

**Beaufort Sea Oil and Gas Lease
Sale 170**

Public Hearings

Kaktovik

1997

COPY

1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
2 MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
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6 OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT - PUBLIC HEARING
7 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
8 FOR BEAUFORT SEA PROPOSED OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE 170
9

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11
12 Kaktovik, Alaska
13 Wednesday, July 9, 1997
14 6:20 o'clock p.m.
15
16

17 MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE PANEL MEMBERS

18 Mr. Ray Emerson, Chief, Environmental Assessment Section,
19 Alaska Region Office

20 Mr. Kyle Monkeliën, Field Operations Office

21 Ms. Phyllis Casey, EIS Coordinator
22
23
24

25 Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording. Transcript
produced by transcription service.

1 KAKTOVIK, ALASKA - WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1997

2
3 (Tape No. 1 of 2 - Side A)

4 (On record at 6:20 p.m.)

5 MAYOR SONSALLA: Just for everybody that's here,
6 these are -- these people are from Minerals Management
7 Services, and they're taking comments on Lease Sale 170.
8 There's Ray Emerson?

9 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Mm hmm (affirmative).

10 MAYOR SONSALLA: Kyle.....

11 MR. MONKELIEN: Monkelién.

12 MAYOR SONSALLA: Okay.

13 (Laughter)

14 MAYOR SONSALLA: And Phyllis Casey in the back.
15 Being as it's church night, for those who are going to go to
16 church, they would like to make some comments first. I don't
17 know if you wanted to explain a little bit about this before we
18 take comments?

19 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yeah, I've got an opening
20 statement here, and I'll read it.

21 Good evening. My name is Ray Emerson, and I'm the
22 Chief of the Environmental Assessment Section for the Alaska
23 Region of the Office of the Minerals Management Service in
24 Anchorage, Alaska. With me on the panel tonight, as you just
25 heard, Mr. Kyle Monkelién of our Field Operations Office. Also

1 here to assist is Phyllis Casey, the EIS Coordinator on my
2 staff, in the back there.

3 This is a public hearing on the Draft Environmental
4 Impact Statement on our proposed Oil and Gas Lease Sale 170.
5 This is the third public hearing on proposed Sale 170. Public
6 meetings were held in Nuiqsut and Anchorage last week, and the
7 Barrow hearing will be held tomorrow.

8 The purpose of this meeting is to receive your
9 comments and suggestions on our Draft Environmental Impact
10 Statement. That's this document here. Copies were mailed out
11 mid-May for your review in preparation for this meeting. We
12 have also brought copies with us, which are available in the
13 back. If you did not receive one personally or if you would
14 like to take one home tonight, please feel free to take a copy.

15 The area under consideration in the Draft EIS, which
16 is outlined in red on the map there on the wall -- outlined in
17 red, the large area, is what's being considered -- focuses on
18 near-shore blocks from east of the Colville River to west of
19 Barter Island. It includes 363 blocks covering about 1.7
20 million acres and is located from 3 to 25 miles offshore in the
21 central Beaufort Sea. The State's jurisdiction goes from the
22 shoreline out to the first three miles.

23 The proposed sale follows closely after Sale 144,
24 held last September. We issued, in that sale, 29 leases
25 covering about 100,000 acres. Only one well was drilled by BP

1 on a lease from that sale, and based upon the well results, BP
2 has initiated discussions with MMS regarding the permitting for
3 development of what is called the Liberty Prospect.

4 Would you point to the Liberty Prospect there?

5 MR. MONKELIEN: This area right here.

6 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: The Draft EIS builds upon
7 the information from the Final EIS on Sale 144 and includes new
8 information obtained since the 144 Final EIS was issued about a
9 year ago. In addition, the Sale 170 Draft EIS covers issues
10 raised during scoping meetings held in Barrow, Nuiqsut,
11 Kaktovik, and Anchorage.

12 You have been part of this process, and the EIS
13 should reflect what you have gain -- what we have gained
14 through your comments and suggestions and from previous sales,
15 including adopting, at a minimum, all of the mitigation that
16 was developed for Sale 144, which was designed to limit
17 conflicts between the oil and gas activities and the bowhead
18 whale hunt, and participate in monitoring activities should
19 they occur.

20 We also have expanded our use of traditional
21 knowledge in this document, which is something we are
22 continuing to improve upon. In addition, based on concerns
23 expressed during the 170 scoping meetings, the MMS has designed
24 and will issue a contract this year for a four-year bowhead
25 whale feeding study in the eastern Beaufort Sea to update

1 scientific and traditional information. The North Slope
2 Borough and the Eskimo Whaling Commission have participated in
3 the design of this study and will assist us in the review of
4 future reports.

5 Since the Draft EIS was completed, the MMS became
6 aware of concerns presented by the North Slope Borough and the
7 AEWG and the City of Nuiqsut to the State of noise disturbance
8 and space use conflicts. These areas of concern are shown in
9 yellow on the map.

10 We have also had to establish an Alaska Regional
11 Advisory Committee for this sale, which will meet in early
12 August to review the comments we receive on the Draft EIS and
13 to recommend whether any new issues or mitigating -- mitigation
14 requirements may need review. Members of this Committee
15 appointed by the Secretary of the Interior include Mr. Fenton
16 Rexford from Kaktovik, Burton Rexford from Barrow, and Thomas
17 Napageak from Nuiqsut. Other members of this Committee would
18 include the State, industry, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
19 Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

20 We are here tonight to hear your comments and further
21 suggestions on this Environmental Impact Statement. All
22 comments are being recorded by Ms. Cindy Carl, our recorder,
23 and we will provide a -- and they will provide a complete
24 written transcript of all the public comments from these
25 hearings. Copies can be obtained through Executary Court

1 Reporting services.

2 The primary purpose of this hearing on the EIS is to
3 improve the quality of the Impact Statement. Your comments
4 will be included in the record for the Final EIS.

5 This meeting will be more of a dialog than some
6 public hearings. We will respond to questions, but we don't
7 want to distract from the point you are making as we're
8 interested in your views of this Impact Statement and on the
9 proposed sale. So we will do all we can to assure you that we
10 have a good understanding of your over -- of the overall
11 program and that we understand your comments. Before, it's
12 been relatively formalized, and that we're trying to have more
13 of a dialog this time on that, and it's been a little more
14 successful.

15 The comment period closes July 18th. Until that
16 time, MMS will accept written comments from anyone who would
17 prefer to provide written comments rather than presenting oral
18 comments or in addition to oral comments. All written comments
19 should be sent to the MMS by July 18th. Our address is 949
20 East 36th Avenue, Room 308, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.

21 We will keep a written record of who is here and who
22 wishes to testify. Please speak into the microphone so that
23 you can hear and re- -- so that we can hear and record
24 everything you say on the official record. Please give your
25 name and spell it for the record. Thank you, and now we'll

1 begin.

2 This is relatively structured. They gave this to me
3 to read, and it's got nice big print so that I don't mess it up
4 too much. Actually, I can read this from across the room
5 almost.

