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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC HEARING
NORTHEAST NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE-ALASKA
DRAFT AMENDED INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN/
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Nunamiut School
Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska
August 3, 2004
7:00 o'clock p.m.

APPEARANCES:

MR. ROBERT SCHNEIDER, BLM
MR. MIKE KLEVEN, BLM
MR. STEVE ELLSWORTH, ENSR
MR. CHARLES S. HUGO, TRANSLATOR

P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record; 7:00 p.m.)

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3 MR. ELLSWORTH: Well, it's 7:00, it's time to start the
4 meeting, so I'd like to call this hearing to order. My name is
5 Steve Ellsworth and I'll be -- I'll serve as your hearing
6 officer tonight. I am also the assistant project manager for
7 this for a company in Anchorage called ENSR. We are helping,
8 assisting the BLM in preparing the Draft EIS for this project.

9 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

10 MR. ELLSWORTH: This hearing is being held for the
11 purpose of providing you an opportunity to make your oral
12 comments on the Bureau of Land Management's draft amendment to
13 the 1998 Northeast National Petroleum Reserve IAP; that's the
14 Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

15 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

16 MR. ELLSWORTH: The first hour of this meeting, from
17 6:00 on, was an open house. Unlike the open house which we
18 just had, this part of the meeting will be a formal hearing and
19 as such we will not be entertaining questions.

20 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

21 MR. ELLSWORTH: However, several individuals from BLM,
22 particularly Bob Schneider here to my right, and Mike Kleven at
23 the front desk, and myself from ENSR, will be available to
24 answer questions after the meeting if you would like.

25 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

5 1 MR. ELLSWORTH: At this time, I would like to make a
2 couple of announcements. We have Liz D'Amour here on my left;
3 she's our court reporter. She will be taking your testimony.
4 When you get done tonight, if you would be willing to, please
5 provide -- and have it available, please provide any copy of
6 your comments in a written form to Liz.

7 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

6 8 MR. ELLSWORTH: That would help her immensely in making
9 sure that she transcribes exactly what you said as correctly as
10 possible.

11 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

7 2 MR. ELLSWORTH: Mike Kleven at the front, as I said, is
13 with BLM and he's helping us out up there. I would ask if any
14 of you have not signed in, to please do so. We have two lists:
15 one if you're just attending the meeting to listen, and the
16 other if you want to provide some testimony.

17 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

8 8 MR. ELLSWORTH: And now I think Bob Schneider will give
19 a brief presentation that hits the highlights of the draft
20 amendment. And then when he is done with that, we will turn it
21 back to open it up for your testimony.

9 2 MR. SCHNEIDER: Thank you, Steve, and good evening and
23 thank you for being here. Mark Major says he takes credit for
24 the good weather tonight. I think it's the good feelings of
25 the community that should take credit for it because it's a

1 beautiful night. I've been here on some less than beautiful
2 nights and this is really nice, so I appreciate the opportunity
3 to be here.

4 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

5 10 MR. SCHNEIDER: What I'd like to do before we take your
6 formal public comments is to provide you with an overview of
7 some of the major elements of what we're doing. It's a plan --
8 or we are contemplating a plan to amend the 1998 Integrated
9 Activity Plan for the Northeast portion of the National
10 Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

11 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

12 11 MR. SCHNEIDER: The plan itself will deal with a number
13 of issues: subsistence, the environmental impacts of oil and
14 gas activities on fish and wildlife, and it will also look at
15 providing additional access for oil and gas leasing,
16 exploration, and development within the Petroleum Reserve.

17 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

18 12 MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay. Before going on, we're often
19 asked why are we looking at a plan amendment for the Northeast
20 portion of the National Petroleum Reserve. The existing plan
21 is five years old; it's halfway through its life. And so it is
22 common for BLM and other agencies to look at their plans when
23 they're about halfway through their lifespan and see whether or
24 not there are changes that need to be made, whether or not
25 those changes are warranted.

1 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

13 2 MR. SCHNEIDER: Another reason why we are looking at
3 the possibility of amending the plan is that it's in the
4 national interest to look for domestic sources of oil and gas,
5 and the National Petroleum Reserve is thought to contain
6 significant amounts of oil and gas. So we want to make sure
7 that we look at all areas of the National Petroleum Reserve to
8 determine whether or not additional oil and gas leasing may be
9 appropriate.

10 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

14 1 MR. SCHNEIDER: I'd like to now give you sort of a
12 brief orientation of where the planning area is located. The
13 Northeast Planning Area is located on the eastern edge of the
14 National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. It is about 60 miles from
15 Prudhoe Bay and about 120 miles west of the Arctic National
16 Wildlife Refuge.

17 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

15 8 MR. SCHNEIDER: The planning area is 4.6 million acres.
19 The entire petroleum reserve is 23 million acres. So it's a
20 fairly small percentage of it, but it's the area that is
21 closest to the existing oilfield. In 1999 -- or 1998, we
22 finished a plan for this area, and in 1999 and again in 2002 we
23 had oil and gas lease sales in this area.

24 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

16 5 MR. SCHNEIDER: In 1999 and again in 2000 we had lease

1 sales and, as a result of those lease sales, about 1.4 million
2 acres of the Northeast Planning Area was leased for oil and
3 gas. That raised about \$165 million of revenue, half of which
4 came to the State of Alaska and a big part of that came to the
5 North Slope Borough in the form of energy impact grants.

6 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

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7 MR. SCHNEIDER: In January of this year, we completed a
8 similar plan in the Northwest area of the National Petroleum
9 Reserve and in June of this year, we had the first lease sale
10 in Northwest NPR-A with leases selling for about \$54 million.
11 We sold about 1.4 million acres of lease tracks, and this was
12 the largest onshore lease sale on federal lands in Alaska
13 history. So it's a -- the bottom line is, this is an area of
14 great interest for the oil and gas industry.

15 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

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16 MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay. I want to set the record
17 straight. There are some people that feel that we have made
18 decisions already and I want to tell you that we have made no
19 decisions on the plan itself. We have not made any plans -- or
20 made any decisions to change any of the stipulations that are
21 the in the existing plan. We have not made any decisions to
22 open additional areas of oil and gas leasing, nor have we made
23 any decisions to reduce any of the set-backs and buffer zones
24 that were established in that plan.

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MR. AKPIK: Before we continue on, if I may? Are we

1 looking at that 1998.....

20 2 MR. SCHNEIDER: The 1998 Plan.

21 3 MR. AKPIK: Record of Decision?

22 4 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes.

23 5 MR. AKPIK: Thank you.

6 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

24 7 MR. SCHNEIDER: And just to answer you, Joe, yes, we're
8 talking about the 1998 Plan. We have made no decisions to
9 change anything in that plan, so no decisions have been made.

25 10 MR. AKPIK: For the record, I'd like to get that no
11 set-backs and buffer zones where it is. Reduced set-backs and
12 buffer zones.

26 13 MR. SCHNEIDER: We have not made any decisions to
14 reduce any set-backs or reduce any buffer zones.

