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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

Noel Wien Library  
Auditorium  
1215 Cowles Street  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
June 29, 2004  
7:00 o'clock p.m.

APPEARANCES:

MR. ROBERT SCHNEIDER, BLM  
MR. STUART PAULUS, ENSR  
MS. JANET WOLF, ENSR

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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

3 MR. STUART PAULUS: Okay. It's now 7:00 o'clock, the  
4 appointed time to start, and I would like to call this hearing  
5 to order. My name is Stuart Paulus and I will serve as the  
6 hearing officer tonight. I am also the project manager for  
7 ENSR. We helped the BLM prepare the Draft EIS for this  
8 project.

9 This hearing is being held for the purpose of providing  
10 you an opportunity to make oral comments on the Bureau of Land  
11 Management's draft amendment to the 1998 Northeast National  
12 Petroleum Reserve-Alaska IAP, Integrated Activity Plan/  
13 Environmental Impact Statement. Unlike the open house which we  
14 just had the last hour or so, this is a formal hearing and as  
15 such we will not be entertaining questions. However, several  
16 individuals from the BLM, particularly Bob Schneider, and also  
17 a couple of representatives from ENSR, myself and Janet Wolf  
18 out front who also helped develop the EIS, will be available to  
19 answer questions if you have any after the hearing.

20 At this time, I'd like to make a couple of  
21 announcements. Liz D'Amour is our court reporter. She will be  
22 taking your testimony and when you get done tonight, if you  
23 would be willing to or -- would provide her with any written  
24 statement you might have. That would help her immensely in  
25 making sure that she transcribes exactly what you said as

1 correctly as possible. Janet Wolf is with ENSR and she's  
2 helping out front, greeting people and taking their names.  
3 And, again, I'm Stuart Paulus.

4 At this time, I'd like to turn the floor over to Bob  
5 Schneider with the Bureau of Land Management. He will explain  
6 the Draft EIS/Integrated Activity Plan in a little more detail  
7 and also explain the alternatives that were developed for the  
8 plan.

9 MR. BOB SCHNEIDER: Thank you, Stuart. As Stuart said,  
10 my name is Bob Schneider. I'm a field manager for the Bureau  
11 of Land Management's northern field office here in Fairbanks.  
12 The northern field office is responsible for the surface  
13 management of the National Petroleum Reserve and so thus we're  
14 certainly intimately involved in this planning effort.

5 What I'd like to do before we take formal public  
16 comment is to give you an overview, some background information  
17 on the planning effort to consider amending the Northeast NPR-A  
18 Integrated Activity Plan that was written in 1998. Now, the  
19 plan itself will address a number of issues, but specifically  
20 it will talk about subsistence, it talks about environmental  
21 impacts to fish and wildlife resources, it talks about  
22 improving opportunities for access for oil and gas exploration,  
23 production and development within the National Petroleum  
24 Reserve. And we often are asked the question: Why are we  
25 starting this process now? Why are we amending a plan that was

1 done in 1998? Well, primarily because the lifespan of planning  
2 documents like this is about 10 years and so we're about  
3 halfway through -- a little bit more than halfway through the  
4 lifespan of the plan. And, as a result, we often go back and  
5 look at midcourse corrections as we go through the planning  
6 process to see if there are things that we need to change.

7 Second, this country -- it would be to the benefit and  
8 the national interest of this country to improve domestic oil  
9 supply, and the National Petroleum Reserve is thought to  
10 contain significant new sources of oil and gas resources that  
11 are owned by the United States and so, therefore, it's  
12 important for us to at least take a look and see what may be  
13 there and what might not be there. And I guess, finally, the  
14 bottom line reason is that the authorized officer - in this  
15 particular case, our state director, Henri Bisson - can ask to  
16 have any of our plans looked at any time and so he's chosen to  
17 do this at this time as we go forward through the planning  
18 effort. So that's the reason why we're looking at the plan  
19 today.

8 0 Now, the Northeast NPR-A Planning Area is in the  
21 eastern edge of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. The  
22 petroleum reserve is a 23 million-acre area about the size of  
23 the State of Indiana. The Planning Area is about 60 miles west  
24 of Prudhoe Bay and about 120 miles west of the Arctic National  
25 Wildlife Refuge. Now, in 1998, a plan was completed for this

1 area and that's the plan that we are considering amending at  
2 this time. In 1999 and 2002 we had lease sales in the  
3 northeast area of the Planning Area and we sold collectively  
4 about 1.4 million acres of leases that raised about \$165  
5 million; half of that money comes back to the State of Alaska.  
6 Immediately to the west of the Northeast Planning Area is the  
7 Northwest Planning Area where we just completed a plan in  
8 January of 2004, and we just had a lease sale in this past  
9 June 2nd in which we raised \$53.9 million and sold 1.4 million  
10 acres of leases. This is the largest single onshore lease on  
11 federal lands in Alaska. Interest is very, very high for  
12 looking for oil and gas resources in NPR-A.

9 Now, contrary to what you may have heard, we have not  
14 made any decisions. We've not made any decisions to change any  
15 stipulations; we've not made any decisions to open additional  
16 areas for oil and gas leasing; we've not made any decisions to  
17 reduce set-backs or buffer zones. We are considering changes  
18 to the management plan, however, and I think that it's  
19 important to know what we're looking at. We want to look at  
20 the stipulations that were in the 1998 Plan and reformat those  
21 stipulations into a performance-based mitigation plan rather  
22 than a prescriptive plan as it's currently written, and I'll go  
23 into a little more detail later on about what that means. We  
24 want to split out lease stipulations that apply to the lease  
25 ground versus operating procedures or required operating

1 procedures that apply across the board in all areas of NPR-A.  
2 We do want to take another look at the lands that are available  
3 for oil and gas leasing and we also want to take a look at the  
4 mitigating measures that were developed in the 1998 Plan to see  
5 if any changes are warranted.

10

6 Now, the National Environmental Policy Act requires us  
7 to look at alternatives and so we have three alternatives that  
8 we're going to be discussing here in a moment. But the final  
9 plan may be completely different. All we are doing is looking  
10 at sort of the two outside possibilities and a middle ground  
11 alternative that we'll discuss in more detail. But the final  
12 plan will result in -- it will be the result of public comment,  
13 additional information, studies that have been going on, and  
14 just the work, the internal work that BLM and other agencies  
15 will do over the course of the planning process.

11

6 Now, the No Action alternative and this is really a  
7 misnomer. It's not a no action alternative; this is if we did  
8 nothing today, if we stopped everything that we were going to  
9 do today, this is the plan that we would be operating under.  
10 So therefore it's the No Action alternative and it's a plan  
11 that was written in 1998. It made four million acres of area  
12 open for oil and gas leasing within the Planning Area,  
13 primarily this area to the south. It identified an area around  
14 five to six hundred thousand acres that was unavailable for oil  
15 and gas leasing. It identified an area surrounding this region

1 that was not available for oil and gas leasing as available for  
2 leasing, but no surface activities could take place and this  
3 would include wintertime exploration activity.

12

4 It also identified an area surrounding the area that  
5 was not open for leasing to special caribou stipulations  
6 because this is the home of the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd.  
7 It's an important subsistence resource for the people of the  
8 North Slope, and so therefore there are some timing  
9 restrictions, there are some aircraft restrictions, and some  
10 other use restrictions within this area that were part of that  
11 1998 Plan.

13

2 We also identified a number of areas that would be  
13 available for leasing but no permanent facilities could be  
14 located or could be built. These have buffer zones, as they're  
15 called, or set-backs. And these are areas that were important  
16 subsistence areas, primarily around rivers, and then there was  
17 an area in the middle, this blue sort of rectangular area that  
18 there are a number of deep water lakes and these lakes are  
19 lakes that are deeper than seven to eight feet. They don't  
20 freeze to the bottom in the winter; therefore, they provide  
21 overwintering habitat for fish. They also provide a year-round  
22 supply of water. If one was to be polluted, it would be very  
23 difficult to try to clean the lake up and so therefore there  
24 were special restrictions and set-backs away from the deep  
25 water lakes. Let me go -- yeah, I'll go back in just a minute.

14 1 There are also around those locations, all of those  
2 set-back areas, there were areas set aside as special  
3 consultation zones and these consultation zones were red flags  
4 for us that when we had an activity proposed in one of those  
5 areas, that it would require us to do additional public  
6 comment, public meetings, hearings, special  
7 government-to-government consultation meetings when something  
8 would occur in one of those buffer areas.

15 9 Now, this is the two alternatives to the plan:  
10 Alternatives B and C. Alternative B makes the entire Planning  
11 Area available for oil and gas leasing with the exception of a  
12 213,000-acre area to the north of -- northwest -- or northeast  
13 of Teshekpuk Lake. All of the general stipulations and general  
14 required operating procedures will be required to be followed  
15 and I will talk about those in a little more detail later on.  
16 And then Alternative C which makes the entire area available  
17 for oil and gas leasing, again, with the same general  
18 stipulations and required operating procedures, but there would  
19 be no area such as this that would be off limits to leasing.

16 0 Now, in the Draft EIS, Alternative B is identified as  
21 BLM's preferred alternative. Again, we haven't made any  
22 decisions. This would be an alternative that we think best  
23 meets the mix of trying to provide for oil and gas  
24 opportunities as well as trying to protect sensitive surface  
25 resources and, thus, it's our best shot at this point in time

1 for a preferred alternative.

17 2 Now, there are two major elements of the plan that I  
3 want to talk about briefly and that's general lease  
4 stipulations and required operating procedures and then I'll  
5 talk about site-specific stipulations in biologically-sensitive  
6 areas.