6 Anyway, so is there anyone who would like to testify
7 or make a statement or have any comments? This -- if you'd
8 come up to this microphone here, and that would be our first
9 step in this process.

10 (No response)

11 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: If you -- especially if
12 you're having church night -- this is church night, I believe?

13 (No audible response)

14 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Okay. Anyone who's going
15 to be going there, we'd like to hear from you first.

16 (No response - Pause)

17 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Is there any -- do we think
18 we understand what this is about?

19 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: Explain.

20 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Pardon?

21 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: Explain.

22 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Explain? Well, it's the
23 proposed lease sale. It's on the area in red on the map.
24 Okay. That's the area being considered for our lease sale;
25 this is 170.

1 The smaller area is in Sale 144, which has just one
2 well drilled in the Liberty Prospect.

3 The decision options are no sale again. The
4 proposal, there's a Kaktovik deferral in the area in red, and
5 there's also -- or that's green. Excuse me. And those are the
6 decision options at this point. You asked about a Kaktovik
7 def- -- or a Nuiqsut deferral, and it was agreed upon that
8 the -- it was first the area to be considered was going to
9 be -- if there was a Kaktovik deferral, there would be no lease
10 sale. And that was the same as having no sale.

11 So the members of that community agreed -- thought
12 that a more effective approach were the two mitigating measures
13 that are designed, first of all, to -- there's a Committee, as
14 I mentioned, of those people that will be looking at potential
15 effects of disturbance or seismic activities, and the issue is
16 effects of noise causing the whale migration to be further
17 offshore of the -- for that community. And so there's a group
18 that's going to be monitoring that particular activity to see
19 if, indeed, what the disturbance distances are.

20 The traditional knowledge and the scientific
21 information don't quite agree, and so a monitoring program is
22 in place, and any conflicts will be kind of ongoing as they see
23 results, with those participants that I mentioned. And that
24 was negotiated with the Nuiqsut community.

25 (Ms. Traynor not at a microphone and difficult to discern)

1 MS. TRAYNOR: So who is this group that's monitoring
2 this?

3 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: It would be the members,
4 the folks that I mentioned: Thomas Napageak is a member of
5 that, Burton Rexford.

6 MS. TRAYNOR: Fenton.

7 MR. MONKELIEN: Fenton Rexford.

8 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Fenton Rexford. Excuse me.
9 And a member of industry, a member of the State, a member of
10 MMS. And that's kind of a -- and it's meant to see what is the
11 effect from that particular activity and adjusting accordingly.
12 There are -- it may move out to involve deferral areas that
13 need to be defined then.

14 MR. MONKELIEN: Basically, the stipulation is written
15 so that the industry does the actual monitoring. They pay for
16 and provide information on what -- on their monitoring effort.
17 And that is used -- that information is studied by that group,
18 and then the peer review is done on the -- their report, and
19 decisions then can be made from that, based on that
20 information, as to what further mitigation may be necessary to
21 take care of any problems that are pointed out by the report.

22 MS. TRAYNOR: So you're saying that the oil companies
23 are the ones that would gather the information and.....

24 MR. MONKELIEN: No, they'd monitor. They.....

25 MS. TRAYNOR:have this review of it.

1 MR. MONKELIEN: Then we review the information that
2 they get.

3 MS. TRAYNOR: (Inaudible) the oil companies
4 (inaudible)?

5 MS. CASEY: No.

6 MR. MONKELIEN: No. We review both the plan that
7 they propose and the information that they provide, that they
8 collect. So we do have oversight with -- through this
9 Committee, of both -- of everything that.....

10 (Indiscernible - Microphone interference)

11 MR. MONKELIEN:what they're doing.

12 MAYOR SONSALLA: I guess I thought they hired the
13 people that are from the local villages most affected to
14 participate in the monitoring? Those affected?

15 MR. MONKELIEN: That would have to be something that
16 would be worked out between the -- during the review of the
17 program, what the actual program was going to look like, and
18 then we would work with the industry and the local communities
19 to develop that program.

20 (Ms. Casey not at a microphone and difficult to discern)

21 MS. CASEY: And we would also participate
22 (inaudible - not at a microphone) for after the plan is
23 developed. The intent of the measure was to have everyone
24 involved, including the State and core of the local communities
25 and the AEWC in (inaudible - microphone interference).

1 (Indiscernible) the agreement was that they monitor it and for
2 the (indiscernible) then to implement that monitoring plan and
3 then observers will be invited to participate during the actual
4 monitoring program.

5 MS. TRAYNOR: Who's paying for all this?

6 MR. MONKELIEN: Industry is.

7 MS. CASEY: Industry pays.

8 MS. TRAYNOR: Oh, industry.

9 MS. CASEY: They're all in the information that's
10 reported by the (indiscernible) that'll be reviewed.

11 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: It's representative.....

12 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: And is there a review of those?

13 Will Fenton and.....

14 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Burton.

15 MS. AKOOTCHOOK:Burton and.....

16 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Thomas.

17 MS. AKOOTCHOOK:Thomas be involved.....

18 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yes, they will.

19 MS. AKOOTCHOOK:in that review?

20 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yes. Also in the survey.

21 They'll be a part of the monitoring team that will be -- not
22 just the report, but they'll be on board. There'll be
23 monitoring flights that will be in place that we'll get some
24 real data to work with.

25 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: And they will be on board all that

1 time you guys are monitoring?

2

3 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Mm hmm (affirmative). Or
4 they can have -- I suppose they could have a designated
5 representative for them if they can't make it, someone that
6 they would -- someone in their own community, if they want to
7 assign them to it.

8 MS. CASEY: They will participate as observers
9 (inaudible). And the National Marine Fisheries Service is the
10 authority on.....

11 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Disturbance to endangered
12 species.

13 MS. TRAYNOR: Disturbance to endangered species,
14 but.....

15 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: The bowhead is.....

16 MS. TRAYNOR:is the bowhead endangered?

17 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yes.

18 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: If they have said that the bowhead
19 is endangered, why do the industry ask for accidental take?
20 They shouldn't even be asking for them.

21 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: That's your comment. These
22 are comments, and we're going to -- all of your comments, we're
23 not trying to answer right now, but that -- your concerns,
24 that's the excellent example of that.

25 Are you picking -- can you pick this up, Cindy, or do

1 we need.....

2 RECORDER: No, the people really need to come to the
3 microphone because I cannot guarantee I'm picking up.....

4 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: Then you need to get those up here.

5 RECORDER: I just put a microphone up there, but I
6 don't know if it's going to pick it up back there.

7 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: All right.

8 RECORDER: It's a large room.

9 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: We're taking notes on that.

10 MS. TRAYNOR: Oh, you have microphones on the tape
11 recorder?

12 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yeah.

13 (Pause)

14 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: And you can discuss between
15 yourselves, too, if it's something you wanted to.

16 MS. TRAYNOR: Well, you mentioned the yellow areas on
17 this as being off-limits type thing, the line. Where is it
18 from Kaktovik? Normally in your lease sales, you have areas
19 that you don't put up for lease because they're whaling areas.

