

SCOMM

142:16

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Referred to Committee: January 12, 2005

FURTHER REFERRALS: Oil and Gas
Resources
Finance

Date of Committee Action: Feb. 11, 2005

The HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS considered:

HB 71

HOUSE BILL NO. 71

AK PENINSULA OIL & GAS LEASE SALE; TAXES

"An Act relating to a credit for certain exploration expenses against oil and gas properties production taxes on oil and gas produced from a lease or property in the state; relating to the deadline for certain exploration expenditures used as credits against production tax on oil and gas produced from a lease or property in the Alaska Peninsula competitive oil and gas areawide lease sale area after July 1, 2004; and providing for an effective date."

Recommends it be replaced with [] HCS or [☒] CS for H.R. 71 (W & M)
For Senate Bills with new title: [] Technical Title [] New Title: HCR _____ [] Same Title [☒] New Title

- ☐ attach amendments
☐ add new referral to _____ Committee
☐ Letter of Intent _____ Committee

*List of
Abbrev
for
Depts.:*
ADM
CED
COR
CRT
EED
DEC
DFG
GOV
HSS
LEG
LAW
LWF
MVA
DNR
DPS
REV
DOT
UA

[illegible][illegible]

Signing <u>with recommendations</u>	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
Roggy Wilson	Wilson				X
Carl E. Moses	MOSES	X			
Mrs. Greenberg	Greenberg	✓			
B. W. Y. H. A. N.	Weyhrauch	✓			
Chair:	Weyhrauch				
Chair:					

24-GH1040\G
Chenoweth
1/17/05

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 71(W&M)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to a credit for certain exploration expenses against oil and gas
2 properties production taxes on oil and gas produced from a lease or property in the
3 state; relating to the deadline for certain exploration expenditures used as credits
4 against the production tax on oil and gas produced from a lease or property in the
5 Alaska Peninsula competitive oil and gas areawide lease sale area after July 1, 2004; and
6 providing for an effective date."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. AS 43.55.025(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) Subject to the terms and conditions of this section, on oil and gas produced
10 from an oil and gas lease, or on gas produced from a gas only lease, on or after July 1,
11 2004, a credit against the production tax due under this chapter is allowed for
12 exploration expenditures that qualify under (b) of this section in an amount equal
13 to

(1) 20 percent of the total exploration expenditures that qualify under [(b) AND] (c) of this section or [,] 20 percent of the total exploration expenditures that qualify under [(b) AND] (d) of this section, or both, for a total **production tax** credit that does not exceed 40 percent of the total exploration expenditures that qualify under this paragraph; and [; OR]

(2) 40 percent of the total exploration expenditures that qualify under [(b) AND] (e) of this section [, FOR A TOTAL PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT THAT DOES NOT EXCEED 40 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL QUALIFIED EXPLORATION EXPENDITURES].

* Sec. 2. AS 43.55.025(b) is amended to read:

(b) To qualify for the production tax credit under (a) of this section, an exploration expenditure must be incurred for work performed on or after July 1, 2003, and before July 1, 2007, or on or after July 1, 2003, and before July 1, 2010, for exploration expenditures incurred in the Alaska Peninsula competitive oil and gas areawide lease sale area, and

(1) may be for seismic or geophysical exploration costs not connected with a specific well;

(2) if for an exploration well,

(A) must be incurred by an explorer that holds an interest in the exploration well for which the production tax credit is claimed;

(B) may be for either an oil or gas discovery well or a dry hole; and

(C) must be for goods, services, or rentals of personal property reasonably required for the surface preparation, drilling, casing, cementing, and logging of an exploration well, and, in the case of a dry hole, for the expenses required for abandonment if the well is abandoned within 18 months after the date the well was spudded;

(3) may not be for testing, stimulation, or completion costs; administration, supervision, engineering, or lease operating costs; geological or management costs; community relations or environmental costs; bonuses, taxes, or other payments to governments related to the well; or other costs that are generally

1 recognized as indirect costs or financing costs; and

2 (4) may not be incurred for an exploration well or seismic exploration
3 that is included in a plan of exploration or a plan of development for any unit on
4 May 13, 2003.

5 * Sec. 3. AS 43.55.025(d) is amended to read:

6 (d) To be eligible for a [AN ADDITIONAL] 20 percent production tax credit,
7 an exploration expenditure must

8 (1) qualify under (b) of this section; and

9 (2) be for an exploration well that is located not less than 25 miles
10 outside of the outer boundary, as delineated on July 1, 2003, of any unit that is under a
11 plan of development.

12 * Sec. 4. AS 43.55.025(e) is amended to read:

13 (e) To be eligible for the 40 percent production tax credit in (a)(2) [(a)] of this
14 section, the exploration expenditure must

15 (1) qualify under (b) of this section;

16 (2) be for seismic exploration; and

17 (3) have been conducted outside the boundaries of a production unit or
18 an exploration unit; however, the amount of the expenditure that is otherwise eligible
19 under this subsection is reduced proportionately by the portion of the seismic
20 exploration activity that crossed into a production unit or an exploration unit.

21 * Sec. 5. AS 43.55 is amended by adding a new section to read:

22 **Sec. 43.55.028. Legal description of Alaska Peninsula competitive oil and**
23 **gas areawide lease sale area.** For purposes of AS 43.55.025(b), the following
24 comprises the area of the Alaska Peninsula competitive oil and gas areawide lease
25 sale:

26 (1) Township 17 South, Ranges 44 - 58 West, Seward Meridian;

27 (2) Township 18 South, Ranges 44 - 58 West, Seward Meridian;

28 (3) Township 19 South, Ranges 44 - 58 West, Seward Meridian;

29 (4) Township 20 South, Ranges 45 - 61 West, Seward Meridian;

30 (5) Township 21 South, Ranges 46 - 54 West, Seward Meridian;

31 (6) Township 21 South, Ranges 57 - 61 West, Seward Meridian;

