

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, December 18, 2014

- 1. Call to order Ralph Samuels, President
- 2. Head Table Introductions
- 3. Staff Report Rick Rogers, Executive Director
- 4. Program and Keynote Speaker:

The Path Forward for the Port of Anchorage

Steve Ribuffo Port Director, Port of Anchorage

Next Meeting:

Thursday, January 15: 2015 Legislative Session Preview, Senate President Kevin Meyer and House Speaker Mike Chenault

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RDC Action Alert: Outer Continental Lease Sale 193 SEIS

Comment deadline is December 22, 2014

Overview: Despite repeated calls from the American public to increase domestic oil and gas production and widespread support for development on Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf, access to our abundant U.S. Arctic offshore resources remains uncertain.

Recently, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued another draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Chukchi Lease Sale 193, following litigation that required the agency to revise its study.

On November 7, 2014, BOEM initiated a 45-day public comment period for its draft SEIS on Lease Sale 193. Swift finalization of this document and reaffirmation of the lease sale is critical to preserving the opportunity to explore for Arctic resources. Leaseholders have waited more than five years; it's time for the federal government to move forward.

Energy development in Alaska has long faced significant opposition, and opposition groups are mobilizing to generate tens of thousands of comments on this issue. Therefore, supportive comments to BOEM are critical to ensuring that Lease Sale 193 moves forward. Please support greater domestic energy production by writing to BOEM and expressing support for Lease Sale 193.

Action requested: A 45-day public comment period is currently underway and it will end Monday, December 22. During this time, BOEM will hold five public hearings in Northwest Alaska and the North Slope and one hearing in both Anchorage and Fairbanks. RDC encourages its members to participate in the process by submitting comments and presenting brief testimony at a public hearing. BOEM will accept comments on the SEIS through <u>regulations.gov</u>. The Draft Supplemental EIS is available at: <u>www.boem.gov/ak193/</u>

In submitting your written comments at regulations.gov, in the field entitled, "Enter Keyword or ID," enter BOEM-2014-0078, and then click "search."

Points to consider in your comments:

- The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management should expeditiously finalize the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Lease Sale 193, reaffirm Lease Sale 193, and allow exploration activities to proceed.
- Lease Sale 193 has undergone exhaustive environmental review, and BOEM has once
 again acknowledged that exploration can be done with minimal environmental impact.
 Alaskans have proven that resource development can proceed in a way that protects the
 environment while providing economic benefits and improving the standard of living for
 Alaskans, especially those living in the Arctic.
- Alaska has enormous untapped oil and gas potential, especially in its offshore areas. The Chukchi Sea, off Alaska's northwest coast, offers more resources than any other undeveloped U.S. energy basin, and, according to experts, may be one of the largest untapped oil and gas sources in the entire world.
- An assessment by the U.S. Geologic Survey concludes that about 30% of the world's undiscovered natural gas and 13% of its oil are located above the Arctic Circle, with Alaska holding enough oil and natural gas to maintain production for "many years to

come."