20 MR. MONKELIEN: That's what the deferral area is
21 intended to do.

22 MS. TRAYNOR: Which is that?

23 MR. MONKELIEN: The green. The green area.

24 MS. TRAYNOR: Oh, the whole green area?

25 MR. MONKELIEN: The whole green area.

1 (Indiscernible simultaneous speech)

2 MS. CASEY: It's green area is an option.

3 MR. MONKELIEN: Yeah, it's an option. It's option
4 that will be examined in the EIS. The two yellow areas were
5 done -- those were State, between the State and the Eskimo
6 Whaling Commission. Those only relate to the Sale 86 area.
7 They were put on that for -- the map for information purposes.

8 MS. TRAYNOR: So the green area is an option. It's
9 not.....

10 MR. MONKELIEN: Right.

11 MS. TRAYNOR:not yet.....

12 MR. MONKELIEN: Not yet. It will be deci- -- that
13 decision will be made by the Secretary from the sale that's --
14 it's something further down.

15 MS. TRAYNOR: So we need to put input into that.....

16 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yes.

17 MR. MONKELIEN: Yes.

18 MS. TRAYNOR:if we want as much of that area
19 taken out of the lease that (inaudible).

20 MR. MONKELIEN: That's the information that we need.

21 MS. TRAYNOR: The whole thing, yeah.

22 MR. MONKELIEN: That's a comment that we would want
23 to capture from these hearings.

24 MS. TRAYNOR: Well, I would assume that they'd want
25 the whole thing out. I mean.....

1 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Well, that's your
2 suggestion.

3 MS. TRAYNOR:you know, this is a whole lot of
4 information to go through.....

5 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: It certainly is.

6 MS. TRAYNOR:in 10 minutes.

7 (Pause - Side comments)

8 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: If you need some additional
9 time, we can work with you on that.

10 MAYOR SONSALLA: When were you guys here last to take
11 comments on this?

12 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Let's see.

13 MS. CASEY: November.

14 MAYOR SONSALLA: Was it November?

15 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yeah. Scoping meetings.

16 (Side comments)

17 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: Where are all those comments anyway?
18 Why aren't they in here?

19 MR. MONKELIEN: The scoping comments are in
20 Section 1. It's a summary of the comments. (Inaudible)
21 comments on page I-3. Page I-3, it's in the front of the book.

22 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: That's in 1?

23 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: (Indiscernible comment.)

24 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Well, we don't do it
25 this -- on scoping, though, is have the verbatim transcript

1 like we're trying to gain here.

2 (Side comments)

3 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: What we -- that was -- the
4 ideas that it needed to be covered in this document with what
5 we got from the scoping meeting in November. So this is a
6 result -- this document is a result of treating the concerns
7 that we heard in November. And if we need to refocus or
8 improve upon that, why that's what we're here today for. So
9 what we gain from this today is testimony, a statement or
10 however the -- or written comments, will go into a Chapter 5
11 for the final, and that is a verbatim transcript of the
12 comments that we hear today. And that'll be in the final
13 document.

14 So you don't see individual names associated with the
15 scoping comments like you will in the next round here with the
16 final.

17 MS. TRAYNOR: So I see on page 1 -- it's I-7 or 1-7,
18 that you had to leave off blocks when you (inaudible). I
19 assume that's that green box?

20 MS. CASEY: It's the area larger than that.

21 MS. TRAYNOR: It's larger than that.

22 MS. CASEY: And we selected that area. It's slightly
23 lar- -- you've got (inaudible) an area slightly smaller than
24 (inaudible).

25 MS. TRAYNOR: You requested 51.

1 MS. CASEY: Right.

2 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yes.

3 MAYOR SONSALLA: If I remember right, that was the
4 request I made in November, that there be a 50-mile radius
5 surrounding Kaktovik that would be off limits.

6 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Right.

7 MAYOR SONSALLA: Just by measuring it with my
8 fingers, it looks like that's about what it is.

9 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: No, it's not.

10 MS. CASEY: It's slightly less.

11 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: They made -- they chose to make it
12 smaller.

13 (Indiscernible simultaneous speech)

14 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: (Indiscernible) what we wanted as
15 deferral.

16 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Well, that would be the
17 Canning River, and that boundary would be about over the
18 Canning River. What has happened -- what has take -- the
19 reason is already that there is development in the Kuvlum and
20 the -- what's that other one?

21 MR. MONKELIEN: Hammerhead.

22 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Hammerhead leases are
23 already active. So.....

24 (Pause - Side conversations)

25 MR. MONKELIEN: Phyllis.

1 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Why don't we.....

2 MR. MONKELIEN: Is this stuff that we need to have on
3 the record?

4 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: That could be a dialog
5 right there.

6 MS. CASEY: This is an explanation of Kaktovik
7 (indiscernible).

8 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Okay. Why don't you go
9 ahead and show the rest of the group?

10 MS. CASEY: Okay. The area that's identified in the
11 green is what was selected based on comments that you had
12 requested. You had initially asked for a 50-mile deferral
13 area. The majority of the area that you requested is included,
14 except for the area of leases that were issued from our last
15 sale that was held last September (indiscernible). And the
16 reason it doesn't show a total of 50 is because you also asked
17 for an area that extended eastward, here, over to around
18 Kaktovik, and this is beyond the sale area. We had already
19 removed an entire area from Sale 144. So that's why these --
20 the extent of the sale is cut off here. We didn't go over
21 there, so this is part of what you wanted as well. But since
22 we're -- we weren't going to go that far, it's not included as
23 a deferral because it's not even in the (indiscernible).....

24 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: It's already -- good point.

25 MS. TRAYNOR: I see another thing here, whale feeding

1 areas?

2 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yes.

3 MS. TRAYNOR: It says a good part of the feeding area
4 is outside of the whole sale. And how much of the sale area is
5 in feeding areas?

6 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: That would be a part, and
7 that's something that's still trying to -- we're still trying
8 to define as part of the study. But it could be -- it would
9 extend probably in that green area and extend further east
10 outside the sale area. So probably the original studies show
11 it somewhat outside the sale area, but we would imagine there
12 was some of it is going to be within that green area.

13 There's also a controversy as to, Is the feeding
14 occurring somewhat along the -- all along the way, that they
15 don't just wait till they get to that area? And so the study
16 would include kills of opportunity that are occurring from the
17 subsistence hunt, examining the stomach analysis to see if
18 feeding -- the level of feeding that's occurred with -- at
19 different points.

20 MS. TRAYNOR: So when we get bowhead whales this
21 fall, you'll want to see the.....

22 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Pardon me?

23 MS. TRAYNOR: So when we take bowheads this fall,
24 you'll want to see the stomach contents.

25 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: That's probably true. That

1 hasn't quite been determined yet, but that's probably true.

2 (Pause - Side conversations)

3 MR. AKOOTCHOOK: Well, I don't know -- you will be
4 needing, what, a comment from here in Kaktovik about that lease
5 sale?