- 1 (7) Township 22 South, Ranges 47 - 53 West, Seward Meridian;
- 2 (8) Township 22 South, Ranges 58 - 61 West, Seward Meridian;
- 3 (9) Township 23 South, Ranges 47 - 52 West, Seward Meridian;
- 4 (10) Township 24 South, Ranges 47 - 52 West, Seward Meridian;
- 5 (11) Township 25 South, Ranges 47 - 52 West, Seward Meridian;
- 6 (12) Township 26 South, Ranges 47 - 53 West, Seward Meridian;
- 7 (13) Township 27 South, Ranges 47 - 53 West, Seward Meridian;
- 8 (14) Township 28 South, Ranges 48 - 53 West, Seward Meridian;
- 9 (15) Township 29 South, Ranges 48 - 54 West, Seward Meridian;
- 10 (16) Township 30 South, Ranges 48 - 55 West, Seward Meridian;
- 11 (17) Township 31 South, Ranges 49 - 56 West, Seward Meridian;
- 12 (18) Township 32 South, Ranges 51 - 57 West, Seward Meridian;
- 13 (19) Township 33 South, Ranges 52 - 58 West, Seward Meridian;
- 14 (20) Township 34 South, Ranges 53 - 59 West, Seward Meridian;
- 15 (21) Township 35 South, Ranges 51 - 59 West, Seward Meridian;
- 16 (22) Township 36 South, Ranges 51 - 52 West, Seward Meridian;
- 17 (23) Township 36 South, Ranges 55 - 60 West, Seward Meridian;
- 18 (24) Township 37 South, Ranges 57 - 62 West, Seward Meridian;
- 19 (25) Township 38 South, Ranges 58 - 63 West, Seward Meridian;
- 20 (26) Township 39 South, Ranges 59 - 64 West, Seward Meridian;
- 21 (27) Township 40 South, Ranges 59 - 65 West, Seward Meridian;
- 22 (28) Township 41 South, Ranges 63 - 68 West, Seward Meridian;
- 23 (29) Township 42 South, Ranges 63 - 69 West, Seward Meridian;
- 24 (30) Township 43 South, Ranges 65 - 70 West, Seward Meridian;
- 25 (31) Township 44 South, Ranges 65 - 71 West, Seward Meridian;
- 26 (32) Township 45 South, Ranges 67 - 72 West, Seward Meridian;
- 27 (33) Township 46 South, Ranges 68 - 73 West, Seward Meridian;
- 28 (34) Township 47 South, Ranges 69 - 78 West, Seward Meridian;
- 29 (35) Township 48 South, Ranges 70 - 81 West, Seward Meridian;
- 30 (36) Township 49 South, Ranges 70 - 83 West, Seward Meridian;
- 31 (37) Township 50 South, Ranges 71 - 84 West, Seward Meridian;

1 (38) Township 51 South, Ranges 71 - 85 West, Seward Meridian;

2 (39) Township 52 South, Ranges 74 - 75 West, Seward Meridian;

3 (40) Township 52 South, Ranges 79 - 86 West, Seward Meridian;

4 (41) Township 53 South, Ranges 85 - 87 West, Seward Meridian;

5 (42) Township 54 South, Ranges 85 - 87 West, Seward Meridian;

6 (43) any adjustment to (1) - (42) of this section as described in the

7 Department of Natural Resources' final written finding of best interest made under

8 AS 38.05.035.

9 * **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
10 read:

11 CONTINGENT EFFECT OF SECTIONS. (a) Sections 2 and 5 of this Act take effect
12 only if the commissioner of natural resources finds that the requirements of AS 38.05.035(e)
13 and (g) are met and the Alaska Peninsula competitive oil and gas areawide lease sale occurs.

14 (b) The commissioner of natural resources shall promptly notify the revisor of statutes
15 that the lease sale described in (a) of this section has occurred.

16 * **Sec. 7.** If secs. 2 and 5 of this Act take effect under sec. 6 of this Act, they take effect the
17 day the commissioner of natural resources notifies the revisor of statutes that the lease sale
18 described in sec. 6 of this Act has occurred.

19 * **Sec. 8.** Except as provided in sec. 7 of this Act, this Act takes effect immediately under
20 AS 01.10.070(c).

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HB 71
(H) Publish Date: 1/12/05

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
Title Extending Exploration Credit against RDU Resource Development
Production Tax Component Oil & Gas Development
Sponsor Rules
Requester Governor Component No. 439

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	***					
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill extends the sunset date on the oil and gas exploration credit against production tax (SB185, CH59, SLA03) only for the proposed Alaska Peninsula sale area. The proposed Alaska Peninsula sale is tentatively scheduled for fall of 2005. It is anticipated that leases would not be issued until spring 2006. It is likely that exploration expenditures on these leases would occur after the current July 1, 2007 deadline, in which case they would not be credited against future production taxes unless the current statute is amended.

*** An extension of the sunset deadline to the proposed sale area may encourage additional or higher competitive bids, although these additional revenues are impossible to predict or quantify.

Prepared by: Janet Baxter Phone 465-4730
Division: Commissioner's Office Date/Time 12/8/2004
Approved by: Tom Irwin Date 12/8/2004
Agency: Natural Resources

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: HB 71
 (H) Publish Date: 1/12/05

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Revenue
 Title Credit for Certain Exploration Expenses RDU Revenue Operations
Against Oil & Gas Properties Production Taxes Component Tax Division
 Sponsor Rules Committee
 Requester Governor Component No. 2476

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	See Analysis					
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Currently the State plans to hold a Bristol Bay lease sale in October of 2005 assuming a favorable preliminary best interests finding. If bids are received and accepted at this lease sale, leases would be issued in spring 2006, with exploration of this region beginning that summer, FY 2007-FY2008. It is possible that 1 to 2 wells per year will be drilled on average over the period 2007 to 2009. Wells will be drilled from onshore facilities, but given the remoteness of the area and lack of infrastructure, we estimate that the wells could cost roughly \$15 million per well. We assume that on average these wells would qualify for a production tax credit equal to 30% of qualified costs, half qualifying for the 40% credit and half for the 20% credit. (continued on Pg 2)

Prepared by: Tom Boutin Phone _____
 Division: Department of Revenue Date/Time 1/11/05 2:59 PM
 Approved by: Tom Boutin Date 1/11/2005
 Agency: Department of Revenue

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

As a result the credit would be worth around \$7 million per year to the exploration firms from fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2010 (assuming a year lag between exploration expense and claiming of the credit). The adoption of this severance tax credit could yield revenue in two ways. First, the existence of an exploration credit over the period of likely exploration could prompt companies to participate in a lease sale when they otherwise would not. Currently, the State does not include any revenue from the lease sale in its revenue forecast. Such a lease sale could yield around \$10 million if bids were based on the possibility of finding a field containing a minimum economic field size of between 100 and 200 million barrels of oil. Such a field, if discovered and developed, would yield about \$50 million dollars a year in revenue (royalty, severance tax, and corporate income tax) over the first 10 years of production.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

January 17, 2005

SUBJECT: Draft House Ways & Means Committee Substitute for House Bill 71 [CSHB 71(W&M)] prepared solely for the purpose of conformity with Legislative Drafting Manual (Work Order No. 24-GH1040\G)

TO: Representative Bruce Weyhrauch, Chair
House Special Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Jack Chenoweth
Assistant Revisor 

Ginny Austerman has asked this office to prepare a draft committee substitute that conforms House Bill 71, a governor's bill, to the requirements of the Legislative Drafting Manual.