18 7 Now, general lease stipulations and required operating  
8 procedures. First, a couple of definitions: A lease  
9 stipulation is a requirement that's attached to the ground  
10 that's actually leased whereas a required operating procedure  
11 is a stipulation of sorts. We call it required operating  
12 procedures to avoid confusion, but it's a requirement that  
13 would apply across the board no matter where things were  
14 located. Now the example that I often use is ice roads; that's  
15 the primary way to be able to get a drill rig to a drilling  
16 site. But if it was a -- if we had a lease stipulation, those  
17 requirements only apply on the ground where the actual well was  
18 being drilled, but you may have an ice road that's 50 miles  
19 long and it crosses -- may cross other leases, it may cross the  
20 areas that are not leased and therefore there are required  
21 operating procedures that will set the guidance on how that ice  
22 road will be constructed, when it can be constructed, the kinds  
23 of equipment that can be used, the timing, all the issues that  
24 come up in terms of clean-up and how the route is marked, those  
25 kinds of things. Compliance with both stipulations and

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1 required operating procedures is mandatory. They are required.  
2 It's not a negotiation situation; they're both required.

19

3 Now, there are a couple of things I want to talk about  
4 on stipulations and required operating procedures. First of  
5 all, required operating procedures and stipulations are minimum  
6 standards, and I want to make sure that you understand me.  
7 They're not minimal standards; they're minimum standards. They  
8 can be raised, but we try to set a baseline requirement that we  
9 feel provides adequate protection, but we can add to those  
10 later on.

20

1 Required operating procedures are primarily applied at  
2 the time a permit is issued. When we get an application to  
3 drill, when we get a right-of-way application for an ice road,  
4 that's when we would apply the required operating procedures  
5 because they aren't necessarily located on the actual place  
6 it's being drilled. It applies to all permitted activities and  
7 that, again, could be seismic work, it could be ice road  
8 construction, it could even be special recreational use permits  
9 on the Colville River. If it's in an area that we've  
10 identified as having some special concerns, we can apply these  
11 required operating procedures to any activity that takes place  
12 within the petroleum reserve.

21

23 I want to give you sort of a schematic here of what  
24 we're talking about. Lease stipulations and required operating  
25 procedures serve as the sideboards for what we do and when we

21 (Cont'd)

1 receive a permit application from an applicant, it triggers  
2 consultation requirements; it may trigger public meetings,  
3 public hearings. We will sit in with a proponent of the  
4 project and we may negotiate with them to make adjustments in  
5 their plan. If we know there's something that may not fly or  
6 there's another way of being able to do it, we sit down with  
7 them and talk about it. They may, in many cases, do  
8 voluntarily change their application before they formally  
9 submit it based upon that kind of comment. And then once we  
10 have a completed application, we subject it to a National  
11 Environmental Policy Act review, or NEPA review, and it's  
12 appropriate for the kind of action that's taking place. If  
13 it's a relatively minor action, we do an environmental  
14 assessment. Our staff gets together, we review, we sometimes  
15 send it out for comment. We let the other agencies take a look  
16 at it. We also do government-to-government consultation with  
17 tribal governments. We work with other agencies and consult  
18 with them. If it happens to be like the Alpine Satellite  
19 Development Project, which is currently being considered, it  
20 may trigger another Environmental Impact Statement because it's  
21 much more detailed and the impacts are considered to be  
22 significant. And out of that, we may attach additional steps;  
23 we may attach additional conditions or terms of approval at the  
24 time we actually issue the authorization. So the process  
25 allows us to consult and it allows us to make additional

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1 requirements on the company or proponent when we feel it's  
2 necessary based upon the analysis that we've done.

22

3 I want to give you an example. This is from the 1998  
4 Northeast NPR-A Plan and it has to do with tundra travel.  
5 Tundra travel is a very important element on the North Slope.  
6 It's Stipulation 24, which basically says that before you can  
7 travel on the tundra, you've got to have a minimum of 6 inches  
8 of snow depth and 12 inches of freeze depth. So -- and ground  
9 operations will cease when those conditions no longer occur.  
10 And so the tried and true method of looking at this is through  
11 a slide hammer, and this is an employee of the State of Alaska  
12 Department of Natural Resources that's up there using the slide  
13 hammer to measure 6 inches of snow depth and 12 inches of  
14 freeze depth. With the new -- or one of the proposed actions  
15 and the preferred alternative that we have for the Northeast  
16 Plan Amendment, both Alternatives B and C, have a different  
17 approach. And I talked about prescriptive versus performance-  
18 based and that's what this means. And under either two  
19 alternatives, it just says that in the case this objective is  
20 to protect stream beds, minimize compaction of soil and  
21 minimize abrasion, compaction, or displacement of vegetation.  
22 We're establishing a performance requirement. And then there's  
23 another section that's a standard, so we do have some standards  
24 that would apply, and they basically said that ground  
25 operations shall be allowed only when frost depth and snow

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22 (Cont'd)

depth are sufficient to protect the tundra. Note there's no 6  
2 and 12 prescription here. We're trying to establish a  
3 performance criteria and the reason is, is because there's been  
4 a lot of work done over the last couple of years to look at  
5 alternative means to the slide hammer to be able to figure out  
6 snow depth and freeze depth. And the two devices are plate --  
7 pressure plate, which is on the left, and the cone penetrometer  
8 on the right. The plate basically simulates a tire footprint  
9 on the tundra and it puts pressure with a hydraulic ram that  
10 can be very accurately measured, about how much weight the  
11 tundra can sustain. The cone penetrometer actually pushes into  
12 the ground and you can see variations in the amount of pressure  
13 and that can give you a fairly accurate reading in terms of how  
14 deep the freeze depth is, but there is no 6 and 12 requirement.  
15 And it's important because on the North Slope there's a variety  
16 of vehicle types that use the tundra for oil and gas activities  
17 like the Rologons, to the top, and some of the track-laying  
18 types of vehicles that are here that -- they put out less than  
19 10 pounds per square inch. And in the NPR-A under the old 1998  
20 Plan, it's -- tundra travel is an all-or-nothing proposition.  
21 It's either open or it's not open, and it's got important  
22 implications because as we try to stretch out the winter  
23 drilling season, that may make a well economic; if it was too  
24 short, it may not be economic. What we're trying to do is to  
25 differentiate and allow certain vehicles on the tundra early to

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1 help build road -- build ice roads and then wait until we get  
2 these heavy water trucks and - for example, a drill rig may  
3 weigh a million pounds - wait till the ice road is actually  
4 constructed to do that. So we're looking at allowing for a  
5 phased-in approach and under the old plan, we wouldn't be  
6 allowed to do that. Nobody wants to see this. This was  
7 drilling activity that took place way back in the -- actually,  
8 the 1940s and 1950s and this is a photograph taken in 1982.  
9 Nobody wants this. The key is, it's the performance that we're  
10 looking at. We're not trying to establish a prescriptive  
11 requirement.

23 12 Now, I mentioned that we could increase and make the  
13 restrictions more stringent. There are also existing state  
14 laws and federal laws that would apply. We don't enforce those  
15 federal or state laws; that's up to the other agencies to  
16 enforce, but nevertheless they're required. So if we have a  
17 requirement and the Department of Fish and Game has a more  
18 stringent requirement, the more stringent requirement would  
19 apply. But it's not our place to enforce the state law, but  
20 they are required.

24 21 Now, I'd like to talk about some site-specific  
22 stipulations in biologically-sensitive areas and, remember,  
23 these are stipulations that would apply to the area that's  
24 actually leased. First, rivers. All of the set-backs from the  
25 rivers in 1998 are still in this plan. We have not changed any

1 stipulations for set-backs along rivers. So the 1998 Plan in  
2 both Alternatives B and C incorporate the same set-backs and  
3 buffer zones that the original plan did. Now, we actually have  
4 added an additional river to the mix; it's the Tingmiaksiqvik  
5 River outside of Nuiqsut. It's an important river for local  
6 people in terms of fishing and so therefore we've added that to  
7 the preferred alternative, Alternative B, but we have actually  
8 kept all the old stipulations in the 1998 Plan and added an  
9 additional river and a new buffer zone and set-back to this new  
10 river.

25 1 Deep water lakes. I mentioned deep water lakes before.  
12 They're important because they are deep; they don't freeze to  
13 the bottom. They provide overwintering habitat for fish. They  
14 also provide a year-round water supply for not only oil and gas  
15 activities, but also human consumption.

26 6 There are restrictions. The same restrictions apply in  
17 this plan as they applied in the 1998 Plan. And I show this  
18 because this is the area that was established - that sort of  
19 blue cross-hatched area - in the 1998 Plan. As you can see,  
20 there are other deep water lakes that are outside this area.  
21 So, in fact, we've actually tried to incorporate a much larger  
22 area and identify additional deep water lakes in which these  
23 requirements will apply.

27 4 Now, Teshekpuk Lake. Teshekpuk Lake is the largest  
25 lake on the North Slope. It's about 160,000 acres. It ranges

27 (Cont'd)

in depths from a couple of feet up to 50 feet or more. We've established set-backs on the lake of three-quarters of a mile from the shoreline into the water and one-quarter mile from the shoreline on shores, making a total one-mile set-back area. The shoreline is the most critical area and so therefore we tried to establish some rules that would prevent any activity taking place within that one-mile stretch. Before any activity would be allowed on Teshekpuk Lake, the standards have been set very high and I just wanted to give you a couple of examples. For example, if someone wanted to do something in Teshekpuk Lake and it would be available for oil and gas leasing, the year-round oil spill response capability including the capability during broken ice and open water would be required and blow-out protections are in place and available. Currently, there is no technology to deal effectively with broken ice conditions and so therefore until such time as that broken ice requirement could be met, we would not allow activity to take place on the lake. We also want to avoid seasonal conflicts with subsistence users and fish and wildlife resources that are concentrated in the area and we want to make sure that all phases of daily operations, if there was a facility on the lake, to make sure that the activities that get out there and supply that site would not conflict with subsistence users or with the fish and wildlife resources of the area. Facilities may be approved and also seismic activity

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1 may be approved within the lake itself.

