

**SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 280(FIN)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 4/18/10**

**Referred: Today's Calendar**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES HAWKER AND CHENAULT, Johnson, Olson, Thomas, Ramras, Harris, Millett, Lynn, Neuman, Tuck, Stoltze**

**SENATORS McGuire, Dyson, Wagoner, Menard, Wielechowski, Meyer, Ellis, French**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1   **"An Act relating to a gas storage facility; relating to the Regulatory Commission of**  
2   **Alaska; relating to the participation by the attorney general in a matter involving the**  
3   **approval of a rate or a gas supply contract; relating to an income tax credit for a gas**  
4   **storage facility; relating to oil and gas production tax credits; relating to the powers and**  
5   **duties of the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; relating to production tax**  
6   **credits for certain losses and expenditures, including exploration expenditures; relating**  
7   **to the powers and duties of the director of the division of lands and to lease fees for a gas**  
8   **storage facility on state land; and providing for an effective date."**

9   **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

10    **\* Section 1.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
11    to read:

12        SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Cook Inlet Recovery Act.

13    **\* Sec. 2.** AS 31.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

1           **Sec. 31.05.032. Certification of gas storage capacity.** (a) An owner of a gas  
 2 storage facility that seeks an exemption under AS 38.05.180(u) or a credit under  
 3 AS 43.20.046 shall apply to the commission for certification of the facility's working  
 4 gas storage capacity and certification of the facility's gas withdrawal capability. The  
 5 application shall be on a form prescribed by the commission.

6           (b) Within six months after receiving an application under (a) of this section,  
 7 the commission shall determine and certify

8                   (1) the working gas storage capacity of the facility on the date the  
 9 facility commences commercial operation rounded to the nearest 500,000,000 cubic  
 10 feet;

11                   (2) whether the gas storage facility is capable of withdrawing a  
 12 minimum of 10,000,000 cubic feet of gas a day; and

13                   (3) that the facility qualifies as a gas storage facility for the purposes of  
 14 this section.

15           (c) The commission shall provide a copy of the certifications required by (b)  
 16 of this section to the owner of the gas storage facility that requested the certification,  
 17 the commissioner of natural resources, and the commissioner of revenue.

18           (d) If a gas storage facility ceases commercial operation, an owner of the gas  
 19 storage facility shall give written notice to the commission that commercial operation  
 20 has ceased. The notice must be filed with the commission before April 1 of the year  
 21 immediately following the year in which the gas storage facility ceases commercial  
 22 operation.

23           (e) In this section,

24                   (1) "ceases commercial operation" means that the gas storage facility  
 25 fails to inject or withdraw more than 100,000,000 cubic feet of gas during a calendar  
 26 year following the year in which a gas storage facility commences commercial  
 27 operation;

28                   (2) "commences commercial operation" means the first injection of  
 29 non-native gas into a gas storage facility for purposes other than testing;

30                   (3) "cushion gas" means native and non-native gas in a gas storage  
 31 facility that is needed to pressurize the facility and that allows the facility to function;

(4) "gas storage facility" means a tank or a depleted or nearly depleted reservoir or pool in the state that is available for the storage of gas;

(5) "native gas" means gas in a gas storage facility that was not injected;

(6) "non-native gas" means gas that is produced elsewhere and injected into a gas storage facility;

(7) "pool" has the meaning given in AS 31.05.170;

(8) "working gas storage capacity" means the maximum volume of non-native gas a gas storage facility may safely contain without creating or causing waste; the maximum volume of non-native gas does not include the volume of cushion gas present or the volume required for proper functioning of the gas storage facility at the working gas storage capacity certified under (b) of this section.