These are the changes to HB 71 that are incorporated into the draft committee substitute:

-- page 2, line 15: I have deleted reference in the amendment to a permanent law provision of a reference to "section 5 of this Act". Our practice, with a very limited number of exceptions made where it is not possible to substitute an appropriate permanent law cross-reference, has been to omit temporary law bill section references in the body of permanent law.

-- page 3, line 27 through page 5, line 6:

Based on examples appearing in AS 16.20.036(a)(10) and AS 16.20.615(a), I have omitted the first reference to "West" in the legal description of the range numbers of the land proposed for inclusion in the Alaska Peninsula Competitive Oil and Gas Areawide Lease Sale Area.

I have also opted to recommend that the legal description of the areawide lease sale area be incorporated as an addition to the permanent law. The test of whether the provision should be treated as permanent law or as temporary law, as recommended in the administration bill, turns on language in the Legislative Drafting Manual directing that "[b]ills creating uncodified law are generally . . . most laws of a temporary or special character." Drafting Manual at page 23. While the provision in question might be treated as "special [in] character," in point of fact the description of the withdrawn areawide oil and gas lease sale may hold the land and water areas in that status for a longer period than most provisions that are typically treated as "temporary."

Representative Bruce Weyhrauch
January 17, 2005
Page 2

Finally, I would propose that the legal description, codified, not appear as part of AS 43.55.025, a provision that is already fairly technical, but that it stand apart in a section of its own.

-- page 5, following line 13: Bill section 7 makes the contingently effective amendments to AS 43.55.025(b) [bill section 2] and the legal description of the proposed Alaska Peninsula Competitive Oil and Gas Areawide Lease Sale Area [bill section 5] effective "the day the commissioner of natural resources notifies the revisor of statutes that the lease sale . . . has occurred." There is no corresponding duty or obligation imposed on the commissioner to transmit that report. Section 6(b), new in the draft committee substitute, adds that obligation.

*

There are some other potential problems with the bill that I am unable to address, which the committee may want to question the administration representative(s) who appear to testify on it:

--page 1, line 5: The bill title refers to "expenditures" claimed as credits "on production tax on oil and gas produced from a lease sale . . . after July 1, 2004," but the authorization in the body of the bill, at page 2, lines 13 - 15, refers to activity occurring on or after July 1, 2003; should the title date reference be conformed? It is the opinion of at least one of the revising attorneys in that office that it should.

-- page 3, line 10: In the text of bill section 3, eligibility is extended for the second 20 percent credit covering an exploration well located within 25 miles outside of the outer boundary, as delineated on July 1, 2003, of a unit that is under a plan of development. If exploration wells associated with, but located outside the proposed Alaska Peninsula Competitive Oil and Gas Areawide Lease Sale Area are intended to be covered by this provision, does the fact that the outer boundary might not have been delineated by that date prevent eligibility? Should the date be altered?

Finally, as a policy consideration -- you do understand, do you not, that the change of the "or" to "and" on page 2, line 5 of the measure as introduced allows for a doubling of the potential cumulation of expenditures that may be claimed as credits from the 40 percent maximum of current law to a possible maximum of 80 percent.

JBC:jad
05-015.jad

Enclosure

4871

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

P.O. Box 110001
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0001
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January 11, 2005

The Honorable John Harris
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Harris:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to a credit for certain exploration expenses against oil and gas properties production taxes on oil and gas produced from a lease or property in the state and relating to the deadline for certain exploration expenditures used as credits against production tax on oil and gas produced from a lease or property in the Alaska Peninsula competitive oil and gas areawide lease sale area after July 1, 2004.

The Bristol Bay area is one of the largest onshore tracts in Alaska to potentially open for oil and gas leasing in the last 20 years. The northerly portion of the basin is believed to be gas prone. Extending the timeframe for exploration incentives will benefit the residents of the region with the potential for a natural gas supply that could lower their fishing costs, provide heat for their homes and result in less expensive power.

In the interest of providing tax incentives to encourage exploration in Alaska, new AS 43.55.025, which allows oil producers to credit exploration expenditures against production tax on oil and gas produced after July 1, 2004, was added in the 2003 session (HCS CSSB 185(O&G) am H; ch. 59, SLA 2003 (effective September 9, 2003)).

In order to qualify for the production tax credit under that statute, exploration expenditures must be incurred on or after July 1, 2003, and before July 1, 2007. It has become apparent that the July 1, 2007, deadline will come too soon for oil producers that obtain leases in the proposed Bristol Bay (Alaska Peninsula) Competitive Oil and Gas Areawide Lease Sale Area described in ch. 9, SLA 2004 (which took effect March 18, 2004). In this proposed lease sale area, the Department of Natural Resources anticipates that leases would

The Honorable John Harris

January 11, 2005

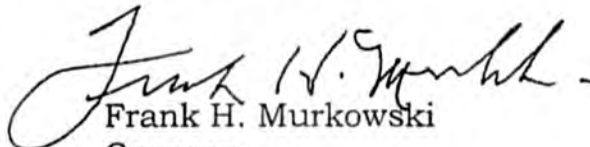
Page 2

not be issued until the spring of 2006. Given this timetable, it is likely that exploration expenditures on these leases would occur after July 1, 2007, in which case they could not be credited against future production taxes.

In order to provide similar tax incentives to the bidders on these proposed oil and gas leases, this bill would extend the deadline for exploration expenditures in the proposed Bristol Bay (Alaska Peninsula) competitive oil and gas areawide lease sale area to July 1, 2010. This bill also would make some minor technical changes to AS 43.55.025 to clarify the intent and harmonize terms used in that recently enacted section.