6 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Sure. Certainly.

7 That's.....

8 MR. AKOOTCHOOK: And what -- anything -- you'll put
9 anything in the report far as (indiscernible)?

10 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Certainly. Yes.

11 (Side comments)

12 MR. AKOOTCHOOK: Well, I'll try.

13 MR. MONKELIEN: Okay.

14 (Pause)

15 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MR. ISAACK AKOOTCHOOK

16 I'm louder -- I'll speak louder. My name is Isaack
17 Akootchook. I'm born up here in Kaktovik, 1922, and I'm still
18 here in Kaktovik.

19 And we are here about the lease sale many times, and
20 that -- we have our testimony quite a few times about it. And
21 the lease sale is in the oceans. It's the animal -- the whale,
22 oogruk, and sea -- maybe a lot of people talk already about
23 that. But we have say more about it. We're living, and that
24 way, we use for the ocean and bowheads then.

25 In the ocean is whale, oogruk, seal, fish, polar

1 bear, bird, ducks, and whatever, they live in the ocean side.
2 And the mainland, caribou, brown bears, and all kinds of little
3 birds, ptarmigan, ducks, squirrel, foxes, whatever, use up here
4 in the area. We use those animals.

5 We're not really -- and what we kind of say about
6 because in our families and the families has used that many
7 times. We got a lot -- if we heard (indiscernible) about it,
8 and we have a lot of questions about that, a lot of things to
9 be in the lease sale.

10 We live up here; we're going to still here (sic).
11 Lot of time, somebody come over, and we'll more and more and
12 talk about it. And this time, what it's -- this is sellable.
13 I live here, and that what we use. And one things I know is my
14 question is: How, if they have an oil spill in the oceans, are
15 they going to be clean it? They don't have any answer to that.
16 Many times we are asking about that.

17 They haven't -- they can have a benefit for these
18 people live up here in Kaktovik and Nuiqsut. And that's
19 another things that we have always question, never answer. And
20 because we live and the animal and use this animal. And white
21 people live by the money and the work and a lot of things. But
22 Eskimos living and work and same things, too, but it's always
23 use their la- -- oceans for their food.

24 A lot of got a headaches, a lot of time it happened
25 in this area. We're not against that, but we all work

1 together. As long as we work together, because we need hunting
2 area; use both in the oceans and the mainland. That's the
3 things that's long as we have hunting area and use this land
4 all the way from Tumukacian (ph) all the way to Canning River,
5 that's what we use this land.

6 If they don't have any people that answer me, and
7 questions and something, a lot of times I get just like that --
8 we talk about it for nothing. (Laugh) You know. If we have
9 talking like that. But in a way, this is my concern because
10 our people need it to be right to work with it. And we have
11 Fenton and Thomas and Burton Rexford representing this thing,
12 you know. We always -- they're always -- we heard them talk
13 about that a lot of time.

14 And I think that's about all this evening. Thank you
15 very much.

16 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Thank you.

17 MR. MONKELIEN: Thank you.

18 (Pause - Side comment)

19 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MS. SUSIE AKOOTCHOOK

20 My name is Susie Akootchook. I was born and raised
21 here in Kaktovik. I oppose -- I've voiced my concerns and
22 comments every lease sale -- offshore lease sale hearings or
23 I'm commenting that they have in Kaktovik for years and years.

24 (Ms. Akootchook translating her testimony into Inupiat)

25 The Inupiat people are here in this area, we are

1 hunters. They're -- they live off the land -- whales, seals,
2 oogruks, fish, ducks, a variety of animals, belugas. I've
3 opposed and I've voiced my opinions for years and years, every
4 time they had lease sales here, and up to this day, I still
5 oppose these offshores, offshore lease sales for reasons like
6 we have no guarantee that you guys -- that the oil company will
7 not have any oil spill. And there's no guarantee that the
8 clean-up will be successful.

9 You guys, MMS or any other oil industry, have not
10 give us answers that will satisfy me with oil spills, that they
11 will -- that may occur down there. 'Cause we have seen that
12 one down there in Valdez, down there in south of Alaska there,
13 and it was a bad one. It may not have been -- it may have come
14 out from the tanker, but, you know, oil is oil.

15 Our people will not stop living off the ocean or
16 living off the land here. They will continue.

17 (Ms. Akootchook translating her testimony into Inupiat)

18 The Inupiat people likes to eat. They -- we're
19 Inupiats. That's -- and that's why we live off that ocean down
20 there. We live off of that. That's -- we eat from it. We eat
21 from it. And that's why I oppose these offshores.

22 You guys come out -- MMS come out and want to sell
23 this, want to sell that to the oil companies, and it's just an
24 ongoing thing, year in, year out. And it's -- I don't think
25 you guys are going to stop. You guys should listen to us.

1 Hear us out. Hear us. Get it in there.

2 This stuff is serious. It's serious stuff. It's --
3 we're not just talking, just blabbering. This is our -- where
4 we live off. My Gosh! You can go like that.....

5 MR. MONKELIEN: I under- -- I understand.....

6 BY MS. AKOOTCHOOK (Continuing):

7geez. You guys just -- you MMS people just want to sell,
8 sell, sell. Money, money, money. Money, money, money. Come
9 on. Think of Food, food, food for the Inupiat people here.
10 Not only here but all through the coast. It goes all the way
11 to Greenland. Geez.

12 Inupiat (indiscernible). Inupiats so many
13 (indiscernible) they get hungry. And if you'd let them go down
14 there where they like to eat out of this ocean. Not
15 (indiscernible). Listen to us. Listen to them. Year in, year
16 out. How many times a year you guys come around here -- 'We're
17 going to have a hearing. We're going to have -- we want some
18 comments. You got -- this time, oh, you guys got about a month
19 or so to get your comments in. Hurry, hurry, hurry.' Oh, wow!

20 I oppose. I oppose these offshores. As well as
21 I.....

22 (Ms. Akootchook translating her testimony into Inupiat)

23 These animals are going to be deleted sometimes. But
24 these animals are still here up to this day, and as long as the
25 animals are here and not destroyed, we're going to eat off of

1 them. And you guys -- and we read all these things about these
2 animals that are getting toxic chemicals in them. Not safe to
3 eat because of the industrial toxics, chemicals, and everything
4 like that. Lord only knows what you guys are going to put --
5 what the oil companies going to dump in there.

6 You guys, MMS people, listen to us. Listen to us.
7 They're getting a lot of oil and gas over there in Prudhoe Bay
8 area. And they've got another one, great big one, over there,
9 Alcan (sic) -- Alpine. Gol, why don't you just stop there for
10 a while? Stop there for a while.

11 MR. MONKELIEN: Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Thank you.

13 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MS. MARIE REXFORD

14 Marie Rexford. I oppose this, too. I never liked
15 what I seen in Prudhoe Bay.

16 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Could you repeat your name
17 and spell it, please?

18 MS. REXFORD: I'm Marie Rexford.

19 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Okay. Thank you.

