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PUBLIC HEARING
FOR
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
PROPOSED ARCTIC MULTI-SALE

Anchorage, Alaska

Taken January 15, 2009
Commencing at 7:10 p.m.

Volume I - Pages 1 - 62, inclusive

Taken at
3801 Centerpoint Drive
Anchorage, Alaska

Reported by:
Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

Page 2

1 A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S
 2 Jeffrey Loman
 3 Deputy Regional Director
 4 U.S. Department of the Interior
 5 Minerals Management Service
 6
 7 Keith Q. Gordon
 8 Biologist/NEPA Team Coordinator
 9 U.S. Department of the Interior
 10 Minerals Management Service
 11 Taken by: Mary A. Vavrik, RMR
 12
 13 BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were
 14 taken at the time and place duly noted on the title
 15 page, before Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit
 16 Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State
 17 of Alaska.
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
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 25

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
 2 MR. LOMAN: Good evening. Just in
 3 case anybody is interested, I am turning my cell
 4 phone off. Hopefully you all will do the same. My
 5 name is Jeffrey Loman. I'm the Deputy Regional
 6 Director of Minerals Management Service. Thank you
 7 very much for coming. I'm not going to talk very
 8 much this evening, except for to say welcome. We
 9 are delighted that you could make it. This is a
 10 very important part of the National Environmental
 11 Policy Act process.
 12 Tonight we are here to listen to you and
 13 listen to you tell the Minerals Management Service
 14 and the Department of the Interior about your review
 15 of the draft environmental impact statement for a
 16 proposed Arctic multi-sale, two sales, oil and gas
 17 lease sales, two sales in the Chukchi Sea and two
 18 sales in the Beaufort Sea.
 19 I'd like to just introduce my colleague.
 20 Keith, would you please introduce yourself?
 21 MR. GORDON: Keith Gordon. I'm a
 22 NEPA coordinator for the Minerals Management
 23 Service.
 24 MR. LOMAN: Keith worked extensively
 25 on this document and is here to answer any basic

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1 questions that you may have.
 2 So I'd like to get started with your
 3 testimony. And I think, just to make it easy, we
 4 will start right up front, move through this side of
 5 the room. In order to capture what you have to
 6 say -- that's the important part -- we would like
 7 for you to take a seat or stand right here at this
 8 table.
 9 We need you to state your name. My name is
 10 Jeffrey Loman, J-E-F-F-R-E-Y L-O-M-A-N. Spell your
 11 name so the recorder can get it accurately. And I
 12 live in Eagle River, Alaska. And if you want us to
 13 mail you something, some material, respond to you in
 14 writing, please give your mailing address, as well.
 15 If you don't, your name and the city that you live
 16 is sufficient for our records.
 17 We will start with you, sir.
 18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm not going
 19 to testify this evening.
 20 MR. LOMAN: And sir.
 21 MR. JACK LAASCH: Good evening. My
 22 name is Jack Laasch, J-A-C-K L-A-A-S-C-H. I live in
 23 Anchorage, Alaska. I work for Ukpeagvik Inupiat
 24 Corporation as the general manager of UIC Oilfield
 25 Services and the Harpoon Construction Group. These

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1 are both subsidiaries of UIC, acronym for Ukpeagvik
 2 Inupiat Corporation. As you know, UIC is the
 3 village corporation of Barrow. It was created under
 4 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1972.
 5 The Inupiaq shareholders of my company depend on
 6 opportunities for employment and the economic
 7 benefits provided by each of its -- each of UIC's
 8 subsidiaries. UIC subsidiaries generate much of
 9 their revenue from activities associated with
 10 resource development, which includes oil and gas.
 11 As a general manager of UIC, I support responsible
 12 exploration and development activities for oil and
 13 gas in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.
 14 As a resident of the state of Alaska
 15 working in the oil and gas industry for over 30
 16 years, I'm keenly aware of how important the oil and
 17 gas industry is for Alaska. The production of oil
 18 and gas is currently in significant decline and has
 19 been since the late '80s. Potential reserves in the
 20 Beaufort and Chukchi Seas of both oil and gas could
 21 play an important role in maintaining throughput in
 22 the existing TAPS line and provide natural gas for a
 23 future gas line.
 24 OCS exploration and development along
 25 Alaska's north coast is one of the few opportunities

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1 that would stimulate the economy of the North Slope
 2 communities, provide long-term jobs for Alaska
 3 residents, stimulate a healthy Alaska economy for
 4 many years into the future, and contribute to the
 5 need at a national level to become less dependent on
 6 foreign sources of hydrocarbons.
 7 And I want to thank you for the opportunity
 8 for me to express my views on this important issue.
 9 MR. LOMAN: Thank you very much. If
 10 you don't mind, just to help us make sure we have
 11 your comments accurate, because you have them in
 12 writing, if you just want to write your name on the
 13 top of that document, hand it to Robin in the back;
 14 she will make a photocopy of it, provide it to our
 15 recorder, and then we will give you back the
 16 original.
 17 MR. LAASCH: Okay. Thank you.
 18 MR. LOMAN: And that -- the same for
 19 everybody else that has comments with them in
 20 writing, will do the same thing, if you don't mind.
 21 It will help with the accuracy of your comments.
 22 Thank you very much. Ma'am.
 23 MS. CAROLINE HIGGINS: Good evening.
 24 My name is Caroline Higgins, C-A-R-O-L-I-N-E,
 25 Higgins, H-I-G-G-I-N-S. And I live here in

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1 Anchorage.
 2 I'm here on behalf of the Alaska State
 3 Chamber of Commerce. I'm the acting chair for this
 4 year. The Alaska State Chamber is a membership
 5 organization of more than 500 businesses and their
 6 employees. Our mission is to promote a positive
 7 business climate in Alaska.
 8 Support for oil and gas exploration and
 9 development in Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf
 10 waters is one of the Chamber's top priorities this
 11 year. The State Chamber encourages and supports
 12 responsible development of these valuable resources,
 13 and we urge you to allow the leases to move forward.
 14 As someone who lives and works in Alaska, I am
 15 particularly interested in allowing expanded access
 16 offshore in Alaska, including leasing in the Chukchi
 17 and the Beaufort Seas.
 18 Alaska's offshore waters hold mega
 19 resources that offer great potential for meeting our
 20 nation's energy needs. MMS estimates that Alaska's
 21 Outer Continental Shelf contains 27 billion barrels
 22 of oil and 132 trillion cubic feet of natural gas,
 23 or a total of 53 billion barrels of oil equivalent.
 24 By comparison, the total for the North Slope since
 25 1977 was 15.5 billion barrels. Production from the

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1 Alaska Outer Continental Shelf will play an integral
 2 part in justifying the Alaska natural gas pipeline
 3 and in keeping the TransAlaska Pipeline system
 4 flowing for many years to come. Lease sales to date
 5 have generated over three billion in bonus payments
 6 to the U.S. Treasury.
 7 Domestic oil and gas development in Alaska
 8 will have a positive impact on the Alaskan economy
 9 and spur strong economic growth because it will
 10 create jobs, provide a significant tax source for
 11 local communities, and support Alaska's business
 12 community.
 13 According to the Anchorage Economic
 14 Development Corporation, 34,000 jobs are created in
 15 Alaska by the oil and gas industry. With today's
 16 technology, this kind of development can be
 17 conducted in an environmentally friendly manner.
 18 Alaska North Slope production is in
 19 decline. Unless there are significant future
 20 discoveries and commercial development, production
 21 could reach the estimated minimum TransAlaska
 22 Pipeline throughput rate. This is a crucial time
 23 for our nation. Alaska's offshore waters offer --
 24 if responsibly developed over the next three
 25 decades, will offset supply constraints and maintain

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1 energy security for all consumers throughout the
 2 world. Given recent events with oil prices reaching
 3 record levels, it is all too clear that the U.S.
 4 must broaden its domestic oil and gas base to other
 5 areas throughout the country. We believe national
 6 interests dictate that we carefully study the
 7 potential leasing of all highly prospective areas
 8 off the U.S. coast at this time.
 9 We strongly support the acreage offered for
 10 lease in Alaska. Offshore leasing can proceed in a
 11 safe and environmentally sound fashion. We support
 12 the acreage included in the proposed plan for
 13 leasing and development.
 14 As has been demonstrated by the 40 years of
 15 oil and gas development in Cook Inlet, Alaska's
 16 offshore waters can be explored and produced without
 17 harming the environment while making a positive
 18 impact on the community through jobs, workforce
 19 development, taxes, and economic prosperity.
 20 We support the approval of the draft
 21 environmental impact statement that allows these
 22 lease sales to move forward. Thank you.
 23 MR. LOMAN: Thank you. Again, if you
 24 don't mind, ma'am, just write your name.
 25 MS. CAROLINE HIGGINS: I will. Yes,

Page 10

1 sir.