I urge your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely yours,


Frank H. Murkowski
Governor

Enclosure

P.O. Box 189
NAKNEK, ALASKA 99633

www.theborough.com



TELEPHONE
(907) 246-4224
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Bristol Bay Borough

October 22, 2003

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2003
DIVISION OF
OIL AND GAS

Commissioner Tom Irwin
Department of Natural Resources
550 W 7th Avenue, Suite 1400
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

RE: Bristol Bay Region: Oil and Gas Programs
Public Comments - Due October 30, 2003

Commissioner Irwin:

Please consider the following comments from the Bristol Bay Borough:

1. The Bristol Bay Borough Assembly is in strong support of the State of Alaska's recent efforts to advance oil & gas exploration in the Bristol Bay region.
2. The Bristol Bay Borough is committed to finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources outlining critical areas of interest with respect to regional oil & gas development and outstanding municipal lands issues.
3. The Bristol Bay Borough is supportive of the continued public outreach evidenced to date by the State of Alaska on the Bristol Bay oil & gas exploration initiative and anticipates that this outreach effort will remain constant throughout the proposed development timeline.

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

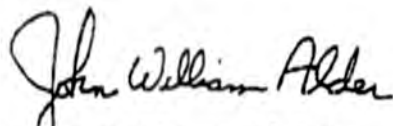
OCT 24 2003

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Letter to Commissioner Irwin
October 22, 2003
Page 2

4. The residents of the Bristol Bay Borough are heavily dependent upon the robust regional fish & wildlife resources for subsistence needs. While the Bristol Bay Borough Assembly is in support of resource development, all development must proceed with due diligence in order to minimize potential negative impacts to the fish & wildlife resources.
5. Local knowledge of regional environmental conditions and fish & wildlife characteristics is one of our greatest resources in the Bristol Bay region. Accordingly, the Bristol Bay Borough recommends that all state agencies proceed throughout the oil & gas development process in a method that relies heavily upon local input. Any subcommittees or advisory panels empowered by the state should include local knowledgeable residents.
6. The Bristol Bay region has long suffered from seasonally sporadic employment. The regional oil & gas development initiative offers an exciting departure from the long winter season low employment cycle. The Bristol Bay Borough Assembly strongly urges the State of Alaska to continue in its expressed commitment to channel oil & gas employment training through the newly established Southwest Alaska Vocational Education Center (SAVEC) in King Salmon thereby enabling optimal local hire during exploration and development of potential oil & gas prospects.

Sincerely,



John William Alder
Borough Manager

cc: Mayor Michael Swain
Borough Assembly members

ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF

■ KING COVE ■ SAND POINT ■ AKUTAN ■ COLD BAY ■ FALSE PASS ■ NELSON LAGOON

October 14, 2003

James Hansen,
Leasing Manager
Division of Oil & Gas
Department of Natural Resources
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 800
Anchorage, AK 99501

Ref.: Proposed Alaska Peninsula & Bristol Bay
Oil & Gas Leasing Program

Dear Mr. Hansen,

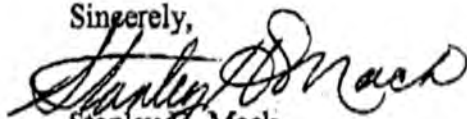
The Assembly of the Aleutians East Borough wants to thank you and your team for the presentation on October 7, 2003. Even though the weather did not allow everyone to get to Cold Bay, the Assembly's comments after the meeting included their appreciation of your efforts to brief the Assembly and the residents of the Aleutians East Borough.

First, it is the Borough's understanding that if there is Best Interest Finding, all development will take place within the State's jurisdiction and that there will be no development off shore. Furthermore, the Borough understands that the majority of the development will likely be on State owned land. Second, the concerns voiced by the people of Nelson Lagoon are symptomatic of the concerns of the majority of the Aleutians East Borough's residents. They were:

1. We need to protect our fish and game resources.
2. We need local jobs and employment at all stages of development. This must be at all levels, management, technical and labor, union and non union, should oil or gas be produced within the Aleutians East Borough.
3. We need any and all exploration sites returned to their original nature.

To this end, the Assembly passed a motion supporting the State of Alaska's efforts to conduct a Best Interest Finding process for the proposed oil & gas leasing program on the Alaska Peninsula.

Sincerely,


Stanley H. Mack
Mayor

RECEIVED

OCT 16 2003

DIVISION OF
OIL AND GAS

☐ CLERK/PLANNER
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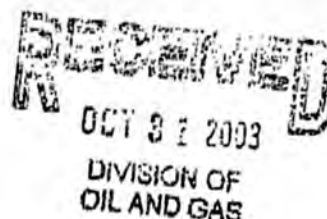
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e-mail: aebanc@gol.net

☐ FINANCE DIRECTOR
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(907) 497-2388 FAX
e-mail: aebfinance@aol.com

*Lake and Peninsula Borough**P.O. Box 495**King Salmon, Alaska 99613**Telephone: (907) 246-3421**Fax: (907) 246-6602*

October 27, 2003

Patrick Galvin, Petroleum Land Manager
Division of Oil & Gas
550 W 7th Ave, Suite 800
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3560



RE: Call for Comments, AK Peninsula Areawide 2005 Oil & Gas Lease Sale

Dear Mr. Galvin:

First, we would like to thank the Governor, the Governors staff and those within DNR's Oil & Gas Division for the recognition of the extra attention required "to get the word out" to those who live on the Alaska Peninsula concerning the upcoming oil and gas lease sales. There are many communication gaps in bush Alaska making your task that much more difficult.

The regional meetings in Dillingham, Bristol Bay Borough (Naknek) and in the Lake & Peninsula Borough offices (King Salmon) were instrumental in ensuring accurate information is "passed along" to others. However, due to the size of the Lake and Peninsula Borough and the steep transportation costs to travel between villages, some over 1 hour away from King Salmon by plane, I would encourage you consider additional informational meetings to be held in Port Heiden, Iliamna, and the Chigniks, ASAP. We will be glad to provide you with local contacts for those communities.

Lake & Peninsula Borough responded earlier to Mr. James Hansen's request for information providing copies of the borough's latest Community Economic Development Strategies document. Additionally, community profile maps will soon be available (expected by June 2004) on-line at DCED's website of all the villages within the Borough. These maps will contain several layers of information readily accessible by the user. Local information pertaining to sensitive cultural areas, traditional hunting or gathering areas and local historic sites are included on most community maps (local preference so not every village map contains this information). These maps will no doubt prove to be invaluable relating to potential exploration that might be considered in close proximity to a village.