20 BY MS. REXFORD (Resuming):

21 I've lived here all my life, and I oppose everything
22 with the oil companies. I don't like what I see in Prudhoe
23 Bay. I never liked what I saw over there when I went working
24 over there. So I'm putting my comment to say I oppose all the
25 oil leases.

1 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Do you have specific things
2 that you'd want to mention?

3 MS. REXFORD: Well, like she said, this is our Garden
4 of Eden. We live off this land. And we'll never stop living
5 off the land. So.....

6 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: The things you saw at
7 Prudhoe Bay, did you want to mention any of that?

8 MS. REXFORD: There's a lot of chemical.

9 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Discharges?

10 MS. REXFORD: A whole bunch of -- I don't know what
11 they are, that are out in the open. And animals can get in
12 those things and spread it around, so I didn't like that. So I
13 just have to voice my comments and say that I oppose.

14 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Well, that's a very good
15 comment. Any other things like that, though, see, that -- and
16 you're right. Those open-pit discharges were -- have proven to
17 be not the best way to go. And right now, the program that is
18 being required, let's say, onshore also is that those materials
19 are being reinjected back into the well. So it's not -- they
20 won't have those open pits like the south Prudhoe has.

21 MS. REXFORD: I still oppose.

22 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: I appreciate your comments.

23 MR. MONKELIEN: Thank you.

24 (Off record)

25 (Tape Change - Tape No. 1 of 2, Side B)

1 (On record)

2 RECORDER: On record. Okay. Go ahead, please.

3 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MR. EDWARD REXFORD, SR.

4 Yes. My name is Edward Rexford, Sr. Raised here all
5 my life, a lifelong resident and also a Whaling Captain. And I
6 also am against the Lease Sale 170. And looks like there's
7 going to be a lot of impact on our whaling this summer, and
8 it's getting worse each year.

9 And I hope you guys would give us more time for
10 comments. Like today, it's a bad day 'cause people are going
11 to church and stuff. And we should have more Whaling Captains
12 here voicing their concerns on this important matter.

13 And like I say, I oppose the lease sale also.

14 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: How much additional time do
15 you think would be helpful here?

16 MR. REXFORD: Oh, geez. What I'd like to see is the
17 Whaling Captains get together and come up with some comments,
18 too, 'cause a lot of them, they aren't here.

19 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: A week, two be okay? Well,
20 if you want to work on that, we can work with you on that.

21 MR. REXFORD: Well, I'd like to see it extended and
22 have other people given chances to voice their concerns.

23 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: If we know that a group has
24 got something they want to get in the system, then we can
25 accommodate that. But we'll still keep the same general

1 deadlines, but kind of on schedule, but if something -- if you
2 need additional time, why we can work with you on that.

3 MAYOR SONSALLA: Would you be willing to come back
4 and.....

5 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Oh, another trip?

6 MAYOR SONSALLA: Another trip, yeah.

7 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: I don't know on that.

8 MAYOR SONSALLA: Are you talking more about like
9 written comments?

10 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yeah. Yeah. Send them in
11 to our office. Well, we've had -- this is our third attempt
12 getting here anyway, on account of the weather. Maybe we could
13 get back, I don't know. It's been hard to get here.

14 MR. REXFORD: Well, I'm opposed to it.

15 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: If you want to work on a
16 statement or something, or with the community, we can.....

17 MAYOR SONSALLA: You could extend the deadline for
18 the written statements?

19 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Correct.

20 MAYOR SONSALLA: Till?

21 MR. MONKELIEN: For some period. I'm not sure what
22 that period would be.

23 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: At least a week, possibly
24 two. But that's probably.....

25 MS. AKOOTHOOK: So you guys were looking at July

1 18th as the deadline for comments?

2 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Mm hmm (affirmative).

3 Yeah.

4 MR. REXFORD: And you mentioned that people who make
5 comments and testimonies before on that -- the scoping probably
6 won't -- will not be included in the -- the comment.....

7 MR. MONKELIEN: In the Final EIS?

8 MR. REXFORD: Yeah.

9 MR. MONKELIEN: Only in the way that they've been
10 included in.....

11 (Microphone repositioned)

12 MR. REXFORD: And the ones that would be included is
13 the people who make comments now tonight?

14 MR. MONKELIEN: These will be.....

15 MR. REXFORD: And.....

16 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Those will be. In
17 this.....

18 MR. REXFORD: There's hardly anybody here to make
19 comments, as you can see.

20 MR. MONKELIEN: Well, the written comments will also
21 be included.

22 MR. REXFORD: Uh-huh (affirmative).

23 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: In the -- in this document
24 right now, we've taken statements from individuals in the
25 communities and incorporated them, as we heard that

1 information, as traditional knowledge. That's been added to
2 this document. So on the topics of each resource, caribou,
3 bowhead whale hunting, migratory water fowl, marine mammals,
4 that are all these topics here, there are people that are cited
5 in the communities that have made statements. So you should
6 see that all the way through the document.

7 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, I haven't had a chance to go
8 through the.....

9 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: That would be Chapters --
10 those are -- those people are in Chapters 3 for the description
11 of the environment, and then some of the effects that they see
12 are in the Chapter 4.

13 MR. REXFORD: Okay. Well, I'll have to go through
14 this. This is the first day I've seen this.

15 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Okay.

16 MR. REXFORD: All right. Thank you.

17 MR. MONKELIEN: Thank you.

18 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: We have a question.

19 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: For example, here on
20 page 4-B20 is a whole column of that particular information
21 from different people.

22 MAYOR SONSALLA: You have a question?

23 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yes.

24 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: I've got a question.

25 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Sure.

1 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: You guys think of the Whaling
2 Captains? Did you guys ever think of mailing these to each of
3 the Whaling Captains in the communities?

4 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yes.

5 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: So you're sure the.....

6 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: They.....

7 MS. AKOOTCHOOK:they were sent that book.

8 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: They have those.

9 MS. CASEY: They have them.

10 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: We have sent those.

11 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: To the Whaling Captains.

12 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yes. Yes.

13 (Simultaneous indiscernible speech)

14 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: And were they sent -- Nuiqsut --
15 were you guys (indiscernible)?

16 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Uh-huh (affirmative).

17 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: Do you still have everything?

18 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yes.

19 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: Where's your Director? Your new
20 Director. What is his name?

21 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: The new Director?

22 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: Yeah.

23 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: John Goll (ph). He's back
24 in Washington, D.C.; he's moving this week.

25 What happened is this schedule got delayed for the

1 Secretary of Interior coming and changed this -- because they
2 didn't want to have the NPR-A and the 170 issues confused. So
3 the -- that's what Barrow asked us, to make a change in the
4 date. And then this -- we were supposed to be here last week
5 for your community, but we got weathered out. We couldn't get
6 in from the weather conditions. So we're a week late here
7 because of weather.

8 MS. CASEY: Two weeks.

9 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: But they had -- two weeks
10 late. Excuse me. And so they're having their public hearing
11 tomorrow in Barrow, but we had the public hearing in Nuiqsut
12 two weeks ago.