\* **Sec. 3.** AS 38.05.035(a) is amended to read:

(a) The director shall

(1) have general charge and supervision of the division and may exercise the powers specifically delegated to the director; the director may employ and fix the compensation of assistants and employees necessary for the operations of the division; the director is the certifying officer of the division, with the consent of the commissioner, and may approve vouchers for disbursements of money appropriated to the division;

(2) manage, inspect, and control state land and improvements on it belonging to the state and under the jurisdiction of the division;

(3) execute laws, rules, regulations, and orders adopted by the commissioner;

(4) prescribe application procedures and practices for the sale, lease, or other disposition of available land, resources, property, or interest in them;

(5) prescribe fees or service charges, with the consent of the commissioner, for any public service rendered;

(6) under the conditions and limitations imposed by law and the commissioner, issue deeds, leases, or other conveyances disposing of available land, resources, property, or any interests in them;

(7) have jurisdiction over state land, except that land acquired by the Alaska World War II Veterans Board and the Agricultural Loan Board or the departments or agencies succeeding to their respective functions through foreclosure or default; to this end, the director possesses the powers and, with the approval of the commissioner, shall perform the duties necessary to protect the state's rights and interest in state land, including the taking of all necessary action to protect and enforce the state's contractual or other property rights;

(8) maintain the records the commissioner considers necessary, administer oaths, and do all things incidental to the authority imposed; the following records and files shall be kept confidential upon request of the person supplying the information:

(A) the name of the person nominating or applying for the sale, lease, or other disposal of land by competitive bidding;

(B) before the announced time of opening, the names of the bidders and the amounts of the bids;

(C) all geological, geophysical, and engineering data supplied, whether or not concerned with the extraction or development of natural resources;

(D) except as provided in AS 38.05.036, cost data and financial information submitted in support of applications, bonds, leases, and similar items;

(E) applications for rights-of-way or easements;

(F) requests for information or applications by public agencies for land that is being considered for use for a public purpose;

(9) account for the fees, licenses, taxes, or other money received in the administration of this chapter including the sale or leasing of land, identify their source, and promptly transmit them to the proper fiscal department after crediting them to the proper fund; receipts from land application filing fees and charges for copies of maps and records shall be deposited immediately in the general fund of the state by the director;

(10) select and employ or obtain at reasonable compensation cadastral,

1 appraisal, or other professional personnel the director considers necessary for the  
2 proper operation of the division;

3 (11) be the certifying agent of the state to select, accept, and secure by  
4 whatever action is necessary in the name of the state, by deed, sale, gift, devise,  
5 judgment, operation of law, or other means any land, of whatever nature or interest,  
6 available to the state; and be the certifying agent of the state, to select, accept, or  
7 secure by whatever action is necessary in the name of the state any land, or title or  
8 interest to land available, granted, or subject to being transferred to the state for any  
9 purpose;

10 (12) on request, furnish records, files, and other information related to  
11 the administration of AS 38.05.180 to the Department of Revenue for use in  
12 forecasting state revenue under or administering AS 43.55, whether or not those  
13 records, files, and other information are required to be kept confidential under (8) of  
14 this subsection; in the case of records, files, or other information required to be kept  
15 confidential under (8) of this subsection, the Department of Revenue shall maintain  
16 the confidentiality that the Department of Natural Resources is required to extend to  
17 records, files, and other information under (8) of this subsection;

18 **(13) when reasonably possible, give priority to and expedite the**  
19 **processing of an application for a lease or assignment of a lease of state land for**  
20 **development and operation of a gas storage facility, for a right-of-way to a gas**  
21 **storage facility, for a change to the allocation of production within a unit, and for**  
22 **a permit necessary for the operation of a gas storage facility; in this paragraph,**  
23 **"gas storage facility" has the meaning given in AS 31.05.032.**

24 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 38.05.035 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

25 (n) The director may not deny an application for a lease or assignment of a  
26 lease of state land for the development and operation of a gas storage facility solely  
27 because the gas storage facility would be used exclusively or primarily to store gas  
28 owned by the owner or operator of the gas storage facility. In this subsection, "gas  
29 storage facility" has the meaning given in AS 31.05.032.