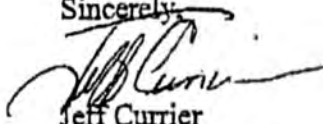
Finally, the Lake and Peninsula Borough supports onshore exploration and development but are concerned that the Best Interest Findings developed from this "call for comment period" also apparently apply to the 1.5 million acres of offshore acreage included in the lease sale, and further, that those findings are valid 10 years out.

We want to make it perfectly clear that while we are in support of onshore exploration and leasing, "the jury is still out" in most Borough villages when it comes to offshore exploration. I suspect much more information and discussion with the village leaders around the Bay will be required before offshore activities receive a majority of local support.

By supporting the current lease sale proposal, the resulting exploration and possible development of onshore sites within the next 5 years, we want to ensure we do not lose the ability to consider through separate actions, any potential exploration and development of offshore acreage in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input. Please feel free to contact me as may be necessary.

Sincerely,



Jeff Currier
Borough Manager

P.O. Box 189
NAKNEK, ALASKA 99633

www.theborough.com



TELEPHONE
(907) 246-4224
FAX
(907) 246-6633

Bristol Bay Borough

BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH RESOLUTION 2002-02

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OIL & GAS EXPLORATION ON NATIVE CORPORTATION LANDS NEAR BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH

WHEREAS, Bristol Bay Borough and Communities throughout Western Alaska face difficult economic conditions due in part to high costs of living, high costs of energy and depressed fish prices and;

WHEREAS, all refined petroleum products required to operate home heating furnaces, electrical generators, cannery retorts and fish harvesting vessels are imported into the region and stored, both at very high costs and;

WHEREAS, the oil & gas industry has in the past expressed interest in exploring for reserves on the Alaska Peninsula on or near lands currently owned by the Alaska Peninsula Corporation and Bristol Bay Native Corporation as well as other lands in the region and;

WHEREAS, the interest was significant enough for the private sector to invest considerable capital in seismic and actual drilling exploration and;

WHEREAS, Senator Stevens in recent conversations with Bristol Bay Borough officials and before the Alaska State Legislature indicated a willingness to petition Congress to add funding to the United State Geologic Survey in order to enable regional oil & gas assessments throughout rural Alaska and;

WHEREAS, potential development of oil & gas reserves on the Alaska Peninsula would likely yield direct benefits to the Bristol Bay Borough, borough residents and businesses and economic development efforts to revive our ailing economy and,

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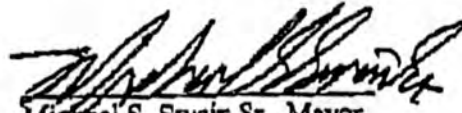
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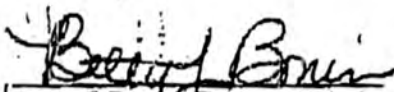
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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bristol Bay Borough Assembly strongly encourages the local & regional Bristol Bay ANCSA corporations to work closely with the Borough, private sector oil & gas firms and the Congressional delegation in the wise development of our natural oil & gas resources in an effort to optimize benefits to the overall Bristol Bay region and State of Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED, by a duly constituted quorum of the Bristol Bay Borough Assembly on this 4th day of February, 2002.


Michael S. Swain Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:


Betty J. Bonin, Borough Clerk

FEB-10-2005 THU 10:01 AM SOA DOG

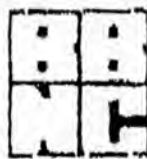
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JUL-02-03 WED 01:37 PM

FAX NO. 2898904

P. 08/27



Bristol Bay Native Corporation

Enriching Our Native Way of Life

800 Cordova Street, Suite 200 / Anchorage, Alaska 99501-6299 / (907) 278-3602 / fax (907) 276-3924

4184
JP
TS

VIA FEDEX & FAX: (907) 465-3532

June 26, 2003

Honorable Frank Murkowski, Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Fax Received
JUN 26 2003
Office of the Governor

Subject: **Support for Leasing Program in the Bristol Bay Region**

Dear Governor Murkowski:

Residents of the Bristol Bay region sorely need your help in order for them to help themselves. We need you to institute an oil and gas leasing program in Bristol Bay. We've compared and contrasted the pros and cons of exploration licensing and leasing, and we believe that, for several reasons, the State's best option is to put its uplands on the leasing schedule.

First, the "leasing notice" is announced to a wider audience than the exploration licensing notice is. Second, leasing, since it includes rental, bonus, and minimum work commitment terms, generally generates more revenue and more information for the State. Lastly, the land leased can be more than the 500,000-acre "cap" imposed by the exploration-licensing program, and this may be more desirable from the industry's standpoint.

BBNC has embarked on a mission to reinvigorate the environmentally responsible exploration for, and development of, oil and gas resources in Bristol Bay. We've also received the blessing, by resolution, of several Bay-area organizations that recognize the need for more jobs and cheaper energy. I've attached copies of the fourteen resolutions I've received so far, which include both regional and village-level organizations.

If you have any questions, please call me at 1-800-478-8602.

Sincerely,

Paul C. Rushl
V.P., Land & Resources

Cc: Tom Irwin, DNR Commissioner
Randy Ruiderich, AOGCC Commissioner
Mark Myers, DOG Director
BBNC Board of Directors

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	6/26/03	Page	2
To	Gov. Murkowski	From	Paul Rushl		
Co/Dapt.	State of Alaska	Co.	BBNC		
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #	(907) 465-3532	Fax #			

SEP-25-03 15:28 From:BRISTOL BAY NATIVE CORPORATION

9072763924

T-213 P.02/02 Job-240



King Salmon Tribe

People of the Village

P.O. BOX 68 KING SALMON, AK 99613

TEL: 907/246-3553 FAX: 907/246-3449

E-MAIL: kstivo@bristolbay.com

September 15, 2003

Bristol Bay Native Corporation
800 Cordova Street
Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501-6299

VIA FACSIMILE: 907/276-3924

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, Bristol Bay has been faced with economic failure year after year, due to the low return of salmon and the low prices paid to the fisherman. Because of the failure in our fishery, our people are faced with having to live in poverty. We can no longer pretend that our fisheries will be, as we knew it. Other than fishing, most of our people in our villages have very few economic opportunities. As a result, we have friends and family fighting amongst themselves for these limited jobs. Until there are economic changes in place, we will forever be faced with economic despair because there are no other means to provide for ourselves other than what we have today. We need economic diversity.

