

Liberty Development and Production Plan

Public Hearings

Anchorage

2001

1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
2 MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
3 ALASKA OCS REGION
4
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6 **OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT - PUBLIC HEARING**
7 **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**
8 **FOR LIBERTY DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION PLAN**
9 **OCS EIS/EA MMS 2001-001**

10
11 Anchorage, Alaska
12 Thursday, February 15, 2001
13 7:00 o'clock p.m.

14 **MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE PANEL MEMBERS**

15
16 Mr. Paul Stang, Regional Supervisor for Leasing
and Environment

17 Mr. Fred King, Chief, Environmental Assessment Section
18 and Liberty Project Manager

19 Dick Roberts, Liberty EIS Coordinator

20 Ted Rockwell, EPA Coordinator

21 Mike Holley, U.S. Corps of Engineers

22 Mr. Richard Carl, Recorder
23
24

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

1 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2001

2
3 (Tape No. 1 of 1)

4 (On record at 7:00 p.m.)

5 MS. OBERMEYER: Theresa Obermeyer, and I'd be glad --
6 do I spell my name and give my address?

7 HEARING OFFICER: Please do.

8 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MS. THERESA OBERMEYER

9 Theresa, T-h-e-r-e-s-a, my middle maiden name is
10 Nangle, N as in Nancy, -a-n-g-l-e. My last name is Ober, O-b
11 as in Boy, -e-r-m-e-y-e-r. And I'm probably some of your
12 neighbor. I live right over near Northern Lights and Lake
13 Otis. I live at 3000 Dartmouth, and that's Anchorage, Alaska
14 99508-4413.

15 And I, of course, like I hope others, but I don't --
16 you know, as I come this evening, I don't see other people that
17 are waiting to speak. I saw the ad in the newspaper on
18 February 6, on A-3 of the Anchorage Daily News, "Liberty
19 Project Public Hearing." But prior to that, there had been
20 another MMS event in the same room, and I came that evening not
21 really being clear on what was involved.

22 When you see -- and just to give you the background,
23 I -- the ad that I saw, I thought the hearing was from 12:00
24 o'clock noon until 7:00 o'clock that night because it didn't
25 give time frames. And so I came earlier, and I think it was

1 like from 12:00 to 3:00 and then 5:00 to 7:00 or something.
2 That wasn't clearly spelled out in the ad.

3 And see, these things -- and, Paul, may I call you by
4 your first name?

5 HEARING OFFICER: You certainly may.

6 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):

7 Paul, these things worry me very much because, you
8 see, I'm the consumer here, and when I don't see time frames
9 and I don't see like days of the week -- and I was really
10 pleased because I called Mr. King back, and there is the day of
11 the week in this ad and the time frames. So we're making some
12 headway here.

13 HEARING OFFICER: Good. Great.

14 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):

15 You know, 'cause I don't think any citizen who reads
16 that's something's from noon until 7:00 is really clear -- you
17 know, that's such a broad time frame. In fact, I don't know, I
18 could brainstorm with you, what a better -- maybe you should
19 only hold this thing for line one hour. And then anybody
20 that's going to come is either going to be here or they miss
21 out. You know, and that's their misfortune.

22 And so I don't have any answers. I appreciate the
23 opportunity to say something this evening. And I have come a
24 few times over many years, and there are many that have whole
25 file cabinets of the documents I have given out. You see, my

1 husband and I have been mailing 60 copies of everything that's
2 gone on, since about 1992, to the Alaska Legislature, to the
3 currently serving legislators, and that's really worrisome
4 'cause we never get any followup.

5 HEARING OFFICER: Hmm.

6 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):

7 And, you see, I believe in the U.S. Postal system. I
8 assume they've gotten it, but then it's all very bureaucratic,
9 and I don't know that the people that we really sent things to
10 actually got them or whether their subordinates do.