30 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 38.05.180(u) is amended to read:

31 (u) To avoid waste or to promote conservation of natural resources, the

commissioner may authorize the subsurface storage of oil or gas, whether or not  
 produced from state land, in land leased or subject to lease under this section. This  
 authorization may provide for the payment of a storage fee or rental on the stored oil  
 or gas, or, instead of the fee or rental, for a royalty other than that prescribed in the  
 lease when the stored oil or gas is produced in conjunction with oil or gas not  
 previously produced. A lease on which storage is so authorized shall be extended at  
 least for the period of storage and so long thereafter as oil or gas not previously  
 produced is produced in paying quantities. Notwithstanding the authorization for  
 payments under this subsection, when requested by a lessee, the commissioner  
 shall exempt a gas storage facility that qualifies for a tax credit under  
 AS 43.20.046 from any payment described in this subsection for the periods  
 described in this subsection. The exemption is available for the calendar year in  
 which the facility commences commercial operation and for each of the nine  
 calendar years immediately following the first year of commercial operation;  
 however, an exemption is not applicable for the calendar year after the facility  
 ceases commercial operation or for any subsequent calendar year. The lessee  
 shall provide the commissioner with any information the commissioner requests  
 to determine if the exemption applies. The information related to state land  
 leased for a gas storage facility under this subsection is public information and  
 may be furnished to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. On request, the  
 commissioner shall provide the name of each person using state land leased for a  
 gas storage facility under this chapter, the years for which an exemption was  
 granted, and the amount of the exemption. Gas withdrawn from a gas storage  
 facility regulated under AS 42.05 is considered to be non-native gas and is not  
 considered to be produced and subject to royalty until all non-native gas injected  
 into the gas storage facility has been withdrawn from the gas storage facility. A  
 person receiving an exemption for a payment under this section that contracts to  
 store gas for a utility regulated under AS 42.05 shall reduce the storage price to  
 reflect the value of the exemption. In this subsection, "ceases commercial  
 operation," "commences commercial operation," "gas storage facility," and  
 "non-native gas" have the meanings given in AS 31.05.032.

1     **\* Sec. 6.** AS 42.05.141 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

2             (d) When considering whether the approval of a rate or a gas supply contract  
3             proposed by a utility to provide a reliable supply of gas for a reasonable price is in the  
4             public interest, the commission shall

5                 (1) recognize the public benefits of allowing a utility to negotiate  
6             different pricing mechanisms with different gas suppliers and to maintain a diversified  
7             portfolio of gas supply contracts to protect customers from the risks of inadequate  
8             supply or excessive cost that may arise from a single pricing mechanism; and

9                 (2) consider whether a utility could meet its responsibility to the public  
10            in a timely manner and without undue risk to the public if the commission fails to  
11            approve a rate or a gas supply contract proposed by the utility.

12    **\* Sec. 7.** AS 42.05.381 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

13            (k) The cost to the utility of storing gas in a gas storage facility that is allowed  
14            in determining a just and reasonable rate shall reflect the reduction in cost attributable  
15            to any exemption from a payment due under AS 38.05.180(u) and the value of a tax  
16            credit that the owner of the gas storage facility received under AS 43.20.046. The  
17            commission may request the (1) commissioner of natural resources to report the value  
18            of the exemption from a payment due under AS 38.05.180(u) that the gas storage  
19            facility received; and (2) commissioner of revenue to report information on the  
20            amount of tax credits claimed under AS 43.20.046 for the gas storage facility. In this  
21            subsection, "gas storage facility" has the meaning given in AS 31.05.032.

22    **\* Sec. 8.** AS 42.05.711 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

23            (q) The service of natural gas storage furnished by operating a natural gas  
24            storage facility that is (1) part of a pipeline facility operated by a pipeline carrier, (2)  
25            part of a natural gas pipeline facility operated by a natural gas pipeline carrier, or (3)  
26            part of a North Slope natural gas pipeline facility operated by a North Slope natural  
27            gas pipeline carrier is exempt from this chapter. In this subsection, "natural gas  
28            pipeline carrier," "natural gas pipeline facility," "North Slope natural gas pipeline  
29            carrier," "North Slope natural gas pipeline facility," "pipeline carrier," and "pipeline  
30            facility" have the meanings given in AS 42.06.630.

