



State of ALASKA

Department of Natural Resources

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About Commissioner Balash



Joe Balash was appointed Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by Governor Sean Parnell in November 2013. In addition to leading the 1,100 professionals in DNR, Balash is responsible for managing one of the largest portfolios of oil, gas, renewable energy, minerals, timber, land, and water in the world, as well as overseeing regulatory activities on approximately 160 million acres of state land and 40,000 miles of coastline. He is also a key member of Governor Parnell's gas-line team.



As Deputy Commissioner Joe Balash was responsible for overseeing the divisions of Oil and Gas and Geological and Geophysical Surveys as well as the Mental Health Trust Land Office, the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office and the Gas Pipeline Project Office. Before being appointed to serve as Deputy Commissioner, Balash served in the Office of the Governor as special assistant to the Governor for energy and natural resource development issues. In that position, he coordinated policy on behalf of the Governor's office, the departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and the Alaska Energy Authority. He previously served as staff to the joint Legislative Budget and Audit Committee and he was Chief of Staff to the Senate President.

Balash earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Government from Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. He grew up in the Air Force and graduated from Ben Eielson High School in Fairbanks, Alaska. He is married with two beautiful daughters.

About DNR

The State of Alaska is blessed with a stunningly beautiful environment and a world-class natural resource base. The mission of DNR is to responsibly develop Alaska's resources by making them available for maximum use and benefit consistent with the public interest. Central to this mission, DNR manages one of the largest portfolios of oil, gas, renewable energy, minerals, timber, land, and water in the world.