

**NPR-A
Integrated Activity Plan
Environmental Impact Statement**

Scoping Meeting

Barrow

1997

NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement
Scoping Meeting
North Slope Borough Assembly Chambers
Barrow, Alaska
Monday, March 17, 1997
7:30 p.m.

(Note to the Reader: This meeting was translated into Inupiat by Jana Harcharek of Barrow. The Inupiat translations are not included in these transcripts. Written testimony that was read during the meeting was not transcribed, but copies are attached, where indicated)

(Tape 1 - side 1)

MAYOR JIM VORDERSTRASSE - CITY OF BARROW: I want to welcome you all on behalf of the city of Barrow, and thank you for coming and taking this opportunity to let us speak, I know there's a lot of people here this evening that have some concerns about this vital area around our communities. I know some of the best times I've ever spent on the North Slope has been on the Ikpikuk River at my in-laws' fish camp and it's a place that's dear to many of us here. With that I would just like to say that I hope that, I know that the borough has many very knowledgeable degree people working for them, but also there's many of us that don't have a bunch of fancy letters behind our name, and I hope you'll, and I'm sure you will give just as much thought to that testimony as we hear from the experts. With that I'd like to, I'm kind of known around here as the little mayor and I'll introduce the big mayor here, Mr. Nageak of the North Slope Borough. Thank you.

MAYOR BEN NAGEAK - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: Thank you Big Jim. Jim has been here a long time and he's made his home here and we're happy that he was able to come. I just want to welcome you all to this meeting, I will be making my comments after we do the invocation and after you do your presentation Mr. Ritchie, but I would like to recognize some of the people who are working for the borough who are attending this meeting, Mr. Arnold Brower, Jr. working out of my office, one of the co-chairs and contacts for the borough and the NPR-A, and the other one over there is Tom Lohman, he's been with the Department of Wildlife Management for a long time, and Karen Burnell who is the Director of Planning, Charlie Brower, Director of Wildlife Management, and we have George Olemaun, Director of Fire Department, we have Taquik Opie from the Department of Wildlife Management, and Harry Brower from the Department of Wildlife Management, and we have Devin Bates from the Department of Wildlife Management, Johnny Lee Aiken from the Mayor's office, we have Don Long from my office, Ray Evans, sorry Ray, haven't seen you in a long time, Ray Evans from Search and Rescue, we have Karen Brewster from the Planning Department, Mannie Crosby, from Search and Rescue, who else do we have here? We have Jon Dunham, from the planning department.

Todd O'hara, from the Department of Wildlife Management and who am I, from the borough here, is Robert Suydam here? Oh there he is, Robert Suydam from the Department of Wildlife Management. We have other people here who will be introducing themselves later as we make the presentations. With that, thank you. Mr. Brower, Mr. Ritchie.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR. - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: I ask my friend George Taka to have the honors for our invocation.

MAYOR NAGEAK: Oh, and Jana Harcharek is here to translate, thank you for coming Jana.

GEORGE TAKA: Let's all pray. (PRAYER)

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Thank you George. For the BLM, I want to introduce Jana Harcharek, who will be our translator this evening. And with that Dee, I guess you got the floor from here.

DEE RITCHIE - BLM: Honorable Big Mayor and Little Mayor, Ben and Jim, it's good to be here, thank you for having this meeting here, and welcoming us to your community tonight. We appreciate always your hospitality and the friendship that we've had over the years. My name is Dee Ritchie and I'm the District Manager for the BLM in northern Alaska and it's my honor tonight to at least make a short introduction, Sharon told me that I can have 5 minutes and she said it's cause I know you'll take 10. I don't want to take too much time, but I just wanted to tell you that we always appreciate coming to the North Slope and meeting with you here in Barrow here and the other villages that we've had an opportunity to go to. We're pleased to have everyone here tonight at this meeting and I'm sure you recognize the importance of this project as we begin it. You know that the decisions that we make together after the planning process will, after it's completed will be very important, I think to you and your families and to the people of the North Slope and to the people of the United States. Jana I don't know how quick you want to translate this but, try me.

JANA HARCHAREK: That sounds good, if you go too long I get behind in my note taking. That much interval will work well for me.

RITCHIE: We're in hopes that this will be a positive experience for all of us, we know we can't do this alone, we know that this will be a better plan and environmental impact statement with your help. The BLM is one of only two agencies in the United States that is a multiple use and sustained yield organization and we believe of the use and the management of our natural resources and that's our mandate. But we recognize that you know much about this land and it's resources and that's why we're here tonight and to the other villages that we're

going to visit, because we want these to be listening sessions for us and discussion sessions for you. And we're hoping that you'll share with us your knowledge, both the scientific knowledge and we've worked many years with your scientists here and others. We've have high regard for the Wildlife Department here in the borough and for the Planning Department who we've worked with many years and the people that work there. And both your scientific and traditional knowledge. We need to make this successful and we want to make sure that we consider every issue of concern that your day to day life and your future and the future of the North Slope Borough. I want to tell you up front that there's been no decisions made on this land and it's use for either oil or gas leasing, we've done a lot of cooperative management for wildlife and we want probably that to continue, what recommendations are made in the future will depend on what you tell us tonight and the other times that, as we assemble in other planning processes here. And we want you to be a full partner in this effort. Our staff that's here tonight is looking for information, and as I said before, this is a listening session for us that'll help them write the environmental impact statement and integrated activity plan for about 4.6 million acres in the northeast portion of the National Petroleum Reserve. Some of the maps that are around on the wall depict that area, and as I said before we're glad you've come to meet with us tonight and I hope you'll be available for many more meetings. We also want you to know that we respect the time and effort people put into this sort of thing and the impact it is on your time to be here. We'll have both formal and informal meetings and offer that Mayor and the other departments for anything that we might be able to do to, over the next year and a half to make this a good product. I know that's one of the things that we're concerned about is the speedy time frame and the amount of things that we have to put together, the amount of information. Let me stop there for a minute Jana, and then I'd like to introduce the folks that are really here to work. Now I'd like to introduce those that are here to listen and to help tonight, first of all Curtis Wilson is a planner from our Anchorage office in the BLM, next Dave Yokel from the Northern District Office is a wildlife biologist from the Fairbanks office and also you've seen a lot of Dave here he has our outreach program for wildlife and part of the Arctic team. I have Philip Martin with us from Fish and Wildlife Service, Philip's out of the Fairbanks office with the Fish and Wildlife Service as part of this team and his expertise is going to be used in this effort. Next, Ray Emerson, Ray, you might have had some opportunity to work with Ray previously, he's part of the Minerals Management Service and has graciously accepted the challenge to put together and EIS in the next 18 months, which worries him just a little bit. The Minerals Management Service has a very excellent team put together already and we knew we couldn't do it without having an outfit that's ready to go right now so they are and we're happy to have them with us. Sharon Wilson, Sharon is helping, you're r

ecording this meeting tonight but Sharon's the person from our Fairbanks office in Public Relations and will be helping to record this and get the tapes out and she says here in her notes, this is her writing by the way, she helps in other ways. We also have, as you know, Arnold Brower, Jr. from Barrow and Tom Lohman from Anchorage, part of this team and effort and if things don't go right for you, you can blame them. They're going to be working with BLM and MMS throughout this entire process and we're grateful to

have them. Serving as our facilitator this evening for this meeting will be Anne Morkill, I don't know, where are you Anne? Anne is also a wildlife biologist from our Fairbanks office and she'll be directing our activities tonight and having you work individually or in groups and with our staff so that we can record your concerns and potential issues as this meeting unfolds, so at this time it's my pleasure to turn this over to Anne Morkill.

ANNE MORKILL - BLM: Thank you Jana. Arnold, did you want to speak for a minute? Arnold Brower will have some opening remarks.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR. - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: Yeah, I know that KBRW is on and there's some flyers that I've done to the villages, at 8:30 we were planning to have a call-in program, however I would like Nuiqsut and Atqasuk to defer their comments, cause we will be going to Atqasuk and Nuiqsut and maybe we'll try to line up Anaktuvuk Pass and Wainwright tonight, however if the folks in those 2 villages, Nuiqsut and Atqasuk are not able to be there when we're going to be there, tomorrow we'll be going to Atqasuk and April 3, to Nuiqsut. From folks from Atqasuk if you're not going to be there tomorrow when we arrive or on April 3 at Nuiqsut we'll accept your comments on the radio program.