- A 2014 poll found that 73 percent of voters in Alaska support OCS development.
- There has never been a blowout in the Alaskan or the Canadian Arctic. Since 1971, 84
 wells have been drilled in the Alaska OCS all without incident. For drilling planned in
 the Chukchi, the water depth is rather shallow several hundred feet and is akin to
 the near-shore shallow-water Gulf of Mexico, where safe drilling practices have led to a
 long history of safe operations.
- The North Slope and its offshore are now perhaps the most studied energy basins in the United States. In the past decade, over 250 studies have been funded in the Arctic, with the majority focused on the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.
- Chukchi oil and gas resources are key to sustaining the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) and protecting U.S. energy security.
- TAPS is one of the largest pipeline systems in the world and has transported more than 17 billion barrels of oil since it came online in 1977. At its peak, TAPS carried approximately 24 percent of domestic production to market ensuring West Coast residents received a stable supply of domestic energy.
- Due to declining rates of oil production in the onshore North Slope region, the pipeline now carries an average of 540,000 barrels per day down from peak levels of nearly 2 million barrels a day in 1988. Offshore resources are desperately needed to fill the pipeline and keep TAPS flowing for decades to come.
- A 2009 study by University of Alaska's Institute of Social and Economic Research and Northern Economics found that new offshore energy production in the State of Alaska would produce an annual average of 35,000 jobs – both directly and indirectly tied to the industry - over the next 50 years for Alaska alone, with a total payroll of \$72 billion over the 50-year period.
- A follow-up study in 2011 by the University of Alaska's Institute of Social and Economic Research and Northern Economics estimated that the jobs and revenue impact from Alaska OCS development on the lower-48 states would be even greater. Economic activity resulting from OCS development in the Beaufort and Chukchi Sea could generate an annual average of 54,700 jobs nationwide, with an estimated cumulative payroll amounting to \$145 billion over the next 50 years.
- Moreover, revenues generated from the development of Chukchi and Beaufort oil and natural gas resources could amount to \$193 billion in revenues to federal, state and local governments over a 50-year period.
- Since 2005, 680 leases have been awarded to companies interested in exploring for oil & gas off the Alaska coasts. Despite years of applications for permits, community consultation, environmental studies and analysis, and more than \$3 billion in bonus payments to the federal government and investment in technology, equipment and personnel, not one well has been drilled to hydrocarbon depth as a result of Lease Sale 193.
- When the federal government awards a lease and accepts payment, it has an obligation to efficiently process permits within a reasonable time period.
- The current regulatory structure and legal gamesmanship are preventing America's ability to access and develop some of its most promising natural resources at a time when America needs jobs, economic growth, reduced dependency on foreign energy sources and a dependable supply of affordable energy.

2015 Resource Development Council Policy Positions

TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Support efforts to limit unrestricted general fund spending to a sustainable level.
- Encourage the State to promote and defend the integrity of Alaska's permitting process and advocate for predictable, timely, and efficient state and federal permitting processes based on sound science and economic feasibility.
- Support efforts to bring more accountability to the appeals and litigation processes for community and resource development projects.
- Support legislation to encourage new exploration and development of Alaska's mineral and energy deposits, as well as enhanced production from existing operations.

General Issues

Fiscal Policy & Planning

- Advocate for tax policy and incentives that enhance the State of Alaska's competitiveness for all industries.
- Advocate for implementation of a comprehensive, responsible, and long-range state fiscal plan.
- Support efforts to limit unrestricted general fund spending to a sustainable level.
- Support some use of the Permanent Fund earnings as part of a fiscal plan.
- Oppose efforts to enshrine the Permanent Fund Dividend in the Alaska Constitution.
- Encourage and support foreign and domestic private sector investments in Alaska's resource industries and manufacturing.

Access

- Advocate for increased access to and across public lands for resource and community development.
- Advocate for multiple-use of public lands.
- Continue to assert the State's rights on navigable waters and submerged lands.

Regulation/Permitting

- Support efforts to bring more accountability to the appeals and litigation processes for community and resource development projects.
- Encourage the State to promote and defend the integrity of Alaska's permitting process.
- Encourage the State to use all available avenues to ensure reasonable and predictable decision making under the CWA Section 404 permit program including establishment of an industry/state goverment working group to identify and implement Alaska solutions to wetlands mitigation.
- Advocate for predictable, timely, and efficient state and federal permitting processes based on sound science and economic feasibility.
- Provide adequate resources to permitting agencies for personnel, research, and science.
- Support the State of Alaska's efforts to challenge unwarranted Endangered Species Act listings and proposed critical habitat designations.
- Support reasonable mixing zones for resource and community development.
- Support efforts to reduce federal interference and devolve more authority to the states.