2 MR. TOM HENDRIX: Good evening. My

3 name is Tom Hendrix, T-O-M H-E-N-D-R-I-X. Thank you

4 for allowing me to comment on the OCS lease sale in

5 this forum. I'm a member of the Kuukpik Carlile

6 Transportation Executive Team with its corporate

7 headquarters located in Alaska. I speak on behalf

8 of the 650 employees at Kuukpik Carlile.

9 It is our position that lease sales leading

10 to responsible exploration and development of the

11 OCS is good for the state of Alaska and the United

12 States as a whole. With our existing known oil and

13 gas reserves diminishing, it is vital to continue to

14 explore and develop responsibly the nation's

15 resources. It would generate thousands of new

16 high-paying jobs in the United States and

17 specifically provide high-quality jobs for decades

18 to come in Alaska.

19 We believe it's important to increase our

20 domestic production of oil and gas for our economy.

21 An increase in production supports jobs, families,

22 and freedom from government assistance for financial

23 stability.

24 Regulatory oversight of exploration,

25 development, and production is vital to our

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1 environment. It ensures that the safeguards -- it

2 ensures the safeguards to our environment are

3 adhered to. In some cases, foreign oversight is lax

4 or nonexistent and can lead to pollution that

5 impacts everyone from a global view. If we push our

6 needs outside of the watchful eye of the

7 environmental organizations in this room, for

8 example, we are risking damage to the environment

9 where these types of public forums, reporting, and

10 the accountability are nonexistent.

11 There have been approximately 30 wells

12 drilled in the Beaufort Sea, 92 in the Canadian

13 Beaufort, and five in the Chukchi Sea responsibly

14 and without the vast technical advances that we have

15 seen in the past 10 to 15 years. Kuukpik Carlile

16 Transportation has and is participating on Alaska

17 North Slope projects where environmental excellence

18 is second to none in the world. We strongly feel

19 that Alaskan OCS projects can and will be done in a

20 responsible manner. This project benefits the

21 American and Alaskan economy where exploration,

22 development, and environmental standards are held at

23 the highest levels.

24 We ask that you act swiftly in your

25 decision to open the areas for lease sales. Thank

Page 12

1 you.

2 MR. LOMAN: Thank you very much, sir.

3 Now go down the row that Susan is --

4 MR. PETE SLAIBY: Good evening. My

5 name is Pete Slaiby, P-E-T-E S-L-A-I-B-Y. I live in

6 Anchorage, Alaska, and I am the general manager for

7 Shell Exploration and Production in Alaska.

8 Shell has been and continues to be a leader

9 in the offshore oil and gas production industry. We

10 have returned to Alaska in 2005 after an eight-year

11 absence. Since our return, we have experienced

12 several successful seasons acquiring

13 three-dimensional seismic data as well as the

14 necessary shallow hazards and site clearance data

15 that is required by the Alaska Minerals Management

16 Service for exploration drilling.

17 The exception to our positive experience

18 since our return to the Arctic has been the fact

19 that we have been blocked from executing our

20 drilling program in the Beaufort Sea for the last

21 three years. This has surely impacted the federal

22 government and the state's ability to develop

23 valuable natural resources in Alaska and the Arctic

24 to sustain our national energy needs.

25 Alaska's North Slope production is in

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1 decline. Unless there are significant future

2 discoveries and commercial development, Alaska's

3 North Slope production could reach the estimated

4 minimum TransAlaska Pipeline system throughput rate

5 of around 300,000 barrels per day.

6 The state of Alaska currently receives

7 about 90 percent of its general fund revenues from

8 petroleum revenues. This includes royalties,

9 production taxes, property tax and corporate income

10 tax. This state will remain heavily dependent upon

11 these revenues for the foreseeable future.

12 The offshore of Alaska has been and can be

13 responsibly developed and should be allowed to

14 proceed. If the offshore is allowed to be developed

15 over the next three decades, this will help offset

16 supply constraints and maintain energy security for

17 consumers throughout this nation.

18 OCS development could generate thousands of

19 new highly paid jobs over the next 50 years. And

20 this related employment growth could help sustain

21 the state's economy for decades.

22 In closing, Shell Exploration and

23 Production supports the efforts of the Alaska

24 Minerals Management Service and believes that the

25 future of this state and the future of our national

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1 energy security will be served proactively by
 2 continuing to conduct competitive leasing programs.
 3 We will provide detailed written comments
 4 on the Arctic multi-sale draft environmental impact
 5 statement prior to the close of the public comment
 6 period. Thank you.
 7 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, Peter. Just
 8 so we don't pass you up, the gentleman that came in
 9 in the green jacket with the paper, would you like
 10 to testify?
 11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.
 12 MR. LOMAN: I wanted to make sure
 13 that you had a chance.
 14 MR. STEVE POST: Good evening. My
 15 name is Steve Post, S-T-E-V-E P-O-S-T. I live in
 16 Eagle River. I'm the vice president of North Star
 17 Terminal & Stevedore Company and North Star
 18 Equipment Services. On behalf of North Star
 19 Terminal & Stevedore Company and North Star
 20 Equipment Services, I'd like to express our support
 21 for the approval of this draft environmental impact
 22 statement for lease sales for offshore drilling on
 23 Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf because:
 24 Time is of the essence. It will take ten
 25 years from the time a permit is issued until oil is

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1 flowing down the TAPS pipeline.
 2 Speaking of TAPS, the current rate of
 3 decline will threaten its existence if more oil is
 4 not discovered soon.
 5 With regard to the environment, there is no
 6 other place in the world that oil exploration and
 7 production is done more sensitively than Alaska.
 8 Any true global activist that does not support
 9 Alaskan exploration and production onshore or off is
 10 either uninformed or has a personal agenda that goes
 11 against the global environment and the greater good
 12 of the people.
 13 As a direct supplier in Shell's OCS
 14 program, I have seen the tremendous amount of time
 15 and money they have invested in training our
 16 operators to be safe, be environmentally conscious,
 17 and respect all people involved. What a shame it
 18 would be to lose that investment in our people.
 19 As an Alaskan, we need success in the OCS
 20 program to support the energy needs of our country,
 21 the needs of our state and, most importantly, the
 22 needs of my family.
 23 Finally there has been enough science and
 24 experience gained in exploring the Arctic OCS for
 25 oil and gas production over the last umpteen years

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1 to fill this room with volumes of books. Let's get
 2 this behind us and get on with the program, for
 3 Pete's sake.
 4 Thank you.
 5 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, sir.
 6 MR. CARL PORTMAN: Good evening. My
 7 name is Carl Portman and I'm the deputy director of
 8 the Resource Development Council. RDC appreciates
 9 the opportunity to submit comments on the proposed
 10 Chukchi and Beaufort Sea lease sales.
 11 RDC is a statewide organization made up of
 12 all resource sectors, business associations, labor
 13 unions, Native corporations, tourism providers,
 14 local governments, and individuals. Our purpose is
 15 to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in
 16 Alaska and expand the state's economic base through
 17 responsible development of our natural resources.
 18 Clearly, any energy plan for the nation
 19 should include Alaska OCS, given its potential for
 20 immense recoverable oil and gas reserves.
 21 Responsible development of Alaska's offshore energy
 22 resources would help meet future U.S. energy demand
 23 and offset declining production from mature basins
 24 in the U.S. and Canada.
 25 RDC urges the Minerals Management Service