MORKILL: Thank you Arnold. Now we're going to have Curt Wilson, he's going to talk a little bit about what the planning process is and give a little, short introduction and then we'll get into our dialog and discussion on your issues.

CURTIS WILSON - BLM: I wanted to emphasize a couple of things, first of all I'm primarily here to answer questions about the detail of the planning process and I'm not going to bore people with trying to go through a detailed description of the whole process, if your interested in hearing something about it though, I'll be glad to answer your questions. The one thing I did want to emphasize is we're calling this an integrated activity plan, it seems fairly common now when I talk to people, that there's an assumption that all we're really interested in here is and oil and gas leasing program and a plan for that but it's our intention to develop a management plan that will consider all of the resources that BLM manages on the north slope and what we're asking is that when you make your comments you keep that in mind, that we're interested in all your comments about all of the resources that are of interest up here, so don't restrict yourselves at all to thinking about oil and gas leasing when you make your comments, and that's really all I have to say.

MORKILL: Thank you, before we get started I just want to point out some materials that are available, first of all there's a sign-in sheet, we've also got the NPR-A report which is a short newsletter that introduces the project and we have the intention of producing these newsletters throughout the project as things come up. This is also on the Internet and there's an Internet address in this report. Attached to that is a map of the planning area that includes on the back some space for written comment, so if there's anyone here, or anyone that's not here that you know of that might be interested in commenting, please feel free to take these and they can submit their comments. There's also another form, just a one sheet form for writing your comments in, and you can provide this to us at the end of the meeting or mail them in until April 4th. As Dee mentioned, our primary objective tonight is to listen to your concerns and your ideas, so we'd like to pose some questions to you. First we can answer any questions you have and then we'd like to open it up to a dialog where if you were managers of NPR-A, what would you like NPR-A to look like, and address some of your ideas and issues regarding all of the resources in the northeast planning unit in particular.

MAYOR NAGEAK: Anne, you might, before we do that, just outline, maybe point out what in the map, what you proposed to talk about, which portion of land, so everybody understands.

MORKILL: I also might point out, when we get started here I'm going to try to record as much as I can, some of the issues and ideas that are brought up on a flip chart, and we might want to consolidate our audience as best we can so everybody can see the board and the maps. So if people want to shuffle around that would be helpful. As we mentioned the planning area is 4.6 million acres in the northeast corner of the National Petroleum Reserve, and the boundaries to the east of the Colville River and Ikpikpuk River to the west and the coastline and it includes Umiat in the southeast corner and the top part of the planning area includes Teshekpuk Lake. I mentioned the date of April 4th, that is the end of our formal scoping period, but I just wanted to emphasize that two players here, Tom Lohman and Arnold Brower will be your channel to continue to participate in this process, and so we encourage you if you continue to have any questions or concerns to work with Arnold and Tom, and they'll be working with us closely. So the April 4th might seem like a daunting deadline looming in the near future but we would encourage you to keep informed in the process and participate in any way that you can.

MAYOR NAGEAK: You might also mention that we have our radio talk show program Wednesday, for those that might want to call in, I know it's not here but we have a proposal for a KBRW talk, call in program, I believe on Wednesday, with the NPR-A.

MORKILL: Before we get started here does anybody have any specific questions, anything that we haven't covered that you'd like to ask us about?

TOM LOHMAN - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: Anne, one of the concerns always in these kind of meetings is what's going to happen to the comments that are offered, will there be any kind of scoping report that is generated out of these meetings?

WILSON: We hadn't really talked exactly about that, but I think we will have some kind of a report come out, yes.

LOHMAN: And I also understand that there will be periodic newsletters that will be generated and there's also the web site, people can look to that, and again Arnold, in the Mayor's office here in Barrow, and I'm down in Anchorage and can be contacted through the borough's Department of Wildlife Management. We'll be your conduit of information in the EIS process.

MORKILL: What's gonna happen from our perspective, is once we're finished with the scoping period we'll actually compile all the information and use them to develop management alternatives that will then be analyzed in the environmental impact

statement and I think a good way to provide some two way feedback is to use things like the Internet and the newsletter. What we'll probably do is try to summarize those issues and communicate with Arnold and Tom and other folks here in the North Slope Borough to make sure that we've clarified what the issues are and come up with some options to deal with them.

LOHMAN: I guess two more very quick comments, first as the folks from BLM know the borough met this afternoon and discussed a lot of these issues, I think we reached some kind of a consensus within the borough that we're not terribly satisfied with the April 4th date and doubt frankly that the borough's comments will be prepared by that date since we are here to listen and we want to listen to our folks out in Nuiqsut as well as the folks here in Barrow and tomorrow in Atqasuk, so we're not sure we can pull our comments together one day following the Nuiqsut meeting and expect that our more comprehensive comments will be submitted sometime after that and I would expect that talking to folks in Nuiqsut that the same will happen in that community. And we'd also like to here from I guess the other organizations that are here, and our borough wide organizations tonight about their feelings on that and again if you have comments that you're not ready to prepare until you hear from Nuiqsut on the 3rd, Arnold and I will be available to submit your comments to the process. And finally we want to make sure that people's comments are treated respectfully in this EIS, we've all had some problems in the past with feeling that local comments weren't treated with the respect they deserved. It would be helpful to us as individuals involved from the borough side, if when folks testify, either in writing or verbally tonight or at the other meetings, that they tell us a little bit briefly about themselves, give us some idea of their positions they hold or have held, so that when their comments are referenced in the final document or concerns they raised are referenced in the final document, they're paid the respect they deserve, for instance if you're a whaling captain, obviously we all know that carries a certain status in the community that you had to do a lot to achieve that status, it's useful for us in the same way as I think Jim Vorderstrasse said, some of us have letters after our names, being a whaling captain in some respects is far more important than having a bunch of letters after your name and it's important that we know that when we receive your comments.

MORKILL: Thank you Tom.

MAYOR NAGEAK: Tom, be careful, if you speak too long, Jana is not gonna keep up with you.

LOHMAN: Jana should be used to me by now.

HARCHAREK: You gotta talk slower Tom. (LAUGHTER)

LOHMAN: I talk a lot slower than I did 10 years ago.

MORKILL: I also wanted to point out to the listening audience and those of you here that we are tape recording the proceedings here tonight so we will be able to review those and get your comments and also those of you I think might have some written comments that'll be presented as well.

WILSON: We apologize for the time, these short time frames that we're asking you to respond in. This is not something that we would be doing as quick as we are doing it if we had our own choice. We're aware that we're asking for a lot of input from you in a very short period of time, we don't really have any choice about that.

MORKILL: Question?

MAYOR VORDERSTRASSE: This is Mayor Vorderstrasse from the City of Barrow, I guess that is the comment that concerns me the most, Mr. Ritchie pointed out that there's an 18 month time frame here and one thing the Arctic, living here in Barrow has taught is patience and we of the western world who were raised often equate rapidity or the quicker we can get things done as a good thing, but that's not necessarily always the case. The National Petroleum Reserve's been here a long time before it was ever called the National Petroleum Reserve, and I'm a little concerned about how that things are moving and I noticed when Mr. Ritchie pointed out that Ray here has the job of putting this all together, that he might have some concerns, I would just like to go on record as voicing my concern. Mr. Ritchie also made a point of stating that has been no decisions made of what we're going to do here yet, but I guess my question would be then why are we moving so rapidly on this particular procedure and I just wanted to bring that out because I think it's very important that we give it very careful consideration because if you go to Prudhoe Bay and look at the development that's been done there, I think it would be very hard to bring it back to the condition that it was before that area was developed and so I would just like to point that out, maybe you have an answer to that, why is there such a rapid process going on at this time?

RITCHIE: Well I guess my best answer for that is the only answer I really have is that we were told to do it in 18 months.

MAYOR VORDERSTRASSE: My understanding is that it is quicker than you would normally do a study of this size. And I realize that NPR-A has been studied before in fact we were able to find this study that we were able to get to Arnold that was done in the early '80's I believe, the '70's even.