11 But just to, you know, go into -- you know, and to
12 mention, I wanted to praise you because I know that all of you
13 are very bright career civil servants, and I just admire your
14 backgrounds. I know you're very technical, and you have great
15 skills. And, you see, we all have different experience levels
16 and different educations. And that's the greatness of the
17 United States of America.

18 You know, life is so interesting. Just in this small
19 town, just study different people. We live in a melting pot of
20 melting pots in this small town. Look at all the international
21 people. You know? And so my point would be I just apologize
22 that I am not better schooled on the Liberty Project. I will
23 say this: This is going to be an interesting four years
24 because, of course, we have this new President, and he's got a
25 50/50 split in the U.S. Senate.

1 And so, yeah, I can say this: I think Alaska is
2 going to be great fireworks because, of course, I don't know
3 that the President is going to get very much of what he wants,
4 but to me, it is wonderful that there will be a lot of conflict
5 because, you see, to me, conflict is very educational, and we
6 all learn a lot when there's a lot in the press.

7 So, I mean, even like on Tuesday night, there was
8 this segment on the Tom Brokaw part of -- I think that's -- is
9 that NBC? I think it's CBS. You know, it's Tom Brokaw show,
10 the national news -- on ANWR.

11 HEARING OFFICER: Right.

12 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):

13 I don't know whether you saw it. I'm not sure if the
14 Liberty Project was actually included in that, but it really is
15 interesting to look at the new technologies of oil development.

16 But I'd like to briefly go on. I let Mr. King know
17 that when I came this time, I would bring a bound volume that
18 has caused everything that's happened to the Obermeyers. And
19 this is a set of volumes that you can find right over at UAA's
20 library. You can find this set of volumes in any law library
21 in the United States of America. You will probably find it in
22 over 80 percent of the private law offices of this nation. It
23 is read in law schools all over our great country. And this is
24 called "ALR," the "American Law Reports," 4th.

25 And my husband's case is ALR 4th, Vol. 57, page 1195.

1 And I'd just like to read it -- read to you what an ALR
2 annotation is. It is a complete statement of all the case law
3 on a given point; a precise, current, and authoritative
4 treatise that is the quickest way to all the law within the
5 scope of the subject matter in the case of Thomas S. Obermeyer,
6 if every testing and licensing issue in the United States of
7 America, our great nation of 260 million citizens. I'd like to
8 just let you look at this.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

10 MS. OBERMEYER: And then pass it along.

11 HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

12 MS. OBERMEYER: I might even come back.....

13 HEARING OFFICER: Good. Thank you.

14 MS. OBERMEYER:and pick it up at another time.

15 HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

16 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):

17 You see, that volume is kind of tattered and torn
18 'cause I do hug it. I mean the things that could be possible
19 in this small town. What I also normally bring with me is this
20 little book. It's the "Todd Communications Directory of
21 Attorneys." And I don't know whether you people have ever
22 sorted out or thought about the fact that we live in the only
23 state in the United States that does not have a law school.
24 Even territories of our great nation, like Guam, Puerto Rico,
25 the Marshall Islands, they all have law schools. And this

1 state is the only state that doesn't.

2 And so bright and thinking people like the Assembly
3 know that there have to be reasons why there's no law school in
4 the state of Alaska. I've always thought I would start one.
5 And I've always wanted to. But then I'm married. And I really
6 even got together documents at one point in the early '90s,
7 through the American Bar Association. It's through the section
8 on legal education and admission to the Bar, that a law school
9 would be started. I just thought it over, and I said it's not
10 fair to my husband.

11 I mean, here I am, I would be doing all this, and my
12 husband hasn't even been licensed to practice law? I don't
13 think it's fair to my marriage. So I dropped that, and I kept
14 thinking, and I always have, I just kept thinking well, they'll
15 just license Tom Obermeyer. You know, something that doesn't
16 cost a cent. And of course, just to mention, and what I --
17 what is on this cover sheet is finally now, after 17 years, my
18 husband has gotten his case number in his suit against the
19 Alaska Bar Association over an

20 Now, you see, again, in my life, I would have thought
21 that after the case was filed in November, Chief Justices on
22 the Alaska Supreme Court would just swear my husband in. You
23 know? But would you also forgive me, gentlemen and ladies?
24 And I only gave it to Paul, and then I dropped off one for Mr.
25 King. You see, this really does all go to Ted Stevens himself.