31    **\* Sec. 9.** AS 42.05.990(4) is amended to read:

(4) "public utility" or "utility" includes every corporation whether public, cooperative, or otherwise, company, individual, or association of individuals, their lessees, trustees, or receivers appointed by a court, that owns, operates, manages, or controls any plant, pipeline, or system for

(A) furnishing, by generation, transmission, or distribution, electrical service to the public for compensation;

(B) furnishing telecommunications service to the public for compensation;

(C) furnishing water, steam, or sewer service to the public for compensation;

(D) furnishing by transmission or distribution of natural or manufactured gas to the public for compensation;

(E) furnishing for distribution or by distribution petroleum or petroleum products to the public for compensation when the consumer has no alternative in the choice of supplier of a comparable product and service at an equal or lesser price;

(F) furnishing collection and disposal service of garbage, refuse, trash, or other waste material to the public for compensation;

**(G) furnishing the service of natural gas storage to the public for compensation;**

\* **Sec. 10.** AS 42.05.990 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

(9) "natural gas storage facility" means a facility that receives natural gas volumes from customers, holds the gas volumes in a reservoir, and delivers the gas volumes to the customer; in this paragraph, "facility" includes

(A) all parts of the facility from the point at which the natural gas volumes are received by the facility from the customer to the point at which the natural gas volumes are delivered by the facility to the customer;

(B) a facility consisting of a reservoir, either underground or aboveground, and one or more of the following components of the facility:

(i) pipe;

(ii) compressor stations;

- (iii) station equipment;
- (iv) injection and extraction wells;
- (v) on-site or remote monitoring, supervision, and control facilities;
- (vi) gas processing plants and gas treatment plants, but not including a liquefied natural gas or manufacturing plant or facility;
- (vii) other equipment necessary to receive, place into the reservoir, monitor, remove from the reservoir, process, and deliver natural gas;
- (10) "service of natural gas storage" means the operation of a natural gas storage facility primarily or exclusively for the benefit of third-party customers, and not for the benefit of the owner, operator, or manager of the natural gas storage facility; "service of natural gas storage" does not include the storage of natural gas
  - (A) owned by or contractually obligated to the owner, operator, or manager of the natural gas storage facility;
  - (B) that is incidental to the production or sale of natural gas to one or more third-party customers; or
  - (C) for which the price of storage is not separately itemized.

\* **Sec. 11.** AS 43.05.230 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(j) The name of each person claiming a credit and the amount of credit received for each gas storage facility by that person under AS 43.20.046 is public information. The commissioner shall furnish the information to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska on request.

\* **Sec. 12.** AS 43.20 is amended by adding a new section to article 1 to read:

**Sec. 43.20.046. Gas storage facility tax credit.** (a) A person that is an owner of a gas storage facility described in (b) of this section that commences commercial operation after December 31, 2010, and before January 1, 2016, may apply a refundable credit against a tax liability that may be imposed on the person under this chapter for the taxable year in which the gas storage facility commences commercial operation. The tax credit under this section shall be an amount equal to \$1.50 for each 1,000 cubic feet of working gas storage capacity that is certified under AS 31.05.032

1 less any amount of credit received under this section taken in earlier tax years for that  
2 capacity. The total amount of the credit that may be received for a single gas storage  
3 facility under this section may not exceed the lesser of \$15,000,000 or 25 percent of  
4 the costs incurred to establish the gas storage facility. The tax credit in this section is  
5 in addition to any other credit under this chapter for which the person is eligible.

6 (b) A gas storage facility qualifying for the credit in this section

7 (1) must have a working gas storage capacity of at least 500,000,000  
8 cubic feet of gas other than cushion gas;

9 (2) must have a minimum withdrawal capability of 10,000,000 cubic  
10 feet a day as certified by the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission under  
11 AS 31.05.032;

12 (3) may not have been in operation as a gas storage facility before  
13 January 1, 2011;

14 (4) must be regulated under AS 42.05 as a utility and be available to  
15 furnish the service of natural gas storage to the public for compensation; in this  
16 paragraph, "service of natural gas storage" has the meaning given in AS 42.05.990;  
17 and

18 (5) if located on state land and leased or subject to a lease under  
19 AS 38.05.180, must be in compliance with the terms of the lease.