Infrastructure

- Support transportation and power projects that enhance resource and community development activities.
- Encourage development of new electrical generating and transmission systems to provide stable sources of electricity for economic development and existing consumers.
- Stimulate investment in power and transportation infrastructure by catalyzing private partnership investment through the public-privatepartnership (P3) model.

Education

- Support programs, including the Alaska Resource Education program, to educate students and the general public on responsible resource development activities in Alaska.
- Support efforts to provide for a skilled and trained Alaska workforce necessary to support resource development industries.

Industry Specific Issues

Oil & Gas

- Support tax policies that establish a competitive tax structure and incentives to increase the exploration, production and development of all Alaska's oil fields (new and existing).
- Support policies to establish a competitive tax structure and legislative and administration efforts to increase the commercial viability of developing Alaska's natural gas resources.
- Educate and advocate for access to and development of oil and gas resources on federal lands; including the coastal plain of ANWR, NPR-A, and the Alaskan OCS.
- Advocate for federal revenue sharing and/or community impact assistance to maximize benefits of OCS development to Alaska.

Energy

- Support simplified leasing and efficient permitting of non-conventional fuel resources to encourage development of the state's resources and provide energy to local areas.
- Support utilization of Alaska's coal resources for value-added industries and power generation in addition to export to international markets.
- Support efforts to diversify Alaska's energy sources, including known renewable energy options.

Mining

- Encourage the expansion and increased production from existing deposits as well as new exploration and responsible development of Alaska's mineral and coal resources.
- Advocate continuation and expansion of airborne geophysical mapping and the on-the-ground follow up work required to realize the full benefits of the program.
- · Support the State's efforts to maintain control of reclamation bonding.

Fisheries

- Support policies that ensure healthy and sustainable commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries resources; access and markets for Alaska fishermen, sport charter businesses, and coastal communities; including a reasonable and stable regulatory environment.
- Support funding of fisheries and marine mammal research.
- Encourage programs that not only manage but in fact enhance the State's fisheries resources.

Forestry

- Advocate for a reliable and economical long-term State and federal timber supply.
- Support adequate funding and enforcement of the Alaska Forest Practices Act.
- Encourage funding of forest management initiatives that address longterm forest health and reforestation.

Tourism

- Advocate for a positive business environment to promote continued growth of the cruise and tourism industries in Alaska.
- Advocate for equitable environmental laws for cruise ships.
- Advocate additional aircraft landing sites and reduced restrictions on over-flights.
- Support South Denali infrastructure development to provide for a variety of visitor experiences and help accommodate future visitor needs in the region.
- Advocate for the reinvestment of a portion of visitor industry-related revenues to market Alaska as a destination.

PRESS RELEASES

Dec 16 2014

Sen. Murkowski Responds to Withdrawal of North Aleutian Basin from Five-Year Leasing Plan

U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, today issued the following statement on President Obama's decision to withdraw Alaska's North Aleutian Basin from potential oil and natural gas activity.

"Given the lack of interest by industry and the public divide over allowing oil and gas exploration in this area, I am not objecting to this decision at this time," Murkowski said. "I think we all recognize that these are some of our state's richest fishing waters. What I do not understand is why this decision could not be made within the context of the administration's upcoming plan for offshore leasing – or at least announced at the same time."

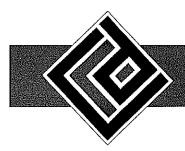
Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Tuesday announced the administration was withdrawing the federal waters of the North Aleutian Basin, located off the Alaska Peninsula, from consideration for oil and gas leasing for an indeterminate period of time. The prohibition will remain in place until lifted by the Obama administration or a future administration.

Murkowski also expressed her strong concerns that the Obama Administration is still dramatically out of step with Alaska's most pressing needs.

"It is incredibly frustrating that this administration looks at Alaska – with oil production at a fraction of the level it could be at, and with low oil prices about to force steep across-the-board budget cuts – and decides that conservation is our most pressing need," Murkowski said. "We are not asking to produce everywhere – but right now, we are not being allowed to produce anywhere. Despite strong support, we are seeing development blocked in the Chukchi, the Beaufort, in NPR-A, and on the Coastal Plain. What we need are decisions to open lands and waters in Alaska, not the familiar and frustrating pattern of shutting everything down."