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1 to maintain regular lease sales in the Beaufort and
 2 Chukchi Seas. Given the long lead times for
 3 development, which can exceed ten years, MMS must
 4 proceed with key lease sales; otherwise, production
 5 from new areas would be pushed back decades.
 6 Such delays could potentially jeopardize
 7 the proposed natural gas pipeline from the North
 8 Slope to the Lower 48. Access to the Alaska OCS may
 9 be a key element to the long-term economic
 10 feasibility of the pipeline. To become a reality,
 11 the pipeline requires additional gas reserves beyond
 12 what has already been discovered. The Chukchi Sea
 13 is considered to be the nation's most prolific,
 14 unexplored offshore basin in North America, with
 15 potential reserves of 132 trillion cubic feet of
 16 natural gas.
 17 RDC is confident oil and gas production
 18 from the Chukchi and Beaufort can move forward in
 19 an environmentally sensitive and responsible manner
 20 through a strong regulatory regime, seasonal
 21 operating restrictions as needed, and mitigation
 22 measures to avoid conflicts with other resource
 23 users. OCS development has an outstanding safety
 24 and environmental record, spanning decades.
 25 Development has coexisted with other industries,

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1 including fishing in the North Sea, the Gulf of
 2 Mexico, and Cook Inlet.
 3 RDC recognizes that subsistence whaling is
 4 vitally important both economically and culturally
 5 to the North Slope villages. We believe seasonal
 6 restrictions and/or deferrals of specific tracts in
 7 active whaling waters should be considered to avoid
 8 potential conflicts as opposed to outright
 9 cancellation or indefinite deferral of entire lease
 10 sales.
 11 The help -- to help address local impacts,
 12 RDC encourages the federal government to share
 13 revenues from OCS activity with local communities.
 14 OCS production in Alaska would provide many
 15 benefits, including hundreds of new jobs in rural
 16 and urban areas, additional tax revenues, new local
 17 sources for fuel and energy, and improved search and
 18 rescue operations.
 19 In concluding, I would like to point out
 20 that demand for energy will continue to rise and
 21 reality will require continued development of
 22 America's oil and gas resources as the nation
 23 transitions to the new energy sources of the future.
 24 While renewable energy resources will make up a
 25 growing part of the U.S. energy portfolio, they will

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1 not reduce our reliance on foreign sources of oil in
 2 the near or mid-term. The health of our economy and
 3 our national security will require utilization of
 4 both conventional and unconventional energy sources.
 5 No single approach is enough, as we cannot drill our
 6 way to energy independence, nor can we conserve our
 7 way.
 8 Given the impact of high energy prices on
 9 Americans and their economy, the U.S. has a moral
 10 obligation to develop domestic energy resources both
 11 onshore and offshore. These resources will buy us
 12 the time we need to develop alternative and
 13 renewable energy that will some day help break our
 14 reliance on foreign oil.
 15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify
 16 tonight, and we will submit more detailed comments
 17 by the March deadline.
 18 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, sir. Okay.
 19 We will go to the next row. Gentleman on the left.
 20 Next in? And in the back? Okay. We will go all
 21 the way over to this side. Please.
 22 MS. ALICIA EGAN: Hello. I'm Alicia
 23 Egan. I'm the director of development at the Alaska
 24 Support Industry Alliance. I live in Anchorage,
 25 Alaska, and I have been a resident for three and a

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1 half years.
 2 I am in support of leases 209, 212, 217 and
 3 221 in the Beaufort and Chuckchi Seas because of
 4 America's need for a domestic supply of oil and gas.
 5 The companies that are interested in developing this
 6 supply of gas have proven safety records and employ
 7 thousands in this state.
 8 The organization that I work for represents
 9 450 members that employ 35,000 Alaskans in the oil
 10 and gas and mining industries. The jobs that are
 11 provided to our members are jobs that I hope are
 12 still around when my children have continued their
 13 education and seek to be employed in this state.
 14 This state needs the jobs and the economic growth
 15 that will come with this exploration.
 16 I urge Minerals Management Services to not
 17 block or slow this environmentally responsible
 18 development that furthers the economic stability of
 19 this state.
 20 Thank you.
 21 MR. LOMAN: Thank you very much.
 22 MR. PAUL LAIRD: My name is Paul
 23 Laird. I'm general manager and testifying on behalf
 24 of the Alaska Support Industry Alliance, a nonprofit
 25 trade organization representing 450 member

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1 organizations that provide goods and services to
 2 Alaska's oil, gas, and mining industries with their
 3 35,000 plus Alaska employees.
 4 The alliance supports OCS lease sales 209,
 5 212, 217 and 221 in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas
 6 because America needs more domestic oil and gas
 7 production and supplies, not less; because we need
 8 more good paying jobs and business opportunities,
 9 not fewer; because we need lower energy prices, not
 10 higher; because we need stronger -- a stronger
 11 economy in communities, not weaker; and because
 12 companies like ConocoPhillips and Shell that have
 13 shown the greatest interest in finding new sources
 14 of oil and gas on Arctic Alaska's Outer Continental
 15 Shelf have demonstrated not only their ability, but
 16 also their commitment to conduct their activities in
 17 a safe and environmentally responsible manner.
 18 We urge the MMS not to bow to environmental
 19 extremism. Don't block or delay environmentally
 20 responsible oil and gas exploration and development
 21 in yet another large and highly prospective chunk of
 22 Alaska's OCS.
 23 America needs oil and gas from Alaska's
 24 Arctic to regain some semblance of balance between
 25 our domestic energy supplies and our consumption.

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1 We need the jobs and economic growth that domestic
 2 oil and gas production will bring. We need them
 3 now, not some day.
 4 Thank you.
 5 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, sir. Yes,
 6 ma'am.
 7 MS. MARY QUIN: My name is Mary
 8 Quin, M-A-R-Y Q-U-I-N, and I live here in Anchorage.
 9 I am president of NMS, one of the ten largest
 10 employers in the state of Alaska. I'm here to speak
 11 in support of the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea Outer
 12 Continental Shelf oil and gas lease sales.
 13 NMS employs more than 2,500 employees, and
 14 the majority of these jobs are based on supporting
 15 oil and gas exploration and development in Alaska.
 16 Our employees operate camps, including food service,
 17 maintenance, housekeeping, and provide security
 18 services for the oil producing areas of Alaska's
 19 North Slope, as well as other oil, gas, and mineral
 20 producing areas of the state. The NMS annual
 21 payroll supports an estimated 5,000 family members
 22 of these employees who depend on our paychecks for
 23 their day-to-day living and on our health care
 24 benefits for their access to medical care. Fully
 25 one quarter of our employees are Alaska Native or

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1 American Indian, and half of those, some 12 to 14
 2 percent of our employees, are NANA shareholders from
 3 the Northwest Arctic Region whose coastal boundary
 4 is the Chukchi Sea.
 5 Job opportunities in the Arctic are
 6 extremely limited. Oil and gas production on the
 7 Outer Continental Shelf of the Beaufort and Chukchi
 8 Seas represent one of the few possibilities for
 9 expanding employment. The lease sales opened the
 10 door not only to much needed new supplies of
 11 domestic energy for the United States, but to jobs
 12 that pay a good wage, build professional skills and,
 13 for many of our employees, provide the flexibility
 14 to continue a traditional subsistence lifestyle.
 15 It's no secret that Alaska oil production
 16 has been in decline since the late 1980s. Several
 17 speakers this evening have mentioned that. Without
 18 new exploration and development, the very
 19 livelihoods of NMS employees and their families are
 20 at risk. We need responsible oil and gas
 21 exploration to continue on the North Slope and to
 22 expand offshore onto the Outer Continental Shelf.
 23 As a former research scientist and engineer
 24 and as the leader of a company which has supported
 25 oil producers in Alaska for more than three decades,

Page 24

1 it is my belief that Alaska's offshore waters can be
 2 explored and their oil and gas resources can be
 3 produced without harming the environment.
 4 I thank you for providing me with this
 5 opportunity to testify and would encourage you to
 6 approve the lease sales so that many more Alaskans,
 7 especially Alaska Natives, can find work in their
 8 home state and closer to their traditional villages
 9 and communities.
 10 Thank you.
 11 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, ma'am.
 12 MR. MATTHEW FAGNANI: Good evening.
 13 My name is Matthew Fagnani, M-A-T-T-H-E-W
 14 F-A-G-N-A-N-I. I am president of WorkSafe and NMS
 15 Vice President of Operations for Workforce
 16 Solutions. The division I am responsible for
 17 employs more than 230 employees whose jobs and
 18 livelihood are dependent on a healthy,
 19 environmentally safe and sound oil and gas industry.
 20 I'm sure you're aware Alaska's North Slope
 21 oil production plays a critical role in providing
 22 the United States with oil and, some day soon, we
 23 hope, natural gas. For America to become energy
 24 independent, one would hope that we would look to
 25 our own natural resources before we relied on