20 (c) To claim the credit, the person shall submit to the department a copy of the  
21 certification of working gas storage capacity and withdrawal capability issued under  
22 AS 31.05.032, the date that the gas storage facility commenced commercial operation,  
23 and other information required by the department. A person applying the credit against  
24 a liability under this chapter shall claim the credit on the person's return.

25 (d) A person entitled to a tax credit under this section that is greater than the  
26 person's tax liability under this chapter may request a refund in the amount of the  
27 unused portion of the tax credit.

28 (e) The department may use available money in the oil and gas tax credit fund  
29 established in AS 43.55.028 to make the refund applied for under (d) of this section in  
30 whole or in part if the department finds that (1) the claimant does not have an  
31 outstanding liability to the state for unpaid delinquent taxes under this title; and (2)

1 after application of all available tax credits, the claimant's total tax liability under this  
 2 chapter for the calendar year in which the claim is made is zero. In this subsection,  
 3 "unpaid delinquent tax" means an amount of tax for which the department has issued  
 4 an assessment that has not been paid and, if contested, has not been finally resolved in  
 5 the taxpayer's favor.

6 (f) For the purpose of determining the amount of the credit under this section,  
 7 the working gas storage capacity on which the credit is based shall be the capacity  
 8 certified by the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission under AS 31.05.032.

9 (g) A person may not receive a credit under this section for the acquisition of a  
 10 gas storage facility for which a credit has been granted under this section.

11 (h) If the gas storage facility for which a credit was received under this section  
 12 ceases commercial operation during the nine calendar years immediately following the  
 13 calendar year in which the gas storage facility commences commercial operation, the  
 14 tax liability under this chapter of the person who claimed the credit shall be increased.  
 15 The amount of the increase in tax liability

16 (1) shall be determined and assessed for the taxable year in which the  
 17 gas storage facility ceases commercial operation, regardless of whether the gas storage  
 18 facility subsequently resumes commercial operation; and

19 (2) is equal to the total amount of the credit taken multiplied by a  
 20 fraction, the numerator of which is the difference between 10 and the number of  
 21 calendar years for which the gas storage facility was eligible for a tax credit under this  
 22 section and the denominator of which is 10.

23 (i) The issuance of a refund under this section does not limit the department's  
 24 ability to later audit or adjust the claim if the department determines, as a result of the  
 25 audit, that the person that claimed the credit was not entitled to the amount of the  
 26 credit. The tax liability of the person receiving the credit under this chapter is  
 27 increased by the amount of the credit that exceeds that to which the person was  
 28 entitled. If the tax liability is increased under this subsection, the increase bears  
 29 interest under AS 43.05.225 from the date the refund was issued.

30 (j) A person claiming a tax credit under this section for a gas storage facility  
 31 that ceases commercial operation within nine calendar years immediately following

the calendar year in which the gas storage facility commences commercial operation shall notify the department in writing of the date the gas storage facility ceased commercial operation. The notice must be filed with the return for the taxable year in which the gas storage facility ceases commercial operation.

(k) A refund under this section does not bear interest.

(l) In this section, "ceases commercial operation," "commences commercial operation," "gas storage facility," and "working gas storage capacity" have the meanings given in AS 31.05.032.

\* **Sec. 13.** AS 43.55.011(m) is amended to read:

(m) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of AS 38.05.180(i), AS 41.09.010, AS 43.55.024, or 43.55.025, the department shall provide by regulation a method to ensure that, for a calendar year for which a producer's tax liability is limited by (j), (k), or (o) of this section, tax credits **based on a lease expenditure incurred before January 1, 2011, that are** otherwise available under AS 38.05.180(i), AS 41.09.010, AS 43.55.024, or 43.55.025 and allocated to gas subject to the limitations in (j), (k), and (o) of this section are accounted for as though the credits had been applied first against a tax liability calculated without regard to the limitations under (j), (k), and (o) of this section so as to reduce the tax liability to the maximum amount provided for under (j) or (o) of this section for the production of gas or (k) of this section for the production of oil. The regulation must provide for a reasonable method to allocate tax credits to gas subject to (j) and (o) of this section. Only the amount of a tax credit remaining after the accounting provided for under this subsection may be used for a later calendar year, transferred to another person, or applied against a tax levied on the production of oil or gas not subject to (j), (k), or (o) of this section to the extent otherwise allowed.

