

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

Wainwright, Alaska

Taken February 23, 2009
Commencing at 7:25 p.m.

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Taken at
Robert James Community Center
Wainwright, Alaska

Reported by:
Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

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A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S

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Taken by: Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were taken at the time and place duly noted on the title page, before Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of Alaska.

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 MR. LOMAN: We are going to get
3 started. And in order to get started on the right
4 foot, we are going to start with a blessing. Thank
5 you, sir, for doing the blessing for us.

6 (Blessing offered by Rossman Peetook.)

7 MR. LOMAN: Thank you very much for
8 that blessing, sir. Appreciate that. My name is
9 Jeffery Loman. I'm the Deputy Regional Director for
10 the Minerals Management Service in Alaska. And we
11 are here tonight to conduct a public hearing for the
12 purpose of taking your comments on a draft
13 environmental impact statement for a proposed
14 offshore oil and gas lease sale -- actually, four
15 sales, multi-sale proposal, two sales in the
16 Beaufort Sea, two sales in the Chukchi Sea.

17 I'll get into a little bit of a description
18 on the proposal and the draft environmental impact
19 statement, and then we will take comments from
20 anyone that wants to submit them tonight.

21 If you do testify, your testimony will be
22 recorded, and it is a public record which anyone can
23 see. If you choose to submit comments in writing in
24 addition to any comments you make tonight or
25 stand-alone comments in writing, you can submit them

1 in writing to the Regional Director of Minerals
2 Management Service. The address is up here. Or via
3 e-mail.

4 The deadline by which comments will be --
5 will be accepted has been extended in response to a
6 request from the North Slope Borough. We extended
7 the comment date till March the 16th. I believe
8 it's a total of 104 days by which --

9 MR. BARROS: March 30th.

10 MR. LOMAN: 30th.

11 MR. BARROS: Yeah.

12 MR. LOMAN: Okay. This says March
13 16th. That's wrong.

14 MR. BARROS: Yeah.

15 MR. LOMAN: Thank you. Extended to
16 March 30th. You can use this sheet tonight, which
17 Albert will be happy to give you, to submit comments
18 in writing or any other format that you would like.

19 First I'd like to introduce our team. I'm
20 the Deputy Regional Director, been working for
21 Minerals Management Service for a little over a
22 year-and-a-half now. Prior to that I was the Chief
23 of Natural Resources at the Bureau of Indian Affairs
24 in Washington, D.C. I've worked on many, many
25 projects associated with the National Environmental

1 Policy Act, or NEPA. This is probably the 12th or
2 13th EIS that I've worked on for the federal
3 government.

4 NEPA, an old law signed into a law by
5 President Richard Nixon, is the driving force for
6 the purpose of this meeting tonight. Albert.

7 MR. BARROS: Hello. I'm Albert
8 Barros. I'm the community liaison for the Alaska
9 Region for MMS.

10 MR. GORDON: Hi. I'm Keith Gordon.
11 I'm the NEPA coordinator for this particular EIS.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. LOMAN: In addition to the MMS
14 employees that are with us from Alaska, we are
15 delighted to have with us Keely Hite, who is an
16 environmental protection specialist with a special
17 program in Washington, D.C. and Jamie Kuhne, who is
18 a president management fellow. He's with our
19 headquarters office, leasing office in Herndon,
20 Virginia. They are coming to Alaska for the first
21 time, came right up to Anchorage over the weekend,
22 and we got them straight up here today to Wainwright
23 so they can see the real Alaska, unlike a lot of
24 folks that visit.

25 A little bit about this proposed project.

1 I know it's very important to you because it is
2 being proposed right out there in the Chukchi Sea.
3 Two oil and gas lease sales are proposed in the
4 Chukchi Sea, two in the Beaufort Sea. Beaufort Sea
5 sale 209 and Chukchi Sea sale 212 are tentatively
6 scheduled to take place in 2010. Beaufort Sea sale
7 217 is scheduled for 2011, and Chukchi Sea sale 221
8 is tentatively scheduled for 2012.

9 In addition to the proposed lease sales,
10 which are being proposed to take place in this lease
11 sale area and this lease sale area [indicating] in
12 the Chukchi, we are required under the National
13 Environmental Policy Act to analyze a reasonable
14 range of alternatives in addition to the no action
15 alternative. The no action alternative would --
16 would be no sales at all.

17 We analyzed in the draft document a number
18 of other alternatives. Beaufort Sea proposed action
19 for 209 and 217, a Barrow deferral, which would
20 defer this area [indicating] outside of Barrow. A
21 Cross Island deferral, which would defer this area
22 [indicating] near Cross Island. And a Beaufort Sea
23 eastern area deferral. Takes these areas, one, or
24 if all -- a combination of the alternatives were
25 subscribed to, one, several, or all of those areas.

1 In the Beaufort Sea, there is also an
2 alternative which is a deep water deferral which
3 takes out an area in the far sale area.

