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SECTION 5 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

5.1 PREVIEW OF THIS SECTION

This section presents a discussion of the agency and public consultation and coordination process and activities that have been conducted in association with the ASDP FEIS. The section does the following:

- Summarizes the scoping process conducted for the preparation of the EIS
- Describes the government-to-government consultation efforts accomplished during completion of the EIS
- Lists the interested groups contacted during the scoping process
- Lists the individual contributors and their areas of expertise and/or responsibility
- Briefly discusses Public Comment and Response to Public Comment processes.

5.2 FORMAL SCOPING

Formal scoping began when the BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register on February 18, 2003, announcing the intent to begin preparation of the ASDP EIS. Publication of the NOI began a 45-day public scoping period. The scoping period provided an opportunity for the public to submit comments and relevant information for the preparation of the EIS and informed agencies on issues relevant to the Plan Area and analysis within the EIS.

To encourage maximum participation during the scoping process, the public was invited to submit comments on the ASDP in several ways:

- Open public meetings held in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Barrow, and Nuiqsut
- Traditional mail
- Hand delivery
- Facsimile
- Directly through a web site on the Internet

All comments received equal consideration regardless of how they were submitted.

Public meetings were held in Anchorage, Barrow, Nuiqsut, and Fairbanks between March 6 and March 20, 2003. The meetings were facilitated and all proceedings recorded. One hundred and twelve individuals signed in at the four public meetings. Each meeting was preceded by a 1.5-hour “open house” period designed to give people a chance to take an in-depth look at the materials—maps, handouts, etc.—and ask questions of the planning team, agencies, and applicant. For the Barrow and Nuiqsut meetings, the comment sheet and meeting agenda were translated into Inupiaq, and a translator was available at the Barrow and Nuiqsut meetings. Handouts at the scoping meetings included a comment form that could be returned to the project team by fax or mail. Scoping comments were requested by meeting handouts, advertisements in the Anchorage Daily News, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, the Alaska Journal of Commerce, the Arctic Sounder, the EIS project web site (www.alpine-satellites-eis.com), and a newsletter distributed by the project team using the BLM’s National

Petroleum Reserve-Alaska report newsletter mailing list. During the scoping period, February 18, 2003, through March 31, 2003, 36 comments were received through the following media:

- Telephone 1
- Facsimile 8
- Web site form 12
- Traditional mail 12
- Comment forms 3

Scoping methods and comments received are summarized in the Scoping Summary Report prepared in May 2003 and which is included as Appendix H to this document and continues to be available at www.alpine-satellites-eis.com.

5.3 PROJECT NEWSLETTERS

The BLM is periodically circulating project newsletters designed to keep the public informed on the status of the NEPA process for the ASDP EIS. The first newsletter was circulated in February 2003 and provided information on the scoping and public participation process. The second newsletter was circulated in June 2003 and provided information on the major issues and concerns that were voiced by the public during scoping meetings and through written comments. A third newsletter was circulated in January 2004 to announce the availability of the DEIS, the location of meetings to discuss the DEIS, and the alternatives evaluated by the Draft EIS and briefly described the alternatives under consideration. Project newsletters are circulated to all interested parties of record who have expressed interest in proposed ASDP oil and gas activities. These newsletters are available on the ASDP EIS web site. A final newsletter announcing availability of the FEIS is scheduled to be circulated upon NOA publication.

5.4 GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

Federal agencies and the State of Alaska work on a government-to-government basis with Alaska Native tribes. The government-to-government relationship was formally recognized by the state government on September 29, 2000, with Alaska Administrative Order No. 186. The federal government reaffirmed government-to-government consultation requirements on November 6, 2000, with Executive Order 13175. The BLM and the cooperating agencies—the USEPA, USACE, USCG, and the State of Alaska—have undertaken consultation with Native tribes on the ASDP EIS.

The agencies undertook a proactive approach to consultation with three Native governments on the ASDP EIS—the Native Village of Barrow, the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS), and the Native Village of Nuiqsut. The BLM and the original federal cooperating agencies (the USGC became a cooperating agency in October 2003) invited these tribes to engage in formal consultation in February 2003. All three tribes accepted this invitation and began formal consultation in June 2003. The State of Alaska also contacted the three Native governments identified above soliciting formal consultation. Letters were mailed to each tribal entity on May 20, 2003, and again on June 16, 2003. All three tribal entities responded, stating their desire to formally participate in this EIS, and assigned tribal contacts for direct consultation.

The agencies, concurrent with public scoping meetings, met with tribal leaders in Barrow and Nuiqsut to introduce the lead and cooperating agency personnel involved in the EIS preparation and obtain initial tribal input. The BLM followed up with telephone calls to solicit input and provide opportunity for discussion of the EIS alternatives, analysis, and schedule. In early June, the BLM met with the leaders of the tribes in Barrow and Nuiqsut to update them on formulation of alternatives and to solicit comments. In August the agencies began

monthly teleconferences with the tribes to answer questions and identify concerns to address in the FEIS. These monthly teleconferences remained ongoing through completion of the DEIS.