1 And I have that in that envelope I gave you, Paul.

2 HEARING OFFICER: This.....

3 MS. OBERMEYER: I have some of them -- the envelope.
4 I gave you a manilla envelope.

5 HEARING OFFICER: Tonight?

6 MS. OBERMEYER: And I gave one for Mr. King?

7 HEARING OFFICER: Tonight?

8 MS. OBERMEYER: Yes, sir.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Hmm. I don't know that I got one.
10 I got this.

11 MS. OBERMEYER: Or did I give it to Mr. Gull (ph).

12 HEARING OFFICER: Oh. He has it. Yes.

13 MS. OBERMEYER: And I know I gave one to someone to
14 give to Mr. King.

15 HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Good.

16 MS. OBERMEYER: And to you.

17 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):

18 And I didn't bring all that because, of course -- and
19 I should have maybe, and I always fail because, you see, as I
20 was saying to Mr. Gull (ph), I have like this whole bookshelf
21 full of transcripts, you know, legal documents, and everything,
22 and then I always feel like I haven't explained well enough.
23 This is the life you lead when you have watched what has gone
24 on in my home for 17 years.

25 And, of course, we do know that I have had three non-

1 jury federal criminal trials fabricated against me by an entire
2 life-appointed federal court in Alaska. And, you know, would
3 you just very briefly allow me? That book right there, if you
4 look on the first page, 1195, you see where it says "P.2d."
5 It's on 1195.

6 HEARING OFFICER: Page 1195. Yes.

7 MS. OBERMEYER: And that is the Pacific Reporter
8 Second.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Uh-huh (affirmative).

10 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):

11 And, you see, like my husband, Ted Stevens himself
12 sued the Alaska Bar Association in 1960. My husband sued in
13 1984.

14 HEARING OFFICER: Mm hmm (affirmative).

15 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):

16 And so this case here is -- I mean, we could all
17 debate why my husband's case was chosen as the most
18 representative case in the United States, but I am positive one
19 of the reasons was about Ted Stevens, whom I am positive today
20 was not even licensed to practice law here fairly as long ago
21 as April 8th, 1960.

22 And I'd be glad -- and I did put in those envelopes,
23 Mr. Gull (ph), just some of the materials about Ted Stevens
24 himself, and so you have that. I didn't bring enough copies
25 'cause what I thought about, Mr. Gull (ph), and I've seen quite

1 a bit of Mr. Gull (ph) over the years at various events and
2 stuff.

3 HEARING OFFICER: Mm hmm (affirmative).

4 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):

5 Is finally, when you page through these pages that
6 I've given you tonight, you will see that, first of all, the
7 law firm that has been suing me now -- because I held public
8 office. And, you see, I held public office, and I should have
9 been indemnified. But this is on the third page of that
10 document, you'll see that Sandberg Westenfeld & Corey (ph) just
11 got \$100,000, and I'm supposed to defend myself against these
12 people at the same time my husband is trying to go to the U.S.
13 Supreme Court.

14 I also just got -- and that is -- and I didn't
15 paginate this, but it's like -- let's see. It's page 5. You
16 will see the witness list of this phoney trial that has been
17 made up against me since December 8th, 1999.

18 HEARING OFFICER: Mm hmm (affirmative).

19 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):

20 And you see, again, there is a burden. Where is a
21 judiciary? Where is ethics? Where is good example? And
22 ladies and gentlemen, I'm positive they do not exist in
23 Anchorage, Alaska.

24 HEARING OFFICER: Hmm.

25 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):

1 It's really all about courts of law and the fact that
2 where I live, we have a handful of lawyers trading paper among
3 themselves, and they have \$27 billion. I'm one person. I
4 can't possibly deal with all this. I need bright, decent,
5 thinking people, like the people in this room, to say, 'What in
6 the world are those people doing to the Obermeyers?'