27 15 MR. AKPIK: Thank you. Go ahead.

28 16 MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay. I was just going to go -- we
17 have some decisions that we are considering, and that's one
18 reason why we are here tonight, to hear from you. So we are
19 considering changing some of the stipulations in the Northeast
20 Plan into a performance-based plan versus the prescriptives
21 plan that has been established in the 1998 Plan. We have
22 considered and are considering separating out lease
23 stipulations that would apply only on the grounds that are
24 actually leased for oil and gas from a different set of
25 stipulations or required operating procedures that would apply

1 across all of NPR-A. We do plan on reviewing lands that are
2 currently available for leasing and seeing whether or not
3 that's appropriate, whether or not changes may need to be made.
4 And we are going to analyze the current mitigation measures
5 that have been established for the Northeast Planning Area to
6 see whether or not they should be changed or modified.

7 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

29 8 MR. SCHNEIDER: Now, I'd like to talk about
9 specifically the alternatives that we are considering and
10 looking at. Go ahead.

11 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

30 12 MR. SCHNEIDER: There is a law that's called the
13 National Environmental Policy Act. And I'm not going to bore
14 you with all the details of that act, but it requires us to
15 look at a full range of alternative choices, as Charles has
16 said. And so these alternatives that we are considering
17 provide us with a full range of what we are looking at trying
18 to analyze for this plan amendment.

19 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

31 20 MR. SCHNEIDER: This alternative is called the
21 No Action Alternative. The law requires us to look at the
22 existing situation. If we did nothing today, if we stopped
23 what we're doing today, this is the plan that we would be
24 using. This is the existing 1998 Plan.

25 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

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MR. SCHNEIDER: I'd like to briefly describe the No Action Alternative. As I said, it's the current plan and it would be the no action alternative. If we were to go back and just do nothing, this is what we would be looking at.

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MR. HUGO: (Translates)

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MR. SCHNEIDER: The 1998 Plan made four million acres of the 4.6 million acres available for oil and gas leasing.

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MR. HUGO: (Translates)

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MR. SCHNEIDER: The plan made an area of about 600,000 acres on the northern end of the planning area unavailable for oil and gas leasing.

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MR. HUGO: (Translates)

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MR. SCHNEIDER: It made an additional 200,000 acres that surrounded this area that was unavailable and said that it was okay to lease, but no surface activity at all, not even winter exploration activity could take place within this cross-hatched area that surrounds the area not available for leasing.

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MR. HUGO: (Translates)

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MR. SCHNEIDER: It established an area where there were special caribou stipulations that guided us and guided the industry when they were going to be doing activity in the area. They basically were timing restrictions, aircraft restrictions to ensure that when caribou were in the area that was most sensitive for caribou that the activities that oil companies or

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1 anybody else were doing in there would not adversely affect
2 caribou.

3 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

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4 MR. SCHNEIDER: It established locations where leasing
5 could take place, but no facilities could be built and this is
6 what we call a no surface occupancy area. These were along all
7 of the major rivers: Ikpikpuk, the Colville River, Fish Creek,
8 Judy Creek. These were areas that were sensitive and so
9 therefore it could be leased, but no surface facilities could
10 be built.

11 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

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12 MR. SCHNEIDER: It established an area, this big block
13 in the middle, there are a number of lakes that are deep water
14 lakes. These lakes are important because they provide habitat
15 for overwintering fish. They also provide a year-round source
16 of fresh water. So there were set-backs that were one-quarter
17 mile away from those lakes in order to prevent them from being
18 potentially impacted by oil and gas activity. So those lakes,
19 for the most part, were in this area that's shown in the blue
20 cross-hatching.

21 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

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22 MR. SCHNEIDER: And then finally around all of the
23 areas where there were no surface facilities allowed there, you
24 will see these yellow bands and this is an area that was
25 identified as a special consultation zone. If there were

1 activities that were going to be proposed within these areas
2 that surrounded these specific locations, then special
3 consultation requirements were necessary with the local
4 community to explain what was being done, to determine if there
5 were other ways of being able to do it, to lessen the impact on
6 subsistence.

7 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

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8 MR. SCHNEIDER: These are the two other alternatives
9 that we have. I gave you one on one end, the No Action
10 alternative, which was required; it's the existing plan, and
11 now these are the two other alternatives that we are
12 considering.

13 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

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14 MR. SCHNEIDER: Alternative B makes all the lands
15 within the Planning Area available for oil and gas leasing with
16 exception of an area that's northeast of Teshekpuk Lake that
17 would not be available, and this would be the area here. So
18 all of the area would be available for oil and gas leasing,
19 except for this area north and east of Teshekpuk Lake.

20 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

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21 MR. SCHNEIDER: Alternative C makes all of the lands
22 within the Planning Area open for oil and gas leasing. This is
23 the other end of the range of alternatives. We have No Action
24 on one end and then all of the Planning Area open for oil and
25 gas leasing at the other end, and that would be Alternative C.

1 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

2 MR. SCHNEIDER: Just two more things to say about the
3 alternatives and then I'll talk specifically about some of the
4 site-specific locations and actions that will take place. But
5 I wanted to make sure that you understood that there are
6 general stipulations, just like the 79 stipulations in the
7 original plan. There are a series of stipulations that apply
8 to all of these lands, so it's not a free-for-all. There are
9 rules that the oil industry would have to follow. So there are
10 general stipulations and there are some site-specific
11 stipulations that deal with specific locations.

12 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

13 MR. SCHNEIDER: The Bureau of Land Management has
14 identified Alternative B as the alternative that we think best
15 meets the management objectives that we have for the Petroleum
16 Reserve. We think it protects fish and wildlife resources and
17 subsistence resources, but it also makes as much as we feel is
18 possible open for oil and gas leasing, which is the other part
19 of National Petroleum Reserve, the other management objective
20 that we have. So we have called this our preferred
21 alternative.

22 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

23 MR. SCHNEIDER: One last thing before I move on to the
24 next slide is that the final plan may not look like either one
25 of these plans. That's why we're asking for comments. There

1 may be some things that we haven't thought about; there may be
2 some issues that we haven't addressed. And so the final plan
3 that ultimately will come out towards the end of the year may
4 be different from any of these three alternatives, but for you
5 to be able to look at we have three alternatives that we want
6 you to review.

7 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

46 8 MR. SCHNEIDER: Now I'd like to talk about some site
9 specific stipulations that are in the -- both the two
10 alternatives, Alternative B and C.

11 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

47 12 MR. SCHNEIDER: This deals with rivers. In the
13 original 1998 Plan, there were a number of rivers that were
14 identified as being important and there were buffer zones and
15 set-backs that were established along those rivers. The
16 proposed plan, the two alternatives in fact add a set-back.
17 Tingmiaksiqvik River, and I don't pronounce that very well,
18 so.....

48 19 MR. MAJOR: Tingmiaksiqvik.

49 20 MR. SCHNEIDER: See, good weather man here has to show
21 me up. But this was not in the original plan and we've added
22 this river. All of the set-backs from all of the rivers of the
23 1998 Plan are the same; we haven't changed any and, in fact,
24 we've added an additional river in our preferred alternative.