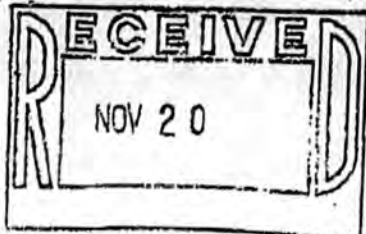
The village of King Salmon is in support of developing our oil and gas reserves both onshore and offshore and developing our mineral deposits here in Bristol Bay. We also support ground transportation from King Salmon to Anchorage so that we can reduce transportation costs to promote economic opportunities. This would also reduce the cost of living in our villages and region. Whether any of these development issues take place remains to be seen. However, we cannot continue to impoverish our people because of differences of opinions in regards to economic development.

It is unfair of people and organizations who criticize development in our region when in fact they offer no solutions to address our current short and long-term needs. In addition, many people who are opposed to economic development have good paying jobs, or work and live outside our region. Yet, many try to dictate what is best for us and our villages.

In closing, the village of King Salmon asks that we all put aside any differences that we may have of economic development in Bristol Bay. Our people deserve more than having to live in poverty and the consideration of going on welfare.

Sincerely,

Ralph Angasan, Sr.
President



NEWHALEN TRIBAL COUNCIL
100 POWER LANE
P.O. BOX 207
NEWHALEN, AK 99606
PHONE (907) 571-1410 OR (907) 571-1317
FAX (907) 571-1537
EMAIL NEWHALENTRIBAL@STARBAND.NET

November 12, 2003

Fred Angasan
Bristol Bay Native Association
P.O. Box 310
Dillingham, Alaska 99576

NOV 25 2003
OIL AND GAS

Re: Native Village of Newhalen Statement of Interest

Dear Mr. Angasan;

The Newhalen Tribal Council has become increasingly aware of potential resource development activities within our area. In particular, we are aware of the increasing interest in the Pebble Copper mine. We believe resource development has the ability to bring economic opportunities to our community. However, we are concerned that improper management, poor planning and the lack of consideration of our local concerns can adversely affect our interests.

- On November 12, 2003 the Newhalen Tribal Council discussed our understanding of the potential commercial viability of the Pebble Copper mine. In addition, we discussed our understanding of the State of Alaska's Roads to Resources program and the current efforts to revise the Bristol Bay Area Plan. Through our discussion we identified the need to ensure the opportunity for active participation, effective public involvement and cooperative consultation regarding these matters.

We are writing to notify you that we have identified Joanne Wassillie as the primary point of contact for the Native Village of Newhalen. Joanne can be reach at:

Joanne Wassillie, Administrator
Newhalen Tribal Council
P.O. Box 207
Newhalen, Alaska 99606
(907) 571-1410 (907) 571-1537 fax

- We request that you add our designated point of contact to all public/stakeholder distribution lists so that the Newhalen Tribal Council will receive adequate advance notice of all upcoming public meetings related to the development of the Pebble Copper mine, including planning efforts by the State of Alaska to promote natural resource development within our region.

Newhalen Tribal Council
100 Power lane
P.O. Box 207
Newhalen, AK 99606
phone (907) 571-1410 or (907) 571-1317
Fax (907) 571-1537
EMAIL NEWHALENTTRIBAL@STARBAND.NET

RESOLUTION 03-24

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NEWHALEN TRIBAL COUNCIL FOR
DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING AN ACTIVE VOICE AND PARTNERSHIP
WITH ALL APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTAL, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
SECTOR ENTITIES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS: the Native Village of Newhalen is a federally recognized tribal government possessing the powers of a sovereign entity and the rights of self-determination; and

WHEREAS: the Newhalen Tribal Council is the governing body for the Native Village of Newhalen and is authorized and responsible to protect its members, property, resources and interests; and

WHEREAS: the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of our tribal members, families and village is critical to the exercise of tribal self-governance and self-determination; and

WHEREAS: the tribal members of Newhalen rely on subsistence resources and the subsistence way of life which is essential to meet the nutritional, cultural and traditional needs and values of the tribe; and

WHEREAS: the health, productivity and availability of our subsistence resources are critical to the health, safety and welfare of our tribal members, families and village; and

WHEREAS: the development of natural resources, including mining, oil and gas development, and associated transportation infrastructure, may adversely affect the health, safety and welfare of our tribal members, families and village, and the subsistence resources we rely on, if not properly planned, designed, sited, operated, managed or maintained; and

WHEREAS: proper planning, design, siting, operation, and management of development projects, and all associated activities and infrastructure, requires the active involvement, cooperation, coordination and consultation at all levels (tribal, federal, state, local and international governments and private and public sectors); and

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P. 15

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FAX NO. 2278904

P. 04

2832
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CITY OF ALEKNAGIK

P.O. BOX 99, MAIN STREET
ALEKNAGIK, ALASKA 99555-0099
PHONE: 907-842-5953 OR 842-2528
FAX: 907-842-2107
EMAIL: cityalekn@nushtel.com

April 11, 2003

Governor Frank H. Murkowski
Office of the Governor
3rd Floor State Capital, Mail Stop 0001
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

RECEIVED

APR 16 2003

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

RE: Oil and Gas Development in Bristol Bay

Dear Governor Murkowski:

The City Council of the City of Aleknagik passed Resolution 03-11 supporting OCS 92 lease sales for oil and gas development in Bristol Bay at their regularly meeting on April 8, 2003. The City of Aleknagik supports economic development, local jobs, lower energy costs, less dependence on foreign oil, and protection of the fisheries and environment.

Please support oil and gas development in Bristol Bay and help to move up the OCS sales from 2011 to the earliest possible date. Thank you for your time and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Chris Chuckwuk
Mayor

Enclosure: Resolution 03-11

cc: Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Laura Murkowski
Congressman Don Young
Alaska State Legislature
Paul Roehl, Bristol Bay Native Corporation

APR-23-03 WED 07:31 AM

FAX NO. 2228904

P. 05

CITY OF ALEKNAGIK
RESOLUTION 03-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, OF THE CITY OF ALEKNAGIK
SUPPORTING OCS 92 LEASE SALES FOR OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT IN
BRISTOL BAY.