7 If you will continue just paging through this, 'cause
8 it is really ridiculous. We now have Peggy Robinson; I put her
9 in her chair. You see, what I want to mention is I live in a
10 place where we have recalls and term limits of School Board
11 members, and we have U.S. Senators in office for life and no
12 one's even met them. I mean, does any of this make any sense?
13 To me, it doesn't. It's not the United States.

14 And I'd like to help Peggy, but I see that she is now
15 on the take with Ted Stevens herself. She's getting -- this is
16 a federal grant that is going through the State Department of
17 Education. I don't know how much she's making. That's over
18 her School Board salary.

19 That, you see -- and I'm very proud to report --
20 don't ever think I'm embarrassed -- I am a trespasser at my own
21 children's school. This, ladies and gentlemen, for since
22 really very overtly for at least 10 years, has all been an
23 effort to destroy my marriage. There's no -- I mean, these
24 lawyers -- well, you see, the problem, though, is these -- most
25 people go along with lawyers. I mean, that's what I -- that's

1 what's so worrisome.

2 If you'll continue, you'll see that Pat McDowell,
3 who's supposed to be Assistant Superintendent for Instruction,
4 wrote another letter. Then you'll see that I have an -- this
5 whole thing is not even a jury trial. And this will be my
6 fifth trial.

7 HEARING OFFICER: Hmm.

8 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):

9 And I'm getting a little sick of it.

10 HEARING OFFICER: I imagine.

11 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):

12 Let's think about it. Let's realize, though, can we,
13 how much does a trial cost? Do we know how much has been spent
14 to attempt to silence my husband and myself? I mean, really,
15 it's gotten to the point -- and then the last few pages are
16 Andy Piekarski making up a traffic accident against me.

17 But, you know, before I conclude, Paul, I'd like
18 to.....

19 HEARING OFFICER: Yes. We have about -- we've got
20 about five minutes.

21 MS. OBERMEYER: Yeah. Well, I'd like to go back to
22 this directory.

23 HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

24 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):

25 Because by way of overview, a couple of points. You

1 know? And what I know is the way all of this is laid out is so
2 corrupt. And just to talk about school boards in general,
3 there are 53 districts in the state of Alaska, school
4 districts, and 26 of them, the majority, have under 250
5 students. Now, the Anchorage School District has 48,000
6 students.

7 So, you see, I don't think people in this room
8 understand. The majority of these school boards in the state
9 of Alaska have under 250 students. And that fact took me,
10 really, about two years on the Anchorage School Board to find
11 out. You see, you can't even find out these things. And I
12 don't think most people are focused on stuff like that the way
13 I would be.

14 But I'd like to go to page 160 of my directory before
15 I conclude because I'd also like to give you an overview of
16 courts -- well, really, about the way that lawyers are set up
17 here, and it's really about law licenses. And just so you
18 understand -- and, oh, Paul, what I forgot to bring up, is what
19 motivated me to come the last time, if you will recall.....

20 HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

21 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):

22is I have still been told that Mary Hughes is going to be
23 appointed U.S. Attorney, and I'm not sure of my facts, but I
24 was told that by some very credible sources. And so I know I
25 am positive, and I want to put on the record, that Mary

1 Hughes -- I just ran for Mayor -- Mary Hughes and her husband,
2 Andy Eeker (ph), made sure that they manipulated the election
3 results, and I have the document that proves they got
4 \$13 million for it.

5 Now, what you think -- and would you also allow me?
6 All the details of how they did it. I only know what happened.

7 I was one of the candidates. I got 1.9 percent of the vote.
8 And I am positive that just with my name recognition, I should
9 have gotten 20 percent. And so that's my joke. Couldn't Andy
10 Eeker (ph) and Mary Hughes have had enough brains to give me
11 20 percent? I mean, it wouldn't have even been a big deal.