25 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

51 1 MR. SCHNEIDER: We have not changed any set-backs.

2 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

50 3 MR. SCHNEIDER: Deep water lakes. I talked about lakes
4 that were greater than 7 or 8 feet deep. They are important
5 because they provide overwintering habitat for fish; they also
6 provide year-round sources of water. And what we have done is
7 we've kept the set-back around all of the deep water lakes, the
8 one-quarter mile set-back that was in the original plan.

9 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

52 10 MR. SCHNEIDER: This just shows you what one of those
11 deep water lakes -- we had an underwater camera that took a
12 picture, I think this was in February of a couple of years ago,
13 showing you the fish that would be under the ice.

14 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

53 15 MR. SCHNEIDER: In the 1998 Plan, there was an area
16 where deep water lakes were located that the quarter-mile
17 set-back was established within that area, but, in fact, we
18 have expanded that because there are other lakes that fall
19 outside this block that are also deep water lakes. So we've
20 expanded the protection around the deep water lakes in the --
21 both the Alternatives B and C.

22 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

54 23 MR. SCHNEIDER: Teshekpuk Lake. This is the most
24 controversial part of the plan. We have proposed in both
25 alternative plans to allow for oil and gas leasing throughout

1 the area including Teshekpuk Lake, but in order to be able to
2 do anything in Teshekpuk Lake, there are some very high
3 standards that would have to be met and currently they can't be
4 met. So, currently, we would not allow for activity to take
5 place on Teshekpuk Lake; things like being able to deal with
6 oil spills in broken ice conditions. That technology does not
7 exist at the present time.

8 And so we have a high standard, but we still want to
9 make it potentially available for leasing but until such time
10 as it can be proven that it can be done safely, we will not
11 allow any surface activity to take place.

12 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

55 13 MR. SCHNEIDER: We have established set-backs on
14 Teshekpuk Lake, on the water a three-quarter mile set-back and
15 onshore a quarter-mile set-back, making it a total of one mile.
16 We've done this to protect the shoreline area, which is the
17 most sensitive area of the lake for shorebirds, for caribou, to
18 keep -- if activity was to take place on the lake itself, it
19 would have to take place farther than three quarters of a mile
20 away from the shore.

21 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

56 22 MR. SCHNEIDER: North and east of Teshekpuk Lake is a
23 large area that is important for birds like brant and other
24 waterfowl. They go to this area to molt, lose their feathers,
25 to nest, and then they migrate back down to the YK Delta into

1 other places. It's a very, very sensitive area. We've
2 established three-quarter mile set-backs like Teshekpuk Lake on
3 the water and one-quarter mile set-backs on the shoreline to
4 avoid conflicts with waterfowl that will be using these lakes.
5 They use it for a month or so, in the months of July and
6 August, before they fly off.

7 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

57 8 MR. SCHNEIDER: This is a map that shows the relative
9 importance for these waterfowl. The tan lakes have greater
10 than 1,000 geese that will nest or be located around those
11 lakes, and these were from samples. The area in blue, between
12 500 and 1,000, all the way down to the green and finally to the
13 red, which are between zero and 100. This is a very, very
14 important area for these geese. They're not all the same, but
15 it's a very important area for them.

16 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

58 17 MR. SCHNEIDER: In Alternative B, we have taken that
18 core area off the table and will not allow leasing in that
19 area. That is the area that I showed here in Alternative B and
20 that's because of the importance for waterfowl in this area.
21 So under Alternative B, this area would be taken off the table.
22 It's about 213,000 acres.

23 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

59 24 MR. SCHNEIDER: I'd also like to talk about Teshekpuk
25 Lake because of the caribou. The Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd

1 uses this area for calving and for feeding in the summertime
2 and so therefore we've identified special rules here in case a
3 facility was to be built, there would be requirements to study
4 for three years prior to the locate, the time of locating a
5 facility, in order to make the best decision we could in terms
6 of where a facility could be located.

7 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

8 MR. SCHNEIDER: This is a close-up. The areas in
9 magenta here are areas that are important for caribou movement
10 to get to insect relief along the coast and then back and forth
11 for feeding. So part of the studies would be to determine
12 where are the locations where the caribou actually move so that
13 we can locate pipelines or facilities outside those areas to
14 prevent conflict.

15 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

16 MR. SCHNEIDER: Along the coast, and the coast is very
17 important because of marine mammals, because of subsistence
18 uses, because of waterfowl, we've established a three-quarter
19 mile buffer zone around the coastal area where no facilities
20 would be allowed. If leasing was allowed, it would have to be
21 located away from the coastline because it's another important
22 and very sensitive area.

23 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

24 MR. SCHNEIDER: The Colville River has been an area of
25 great interest by a lot of people. And what we've decided to

1 do -- this is the Colville River special area, this area in
2 pink. It was set aside in the 1970s by Secretary of the
3 Interior because of birds of prey nesting and foraging in that
4 area in very high numbers. We have decided that in our
5 preferred alternative, we will defer leasing in that area until
6 we complete a river management plan for the Colville River. So
7 this area is essentially taken off the table for leasing until
8 we complete that plan for the Colville River.

9 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

63 10 MR. SCHNEIDER: And this is the same, if you were to go
11 farther to the west, the Northwest NPR-A Plan, which is just to
12 the west, also has this deferral on leasing until the river
13 plan is completed.

14 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

64 15 MR. SCHNEIDER: There is a small area of remnant sand
16 dunes called the Pik Dunes in the middle of the Planning Area
17 and in the 1998 plan leasing was allowed in that area, but you
18 could not build a facility on it. We have made no change to
19 that requirement, so it will be available for leasing but no
20 permanent facilities could be built on it; a no surface
21 occupancy area, so no change.

22 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

65 23 MR. SCHNEIDER: I'm almost done. If you remember in
24 the No Action plan we had sensitive consultation zones. We
25 have expanded the consultation requirements in the proposed

1 plan quite a bit and I want to talk very briefly about that
2 expanded consultation requirement.

3 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

66 4 MR. SCHNEIDER: Under both the preferred alternative,
5 that's Alternative B, and Alternative C, there are requirements
6 that industry needs to fulfill in order to live up to their
7 requirements for consulting with local communities. I could
8 say this: it's very opportune tomorrow night that
9 ConocoPhillips is here as part of having direct community
10 consultation; having open house meetings is a requirement of
11 the plan. They're doing it because they're good neighbors, but
12 they're doing it because we have made them do it. They don't
13 have to have dinner, but they are inviting folks to come and
14 find out what they are doing.

15 Doreen is here taping and we want to use regional media
16 to get information out about what is happening in NPR-A. We
17 consult on a government-to-government basis with the Native
18 Tribal governments as well as ICAS. We have a Subsistence
19 Advisory Panel, and George is a member of the Subsistence
20 Advisory Panel representing your community. We also have
21 representation from ICAS and the other communities that are
22 located within NPR-A. All of these are part of what we see as
23 the expanded consultation and activity does not have to take
24 place in one of those yellow areas on the map; we are going to
25 consult on any and all activities that are going to take place

1 in NPR-A. I've said an awful lot, I'm sorry, Charlie.