\* **Sec. 14.** AS 43.55.020(f) is amended to read:

(f) If oil or gas is produced but not sold, **gas is produced but is stored in a gas storage facility,** or [IF] oil or gas is produced and sold under circumstances where the sale price does not represent the prevailing value for oil or gas of like kind, character, or quality in the field or area from which the product is produced, the department may require the tax to be paid upon the basis of the value of oil or gas of

the same kind, quality, and character prevailing for that field or area during the calendar month of production or sale.

**\* Sec. 15.** AS 43.55.020 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(i) Cushion gas in a gas storage facility is not considered to be gas used in the operation of a lease or property or gas used for repressuring as described in (e) of this section. Gas withdrawn from a gas storage facility regulated under AS 42.05 is considered to be non-native gas until all non-native gas injected into the gas storage facility has been withdrawn from the gas storage facility. Non-native gas withdrawn from a gas storage facility is not considered to be gas produced for the purposes of AS 43.55.011 - 43.55.180. Gas withdrawn from a gas storage facility after all non-native gas previously injected into the gas storage facility has been withdrawn is gas considered to be produced from the lease or property for the purposes of AS 43.55.011 - 43.55.180. In this subsection, "native gas" and "non-native gas" have the meanings given in AS 31.05.032.

(j) In this section, "gas storage facility" has the meaning given in AS 31.05.032.

**\* Sec. 16.** AS 43.55.023(g) is amended to read:

(g) The issuance of a transferable tax credit certificate under (d) or (n) of this section or the purchase of a certificate under AS 43.55.028 does not limit the department's ability to later audit a tax credit claim to which the certificate relates or to adjust the claim if the department determines, as a result of the audit, that the applicant was not entitled to the amount of the credit for which the certificate was issued. The tax liability of the applicant under AS 43.55.011(e) and 43.55.017 - 43.55.180 is increased by the amount of the credit that exceeds that to which the applicant was entitled, or the applicant's available valid outstanding credits applicable against the tax levied by AS 43.55.011(e) are reduced by that amount. If the applicant's tax liability is increased under this subsection, the increase bears interest under AS 43.05.225 from the date the transferable tax credit certificate was issued. For purposes of this subsection, an applicant that is an explorer is considered a producer subject to the tax levied by AS 43.55.011(e).

**\* Sec. 17.** AS 43.55.023 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

1 (m) A producer or explorer may apply for a tax credit for a well lease  
 2 expenditure incurred in the state south of 68 degrees North latitude after June 30,  
 3 2010, as follows:

4 (1) notwithstanding that a well lease expenditure incurred in the state  
 5 south of 68 degrees North latitude may be a deductible lease expenditure for purposes  
 6 of calculating the production tax value of oil and gas under AS 43.55.160(a), unless a  
 7 credit for that expenditure is taken under (a) of this section, AS 38.05.180(i),  
 8 AS 41.09.010, AS 43.20.043, or AS 43.55.025, a producer or explorer that incurs a  
 9 well lease expenditure in the state south of 68 degrees North latitude may elect to  
 10 apply a tax credit against a tax levied by AS 43.55.011(e) in the amount of 40 percent  
 11 of that expenditure; a tax credit under this paragraph may be applied for a single  
 12 calendar year;

13 (2) a producer or explorer may take a credit for a well lease  
 14 expenditure incurred in the state south of 68 degrees North latitude in connection with  
 15 geological or geophysical exploration or in connection with an exploration well only if  
 16 the producer or explorer

17 (A) agrees, in writing, to the applicable provisions of  
 18 AS 43.55.025(f)(2); and

19 (B) submits to the Department of Natural Resources all data  
 20 that would be required to be submitted under AS 43.55.025(f)(2).