RITCHIE: Let me try to answer also a little bit about that, Mayor, and I don't have a clear answer. When we came up and visited with Mayor Ben early on, I'm Dee Ritchie, we didn't know exactly what the time frame was going to be earlier, but two things come to mind, first of all it's a small area, we know a lot about that area

already, we did an EIS in this area in 1981 and 1983, so there's a lot of data available, we think that it's possible, I think to help with that we decided that the data that's available, the data that needs to be updated could be done in that time frame. I think that's probably why. Let me just also let you know and I don't, you're no stranger to this part of this process, that's politics and I can't say much more than that about it.

MAYOR VORDERSTRASSE: Thank you..

RITCHIE: Can I just take one more minute? This is Dee Ritchie again. I didn't want to leave that, Mayor, with perhaps that one last statement because I, of course I can retire pretty quick (Laughter).....

(End of tape 1 - side 1)

(Begin tape 1 - side 2)

MORKILL: Mayor, did you have a statement you'd like to make, to start us off?

MAYOR NAGEAK: First of all I want to thank Dee Ritchie, he's been coming here for a very long time and also Dave Yokel, if during this process he comes here many more times we might have to refer to him as a local yokel. Good evening to our guests and my fellow borough residents. For the record I am Ben Nageak, Mayor of the North Slope Borough. I appreciate the opportunity to appear here tonight and present the preliminary comments of the borough at this scoping meeting for the proposed oil and gas leasing program in the northeast study area of the National Petroleum Reserve, Alaska NPR-A. *(Reads prepared written statement - copy attached)* Thank you very much, thank you Arnold, and thank you Tom. And I have a copy of my testimony for the record.

MORKILL: Thank you very much. Before we move on we just want to point out that it's now after 8:30 p.m. and we welcome any call in questions from the communities.

(A caller from Nuiqsut was on the line but had no comment, there were no other callers at that time.)

MORKILL: Does anybody else have any statements they'd like to make, Charlie?

CHARLIE BROWER - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: Good evening, my name's Charlie Brower, I'm the Director of Wildlife management, I'm also co-captain for one of the whaling crews here in Barrow. And I won't say any more of my titles, they're too long Tom. But anyway I'd like to introduce some of my staff here....

TOM LOHMAN: Can I interrupt for just a second, do you have something in writing that you're going to hand to these folks? So they know whether to take notes or not.

that way they can listen instead of.....thank you Charlie, sorry.

CHARLIE BROWER: I'd like to introduce some of my staff here, I have Taqulik Opie, Subsistence Specialist; Harry Brower, Jr. also a Subsistence Specialist; Dr. O'hara, Wildlife Biologist; Robert Suydam, Wildlife Biologist, who will help me with some of the remarks from the Wildlife Department. And Tom Lohman over there is our environmental person. The mission of the department is to provide a factual basis for strong local participation in management of wildlife resources within the borough. And two, for continued subsistence harvests of wildlife resources by means of documenting. The subsistence resources are a great importance to the citizens of the North Slope Borough and by documenting the natural history of this wildlife resources. The following are major issues in which the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management insists be addressed in the draft environmental impact statement for NPR-A. I could underline insists twice. One, how is traditional knowledge going to be addressed in this EIS. Until recently, traditional knowledge has not been incorporated into previous EIS's, this has been very discouraging for local people who attend meetings such as this meeting and to share their traditional knowledge about environmental they know so well. Many local people have stated they're tired of coming to meetings and saying the same things over and over, to find out that their comments are never considered into EIS. The outside agencies need to understand that the Inupiat people who live here have important traditional knowledge which can be incorporated into EIS. Number two, I have Taqulik Opie and Harry Brower to give a outline of this subsistence hunting and fishing areas for each community within or near NPR-A needs to be documented and included in EIS.

TAQULIK OPIE - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: Hi, my name is Taqulik Opie and I'm a subsistence research specialist for the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management. Some of the projects that we're working on in the communities is collecting harvest information and harvest locations and making these into reports. So we'll be working with the communities on continuing with this project to present some of this information into the draft EIS.

HARRY BROWER, JR. - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: My name is Harry Brower for the record, I'm also a subsistence research specialist for the Department of Wildlife Management. Taqulik already mentioned that we've working on with the documentation, subsistence harvest documentation project and we've been doing that work for the last 2 years, so we're going to be including that information in, and providing that information to BLM for their information.

OPIE: O.K., and we feel that it's important that the draft EIS includes or needs to identify what impacts will the subsistence hunting and camping areas have and that the draft EIS needs to identify what mitigating measures will be used to protect these subsistence hunting and camping areas. We also feel that it's important that it include or identify the access routes used by subsistence hunters to get to hunting

areas and camping areas and make sure that these areas are protected and it also needs to clearly state what mitigating measures will be used to protect these areas. Then the third item that we came up with was that the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management recommends that the draft EIS warrant special attention and consideration for the following wildlife resources, such as but not limited to the Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd, calving grounds and insect relief areas. I know that our wildlife biologist might want to say or Todd might want to talk a little bit about these after we're done giving our presentation. The Colville River moose calving grounds and foraging areas, black brant and snow goose nesting and molting areas, other waterfowl such as the Spectacled and Steller's eider, white-fronted goose and Canada goose, their nesting areas in certain rivers and lakes which are intensely used by subsistence hunters for fishing for broad whitefish, arctic cisco, arctic char and grayling, and areas intensely used for subsistence hunting and fishing and camp sites such as the Chipp and Ikpikpuk areas and Fish Creek. O.K. this project is in cooperation with the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, BLM with Dave Yokel and Geoff Carroll with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

DR. TODD O'HARA - North Slope Borough: The data that the three groups have collected have indicated some critical areas for caribou in the Teshekpuk region. Most of it seems to involve this eastern area, east of Teshekpuk Lake which Geoff has maps and has data to show that this is an important calving area for the Teshekpuk herd. They concentrate in this area and we've sort of outlined where we think that might be and Geoff has more detailed information on that. So it's between Harrison Bay and Teshekpuk Lake north and south of that little area of land there between those two bodies of water that are important areas. Also insect relief areas are going to be along the coast, and I don't know if we have those as well described as we do the calving areas. We also think, I talked to Geoff Carroll about this earlier and we also think we should consider these two narrow bands of land in between Smith Bay, Harrison Bay, Teshekpuk Lake, are probably important routes for the caribou to get north of Teshekpuk Lake. So this calving area becomes more critical as an access route maybe for caribou to get into the northern region about Teshekpuk Lake. We'd also like to point out that south of Teshekpuk Lake in some years has been a wintering area for caribou as well. So some years the caribou never leave this northeastern section of NPR-A, in some years they'll go all the way down to Seward Peninsula, it just depends on the year. As Forrest Gump would say, and that's all I have to say about that.

CHARLIE BROWER: Thank you Dr. O'Hara. Robert Suydam will give us a little bit of highlight on the nesting of the brant and the snow goose.....

ROBERT SUYDAM - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: There are several areas within the lease area, sorry, the planning area for the EIS that are important to nesting

waterfowl and to molting waterfowl. In particular, or I guess first I'll start with snow geese. There are only three snow goose colonies within the United States, one is over on Howe Island near the Prudhoe Bay oil field, one was recently discovered here on a aerial survey sponsored by the North Slope Borough right in the Ikpiukuk River delta, and the other one is over near Point Lay. So because there are so few snow goose colonies in the area, this area right here is of importance to the snow geese within the planning area. I'd like to next talk about brant, in particular nesting brant and then I'll talk a little bit about molting brant. Surveys again that the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management have sponsored have shown some key nesting areas within the planning area and around Teshekpuk Lake, some of those are on the western edge of Teshekpuk Lake, right in there there's a few small colonies and then in the last few years we've also documented quite a few colonies over near the Fish Creek, it's over to the right there Todd, right over in that area of the delta and then along the western shores of Harrison Bay, so those are all areas that are important for nesting brant. Recent, actually old and recent surveys conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have also showed that areas north and to the east of Teshekpuk Lake are vitally important for molting brant, that a large percentage of entire Pacific flyway brant population flies to Teshekpuk Lake in the late summer and lose all it's feathers in that area and are flightless in that area, so that's a very important area for molting brant, also north of the lake is important nesting habitat for Spectacled eiders and there may be some Steller's eiders up there as well, so it's just a very rich area for nesting waterfowl.