2 MR. HUGO: That's okay. (Translates)

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3 MR. SCHNEIDER: One thing that may have not been
4 pointed out, but I just have the brand new copy that Mark gave
5 me, that industry has been putting out an update of activities
6 in NPR-A. Again they don't have to do this, but it's part of
7 the consultation and cooperation and coordination with the
8 communities. They put this information out to make sure that
9 people are informed about activities that are taking place in
10 NPR-A, whether or not they're in the consultation areas or not.

11 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

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12 MR. SCHNEIDER: There are also special -- in addition
13 to the other consultation requirements, there are some special
14 consultation requirements for seismic operations. That's
15 because seismic operations cover such a large area of ground.
16 So, therefore, one of the requirements is that if seismic work
17 is going to be done in an area, that subsistence camp and cabin
18 users that have cabins in an area where this activity will take
19 place need to be contacted and you need to be contacted in
20 writing and then we will work with the Native Tribal government
21 in the local community. If there are concerns or conflicts
22 that may arise, we use the tribal government as a way of being
23 able to deal with the individual cabin and camp owners that
24 have cabins there.

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5 We also encourage and, in fact, have very much

1 supported the use of local people to work as subsistence
2 representatives to the local community not only on oil and gas
3 rigs, but on seismic rigs to make sure that local concerns are
4 addressed and they can point out the areas of interest or
5 concern when they know that there's an ice cellar here or a
6 cabin there or an area of special concern to the community,
7 point that out and keep activity away.

8 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

9 MR. SCHNEIDER: I'd like to now talk briefly about the
10 planning schedule and then I'll be done. We are in the process
11 of this plan; we began here in late 2003. We have meetings in
12 various communities, scoping meetings. We have meetings in
13 Nuiqsut with residents of the community, with Tribal Council,
14 with the Kuukpik Corporation to try to help look at
15 alternatives that we should consider.

16 We then came out with a draft plan and that's where we
17 are now, asking for public comment. We have a public comment
18 period of 75 days that began back on June the 9th and will run
19 through the 23rd of this month. We are seeking comments from
20 the public in meetings like this as well as written comments
21 and comments on e-mail.

22 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

23 MR. SCHNEIDER: We hope to be completed with the plan
24 some time around the end of this calendar year and we hope that
25 somewhere around the middle of 2005 we'll be able to have a

1 lease sale in Northeast NPR-A and then to have lease sales
2 every two years; to keep it on schedule for every two years.
3 If we were to stop doing the work that we're doing tonight and
4 not finish this plan, we would still have a lease sale in 2005
5 because we have an existing plan where we've already sold
6 leases in 1999 and 2002. So we hope to be able to have lease
7 sales and perhaps make additional acreage available for
8 leasing, but we want to keep on a schedule. In between, we
9 will hope to hold lease sales in Northwest NPR-A, so we can
10 have a lease sale every year.

11 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

73 12 MR. SCHNEIDER: And this is the hearing schedule and we
13 are here tonight from August the 3rd and we will be going to
14 Nuiqsut and Atqasuk and Barrow, and then Bethel over the next
15 week and a half or so. This is the hearing schedule. We've
16 had three hearings in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and one in
17 Washington D.C., and now we are coming back to Alaska and
18 hearing from the people who live closest to this activity.

19 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

74 20 MR. SCHNEIDER: I want to thank you for your attention.
21 This has been interesting and I hope to hear from you. I want
22 to thank Charles for his interpreting for me because I wouldn't
23 be able to do it without you. Thank you, Charles.

24 MR. HUGO: Thank you. (Translates)

75 25 MR. AKPIK: Mr. Robert Schneider?

76 1 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes.

77 2 MR. AKPIK: Joseph Akpik, for the record. I come in as
3 the ICAS representative as the.....

78 4 MR. ELLSWORTH: Excuse me, could you wait just a
5 minute. We'd like to get that on the record. I'm going to
6 thank Bob for giving his presentation and then we'll open it
7 for comment and then.....

79 8 MR. AKPIK: Thank you, Steve.

80 9 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes. And just to understand, this is a
10 formal hearing that is conducted under the requirements of the
11 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Section 810,
12 which is a subsistence hearing. We do have a court reporter
13 and we're going to take testimony. I was going to say, Joe, if
14 you and I want to go outside if you have a particular question
15 for me, or if you have a particular comment that you want to
16 make for the record, then you can make that if you signed up to
17 speak, or we can talk after the meeting. Okay? Would that be
18 all right?

81 19 MR. KLEVEN: We have four people signed up right now.

82 20 MR. ELLSWORTH: Thanks.

83 21 MR. SCHNEIDER: Thank you.

84 22 MR. ELLSWORTH: Thanks, Bob. At this time, I'd like to
23 turn the floor over to those that would like to provide some
24 verbal comments and have signed up to do so.

25 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

85 1 MR. ELLSWORTH: To keep things the same at all our
2 meetings and to ensure that we have enough time, I want you to
3 limit your comments, your verbal comments to five minutes and
4 so at the end of four minutes, just to give you an indication
5 that you are getting toward the end so you can finish up, I'll
6 give you a little knock on the desk.

86 7 MS. SIMMONDS: Well, you've given one hour of
8 presentation. Why not allow everybody enough time, more than
9 five minutes?

87 0 MR. ELLSWORTH: Well, if we have more time at the end,
11 then we will provide you additional time to give comments, but
12 we start off with this five-minute limit because that's what
13 we've done at all the other meetings. So to try and ensure
14 that everybody has the same limit, we'll start that way.

88 5 MS. SIMMONDS: Of course, the meeting is small enough;
16 there should be more than five minutes allotted to speak.

17 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

89 18 MR. ELLSWORTH: When you're called, please come up to
19 chair at my right here where Charles is sitting and identify
20 yourself by name and if you are representing an organization
21 other than yourself, please provide that information as well.

22 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

90 3 MR. ELLSWORTH: And when you're finished, please don't
24 forget, if you have a written set of your comments, to drop it
25 off with Liz or Mike so we can make sure we've got everything

1 correct.

2 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

91 3 MR. ELLSWORTH: If you've not signed up at this moment,
4 I will provide you an opportunity after we're done with those
5 who have signed up.

6 (Translates)

92 7 MR. ELLSWORTH: All right. The first on the list is
8 Mr. Mark Major.

9 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

93 10 MR. MAJOR: Thank you. Good evening. Before we get
11 started, I guess just a procedural question. I do have the
12 written testimony here and I'll be happy to give it to Liz
13 afterwards. Would you prefer for me to do the whole thing in
14 English and then give it to Charles and let him do it in
15 Inupiat, or do we want to go back and forth?

94 16 MR. ELLSWORTH: No. I think it would be better if you
17 went first and then Charles can read it.

95 18 MR. MAJOR: Okay. Uh-huh, all right. Can I stand?
19 Sit down? What do you think, folks?