Throughout the DEIS and FEIS preparation, the BLM and the cooperating agencies provided special presentations or further information exchange (see Table 5.4-1). The BLM's continued consultation with tribal entities and the Nuiqsut city government after publication of the DEIS provided information to aid formulation of the preferred alternative.

TABLE 5.4-1 GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION SUMMARY

| Activity | Period in EIS Process | Date |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Mailed ASDP newsletter, Volume 1, to tribes | Scoping | February 28, 2003 |
| Mailed certified Letters to Native Village of Nuiqsut (NVN), Native Village of Barrow (NVB), and the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS), notifying them of BLM, USACE, and USEPA commitment to government-to-government consultation and soliciting formal consultation | Scoping | March, 2003 |
| Held meetings with NVN, NVB, and ICAS | Scoping | March 17-18, 2003 |
| Mailed second invitation for formal consultation to NVN, NVB, and ICAS | DEIS Preparation | April 25, 2003 |
| NVN, NVB, and ICAS accept invitation to formal consultation | DEIS Preparation | May 2003 |
| BLM met with NVN, NVB, and ICAS | DEIS Preparation | June 2003 |
| Mailed ASDP newsletter, Volume 2, to tribes | DEIS Preparation | June 12, 2003 |
| Communicated with NVN, NVB, and ICAS about monthly consultation meeting to discuss tribal issues | DEIS Preparation | July 11, 2003 |
| Monthly teleconference with NVN, NVB, and ICAS | DEIS Preparation | August 6, 2003 |
| | DEIS Preparation | September 9, 2003 |
| | DEIS Preparation | October 7, 2003 |
| | DEIS Preparation | November 4, 2003 |
| | DEIS Preparation | December 2, 2003 |
| USACE and USEPA met with NVN | DEIS Preparation | August 21, 2003 |
| Mailed ASDP newsletter, Volume 3, to tribes | DEIS Comment | January 23, 2004 |
| BLM and USACE met with NVN, City of Nuiqsut, Kuukpik Corporation, and the Kuukpik Subsistence Oversight Panel (KSOP) to discuss formulation of the Preferred Alternative | FEIS Preparation | March 10, 2004 |

5.5 AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTED DURING THE SCOPING AND EIS PROCESS

In addition to the cooperating agencies (including a number of state departments and agencies), this EIS process has involved contact and/or consultation with the following agencies.

Federal Agencies

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Minerals Management Service

U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory

U.S. Department of Energy

U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

Elected Officials

U.S. Senator Ted Stevens

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski

U.S. Representative Don Young

Governor of Alaska Frank Murkowski

Alaska state senators

Alaska state representatives

North Slope Municipal Governments

North Slope Borough

City of Barrow

City of Nuiqsut

City of Atkasuk

City of Anaktuvuk Pass

City of Kaktovik

City of Point Hope

City of Wainwright

Tribal Governments

Native Village of Barrow

Native Village of Nuiqsut

Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope

Native Village Of Atqasuk

Native Village Of Barter Island

Native Village Of Kotzebue

Native Village Of Noatak

Native Village Of Point Hope

Native Village Of Point Lay

Other Native Alaska Organizations:

— Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission – Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation

— Arctic Slope Native Association – Kotzebue IRA

— Arctic Slope Regional Corporation – Kuukpik Corporation

— Atqasuk Inupiat Corporation – Maniilaq Association

— Baan Oyeel Kon Corporation – Nagragmiut Tribal Council

— Barrow Tribal Council – CIRI Inc.

— Barrow Whaling Captains Association – NANA Regional Corporation

— Bering Straits Native Corporation – Nunamiut Corporation

— Cully Corporation – The Aleut Corporation

— Doyon Limited – Olgoonik Corporation Inc.

— Eskimo Walrus Commission – Tihteet'all Incorporated

— Eskimos Inc. – Wainwright Traditional Council

— Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation– Sitnasauk Native Corporation

— Tanana Chiefs Conference

Following is a partial list of other organizations that were notified that the ASDP EIS was being developed (For a complete mailing list, contact: Bureau of Land Management, Office of External Affairs (912), 222 W. 7th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99513).

- Alaska Conservation Foundation
- Alaska Center for the Environment
- Alaska Forest Association Inc.
- Alaska Miners Association
- Alaska Natural Heritage Program
- Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
- Alaska Public Radio Network
- Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition
- Alaska State Chamber of Commerce
- Alaska Support Industry Alliance
- Alaska Wilderness Council
- Alaska Adventures Unlimited
- Alaska Air Forwarding
- Alaska Air Guides
- Alaska Miners Association
- Alaska Oil & Gas Association
- Alaska Outdoor Council
- Alaska State Library
- Alaska Wildlife Alliance
- American Petroleum Institute
- Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
- Arctic Audubon Society
- Arctic Connections
- Arctic Research Commission
- Armstrong Oil & Gas
- Barrow Cable TV
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- BP America Inc.
- BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.
- Bristol Bay Native Corporation
- Calista Corporation
- Canadian Wildlife Service
- Chandalar River Outfitters
- Chevron USA Inc.
- Chukchi Community College
- City of Wasilla
- Colville Village
- Cominco Alaska Inc.
- Concerned Alaskans for Resources and Environment
- ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc.
- Copper Country Alliance
- Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Center for Northern Studies Library
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Ducks Unlimited Inc.
- Ecological Society of America
- ExxonMobil USA
- Fairbanks Industrial Development Corporation
- Fairbanks Native Association
- Forest Oil Corporation
- Emerson Exploration Inc.
- EnCana Petroleum
- ENSTAR Natural Gas Company
- Environment Directorate
- Equinox Wilderness Expeditions
- Evergreen Resources Alaska
- General Energy Corporation
- Halliburton Geo Services Inc.
- Indigenous Peoples Council
- Institute of Northern Forestry
- International Association of Drilling Contractors
- International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
- Marathon Oil Company