CHARLIE BROWER: Thank you Robert. The last recommendation would be that the EIS needs to address the habitat in which wildlife resources use within the proposed area, such as caribou, moose, fish species, waterfowl, falcon, furbearers such as wolf, wolverine and fox, brown bear and marine mammal. The EIS needs to consider what are the likely impacts to the habitat in which the wildlife resources use. Especially in regards to the ability to move freely within the proposed area. What mitigating measures will be taken to protect the habitat of the wildlife resources within or near the proposed area. Thank you.

LOHMAN: Since earlier Dee Ritchie put Arnold and I on the spot and said we'll be blamed if folks are not satisfied with the treatment of some of these concerns in the EIS, I guess I'll add one comment, my colleagues here in the department just did a really good job of summarizing a lot of a) the concerns and b) providing some information that they hope can be used to address some of those concerns. But earlier we heard people say the folks of the north slope know a lot more about this area than anyone and I guess that means that we don't have a right to complain if we think this document doesn't adequately reflect our concerns and our knowledge, so I challenge all of the folks listening and all of the folks here at Barrow to provide directly to BLM through your comments or to Arnold and I any information you have that you want to see reflected in EIS, in particular Charlie talked about mitigating measures you think would be appropriate and those are conditions we'd want to put

on any leasing activity to protect resources or subsistence activities.

HARCHAREK: Tom, explain what you mean by mitigating measures, I don't think that's a concept that's too understandable.

LOHMAN: O.K., sure. Yeah, we use that word a lot and I apologize, what that means are any conditions that people would want to see placed on oil industry activity to protect, in this case either subsistence activities or wildlife resources.

MORKILL: Do we have any additional comments that would like to be made now?

BRENDA ITTA LEE - ARCTIC SLOPE REGIONAL CORPORATION: My name is Brenda Itta Lee, I'm with the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and with me is Bill Thomas, Bill Thomas is our land manager for Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. Our comments are very brief this evening but I wanted to go on record that Arctic Slope Regional Corporation will submit our comments in writing at a later time before April 4th. But very briefly this evening we would like to say that our corporation on behalf of our 7,200 shareholders has discussed on numerous occasions for the past several years our request to the Department of Interior to provide us with the right to select and exchange lands within the NPR-A study area. This issue on our right to select and exchange lands has not yet been settled and it would be very important that this issue be settled. The other position that we've held for a number of years is that we do not want any portion of the NPR-A study area.....

(End of tape 1 - side 2)

(Begin tape 2 - side 1)

LEE:the years, the results and the terrible impacts that wilderness and refuge areas has done to our subsistence lifestyle. There are too many regulations imposed as a result of refuges and wilderness that is very detrimental to the subsistence and hunting lifestyle of our people. And our position is that we do not want any portions of that area to be designated as such. So those are basically the two concerns, very major concerns that we have, at the same time our position has been that we believe in a balanced oil and gas development, while protecting our subsistence lifestyle and protecting our wildlife and land. We believe it's possible to have that balance.

BILL THOMAS - ARCTIC SLOPE REGIONAL CORPORATION: I believe Brenda hit on most of the important issues that ASRC holds dear. I might add that the issues surrounding exchanges into NPR-A by ASRC is not a new one. It's largely a result of the last 25 years of ASRC's continual efforts to try to enjoy the original intent of ANCSA and that was indeed for the Inupiat share holders to enjoy and have ownership of the lands that are most useful to them and closest to their communities. In 1976 when the jurisdiction of NPR-A was changed over from the

Navy to the Department of the Interior, ASRC was unsuccessful at that time in getting an audience that would look at the issue of resolving the severed estates problem and allowing ASRC to gain some title to lands within NPR-A. It was only with passage of ANILCA that ASRC was in part able to repatriate some of its entitlement with its villages. We see the attention that's being given to NPR-A today as an excellent opportunity for the state as well as the federal government, as well as local governments to really start to recognize the economic opportunity that can be given to the people of the region and to the North Slope through the direct ownership of land by ASRC. We feel that while there may be certain benefits to all the citizens of the north slope through the revenues that would be generated and pass through the borough as well as the state government. We feel that the most direct benefits from any economic development on the north slope can best be passed to the citizens through the development activities that would be sponsored by the people that actually owned the corporation and those lands. And that's essentially our reason for wishing to have the scope of this study take a good hard objective look at resolving the severed estate problem that ASRC has had. I guess that's the conclusion of my comments for the moment.

MORKILL: Thank you, do we have anybody calling in that has any questions on the air?

HARCHAREK: Brenda, may I just ask real quick, it's written up there, do not want any portions of NPR-A planning area or was your indication any portions of NPR-A? Because I think when they refer to the planning area they're referring to just that little corner right there.

LEE: All of NPR-A.

DON LONG - INUPIAT COMMUNITY OF THE ARCTIC SLOPE: Good evening, my name is Don Long, I'm the current president of ICAS, the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope. I certainly welcome you, this my first public meeting representing the people, the native population of the North Slope.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Don, just for the record could you explain what the ICAS stands for, I think it's been dormant for 15 years or so, I think just to enlighten everybody here.

DON LONG: I'll give you my first page Arnold, if you want to do that, I got most of it here. *(Reads prepared written statement - copy attached.)*

LOHMAN: Thank you Mr. President. I've been asked by several people if we could take a short 5 to 10 minute break, also a request Don and anybody else who is testifying from written remarks tonight, if you could provide a copy of those written remarks, preferably before you testify, but at least after you testify to both BLM and

also to either Arnold or I, I guess we'll take the responsibility for distributing your comments to what we're going to be calling, I suppose the North Slope NPR-A Task Force, I think it might be useful for some of the folks in the communities and here in Barrow to see each of your comments and decide whether perhaps to agree or disagree with them in their written comments.

LONG: You still want it after you heard me?

LOHMAN: More than ever Don.

LONG: All right, you got it.

MORKILL: Why don't we take about 5 to 10 minutes.

(BREAK)

MORKILL: We'll call the meeting back to order and we'll take some additional comments. I just want to remind folks, I see a lot of people with jackets on to please remember to sign in as you leave if you didn't as you came in. We appreciate it.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: O.K. Anne, I think we could take the next person, I think our recorder is on over there and we can take the next comment from Price Leavitt. State your name and organization or whatever.

PRICE LEAVITT, SR. - NATIVE VILLAGE OF BARROW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: For the record, my name is Price Leavitt and I'm the Executive Director for the Native Village of Barrow. I hope my general short statement will give light to feeling of our council status on the prospective northeastern portion of NPR-A oil and gas leasing development that will affect our Inupiat subsistence livelihood and the abundant fishing wildlife habitats around or in the Teshekpuk area. (*Reads prepared written statement - attached*)

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: O.K. next, thank you Price. Nate Olemaun, Jr.

NATE OLEMAUN, JR.: My name is Nate Olemaun, Jr., for the record I'm a whaling captain and Mayor Emeritus. (*Reads prepared written statement - attached*)

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Barry Akpik.

BARRY AKPIK: For the record I'm Barry P. Akpik. I just did a short writing myself, black and white. (*Reads prepared written statement - attached*)

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: O.K., Warren Matumeak.

(End tape 2 - side 1)
(Begin tape 2 - side 1)

WARREN MATUMEAK: (*Spoke in Inupiat, translated here through Jana Harcharek*)
I would like to speak by saying that I support the exploration and development of oil and gas on our lands. We have, because of the fact that we get heating for our homes and as well as other amenities that we've learned to enjoy over the years. When I learned that, listening over the radio here tonight that there was anticipated, that it was anticipated that NPR-A was being looked at for potential development activity I felt that I needed to come here and thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts. This process will show us exactly what is there not only in terms of our resources, our natural resources but in terms of the potential oil and gas development. We've learned through the years that, over the years we have learned to enjoy amenities not available to us prior to the onset of oil and gas development on the north slope, we have learned how to work hand in hand so that there is not a lot in the way of negative impact on our wildlife and nothing is proceeded with until those concerns have been looked at. When we first heard that there was going to be development out in the Prudhoe Bay area, we were afraid as to what impact it would have not only on our lives but on the habitat of the resources on which we depend but learned over the years by working hand in hand with the industry and by putting into place a regulatory process through the borough's permitting process that we have found a way to put into place systems by which development can occur while at the same time safeguarding our wildlife and our environment. We first, what we do first is find out what impacts development is going to have on wildlife and or the environment, then structure permits accordingly. And there is a how many tiered layer of a permitting process beginning with exploratory at which point one kind of permit is issued, followed by when development occurs, then another kind of permit is issued and stipulations are written into those permits that safeguard our resources. In the winter before waterfowl comes and after the fish have left rivers and lakes, we've put into place process by when that would be the only time that drilling could occur, there are a number of ways that we have learned to put into place mechanisms by which to accommodate oil and gas development and or exploration while yet safeguarding our wildlife and our environment. Before we had a borough, we didn't have a voice. Once the borough was formed, one of the purposes of which was to, so that we would have a voice in how development was pursued. In Prudhoe Bay which is the first area where development occurred, the footprint left by industry is very, very large, it's all over the place. And then when development began occurring in Kuparuk the footprint gets smaller and that's because of the fact that through the years and through experience, new ways for extracting the oil have been found, technology makes it easier as the years go by. In things such as directional drilling and so forth, which leaves a smaller footprint and even techniques for drilling offshore have changed as we're seeing with the development of the North Star. So as the years go on technology changes and its made extracting those resources