96 20 MR. ELLSWORTH: Either -- whatever makes you
21 comfortable.

97 22 MR. HUGO: Stop, drop, and roll.

23 (General laughter)

98 24 MR. MAJOR: Ah, there you go. All right. I'm going to
25 sit down and be comfortable here.

1 Good evening. My name is Mark Major and I am senior
2 environmental coordinator for ConocoPhillips Alaska.
3 ConocoPhillips is the largest producer of oil and gas and the
4 most active explorer in Alaska. We have also been a long-time
5 neighbor of the community of Anaktuvuk Pass, and I appreciate
6 the opportunity to share my comments with you here tonight.

99 7 Our company has a proven track record of high-quality
8 environmental performance on Alaska's North Slope and in the
9 NPR-A. ConocoPhillips is a leader in innovative solutions that
10 protect the environment, such as the minimal footprint of the
11 Alpine Production Facilities. ConocoPhillips has participated
12 in 15 exploration wells in the Petroleum Reserve, all without
13 environmental incident.

100 14 In 2001, ConocoPhillips and our partner, Anadarco
15 Petroleum, announced several discoveries in the NPR-A. Since
16 that time, an EIS process has begun for new satellite field
17 developments in both the NPR-A and on state and Native
18 corporation lands near the Alpine oilfield. These new
19 developments confirm the strategic potential for oil and gas in
20 the NPR-A. As the draft plan points out, much has been learned
21 since the Record of Decision for the Northeast area, since it
22 was first issued in 1998.

101 23 ConocoPhillips endorses continued leasing in the
24 northeast portion of the NPR-A and the opening of Teshekpuk
25 Lake by the BLM. This will allow access to some of the most

1 important prospective areas which are located near the crest of
2 the Barrow Arch.

102

3 ConocoPhillips believes that the most sensitive areas
4 north of Teshekpuk Lake such as the lakes with the highest use
5 by molting geese should remain off limits. We also acknowledge
6 there should be a buffer around these lakes as a further
7 measure for protection of these species. However, we are
8 concerned in general that the BLM has recommended the blanket
9 exclusion from leasing of the 350 square miles of additional
10 prospective area north of Teshekpuk Lake. We are also
11 concerned that the BLM has not addressed some of the extensive
12 stream set-backs in the area. In our opinion, the current
13 three-mile set-back at Fish Creek is unnecessary and is double
14 the 1.5 miles originally recommended in the 1998 Plan.

103

5 ConocoPhillips supports the BLM's proposed performance-
16 based stipulations and required operating procedures for the
17 Northeast NPR-A. These revised stipulations would provide a
18 framework to make compliance efforts more efficient, where we
19 can continue to operate in a safe and environmentally sound
20 manner, and respect the importance subsistence usage of the
21 area.

104

2 ConocoPhillips remains committed to environmental
23 excellence and responsible development. Exploration activities
24 in the northeast area, and environmentally sensitive areas,
25 would take place with minimal impacts using ice roads and ice

1 pads to access prospects during the Arctic winter. Future oil
2 and gas development in the NPR-A will have economic benefits
3 for Alaska, for the communities of the North Slope, and for the
4 nation. For more than 30 years, oil and gas development has
5 been the economic engine for the North Slope and the State of
6 Alaska. In 2003, the State of Alaska received more than one
7 billion dollars from the oil and gas industry in taxes and
8 royalties. The three previous lease sales in the NPR-A have
9 generated more than \$222 million in bonus payments split
10 between the state and federal governments. Clearly, continued
11 investment on the North Slope benefits everyone who lives in
12 Alaska through monies for state and local governments that
13 result in better services and better schools.

105 14 ConocoPhillips also understands that economic benefit
15 from continued oil and gas development is only part of the
16 picture. We are keenly aware that the land and water of the
17 North Slope and the subsistence environment and traditions it
18 supports are fundamental to the Native culture. These values
19 must continue to be a vital part of our collective future.

106 20 ConocoPhillips has proven that we can work closely with
21 our neighbors and operate in a manner that respects the way of
22 life of the residents of Alaska's North Slope. This takes
23 constant effort on both parts and we are committed to working
24 with the North Slope residents to ensure development happens in
25 a way that respects your heritage and your subsistence way of

1 life.

107

2 In conclusion, ConocoPhillips is pleased to offer these
3 comments: Continued lease sales in the National Petroleum
4 Reserve will enhance the nation's energy and economic security,
5 and our nation's needs to secure its energy future. We are
6 confident that the Bureau of Land Management and the residents
7 of the North Slope will find a way to balance the needs of the
8 nation with the needs of the Native people. ConocoPhillips
9 pledges to see that balance defined from this effort is the
10 balance that is maintained for generations to come. In
11 addition to my comments today, ConocoPhillips plans to submit
12 written comments for this draft plan review process. Quyanaq.

108

3 MR. ELLSWORTH: Thank you.

109

4 MR. HUGO: Can I have that?

110

5 MR. MAJOR: Oh, that's right. I thought you were going
16 to remember it all.

111

17 MR. HUGO: Oh, no, I can't remember it.

18 (General laughter)

19 MR. HUGO: I don't have to say my name, do I?

20 (Translates)

112

1 MR. ELLSWORTH: Thanks, Charles. Next on the list, we
22 have Joseph Akpik.

113

23 MR. AKPIK: Thank you, Steve. My name is Joseph Akpik.

24 (Speaks in Inupiak) If I may talk Inupiak and English.

25 (Speaks in Inupiak). I am requesting to have -- to consult

1 with the people here as my seat is at large I represent these
2 people under the ICAS, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope,
3 and I wish to ask for a recess to consult with these people
4 before I can make my testimony. I'm referring to the Northeast
5 Amendment. Would that be possible, Mr. Steve? I would like to
6 consult with my people here before we can talk and there are
7 some people that would like to testify in Inupiak if we can.
8 And we've got to understand of what we are talking about and
9 that is why I am requesting to have a recess.

10 MS. SIMMONDS: Yes.

11 MR. AKPIK: If we can, cut everything off including the
12 KBRW and with your recording.

13 MR. ELLSWORTH: How long would you need?

14 MR. AKPIK: We would need at least -- Mr. Mark Major
15 was on for 20 minutes representing this -- his testimony. We
16 are going to ask for the same, equal, as 20 minutes.

17 MR. ELLSWORTH: Fifteen? How about 15 minutes?

18 MR. AKPIK: (Speaks in Inupiak) Thank you very much,
19 Mr. Steve. If we can have a recess and cut off our recording?

20 MR. ELLSWORTH: Do you have a.....

21 MR. SCHNEIDER: As long as we're going to get some
22 comments that

23 MR. AKPIK: Okay.

24 MR. SCHNEIDER:the community feels comfortable
25 with, I don't have a problem with that.

123

1 MR. AKPIK: Thank you very much, Mr. Bob Schneider.

124

2 MR. ELLSWORTH: We will resume at 8:47.

3 (Off record)

125

4 MR. ELLSWORTH: Thank you very much. I would like to
5 resume the official meeting now again, and, Joseph, you had the
6 floor and I give you 10 minutes, please; that's five minutes
7 English and.....