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1 foreign sources of oil. It's no secret that the
 2 North Slope has been in decline since its peak
 3 production in the late '80s.
 4 With the Minerals Management Services'
 5 estimate of 27 billion barrels of oil and 132
 6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the Alaska
 7 Outer Continental Shelf, this must be developed. I,
 8 for one, hope that the federal government would be
 9 responsible and find a path forward to take
 10 advantage of these known energy resources and put
 11 them to work for America.
 12 Alaska continues to play a valuable role in
 13 America's energy solution. When Alaska works,
 14 America works. It is critical that Alaska continues
 15 to have a viable resource industry. This is
 16 essential to generating thousands of new high-paying
 17 jobs that would last for decades and strengthen the
 18 U.S. and Alaska economies. In Alaska, jobs created
 19 by a healthy oil and gas industry provide the
 20 backbone for the Alaskan economy. My employees'
 21 families are church members, have children in our
 22 schools, purchase goods and services from the local
 23 economy, as well as provide volunteers and their
 24 hard-earned dollars to charities and, in essence,
 25 make up the chemistry for a strong, viable economy

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1 and community.
 2 The federal government has a key role to
 3 play in providing jobs, energy, and security, and
 4 Alaska represents a known path for oil and gas
 5 development. Alaskans know that you can have a
 6 responsible oil and gas development and exploration
 7 in an environmentally safe manner with safety as the
 8 highest priority.
 9 I thank you for the time to testify. I
 10 support the Beaufort and the Chukchi Sea OCS oil and
 11 gas lease sales 209, 212, 217 and 221. Let's put
 12 Alaskans and America to work.
 13 Thank you.
 14 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, sir.
 15 MR. KEITH SILVER: Good evening. My
 16 name is Keith Silver, K-E-I-T-H S-I-L-V-E-R. I'm
 17 the business development director for NMS Employee
 18 Leasing here in Anchorage. It is vital that the
 19 United States continue along the path to develop the
 20 potential oil and gas fields in the Beaufort and
 21 Chukchi Seas. To lock up the nation's most prolific
 22 unexplored offshore basin in North America is
 23 unconscionable. I support the draft environmental
 24 impact statement written by the Minerals Management
 25 Services for the lease sales 209, 212, 217, and 221.

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1 It is important to note the Alaska OCS is a
 2 valuable future source of U.S. energy supply. It is
 3 estimated that there are over 27 billion barrels of
 4 oil and 132 trillion cubic feet of natural gas
 5 potentially in place. The responsible development
 6 of Alaska's offshore energy resources would help
 7 future U.S. energy demand. The current fields are
 8 maturing and experiencing declining levels of
 9 production.
 10 The energy plan for the nation must include
 11 Alaska, which accounts for over 30 percent of the
 12 nation's technically recoverable resources. Given
 13 long lead times in development, which often exceed
 14 ten years, MMS needs to proceed with key lease
 15 sales. The demand for energy is increasing and will
 16 continue to rise. Renewable energy resources will
 17 not significantly reduce our reliance on foreign
 18 sources of oil in the near or mid-term. For the
 19 health of our economy and national security, we must
 20 utilize both conventional and unconventional energy
 21 sources.
 22 I would urge that the MMS recognize that
 23 subsistence whaling is vitally important, both
 24 economically and culturally to the indigenous
 25 peoples of the North Slope and Northwestern Alaska.

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1 Seasonal restrictions in active whaling waters
 2 should be considered to avoid potential conflicts.
 3 Lastly, revenue sharing from the OCS with
 4 the local communities should be enacted to help
 5 address local impacts.
 6 I thank you for your time.
 7 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, sir.
 8 MS. REBECCA NOBLIN: Good evening.
 9 My name is Rebecca Noblin, R-E-B-E-C-C-A
 10 N-O-B-L-I-N. I'm an attorney for the Center for
 11 Biological Diversity, and I live in Anchorage.
 12 Thanks for letting me speak tonight. The only
 13 acceptable alternative described in this draft EIS
 14 for lease sales 209, 212, 217 and 221 is the no
 15 action alternative. The Minerals Management Service
 16 should not allow offshore oil development in the
 17 Arctic to proceed until and unless some basic
 18 requirements have been met.
 19 We will be submitting detailed written
 20 comments later, but tonight I just want to make a
 21 couple points.
 22 First, development should not proceed in
 23 the absence of a rational, science-based overarching
 24 policy to address climate change and the dramatic
 25 impacts it's having in the Arctic. Many, if not

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1 most, Arctic species -- polar bears, walrus and a
 2 variety of seabirds -- are already losing essential
 3 habitat to Arctic melting. Offshore oil development
 4 could only speed these species' decline.
 5 Drilling for oil in the Arctic is a double
 6 whammy. The operations themselves put species at
 7 risk from noise, ship strikes, oil spills and other
 8 hazards, while the greenhouse gas emissions created
 9 when the oil is burned contribute to the destruction
 10 of sea ice habitat. MMS must consider the impacts
 11 of burning these fossil fuels in any analysis of the
 12 lease sales of environmental impact.
 13 Second, offshore oil and gas development in
 14 the Arctic should not proceed until MMS has gathered
 15 essential baseline information about the Chukchi and
 16 Beaufort Seas and the species that inhabit them.
 17 MMS admits to ignorance regarding basic information
 18 on population abundance and distribution, life
 19 history, and impacts of development on many Arctic
 20 animals, including bowhead whales and polar bears,
 21 both of which are listed under the Endangered
 22 Species Act, both of which are extremely important
 23 to Inupiat culture. If MMS waits to gather this
 24 critical baseline information until after the
 25 development of these leases has begun, it will be

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1 too late.
 2 Third, there is no technology to clean
 3 spilled oil in the real life ice conditions of the
 4 Chukchi Seas. Development absolutely should not be
 5 allowed in the absence of a guarantee that spilled
 6 oil can be cleaned. The Exxon Valdez taught
 7 Alaskans a hard lesson, and we do not intend to
 8 repeat that tragedy. An oil spill in the Chucki or
 9 Beaufort Seas would have dire consequences for the
 10 marine mammals, fish and birds that live there, and
 11 for the Alaska Native people whose traditions,
 12 culture and sustenance revolve around those animals.
 13 Thank you.
 14 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, ma'am.
 15 MS. BETSY BEARDSLEY: My name is
 16 Betsy Beardsley, B-E-T-S-Y B-E-A-R-D-S-L-E-Y. I'm
 17 the environmental justice program director for
 18 Alaska Wilderness League. I'm providing these
 19 comments on behalf of the Alaska Wilderness League
 20 and as a lifelong Alaskan.
 21 We are advocating for the no action
 22 alternative because we, after reviewing the EIS,
 23 feel that there are some serious flaws in the plan.
 24 Some science -- that further science needs to be
 25 done, further studies that need to be done before

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1 any of the lease sales should move forward.
 2 The alternatives propose very small
 3 additions to subsistence deferral areas and no
 4 alternatives considered deferrals for important
 5 marine mammal habitat. None of the alternatives
 6 would sufficiently protect subsistence or the marine
 7 environment. The agency's proposed action is to
 8 decline any alternatives that provide more
 9 protection and make the entire program area
 10 available for leasing.
 11 Looking at the plan, I just wanted to
 12 highlight a few things that we had concerns with.
 13 Regarding oil spills, there is a 40 percent chance
 14 of one or more large platform and pipeline spills as
 15 a result of production from Chukchi Sea lease sales
 16 212 and 221. These are all within the plan.
 17 There is no cumulative oil spill risk
 18 analysis combining Beaufort and Chukchi Sea risks or
 19 with existing leases, including lease sale 193.
 20 MMS's proposal does not require oil companies to
 21 demonstrate their ability to clean up oil spills in
 22 broken ice conditions through test drills.
 23 For the issue of drilling waste, MMS does
 24 not require zero discharge of drilling waste into
 25 the ocean, nor has it sufficiently analyzed