13 So we can work with you on the additional two weeks
14 because weather's -- you've got the toughest weather on the
15 Slope so far.

16 (Pause)

17 MR. MONKELIEN: And he -- the Director did want to
18 come to this one, to the meeting here. He was planning on it.
19 If they'd been in two weeks ago, he would have been with the
20 group that would have been here.

21 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: But he will be up here.
22 He'll -- he wants to visit.

23 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: When?

24 MR. MONKELIEN: That, I'm not sure when.

25 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Haven't got it scheduled

1 yet. Did you want.....

2 MS. CASEY: (Inaudible) comment about were the
3 Whaling Captains sent copies. In Section 6-3, there's a list
4 of people who got them, and I (inaudible).

5 (Pause - Side comments)

6 MS. CASEY: You know, and it shows all the people who
7 have either submitted comments through scoping or through other
8 EISS. We'll be including your comments, and people that are --
9 or groups or industry who we sent copies to. So if you didn't
10 get your copy, Susie (inaudible), because everybody that's
11 listed here, this person was sent a copy of the EIS.

12 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: (Inaudible comment.)

13 MS. CASEY: Yeah. It was sent down May 18th. So
14 that's why I want to (indiscernible). But the Whaling
15 Captains, like, Edward, you mentioned just (indiscernible)
16 which Whaling Captains, that was the date (indiscernible)
17 copies of the document. If you see names that should be on
18 there, so that if you could tell me who they are, then I'll get
19 their addresses so we make sure they're on the mailing list. '
20 Cause we'll send out as many copies as addresses.

21 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: We're going to leave those
22 copies here, too; right?

23 (Ms. Casey addressing the group; her comments are
24 difficult to discern as she was not at a microphone)

25 MS. CASEY: Yeah. Yeah, we need to tell you guys

1 (indiscernible), but if you can give me names, I'll be happy to
2 add them, and we'll make sure that the people get it. That's
3 the only way we know who to send to. (Indiscernible) in the
4 past were spoken at that scoping meeting or whatever. Anybody
5 that has commented like during our scoping meet or
6 (indiscernible), we go through those lists and make sure that
7 they're added to the mailing list.

8 Because they are interested, and they do take the
9 time to testify, you know, or to make comments or to write
10 comments. And so we want to make sure that we follow up with
11 them and that they do see that -- what the document looks like,
12 and that somehow the document -- their comments are
13 incorporated, as well as the summary.

14 MAYOR SONSALLA: It is kind of strange that those
15 people that are listed there didn't get.....

16 (Indiscernible simultaneous speech)

17 MS. CASEY: Yeah, I don't understand either because I
18 personally went through and sent out all these copies.

19 MAYOR SONSALLA: 'Cause I know we used to -- the City
20 used to get boxes.

21 MS. CASEY: Boxes.

22 MAYOR SONSALLA: Boxes in and we, you know, would
23 have to distribute them. But we didn't -- I think I got one or
24 two copies of the plan.

25 MS. CASEY: 'Cause everybody that's listed in here

1 should certainly get a copy. So we have -- I guess we'll have
2 to follow up on our end. I mean, they actually were sent out
3 to the post office. At least (indiscernible).

4 (Indiscernible side comments)

5 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Well, we need that -- need
6 to have somebody send them boxes full, I guess, a couple of
7 boxes. That worked before. Just have a couple of boxes be
8 sent to them.

9 MS. CASEY: We'll send extra, yeah. We can send them
10 to individuals and then send the community boxes.

11 MAYOR SONSALLA: Okay. If you want to do that, I can
12 post notices and put on it anybody that wants to pick up a
13 copy.....

14 MS. CASEY: Okay.

15 MAYOR SONSALLA:I have extras here.

16 MS. CASEY: Yeah. I did not send out extra boxes. I
17 guess I should.

18 (Pause - Side comments)

19 MR. REXFORD: So who makes the decision on if they're
20 going to defer that (indiscernible)?

21 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Well, that's made,
22 actually, by the Secretary of Interior, who weighs the pros and
23 cons of that.

24 MS. TRAYNOR: You see, I don't see it listed.....

25 (Indiscernible simultaneous speech)

1 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: Wasn't the Secretary of Interior at
2 Barrow yet? Or did he leave yesterday?

3 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: He left there yesterday.

4 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: What's today?

5 MR. AKOOTCHOOK: Wednesday.

6 MS. TRAYNOR: Oh, he was over in the northeast corner
7 of.....

8 MR. MONKELIEN: NPR-A.

9 (Side comments)

10 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yes, Atqasuk today.

11 MR. MONKELIEN: Atqasuk today.

12 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: So that the -- he has his own plane?

13 MS. TRAYNOR: Of course.

14 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: Or he has his own plane?

15 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Helicopter.

16 MR. MONKELIEN: Or a helicopter.

17 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: So he might still be at Barrow.

18 MR. MONKELIEN: Possibly. I'm not sure.

19 (Simultaneous speech)

20 MS. CASEY: (Inaudible response.)

21 MR. MONKELIEN: I think so.

22 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Yeah.

23 MR. MONKELIEN: I think he's.....

24 MS. CASEY: He's supposed to be. I don't know if he
25 went to -- if he made it here.

1 MR. AKOOTCHOOK: Tell me about that Minerals
2 Management Services' work, how do you.....

3 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: How do you what?

4 MR. AKOOTCHOOK: Minerals Services.

5 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Uh-huh (affirmative).

6 MR. AKOOTCHOOK: What's your work out in here?
7 Explain it.

8 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Oh. Well, the -- there's a
9 legislation passed some time ago that the purpose of our agency
10 was to look at offshore oil and gas resources in the Outer
11 Continental Shelf for exploration and development of oil and
12 gas. And that was to begin three miles offshore; the State
13 lands -- or State waters are from the shoreline out three
14 miles. But three miles on is the federal waters, and any
15 activities out from three to six miles out is kind of a
16 transition zone that is shared by both the State and the
17 federal government in terms of potential revenue.

18 So the agency has operations in the Gulf of Mexico,
19 some in -- off the coast of California, and Alaska. The
20 revenues that have been generated for the federal government
21 over the years are in the ten -- once I saw that number -- \$10
22 billion or something like that. Its purpose is to try to
23 develop the -- those resources in an environmentally safe
24 manner. And that's the -- the charge here is, through the
25 legislation of the National Environmental Policy Act, we call

1 NEPA, which requires evaluating the options and evaluating the
2 risks for those decisions so that the decision-makers involved,
3 in this case, the Secretary of the Interior, make the right
4 decisions.

5 And the idea is for a long-term plan and not a hit-
6 and-run plan so that -- because the idea is that activities
7 proceed in a way that are safe so that they don't jeopardize
8 future decisions. So the decision-maker wants to make the
9 right decision because, also, it's a politically sensitive
10 thing, that if they make the wrong decisions they cause -- a
11 problem occurs, there are -- all political people are somewhat
12 accountable what -- either support or have been a part of the
13 program. So it's -- there is an accountability. It's that
14 sort of thing.