easier. And our subsistence and our hunting, there are mechanisms in place which will keep development from happening to a point where it will have adverse or even greatly limit our ability to hunt and subsist as we've done over the years. The benefits to be realized are many, including the flow of money into the economy by the creation of jobs and we have learned that we can live both ways, having both development on one hand and maintaining our subsistence lifestyle at the same time. I think that

kind of sums it up.

LOHMAN: Warren, did you identify yourself when you came to the microphone?

METUMEAK: I thought you did.

LOHMAN: I didn't, but just for the record those of you who don't know Warren, Warren long time.....

METUMEAK: I forget to do that Tom, I'm an old man I can't remember...(Laughter)

LOHMAN: You've got more hair than I do. But long time planning director of the borough, wildlife director, special assistant, to, I think the President of ASRC on land issues and knowledgeable and accomplished, long time hunter here on the slope. Anything else you want to add?

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Yeah, he's also got a camp up on the Chipp River, one of the tributaries of the Ikpikpuk River, his wife has an allotment within the impact area, or the designated area and I have met up with him in the Teshekpuk Lake once or twice with his family, so he's a very knowledgeable person.

LOHMAN: Keeper of cultural traditions, dance leader, and all around pillar of the community. That about cover it?

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: I think the emphasis was that we've, if you didn't mention that, I kept visualizing co-existence of things, I think that he made one or two references to that.

SHARON WILSON: From the BLM side we would also like to recognize Warren's many years of service on the BLM Resource Advisory Council.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: O.K., are there any others that want to submit comment or say, have any special concerns from the audience? Geoff, and then, oh, I can never remember his name, Geoff Carroll. Good evening.

GEOFF CARROLL - ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME: Good evening. My name's Geoff Carroll, I'm the Area Wildlife Biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. However, what I say now doesn't necessarily reflect any kind of an Alaska Fish and Game position, this is speaking as a north slope resident who has spent a fair amount of time in this area doing wildlife surveys and I can be fairly brief here because the Borough Department of Wildlife Management did a very good job of summarizing many of the wildlife concerns in that area. I agreed with what they had to say and basically I'm just kind of adding my voice to theirs. There are several critical wildlife areas within the zone that's being looked at in NPR-A, some of these as was mentioned before is the area to the southeast, the east and northeast of the lake, Teshekpuk Lake, which is critical caribou calving area. There are probably ten to fifteen thousand caribou that calve in that area each

year. And also to the north of the lake, that entire area from the Beaufort Sea coast to along the northern edge of the lake and on over to the Ikpikpuk River area are all fairly crucial insect relief areas. The movements of this caribou herd during much of the year are somewhat erratic and unpredictable during the fall and the winter they go to many places, but what is predictable about this herd is that most of them show up in that area east of the lake and pass through that area between the Kogru River and Teshekpuk Lake every year, that's pretty consistent in that most of the herd will be seen north of the lake in the summer, usually up to twenty-six to twenty-seven thousand caribou can be counted in that area. It's pretty hard to imagine that any development could occur in some of these critical areas without being detrimental to that caribou here and incidentally this is the herd that most of the villages on the north slope harvest. It's the primary herd for harvest in Nuiqsut, in Barrow and Atqasuk, and many years it is in Wainwright. It's kind of split in Wainwright between the Western Arctic herd and the Teshekpuk herd. The Teshekpuk herd is smaller than some of the other herds but probably more important on a subsistence basis to the people of the North Slope. This area north of Teshekpuk Lake is also, as Robert Suydam mentioned, crucial for several species waterfowl for both nesting and molting. It's, as well as being critical for wildlife, there are also several critical areas for subsistence hunters within the area that's being looked at. Just some of these are the Fish Creek area for Nuiqsut hunters, of course the Ikpikpuk and Chipp Rivers are very important fishing and hunting areas and all around Teshekpuk Lake is an important hunting area. And so the advise is to pay close attention to the reports that are produced by the Borough Planning Department and the Wildlife Department as to where these crucial subsistence hunting areas are. I guess the main thing that bothers me about this whole process is what bothers most people and that's the time scale that's involved in doing this study and getting reports written and just completing this process, I say, and well there's a lot of people, I mean it even seems that the people from BLM would agree that that, and the other agencies that are here agree that that's pushing things way to fast and it seems impossible to me that any kind of quality report can be produced in this amount of time. We're already talking about the scoping process, you know, needing to be wrapped up after the meeting occurs in Nuiqsut, I mean that's just kind of pushing things to a ridiculous extreme. I realize it's been stated that this seems to be dictated from above and that it's almost not negotiable, that seems kind of absurd to me in what the

end product is going to be, it's going to be a flawed product that isn't really going to cover all the critical issues involved within that area. I guess you could look at it two ways, either that area is way too large to really cover in that amount of time. If the area was greatly reduced to just not include a lot of these real critical areas like Teshekpuk Lake and the Ikpikpuk River and Chipp River, then possibly a report could be produced in that amount of time. You talk about an area that large and such a limited amount of time, I think you're just asking for trouble trying to cram it in that amount of time and still try to produce a quality product. Thank you.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: O.K., thanks Geoff. Somebody else want to... come on, Karen? Karen Burnell.

KAREN BURNELL - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: Good evening, I'm Karen Burnell, director of the

planning department. (*Reads prepared written statement - attached*)

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Thank you Karen, who's going to go first. Karen Brewster.

KAREN BREWSTER - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: I have written comments that I've already submitted and you should have copies of that are general overview comments, more detailed will be submitted by the comment deadline and they're somewhat extensive so I'm just going to summarize a few of the highlights. I'm the oral historian with the Inupiat History Language and Culture Commission, which is part of the planning department. One of the things I'm responsible for is the historical and archeological sites on the north slope and making sure that they get protected in any of this planning process or development. The GIS department has produced some maps, preliminary maps that indicate some of these sites. A few different types of sites, there's archeological sites, historical sites, landmarks, cultural sites, which often include a site where there's a story about what happened there, there might not be any physical remains, but it's still an important cultural site. Currently used hunting, fishing and camping sites. And then we have traditional land use inventory sites which the North Slope Borough collected in the 1970's and some of those overlap with archeological and historical sites and some of them don't. I'd just like to emphasize that the information that I collected from written documents that IHLC has that have been produced by IHLC over the years and there's a lot more information out in the minds of the elders and the people in the communities and that I would encourage an effort to collect more of that information, that the history of this particular area of NPR-A, I don't think has been very well documented, most of the documentation goes along the river systems, which were very important traditionally as travel routes, and they still are used as the main travel routes. But the maps will show you there's a large area south of Teshekpuk all the way down to the Colville River border of the current planning area. There's a big space that doesn't have little dots on it and I would recommend that that gets studied more thoroughly because from what I've heard from local people, that is a very important and still used area. I'd just like to emphasize the importance of the Chipp, Ikpikpuk and the Colville River areas historically and still today. Other people have said that and I'd just like to reiterate that. I apologize to Jana, I'm not following what's written on the paper. The other thing I'd like to talk about is, IHLC currently has authority for archeological clearance on any development permits that are issued with the North Slope Borough and we'd like to maintain that authority in any activities that might go on in NPR-A and also that would include some on the ground, out in the field ground-truthing of some of the sites that we information on, because a lot of those sites have not been visited in 20 years and a lot can happen in 20 years out there on the land. Also like to view into the realm of paleontology, and emphasize an area I think it's around Ocean Point on the Colville, where there's a large paleontological site that has been investigated for many years by paleontologists from UAF, I just wanted to point that out as an important area. Historically and still today the historic uses of this part of NPR-A has not been limited just to Nuiqsut, and Barrow and Atqasuk. The people of Anaktuvuk have

used it very heavily for a long time and they know a lot about the area and they are not being included in this planning process and I think that maybe that should be considered, that some of the impacts of NPR-A are more far ranging and that that might be considered. And to reiterate some of what other people said about the time being too short, IHLC does not have all the information there is to know about this area and to really

do comprehensive work of going to the communities and talking with the people in those communities and the elders, would require substantial more time than is being allotted in this EIS process and I think that's a problem, I really think we should be able to get all the information that's out there and I'd like to encourage anybody who's listening or in the audience who knows about this area to please come and talk to us at IHLC so we can make sure that we're providing the most up to date and accurate information.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Let me introduce Noah, he's a long time elder, my great-uncle, he's lived here and subsistence here and lived in the early days east of the Teshekpuk area, and has camps on Teshekpuk Lake on the west side and some relatives have a campsite east of the Teshekpuk Lake. Noah is very familiar with the hunting and knowledge of hunting in the Teshekpuk Lake area as far as Ikpikpuk and up Price River as recently as last year.