The withdrawal will prevent the federal waters of Bristol Bay from being offered for oil and gas leasing under the Interior Department's next five-year plan for development of the Outer Continental Shelf, which is expected to be released in a matter of weeks. The Interior Department said its prohibition does not affect commercial fishing or other potential economic activity in the region. Interior previously dropped the North Aleutian Basin from its 2012-2017 plan, so today's announcement largely represents the continuation of an existing policy.

"I also believe the Interior Department must continue to invest in baseline environmental research to determine the health of fishery and crab resources in the region so that future administrations can make informed decisions." Murkowski said.



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

Testimony of Marleanna Hall • Projects Coordinator, Resource Development Council AMDIAR Corridor EIS Meeting • Wednesday, December 17, 2014 • Anchorage, AK

Good afternoon. My name is Marleanna Hall and I am a Projects Coordinator at the Resource Development Council for Alaska.

RDC is a statewide business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism, and fisheries industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native Corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is 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 the EIS process for projects in and around Alaska, and today wishes to express support to allow AMDIAR to go through the EIS process. The EIS process gives Alaskans time to review a project's documents, and to provide input on the plans. During the EIS process there are many opportunities to comment, whether in support or in opposition of a project.

While the road has not been formally proposed, and no mine has been submitted for permitting, RDC urges stakeholders to allow this and any potential project to go through the EIS process.

RDC supports a rigorous permitting process that reviews and analyzes all potential impacts, including the positive economic ones. Potential impacts for both community and resource development should be fully considered in the EIS process for projects.

We look forward to participating in the public process for this potential project, and look forward to seeing the results of the EIS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today.

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COMMENTARY

Walker and Sullivan need to take Alaska's energy message to Washington

By CARL PORTMAN and DAVID HOLT

With elections behind us, it's time to get to the business of growing Alaska's economy. A principal part of any strategy must include proactive policies that will reverse the decline in Alaska energy production.

Alaska has suffered a dramatic decline in recent decades in part due to federal regulatory uncertainty and litigation in our critical energy industry. Whereas the Lower 48 has seen energy production shoot up 77 percent in the last five years, due largely to state and private ownership of mineral rights, Alaska's average oil production has plunged from more than 2 million barrels per day in the late 1980s to approximately 540,000 today dropping the state to fourth nationwide in production.

Years of governmental reviews, litigation and regulatory uncertainty have turned a top domestic source of oil into one being outdone by California, a state that has considered banning fracking and said no to offshore drilling. It now produces more oil than Alaska.

Considering that at least 34 percent of Alaska's jobs and more than 80 percent of the state's discretionary spending are dependent upon the petroleum industry, it's clear that reviving and encouraging the energy industry here is a key to our future.

Our new leaders including Gov. Bill Walker and Sen.-elect Dan Sullivan will soon learn that efforts to grow Alaska energy must also take place outside Juneau. Much of their job must include advocating to their Lower 48 peers, given so much of Alaska's resource base is under federal ownership.

Alaskan voters overwhelmingly want an "all of the above" approach to energy supporting everything from wind energy to allowing oil and natural gas production in U.S. waters inside the Arctic Circle and in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Without greater access to abundant federal resources onshore and offshore, the future of Alaska energy and the revenues and jobs it supports is in jeopardy.

While most Alaskans have been up in arms about the Alaska energy shutout on federal lands and waters, the rest of the United States has remained either silent or unaware. It's not a stretch to think that Lower 48 disinterest could be the reason, or even a catalyst, for these restrictive federal policies. If no one's talking, no one's listening.

Sen.-elect Sullivan and Gov. Walker need to invest some sweat equity educating other members of Congress and governors about how critical Alaska energy is to Lower 48 consumers.

