

BLM DIRECTOR'S QUESTION

Could the NPR-A Working Group come up with a collective vision on how development should proceed in the NPR-A, going beyond a project-by-project approach to develop a vision of the land after many years of oil and gas exploration and development?!

For example:

- Should there be standards for the density of roads or airports?
- How should gravel roads and pads be rehabilitated after the oil and gas are gone?
- Should there be roads, power lines, cell towers, etc. to serve the villages regardless of O&G exploration and development?
- How should O&G infrastructure be planned and built to complement community needs and community planning.

Issues for consideration relative to the BLM Director's question.

- Should there be standards for the density of roads, pipelines, or airports? Answering this question could encourage careful forethought in the design of in-field improvements to optimize the balance of improvements (and their impacts on surface resources) with production. If this seems like a good idea, how would you develop density standard?
- How should roads or pads be rehabilitated after an oil and gas improvement is no longer essential for production? Answering this question could lead to known expectations for industry and local communities regarding the long-term condition and accessibility of the land in NPR-A. Currently the IAP assumes gravel and other improvements would be removed down to the tundra by default, although the door is open to considering other options.
- What sort of inter-community infrastructure will be desired by the communities over the long term? These could be things like roads between villages and from villages to locations and roads outside NPR-A. Power transmission lines, gas lines, cell towers, improved ATV trails, and data connections (fiber or copper and/or wireless) are all possibilities. Answering this question could help villages and industry to work together in designing improvements to maximize the benefits to local communities while still meeting industry needs and constraints.
- What sort of restrictions should there be on the use of infrastructure discussed above? Answering this question could help set expectations for industry and local communities.