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1 potential ecosystem and human health impacts from
 2 these pollutants.
 3 There is an inadequate range of
 4 alternatives. The draft environmental impact
 5 statement did not include a renewable energy
 6 conservation alternative, but relied on the
 7 five-year plan's inadequate consideration of this
 8 topic.
 9 As for untested technology, it was found
 10 that although bottom-founded platforms have been
 11 used in high latitude settings worldwide, no
 12 platform has operated in environmental conditions
 13 equivalent to the Chukchi shelf.
 14 Under the issue of subsistence and cultural
 15 impacts, the DEIS says, quote, overall potential
 16 disturbance effects from production operations may
 17 be more difficult to mitigate as such activities, by
 18 definition, will be longer term and operate
 19 year-round. The need to install one production
 20 platform drill, 80 production wells, construct 120
 21 miles of offshore pipeline and 250 miles of onshore
 22 pipeline and construct one pipeline landfall and
 23 shorebase in the region could increase the areas and
 24 times where subsistence resources and activities are
 25 restricted. I believe that this would increase the

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1 possibility for significant harvest disruption.
 2 This would further exacerbate if construction and
 3 production activities were concentrated in critical
 4 subsistence use areas.
 5 MMS goes on to say, quote, if a large oil
 6 spill occurred and affected any part of the bowhead
 7 whale's migration route, it could taint this
 8 culturally important resource. Even if whales were
 9 available for the spring and fall seasons,
 10 traditional cultural concerns of tainting could make
 11 bowheads less desirable and alter or stop the
 12 subsistence harvest in Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Barrow,
 13 Wainwright, and Point Hope, and the beluga whale
 14 hunt in Point Lay for up to two seasons.
 15 Concerns over the safety of subsistence
 16 foods could persist for many years past any actual
 17 harvest destruction. In the case of extreme
 18 contamination, harvest could cease until such time
 19 as resources were perceived as safe by local
 20 subsistence hunters. Such a condition would
 21 constitute a major adverse effect.
 22 Tainting concerns would also extend to
 23 walrus, seals, polar bears, fish, and birds. Some
 24 or all of these resources could also suffer losses
 25 from an oil spill. Tainting concerns in communities

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1 nearest the spill even could seriously curtail
 2 traditional practices for harvesting, sharing and
 3 processing bowheads, and threatening a critical
 4 underpinning of Inupiat culture.
 5 These were all discovered in the studies
 6 that were done for this plan, and we feel that this
 7 kind of activity should not be able to go forward
 8 with these sorts of impacts.
 9 Also within the plan it was identified that
 10 if a major oil spill occurs -- and it was said that
 11 a 40 percent -- there is a 40 percent chance of a
 12 major oil spill -- there is up to a 53 percent
 13 chance that it could hit important polar bear
 14 habitat.
 15 Another issue I quote, we realize that some
 16 OCS operations might pose a relatively high chance
 17 of contacting polar bear aggregations, depending on
 18 their geographic location, and if a spill occurred
 19 and therefore to the polar bear population as a
 20 whole, meaning, again, this would significantly
 21 impact the polar bears.
 22 Although there was a human health impact
 23 analysis done, the -- the preferred alternative that
 24 MMS chose does not adopt the recommended mitigation
 25 measures for the people living on the North Slope,

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1 and we find that a serious concern.
 2 Given all these facts, we feel that the
 3 environmental impact statement should not move
 4 forward in the NEPA process until further analysis
 5 is done, until it can be proven that this activity
 6 can occur in the Arctic with zero discharge, that
 7 oil spills can be cleaned up in the broken ice
 8 conditions.
 9 Therefore, we are hoping that the new
 10 Administration will call for a time out on this plan
 11 and other drilling operations in the Arctic Ocean
 12 until it can be proven that this can be done without
 13 harming the environment.
 14 Thank you.
 15 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, ma'am.
 16 MR. EARL KINGIK: Good evening.
 17 Thank you for giving me a chance to talk about your
 18 EIS. And my name is Earl Kingik, K-I-N-G-I-K. And
 19 my box number is P.O. Box 3, Point Hope, Alaska.
 20 I come from a community that is very
 21 traditional. I would like to say that my members of
 22 my community never had a chance to look at your
 23 thick book right there. My community, my tribe,
 24 don't really understand this EIS process. But MMS
 25 got a fingerprint already. You probably heard about

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1 the scandal that went on in Washington, D.C. by the
 2 oil companies and MMS. My tribe is very
 3 disappointed of what MMS did.
 4 I'm a member of Native Village of Point
 5 Hope, a recognized tribe that was established in
 6 1934. I'm a registered voter of City of Point Hope
 7 and the state of Alaska, and I'm also a registered
 8 voter for the North Slope Borough. And I'm also a
 9 proud shareholder of ASRC and which got strong
 10 interest in development of offshore.
 11 My tribe is a member of the Indian
 12 Reorganization Act. In 2006 when this first came
 13 around, my tribe passed a resolution, 05-06. The
 14 resolution reads: A resolution to strongly oppose
 15 the development of oil and gas in the 1002 area of
 16 the ANWR and offshore waters of the Arctic Ocean,
 17 Chukchi Sea, and Beaufort Sea. And of course that
 18 EIS is being presented to the people.
 19 Whereas: The Native Village of Point Hope,
 20 IRA, is a federally recognized tribal government
 21 organized under the Indian Reorganization Act of
 22 1934 as amended for Alaska Natives in 1936;
 23 And Whereas: The Native Village of Point
 24 Hope is responsible for the well-being of its
 25 members;

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1 And Whereas: In 1992, we, the Inupiat of
 2 Point Hope, have adopted the Code of Offenses
 3 Against the Peace and Security of the Inupiat People
 4 of Point Hope;
 5 And Whereas: We adopted this code in order
 6 to better protect ourselves from policies of the
 7 United States which have historically disregarded
 8 the well-being of the indigenous peoples;
 9 And Whereas: We recommend to all
 10 Traditional Native Governments and IRAs that they
 11 adopt, by their own majority, the Code of Offenses
 12 against the Peace and Security of Mankind (an
 13 international code);
 14 And Whereas: The marine mammals, migratory
 15 birds, and fish migrate to and from, through our
 16 oceans and land;
 17 And Whereas: Continued development and
 18 exploitation of our land and sea poses an imminent
 19 threat to our well being;
 20 And Whereas: The objectives of the current
 21 Administration in Washington, D.C., as voiced by the
 22 House Majority leader, Tom Delay, is to open the
 23 ANWR in order to create a precedent that will allow
 24 resource exploitation of wilderness areas, marine
 25 sanctuaries, pristine offshore waters, and refuges

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1 nationwide, diminishing the Marine Mammals
 2 Endangered Species Act and the International Bird
 3 Treaties;
 4 Whereas, ANWR and the 1002 area is critical
 5 to the existence of the Porcupine Caribou Herd,
 6 migratory birds, and other subsistence resources
 7 that are critical to the sustenance of all Native
 8 Arctic inhabitants who have depended on their
 9 resources since time immemorial;
 10 And Whereas: The residents of our village
 11 also depend on wildlife resources of the Beaufort
 12 Sea, the Chukchi Sea, and the Arctic Ocean, and
 13 these waters are also critical to the sustenance of
 14 the Inupiat people, and these waters are being
 15 considered for offshore development;
 16 And Whereas: All indigenous peoples and
 17 communities are concerned about their continuous
 18 sustenance from land, sea, and the continuation of
 19 traditional hunting, fishing, and agricultural
 20 practice. And these are supportive of each other
 21 and the Inupiat peoples' right of self-determination
 22 and have and continue to voice that support;
 23 And therefore be it resolved: That we, the
 24 Native Village of Point Hope and the villages of the
 25 North Slope, strongly oppose the development of oil

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1 and gas in the 1002 area in ANWR and offshore waters
 2 of the Arctic Ocean, Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea
 3 and call the President of the United States and its
 4 Congress to reject any attempts to diminish the
 5 preserved status of the 1002 area of ANWR.
 6 Certified February 22, 2005. Six for it
 7 and one against. Signed by our president, Charlie
 8 Kinneveauk and our secretary, Dorcus Rock.
 9 Now, we strongly oppose any development in
 10 our ocean. The ocean is our garden. It provides
 11 food for my people. It provides clothing for my
 12 people. The people of Point Hope and the animals
 13 that migrate through those areas both depend on each
 14 other. And we take care of each other. We don't
 15 want no destruction of our ocean. We recognize that
 16 the oil companies will be going out there. We
 17 already see fingerprints happening throughout the
 18 world by the oil companies, the destruction they
 19 have set forth to the people and the land.
 20 Last month at Christmas, you hear about the
 21 pipeline, the oil spill that happened. When they
 22 start building the pipeline 25 or 30 years ago, they
 23 told us it will never happen. They told us they
 24 will clean it up right away. What is happening now?
 25 The pipeline is corroding. Saltwater will corrode