For starters, they should inform Lower 48 consumers on the benefits of Alaska energy. According to the American Petroleum Institute, by permitting onshore and offshore oil and natural gas exploration now, by 2030 new Alaska production could reach 1.6 million barrels of energy equivalent a day. West Coast residents who consume a vast majority of Alaska's oil should support Alaska development. If further declines in production occur, West Coast refineries' reliance on imported oil will only grow, leaving consumers more vulnerable to supply disruptions that are the norm in unstable oil-exporting countries.

Our leaders should also expound on the national security benefits of Alaska energy. Nearly every member of Congress was not in office during the oil embargoes of the 1970s and the building of the trans-Alaska pipeline. In fact, most members of Congress came to Washington within the past decade and have legislated during an era of U.S. energy abundance and increasing self-sufficiency. However, we must not take our present reality for granted. Taking actions now to encourage federal offshore and onshore production in Alaska will help preserve our gains in energy security for decades to come.

An estimated annual average of 54,700 new jobs that would be created by outer-continental-shelf-related development (OCS) are sustained for 50 years. The total ramps up to 68,600 during production and 91,500 at peak employment. These

direct and indirect jobs would be created both in Alaska and the rest of the United States.

Alaska's energy generates revenue and jobs for Lower 48 residents, too. A Northern Economics report estimates an annual average of 54,700 new jobs that would be created by OCS-related development would be sustained for 50 years. An estimated \$63 billion in payroll would be paid to employees in Alaska as a result of OCS oil and gas development and another \$82 billion in payroll would be paid to employees in the rest of the United States.

The sustained job creation increases income and further stimulates domestic economic activity production on federal land and waters and will also send billions of dollars to federal coffers, some of which will be redistributed to state governments and to the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, which benefits every state. With regard to Alaska, our congressional delegation will need to secure the state's fair share through revenue-sharing provisions which already apply to Gulf states that have energy production off their shores.

By galvanizing support for Alaska energy among other governors and members of Congress, Alaska's leaders can bring attention to the need for policies that support responsible energy development. The louder our voice, the harder it will be for Washington to ignore us.

Carl Portman is the deputy director of the Resource Development Council, based in Anchorage. David Holt is the president of the Consumer Energy Alliance.



Portman



Holt

Alaska Dispatch

Judge issues clarification halting all EPA work on Pebble Mine process

Associated Press December 8, 2014

JUNEAU -- A federal judge says the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency must stop all work related to a process that could result in development of the Pebble Mine being restricted or prohibited.

Last month, U.S. District Court Judge H. Russel Holland restrained EPA from taking further steps toward a decision until he ruled on the merits of a lawsuit brought by the group behind the mine.

EPA officials sought clarification.

Attorneys for the agency said barring EPA from activities such as communicating with outside parties would "create substantial harms" for EPA. They said it would disrupt review of public comments and create confusion about whether EPA can respond to public questions or communicate internally about the matter.

Holland last week clarified that EPA cannot engage in any activities related to the process.

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Economy

Sullivan to serve on Senate committees on commerce, armed services

Nathaniel Herz | December 15, 2014

Alaska Republican U.S. Sen.-elect Dan Sullivan will serve on the Senate's commerce committee, a slot he requested because of the committee's jurisdiction over fisheries.

Senate Republicans on Monday announced their committee assignments for the two years of the 114th Congress, which begins in January. Assignments are subject to ratification by party members, and by the full Senate.

The Republicans also named Sullivan, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, to the committees on the environment and public works, armed services, and veterans' affairs.

RELATED:

From Capitol basement, Sullivan talks staff, committees and Senate hash browns

Sullivan's counterpart, Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, will keep her four slots, on the committees on appropriations, energy and natural resources -- which she is expected to chair -- Indian affairs, and health, education, labor and pensions.

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Membership Form

RDC is a statewide business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism and fisheries industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native Corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

To view a list of current members, please visit http://www.akrdc.org/links/

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