WHEREAS, Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Sale 92, which occurred in October 1988, garnered nearly \$96 million in oil and gas bids for 122,000 acres contained in 23 leases; and

WHEREAS, the lease sale happened at a time when the price for sockeye salmon was high (up to \$2.60/lb.) and the price for oil was relatively low (\$17.30/bbl.); and

WHEREAS, the high commercial value of salmon in the late 1980's, coupled with the threat posed by the oil industry to salmon and wildlife habitat (particularly after the March 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill), resulted in widespread opposition to the OCS 92 lease sales, and eventually lead to the cancellation of those lease sales and the return of the bid proceeds to the respective oil companies; and

WHEREAS, lease sale area OCS 92 is not scheduled to be revisited by the U.S. Minerals Management Service until 2011; and

WHEREAS, the environmentally responsible exploration for, and development of, Bristol Bay oil and gas resources could create needed high-paying, rewarding jobs for the people of the region, especially given the recent, disastrous Bristol Bay commercial salmon seasons; and

WHEREAS development of these oil and gas resources could also result in substantially reduced heating and energy costs for residents in the Bristol Bay region, and could enhance the competitiveness of the Bristol Bay commercial salmon and other industries, such as mining; and

WHEREAS, given the rising tensions in the Middle East, it is becoming increasingly clear that America's dependence on foreign oil imports is highly undesirable, both from a strategic and domestic standpoint.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Aleknagik that the City of Aleknagik strongly supports oil and gas exploration and development in the Bristol Bay region provided maximum protection be given to the fishery resources and that exploration and development be done in an environmental manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Aleknagik supports immediate exploration and development of the OCS 92 area and request the assistance of Senator Stevens, Senator Murkowski, Congressman Young, Governor Murkowski, and the

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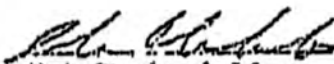
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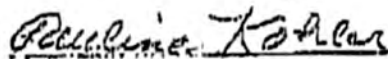
Alaska State Legislature to assist in moving the OCS sales schedule up from 2011 to 2004 or as earliest as possible.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 7 day of April, 2003 at Aleknagik, Alaska.

SIGNED:


Chris Chickwuk, Mayor

ATTEST:


Pauline Kohler, City Clerk

WHEREAS: the Tribal Council is aware that Northern Dynasty Minerals Limited is actively accessing the economic viability of the Pebble Copper mine which is considered to be one of the largest copper-gold deposits in the world; and

WHEREAS: the Tribal Council is aware that the Pebble Copper mine is being considered under the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities 'Roads to Resources' program and that Department of Natural Resource is revising the Bristol Bay Area Plan which governs resource management on state land; and

WHEREAS: the Tribal Council wishes to ensure its active involvement, participation and consultation through governmental, public and political processes to ensure protection of tribal interests and rights and the protection of the health, safety and welfare of our tribal members, families and village.

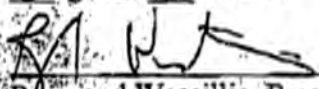
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newhalen Tribal Council hereby authorizes the Tribal President, with the assistance of the Tribal Administrator, to serve as the lead point of contact for all correspondence related to the development of the Pebble Copper mine, including all correspondence related to the state's Roads to Resource program and the Bristol Bay Area Plan revisions.

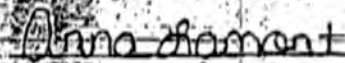
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Newhalen Tribal Council hereby directs the Tribal President to forward a letter to all appropriate governmental, public and private sector entities notifying them of Newhalen Tribal Council's interest in being actively involved, informed, and consulted regarding matters related to the development of the Pebble Copper mine and associated activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is intended for the stated purpose of establishing and fostering cooperative relationships with Tribal, State, Federal and local governments and private and public sector entities and should not be used as an approval or disapproval of the Pebble Copper mine, and shall not be interpreted in any way to diminish the protected rights and interests and unique legal status of the Native Village of Newhalen as a federally recognized tribe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mr. Raymond Wassillie, President of the Newhalen Tribal Council, or his designee, hereby authorized to sign and or negotiate any terms, or conditions, or modifications to this "638" contract with the Bureau of Indians Affairs.

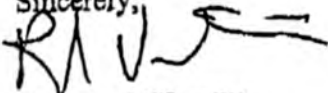
This resolution was duly considered and adopted at the general meeting of the Newhalen Tribal Council called and convened this 12 day of Nov, 2003 by a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against 0 abstain.


Raymond Wassillie, President


Anna Lamont, Secretary

The Newhalen Tribal Council wishes to establish and foster on-going cooperative relationships with those governmental, public and private sector entities associated with the potential development of the Pebble Copper mine to ensure the interests of the Native Village of Newhalen are protected. We look forward to working with you in the future and if we can be of any assistance please contact Joanne.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'RW' followed by a stylized flourish.

Raymond Wassilie
President

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**Between****ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES****And****THE ALEUT CORPORATION****To****HOLD CONCURRENT OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES OF STATE AND TAC
LAND IN THE ALEUT REGION &
TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION OF A TRANSPORTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WILL SUPPORT THESE DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is made and entered into by and between the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and The Aleut Corporation (TAC), collectively referred to as "the Parties." The purpose of this MOU is to contribute to the achievement of common goals and objectives of the Parties and to establish an effective communication framework between the Parties.

Background:

- A. The DNR is tasked with managing the State of Alaska's land in southwest Alaska and the natural resources contained therein, including oil, gas, and minerals, and TAC is responsible for managing its 1.572 million acre mineral estate on behalf of its 3,250 shareholders.
- B. Similar to the North Slope and Cook Inlet regions of Alaska, the Bristol Bay basin including portions of the Aleut region on the Alaska peninsula has been identified as having good potential for commercial quantities of oil and gas deposits.
- C. Any discoveries of, and subsequent development of, commercial quantities of oil, gas, & mineral deposits in the Aleut region should benefit both the State of Alaska and TAC's shareholders.
- D. Like other mineral deposits, oil and gas resources know no political boundaries, and it is often logical and desirable for two adjacent landowners to have similar land management and leasing programs in place.
- E. With TAC's support, the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys applied for a 3-year, \$700,000 U.S. Dept. of Energy grant to further evaluate the oil and gas potential of the Bristol Bay basin.
- F. The development of transportation infrastructure, as recommended by the Southwest Alaska Regional Transportation Plan, such as deep water ports, roads and airports, along the Alaska Peninsula should make oil, gas, and other mineral prospects more accessible, and thereby more economically feasible to explore and develop.

