

HB

527

HOUSE BILL NO. 527

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/30/02

Referred: House Special Committee on Oil and Gas, Resources

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to entry into the Minto Flats State Game Refuge for purposes of
2 exploration and development of oil and gas resources."

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

4 * Section 1. AS 16.20.037 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (h) Entry upon the Minto Flats State Game Refuge for purposes of exploration
6 and development of oil and gas resources shall be permitted when compatible with the
7 purposes specified in (b) of this section.

Alaska State Legislature

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House Resources Committee

Sponsor Statement

HB527: An Act relating to entry into the Minto Flats State Game Refuge for purposes of exploration and development of oil and gas resources.

This bill will facilitate economic development in the state of Alaska by allowing for the responsible exploration and development of oil and gas resources within the Minto Flats Game Refuge.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Commissioner's Office

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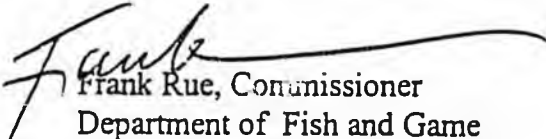
MAY 01 2002

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Pat Pourchot, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources

FROM:  Frank Rue, Commissioner
Department of Fish and Game

DATE: May 1, 2002

SUBJECT: Oil and Gas Exploration in the Minto Flats State Game Refuge

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This memo clarifies the Department of Fish and Game's position regarding oil and gas exploration and development in the Minto Flats State Game Refuge (MFSGR). In the absence of sufficient site-specific information to render a compatibility determination at this time, the department's position was summarized in our March 15, 2002, recommended Licensee Advisory. That advisory stated in part,

Licensees are advised that ADF&G may require additional mitigation measures for activities within the refuge and may, in some instances, not find all oil and gas development compatible with the refuge's purposes and management plan. Licensees must coordinate closely with ADF&G early in the exploration and development process to ensure that proposed activities are consistent with the refuge management plan and can be developed in a manner that protects core refuge habitats and public use values.

We remain committed to working with the Department of Natural Resources, the project proponents, and the affected public to find ways to advance this project consistent with the MFSGR's statutory purposes, management plan, and public use values. Final decisions regarding the compatibility of gas resource development in the MFSGR will be made on their own merits once project siting and design information is available.

Regional staff will be submitting additional resource and public use information to DNR during the open public review and comment period. We will continue to work with DNR and the

project proponents to identify alternative mitigation measures to avoid or minimize impacts. We encourage DNR to maintain open channels of communication between all affected interests.

cc: Representative Hugh Fate
Representative Scott Ogan, Chair, House Special Committee on Oil and Gas
Senator John Torgerson, Chair, Senate Resources Committee
Chip Dennerlein, ADF&G, Habitat and Restoration
Mark Meyers, ADNR, Division of Oil and Gas
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