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- Matanuska-Susitna Borough
 - McMoran Freeport Oil
 - Municipality of Anchorage
 - National Audubon Society
 - National Environmental Satellite
 - National Outdoor Leadership School
 - National Park Service
 - National Wetlands Tech Council
 - National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
 - National Parks Conservation
 - National Public Lands Council
 - Natural Resource Defense Counsel
 - Northern Alaska Environmental Center
 - North American Native Fisheries Association
 - North Pacific Mining Corporation
 - Northern Alaska Tour Company
 - Northern Land Use Research, Inc.
 - Petro Star Inc.
 - Petro-Hunt
 - Polar Bears Futures
 - Prudhoe Bay Community Council
 - Regional Citizens Advisory Council
 - Resource Advisory Council
 - Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas Association
 - Serrano Strategic Environment Mgmt Inc.
 - Shell Western E&P Inc.
 - Sierra Club
 - Sun-West Oil & Gas Inc.
 - Taiga Mining Co. Inc.
 - Tesoro Refining and Marketing
 - The Alliance
 - The Conservation Fund
 - The Delta Wind
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - The Northern Miner
 - Tigara Corporation
 - TotalFina Elf E&P
 - Trading Bay Energy Corporation
 - Trapper School Community Library
 - Trustees for Alaska
 - University of Alaska Anchorage
 - University of Alaska Fairbanks
 - Udelhoven Oil Field System Services
 - Umiat Commercial Company
 - Umiat Enterprises Inc.
 - Union Texas Alaska LLC
 - Unocal Alaska
 - Usibelli Coal Mine Incorporated
 - Wetlands for Wildlife Inc.
 - Wilderness Society
 - Wildlife Information Center
 - Wildlife Management Institute
 - World Wildlife Fund

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5.7 PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIS

The BLM began distribution of the ASDP DEIS on January 9, 2004, and announced its availability via a news release on January 12, 2004, and a Notice of Availability published by the USEPA in the Federal Register on January 16, 2004. This Notice also announced the 45-day public comment period of January 16 through March 1, 2004. Written comments could be sent to: Alpine Satellite Development Plan EIS, Entrix Project Office, 3701 E. Tudor Road, Suite 208, Anchorage, Alaska, 99507; faxed to 907-563-0439; hand delivered to Entrix, Inc., 3701 E. Tudor Road, Suite 208, Anchorage, Alaska, or to the BLM Public Information Center in the Federal Building, 222 W. 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska; or forwarded electronically to the project web site at <http://www.alpine-satellites-eis.com>. The BLM published a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on February 2, 2004. Subsequently, the BLM announced extension of the public comment period by one week. The new comment period closing date of March 8, 2004, was established and announced in a BLM News Release on February 25, 2004, and in display advertising in the Anchorage Daily News, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, and the Arctic Sounder. The Federal Register published an announcement of the extension on March 9, 2004.

The DEIS was made available to the public in either hard copy or on compact disk by request to Entrix, Inc., or the Alaska State Office, Public Information Center. Copies of the DEIS were also available for public review at the following locations: City of Anaktuvuk Pass, Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska; Loussac Library and Alaska Resources Library and Information Service, Anchorage, Alaska; City of Atkasuk, Atkasuk, Alaska; Tuzzy Public Library, Barrow, Alaska; City of Nuiqsut, Nuiqsut, Alaska; and Noel Wein Library, Fairbanks, Alaska. The entire document was made available for review on the project web site at <http://www.alpine-satellites-eis.com>.

The BLM also announced plans to hold meetings and hearings in Anaktuvuk Pass, Anchorage, Atkasuk, Barrow, Fairbanks, and Nuiqsut. Further public information on the meetings and hearings was provided by publishing public notices in local newspapers.

Following the public release of the ASDP DEIS on January 16, 2004, written public comments were received by mail, website, and fax until the end of the extended Public Comment Period, March 8, 2004. Six public hearings were held to provide a forum in which the public could provide oral or written comment for the record. These hearings were held in Anaktuvuk Pass, Anchorage, Atkasuk, Barrow, Fairbanks, and Nuiqsut. A detailed description of the Public Comment process, the Response to Public Comments process, public comments received, and responses to those comments can be found in Section 6.