15 Did that help at all?

16 MR. AKOOTCHOOK: Mm hmm (affirmative).

17 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: So you listen to us; right?

18 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Right. The purpose of the
19 scoping process that we came to in November was to identify the
20 issues that are treated in this document.

21 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: And then when it comes to decision-
22 making and you're getting pressure from these politicians.

23 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Pardon me? I'm sorry.

24 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: And when it's time for decision-
25 making.....

1 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Oh, yes.

2 MS. AKOOTCHOOK:and then you get pressure from
3 these politicians. Well, do you just state your deci- --
4 your -- you don't sway?

5 MR. MONKELIEN: Well, we can't speak for the
6 Secretary 'cause he's the one that makes the final decision on
7 what's going to be.....

8 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: I wasn't talking about that.

9 MR. MONKELIEN: What.....

10 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: Those ones that come out of these
11 bills and.....

12 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Oh, the political
13 influences?

14 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: Yeah.

15 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Oh, I'm sure there are
16 some. I'm sure there are some. The community's input still
17 are very important because the idea is to have a program that
18 is workable with all the affected parties. It's not because --
19 that's why this stipulation in 144 that's now part of this one,
20 is that we brought together representatives of the three major
21 communities for Sale 144 -- and that would be the same for
22 this -- and where there's a controversy, and not just in the
23 disturbance of noise to whales and so on for hunting, anything
24 that's a -- looks to me like it's going to -- to them that
25 looks like a serious issue, they sit down and they meet, and

1 they look at what needs to be done.

2 It could offer even -- they could even generate
3 deferral areas within that body of people to say we don't go
4 within that area. That could be agreed upon. So it's a more
5 active role. Instead of just blanketly (sic) deferring large
6 areas and saying, 'Don't go there,' or something like that,
7 it's like, 'Let's work with the problem more -- kind of manage
8 it a little more carefully, a little more closely, more
9 specifically.'

10 It's like when they started out in this program, they
11 had like a five-month seasonal stipulation which they shut down
12 offshore oil and gas activities out there for the bowhead whale
13 migration. Okay. That was because they weren't sure of the
14 effects and so on. Studies followed and so on, and the State
15 and with industry that followed that effect, and they found out
16 that it wasn't necessary to just shut down the whole industry
17 for five months. So eventually, we worked with the stipulation
18 and they came to a point where it wasn't needed to shut down
19 for those periods of time, and they found that they -- it
20 worked out okay.

21 But the initial position is usually conservative.
22 Try to be careful, and let's proceed slowly to see. So
23 starting out the program, why, there was a seasonal stipulation
24 to shut down the whole industry across the Beaufort Sea during
25 that period.

1 We don't have all the answers, and I'm not here to
2 try to make it sound like that either, but it's -- you know,
3 it's an ongoing information quest. Right now, the newest
4 aspect of this document that you haven't seen before is the
5 representation by your community and members of the traditional
6 knowledge that they have given us. And we're trying right now
7 to say that the traditional knowledge is as valuable as the
8 scientific information that we are getting from our
9 experimental work out there.

10 And we say where they conflict, and we don't say that
11 our science disproves traditional knowledge, we say, 'Oh, we
12 have a problem.' So and that's what generated this Committee
13 of these representatives that I mentioned, is that there was a
14 conflict. The scientific studies said that the whales started
15 to show an effect only at about three kilometers from a drill
16 rig, they started to move. And that was not believed by the
17 traditional knowledge representatives, and they said, 'No, it's
18 more like seven or eight kilometers.' And so.....

19 MS. AKOOTHOOK: What's a kilometer?

20 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: A kilometer? Six-tenths of
21 a mile.

22 MS. AKOOTHOOK: So seven kilometers is what?

23 MR. MONKELIEN: About five miles.

24 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Five miles.

25 MR. MONKELIEN: Three and a half miles, four miles.

1 (Side comments)

2 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: And right now, the
3 Chairman -- the perimeter, right now, as decided on by the
4 whaling -- where the study now that's being monitored is from
5 30 miles out -- in. So they're saying, 'The perimeter is now
6 30 miles. Let's look at that area.' And that was agreed upon
7 by the seismic workshop we held in Barrow and the -- most of
8 the hunters -- whale hunters represented agreed upon that, that
9 distance.

10 So that's what -- that's not a -- that's called --
11 call that the zone of influence, and that's what -- where we'd
12 look at, let's say, an effect could occur.

13 (Pause)

14 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MAYOR LON SONSALLA

15 My name is Lon Sonsalla. I'm the current Mayor of
16 Kaktovik. The City's position, as I understand it, is as it
17 has always been, is that the -- that everyone here is pretty
18 much opposed to any offshore leases -- of any of the offshore
19 leases that have occurred, are occurring, and will occur in the
20 future.

21 We hope that the -- all the mitigating measures from
22 Lease Sale 144 would be included in this EIS -- I assume they
23 are. And if the lease sale does go through, which I assume
24 that -- every one that's been proposed has actually become a
25 lease sale?

1 MR. MONKELIEN: At least in the Beaufort Sea.

2 MAYOR SONSALLA: In the Beaufort Sea.

3 BY MAYOR SONSALLA (Resuming):

4 So if it does go through, we -- far as I'm concerned,
5 we would strongly support the Kaktovik deferral. We need that.
6 It's like the people here were saying that the ocean here is as
7 important to people here as your ability to head down to the
8 corner market. You know, it's -- this is their store; they
9 depend on it. This is their life. It always has been.

10 We need to take -- we need to actually put more of
11 these comments into the -- as you're saying, which is a good
12 thing, that the comments are becoming part of the EIS. And so
13 we appreciate that.

14 We still have concerns about the ability of industry
15 to take care of any oil spills that would occur out in the
16 ocean. We -- people that have lived here their whole lives
17 know that that ocean is -- and the ice in it is extremely
18 unpredictable, and it's very strong. It -- there's no telling
19 what can happen out there. We know that anything is -- can
20 happen, and that it would be -- it would probably be as close
21 to a disaster as anywhere else in the Lower 48 would consider a
22 hurricane or something of that nature. The drills. So I think
23 it has cumulative effects. I think Nuiqsut is worried about
24 those cumulative effects. You know, one lease sale on top of
25 another. And yeah, those things keep on, you know.

1 The one thing that Isaack mentioned that has -- and
2 we keep bringing it up also -- is that we are kind of -- we are
3 very concerned about that there's this impact money that goes
4 to the State. And as far as we know, it goes in -- the State
5 puts it into the General Fund, and it goes -- probably most of
6 it goes to the larger communities, like Anchorage, Fairbanks,
7 and Juneau, and the people here see -- don't see any of that.
8 These are the affected communities. If there's going to be
9 impact money, I don't know what it would take, some legislation
10 down in Washington, D.C., probably, but that money needs to go
11 to where the people are affected, not to be divided up amongst
12 the rest of the state.