126

8 MR. AKPIK: Thank you very.....

127

9 MR. ELLSWORTH: I'm trying to keep us back on schedule.

128

10 MR. AKPIK: Thank you very much, Mr. Steve. I wish to
11 thank everybody. My name is Joseph Akpik. I come to -- I
12 haven't been to here at Anaktuvuk in such a long time that it's
13 good to see my Inupiak (speaks in Inupiak) over here. And I
14 thank Mr. Robert Schneider for coming, and your staff, and I
15 wish to thank Mark Major and his staff, and also KBRW for
16 putting this presentation through KRBR. And I'm sure there are
17 lot of us that would like to talk, but we are being limited, so
18 I'm going to talk as fast as I can in English and talk in
19 Inupiak twice as slow as I can.

129

20 First of all, I can see this here, the Bureau of Land
21 Management, which it falls under Department of Interior.
22 Department of Interior has a lot of departments, for one of
23 them is Bureau of Land Management and these are -- Bob
24 Schneider is, what do you call them, authorization officer. Am
25 I correct, Mr. Bob? Yes, he is. He is the only lead man here

1 under the Bureau of Land Management and he's got his staff.
2 And I see this, one of these papers that they have set. Where
3 is US Bureau of Indian Affairs? And this is what I was
4 missing. There is a good bit of land management signature.
5 They've got the State of Alaska, they've got the Army Corps of
6 Engineers, they've got the Army -- US Coast Guard, they've got
7 the US Environmental Protection Agency. Now, where does Bureau
8 of Indian Affairs fall in?

130

9 We are protected under the US BIA, what you call the US
10 Trust Responsibility, and this is the interpretation that I
11 would like to submit in as part of my testimony and I would
12 like to see more of BIA, which we are protected under. And
13 their -- the Bureau of Land Management today says our vision
14 (speaks in Inupiak) says to enhance the quality of life for all
15 citizens through the balance, stewardship of America's public
16 lands and resources. We are talking about northeast and I
17 don't want everybody to get mixed up between northwest and
18 northeast; we are talking northeast and I'm sure we'll all
19 understand the boundaries. And then it goes on to their
20 commitment to us, as American citizen, our mission to sustain
21 the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for
22 the use and the enjoyment of the present and the future
23 generations, our values (speaks in Inupiak) to serve with
24 honesty, integrity, accountability, respect, courage, and
25 commitment to make a difference.

131 1 See, that's what they have said to us, Bureau of Land
2 Management; this is their commitment to us. Our priority is
3 (speaks in Inupiak) to improve the health and productivity of
4 the land, to support the BLM multiple use mission. We're
5 talking about northeast. To cultivate community-based
6 conservation. (Speaks in Inupiak) This is what it is,
7 citizen-centered stewardship and partnership through
8 consultation (speaks in Inupiak) cooperative (speaks in
9 Inupiak) and communication (speaks in Inupiak), to respect,
10 value, and support our employees, give them resources and
11 opportunities to succeed. And so this is their commitment to
12 us. But anyway I do a lot of research.....

132 3 MR. SCHNEIDER: Joe, can I ask you a question?

133 4 MR. AKPIK: Yes?

134 5 MR. SCHNEIDER: Could you read for the record what
16 documents you're reading from?

135 17 MR. AKPIK: I am talking about your commitment to us.

136 18 MR. SCHNEIDER: What's that document named?

137 19 MR. AKPIK: This document is the -- all in all, it
20 should have been Alpine Satellite Development Plan. Okay.

138 21 MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay.

139 22 MR. AKPIK: And this is where I got it from when I was
23 reviewing what the Bureau of Land Management has committed to
24 us. Okay? And this is just one very important thing and I'm
25 going to switch from there and I'm going to switch on to the

1 Department of Defense for the American Indians, and I have left
2 this with -- and we are protected and there is another
3 preamble, another (speaks in Inupiak) that they're going to do
4 and it goes on and, for the record, what's her name, Evelyn?

5 MR. REXFORD: Mekiana.

6 MR. AKPIK: Mekiana got the records. But anyway, we
7 are -- I would like to testify to at least get on that NPR-A
8 fundings available for our area. We are being impacted. All
9 right? I am going to testify, instead of going to the State of
10 Alaska, I was like to see it come to our people as a whole
11 because this is some of the things -- I do not want to see
12 another one like this right out of Kuukpik's land. It's all
13 just nothing but test wells, everything production; they're
14 being surrounded. So this is some of the things that I have
15 seen.

16 And the last of the things, the newspapers are reading
17 everywhere -- every day you're reading about environmental, so
18 this is one of the very few things that I would like to present
19 as that -- there is one of them, the 18-member National
20 Research Council panel that has spoke to report to the council.
21 They call it -- it's assessment of the accumulative effects of
22 the oil for 40 years of exploration. And it's a very -- what
23 it does, is it affects our lifestyle where this is -- they
24 found out a lot. Our Congress has found out a lot, that
25 they -- what they have done to us within the 40 years. I am

1 going to leave a copy for the National Research Council that
2 was presented to the Congress in 2003. So I'm going to pass it
3 down to the -- the copy to your tribal liaison officer and I
4 would encourage each and every one of you to make a testimony
5 and I wish to thank Mr. Steve and everybody else again.

6 Quyanaq. (Speaks in Inupiak)

143 7 MR. ELLSWORTH: Thank you. Next on the list.....

144 8 MR. MAJOR: Do you need to interpret?

145 9 MR. AKPIK: Huh?

146 10 MR. MAJOR: Do you need to interpret it or.....

147 11 MR. AKPIK: I already interpreted 20 minutes ago.

148 12 MR. MAJOR: All right.

149 13 MR. ELLSWORTH: Next on the list, we have Doreen
14 Simmonds.

150 15 MS. SIMMONDS: Doreen Simmonds, for the record. My
16 testimony will start off with saying (speaks in Inupiak).
17 Okay. I don't think I have five minutes, but I'll go ahead and
18 translate. I talked about the small footprints and I'm sure
19 you've heard that there was promise of small footprints in
20 Nuiqsut, but you saw the map. Somebody said it looked like
21 small pox. It doesn't look good. In the 1998 draft plan,
22 there was a study, two years of study done and after that study
23 was done, after talking to all the Native people, all the local
24 people, the scientists, they decided that they would do 80
25 percent oil activities and leave 20 percent alone. And now

1 they want the whole pie.

151

2 The jobs that are promised are nonexistent in Nuiqsut.
3 Nuiqsut people are suffering for jobs. In Alpine, you don't
4 hardly see any Native people working there. And one last
5 thing, the oil industry has the technology to make cars that go
6 90 miles to the hour.

152

7 MR. REXFORD: No, to the gallon.

153

8 MS. SIMMONDS: To the gallon. That isn't being done
9 because money for the oil companies is the bottom line. If you
10 can -- if they can make your car go only 30, 40 miles to the
11 gallon, so much the better for them. That's my testimony.

