Council is also looking at different energy sources in the region. Brune says they are co-sponsoring a conference in March in Juneau on geothermal energy and smelter potential in the Aleutians.

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **COEUR ANNOUNCES U.S. SUPREME COURT AGREES TO REVIEW NINTH CIRCUIT COURT RULING ON KENSINGTON TAILINGS PERMIT**

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho – June 27, 2008 - Coeur d'Alene Mines Corporation (NYSE:CDE, TSX:CDM, ASX:CXC) today announced that the U.S. Supreme Court has granted the State of Alaska and Coeur Alaska's Petitions for a writ of certiorari to review a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision relating to the Kensington 404 tailings permit.

The announcement came after the State of Alaska and Coeur Alaska both filed Petitions for a writ of certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court in February asking for a review of the Ninth Circuit decision which overturned a lower court decision and invalidated the Kensington tailings permit. In May, the Solicitor General's office filed a brief with the Supreme Court on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service and the Army Corps of Engineers, stating that if the Petitions were granted, it would likewise argue that the Ninth Circuit erred in its ruling against the permit, and support the validity of the earlier issued permit for the tailings facility.

"We are pleased that the U.S. Supreme Court considers the case worthy of consideration, and that the Solicitor General's office in Washington has stated it will continue its support of the permitting agencies in upholding the original permit for Kensington tailings disposal," said Dennis E. Wheeler, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Coeur. "All the main surface facilities at Kensington are complete except the tailings facility, and Coeur's focus is to move Kensington into production."

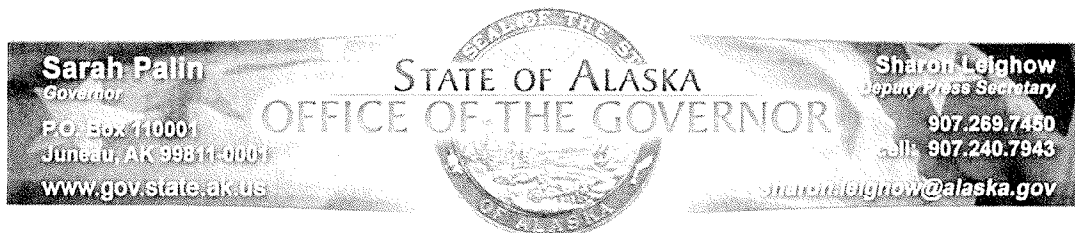
Kensington is a major gold project 45 miles northwest of Juneau, Alaska. A final Supreme Court decision or completion of alternative permitting plans may allow for construction to take place next year, leading to potential production in later 2009. Kensington is expected to produce 140,000 ounces of gold per year and has an initial mine life of 10 years based on current reserves.

#### **About Coeur**

Coeur d'Alene Mines Corporation is one of the world's leading silver companies and also a significant gold producer, with anticipated 2008 production of approximately 16 million ounces of silver, a 40% increase over 2007 levels. Coeur, which has no silver or gold production hedged, is now producing silver at the world's largest pure silver mine - San Bartolomé in Bolivia – and is currently constructing another world-leading silver mine – Palmarejo in Mexico. The Company also operates two underground mines in southern Chile and Argentina and one surface mine in Nevada; and owns non-operating interests in two low-cost mines in Australia. The Company also owns a major gold project in Alaska and conducts exploration activities in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Mexico and Tanzania. Coeur common shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CDE, the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol CDM, and its CHESS Depositary Interests are traded on the Australian Securities Exchange under symbol CXC.

#### **Investor Contact**

Karli Anderson  
Director of Investor Relations



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**No. 08-134**

### **State of Alaska to Sue Over Polar Bear Listing**

August 4, 2008, Fairbanks, Alaska – Governor Sarah Palin announced today the State of Alaska has filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia seeking to overturn U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne's decision to list the polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

This action follows written notice given more than 60 days ago to Secretary Dirk Kempthorne of the Department of the Interior and Director Dale Hall of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asking that the regulation listing the polar bear as threatened be withdrawn.

"We believe that the Service's decision to list the polar bear was not based on the best scientific and commercial data available," Governor Palin said.

The Service's analysis failed to adequately consider the polar bears' survival through prior warming periods, and its findings that the polar bear is threatened by sea-ice habitat loss and inadequate regulatory mechanisms to address sea-ice recession are not warranted. The Service also failed to adequately consider the existing regulatory mechanisms, including conservation measures within Alaska and the international community, which have resulted in a sustainable worldwide polar bear population that has more than doubled in number over the last 40 years to 20,000-25,000 bears.

The State takes seriously its obligation and interest in the management, conservation, and regulation of all wildlife and other natural resources within its jurisdiction. Alaska is also responsible for the welfare of its citizens, who are concerned that the unwarranted listing of the polar bear as a threatened species will have a significant adverse impact on Alaska by deterring activities such as commercial fisheries, oil and gas exploration and development, transportation, and tourism within and off-shore of Alaska.

Governor Palin also noted that the State continues to follow the actions resulting from the listing closely. On July 12, the State submitted comments on an "interim final rule" dealing with incidental-take provisions under the Endangered Species Act seeking changes to that rule to exempt all activity outside of the polar bear's normal range from incidental-take prohibitions. "We believe that the Service's decision to treat areas of Alaska where polar bears do not exist differently from the rest of the United States is in error," Governor Palin said.

The public comment period on the interim final rule ended July 14, and while Alaska is hoping for rapid action by the Secretary to adopt a new final rule, it is also

evaluating options for challenging the interim final rule if a revised final rule is not adopted soon.

“Although we disagree with this listing determination and with the Service’s initial implementation of the decision, we look forward to continued cooperation with the Service in the many other areas involving Alaska’s fish and wildlife resources,” Governor Palin said.