28 2 North and east of Teshekpuk Lake is an area that's  
3 important for goose molting. The geese that fly in there are  
4 basically either unsuccessful breeding pairs or juvenile geese  
5 that are not yet of breeding age. It's a very sensitive time  
6 for geese. They fly into these lakes because there's not a lot  
7 of predators, there's not a lot of disturbance and not a lot of  
8 activity, and then they lose their feathers. And so for a long  
9 period of time, they're there and they're flightless and, of  
10 course, being flightless any kind of disturbance that would  
11 take place causes them to react and it's a very stressful time  
12 for them and they end up burning up energy which they need when  
13 they actually migrate. And so we've established in this area,  
14 these deep water lakes, again, a three-quarter mile buffer on  
15 the water and a quarter-mile buffer on shore. Now this is a  
16 map that shows lakes that are especially important for goose  
17 molting and the tan lakes are the most important and then you  
18 get into the lakes that are in blue, and these lakes have a  
19 tremendous number of birds per lake and so therefore these  
20 would be the areas that we were looking at most closely. And  
21 that's why in Alternative B we've established an area that's  
22 not available for leasing, a 213,000-acre area that would be  
23 off limits to leasing because of the fact that we have the  
24 goose molting area and it's important.

29 25 Now, Teshekpuk Lake also is the home to the Teshekpuk

1 Lake Caribou Herd. It's about a herd of 25,000 to 30,000  
2 animals. About a tenth of the population is harvested each  
3 year by people of Nuiqsut and Barrow and Atqasuk and so to  
4 minimize disturbance to caribou, we've established special  
5 caribou stipulations in that area. The areas of most critical  
6 importance are those areas in maroon that you see on the map.  
7 These are insect-relief corridors where the animals will feed  
8 during the day and then when the bugs get too bad, they will  
9 move on out to the coast to get away from the bugs and that,  
10 again, is a very stressful time for animals and what you don't  
11 want to do is to end up having them burn off a lot of energy  
12 trying to figure out how to get around through pipelines or  
13 around facilities. So before anything would be allowed in that  
14 area, the requirement would be that you'd have to study caribou  
15 movements in that area for the three years prior and then that  
16 would help us decide on the siting decisions for any particular  
17 facilities that may be in there. It may result in some buried  
18 pipelines for short stretches and primary travel corridors for  
19 caribou. It also establishes some aircraft height restrictions  
20 and activity restrictions, timing restrictions that were  
21 identified in the 1998 Plan.

30 2 Along the coast, again, the coastal areas are important  
23 because of marine mammals, because of subsistence use, and  
24 because they are important for insect relief for caribou and so  
25 therefore there's a three-quarter mile set-back away from the

1 coast. This continues the set-back that we had in the  
2 Northwest portion of the Planning Area that comes across from  
3 the west. And so this extends that no-surface occupancy area  
4 along the coast into the Northeast Planning Area.

5 The Colville River Special Area was established in  
6 1976. That's this pinkish area here. And we've decided to  
7 defer leasing in the Colville River Special Area until we  
8 complete a river management plan for the Colville River Special  
9 Area. This follows up on the decision over in the Northwest  
10 portion of NPR-A and we're going to start working on that plan  
11 starting in 2005. So up until we finish that plan and can make  
12 some decisions about the Colville River Special Area, we are  
13 going to defer leasing decisions in that area. The Special  
14 Area was established by the Secretary of Interior in 1976  
15 because of the tremendous number of -- tremendous concentration  
16 of birds of prey that nest and forage in that area.

17 Then, finally, the Pik Dunes. This is a small remnant  
18 dune system that's located primarily in the middle of the  
19 Northeast Planning Area. It's important because it also  
20 provides insect relief. Caribou can get up on the top of the  
21 dunes and the wind blows and keeps the bugs off of them. It  
22 also -- because it's a sand dune, there may be some unique  
23 plants that are there and so therefore there is a no-surface  
24 occupancy requirement there. It's open for leasing; it's just  
25 no permanent facilities can be built on the dunes.

33

1 Now, I'd like to briefly talk about consultation. If  
2 you'll remember, I talked about the special consultation zones  
3 that go around these buffer areas. When activities take place  
4 under the 1998 Plan in these yellow areas, it does trigger  
5 consultation in these sensitive consultation zones. Well,  
6 we've decided, then, under Alternatives B and C that we would  
7 expand the consultation requirements. Not only would the  
8 proponent of an action have to do public meetings in local  
9 communities of which they do now, it would also improve timing  
10 for government-to-government consultation. We also want to  
11 take advantage of the fact that we have a radio station that  
12 broadcasts across the North Slope and use the local radio  
13 station, KBRW, as well as printed media to get information out  
14 so the people can make informed decisions. We also have a  
15 subsistence advisory panel established by the 1998 Plan and we  
16 have meetings on a quarterly basis and these would also factor  
17 into that. So any activity that will take place in the  
18 Planning Area will go through consultation; not just those  
19 areas in the buffer. And for seismic activity, because of the  
20 large area covered by seismic works, there's additional  
21 subsistence consultation requirements in which cabin owners --  
22 there are a number of people the own cabins, Native allotments,  
23 would be contacted in writing to inform them of where the camps  
24 are moving so that they can make informed decisions about  
25 whether or not they want to go to an area and trap for the

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1 weekend or trap during a couple of days while the camp is  
2 located nearby. The camps move and so this will keep people  
3 aware of where they are. We also have a requirement that the  
4 seismic companies contract with local residents as subsistence  
5 representatives to let them know about whose cabin they may be  
6 near, where an ice cellar may be located, and then to be able  
7 to radio back to the community to let people know what's going  
8 on.

34 9 I'd like to briefly touch about the planning schedule  
10 and there are some changes from the written materials that have  
11 come out and these just have happened over the last 24 hours.  
12 We started the planning process back in last fall. We had  
13 scoping meetings, we had public meetings up on the North Slope  
14 and we're now here sort of in the middle of the planning  
15 process with the public hearings. But we have extended the  
16 comment period and I want people to notice that we've extended  
17 the comment period to August the 23rd. That's making the  
18 comment period 75 days versus the 45 days. We consulted with  
19 North Slope Borough and others; they asked for an extension and  
20 we granted an extension of the comment period. So there will  
21 be additional time to comment.

35 2 We still intend to hold lease sales in Northeast NPR-A  
23 under the existing plan that we have today every two years.  
24 And so we had a last lease sale in 2002; we put it off a year;  
25 we intend to have a lease sale in Northeast NPR-A under the old

1 plan regardless of what happens with the new plan in 2005, and  
2 then two years thereafter. Now the planning -- or the hearing  
3 schedule has also changed. We are here on the second line on  
4 June 29th here in Fairbanks and we'll be having a hearing this  
5 Thursday in Washington, D.C., catch a plane early tomorrow  
6 morning for that, but I wanted to make sure that people are  
7 aware that the hearing schedule for the North Slope has been  
8 changed and we've cancelled those hearings that were scheduled  
9 for next week and we're going to move those into August. We've  
10 also received requests from the Association of Village Council  
11 Presidents in Bethel to hold a hearing in Bethel and we will be  
12 scheduling that as well either latter July or the first part of  
13 August. So we have made some changes and I just want people to  
14 be aware that that has changed. So the comment period is  
15 extended to the 23rd and we are going to be having hearings up  
16 north in August. And that concludes my presentation and the  
17 only question I'm really going to entertain if there's a  
18 question on the presentation, otherwise this is going to be  
19 your time to talk and I don't want to take any more time from  
20 you. So any questions? Yes, sir?

36

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm curious why you've chosen to have  
22 a hearing in Washington, D.C.

37

3 MR. SCHNEIDER: We -- a lot of national organizations  
24 and groups are back there and we've had -- we had hearings in  
25 Washington, D.C. on the first 1998 Plan and we had one on the

1 Northwest NPR-A Plan, so we've agreed to go back and have  
2 hearings there just as we are having here, to take public  
3 comment. Again, there's a number of national organizations and  
4 groups there. This is a National Petroleum Reserve and they  
5 want to weigh in with their comments, and so we're going to go  
6 back there and hear what they have to say.

38 7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So is much weight given to their  
8 input as given to Alaska residents?

39 9 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes.

40 0 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

41 1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Why a hearing in Bethel?

42 2 MR. SCHNEIDER: If you remember the map in terms of the  
13 molting area for geese, geese migrate from the Teshekpuk Lake  
14 area back down into the YK Delta and it's an important  
15 subsistence resource for them. And so therefore we felt -- we  
16 had a hearing there in 1998 and we decided to go back and have  
17 a hearing there to hear what people have to say because  
18 obviously things that may happen in Teshekpuk -- near Teshekpuk  
19 Lake may have an adverse effect on them in the YK Delta.

20 I'm going to turn it back over to you, Stuart. I'm  
21 going to -- excuse me, I'm going to try to get the computer  
22 turned off here and.....

43 23 MR. PAULUS: If you would like additional information  
24 above and beyond what Bob provided, there are several good  
25 sources. Probably the best are two -- the two best are right

1 here in this library. First of all, when you came in, there  
2 were CDs up on the front desk that have the entire document;  
3 I'm going to say the entire document is about 1,000 pages,  
4 would be my rough guess. This is a lot lighter than the hard  
5 copy, so if you'd like it, you can actually click on this  
6 document where there's a map or something, it'll automatically  
7 take you to the map. So you can do a lot of interactive things  
8 that are kind of nice on the computer. Also print up the  
9 document if you'd like to. If you'd like to see hard copies,  
10 there are some -- a number of copies available at the northern  
11 field office, but there are also some here in this library. I  
12 went to the reference desk when I got here and they do have  
13 them there, so if you'd like to see them, they'll check them  
14 out. They're probably for in-library use since they're at the  
15 reference desk.