(End of tape 2 - side 2)

(Begin tape 3 - side 1)

NOAH ITTA (*Spoke in Inupiat, translated here through Jana Harcharek*): This is a very good, very opportune for a meeting of this nature, if I can be of help, that's why I am here. That's why I have come here to speak. I've learned, now here people here have lived since 1928 and '29 when I became aware and I remember everything since then of people hunting in this general area, they came from as far as Point Hope and even as Canada and I haven't ever forgotten that. People back then lived a very hard life, there were no white people, the commercial whalers had already come and gone after having decimated the whale population because of the benefits they gained by the sale of baleen. I can say that this meeting is sorely needed, but I must say that it must not be rushed, there are many people out there who must be given the opportunity to voice their concerns and their thoughts and their opinions, there are many people out there who can say things that will contribute to this process. As far as industry, I'm glad they came, before we had oil and gas development here we had a very hard time heating our home or heating in general. Then industry came and development took place and now we have, and provided heat and now we're very grateful for that because it never goes off. Industry isn't here to ruin anything, through these years I cannot anymore live without petroleum products because I don't travel by using dog teams anymore, I need fuel for snow machines and for heating. As far as the area surrounding Teshekpuk, it's not only that people can live there but within a 400 square miles for an individual who travels the country hunting is small, 400 square miles is nothing to a person who goes out and travels and hunts when they're looking for game. I'm glad for the biologists who assisted us and were instrumental in helping us bring about a change in the way hunting and fishing was regulated, I'm grateful for them because there was a time when laws and regulations were such that we were almost prevented from continuing the practicing of our way life as far as hunting and

fishing and subsistence goes, and they were instrumental in assisting us in documenting what populations actually were so that we could maintain a way of life that we had been living for a long time. I'm not here to try to stop the industry, thinking they would ruin our land and resources, but rather to approach it from a stance of working together with them. Our way of life has improved since they came (and in particular he referenced when the Navy first came and he got his first job and earned money for the first time). If industry needs to find more oil we should let them because we cannot live without it anymore. But it's really sad when we learn or it's said that any of our wildlife are dying for whatever reason (he brought up the example of caribou or other animals when for some strange reason they appeared to die for some strange causes). When a hole is dug and then it's allowed to spray all over (the example he used was natural gas) out into the environment we must be cautious of where it goes, if it goes to the air and then gets spread and then on to the land and then it lands on the land and then the wildlife come and they eat and it gets into the food chain and then our wildlife is affected. We have to check to see that these kinds of things don't happen, and if it does happen we must follow up by studying to make sure to what extent the food chain is effected or to make sure, we have to take every precaution to make sure the food chain of our wildlife is not effected by any development. I don't agree with those who say don't explore or develop, but we have seen an area greatly devastated and ruined by the oil spill, there was major impacts to wildlife and the land a

nd the ocean and we have to have in place ways to address this kind of thing should it happen. I recall one year somewhere there was a spill because Steller's and eiders, those two bird populations, they disappeared because of a spill somewhere. And now a days we're seeing them come back. That was as a result of a spill that happened somewhere (and then there was a case he referred to when they were doing that seismic activity where they saw that fish populations disappeared for 3 years and they don't do it like that anymore). I'm told that techniques have improved and they don't have to resort to those techniques anymore that have such devastating impacts on fish populations. If they want to know about wildlife calving and nesting areas I volunteer, I really have sympathy for those people who are affected by so many regulations that it prevents them from carrying on with a way of life centuries old but I believe that us as Inupiat and industry as the developers of oil and gas should pursue development with the thought in mind of assisting those villages located close to these resource for heating. If there's a village nearby where there's development occurring then we should take steps to assist that village in securing heating energy.

JON DUNHAM - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH PLANNING DEPARTMENT: Thank you, my name's Jon Dunham, I'm the permitting and zoning manager for the North Slope Borough, mine are attached to the planning departments comments (*attached*). I think in interest of being brief, I'll summarize what I have to say. The North Slope Borough believes that the best control for NPR-A is local control, although BLM has been a very good neighbor to the North Slope Borough would like to enter into a co-management or a shared management arrangement on NPR-A. We've got a 20 year history of effective land use and wildlife management regulations to rely on. On the onshore oil and gas development, the North Slope Borough supports onshore oil and gas development on the North Slope that is environmentally sound and compatible with traditional subsistence activities of the local residents. Safe offshore oil and gas development is yet to be a proven

technology in the arctic environment, industry responses to oil spill simulations in recent years have been less than adequate. These scenarios are usually set during summer months when water conditions are the best for the Arctic Ocean. NPR-A fits the borough's desire to see oil and gas development onshore provided it can be done in an environmentally sound manner and will not interfere with subsistence harvest activities. The North Slope Borough insists that all social, economic, and environmental impacts and cost associated with oil and gas development in NPR-A be fully addressed. As each individual oil unit has been brought on line only the environmental factors associated with that unit have been analyzed. To date no entity involved in oil and gas development, leasing, exploration or development has significantly addressed the cumulative impacts of this development on communities of the North Slope, particularly Nuiqsut. The cumulative effect of all of these units acting in unison must be reviewed at this time. It is because of this effect that we advocate for the review of all ecosystems influencing areas within the NPR-A planning area, and not limit the environmental impact statement review to boundaries arbitrarily selected. The North Slope has been the home of the Inupiat people for thousands of years. The Inupiat are willing to share their home with the oil and gas industry to meet the national desire for oil, the only thing asked in return is that the planning process for the whole area of NPR-A continue on after the EIS completed to comprehensively address the long term needs for the area. As part of this review the North Slope would like to see standard stipulations adopted for leasing and development of oil and gas in NPR-A. A list of stipulations will be provided in the borough's written comments. To resolve any potential conflicts between subsistence uses and the oil and gas leasing or development, the North Slope Borough recommends BLM establish and fund a subsistence review panel to monitor subsistence conflicts and resolve disputes when they arise. Under coastal zone management, uses within the boundaries of NPR-A that influence subsistence activities will be reviewed under the borough or state coastal management plan. The borough's coastal management plan should be adopted as a governing coastal management document for the NPR-A area. The North Slope Borough believes that the following areas merit special attention if oil and gas leasing is considered and those areas are caribou calving areas, black brant and other waterfowl nesting areas, peregrine falcon nesting areas and subsistence hunting and fishing areas. In addition, the North Slope Borough would like to see special provisions set out for the following features to preserve the quality of the environment, recognize the unique demands of these sites and to recover as time permits, important history from the environment. The Colville River, the Ikpikpuk River and other rivers used for subsistence transportation, areas subject to frequent flooding or erosion by the Colville, Ikpikpuk or other rivers in the area, archeological sites and paleontological sites. The borough would like to see specific stipulations adopted for these areas that will treat these areas with sensitivity to preserve and protect their unique characteristics. Thank you.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Next, state your name, do you have a written statement? O.K.