12 But, you know, and that was what I was going to go
13 onto, about the "Directory of Attorneys," and that is, when you
14 look at the State attorneys, you will see of our active
15 attorneys in this state, there are -- and I'm going to look
16 right here -- there are 2,257 in this Fall 2000 directory. And
17 of that group, there are 454 State attorneys. So, you see, by
18 way of the big picture, one-fourth of the attorneys of our
19 state are State attorneys.

20 So, you see, again, in terms of these documents that
21 I gave you, I mean, I am one person. I haven't made a cent.
22 And I'd also always like us to focus on money. I'm trying
23 never to be mean-spirited, but I would like others to sort out
24 the things that could be possible, the fact that there is no
25 respect for public office where I live.

1 And then, you know, really just in concluding, I
2 really commend you about this Liberty Project. I did get a
3 booklet from you when I came the last time. I have that, and I
4 have a disc, and I'd really like to learn more about your work.
5 I'd like to help you because, I want to say this, I worry in
6 terms of everything that goes on here. It's all a monopoly of
7 interest. It's a handful of lawyers, and they're in bed with
8 the oil companies. They control the Permanent Fund money.
9 And, you know, this is not the way it should be.

10 You see, do we know that we own the Permanent Fund?
11 We are Alaskans. And yet these lawyers have set this up and so
12 that all we're thinking about is our table scraps. You see,
13 that's not American. Americans are equals. And we're all
14 supposed to think somebody is more important than we are? Just
15 because they control a few zeroes? I want us to start
16 realizing the sick psychological games that these lawyers have
17 set up. And I'm trying also not only to be forgiving because I
18 know this, power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts
19 absolutely.

20 So, you see, if they can get away with it, why
21 wouldn't they? That's my rhetorical question. And so I want
22 to have you think about this. I'd like you to start coming to
23 the Permanent Fund Board meetings. I know they're not even
24 confirmed by the legislature. I mean, and I don't believe we
25 had a fair election in November. Thirty judges got reelected?

1 I -- see, I know Alaskans. Alaskans don't believe in
2 authority. To me, none of this makes any sense.

3 And so if we could only start with focusing on fair
4 elections, that -- I mean, we have one going on right now. We
5 have a mayoral -- I mean, excuse me, a Municipal election. And
6 I don't have any answers for you. I assume many of you have
7 children in the Anchorage School District. Maybe your kids do
8 great. I know mine have been targeted. That is, to me, so
9 beyond anything that makes any sense.

10 HEARING OFFICER: You're going to have to wrap it up.
11 BY MS. OBERMEYER (Resuming):
12 And I'm asking others, sort some of this stuff out. But I also
13 wanted to ask you, Paul.....

14 HEARING OFFICER: Yeah.

15 MS. OBERMEYER:if you would allow me to field
16 questions, even from the audience members?

17 HEARING OFFICER: Certainly.

18 MS. OBERMEYER: If there's anything I've handed
19 you.....

20 HEARING OFFICER: Right.

21 MS. OBERMEYER:that's not clear to you.....

22 HEARING OFFICER: Right.

23 MS. OBERMEYER:I'd really like for you to let
24 me know.

25 HEARING OFFICER: Right.

1 MS. OBERMEYER: Because, you see, these lawyers want
2 to make sure that when we start talking millions and
3 billions.....

4 HEARING OFFICER: Right.

5 MS. OBERMEYER:you people just tune out.

6 HEARING OFFICER: Right.

7 MS. OBERMEYER: And you shouldn't. You know, what I
8 try to say is, 'This group doesn't even know how to add.' I
9 mean, and here's my other point: Make me Chairman of the
10 Permanent Fund Board. I am every one of those people's equal.
11 And I consider it, the way all of this has been set up is so
12 beyond anything American.

13 But did you have a question, Paul?

14 HEARING OFFICER: Well, no. I thought we ought to --
15 we're going to have to wrap it up. But if anybody has a
16 question that they want to address to Theresa, this would be a
17 good time to do it. So if there.....