44 6 Another way to see the EIS is to go to our Web site,  
17 which I will give you the full Web site address, but there's  
18 actually an easier way to get to it. The full Web site address  
19 is <http://nenpra.ensr.com/nenpra>. What I usually do, though,  
20 is just type in nenpra, which is Northeast National Petroleum  
21 Reserve-Alaska, that's the acronym, dot-ENSR, E-N-S-R, dot-com  
22 and that will take you right there. And when you go to the Web  
23 site you can actually -- it'll open up to the home page. From  
24 there, you can click in to see the scoping comments; you can  
25 also -- any news releases that have been put out on the

1 project, you can also go download the EIS or look at it on the  
2 Web site and it's also where you can leave your comments.  
3 There are two ways of leaving comments. There's sort of a  
4 short comment section there where you put your name and address  
5 in there and write short comment or if you have a longer  
6 comment which you would like to attach as an e-mail, you can do  
7 that as well. So both options are there and I would suggest if  
8 you are wanting to provide additional comments and don't want  
9 to mail them in and go that route, please do that and it works  
10 out pretty slick.

45 1 All comments provided to BLM tonight will be compiled,  
12 analyzed, and considered in preparing the final plan amendment  
13 in the Environmental Impact Statement. One gentleman asked if  
14 more weight would be given to Alaska comments versus, let's  
15 say, Washington, D.C. comments. In fact, all comments are  
16 treated equally regardless of who provides them. So if you  
17 think maybe your comment is not going to be as important as  
18 some lobbyist in Washington, D.C., that's not true. Their  
19 comment will be given the same weighting as anybody else's.

46 0 In addition to speaking tonight, as I mentioned you can  
21 provide comments on our Web site. Again, it's an interactive  
22 Web site; you just type them in or attach an e-mail, or you can  
23 mail them to the Bureau of Land Management office in Anchorage.  
24 The address is the Bureau of Land Management, make your letter  
25 to the attention of Susan Childs, and the address is 222

1 West 7th Avenue in Anchorage, office number 13, and the zip  
2 code is 99513. And since that's a lot to remember, out front  
3 there is a copy of the abstract. It lists the Web site  
4 address; it also lists the mailing address. So if you'd like  
5 to mail it or go on the Web site, all this information is right  
6 there and it's probably a good thing for you to grab before you  
7 leave tonight and take home with you.

47 8 As Bob mentioned, this is one of several hearings that  
9 are being held. We had one last night in Anchorage, the same  
10 sort of size crowd that we have here tonight. Bob will be with  
11 several other folks in Washington, D.C. on Thursday. There  
12 will be several meetings on the North Slope in Barrow, Nuiqsut,  
13 Anaktuvuk Pass and Atqasuk. They were originally scheduled for  
14 next week; they have now been postponed to some time somewhere  
15 between about the 2nd and 15th or 16th of August. Right now  
16 we're trying to make those arrangements, so we will let you  
17 know via the BLM or the ENSR Web page when those dates are and  
18 I'm sure there will be a press release, also. But, again,  
19 those meetings will be scheduled for early to mid August, and  
20 there will also be a meeting, as Bob mentioned, added for  
21 Bethel. It will probably be also held in early to mid August.

48 2 So that we can accurately record your comments tonight,  
23 I will call the names of those of you that have signed up.  
24 Come up front, speak into the microphone. When you do speak  
25 into the microphone, if you could give your name and also if

1 you represent an organization, if you can provide that, that  
2 will be great as well. After you have made your comment and,  
3 particularly if you have written comments, you need to provide  
4 them to Liz. As I mentioned at the very beginning, it really  
5 helps her out if she has it in writing. She can kind of  
6 compare what it says, especially if you read your comment as it  
7 was written, to make sure that it accurately portrays what she  
8 said. Each speaker will be limited to five minutes and what I  
9 will do, I'll sit up there in front and I have a little sign  
10 here that has a "1" on it and when you have about a minute  
11 left, I will hold that up and that indicates that you have  
12 about a minute to kind of wrap things up. Given the size of  
13 the number of people we have speaking tonight, I'm sure we will  
14 have ample time afterwards if you have additional information  
15 you'd like to provide. We'll go ahead and give everybody there  
16 five minutes or however -- you know, up to five minutes to  
17 speak and then after they're done, we'll see if anybody else  
18 that hasn't signed up would like to speak and once they're  
19 done, then we'll go back and assuming we have additional time,  
20 I think we will, if you have additional information you would  
21 like to provide, you can come up and finish up.

49

2 Before we begin to take comments, I would like to  
23 stress that the meeting tonight is specifically to hear your  
24 comments and concerns related to the amendment to the Northeast  
25 National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity

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1 Plan/Environmental Impact Statements. Your comments serve  
2 several purposes. They will tell us if we have correctly  
3 identified the resources in the area, if we've correctly  
4 identified the uses of these lands, and the potential effects  
5 of the different alternatives which Bob described in the Draft  
6 Plan Environmental Impact Statement. You are certainly also  
7 welcome to suggest other alternatives that you think might  
8 better eliminate impacts to resources on the site. Maybe  
9 perhaps give better ways of using the resources, let's say the  
10 oil and gas resources on the site, or maybe provide us with a  
11 different management strategy to perhaps use oil and gas  
12 resources while better protecting the natural resources.  
13 Again, there are different ways of looking at how you do things  
14 up there.

50 5 I'd now like to begin to take comments. I request that  
16 the audience be considerate of each speaker. Again, for some  
17 of you, you've done it -- been up here many times. This is now  
18 old hat to you. For some of you, this may be the first time  
19 you've gotten in front of a crowd to speak. It can be a little  
20 daunting at times. So please be courteous to the speakers,  
21 listen to what they have to say. I certainly know from last  
22 night's meeting in Anchorage, everybody that spoke had  
23 something very interesting to say. I learned a lot from it;  
24 I'm sure you will, too. So please show them -- each person the  
25 same courtesy.

51

1 The first speaker tonight and actually we have quite a  
2 few speakers, we have about 20 speakers. That's more than  
3 actually we had last night in Anchorage. Brodie Anderson,  
4 please.

52

5 MR. BRODIE ANDERSON: Good evening. My name is Brodie  
6 Anderson and I'm speaking on behalf of the Northern Alaska  
7 Environmental Center. Thank you for this opportunity to  
8 comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the  
9 National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, Alaska Northeast.

053  
Caribou

10 The Northern Center understands the necessary  
11 development that is planned for the northeast, but the Northern  
12 Center is concerned with the extent of the impact on the  
13 environment that the Draft EIS proposes through the preferred  
14 alternative and Alternative C. Instead, the Northern Center  
15 would like to recommend Alternative A as the plan that both  
16 meets the resource development and habitat protection needs.  
17 Alternative A permits approximately four million acres, or 87  
18 percent of the land available for leasing. That is  
19 approximately 600 million barrels of recoverable oil while  
20 preserving the critical habitat to the variety of animals and  
21 birds. A few examples of these critical areas that need  
22 protecting beyond what is offered in the preferred alternative  
23 or Alternative C is, already stated, Teshekpuk Lake and the  
24 Colville River. Teshekpuk Lake area has the most concentrated  
25 calving activity for the 45,000-animal Teshekpuk Lake Caribou

053 (Cont'd)  
Caribou

1 Herd. This activity occurs south, east, and northeast of the  
2 lake. After calving, much of the caribou herd moves to coastal  
3 habitats east, north and northwest of Teshekpuk Lake seeking  
4 relief from the swarms of biting insects, already stated. The  
5 Teshekpuk Lake Herd is growing and is the most important herd  
6 for subsistence harvesting for Alaska Natives living on the  
7 North Slope. It may not be possible to sustain the current  
8 levels of subsistence harvests if industrial-scale oil  
9 development encroaches on the levels of calving and  
10 insect-relief habitats. The major -- the increased development  
11 activity of industrial oil development could have major  
12 consequences on the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou affecting not only  
13 the herd, but the subsistence way of life.

054  
Birds

14 Furthermore, Teshekpuk Lake and many of the lakes  
15 nearby, the wetlands, comprise one of the most important  
16 wetland complexes in the circumpolar Arctic for tens of  
17 thousands of geese. They gather at Teshekpuk Lake to molt  
18 making it one of the most important goose molting habitats in  
19 the Arctic in the entire world. Disturbances associated with  
20 routine human activities in an industrial oilfield could  
21 displace molting geese and reduce their populations. That  
22 natural balance of the ecosystem can further be disrupted by  
23 the oilfields since attracted -- since they attract natural  
24 predators due to increased human activity, waste, garbage, and  
25 other activities. The predators, then, in turn, prey on the

1 nesting birds and their eggs and young.

055  
Birds

2 The Colville River is home to phenomenal numbers of  
3 raptors that utilize the cliffs for nesting. One of the  
4 healthiest populations of the peregrine falcons in the world  
5 uses these ledges and cliffs to raise their young. These  
6 raptors are very susceptible to disturbances associated with  
7 industrial oil development.

56

8 From these two examples, one can see the need for a  
9 balance of protection beyond the reported efforts offered in  
10 either of the other alternatives besides Alternative A. The  
11 seismic and surface activity of oil development will have a  
12 guaranteed effect on critical habitats. The Northern Center  
13 believes that sacrificing those habitats for an additional  
14 800 -- 387,000 acres of lease available land is not worth the  
15 cost to the Alaskan environment.