DEVIN BATES - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT: As a hunter, I have some concerns that in Atqasuk, where I live, we don't have stores or Asian take-out and I'm concerned that if those areas that are on those maps are disturbed and the caribou, which you know, we don't have just a

recommended daily allowance, we have it every day for the most of what we eat. I mean eggs cost \$3.50 a dozen and milk might cost \$6.00 a gallon, Wonder Bread \$5.00 a loaf, if we can't get caribou it's gonna be really hard for us so, I mean just as hunters, I'm not trying to speak as a Native person, I'm just wanting to request that if there's gonna be development around the Atqasuk area or any of the calving areas that are from which Atqasuk resources come that they be really careful, the people who are developing or leasing that area.

JOHNNY AIKEN: I'm one of the few Johnny Aiken's here. I'm the oldest, I go by Johnny Foster. I don't have anything written down as you can see I just brought in whatever was out there. Anyway I was listening over the radio to what's going on here, travel with my folks wherever they go fishing, we go to Taquilik Lake where we go fishing. Every now and then in that particular lake we hardly get any fish. It's a surprising time. Two years ago we hardly got any grayling from that spot, that's our main grayling fish getter and we hardly got any a couple years ago, that was surprising. And then in our own river Kuparuk, Kuparuk too, every now and then we always lose what we get there. We hardly get anymore fish there. And I wanted to say too that I grew up hunting *ugrooks* and I don't know what you call them in English and then those *bumbagruks* used to be coming up on the beach by the millions I don't hardly see those *ugrooks* out there no more. And those eiders, the colored ones, me and my papa used to hunt them, we don't see those no more, hardly ever see them. And then these owls, I hardly see those too. And I have an opposition, if NPR-A's gonna be drilling in those areas where we live by subsistence mainly and we give what we catch, I'm wondering if tomorrow we're going to be giving these fish away to my people, whoever needs them. Yesterday, I'm reverting back 75 to 100 years, I didn't know anything about money and today I have to come up with some kind of money to live. Yesterday I was living on subsistence...

(End of tape 3 side - 1)

(Begin tape 3 side - 2)

AIKEN: ...have to live on store bought food like the burger.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Yeah, Johnny you didn't mention it by name, we know it by name it's right across *Chipp 9* on the west side towards in the tributary that goes up to *Chipp 2*. You can't find it on that map cause it's not the map with all of the terrain features on there, you have to look at the U.S.G.S, U.S. quad. O.K. Harry Brower.

HARRY BROWER, JR.: Good evening, Harry Brower again. I'm a whaling captain, also I work for the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management, I already stated that earlier, but what I wanted to say was just to back up what Noah and Warren was saying earlier about the development happening here or the process of it, to go ahead and move forward on it but then I just wanted to add on a little more about what Noah said about using the lands out there about traversing over 400 square miles, I just come back from a week of hunting and that's just exactly what I did out there, you know just traversing out there trying to hunt for furbearers. You know I just wanted to mention what some of my personal observations with what's happening with that seismic out there and that seismic displacing the animals, I just wanted to pass this on for your information and I didn't see any furbearers except for the foxes, the red foxes and the different faces anyway. I didn't see no wolves out there, no tracks or anything like that. I was on my way back home just this Saturday and met up with my cousin and he just said, yeah I just ran into a set of wolverine tracks and followed them 26 miles one direction, and he didn't take a close look at the tracks and he started following the trail and it had just been scared away from where the activity was occurring, which

was up on the tops against that southeast side of Teshekpuk up in this Pikes dunes out there and he found the den and the rig had just gone by. I just happened to be there when he was following the trail and coming back, he said he just followed the trail 26 miles one direction and the wolverine had just made a bee line from where the seismic activity was going on, it had been scared away from its den, it was just moving out. And there was no caribou in the area, well you know I'd seen that, I made these trips up to my cabin, it's up and the Ikpikpuk River and I've observed the displacement of the wildlife over the winter. I've been going back and forth since December to just last week and I've seen the different areas where they've been over the winter, and I just wanted to bring that out, of my personal observations where, and I just wanted to back up what Noah and what Warren was saying about, you know, I'm not going to be opposing any development or the different phases of the development. I just want to put that on record.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Thank you Harry, I think I've heard that concern now from two other persons that directly told me that the existing seismic is already impacting subsistence hunters as we speak, that the seismic area has no game. The impacts, like Harry said, has scared and run the game off in one direction from that area already and numerous trips made by at least half a dozen hunters have attested that, that they've gone from the east side of the Ikpikpuk and Chipp River to the west side, where they're not there in that seismic area anymore. So these people have purchased gasoline and planned their trips just to find out that the seismic is in that area already and went up to those areas of normal hunting and the game is not there. So I just wanted to support Harry's comments in that sense. I'm glad the MMS people are here, that they can listen to that, so if none of us, none of the villages have had a preview for a review of these permits issued and these impacts are continuing in between Nuiqsut and Barrow. O.K. anybody else have any comment, I know our tape recorder is going to be off at midnight so...go ahead, he's been waiting here patiently and

GLENN W. SHEEHAN - UIC REAL ESTATE: I'm Glenn Sheehan and I work for UIC Real Estate, Science Division and I have a couple questions, one is, wouldn't it be a good idea to tell people very clearly what does scoping mean and why is the deadline so important. Is it possible if somebody forgets to mention something important that after that deadline passes it won't be included in the EIS. Somebody should explain that I think. Dee Ritchie said early in the evening not just oil and gas but we're interested in all the activities that might take place and that's why an integrated activity plan, so my concern is both with wildlife and with cultural resources, they're issues of patterns, patterns that we don't know everything about and if the environmental impact statement doesn't have all the data that's available and doesn't synthesize all that data and doesn't call for any new research, then what I've heard BLM say earlier is don't worry about it because the environmental assessments on tiny little bits of land will take care of that. And I'd like to reiterate what I've heard some other people say tonight that you have to set some kind of

criteria down in the EIS that will take care of that issue, that the boundaries of where the game goes, the synthetic questions for archeology of what are the real missing gaps in people's history, those things can't be answered in little lease sales here and there unless the EIS has already set out what the major questions are and how they're going to be answered. That's at least my opinion. Wildlife patterns change over time, we don't have a good handle on the time depth, by talking to elders, where were all of the different species of game 50 or 60 years ago as opposed to where are they just today, and where are they gonna be in the future. If you look at only calving ground that are active today and monitor them into the future but don't monitor where the game moves in the future then you're gonna miss something. They're just questions I think that need to be addressed. There's information in people's heads, the planning department said that, elders obviously, not so obviously but also in archaeologists' heads and other people who have been hired guns and have come in and done things and walked away or flown away in their helicopters without ever writing a report and that's information and data just as much as a published book is, and if the EIS is going to miss out on that and not hunt these people down and ask them questions, that's probably a mistake too. And the other thing I'd just like to point out, is the borough has a lot of data and the nation is asking the borough to provide that data for a national priority and they're saying, borough spend your money to support a national priority and I think the nation needs to put a budget together to spend some to buy that data from the people of the North Slope Borough, the same way that the nation's using money to buy data from oil companies, for instance, seismic data as an example. Sorry Jana, that was it though.

WILSON: The thing I can specifically explain is what scoping is, scoping is the process that BLM is using to seek public input into their planning process. I think the other part of the question was the deadline? The way the scoping process usually works is, I believe the regulation requires a minimum of 30 days of scoping period, in this case we extended that to 45 in an effort to expand the amount of time. Then we ended up with the date of the 4th of April because of the death at Nuiqsut that delayed the original meeting date there until the 3rd, so we just decided, well, we will close on the 4th. As far as whether that is the final time when we will accept comments, the answer to that is no, I think we mentioned earlier we have two people here who represent the borough in our planning process and they will continue to represent the people who live here through the entire planning process.