4 In the Chukchi Sea, there is a number of
5 alternatives that are being analyzed. You will
6 notice a difference right away with respect to the
7 Chukchi Sea and the Beaufort Sea. The Chukchi Sea
8 lease area has a 25-mile exclusion zone from the
9 coast to the 25-mile limit. There are other
10 deferred proposals that are analyzed in this draft
11 EIS which takes out, for various reasons as
12 described in the document, these areas [indicating]
13 that are shaded in different colors.

14 Essentially the reason for these deferrals,
15 primary reason for these deferrals is we understand
16 that whaling is a culturally-defining important
17 subsistence activity that must be preserved. In
18 other words, we want to analyze alternatives that
19 would avoid conflicts between offshore oil and gas
20 exploration and any subsequent development so that
21 the two things could go on simultaneously,
22 exploration and subsistence whaling.

23 And these alternatives were developed
24 pursuant to a large number of comments that we got,
25 including comments from some people in this room.

1 And in addition to whaling, there are other
2 important subsistence activities and other resource
3 protection activities that -- that give credence to
4 analyzing and considering those alternatives.

5 Very briefly, we are not here to talk
6 anybody into anything tonight. We are not here to
7 do industry's bidding. We are not here to do the
8 bidding of those in the subsistence community. Our
9 job is to take what the President, the
10 Administration that's elected by the people, which
11 is the proposed action, take that, develop these
12 alternatives, analyze all of them, deliver that to
13 you in the form of this draft document, take your
14 comments on it, finalize the document, take any
15 other comments on that and then prepare a record of
16 decision and inform the ultimate decisionmaker, who
17 is the new Secretary of Interior, Secretary Salazar.
18 Secretary Salazar may, if he chooses, delegate that
19 decision to the Assistant Secretary of Land and
20 Minerals Management. So that's our job.

21 At a lot of these hearings -- and we have
22 held hearings in Anchorage, in Barrow, in Nuiqsut
23 and in Kaktovik. We are here tonight. We will hold
24 hearings in Point Lay and Point Hope. At all of
25 these hearings, people have told us a lot of things.

1 If you saw a copy of the most recent Arctic Sounder,
2 Richard Glenn wrote an article in the Arctic
3 Sounder, and that article resembled the comments
4 that he gave at the hearing in Barrow.

5 We have received many, many comments, and
6 the transcripts, which Mary has recorded, are being
7 made available as they are certified on our web
8 page. So you can see what people have told us in
9 the other communities by going on the Internet.

10 So that being said, are there any questions
11 that I can answer before we start taking comments
12 from you?

13 MR. ROSSMAN PEETOOK: When are you
14 talking about to start exploration?

15 MR. LOMAN: What month?

16 MR. ROSSMAN PEETOOK: What month are
17 you going to start?

18 MR. LOMAN: The -- the first sale is
19 proposed for 2010. It will be late 2010. I don't
20 know the exact month. And that's not exploration.
21 That's the sale. But as you know, we held a lease
22 sale in the Chukchi Sea last February, lease sale
23 193. Lease sale 193, the government leased a total
24 of 465, I believe it was, lease tracts. And
25 industry paid a total of almost 2.7 billion dollars

1 for those leases. And they are proposing
2 exploration as soon as the next open water season,
3 but we have not received their 2009 exploration plan
4 yet. But they say they would like to start
5 exploration activities this coming summer pursuant
6 to that lease sale that was held in February.

7 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: Can you show
8 the general area -- if you don't have a map, that
9 is, show the general areas where the areas of the
10 Beaufort and Chukchi have already been leased so the
11 community can be aware of that?

12 MR. GORDON: We don't have a map
13 depicting currently existing --

14 MR. LOMAN: I'll do it very general.
15 In general, right in here. It's not contiguous, but
16 in general right here [indicating]. That's
17 available on our web page.

18 MR. ENOCH OKTOLLIK: I know you've
19 recorded acreage and the worth of the lease sales
20 and also the big sales, but from the last reports, I
21 mean, I don't know, maybe about three months ago,
22 there were 667 big lease sales in offshore, 2.7 --
23 2.76 million acres worth 3.4 million dollars. And
24 what's the difference from your figures from the
25 lease sales in the Chukchi Sea?

1 MR. LOMAN: I'm not sure where you
2 are quoting from.

3 MR. ENOCH OKTOLLIK: I got them from
4 the newspaper, from the Sounder, also.

5 MR. LOMAN: Sale 193?

6 MR. ENOCH OKTOLLIK: Yeah, from -- I
7 think those are from the Chukchi Sea lease sales.

8 MR. LOMAN: Yeah, it's -- I actually
9 had to sign many of those leases, so it was 464 or
10 65 total lease tracts, 2.7 billion dollars total.
11 Of the 2.7 billion dollars, 2.1 billion was Shell
12 Oil. I think ConocoPhillips was the next largest.
13 And there were other companies that had smaller
14 amounts of leases for smaller values. That -- that
15 quote that you are giving could be combined Chukchi
16 and Beaufort lease sales, 202 and 193. That's a
17 possibility, I guess, but I'm just guessing now.