57

16 Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you tonight  
17 and please take these comments into consideration as you  
18 finalize the Draft EIS. Thank you.

58

19 MR. PAULUS: Thanks, Brodie. The next speaker will be  
20 John Whitehead.

59

21 MR. JOHN WHITEHEAD: Good evening. My name is John  
22 Whitehead. I'm the vice president for the Western North Slope  
23 for ConocoPhillips Alaska. ConocoPhillips is the largest  
24 producer of oil and gas and the most active explorer in Alaska.  
25 Our company has a proven track record of high quality

1 environmental performance on Alaska's North Slope and in the  
2 National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. ConocoPhillips is the  
3 leader in innovative solutions for protecting the environment  
4 such as the minimal footprint of the Alpine production  
5 facilities. ConocoPhillips has participated in 15 exploration  
6 wells in the National Petroleum Reserve all without  
7 environmental incident.

60 8 In 2001, ConocoPhillips and our partner, Anadarko  
9 Petroleum announced several discoveries in the National  
10 Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. Since that time, an EIS process has  
11 begun for new satellite field developments in both the National  
12 Petroleum Reserve and on state and Native corporation lands  
13 near the Alpine oilfield. These new developments confirm the  
14 strategic potential for oil and gas in the National Petroleum  
15 Reserve-Alaska.

61 16 As the draft plan points out, much has been learned  
17 since the Record of Decision for the Northeast area was first  
18 issued in 1998. Most importantly, ConocoPhillips endorses  
19 continued leasing opportunities in the Northeast portion of the  
20 National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska and the opening of the  
21 Teshekpuk Lake area. This will allow access to some of the  
22 most prospective areas, which include -- which are located near  
23 the crest of the Barrow Arch.

62 24 ConocoPhillips believes the most sensitive areas north  
25 of Teshekpuk Lake, such as lakes with the highest use by

1 molting geese as identified in the draft plan should remain off  
2 limits to surface occupancy. We also believe that there should  
3 be buffer zones for these lakes as a further measure for  
4 protecting these species.

63

5 We also believe that the current stream set-backs in  
6 the area need to be reviewed. In our opinion, the current  
7 three-mile set-back is unnecessary and doubles the original 1.5  
8 miles recommended in 1998.

64

9 ConocoPhillips supports performance-based stipulations  
10 and required operating procedures for the Northeast NPR-A.-A  
11 These revised stipulations would provide a framework to make  
12 complaint efforts more efficient, wherein we can continue to  
13 operate in a safe and environmentally sound manner while  
14 respecting the important subsistence usage of the area.

65

5 Future oil and gas development in the National  
16 Petroleum Reserve-Alaska will have economic benefits for  
17 Alaska, the Native people, and the nation. For more than 30  
18 years, oil and gas development has been the economic engine  
19 that provides jobs and tax revenues for the State of Alaska.

66

0 In 2003, the State of Alaska received more than a  
21 billion dollars from oil and -- from the oil industry in taxes  
22 and royalties. The three previous lease sales in the National  
23 Petroleum Reserve-Alaska have generated more than \$222 million  
24 in bonus payments, split between the state and federal  
25 governments. Clearly, continued investment on the North Slope

1 benefits everyone who lives in Alaska through monies for state  
2 and local governments that result in better services and better  
3 schools.

67

4 ConocoPhillips has proven that we can work closely with  
5 our neighbors and operate in a way which respects the way of  
6 life for the residents of Alaska's North Slope. This dialogue  
7 takes constant effort on both parts and we are committed to  
8 working with the North Slope residents to ensure all  
9 development happens in a way that respects their heritage and  
10 their subsistence way of life.

68

11 In conclusion, continued lease sales in the National  
12 Petroleum Reserve will enhance the nation's energy and economic  
13 security. Now is the time for leasing, because our nation  
14 needs to secure its energy future.

69

15 In addition to my comments today, ConocoPhillips will  
16 provide submitted written comments for the draft review  
17 process. Thank you.

70

18 MR. PAULUS: Thanks, John. The next speaker will be  
19 Dan Simien.

71

20 MR. DAN SIMIEN: Good evening. My name is Dan Simien.  
21 I'm president of Laborer's Local 942 here in Fairbanks, Alaska.  
22 I represent approximately 1,200 members in our local, and I'm  
23 here to speak in support of Alternative C, which makes  
24 available the entire 4.6 million acres of National Petroleum  
25 Reserve to oil and gas leasing.

72

1 I support Alternative C for the following reasons: The  
2 Northwest Planning Area is within the National Petroleum  
3 Reserve-Alaska area. It's designated by Congress for  
4 production of energy resources. Alternative C would allow  
5 access for development in 100 percent of the high oil and gas  
6 potential areas. This area has been identified by BLM  
7 geologists as possibly containing more than two billion barrels  
8 of technically recoverable petroleum. Alternative C also  
9 recognizes stipulations contained and identified in the BLM's  
10 preferred alternative.

73

1 The industry has proven that it can operate safely and  
2 also in a manner that is friendly to the environment and  
3 cultural concerns. In a recent study two years ago, Alaska was  
4 ranked in a global ranking 60th out of 60 as per barrel costs  
5 for Prudhoe Bay/Kuparuk. It's the highest in the world and yet  
6 only Alternative C would allow lease sales into an area that  
7 contains the most potential for returns. Alternative C will  
8 greatly increase the chances of Alaskans working on good-paying  
9 jobs. Alternative C will strengthen small and medium Alaska  
10 businesses, which are vital to the economic growth of the  
11 state.

74

12 In conclusion, based on these facts and others, it  
13 would be -- it would not be in the interest -- best interest of  
14 the state and its citizens to limit or eliminate any acreage  
15 that could preclude discovery to major deposits. So I urge you

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1 to support Alternative C. Thank you.

75 2 MR. PAULUS: Thank you, Dan. Next speaker will be  
3 Arthur Hussey.

76 4 MR. ARTHUR HUSSEY: Good evening. My name is Arthur  
5 Hussey and I'm the director of the Northern Alaska  
6 Environmental Center. I support Alternative A. My colleague,  
7 Brodie Anderson, has given resource-specific commentary, so I'd  
8 like to pause and look at the big picture, a luxury I guess I  
9 have as the director of the nation's most northerly  
10 environmental advocacy organization.

77 1 Americans, Alaskans in particular, like balance. We  
12 like to have a shared combination of economic development and  
13 conservation of wild places. My colleagues here, both in the  
14 conservation and resource development communities, value many  
15 things about Alaska but two things come to mind in particular.  
16 First, we have the luxury to hunt, fish, and otherwise enjoy  
17 Alaska pretty much as we found it. Second, we all support  
18 economic development and the jobs that economic development --  
19 that economic empowerment implies. Our legislative forefathers  
20 who crafted the organic pieces of legislation that have such an  
21 impact in Alaska - ANILCA, Clean Water Act to name but two -  
22 all recognized that essential bit of American greatness; that  
23 we have the ability to choose. They also recognized that as a  
24 large and prosperous country, we have the resources needed to  
25 choose both to develop and maintain an economically advanced

1 lifestyle, as well as to preserve and protect representative  
2 areas of wild places. They saw that perhaps unique among the  
3 world's nations we can spend a few of our abundant resources to  
4 preserve and protect some of our natural areas, while at the  
5 same time maintaining our economic engine, thereby providing  
6 prosperity to millions of citizens.

78 7 Choice. We can do that. But Alternative C gives no  
8 choice. It says forget your American greatness to choose.  
9 Alternative A gives us that choice. It says develop the vast  
10 majority of that reserve, but preserve and protect those areas  
11 that are most sensitive to disturbance, that are truly national  
12 treasures. In other words, have your cake and eat it, too.  
13 Thank you.

79 14 MR. PAULUS: Thank you, Arthur. The next speaker will  
15 be Jim Drew.

80 16 MR. JIM DREW: Thank you. My name is Jim Drew. I live  
17 at 4725 Villanova Drive in Fairbanks, and do serve as a board  
18 member of the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation. My  
19 observations in Alaska for 30 years lead me to support  
20 Alternative C. NPR-Alaska was designated by Congress to  
21 provide energy resources. Alternative C is the only  
22 alternative in the NPR-Alaska Planning Area that includes all  
23 portions of the Planning Area with high oil and gas potential.  
24 That is important both from the standpoint of meeting national  
25 energy needs as well as meeting economic requirements for

1 successful development of the project.

81 2 From a personal perspective, I spent four field seasons  
3 from 1955 through 1958 carrying out soil and vegetation studies  
4 on the North Slope, including NPR-Alaska, before petroleum  
5 development. The results of this work are in the scientific  
6 literature. In recent years, I've had an opportunity to  
7 revisit some of these areas where petroleum development has  
8 taken place. My observation is that this development has not  
9 made significant changes of a practical nature across the  
10 extensive Arctic ecosystem. Moreover, performance-based  
11 stipulations proposed by BLM are designed to ensure that the  
12 ecosystem is not adversely or irreversibly impacted by  
13 petroleum development.

82 4 The development of petroleum resources in Alaska is  
5 essential for the well-being of our children. Most of us want  
6 essential infrastructure such as well-maintained roads,  
7 railroads, and airports, and good schools, and health care  
8 facilities. An economic base is essential to maintain these  
9 needs and these needs are perceived as important by people in  
10 rural areas as well as urban areas. Alaskans cannot expect  
11 that their children will be able to remain in Alaska unless a  
12 long-term economic base is created through resource development  
13 such as NPR-Alaska.

14 Alternative C is the best alternative for Alaska's  
15 future.

83 1 MR. PAULUS: Thanks, Jim. The next speaker will be Don  
2 Lowry, followed by Steve Thompson.