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1 anything.
 2 If you go out there to the firecracker area
 3 in the Chukchi to build a pipeline to go to the
 4 shoreline, what's going to happen if there is an oil
 5 spill? Your environmental impact statement talks
 6 about what will happen if there is an oil spill.
 7 How you going to clean it? We don't want no
 8 destruction of our ocean. The ocean is very
 9 precious to us. The animals, the bowhead whales,
 10 the walrus, the bearded seal, the seal, the fish,
 11 the migratory birds and all species of fliers depend
 12 on the ocean.
 13 Not only the oil companies are going out to
 14 our ocean. You see in the newspaper that fisheries
 15 have strong interest in our area. You see in
 16 newspapers that the tourist ships are going to go
 17 through the Northwest Passage. Is MMS prepared if
 18 there is any destruction or oil spill in our area?
 19 On behalf of the bowhead whale, the beluga,
 20 the bearded seals, seal, fish, migratory birds, we
 21 thank you for giving me a chance to testify on this
 22 very important issue. My people will be expecting
 23 you. I'd like to thank MMS to include Point Hope on
 24 these public hearings because my people will be
 25 ready when you go to Point Hope.

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1 We thank you very much for giving me a
 2 chance to testify. Thank you.
 3 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, Earl. We will
 4 see you in Point Hope.
 5 MR. JOHN HOPSON, JR.: Good evening.
 6 My name is John Hopson, H-O-P-S-O-N, Junior. I'd
 7 like to thank my fellow Inupiat for speaking on
 8 behalf of the animals of our area. The resolution
 9 he read is a powerful resolution, and he did mention
 10 a couple -- a statement about the Native Village of
 11 Point Hope and the villages of the North Slope. I
 12 want to make that clear. Wainwright has not taken
 13 any part in that resolution. I've no knowledge of
 14 any meetings that have been held in support of that
 15 resolution there.
 16 My name is John Hopson. I am the chairman
 17 of Olgoonik Corporation, a village corporation under
 18 the ANCSA law. I come from the community of
 19 Wainwright. I am Inupiat. Our community looks out
 20 to the Chukchi Sea, and it's the closest village to
 21 the lease sales that are being proposed here. I'm
 22 an Inupiat whaler. I go whaling. I hunt belugas.
 23 I hunt the ducks. I hunt the seals. I hunt the
 24 walrus and also inland.
 25 For generations these waters have supported

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1 a subsistence lifestyle that is very important to
 2 us. Yet as a successful Alaska Native corporation
 3 with several subsidiaries involved in government
 4 contracting, we are also keenly aware of the value
 5 of economic development. While our business has
 6 grown -- has been steadily growing, the majority of
 7 the work of these contracts have been outside
 8 Alaska. For that reason, we see oil operations in
 9 the Chukchi as one of the most important
 10 opportunities we have for developing our local
 11 economy.
 12 We believe this is to be the case based
 13 upon the estimated amount of oil and gas that can be
 14 produced in the Alaska offshore waters in our area.
 15 There are some so many billion barrels of oil and
 16 many million trillions cubic feet of gas. The
 17 economic impact result from such development could
 18 mean added life for the TransAlaska Pipeline. It
 19 could also bring important new transportation and
 20 communication infrastructure to our region. Equally
 21 important is the fact that developing these
 22 resources would reduce the nation's growing
 23 dependence upon oil.
 24 As a for-profit organization, the goal of
 25 Olgoonik Corporation is to maximize business

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1 relationships that provide economic and employment
 2 opportunities for our shareholders and their
 3 families in our community of Wainwright. We are
 4 actively working with the oil industry not only to
 5 meet this goal, but to build a financially strong
 6 future for the village of Wainwright.
 7 I want to thank you for the opportunity to
 8 speak before you today.
 9 MR. LOMAN: Thank you.
 10 MS. JONNE SLEMONS: Good evening.
 11 My name is Jonne Slemons, J-O-N-N-E S-L-E-M-O-N-S.
 12 I'm here representing the Division of Oil and Gas at
 13 the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for the
 14 State.
 15 I'd like to speak first for the State's
 16 interests regarding the proposed sales on which we
 17 are commenting tonight. As you know, the offshore
 18 continental shelf federal lands are contiguous to
 19 state lands. We have recognized for a long time
 20 that the exploration and discovery of resources on
 21 federal lands may indeed indicate the presence of
 22 those same resources on proximal state lands, and
 23 for that reason we are very interested in seeing all
 24 four of these sales progress.
 25 Furthermore, the possibility of finding oil

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1 and gas together is a significant possibility and is
 2 important both to Alaska and to the nation, both now
 3 and into the future.
 4 Regarding the national interest, we would
 5 observe that natural gas is abundant in our country.
 6 It is clean burning, and it is in the most critical
 7 demand, both for the generation of electricity and
 8 for the use in the industrial sector for
 9 manufacturing, which is suffering greatly in
 10 competing for energy with foreign manufacturers.
 11 I would also note that MMS can be proud of
 12 their research and their Environmental Studies
 13 Program. A significant amount of the budget for the
 14 Environmental Studies Program is dedicated to
 15 science studies in Alaska, including in the Chukchi
 16 subsistence walrus, whales, Spectacled Eiders,
 17 polynyas and surface current circulation studies in
 18 the Beaufort in a coupled study with ice and ocean
 19 modeling, as well as Arctic fish cataloging, MAG
 20 plan and mitigation monitoring studies.
 21 You can be equally proud of your work with
 22 the University of Alaska's Coastal Marine Institute
 23 which represents over 15 years of applied marine
 24 research.
 25 Regarding TAPS, and again in the national

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1 interest, we would note that additional throughput
 2 into the TransAlaska Pipeline system reduces the
 3 tariff that must be paid and makes the cost of those
 4 resources more reasonable for everyone. An
 5 additional throughput into the TransAlaska Pipeline
 6 system also keeps TAPS operating past the point at
 7 which it would otherwise not safely operate. Our
 8 goal should be to delay that point as long as
 9 possible.
 10 We strongly support the four sales that are
 11 the subject of tonight's hearing, and we will submit
 12 written comments before the March deadline.
 13 Thank you.
 14 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, ma'am.
 15 Anybody else in that row? Okay.
 16 MR. TALDI WALTER: Good evening. My
 17 name is Taldi Walter, T-A-L-D-I, and I'm here
 18 representing Audubon Alaska, the Alaska office of
 19 the National Audubon Society, which represents more
 20 than 500,000 members nationally.
 21 Audubon Alaska has long been involved in
 22 Arctic resource issues, including providing
 23 extensive comments in scoping process for the
 24 multi-sale EIS. We believe that this proposed
 25 action to lease immense tracts of the Chukchi and

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1 Beaufort Seas over the next three years is simply
 2 too much, too fast, and too soon. Furthermore, the
 3 draft EIS, notwithstanding its bulk, does not
 4 adequately address the potential impacts that this
 5 proposed action will have on the sensitive wildlife,
 6 subsistence, and cultural values of the Arctic
 7 Ocean.
 8 The document in many places readily
 9 acknowledges the lack of baseline information and
 10 resource knowledge associated with the Beaufort and
 11 Chukchi Seas. It also recognizes the very real
 12 possibility of oil spills associated with the
 13 leasing and development activities. It also admits
 14 the current technologies are not sufficient to
 15 adequately address oil spills in the variety of
 16 conditions found in the Arctic. Yet, most of the
 17 impacts, including cumulative impacts, on wildlife,
 18 birds, and human activities are found to be few,
 19 minor or negligible.
 20 While sharing concerns with wildlife and
 21 subsistence activities associated with the Arctic
 22 Ocean, Audubon is particularly concerned with bird
 23 populations, habitats, and potential impacts.
 24 Several globally and continentally significant
 25 important bird areas, IBAs, are within the Chukchi