13 Just want to make sure that it's understood that this
14 is very important, and we do oppose it. But if it goes
15 through, as probably -- I'm assuming it probably will, we would
16 want the deferral area to stay intact, if not even become a
17 little bit larger.

18 And I'm kind of wondering about the Warthog then.
19 That's not part of this sale, is it?

20 MR. MONKELIEN: It was -- it's being drilled on a
21 lease that was issued in the last sale.

22 MAYOR SONSALLA: Is that going to go through or.....

23 MR. MONKELIEN: The expiration plan, we're expecting
24 to get the expiration plan possibly this -- supposed to this
25 week, and it will be going out for review at that point.

1 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: For Warthog?

2 MR. MONKELIEN: For Warthog.

3 MAYOR SONSALLA: The blue.....

4 MS. TRAYNOR: Camden Bay.

5 MAYOR SONSALLA: In the middle of the green one.

6 MS. TRAYNOR: That's in the green one.

7 MR. MONKELIEN: It was a sale that was.....

8 MS. TRAYNOR: Last year?

9 MR. MONKELIEN: Issued them last -- at the last sale.

10 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: What year? This year.

11 MAYOR SONSALLA: The sale.....

12 MR. MONKELIEN: When is the -- what year for -- the
13 lease was issued?

14 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: Yeah.

15 MR. MONKELIEN: Last year. Last September.

16 MS. CASEY: Last year. We had the lease sale last
17 November, and the leases were issued in.....

18 MR. AKOOTCHOOK: Brought that.....

19 (Simultaneous speech)

20 MR. MONKELIEN: Pardon?

21 MR. AKOOTCHOOK: They going to build that rig over
22 this summer?

23 MR. MONKELIEN: They're going to move the rig over
24 this summer and drill it during the ice -- solid-ice season
25 this winter, this coming winter. That's the proposal. Work on

1 it. Right.

2 MAYOR SONSALLA: That's ARCO? They were here.....

3 MS. AKOOTCHOOK: When was -- but wasn't that deferral
4 requested before then?

5 MR. MONKELIEN: It was -- the sale was already -- it
6 was -- the deferral was not selected for the previous sale. Is
7 that right, Phyllis? Or was that.....

8 MS. CASEY: There was a Kaktovik deferral that was
9 adopted.

10 MAYOR SONSALLA: But that was.....

11 MS. CASEY: And it is a major portion of that area.

12 MAYOR SONSALLA: But that was east of Kaktovik.

13 The.....

14 MR. MONKELIEN: Yeah. Right.

15 MAYOR SONSALLA:previous deferrals.....

16 MR. MONKELIEN: The previous deferral was for an area
17 east of Kaktovik.

18 MAYOR SONSALLA: And this deferral that we want.....

19 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: And it was.....

20 MAYOR SONSALLA:is also -- it includes the west
21 side.

22 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: And it was based primarily
23 on the uncertainty of this bowhead whale feeding area, was the
24 major concern.

25 MS. TRAYNOR: So they don't think Warthog's in the

1 bowhead feeding area?

2 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Not in as major a way as
3 the area east.

4 MR. MONKELIEN: And the proposed drilling activity
5 was not occurring.....

6 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: But not -- it's.....

7 MR. MONKELIEN:when the whales were there.

8 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: We're rely -- we're going
9 to rely somewhat on traditional knowledge.

10 (Pause - Side conversation)

11 MS. TRAYNOR: So all we're talking about is
12 exploratory rigs right now.

13 MR. MONKELIEN: Correct.

14 MS. TRAYNOR: In the future, when they get them all
15 involved.....

16 MR. MONKELIEN: That.....

17 MS. TRAYNOR:hinges whether they're going to be
18 developing in that (inaudible).

19 MR. MONKELIEN: That would be correct. It would
20 also -- at such time as the devel- -- such time as development
21 would be proposed, it would go through the same environmental
22 process -- review process.

23 MAYOR SONSALLA: It's unfortunate that.....

24 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: It's really a State lease
25 that's being developed. It's just the fact that the water is

1 so shallow that they couldn't reaccess the -- that the larger
2 rig like this sits. And so it's kind of -- that's what.....

3 MS. TRAYNOR: Is that an MMS lease or a State lease?

4 MR. MONKELIEN: Both. They're starting on a federal
5 lease, finishing on a State lease.

6 (Pause - Side conversation)

7 MR. MONKELIEN: He had a question.

8 MAYOR SONSALLA: Well, I was going to say that it's
9 unfortunate that the person ultimately to decide this, it
10 hinges on one person basically; it's Bruce Babbitt. And he's
11 very close to here now, and this is important to the people
12 here, and it would have been nice if he could have stopped in.
13 And maybe it would have been confusing because he's up to look
14 at NPR-A here for the northeast corner, but this is going on at
15 the same time, and so, you know, he was this close, he could
16 have stopped in. Although the weather's been pretty foggy
17 (laugh).

18 Well, I guess that's all I got.

19 MR. MONKELIEN: We'll pass that one -- that on to
20 him.

21 MAYOR SONSALLA: Yeah. And for the record, he's
22 welcome.

23 (Laughter, side comments)

24 MR. MONKELIEN: Sure. He's the one that makes the
25 decisions.

1 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Anyone else like to make a
2 comment?

3 (Pause)

4 RECORDER: Hold on, please.

5 (Off record)

6 (Tape Change - Tape No. 2 of 2, Side A)

7 (On record)

8 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MS. MERYLIN TRAYNOR

9 My name is Merylin Traynor, a resident of Kaktovik
10 for about four years. And I'm opposed to drilling in the ocean
11 after watching the incredible movement of ice and fronts. And
12 it's such a dynamic place, and if to be putting oil wells out
13 into that is -- we can't answer the questions ahead of time.
14 We can't see what could happen out there.

15 And I watch the village and the people here, and
16 everybody lives off of the whales. It's a very major part of
17 the cultural happenings, Christmas and Thanksgiving and spring
18 festivals and the sharing with the elders. But it's just the
19 fact that I see this process of it's going to happen, and
20 it's -- they may not drill it now, but 20 years from now, maybe
21 they'll open this up. And I'd like to keep as much of it for
22 Kaktovik closed down as possible at the moment.

23 I see those currents. I know that we've got 50 miles
24 that you possibly won't lease, but that water, that ice moves
25 across that 50 miles in almost no time. And so does everything

1 else out there. And I can imagine what an oil spill would do.
2 I just -- that would be scary.

3 Anyhow, I guess I'm against it. I haven't really
4 taken a stand, but I really hate to see them go out there.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. MONKELIEN: Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: Any other comments? This
8 has been very helpful.

9 (No response)

10 HEARING OFFICER EMERSON: We can work with you on
11 that time frame of a couple weeks, Lon, and stay in touch on
12 that. I guess officially we could say that looks like everyone
13 here has commented. I'll say the public hearing is closed at
14 this point. So thank you very much. And we need to stay in
15 touch though.

16 RECORDER: Off record.

17

18 (Whereupon, the hearing was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.)

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