###



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

29th Annual Conference

# Alaska Resources 2009

## Alaska at 50

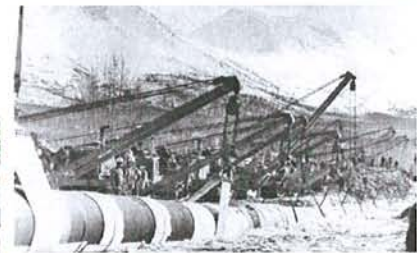
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... and more

\*Invited

**50** years ago Congress was faced with voting on whether Alaska should become our flag's 49<sup>th</sup> star. Many politicians in Washington doubted the northern territory had anything to contribute or could establish an economy that would sustain a new state. Alaskans answered by pulling together to develop our natural resources. Today, Alaskans are still developing resources that provide jobs, income and revenues that have powered Alaska's five decades of economic prosperity.

As Alaska turns 50, our future is brighter than ever with exciting opportunities across our resource sectors. However, many challenges stand before our state's industries that need to be resolved in order to change opportunity into reality.

RDC's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, **Alaska Resources 2009**, will bring these opportunities and challenges to the forefront as industry leaders address the most critical issues confronting them today. The conference will also provide timely updates on new and ongoing projects across Alaska's resource industries.

This year's event will be held in the brand new Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage. This stunning, high-tech venue will provide expanded space for our conference, including a large exhibit area. Networking breaks and receptions will be held in a bright atrium with panoramic views of the Chugach Mountains. Free Wi-Fi will be provided, so bring your laptop and soak in the incredible setting.

**RDC would be honored** to have your company sponsor **Alaska Resources 2009**. Sponsors will be recognized in pre-event brochures, the official program, and thank you ads. They will also be recognized throughout the conference.

We expect strong attendance again this year, with hundreds of key business leaders from Alaska, the Lower 48 and Canada, as well as government policy makers and regulators. Conference attendees will be treated to a diverse and knowledgeable slate of speakers, an audience of decision makers, networking opportunities, as well as gourmet breaks and lunches, and a VIP reception.

***Thank you for your support and participation!***

RDC's 29th Annual Conference  
**Alaska Resources 2009**  
Alaska at 50

November 19-20, 2008  
Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage

Gain recognition and exposure to all RDC members by becoming a conference sponsor! Sponsors are recognized in the conference brochure, on the RDC website, in event notices, the official program, PowerPoint screens at the event and ads in local business publications. Please return the pledge form before October 3<sup>rd</sup> to be listed in the conference brochure. Thank you for your support!

### **Event Sponsorship & Exhibit Opportunities:**

#### **Platinum Sponsor \$5,000**

Eight registrations to the conference, sponsor recognition in all conference communications and the Resource Review newsletter, 1/2 page advertisement in the conference program, and listing of your company logo in PowerPoint. (Camera ready artwork due: Friday, October 31. Ads are 5" h x 7.25" w. Please send ad and logo electronically to RDC at [resources@akrdc.org](mailto:resources@akrdc.org))

#### **Cosponsor \$3,000**

Six registrations to the conference, sponsor recognition in all conference communications and the Resource Review newsletter, 1/4 page advertisement in the conference program and listing of your company logo in PowerPoint. (Camera ready artwork due: Friday, October 31. Ads are 5" h x 3.5" w. Please send ad and logo electronically to RDC at [resources@akrdc.org](mailto:resources@akrdc.org))

#### **General Sponsor \$2,000**

Four registrations to the conference, sponsor recognition in all conference communications and the Resource Review newsletter, and listing of your company logo in PowerPoint. (Please send logo electronically to RDC at [resources@akrdc.org](mailto:resources@akrdc.org) by October 31.)

#### **Underwriter \$1,000**

Two registrations to the conference, sponsor recognition in all conference communications and the Resource Review newsletter, and listing of your company logo in PowerPoint. (Please send logo electronically to RDC at [resources@akrdc.org](mailto:resources@akrdc.org) by October 31.)

#### **Exhibit Showcase at the new Dena'ina Center! \$1,000**

***Due to popular demand, exhibit space has been expanded!***

Exhibit booth at the conference, sponsor recognition in conference communications, and two registrations to the conference/VIP reception.

***Please return the following pledge form - by October 3<sup>rd</sup> to be listed in the conference brochure!***

## Specialty Sponsorship Opportunities:

Sponsors are recognized on PowerPoint screens, the official conference brochure and program. All food breaks are held in the exhibit area.

### **Wednesday or Thursday's Eye-Opener Breakfast (7:00 - 8:00 am) \$3,000 each**

Every registrant's first stop! A warm buffet with a wide variety of breakfast fare.

### **Wednesday or Thursday Morning Breaks \$3,000 each**

The conference stops for these popular breaks. Add your own personal flair - ask for your favorite snacks!

### **Wednesday Afternoon Break \$3,000**

An old-fashioned ice cream social event and other special treats stimulate discussion and networking.

### **Thursday Send-Off \$5,000**

Champagne and sparkling cider, as well as other beverages and special treats provide an elegant conclusion to Alaska's premier conference on resource development.

### **Centerpiece Sponsor \$4,000**

Personalized arrangements at each table with your company logo.

### **RDC Grand Raffle**

Donate a prize of your choice for the popular drawing held at the close of the RDC Conference. Donors are recognized in conference program.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please fill out the following information and fax the form to RDC at (907) 276-3887 or email us at [resources@akrdc.org](mailto:resources@akrdc.org). Questions? Call (907) 276-0700.

RDC will send an invoice or gladly accept credit card payments.

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***THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION!  
YOUR GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP SUSTAINS RDC AND ITS WORK  
ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO YOU AND YOUR BUSINESS.***