

NPR-A Subsistence Advisory Panel

Fact Sheet – Arctic Office

What is the NPR-A¹ Subsistence Advisory Panel?

The Subsistence Advisory Panel, or SAP, is a group of volunteers who represent their local or tribal government, learn about specific planned oil and gas or scientific research activities in the NPR-A, and make recommendations to the BLM on ways to minimize the impact of those activities on subsistence use in the NPR-A. The SAP was established in October 1998 and has public meetings 2-3 times a year in Barrow and other NPR-A communities.

What is the Role of the NPR-A Subsistence Advisory Panel?

Oil companies (and other permittees as deemed appropriate) are required by the BLM to comply with BLM's Best Management Practice H-1 and consult directly with affected communities to discuss the timing, siting, and methods of their proposed operations. The companies or researchers create presentations and handouts with details of proposed activities, present those to the Subsistence Advisory Panel at the meetings, answer any questions that the Panel may have, and ask for input and any local traditional knowledge that can result in measures that minimize impacts to subsistence activities in the specific areas where the activities are proposed. The Panel and the public audience at the meetings have the opportunity to convey any concerns about the project to the permittee and the Panel makes recommendations to the BLM on permit-specific stipulations on ways to prevent unreasonable conflicts between subsistence and research activities or the exploration, development and production of oil and gas resources in the NPR-A. The Subsistence Advisory Panel representatives take the information from the meetings back to their tribal government or NSB offices to serve as a resource for other members of the community.

The major responsibilities of the SAP fall under three separate tasks:

- **Review** proposed activities to identify potential impacts to subsistence use
- **Recommend** ways that the BLM can minimize these impacts; and
- **Communicate** issues and concerns from communities to the BLM; and information and results of meetings back to the tribal governments they represent.

¹ What is the NPR-A? The National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska was set aside in 1923, has been explored over the years, and commercial oil development is underway in the northeast corner. At almost 23 million acres, the NPR-A is the largest piece of public land in the US. It covers most of the western portion of the North Slope, is homeland to the Inupiat, and is managed by the Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

How are Subsistence Advisory Panel representatives selected?

The President of each tribal government designates two representatives to the SAP: a primary and an alternate to assure representation of the community if one cannot attend (both are invited). The representatives can be anyone the President nominates or can be the Presidents themselves. Usually, a President determines with their tribal council who should be designated. The Mayor of the NSB designates the NSB SAP representatives and ICAS has its Natural Resources Specialist serve as its SAP representative. Each entity is asked to designate representatives every two years.

Who is currently on the NPR-A Subsistence Advisory Panel?

Tribal/Local Government	Primary Representative	Alternate Representative
Naqsraqmiut Tribal Council	TBD	TBD
Atqasuk Village	Wanda Kippi	David Kippi
Native Village of Barrow	TBD	TBD
Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope	Aubie Gregg	ICAS Board Member
North Slope Borough	Bart Ahsogeak	Billy Adams
Native Village of Nuiqsut	TBD	TBD
Native Village of Point Lay	Timothy Ferreira	TBD
Village of Wainwright	Terry Qaqsu Tagarook	Oliver Peetok

What is the Role of BLM in the Subsistence Advisory Process?

The BLM requires lessees and permittees to consult directly with affected communities, and SAP meetings and other SAP notices and meeting documents are methods of providing notice to and soliciting input and advice from communities about permitted activities in their region. The BLM therefore regards the Subsistence Advisory Panel as one way to provide opportunities to North Slope residents for participation in planning and decision making to prevent unreasonable conflicts between subsistence uses and other activities. The BLM facilitates the meetings and considers the SAP to constitute government-to-government consultation, but does not consider that the SAP alone fulfills BLM's requirements to solicit and participate in government-to-government consultation. SAP meetings provide a forum for general dialog and increased understanding, familiarity, and sensitivity to local concerns and issues between residents, the federal government, the oil and gas industry, and the increasing number of scientists and researchers conducting activities on the North Slope to the benefit of all parties. The BLM uses SAP recommendations and other information learned from SAP meetings to establish new stipulations and Best Management Practices. The BLM Authorized Officer (the Manager of the BLM Arctic Field Office) oversees the SAP while BLM staff (the Anthropologist/Subsistence Specialist) coordinates the meetings.

What does BLM do with the feedback collected?

Transcripts: Each SAP meeting is recorded and transcribed and the transcripts are publically available. The transcripts are submitted to the Representatives and other meeting participants for

their corrections and are approved at the following meeting. Transcripts may also be coded and analyzed to determine trends and data that contribute to impact analyses.

Summaries: The BLM also produces summaries of each meeting that are distributed to a broad range of North Slope residents and entities. A printed copy of the summary of the previous meeting is included in each meeting binder, which also includes copies of all presentations and other meeting-relevant documents. These binders (3-ring binders with indexes) are taken to the tribal government offices after the meetings to serve as a permanent resource for the community.

Recommendations: The BLM carefully notes each recommendation and suggestion put forward during the meetings by SAP representatives or members of the public. These recommendations and BLM's responses to them are reported at the beginning of the subsequent meeting, they are listed in the summary of the meeting, the and are added to the spreadsheet of SAP Recommendations and BLM Responses that includes every recommendation made since the SAP's inception in 1998.

Numerous SAP recommendations have been taken up as Best Management Practices in BLM's NPR-A Integrated Activity Plans/Environmental Impact Statements or are included as permit-specific stipulations.

SAP Document Archive: All of the agendas, summaries, and presentations of SAP meetings since the early 2000s are compiled into a SAP Document Archive that is available digitally upon request (on a thumb drive) and is periodically distributed to SAP Representatives.

Call the SAP Coordinator (Stacey Fritz) at the BLM Fairbanks office at (907) 474-2309 (cell 687-6549) or email sfritz@blm.gov or visit the website at: http://bit.ly/NPR-A_SAP