JOHNNY BROWER (*Spoke in Inupiat, translated here through Jana Harcharek*): My name is Johnny Brower, for the record. That area, they used to take us out there for hunting, fishing, for like family recreation area. I had good teachers when I was growing up, I used what I learned in my adult life and learned more myself about hunting and fishing in the area. I use the general area around the Ikpikpuk up to Navy Creek for the last 15 years I hunted caribou and reindeer, there's a lot of reindeer up in that area. *Fishers* in the area catch reindeer annually. There were

about 1,000 of them around *Chipp* 9 one time for about 3 days and my father who was up there, talked on the CB that they had been there and he scared them and they came down and I caught a few of them. Johnny also made reference to some activity in the area that spooked wildlife in the area including the reindeer, there was some seismic activity going on which they could hear from far off, so were already spooked. And finally the last thing I wanted to talk about was I used to work out at Prudhoe and had an occasion and was forced to go seek medical attention despite the fact that I did not want to do so, so something needs to be put in place that will keep that sort of thing from happening to others. Should infrastructure and the like begin going up with contractors and others of that nature working in the area.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR: Are there any other people? I think that we've exhausted our, unless somebody wants to mention anything. For the listening audience if we're still on air, that we have a BLM computer home page at <http://aurora.ak.blm.gov/> for any information that you want, or you want to submit to BLM on the NPR-A and then we have Tom Lohman and myself Arnold Brower, Jr. I'll be at the North Slope Borough Mayor's office to collect any information and your concerns during this process. I had a call from a local subsistence hunter who has a camp at the east end that he said this time period, closing period was too early with the amount of land that we had to cover for the EIS, that he did want me to say that he thought it was just too short, on the other hand also since the land was general in nature and from one end of the NPR-A to Nuiqsut was, why not do the whole thing in a reasonable period of time. And those were their comments that were transmitted to me. Other than that, I don't know. Anne, what's our agenda? Cause we didn't have any call-in, so we have exhausted our public participation for today at least, or this morning and yesterday (laughter). So I want to thank Jana for being ready at the very last end, at the last notice, and I wanted to thank Bertha Penigie, who is our recording specialist over before she left, but I'll do that tomorrow. Other than that, Dee do you have any more comments?

RITCHIE: Just our appreciation to everyone, I know this is a lot of time and a lot of effort and it's much appreciated and I think we ought to go to bed. (laughter)

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Thank you all of you that came, remember you can still submit your written comments and call me or Tom Lohman at the borough. And we will be going to Atqasuk tomorrow at about 4:30.

(Meeting adjourned)

NPR-A Planning Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
222 West 7th Avenue,
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

03/13/97

Re; Comments of the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope before BLM Scoping Meeting.

Good evening and welcome to Barrow, My name is Donald Long, President of Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS). As the newly elected Officer of ICAS I welcome my first public opportunity to represent the Native Community of the North Slope. I would like to first start with a brief background.

The ICAS Constitution and Bylaws were approved by the Assistant Secretary of Interior on June 26, 1971 and reaffirmed by the list of Federally Recognized Indian Tribes on February 16, 1995, pursuant to 60 Fed. Reg. 9250 "Indian Entities recognized and Eligible To Receive Services From The United States Bureau of Indian Affairs."

ICAS represents the villages of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Barrow, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, and Wainwright. The area includes "all of the area north of 68 degrees north latitude to the Arctic Ocean". More generally along the boundaries of the North Slope Borough.

In 1989 ICAS adopted a resolution asserting taxing powers and received a Federal Identification Number thereafter becoming an entity which exercises governmental functions for the purposes of P.L. 97-473, The Indian Tribal Governmental Tax Status act of 1982. I Bring this up because of several proposals I intend to make.

In 1996 the Department of Interior has reauthorize the eligibility of ICAS to contract for government programs under P.L. 93-638. As an example, some of the programs that ICAS contracted were in the areas of Tribal Administration, Real Estate, Child Welfare Services, and Job Training Programs.

This introduction is made in this manner to indicate to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), that ICAS as a Regional Tribal Government intends to become ~~totally~~ involved in the development of NPR-A including the preparation of the Integrated Activity Plan (IAP)/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). I am here to insist that there should be no question that the views of ICAS and the Village Tribal entities must be heard and considered part of the NPR-A Planning and Development Process.

I am not aware if ICAS was directly involved with the initial 1978 Study Reports numbers #1 thru #6 "prepared for the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Land Management as part of a resource analysis of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) required by Sections 105(b) and 105(c) of the Naval Petroleum Reserve Production Act of 1976". Nevertheless, ICAS is willing to be the contractor to do a follow-up and update study of the propose lease areas.

Studies and Statistics can change in twenty years, we have found that the existing study information and the conduct of exploration have become outdated. Mainly due to the advancement of time, the currant Land-use based on technological advancement, and based on today's standards of our requirement to monitor all activities within our subsistence areas. As in the OCS sales.

As for the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Others will also or have spoken about this concern. According to a resent Minerals Management Service study "Alaska Native organizations believe that the study plan developed by the National Marine Fisheries Service does not adequately consider or factor in traditional ecological knowledge". There was a mention of a work shop but it still seem that the results of the work shop were not incorporated anywhere. Again, although the statement was for an OCS sale this holds true for onshore activity.

We, that live on this land are the only ones that can relate to the current and ongoing changes. If getting a government contract is the medium to prompt the government to integrate the TEK and the follow-up and update study into the IAP/EIS, then we would encourage the BLM Team to request a budget to do so. As the old saying goes "If you buy it you may want to use it."

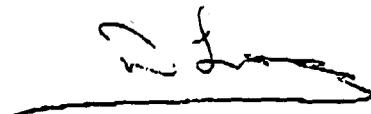
Now, because of the time constrains needed to do a complete follow-up study, it should be agreed that any new information or conflicting issues that arise after the adoption of the Final IAP/EIS, that they be dealt with as an addendum and part of the lease/ sale agreement.

Others have mention that Indian Country will become an issue. The Department of Interior (DOI) should recognize that if the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision on Venetie "Indian Country" stands, the jurisdictional responsibilities of the Federal government, the State of Alaska and ICAS and its Villages with respect to the lands in NPR-A and on the rest of the North Slope may, as a matter of law, significantly change.

The other Issue in relation to Tribal lands is to encourage the Secretary of Interior to reverse the Sansonetti Opinion to exercise governmental authority. Need more Information.

ICAS would like to make another proposal to BLM, that ICAS and Fish and Wildlife enter into discussions Wildlife co-management agreement on NPR-A. BLM will find that increased land use in the study area will have a significant impact on the livelihood of the Residents of Nuiqsut, Atqasuk, Barrow, and Anaktuvuk Pass. Studies have shown and new studies will show that Subsistence from lands on or around NPR-A still is the major source of sustenance for those Villagers. It should also be noted that if impacts negatively effect those Villages, means of remedy should be identified..

Thank You for this opportunity to address some issues of our concern.


3-17-97

March 17, 1997

Hi my name is ~~Barry Akpik~~
I live in Barrow Alaska, I was
born and lived all my life for
37 years (+) plus years I would
to have the oil and gas ~~company~~
business and company to drill
to drill for oil or gas for
living for heating and to keep
wants we in the North Slope people
of Alaska we the eskimo's
like to stay warm and ~~live~~ live
in a nice warm home and also
ever year the animals come ever
year that we live on as eating
fresh hot meal to live ~~on~~ on
for 100's of years it is still
living today living in the 90's
we the eskimo's of the North
slope people can live without
coffee, tea sugar, milk breakfast
lunch and dinner I would like
to say go ahead and drill.

Sincerely
~~Barry Akpik~~

Barry

Akpik



NATIVE VILLAGE OF BARROW INUPIAT TRADITIONAL GOVERNMENT

Dept. of the Interior
BLM

To Whom It May Concern:

This is in response to prepare an Integrated Activity Plan (IAP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on management of the northeastern portion of the NPR-A.

I am writing on the behalf of the Native Village of Barrow to voice the concerns we have about the proposed study of a portion of the Petroleum Reserve for integrated activity planning and possible leasing for oil and gas development.

At this time we are apprehensive on this issue because we feel that if these activities and measures are initiated they will have overall negative impact on the biologically sensitive habitats of our water fowls and terrestrial mammals which our Inupiat people are spiritually, nutritionally, and traditionally dependent on up to date. Moreover, these ventures will have adverse ecological effects to the ecosystem. Although it can have a positive social and economic impact on the North Slope residents, in our opinion, it would not be environmentally amiable.

The Native Village of Barrow Tribal Council adamantly opposes these upcoming oil and gas development activities to protect surface resources within the plan area, including fish and wildlife, historical and scenic values.

As with our fellow Alaska natives, we are strong advocates of our subsistence and traditional rights with respect to the affected North Slope area. We believe that these potential activities should be postponed and we emphatically oppose oil and gas development.

The Native Village of Barrow will submit a more detailed opinionated statement in the very near future.

Sincerely,

Price D. Leavitt Sr.

Price D. Leavitt, Sr.
Executive Director

3/17/97