84 3 MR. DON LOWRY: My name is Don Lowry. I'm a business  
4 rep for the Operating Engineers Local 302 here in Fairbanks.  
5 I'm here tonight in support of Alternative C.

85 6 I feel the oil companies have proved that they can  
7 develop these sensitive areas and do it in a safe and friendly  
8 environmental way. Development in this area would be good for  
9 Alaskans, good for our members. We have hundreds of members  
10 that work up in Prudhoe Bay, have years of experience. They  
11 have a lot of hours in special training to make sure that they  
12 do things to protect the wildlife and the environment. With  
13 the development of Alpine, I think the oil companies have  
14 proved that they can do it in a safe and friendly way and I  
15 feel Alternative C is the best alternative for the State of  
16 Alaska. Thank you.

86 7 MR. PAULUS: Thanks, Don. The next speaker is Steve  
18 Thompson, followed by Chris Johansen.

87 9 MR. STEVE THOMPSON: Good evening. My name is Steve  
20 Thompson. I'm the mayor of the City of Fairbanks. I represent  
21 32,000 citizens here in Fairbanks. I'm here to speak in favor  
22 of Alternative C.

88 23 We've got a responsibility to look after the State of  
24 Alaska and our people here in Fairbanks. I'm here to speak  
25 about the employment of people in Fairbanks, the employment of

1 people in the State of Alaska, the businesses here in Fairbanks  
2 and the economic impact that this would have on them and on the  
3 State of Alaska. But there's a lot bigger picture than that.

89

4 With the political atmosphere around the world today,  
5 we've got a possible disaster coming to the entire nation, in  
6 the United States of America. If we have the unrest continue  
7 and go to heck with us, we have a potential of having an  
8 economic disaster in the entire United States. It could put us  
9 into a depression. Congress designated the NPR-A as an area to  
10 be developed for gas and oil, and I think it's time to do that  
11 and we're going to be able to do it with your approvals.

90

2 But I was watching the slides here today and you showed  
13 some 1950, 1960 development areas, and I thought about that and  
14 I was thinking, you know, that kind of compares with probably a  
15 teenager and somebody that's a little bit irresponsible,  
16 they're young, they're still learning, and you compare that to  
17 the oil companies today. I really feel that it's a comparison  
18 that they've grown up and become responsible adults.

91

9 The oil companies are responsible today. They're very  
20 sensitive to the environment. They have learned a lot; they  
21 are watched with a microscope, so they would be responsible to  
22 development, to the environment, to migration, to subsistence  
23 and cultural ways. And I have to compliment the BLM for the  
24 amount of work that they've put into coming up with their  
25 studies and their restrictions on development and operations of

1 what's going on up there. I think that the oil companies,  
2 along with BLM, will be responsibly able to develop 100 percent  
3 of NPR-A Northeast area without any damage to our environment.  
4 Thank you.

92 5 MR. PAULUS: Thanks, Steve. The next speaker is Chris  
6 Johansen, followed by Dave Miller.

93 7 MR. CHRIS JOHANSEN: Good evening. My name is Chris  
8 Johansen. I am here this evening to support Alternative C.  
9 The National Petroleum Reserve is designated by Congress for  
10 production of energy resources. The Northeast Planning Area  
11 falls within this area. Alternative C will allow access for  
12 the development of 100 percent of the high oil and gas  
13 potential areas, which may be as many as two billion barrels of  
14 recoverable petroleum resources.

94 15 The industry has a long track record that proves beyond  
16 any doubt that it can operate safely in this region. The BLM  
17 is to be commended for reviewing the stipulations placed on the  
18 Northeast Planning Area in the past and proposing more  
19 reasonable performance-based stipulations based on fact.

95 20 In 1604, the classic novel "Don Quixote" was published.  
21 One of Mr. Quixote's many adventures involved the slaying of  
22 windmills, perceived by Mr. Quixote as monstrous giants. He  
23 believed that he would be looked upon as a great hero to the  
24 uninformed masses when he slayed these giants. He was  
25 convinced that no one else was as experienced as he in the

1 matter of adventures. He rode forward at a full gallop and  
2 attacked the nearest windmill. The windmill quickly shattered  
3 his lance and sent him rolling, badly injured, across the  
4 plains.

5 Four hundred years later, we have not one, but an army  
6 of Don Quixotes. Their imaginations have them riding across  
7 the Arctic Plain in search of windmills or, more appropriately,  
8 drill rigs to slay. They believe that they will be looked upon  
9 as heros to the uninformed masses once they have achieved their  
10 goal of slaying the giants. They believe that no one else is  
11 as experienced as they are in the matters of the Arctic.

12 Like Don Quixote, they cannot comprehend that the bread  
13 they eat each day was made from the flour that was ground  
14 between the millstones turning deep in the bowels of the very  
15 same windmills. Thank you.

16 MR. PAULUS: Thanks, Chris. The next speaker is Dave  
17 Miller, followed by Leon Tomasic.

18 MR. DAVE MILLER: My name is Dave Miller. I'm here to  
19 support Alternative C. I've worked up and lived in the North  
20 Slope since 1974; I've been up there for 30 years. I worked on  
21 the pipeline from '74 to '79. I moved to Barrow in 1980. I  
22 lived there till 1997. I've been hunting and fishing up there  
23 with the Natives in Barrow; seen them get their full  
24 subsistence harvest for the 17 years I lived there. Since I  
25 moved back to Fairbanks in '97, I've still been working up on

100 1 the North Slope through this year. I'm still -- I work out of  
2 Local 302. My comments are personal, but we -- with little or  
3 no impact to the -- from the first pipeline, I -- they have had  
4 their full subsistence harvest of the 17 years I lived there  
5 and if -- there was no impact from the first pipeline. With  
6 the better technology that they have and the people are more  
7 trained to be more environmentally friendly, I don't see why we  
8 can't just open it up. It'd be good for the whole State of  
9 Alaska.

101 10 MR. PAULUS: Thanks, Dave. The next speaker is Leon  
11 Tomasic, followed by Dean Rampy.

102 12 MR. LEON TOMASIC: My name is Leon Tomasic. I'm not  
13 here representing anybody directly, but I'm a 30-year member of  
14 the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302.

103 15 In those 30 years, I've worked on all various and  
16 different types of oil exploration and pipeline building. And  
17 in the Arctic, we built the islands, Seal Island in the winter;  
18 we built the first islands in the summer, Sag 7 and 11. All  
19 through those years, we have constantly gotten better in taking  
20 care of the environment and has been said before about the  
21 footprint, I think this time from the 30 years ago when I  
22 started, it's more of a thumbprint than a footprint.

104 23 I think the oil companies, the contractors, the  
24 highly-trained crews that we have now have proven that this can  
25 be done and can be done well. And the country needs this oil

1 and, in a more parochial sense, Alaska needs the jobs, good  
2 paying jobs like Alaska has always had so that our children and  
3 grandchildren can stay here and earn their bread and butter in  
4 this state. That's why I am supporting Alternative C and for  
5 this chance to speak my opinion, I thank you.

105

6 MR. PAULUS: Thanks, Leon. The next speaker will be  
7 Dean Rampy, followed by Kevin Pomeroy.

106

8 MR. DEAN RAMPY: Good evening. I'm Dean Rampy. I'm  
9 the chief operating officer for Doyon and, as most of you know,  
10 Doyon is the Interior corporation for Interior Natives. I  
11 don't want to repeat -- Doyon is here to support Alternative C.  
12 I don't want to repeat all the points that have been made in  
13 support of Alternative C. I'd just let you know that Doyon  
14 employs approximately 1,100 people in the State of Alaska;  
15 about 80 percent of those are related to activity on the North  
16 Slope. Part of Doyon's mission is to provide for the social  
17 and economic well-being of its shareholders. So it's good for  
18 Alaska, it's good for the residents of the Interior and  
19 including the shareholders of Doyon. Thanks.

107

20 MR. PAULUS: Thanks, Dean. The next speaker will be  
21 Kevin Pomeroy, followed by Buzz Otis.

108

22 MR. KEVIN POMEROY: Hello, my name is Kevin Pomeroy and  
23 I've lived in Fairbanks, Alaska my whole life. I would support  
24 Alternative C because for many years my dad has worked up north  
25 and provided my family with food, and I'd like to do the same

1 thing, support a family of my own some day.

2 And I don't want to repeat what everyone has already  
3 said, but it seems like by supporting this, you would be  
4 getting good revenues and it would just be a better thing for  
5 our economy. So, thank you.

109 6 MR. PAULUS: Thanks, Kevin. The next speaker is Buzz  
7 Otis, followed by Jeff Merkel.

110 8 MR. BUZZ OTIS: Good evening. I'm Buzz Otis and I  
9 chair Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation, but perhaps  
10 more importantly I'm a partner in a company called Great  
11 Northwest who is a construction business that employs 150 to  
12 200 Alaskans on a seasonal basis as a result of balanced  
13 development of this state, employees that support this  
14 community in a number of ways, both as volunteers as well as  
15 support to businesses around here.

111 6 I'm here to support Alternative C. This is a National  
17 Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. We've got enough lands in Alaska set  
18 aside. I can guarantee you, we won't be drilling in Denali  
19 National Park or Wrangell-St. Elias or Katmai or all the other  
20 areas that Congress has set aside. This happens to be one that  
21 was set aside for national petroleum needs and we've got  
22 interests in this country that need to be filled and we've got  
23 interests in this state.

112 4 Also, I want to go on the record as objecting to the  
25 people in the special interest groups in Washington, D.C.

1 having equal say with us Alaskans. We live here, we work here,  
2 we know what's going on here and we fish and hunt here and  
3 recreate here. I don't see how you can give the same weight to  
4 somebody that's never visited this state just because they  
5 happen to belong to a national interest group that paints  
6 pretty mountainous pictures of an area where there are no  
7 mountains.