- G. The Alaska DNR, TAC, and BLM have been working collaboratively to rationalize ANCSA 17(b) and RS 2477 access issues.
- H. The Alaska DNR, TAC, and BLM have been working collaboratively to revoke obsolete federal land withdrawals in the Bristol Bay region.
- I. TAC supports the construction of an access road from Cold Bay to King Cove.

Agreements:

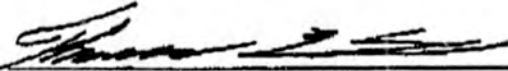
- The term of this MOU will be for five (5) years from the effective date and can be extended for five-year periods thereafter with the written agreement of the Parties.
- To the extent consistent with their respective interests and statutory or regulatory responsibilities, or corporate responsibilities, the Parties will work cooperatively to ensure that exploration and development activities are consistent with the land management and development plans of both Parties.
- The Parties agree that they will cooperate to ensure all development projects in the Aleut region are pursued in an environmentally responsible manner with maximum efforts to minimize impacts to fishery resources.
- TAC and the State of Alaska will work cooperatively to re-open offshore oil and gas prospects to exploration.
- Where reasonable to do so, the Parties will endeavor to synchronize the timing of their oil and gas-leasing schedule for their respective lands.
- The Parties will help facilitate the design and construction of a transportation network that will make oil, gas, and other mineral prospects more accessible and inter-connect communities.
- The Parties will communicate their development goals to other interested parties in southwest Alaska, such as tribal organizations, village corporations, and borough and city governments.
- The Parties will not act contrary to applicable laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.
- To the extent legally permissible, information generated pursuant to this MOU may be kept confidential when requested in writing by a party to this MOU. Information released by a party to this MOU must credit the source of the information.
- Where reasonable, the Parties will issue joint press releases on matters related to this MOU and will coordinate responses to media questions.
- Notices regarding actions under this MOU will be sent to (for each party):

DNR Commissioner
State of Alaska DNR
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1400
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561

Chief Executive Officer
The Aleut Corporation
4000 Old Seward Hwy, #300
Anchorage, AK 99503

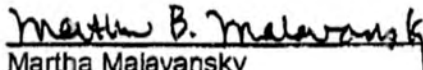
- This MOU may be terminated within thirty(30) days written notice by either Party.
- This MOU can be modified upon written consent of the Parties.
- Others may become party to this MOU upon written consent of the Parties.

Approved:



Tom Irwin, Commissioner
Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources

12/18/03
Date



Martha Malavansky
President, TAC

12/18/03
Date

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**Between****ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES****And****BRISTOL BAY NATIVE CORPORATION****To****FACILITATE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES ON STATE AND BBNC LAND IN
THE BRISTOL BAY REGION**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is made and entered into by and between the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC), collectively referred to as "the Parties." The purpose of this MOU is to contribute to the achievement of common goals and objectives of the Parties and to establish an effective communication framework between the Parties.

Background:

- A. The DNR is tasked with managing the State of Alaska's land in southwest Alaska and the natural resources contained therein, including oil, gas, and minerals, and BBNC is responsible for managing its 3.1 million acre mineral estate on behalf of its 7,100 shareholders.
- B. Similar to the North Slope and Cook Inlet regions of Alaska, the Bristol Bay basin has been identified as having good potential for commercial quantities of oil and gas deposits.
- C. Exploration of oil and gas resources is a vital component to stimulating the local economy and providing jobs and economic opportunities in the region.
- D. The discovery of commercial quantities of oil and gas would provide an opportunity for low cost energy in the region, further stimulating the local economy.
- E. Any discoveries of commercial quantities of oil and gas in the Bristol Bay region will benefit both BBNC's shareholders and the State of Alaska, so it is in the best interest of the Parties to encourage exploration for such resources.
- F. BBNC has requested that the State facilitate on-shore oil and gas exploration in the region by holding annual areawide leasesales, beginning as soon as possible.
- G. Like other mineral deposits, oil and gas resources know no political boundaries, and it is often logical and desirable for two adjacent

landowners to have similar land management and leasing programs in place.

- H. With BBNC's support, the DNR's Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys applied for a 3-year, \$700,000 U.S. Dept. of Energy grant (\$150,000 of cash and in-kind contributions to be provided by BBNC) to further evaluate the oil and gas potential of the Bristol Bay basin.

Agreements:

The Parties agree to the following provisions:

- The Parties will work cooperatively to facilitate oil and gas leasesales of state and BBNC lands in the region to be held as soon as feasible.
- The Parties will cooperate to ensure all development projects in the Bristol Bay region will be pursued in an environmentally responsible manner and will minimize impacts to fishery resources.
- The Parties will work cooperatively to convince the federal government to re-open federal offshore oil and gas prospects in the region to exploration.
- The Parties will endeavor to synchronize the timing of their oil and gas leasing schedule for their respective lands.
- The Parties will help facilitate the design and construction of a transportation network that will make oil, gas, and other mineral prospects more accessible and inter-connect communities in the region.
- The Parties will communicate their development goals to other interested entities in southwest Alaska, such as tribal organizations, village corporations, and borough and city governments.
- The Parties will not act contrary to applicable laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.
- To the extent allowable by statutes and regulations, the Parties will share information that will assist in accomplishing the objectives of this agreement.
- Where reasonable, the Parties will issue joint press releases on matters related to this MOU and will coordinate responses to media questions.
- Notices regarding actions under this MOU will be sent to (for each party):

DNR Commissioner
State of Alaska
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1450
Anchorage, AK 99501

Chief Executive Officer
Bristol Bay Native Corporation
800 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

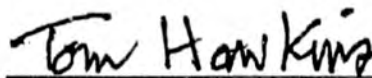
- The term of this MOU will be five (5) years from the effective date and can be extended for five-year periods thereafter with the written agreement of the Parties.
- This MOU may be terminated with thirty days written notice by either Party.
- This MOU can be modified upon written consent of the Parties.

- Others may become party to this MOU upon written consent of the Parties.

Approved:


Thomas E. Irwin, Commissioner
Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources

7/10/03
Date


Tom Hawkins
SRVP & COO, BBNC

7.10.03
Date