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1 Sea, including 18 IBAs on the U.S. side of the
 2 Chukchi Sea and six more on the Russian side. An
 3 additional seven IBAs are located along the Alaskan
 4 Beaufort Sea coast. These areas have been
 5 recognized for their unusual and critical bird
 6 habitats and serve as nesting and migration stops
 7 for literally millions of waterfowl, shorebirds, and
 8 seabirds. Notable are seabird colonies on Cape
 9 Thompson and Cape Lisburne cliffs within the Alaska
 10 Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, the Speckled
 11 Eider federal critical habitat at Ledyard Bay, which
 12 is also utilized by 500,000 King Eider, the marine
 13 mammal and waterfowl concentrations in Kasegaluk
 14 Lagoon, the Colville River Delta, Teshekpuk Lake and
 15 the Canning River area.
 16 We are concerned about direct and indirect
 17 loss and degradation of important habitat and
 18 impairment of reproductive success of birds in these
 19 areas through noise, boat and aircraft traffic,
 20 facility development, including onshore developments
 21 associated with offshore oil and gas actions, and
 22 pollution; and most dramatically, the recognized
 23 chance of an oil spill during periods of high bird
 24 concentrations, which could be devastating.
 25 Mitigation measures that are discussed in the draft

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1 or even the use of deferral areas simply do not
 2 adequately address these risks. For example, the
 3 concentrations of threatened Spectacled Eiders in
 4 the Ledyard Bay critical area extend up to 40 miles
 5 from the shore, an area readily reached by drifting
 6 oil from the proposed leasing area of the Chukchi.
 7 While the draft does discuss the threatened
 8 Speckled and Stellar's Eider and the ESA "candidate
 9 species" Kittlitz' Murrelet, it concludes that the
 10 proposed actions would result in few or negligible
 11 impacts, notwithstanding the very real chances of an
 12 oil spill, and difficulty of cleaning up such a
 13 spill, or the lack of knowledge about currents,
 14 winds and other conditions in the Arctic. The
 15 discussion of ESA species should also include
 16 Yellow-billed Loons, which are currently under
 17 review by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and
 18 utilize the Arctic Ocean in their migrations.
 19 Audubon will be submitting more detailed
 20 written comments prior to the March deadline, and I
 21 thank you for this opportunity to comment.
 22 MR. LOMAN: Thank you very much.
 23 MR. GEOFF HADDAD: Good evening. My
 24 name is Geoff Haddad. That's G-E-O-F-F H-A-D-D-A-D.
 25 And I'm the Vice President of Exploration and Land

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1 for ConocoPhillips Alaska.
 2 ConocoPhillips has a strong and
 3 longstanding interest in exploration and development
 4 in Alaska. ConocoPhillips is Alaska's largest oil
 5 and gas producer and has decades of operating
 6 experience to bring to bear in these Arctic
 7 conditions. ConocoPhillips is the largest owner of
 8 state and federal leases in Alaska and a major owner
 9 in the three largest oil fields on the North Slope:
 10 Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk, and Alpine. We have a proven
 11 track record of high quality, safe and
 12 environmentally responsible performance on the
 13 Alaska's North Slope, and we have a reputation for
 14 working collaboratively and respectfully with our
 15 neighbors in the Alaska Native community.
 16 ConocoPhillips is focused on oil and gas
 17 exploration in the federal waters of the Chukchi Sea
 18 as witnessed by our investment of 500 million
 19 dollars on 98 OCS leases in February 2008. We are
 20 taking a measured and responsible approach to
 21 prepare for our initial exploration well now planned
 22 for the summer of 2011. We collected biological and
 23 oceanographic baseline data over specific
 24 ConocoPhillips prospects in the Chukchi Sea in the
 25 summer of 2008 and have plans to continue this

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1 program in the summers of 2009 and 2010. We have
 2 also started to collect air quality data offshore
 3 and from a new shore-based monitoring station in
 4 Wainwright.
 5 ConocoPhillips strongly encourages the MMS
 6 to continue leasing and promoting oil and gas
 7 exploration in Alaska's federal offshore waters,
 8 provided that reasonable mitigation measures are
 9 applied. ConocoPhillips believes the Chukchi Sea
 10 can and will be explored responsibly with respect
 11 for the environment and in a manner that respects
 12 the subsistence way of life of the residents of
 13 Alaska's North Slope.
 14 ConocoPhillips will be submitting our
 15 primary comments on the draft environmental impact
 16 statement for OCS sales 209, 212, 217 and 221 to the
 17 MMS in writing by the end of the comment period in
 18 March.
 19 Thank you very much.
 20 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, sir.
 21 MR. PETE WOODSON: My name is Pete
 22 Woodson, P-E-T-E W-O-O-D-S-O-N. I am here tonight
 23 to urge acceptance of the DEIS for the Beaufort and
 24 Chukchi Seas. I have been retired from the oil
 25 industry for 18 years. I first came to Alaska in

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1 1962. I was a drilling engineer on a drill ship.
 2 We used the drill ship to drill wildcats in the Cook
 3 Inlet during the '60s, and we drilled a discovery
 4 well in Cook Inlet in 1963. Brought in the first
 5 oil in Cook Inlet. We set the first platform in
 6 1964.
 7 There was a great clamor in those days,
 8 much as there is today, with people saying that we
 9 would ruin the salmon runs and spoil the water
 10 quality of the Cook Inlet. Well, there are now 14
 11 or so platforms out there in Cook Inlet. And there
 12 are many second generation people working on them
 13 and some third generation people, and they bring
 14 home some good paychecks.
 15 During all the intervening years, the oil
 16 industry has remained a major employer for the Kenai
 17 Peninsula. For over 40 years now, the fishing
 18 industries and the oil industry have lived and
 19 flourished side by side in the Cook Inlet, and
 20 neither has suffered. Neither the water quality nor
 21 the salmon runs have suffered.
 22 The issue of offshore lease sales is an
 23 important one to this nation. Because of our gross
 24 overreaction to environmental concerns, we have
 25 placed most of our Outer Continental Shelf areas off

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1 limits to oil exploration. This overreaction to a
 2 large extent has put our -- put us in the energy
 3 dependent predicament that we are in now.
 4 No, we can't drill our way out of this, as
 5 Boone Pickens said, but it will sure help. We need
 6 not only to work toward more efficient use of energy
 7 and develop alternative energy sources, but we need
 8 to turn the oil industry loose to do what they do
 9 best. We don't want to have to subsidize oil
 10 companies. All we have to do is sit back and give
 11 them the opportunity to use their own money in the
 12 OCS in a way that will benefit every American
 13 citizen.
 14 Thank you for the opportunity to come here
 15 and testify tonight.
 16 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, sir.
 17 MR. TOM RUETER: Hello. I'm Tom
 18 Rueter, R-U-E-T-E-R. I live in Anchorage, and
 19 employed by Alaska Maritime Agencies. We provide
 20 support services to not only vessels operating in
 21 the offshore oil exploration, but also vessels,
 22 crews, cargo, marine transportation vessels coming
 23 in throughout the state of Alaska. We wanted to
 24 make a short statement here.
 25 We are certain that the draft EIS that has

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1 been developed for this multi-lease sale by the MMS
 2 has gone through extensive research and review and
 3 meets the NEPA requirements for the document.
 4 In the past 30 years, there have been
 5 numerous wells that have been drilled in both the
 6 Chukchi and the Beaufort Sea without serious
 7 incident. This history and the continued efforts on
 8 the part of the industry, regulators, and the Alaska
 9 populace in general to raise the bar of
 10 environmental consciousness and safety certainly are
 11 reflected in this draft EIS.
 12 I urge the MMS to move forward with the
 13 approval and allow the multi-lease -- multi-area
 14 lease sale to proceed of all the unleased units and
 15 allow the energy companies to explore, develop, and
 16 produce a new source of oil for the U.S. consumption
 17 while generating jobs and potentially reducing the
 18 U.S. dependence on foreign oil resources.
 19 Thank you for your time.
 20 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, sir.
 21 MS. MARILYN CROCKETT: Good evening.
 22 My name is Marilyn Crockett. It's M-A-R-I-L-Y-N
 23 C-R-O-C-K-E-T-T. I am the Executive Director of the
 24 Alaska Oil and Gas Association.
 25 Alaska Oil and Gas Association is a trade

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1 association representing the majority of oil and gas
 2 exploration, development, production,
 3 transportation, refining, and marketing activities
 4 in the state of Alaska. We appreciate the chance to
 5 testify here this evening. We are working on our
 6 detailed review of the DEIS, and we will be
 7 submitting our detailed comments prior to the end of
 8 the comment period, but I'd like to read a brief
 9 statement.