113

8 Anyhow, I think the oil industry has proven itself.  
9 The technology is proved. The directional drilling, the small  
10 pads: Alpine is a perfect example of that and I think we'll see  
11 more technological improvements as we move further west with  
12 the development. And I think it's important to our state and  
13 the future of our nation that we allow reasonable and balanced  
14 development to move forward. Thank you for letting us comment.

114

5 MR. PAULUS: Thanks, Buzz. The next speaker will be  
16 Jeff Merkel, followed by Ben Johnson.

115

7 MR. JEFF MERKEL: I appreciate this opportunity to  
18 speak on behalf of myself and my congregation. I happen to be  
19 a Lutheran pastor in town, and I'm in Alaska because of the  
20 beauty of this place. I came here many times as a tourist  
21 before I decided to settle here, and it was as a tourist that I  
22 came to believe that Alaska had a place for me. We, as  
23 tourists, spend a lot of money in this state and we are kind of  
24 odd ducks, I've discovered, now that I'm a resident for seven  
25 years that tourists have funny preconceptions about this state,

1 but in some ways they're right. This is a spectacular state.  
2 It's an unbelievably unique place in America.

116

3 I am backing Alternative A because Alternative A has  
4 the best understanding of the science behind the many uses for  
5 this area. Alternative A protects the areas that are most  
6 sensitive and will hold in perpetuity -- in fact, we can change  
7 our minds at some later date. But at this point in time, 1998  
8 is not such a big difference from 2004. At this point in  
9 time, it is the best way to develop NPR-A. We are supposed to  
10 develop NPR-A, but we're supposed to develop it in a way that's  
11 conservative and which, from my point of view as someone who  
12 studies scriptures and thinks about God, I think about God's  
13 interest in the animals, in the creatures that God has put in  
14 this place and many of them need to use that area. It needs to  
15 be a multiple use area and we can afford to take some time  
16 before we decide to develop everything.

117

7 I think Teshekpuk Lake is an unbelievable national  
8 treasure and as pastor, as a former tourist, as an Alaskan, I  
9 think we have to be very careful about moving into a  
10 wholehearted development, the two other alternatives B and C.  
11 I think we need to stick to our guns with Alternative A,  
12 develop what Alternative A allows us to develop, but really  
13 carefully protect those areas that Alternative A protects.

118

4 It is not at this present time in the national interest  
5 to go about developing things in a haphazard fashion or in an

1 emergency fashion. A mere change in how we use oil and the  
2 kinds of vehicles we drive would yield more oil than either  
3 Alternative B or C.

4 119 So it's really, again, as a pastor, I think we need to  
5 look at our lives and look at what we're doing, how wasteful  
6 we're being in the way that we live rather than immediately  
7 looking at a development alternative. I think jobs can be  
8 developed in Alaska in a lot of different ways. In fact, by  
9 developing according to Alternative A, we will probably create  
10 as many jobs as any other alternative, but we have the  
11 opportunity to save and protect those areas that are of great  
12 beauty and of great environmental importance. Thank you very  
13 much.

4 120 MR. PAULUS: Thanks, Jeff. The next speaker is Ben  
15 Johnson, followed by Margaret Russell.

6 121 MR. BEN JOHNSON: Hello. My name is Ben Johnson. I've  
17 had the opportunity to live up here for the last 30 years. I  
18 moved up from down south. Alaska presented me a lot of  
19 opportunities and that's one of the reasons I came here. I  
20 visited, I loved it, and I'm still here.

1 122 I live here and I'm working through the Laborers Union.  
22 I'm here to support Alternative Plan C. I think that it offers  
23 the best opportunity for oil exploration and development. The  
24 BLM has done an excellent job of providing safeguards for  
25 sensitive areas, from the rivers and lakes. Like they said,

1 the lake itself can't even be developed because the technology  
2 isn't even there yet.

123

3 Also the leases, the sale of these leases won't take  
4 place for another three years. That gives extended time for  
5 migration and movement studies, other environmental studies  
6 before the leases are even sold and then even more time before  
7 development actually begins. And then one reason -- my last  
8 reason is for myself. I'm planning on being married soon and  
9 starting a family and earning money is important to me and the  
10 different industries related to what I'm doing, construction  
11 and the manufacture and the oil and gas industry itself, all  
12 provides jobs and whether it's myself or my wife working or my  
13 other family members, the revenue that gets -- that comes into  
14 the economy and gets moved around because of the construction  
15 workers and because of the oil and gas workers gives other  
16 people jobs and gives them other opportunities, the people in  
17 all the different places - the gas stations, the supermarkets  
18 and the different places in town. Thank you.

124

19 MR. PAULUS: Thanks, Ben. The next speaker is Margaret  
20 Russell, followed by Kara Moriarty.

125

21 MS. MARGARET RUSSELL: My name is Margaret Russell and  
22 I am chair of the board of directors of the Greater Fairbanks  
23 Chamber of Commerce. The chamber has long supported the  
24 development of NPR-A. Its full development would encourage  
25 both economic growth and support labor and businesses in our

1 community. It's also a step towards enhancing the nation's  
2 energy and economic security, security that has never been more  
3 vital than it is today.

4 Additionally, we feel that full development of NPR-A  
5 sends a message that Alaska is open for business and that we  
6 choose and can be competitive on a global scale. We also  
7 support and applaud the BLM's review and potential amendment of  
8 the 1998 Plan for the Northeast Planning Area. This review is  
9 both prudent and, I believe, responsible.

10 Tonight we'd like to speak in favor of Alternative C,  
11 which means 100 percent of the 4.6 million acres would be  
12 available for oil and gas leasing. Currently, all of the  
13 producing fields on the North Slope are located within 25 miles  
14 of the coast. Consistent with that trend, BLM has identified  
15 the areas currently off limits to be the areas with the highest  
16 potential for oil. Eliminating any acreage within this Barrow  
17 Arch could preclude new discoveries of major deposits of oil.  
18 However, the question always is: Can we develop these areas  
19 responsibly in environmentally sensitive areas?

20 As a lifelong Alaskan who I think deeps -- cares very  
21 deeply about the environment of all Alaska, the industry has  
22 proven to us time and time again that it can operate safely and  
23 in a manner that protects the environment. Additionally, BLM  
24 has outlined the institution of what we believe are very  
25 stringent performance-based procedures. Clearly, the

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1 environment and cultural issues will and must be addressed  
2 through these probably more site-specific performance  
3 standards, including the Teshekpuk Lake area.

4 Therefore, the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce  
5 fully supports Alternative C and all efforts to bring  
6 responsible full development to NPR-A. Thank you.

7 129 MR. PAULUS: Thank you, Margaret. The next speaker is  
8 Kara Moriarty, followed by John Zuleger.

9 130 MS. KARA MORIARTY: In the interest of time, I'll  
10 submit my comments by e-mail.

11 131 MR. PAULUS: Okay. So Kara will not submit a comment.  
12 John Zulegar, followed by Rosemary.

13 132 MR. JOHN ZULEGER: My name is John Zuleger and I'd like  
14 to thank BLM for having the opportunity to speak here tonight.  
15 I'm a member of the Laborers Local 942 and I represent the  
16 future of the oil industry and the workers that are going to  
17 develop it.

18 133 Like many of the young people that I work with, our  
19 fathers and mothers came to Alaska during the seventies to  
20 develop the Prudhoe Bay oilfields. They did a great job.  
21 They've since provided an infrastructure that has continued to  
22 produce safe and reliable energy for this state and income for  
23 thousands of residents. I want the same opportunity. There  
24 are good jobs to be had with good pay that I can support a  
25 family on and support others on, and I look forward to having

1 an opportunity to teach my kids the same work ethic that I've  
2 got and see them someday have the opportunity to also work in  
3 these oilfields as the technology continues to expand and grow  
4 and we learn from our past practices to improve our practices  
5 in the future.

134

6 I fully believe that Alternative C is very plausible  
7 and doable, and is the best thing for the State of Alaska. We  
8 can develop this area safely and without harm. So, once again,  
9 I support Alternative C.

135

10 MR. PAULUS: Thanks, John. The next speaker is  
11 Rosemary and if you could pronounce your last name, since I  
12 will not do it very good justice. And then Dave Van Den Berg  
13 will be our last speaker in the initial group.

136

4 MS. ROSEMARY AHTUANGARUAK: Hello. I'm Rosemary  
15 Ahtuanguaruak. I live in Nuiqsut. Nuiqsut is in NPR-A. I've  
16 lived out there since 1986. I moved out there to be the  
17 community health aide in our village. I did that for 14 years.  
18 As a community health aide, I worked with people in my village.  
19 We do not have a physician in our town. The doctor comes for a  
20 week, three or four times a year. Our community health aides  
21 provide our care for our people.

137

2 The concerns that I have were based on my years of  
23 service as a community health aide. A year and eight months  
24 ago, I was elected as mayor at City of Nuiqsut. I also  
25 participate on the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope as a

1 board member of the Regional Tribal Entity. I'm a member of  
2 the Federal Subsistence Advisory Panel and I also participate  
3 on the Nuiqsut Restoration Advisory Board.

4 In our community, we are very concerned about trying to  
5 maintain our traditional and cultural uses of the land, sea,  
6 and air around us. This activity has been a part of our  
7 families for centuries and our activities maintain our lives.  
8 It is very expensive for us to buy Western foods. For a gallon  
9 of milk -- for a quart of milk, it costs 3.25. For two  
10 oranges, it costs \$7. We depend on our traditional subsistence  
11 resources to provide meals for our family. Many of our people  
12 have not succeeded in obtaining the employment that was  
13 promised to us with development at Alpine. We were promised 50  
14 jobs; we got very few. We have just a handful of people that  
15 have been working over there. This has been continued with  
16 many of the development activities around us.