154

12 MR. ELLSWORTH: Thank you, Doreen. Next on the list is
13 Delbert Rexford.

155

14 MR. REXFORD: Thank you. I've got one prepared by our
15 assemblyman, Paul Hugo, who lives here, but he's presently in
16 the North Slope Borough assembly meeting, so I'll read this for
17 the record.

156

18 "To Bureau of Land Management from Paul Hugo, North
19 Slope Borough Assembly, date August 3rd, 2004. Subject:
20 Anaktuvuk Pass NPR-A meeting. Good evening and thank you for
21 coming to Anaktuvuk Pass to listen to our concerns about NPR-A.
22 As you know, this time after time I have brought you these
23 issues concerning NPR-A, the developments that is taking place
24 in NPR-A and the coming future projects will affect each and
25 everyone of us in Anaktuvuk Pass. It deals with the Teshekpuk

1 Caribou Herd that comes through the Anaktuvuk Pass valley every
2 fall during the month of September and October. That is our
3 food on the table and food for the coming winter months.

157
Stips &
ROPs

4 As we all know this we are not entitled to NPR-A impact
5 funds, which would have been very beneficial to our community.
6 Currently, it is only the communities that are within the NPR-A
7 that are entitled to receive those funds. I would not support
8 any changes to the existing prescriptive mitigation structure
9 to the proposed performance-based structures unless we can be
10 assured that all protections provided by the 79 stipulations of
11 the 1998 Plan are preserved or enhanced.

158

12 Again, thank you for your time and sorry I was unable
13 to be present, because of the Assembly meeting tonight."

14 And that is from the elected official, North Slope
15 Borough Assembly member, Paul Hugo. And now I would like to
16 speak on behalf of Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope as the
17 realty officer. And how much time do I have?

159

18 MR. ELLSWORTH: Five minutes from now.

160

19 MR. REXFORD: First and foremost, the proposed
20 activities are detrimental to the future welfare of all living
21 species of wildlife, whether they're waterfowl, terrestrial on
22 land, or within bodies of water. Recent studies by the
23 scientific global community have noted that there are adverse
24 effects to our environment, and yet we depend on petroleum
25 byproducts to live on a day to day basis.

161
Alternatives

2 More importantly, I'm charged with the responsibility
3 of protecting the rights of Native allotment owners, townsite
4 lot restricted landowners. There are numerous Native allotment
5 owners both certified, pending, and closed that BLM has not
6 properly adhered to, and yet they want to continue making lands
7 available for lease to the oil and gas industry, not to the
8 benefit of the stakeholders, not to the benefit of the Native
9 community, but only to the benefit of the oil and gas industry,
10 the federal government, and the State of Alaska. I'm speaking
in general terms.

162
Impact
Comp.

13 As noted by Assemblyman Hugo, this community should be
14 considered very seriously to receive NPR-A impact funds. The
15 socioeconomic impact -- the social impact on communities that
16 lack the traditional foods, adversely affects the mental,
17 emotional, and well-being of indigenous peoples. So the
18 proposed activity has far-reaching effect. Not only is it in
19 the national interest of the United States of America, but it
20 is also to some degree to the detrimental impact of the
indigenous people that are dependent on these sources of
wildlife for sustaining their cultural way of life.

163

21 I'm here to speak on behalf of those that are not
22 present; that are currently out there hunting caribou, making
23 an effort to hunt sheep, that cannot be here to speak on how
24 critically important the caribou herd is to them.

164
NEPA
Process

In closing, if there is going to be an alternative

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164 (Cont'd)
NEPA
Process

2 selected from the prospective Inupiat Community of the Arctic
3 Slope, the 79 stipulations, Assemblyman Hugo has noted in his
4 comments are supported by Inupiat Community of the Arctic
5 Slope. I would like to further reiterate that in 1985 when I
6 went to Houston and met with the National Outer Continental
7 Shelf Policy Committee, we had made recommendations in 1985 --
8 excuse me, 1995, so that those impact funds can come directly
9 to impacted communities; specifically, the tribes in the
10 communities that are impacted. And yet BLM in the name of
11 national security, in the name of providing domestic oil,
12 continues to ignore these pleas for financial benefits by the
indigenous community.

165

3 When Secretary Thompson came to Alaska, and he came to
14 Alaska twice, he made note that more and more of the cabinet
15 members and Congress should come to Alaska to fully understand
16 the impact on the social welfare of indigenous people in Alaska
17 when development occurs. I know that these statements are
18 unwritten, but they're for the record. That if we are to
19 support any development, there should be benefits to the
20 indigenous people that are being impacted.

166

21 The North Slope Borough, ICAS, and the tribes, the
22 Subsistence Advisory Board have opposed any development that is
23 adverse to our cultural way of life. Thank you.

167

24 MR. ELLSWORTH: Thank you. That's all we have on the
25 list tonight, but I'd like to open it up if anybody else would

1 like to speak and hasn't yet.

168

2 MR. REXFORD: (Translates)

169

3 MR. HUGO: (Translates)

170

4 MR. REXFORD: We just informed them it's open to speak
5 Inupiak and there will be translations.

171

6 MR. HUGO: Charlie, for the record. I put a lot of
7 thought into the NPR-A. Their impact statement, for one, is
8 kind of disagreeable for our people, because if the impact
9 statement requires them to take care of the people where the
10 impact has hit the hardest, fine, but in the long-run, we
11 depend on all the caribou herds on the North Slope, not just
12 the Teshekpuk area. We depend on the Northwest Arctic Herd, we
13 depend on the Teshekpuk Herd, we depend also on the Porcupine
14 Herd. It's not just that certain area there.

172

5 If our caribou migration is impacted by your production
6 and we feel it down here 300 miles away, there is no ands, ifs,
7 or buts, you will have to give us an impact statement and try
8 to allocate it to our people. That's why you have to do what
9 you're doing with all your research, your prospective. If I do
10 this, will it affect this; if I do this, how far over there
11 will it affect that? If I'm 300 miles away, will it affect me?
12 Yes, it will because this is our boundaries. Nobody knows for
13 sure the direct routes of the caribou. We only stipulate that
14 we know this is the way they go, but times change; they go this
15 way, they go that way. If the production impacts the herds

172
(Cont'd)

1 altogether and it hurts our well-being, what kind of impact
2 would that have on us? That would just devastate us for sure.
3 We would have to be living on air. We can't have that. Nobody
4 lives on air. Our caribou herd is very important to us, our
5 lifestyle. We cannot ignore that. It's just like whaling is
6 very vital to them; it's very important; it's in their
7 lifeline, it's in their bloodline. Ours is caribou. It's in
8 our heart, it's in our blood, it's what we live on. And if
9 there's a big impact to where the caribou no longer comes,
10 then, who is going to care? Who? The federal government? Of
11 course not. They want us out of here. They'd rather not deal
12 with us because we have a lot to say, but they would rather
13 turn the other way and just go ahead and do what they do best,
14 is destroy and tear up and just demolish our homelands. And we
15 can't just sit here and say, okay, they're going to tell us,
16 well, we're going to be really, really careful, we'll fix it up
17 for you, make it pretty, and we'll leave. And then if we have
18 any money left, we might give you some. That's the word: we
19 might.