18 MS. OBERMEYER: And let me -- are these people all
19 with the Minerals Management Service?

20 HEARING OFFICER: No. A few of them are, but they're
21 from other agencies, from the public, and what have you.

22 MS. OBERMEYER: And so I just really appreciate being
23 allowed to say hello.

24 HEARING OFFICER: Good.

25 MS. OBERMEYER: Now, is this going to be on a

1 transcript?

2 HEARING OFFICER: Yes. Oh, yes.

3 MS. OBERMEYER: And would you be able -- if I gave
4 you my address, would you be able to mail me a copy?

5 HEARING OFFICER: Oh, certainly.

6 MS. OBERMEYER: See, I simply believe in transcripts.

7 HEARING OFFICER: Right. Well, we -- you gave us
8 your address at the beginning, so we can.....

9 MS. OBERMEYER: Yes, of course.

10 HEARING OFFICER: Sure.

11 MS. OBERMEYER: And, you see, sir, let me mention, on
12 Tuesday morning, I made comment at the Permanent Fund Board
13 meeting. They were meeting in Juneau. Wait a minute. Was it
14 Tuesday or Wednesday? I think -- no, it was yesterday. It was
15 on February 14th. And they met yesterday and today.

16 HEARING OFFICER: Right. Valentine's Day.

17 MS. OBERMEYER: And so -- and see, I've been going to
18 their meetings for six or seven years?

19 HEARING OFFICER: Mm hmm (affirmative).

20 MS. OBERMEYER: I cannot get a transcript.

21 HEARING OFFICER: Goodness.

22 MS. OBERMEYER: From that Permanent Fund Board.
23 There are four lawyers out of six. They don't do anything
24 that's based on American law.

25 HEARING OFFICER: Right. Well, let's see. When --

1 do you have a guess as to when the transcript would be
2 available? When do you think?

3 COURT REPORTER: Ten days.

4 HEARING OFFICER: In 10 days or so.

5 MS. OBERMEYER: Oh, sure, whenever it's convenient.

6 HEARING OFFICER: So within two or three weeks, we'll
7 have it mailed to you.

8 MS. OBERMEYER: None of this is a big deal.

9 HEARING OFFICER: I just wanted to see if there --
10 were there any questions at this point for Theresa?

11 (No audible response)

12 HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Well, thank you for coming.
13 We really appreciate it.

14 MS. OBERMEYER: And I appreciate it.

15 HEARING OFFICER: Good.

16 MS. OBERMEYER: And then, really, as I mentioned.....

17 HEARING OFFICER: Good.

18 MS. OBERMEYER:you know, maybe this is a really
19 long time frame for all of you, you know, coming out in the
20 evening and stuff. I don't have any answers, but I appreciate
21 the opportunity as a citizen to simply come.....

22 HEARING OFFICER: Good.

23 MS. OBERMEYER:and I really appreciate it being
24 advertised in the newspapers.

25 HEARING OFFICER: Good.

1 MS. OBERMEYER: 'Cause that's the only way I would
2 have known about it.

3 HEARING OFFICER: Right. Well, we appreciate your
4 coming too, Theresa.

5 MS. OBERMEYER: And so let's watch the fireworks for
6 the next four years.....

7 HEARING OFFICER: Here, here.

8 MS. OBERMEYER:with this new President.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you so much.

10 MS. OBERMEYER: Thanks for having me, and have a nice
11 evening.

12 HEARING OFFICER: Sure. You too. Take care.

13 MS. OBERMEYER: Bye-bye.

14 HEARING OFFICER: Bye.

15 (Pause)

16 HEARING OFFICER: Theresa, let me give you this book
17 back. I think we've all had a chance to look at it, and we
18 appreciate your sharing it with us.

19 (Off record)

20 (On record)

21 HEARING OFFICER: What we are going to do here is let
22 you call it as you'd like.

23 MS. APP: Okay.

24 HEARING OFFICER: You can testify, and we'll listen.

25 You can testify and ask questions. You can -- we can enter

1 into a discussion. However you want to do it, we're ready and
2 willing to do so.