21 (n) For a lease expenditure incurred in the state south of 68 degrees North  
 22 latitude after June 30, 2010, that qualifies for tax credits under (a) and (b) of this  
 23 section, and for a well lease expenditure incurred in the state south of 68 degrees  
 24 North latitude that qualifies for a tax credit under (m) of this section, the department  
 25 shall issue transferable tax credit certificates to the person entitled to the credit for the  
 26 full amount of the credit. The transferable tax credit certificates do not expire.

27 (o) For the purposes of (m) and (n) of this section, a well lease expenditure  
 28 incurred in the state south of 68 degrees North latitude is a lease expenditure that is

29 (1) directly related to an exploration well, a stratigraphic test well, a  
 30 producing well, or an injection well other than a disposal well, located in the state  
 31 south of 68 degrees North latitude, if the expenditure is a qualified capital expenditure

and an intangible drilling and development cost authorized under 26 U.S.C. (Internal Revenue Code), as amended, and 26 C.F.R. 1.612-4, regardless of the elections made under 26 U.S.C. 263(c); in this paragraph, an expenditure directly related to a well includes an expenditure for well sidetracking, well deepening, well completion or recompletion, or well workover, regardless of whether the well is or has been a producing well; or

(2) an expense for seismic work conducted within the boundaries of a production or exploration unit.

\* **Sec. 18.** AS 43.55.028(a) is amended to read:

(a) The oil and gas tax credit fund is established as a separate fund of the state. The purpose of the fund is to purchase [CERTAIN] transferable tax credit certificates issued under AS 43.55.023, [AND CERTAIN] production tax credit certificates issued under AS 43.55.025, and to pay refunds claimed under AS 43.20.046.

\* **Sec. 19.** AS 43.55.028(e) is amended to read:

(e) The department, on the written application of a [THE] person to whom a transferable tax credit certificate has been issued under AS 43.55.023(d) or (n) or to whom a production tax credit certificate has been issued under AS 43.55.025(f), may use available money in the oil and gas tax credit fund to purchase, in whole or in part, the certificate if the department finds that

(1) the calendar year of the purchase is not earlier than the first calendar year for which the credit shown on the certificate would otherwise be allowed to be applied against a tax;

(2) except for the application of a person for the purchase of a transferable tax credit certificate issued under AS 43.55.023(n),

(A) within 24 months after applying for the transferable tax credit certificate or filing a claim for the production tax credit certificate, the applicant incurred a qualified capital expenditure or was the successful bidder on a bid submitted for a lease on state land under AS 38.05.180(f);

(B) [(3)] the amount expended for the purchase would not exceed the total of qualified capital expenditures and successful bids described in (A) [(2)] of this paragraph [SUBSECTION] that have not been the subject

of a finding made under this subparagraph [PARAGRAPH] for purposes of a previous purchase of a certificate;

**(3)** [(4)] the applicant does not have an outstanding liability to the state for unpaid delinquent taxes under this title;

**(4)** [(5)] the applicant's total tax liability under AS 43.55.011(e), after application of all available tax credits, for the calendar year in which the application is made is zero;

**(5)** [(6)] the applicant's average daily production of oil and gas taxable under AS 43.55.011(e) during the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the application is made was not more than 50,000 BTU equivalent barrels; and

**(6)** [(7)] the purchase is consistent with this section and regulations adopted under this section.

\* **Sec. 20.** AS 43.55.028(g) is amended to read:

(g) The department may adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of this section, including standards and procedures to allocate available money among applications for purchases under this chapter and claims for refunds under AS 43.20.046 when the total amount of the applications for purchase and claims for refund exceed [WHICH EXCEEDS] the amount of available money in the fund. The regulations adopted by the department may not, when allocating available money in the fund under this section, distinguish an application for the purchase of a credit certificate issued under AS 43.55.023(n) or a claim for refund under AS 43.20.046.

\* **Sec. 21.** AS 44.23.020(e) is amended to read:

(e) There is established within the Department of Law the function of public advocacy for regulatory affairs. The attorney general shall participate as a party in a matter that comes before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska when the attorney general determines that participation is in the public interest. When considering whether participation is in the public interest, the attorney general shall consider the issues the Regulatory Commission of Alaska must take into consideration under AS 42.05.141(d).

\* **Sec. 22.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).