173

0 In most cases, they'll say we'll give you a percentage,
21 but it never happens. We haven't seen -- we've only seen very
22 little of the oil industry's monies towards us. Where's the
23 royalties that we're supposed to get? We haven't seen it. We
24 have a nice school. Yea! Good for us, but in the long-run, if
25 they impact around to where there's no more caribou left, what

1723
(Cont'd)

1 we live on, then we might as well just go assimilate with the
2 rest of the melting pot in the United States and try to fit in
3 down there, become a farmer or something. But that's not in our
4 hearts, you know. This is our land. We have to comment on it
5 and we can't just sit there and have somebody else try to say
6 something about it, especially if he's like 3,000 miles away in
7 Washington, D.C. He doesn't live here. He doesn't know what
8 impacts us. What we tell him, he can turn around and twist it
9 and say, well, this is how it affects them. They need to come
10 up here. If they're going to say like direct communication,
11 then, they should be right here communicating with us and not
12 sending their representatives. Do we send our representatives
13 to D.C.? We try, but who's going to listen? We're just a
14 little people. We're somebody who can be put aside. And
15 that's not happening anymore; we're not -- this is not the
16 Wild, Wild West. This is the Cold, Cold North, and that's how
17 we're going to be. We're going to be cold about everything.
18 If we have to be cold and say, no, you cannot do this on our
19 lands, we can put a stop to that. We can, as a people. But we
20 have to put an effort to say our piece. We have to let them
21 know how we feel about it and let them know how it's going to
22 impact us. We know, we live here, we've been impacted before.
23 When the caribou didn't come through, it was very hard on our
24 people, they starved, and we're not going through that again.
25 That was before the white man came. There was a big decline in

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1 the caribou herds and they starved; they had to move to the
2 coast and then when they came back -- and the caribou came
3 back, so this is very vital that you should take note. If the
4 caribou herd is impacted up on the North Slope, then, we will
5 demand that we get the impact statement and some kind of
6 allocation. Maybe send us some beef or something, I don't
7 know. Thank you very much.

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8 MR. ELLSWORTH: Thank you. Anyone else? Well -- okay,
9 please state your name.

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10 MS. NAGEAK: My name is Anna Iona (ph) Hugo Nageak.
11 Parents are John and Dora Hugo from here. My grandfather is
12 Muktaruk (ph) Morey, and Enoloruk (ph) Hugo and grandmother is
13 Hattie Hugo and Minnie Morey. On behalf of them, I would like
14 to say something because it's very vital that you folks hear
15 it. You heard it from dad, you heard it from my mom, you heard
16 it from everybody else. You heard it from our generation
17 before. Now we're here. We're saying something again. We
18 said it before; they heard it before; they said it before.
19 Somebody said in Barrow one time, didn't we just say something
20 on that and now they want us to say it again? It's really
21 important that maybe they should do a research and take a look
22 back and see what they said in the back. It's very easy with a
23 computer. All you have to do is get in there. If they're
24 recorded in the computer, they just get -- come back what they
25 said, what they have said before. My dad and mom were very

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1 active in that part, too. So is everybody else's that are
2 sitting here. They said something that was very important to
3 them. It was a livelihood that was being affected. It
4 affected me. It affected my children, which I have only one,
5 but that's still an impact. And I also have a grandson that's
6 being impacted. Because we've said it over and over, when
7 Gates of the Arctic was trying to be set up, we fought that,
8 too, somehow. We said that it was going to change. As the
9 presidential and Congress changed, they would change. It's the
10 same thing here as the presidential and the Congress and the
11 Senate and all those people change, then, they change their
12 minds one way or another and then they say, okay, what's the
13 impact this time? The impact is a lot. (Speaks in Inupiak)
14 We don't even know, I don't even want to name all the things
15 that impact us. (Speaks in Inupiak)

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6 I know that's an impact for us. It's very huge impact.
17 And I'm sorry that some of these people that are hunting
18 weren't able to come to testify on their behalf, too. I always
19 choose to testify on behalf of my parents, which I still am.
20 As long as I live, I think I'll always say something on behalf
21 of my parents because I did that and it's very important that
22 you take a look back and see what my parents have said and what
23 I have said over and over, the impact of us that are living
24 here, how we try to cope with the impact, how we learn how to
25 live in the impact are the very important things that we have

1 to take a look at. Not only the meat and all those things that
2 we -- that makes us live physically, but mentally that's
3 another part. That's a big part, the impact that we have to
4 live with. The impact of the social, socioeconomic that we
5 have to live with. Those things are very much of our lives.
6 How we deal with it is another thing.

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7 When we can't deal with those things, we turn to
8 alcohol, drugs. That's no kidding, that's no joke. Those are
9 just some of the things that we never think about when we talk
10 about the impact of that part. The impact that goes here is
11 also down there, it's very much up here. And the socioeconomic
12 is also good, but then -- but when we have kids, people falling
13 through cracks on behalf of the impact, it's very bad, also.
14 And I just wanted to let you know that. And it's -- and I
15 don't care who hears it. Maybe somebody will read about it and
16 then maybe they will do something about it. Maybe they will
17 give us a little bit of things that we need. I don't know, but
18 that's what this hearing is about, is for somebody else to hear
19 it; it will be written down or through the computer or however.
20 I know it will reach somebody.

21 And I just wanted to say that on behalf of my people,
22 my aunties, my uncles, and myself also, and my grandson.

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3 MR. ELLSWORTH: Thank you. More time. Anyone else
24 before we conclude the meeting? Well, thank you all very much
25 for coming. We look forward to reviewing these comments.

1 Thank you.

2 (Off record; 8:35 p.m.)

3 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
3 STATE OF ALASKA) ss.
4)

5 I, Elizabeth D'Amour, Notary Public in and for the
6 State of Alaska, residing at Fairbanks, Alaska, and court
7 reporter for Liz D'Amour & Associates, Inc., do hereby certify:

8 That the annexed and foregoing PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
9 NORTHEAST NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE-ALASKA INTEGRATED ACTIVITY
10 PLAN/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT was taken before me on the
11 3rd day of August, 2004, beginning at the hour of 7:00 o'clock
12 p.m., at the Nunamiut School, Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska;

13 That this hearing, as heretofore annexed, is a true and
14 correct transcription of the testimony of said PUBLIC HEARING
15 taken by me electronically and thereafter transcribed by me;

16 That the hearing has been retained by me for the
17 purpose of filing the same with the U.S. Department of
18 Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 222 West 7th Avenue, Suite
19 13, Anchorage, Alaska, as required by law.

20 That I am not a relative or employee or attorney or
21 counsel of any of the parties, nor am I financially interested
22 in this action.

23 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
24 affixed my seal this 12th day of August, 2004.

25

Elizabeth D'Amour
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My commission expires: 12/28/06

S E A L