3 MR. KING: You can testify, and we won't listen.

4 (Laughter)

5 HEARING OFFICER: Right. No, no. We'll listen.

6 MS. APP: I was wondering if that was one of the
7 options.

8 HEARING OFFICER: It's being transcribed, and we have
9 here representatives from the Corps of Engineers and EPA and
10 MMS.

11 MS. APP: Okay. Great. Well.....

12 HEARING OFFICER: So if you can -- the best thing to
13 do is state your name and affiliation, address, or whatever you
14 want to do to.....

15 MS. APP: Okay.

16 HEARING OFFICER:as an introduction. Thank
17 you.

18 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MS. JENNA APP

19 Thank you for offering this opportunity for
20 testimony. It's sad to see that there aren't more folks here
21 this evening. My name Jenna App. I am an attorney with
22 Trustees for Alaska. The address is 1026 West 4th Avenue,
23 Suite 201, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

24 I'd just briefly like to touch upon several concerns
25 that I have in reading through the document, the Draft

1 Environmental Impact Statement, the first of which deals with,
2 in part, a memo that I've seen from the Department of Interior
3 directed towards British Petroleum, and it concerns the double-
4 wall pipe. And I guess I would just encourage Minerals
5 Management Service to pay close attention to that directive
6 from the Department of Interior, which concludes that perhaps
7 double-wall pipe may be the safest subsea pipeline to use.

8 I know that we've been through this in Northstar, but
9 that now here's a second chance to look at it. I understand it
10 is more expensive, but in looking at the trade-offs, in terms
11 of impact to subsistence and the environment, I think that
12 double-wall pipe may be the way to go, especially given the
13 directive from the DOI.

14 Secondly, I guess I'd like to talk a little bit about
15 the troubling results of British Petroleum's spill drills given
16 the Northstar scenario. As you know, the oil companies have
17 entered into a compliance agreement -- a compliance order by
18 consent with the Alaska Department of Environmental
19 Conservation. And the environmental community, as well as, it
20 seems, lots of folks on the North Slope, who I've spoken to
21 anyway, have some pretty substantial concerns about the ability
22 to clean up oil in open water and broken ice conditions.

23 And I would hope that this would result in either
24 seasonal drilling restrictions or some other sort of
25 acknowledgement that really deals with the situation given that

1 with today's technology, it does not appear to be reasonable to
2 expect that the oil industry can clean up oil in broken ice
3 conditions and open water in the Beaufort Sea at this time.

4 And I guess, lastly, I would encourage special
5 attention be paid to the subsistence species in the area. And
6 I know that, you know, like Northstar, the same impacts, or
7 similar impacts, can be expected, but that I think it's really
8 important that attention be paid to the bowhead whale data
9 that's available and any new data that can be collected, as
10 well as the impacts, or potential impacts, to polar bears and
11 other marine mammals.

12 And then, briefly, I'd just like to touch on the
13 format of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I have
14 spoken with several folks who have found the lack of an agency
15 preferred alternative a little bit unwieldy, and that with the
16 many options, although that puts everything out there, it kind
17 of feels like, for some folks, a little bit of a moving target,
18 and it's a little bit hard to organize comments effectively.
19 So I'd like to share that with you.

20 Also, given the state of the questionable ability to
21 clean up oil at this stage, there are many, many organizations
22 and people that feel that perhaps this is not the preferred way
23 to go about achieving our nation's energy needs, and that a
24 "no" alternative would be in the best interest of the state of
25 Alaska, and perhaps for the nation as well.

1 So with those remarks, I'm finished, and thank you
2 very much for allowing me to comment.

3 HEARING OFFICER: Great. Well, thank you for coming,
4 Jenna.

5 MS. APP: All right. Thanks.

6 HEARING OFFICER: Good.

7
8 (Whereupon, the proceedings were adjourned at 7:45 p.m.)

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