



United States Department of the Interior



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In Reply Refer To:
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Dear Reader:

We are pleased to present the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) Draft Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS). This Supplement addresses a list of issues and contains a range of alternatives regarding the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) administration of public lands within the planning area. These alternatives are essentially unchanged from those analyzed in the Northeast NPR-A Final Amended IAP/EIS issued in January 2005. The Supplement updates information presented in the Amended IAP/EIS and corrects inadequacies in the Amended IAP/EIS identified in the September 25, 2006, decision of the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska.

You are encouraged to comment on any errors in our portrayal of the resources and uses of the planning area or the impacts that could occur from activities that the BLM may authorize in the planning area. You may recommend other alternatives to better manage these lands consistent with the purposes of the NPR-A, or measures to mitigate potential impacts.

We are especially interested in comments on the new analysis that addresses the inadequacies identified in the District Court's decision and any mitigation measures that you think the new analysis suggests. The court found that the Amended IAP/EIS failed to fully consider the cumulative effects of oil and gas leasing in the planning area and in the adjacent Northwest NPR-A planning area. The Supplement adds this analysis (see Chapter 4, sections 4.7.3 and 4.7.7 in particular).

When you share your comments with us, please be specific. Identify the specific mistake or concern you have, where it appears in the Draft Supplemental IAP/EIS, and the correction you feel is necessary. If you have a potential mitigation measure, please tell us what it is and the benefits it would provide.

There are four ways to get your ideas to us. You may go to our plan's online site at: http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/npra_general/ne_npra/ne_npr-a_supplement.html and use the comment form.

You may write to us via ENSR, our contractor assisting with receiving and analyzing public comments, at:

Northeast NPR-A Supplemental IAP/EIS Comments
ENSR Project Office
1835 South Bragaw Street, Suite 490
Anchorage, AK 99508

You may fax comments to ENSR at 888-907-3677, or you can hand-deliver your comments to us at the contractor's address or to the BLM Public Information Center in the Federal Building, 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

The public comment period for the Draft Supplemental IAP/EIS will begin with publication of a notice by the Environmental Protection Agency in the *Federal Register*. The precise dates of the comment period and information about public meetings and subsistence hearings pursuant to section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act will be found on the BLM's Web site address noted above and in a Notice of Availability published by the BLM in the *Federal Register*.

If you have questions about the public comment process or this Draft Supplemental IAP/EIS, please call Jim Ducker, BLM-Alaska State Office at (907) 271-3130.



Thomas P. Lonnie
State Director