10 AOGA commends the MMS for its approach to
 11 ensuring consistency and certainty in its Alaska
 12 lease sales program. The multi-sale EIS approach
 13 undertaken with the Beaufort and Chukchi Sea lease
 14 sales meets the requirements of NEPA and provides
 15 the necessary level of certainty needed by industry
 16 so that important investment decisions can be made
 17 with confidence.

18 In addition to the issue of certainty with
 19 regard to timing in scheduled sales, the actual
 20 areas offered for lease also must be consistent. We
 21 strongly encourage MMS to adopt Alternative 2 in
 22 both the Beaufort and Chukchi Sea sale areas.
 23 Offering all blocks not currently leased is the only
 24 approach that enables full evaluation of these
 25 resource-rich areas and bring needed oil and gas

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1 production to American consumers.

2 The MMS estimates that the Alaska OCS
 3 contains 27 billion barrels of oil and 132 trillion
 4 cubic feet of natural gas resources, more than twice
 5 what has been produced from the nation's largest oil
 6 fields on Alaska's North Slope. Clearly,
 7 development of these important offshore resources
 8 will play a critical role in meeting the nation's
 9 energy needs. On the Alaska front, crude oil
 10 production from the OCS will continue the life of
 11 the TransAlaska Pipeline, further providing
 12 incentives and opportunities for development of
 13 production from other areas that, on their own
 14 without existing infrastructure, would not be
 15 economic.

16 Strong oversight, technology, and a
 17 demonstrated commitment to safety, prevention, and
 18 training equip the industry to address concerns of
 19 coastal residents and the public about the effects
 20 associated with offshore development. In addition,
 21 MMS possesses the authority to develop lease or
 22 permit conditions to address these effects on human,
 23 marine, and coastal environments. In fact, the oil
 24 and gas industry has more than 30 years of
 25 exploration and development experience in the

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1 Beaufort and Chukchi Seas and has demonstrated that
 2 these operations can and do take place in an
 3 environmentally safe and responsible manner.

4 The American public has overwhelmingly
 5 stated that they support increased access to
 6 domestic oil and gas resources, and Alaskans are
 7 among them, with more than 69 percent encouraging
 8 development of domestic energy supplies.

9 This DEIS is the first step in a very
 10 lengthy and thorough analysis to be undertaken to
 11 meet the expectations of those residents.

12 Thank you. And again, we will be
 13 submitting detailed comments by the deadline.

14 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, Marilyn. Have
 15 we missed anybody? I didn't think so. Okay.

16 MR. SCOTT DANNER: Good evening. My
 17 name is Scott Danner, D-A-N-N-E-R. I am the Chief
 18 Operating Officer for Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation,
 19 commonly referred to as UIC, and I'll refer to it as
 20 such in this speech here.

21 Ukpeagvik Corporation was created under the
 22 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1972 to serve
 23 the socioeconomic interests of the Inupiat people of
 24 Barrow, Alaska, the northernmost coastal village in
 25 the United States.

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1 In light of expanding resource exploration
 2 and development, both onshore and offshore in our
 3 region, the UIC board of directors has developed the
 4 following policy statement that I'd like to share
 5 with you today.

6 In our interactions with the oil and gas
 7 industry, we will leverage our position to benefit
 8 the Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation family of
 9 companies, its shareholders, and the North Slope
 10 community. We acknowledge the inevitability of
 11 exploration and development by the oil and gas
 12 industry, and we will support exploration and
 13 development activities as long as they are done in a
 14 way that ensures protection and preservation of the
 15 Inupiat culture and subsistence lifestyle, economic
 16 benefit for our communities, employment for our
 17 shareholders and their family, and contract
 18 opportunities for our companies.

19 UIC shares the interests of the North Slope
 20 Borough as our coastal district governing body to
 21 create a strong and growing industrial sector to
 22 Alaska's Arctic. UIC also shares an interest in
 23 protecting our Inupiat customary and traditional
 24 ways of life through local participation in project
 25 planning. UIC shares the interest of the North

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1 Slope residents in the sharing of revenues from
 2 offshore oil and gas development.
 3 In closing, I would like to simply state
 4 that UIC supports environmentally responsible oil
 5 and gas development, both onshore and offshore.
 6 Thank you for this opportunity to provide
 7 this testimony. We are preparing detailed comments
 8 in writing that we intend to submit during the
 9 comment period. Thank you.
 10 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, sir. Do we
 11 have somebody that did a belly slide? Did you have
 12 comments, sir?
 13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.
 14 MR. LOMAN: All right. Well, let me
 15 just say on behalf of the Minerals Management
 16 Service Alaska, whether you came here concerned
 17 about jobs, economic interests, the self-defining
 18 practice of whaling, threatened/endangered species,
 19 other environmental resource protection, we
 20 appreciate your participation. And I'd like to
 21 thank the folks that came from the -- and testified
 22 from the oil and gas industry, some of the other
 23 business leaders that attended, members of the
 24 public, our friends from the Slope, our folks from
 25 the environmental advocacy groups. Your comments

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1 were respectful and thoughtful, and we appreciate
 2 that.
 3 Here is what's next. We will hold public
 4 scoping meetings beginning on February the 3rd in
 5 Kaktovik, followed by a meeting in Nuiqsut on the
 6 4th. We have government-to-government consultation
 7 meetings on the 5th, and then we will hold a public
 8 meeting and government-to-government consultation
 9 meetings in Barrow. And then the last week of
 10 February we will hold public meetings in Wainwright,
 11 Point Lay and Point Hope where we will see our
 12 friend Earl again, I'm sure. And we can't -- there
 13 he goes.
 14 You have a question.
 15 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: Just one
 16 question regarding the meeting in Kaktovik. I had
 17 spoke with Deborah Cranswick about a conflict with
 18 the North Slope Borough assembly meeting.
 19 MR. LOMAN: We heard about that. The
 20 assembly meeting is at 1:00 or 1:30, and our meeting
 21 is at 7:00.
 22 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: There would be
 23 a conflict regarding some of the associations that
 24 occur because of the assembly meeting that would
 25 probably impact the involvement of the public at the

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1 later meeting. I tried to explain that to Deborah,
 2 formalized it into a letter. It's something to take
 3 note of.
 4 It's related not only to the travel, but
 5 also to the cultural associations that the people
 6 have that it's quite a to-do when one community
 7 comes to the other like that. So people that have
 8 known each other for as far back as anyone can
 9 remember, we get into their different family
 10 relationships and everything else. And it will have
 11 a likely impact on the ability to have a successful
 12 meeting on your part, not to mention it may make
 13 your travel difficult because the North Slope
 14 Borough books all the travel to get there. And it's
 15 a very expensive process for the borough to hold
 16 their meeting in a village. And so the conflict
 17 will be one that will have a negative impact on both
 18 the assembly and MMS. It's something to consider.
 19 We are trying to help.
 20 MR. LOMAN: Appreciate that. And
 21 I'll look into it personally. Thank you.
 22 So again, we appreciate your participation,
 23 your respectful and thoughtful comments, and please
 24 drive safely and have a safe trip home.
 25 (Proceedings adjourned at 8:36 p.m.)

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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
 2 I, MARY A. VAVRIK, RMR, Notary Public in
 3 and for the State of Alaska do hereby certify:
 4 That the foregoing proceedings were taken
 5 before me at the time and place herein set forth;
 6 that the proceedings were reported stenographically
 7 by me and later transcribed under my direction by
 8 computer transcription; that the foregoing is a true
 9 record of the proceedings taken at that time; and
 10 that I am not a party to nor have I any interest in
 11 the outcome of the action herein contained.
 12 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
 13 subscribed my hand and affixed my seal this ____
 14 day of _____ 2009.
 15
 16 _____
 17 MARY A. VAVRIK,
 18 Registered Merit Reporter
 19 Notary Public for Alaska
 20
 21 My Commission Expires: November 5, 2012
 22
 23
 24
 25

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