7 We will not be able to sustain our families with the  
8 seasonal employment that comes. Many of our houses have waited  
9 for jobs all season long to be given a job that lasts one week,  
10 while our residents watch planeloads of people fly in and out  
11 of the developing sites around us. Very few of our people get  
12 on those planes to go to work.

23 If we are unable to continue our traditional and  
24 cultural uses of the land, we suffer. We have already suffered  
25 multiple species being impacted due to development around us.

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140  
Subsistence

2 Offshore development has impacted our whaling. We had seismic  
3 activity in Camden Bay that caused us to lose two whaling  
4 boats. We did not harvest whale two seasons in a row. We went  
5 without whale those winters. Those were the deepest, darkest  
6 winters I faced as a community health aide. We saw an increase  
7 to the social ills, we saw domestic violence, we saw drug and  
8 alcohol abuse, we saw all the bad things that come when we are  
9 not able to maintain our traditional life activities. We want  
10 to be able to continue our daily life activities in spite of  
11 the activities that occur around us. If we are able to  
12 maintain our daily life activities, we are able to continue  
13 being who and what we are, and we're able to continue our lives  
14 in the means that our elders have taught us to sustain our  
lives for the centuries before us.

141

5 This is a culture that is tens of thousands of years  
16 old that has continued in spite of the development of the  
17 technology that has led to NPR-A and all the other developments  
18 out there.

142  
Caribou

21 We have seen increase to health problems with increase  
22 in asthma. When I started as a health aide in 1986, I had one  
23 person with asthma. When I left that position in 2000, we were  
24 seeing close to 100 people with breathing difficulties.  
25 Without being able to provide for our health and well-being,  
we're not going to be able to continue our traditional  
activities. To subsist, it's a lot of work. We work very hard

142 (Cont'd)  
Caribou

2 to fill our ice cellar and provide for our families. Our  
3 subsistence resources only come to us in the summer and we have  
4 the Teshekpuk Herd, which was a stationary herd, but last year  
5 they took off for the first time in the years that they have  
6 been monitoring. They moved all the way over to Barter Island  
7 and into ANWR. Those caribou, many of them died this year.  
8 There was a large caribou die-off throughout the whole North  
9 Slope. Those caribou did not make it past the Dalton Highway  
10 to calve. We don't know where those calves are going to  
11 consider their home territory. We're very concerned when this  
12 stationary herd is not in its stationary lands with one season  
of seismic activity.

143

3 There's also been an increase in thyroid disorders. I  
4 don't know what's causing that, but I'm seeing more people.  
5 When I started, I had only two people that had thyroid  
6 disorders. I've seen five kids with thyroid disorders. I've  
7 seen at least 10 women with thyroid problems. Women and  
8 children receive more health care than the men and if we are  
9 able to evaluate the men, I'm sure we'd also see some numbers  
10 in them, also.

144

1 We'd like to continue to be the Inupiat people that has  
2 given us who we are today. We'd like to be able to grow into  
3 activities that are around us, but there has to be a balance.  
4 We need to be who we are without losing that, in spite of the  
5 push to develop. If you took our concerns that had been

1 presented for decades for real, you would not be opening up  
2 this land as much as you've already presented to open up. You  
3 would realize that we need to have our traditional use areas  
4 protected to maintain who and what we are, and that's what I'd  
5 like to see done, is protect areas that we need to live on  
6 because we can't afford to live without it.

145  
Fishing

7 Fishing was devastated for eight years. The Arctic  
8 cisco is a staple that we depend on when we don't have the  
9 whale. We want to be able to continue. With caribou, when  
10 Alpine opened, we went from 97 to three houses harvesting  
11 caribou. Those are serious impacts that our people went  
12 without our serv- -- without our traditional foods. We didn't  
13 get any help from anything. We went without our foods. I know  
14 you all think you can get jobs and provide for your families,  
15 but you're taking food off of our tables. Thank you.

146

16 MR. PAULUS: And our last speaker in this final group  
17 or the first group, I mean, is David Van Den Berg. Again, if  
18 you have additional comments you want to make, we'll cover the  
19 first batch and then we'll go from there. Is David still here  
20 or -- okay. Is there anybody that would like to speak that  
21 didn't sign up? Okay. If you could give your name, please?

147

22 MR. SEAN RICE: My name.....

148

23 MR. PAULUS: And also could you spell it out since  
24 you're not on the list.

149

25 MR. RICE: Yes. My name is Sean Rice, S-e-a-n R-i-c-e.

1 Like Rice-a-Roni. My name is Sean Rice. I'm a laborer out of  
2 Local 914, but I'm not here as a laborer out of Local 914; I'm  
3 also the vice president of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute  
4 and one of our goals is to strengthen the bonds between the  
5 labor movement and the community. And this is one of the ways  
6 that we're going to do this, is we're going to back up these  
7 AFL-CIO affiliates over here. We're going to be sitting  
8 here -- we're for the Appendix [sic] C because one thing that  
9 we're here for is putting workers back to work. Once you put  
10 workers back to work, you get money in their pocket. We  
11 already know that trickle-down economics does not work.  
12 Trickle-up economics works all the time. You put money in the  
13 workers' pockets; they're out there spending it in their areas,  
14 in the schools, getting better schools, getting more food for  
15 their family. And I'm not doing this, you know, just for my  
16 kids; I'm doing this not just for the laborers', you know,  
17 family and children. I'm doing this for all the AFL-CIO  
18 families and children so we can all become a better and  
19 stronger community. Thank you.

150

0 MR. PAULUS: Thank you, Sean. Is there anybody else?  
21 Again, if you could give your full name and spell it, please.  
22 You're not on the list.

151

23 MS. DEBBIE MILLER: I'm Debbie Miller. I live in  
24 Fairbanks on Chena Ridge and I've lived here for about 30  
25 years. In listening to the comments tonight, I think we have a

1 strong labor force here in the room, which is nice to see. I  
2 know that there are many jobs associated with development up in  
3 the Prudhoe Bay area and going all the way across the North  
4 Slope. I know you want to keep those jobs and you want them  
5 for your children and your grandchildren.

152

6 I have children, too. I have two teenage daughters and  
7 right now they're getting their first jobs and I'm trying to  
8 teach them the importance of conserving and saving some of the  
9 money that they earn to put in the bank for the future.

153

0 What I don't like about this particular Alternative C  
11 is, is we're not saving anything for the future. We're saying  
12 let's go across the North Slope of Alaska, let's propose to  
13 open up 100 percent of the Northwest Planning Area, let's  
14 propose to open up all of the Northeast Planning Area, when we  
15 should be saving some of those lands for the future. We should  
16 keep some of that land in the bank, for whatever purpose.  
17 Maybe 100 years from now, our great grandchildren will need oil  
18 for something that -- where we can't find substitute. Instead  
19 of burning it up in huge inefficient SUVs, we ought to be  
20 building more fuel-efficient cars, using it more wisely, and  
21 saving this oil for the future. Saving some of that land.

154

22 It seems fairly -- not very wise to open up 100 percent  
23 of 23 million acres. This is a huge, vast area, the size of  
24 Indiana. Why do we need to open up all of that today? We're  
25 asking in this particular plan that 13 percent of it that we

1 agreed upon back in 1998, that we preserve that 13 percent  
2 because it's very sensitive. The Teshekpuk Lake area is an  
3 incredibly sensitive area for wildlife; caribou that Rosemary  
4 talked about; the many species of birds that come there. It's  
5 a very important molting staging area for hundreds of thousands  
6 of birds that come into this area. So why not leave 13 percent  
7 of the sensitive lands protected for the wildlife for the  
8 future? Why do we need to go in there now?

155 9 Now, that's not saying that the other 87 percent is  
10 going to be closed. That's already open for oil and gas  
11 exploration and development. We're not saying close all of  
12 NPR-A. It's designed to be a petroleum reserve. But we're  
13 saying let's walk more carefully. Let's save some for the  
14 future, for your children, for my children, for my great  
15 grandchildren. We don't need to put it all on the chopping  
16 block right now. And that's all. Thank you.

156 17 MR. PAULUS: Thank you, Debbie. Any other speakers?

157 18 MR. LEONARD COLLINS: My name is Leonard Collins.

158 19 MR. PAULUS: Why don't you wait till you come up here  
20 and spell it out, please, otherwise -- she has her headphones  
21 on and she can't hear you.

159 22 MR. COLLINS: My name is Leonard Collins, L-e-o-n-a-r-d  
23 C-o-l-l-i-n-s. I'm in support of Alternative C based on the  
24 oil and gas development and petroleum reserve will benefit the  
25 economy by creating and increasing the revenue and employment

1 while enhancing energy and economic security. Thank you.

2 MR. PAULUS: Thank you, Leonard. Anybody else? Okay.

3 Is there anybody that would like to give additional comments  
4 who spoke earlier? Okay. We thank you for coming tonight. We  
5 hope you enjoyed it. Again, if you'd like a CD, grab one on  
6 the way out and, also, there's a Web site and the library that  
7 had copies as well as the BLM office. Thank you.

8 (Off record; 8:35)

9 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1

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

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

6 That the annexed and foregoing PUBLIC HEARING ON THE  
 7 NORTHEAST NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE-ALASKA INTEGRATED ACTIVITY  
 PLAN/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT was taken before me on the  
 8 29th day of June, 2004, beginning at the hour of 7:00 o'clock  
 p.m., at the Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Auditorium,  
 Fairbanks, Alaska;

9

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

11

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

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

16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and  
 17 affixed my seal this 12th day of July, 2004.

18

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

21 S E A L

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