18 I'm very certain about the Chukchi 193 sale
19 because I was working for MMS. I attended the sale.
20 I signed the leases. Not all of them, but many of
21 them. And the Coastal Impact Assistance Program,
22 which is a federal program, the funding for that
23 program increased from about four million dollars
24 for the State of Alaska to about 35 million dollars
25 for the State of Alaska. And the North Slope

1 Borough has submitted projects, and we expect the
2 North Slope Borough to receive those funds and to
3 participate in those coastal impact program projects
4 that probably will affect this community and others.

5 MR. ENOCH OKTOLLIK: And could you
6 tell us how much is recoverable of oil and natural
7 gas?

8 MR. LOMAN: Estimates?

9 MR. ENOCH OKTOLLIK: Yeah, estimates.

10 MR. LOMAN: Keith, do you have those?

11 MR. GORDON: I don't have that.

12 MR. LOMAN: I don't have them right
13 off the top of my head. Chukchi Sea is believed to
14 be gas prone. There are estimates for both the
15 Beaufort and the Chukchi. We will get those to you.
16 Can you make a note that of that? That also is on
17 our website.

18 MR. ENOCH OKTOLLIK: I hate to speak
19 out on the side, but from the paper I also saw that
20 15 billion barrels of conventional oil, recoverable
21 oil and also 77 trillion cubic feet of conventional
22 recoverable natural gas.

23 MR. LOMAN: For the Chukchi?

24 MR. ENOCH OKTOLLIK: For the
25 Chukchi.

1 MR. LOMAN: That sounds what I
2 remember.

3 MR. ROBERT SHEARS: Could you repeat
4 that again for me, please?

5 MR. ENOCH OKTOLLIK: Okay. Fifteen
6 billion barrels of conventional oil recoverable and
7 77 trillion cubic feet of conventional recoverable
8 natural gas.

9 MR. ROBERT SHEARS: Thank you.

10 MR. LOMAN: Those --

11 MR. ENOCH OKTOLLIK: I know this will
12 be a multi-year process of permits and environmental
13 assessments before an exploration, before drilling
14 happens. And what do they mean by -- what did you
15 mean by multi-year processing?

16 MR. LOMAN: Multi-year -- multi-sale.
17 You are right, though, that every step of -- that
18 takes place in this program under the five-year
19 plan, MMS did an environmental impact statement for
20 the national five-year plan. Then we also do
21 environmental impact statements for sales. We did
22 an environmental impact statement for sale 202. We
23 did an environmental impact statement for sale 193.
24 Now we are doing an environmental impact
25 statement -- and we have it in draft -- for the

1 multi-sale, two sales in the Beaufort, two sales in
2 the Chukchi. The next step for 193, 202, or any of
3 these sales, if we decide to do them, is
4 exploration.

5 And I'll be clear about this: These
6 resource estimates are estimates. Industry does not
7 know for sure that there is a viable resource out
8 there. They think there is. And when they spend
9 billions of dollars to lease, that's a good
10 indicator that their information is very strong.
11 Otherwise they wouldn't spend that money.

12 And so it's highly likely that there is a
13 viable prospect in the Chukchi Sea and in the
14 Beaufort. And when they submit exploration plans to
15 do seismic activities or exploratory drilling, at a
16 minimum we will prepare an environmental assessment.
17 If, after we do an environmental assessment, we can
18 determine that there is a finding of no significant
19 impact, no significant impact that wasn't noted in
20 any past recent EIS, we will sign that FONSI, and
21 they can move forward with the seismic activity or
22 the drilling activity.

23 We are working with the National Marine
24 Fisheries Service on finalizing an environmental
25 impact statement that started two years ago for

1 seismic activities. So that's the exploration
2 phase.

3 If, through seismic activity followed by
4 exploratory drilling, they have a viable process,
5 then they have to submit a production and
6 development plan. Then we will do another
7 environmental impact statement. And that
8 environmental impact statement is probably -- at
9 least it is in my mind -- the most important because
10 that is going to tell us as an agency to analyze
11 where exactly where they are going to develop.
12 That's a big -- as you know -- I know we have got
13 many whaling captains and crew members here. That's
14 a big area, a lot of ocean.

15 An exploration plan would put it within one
16 of these three-by-three mile blocks. And a detailed
17 plan of how they intend to develop it, how they
18 intend to bring it up, and how they intend to get it
19 to market, and all of that would be analyzed. Whose
20 shore a pipeline would -- would be affected by it.
21 Whose community would have an LNG facility, et
22 cetera, et cetera. All of those details would have
23 to be analyzed through this very same process that
24 we are going through now for the sale. We are many,
25 many years away from that development project.

1 MR. ENOCH OKTOLLIK: That's why they
2 explain, I guess, it would be a multi-year process.

3 MS. MARY ELLEN AHMAOGAK: If it
4 happens.

5 MR. LOMAN: If it happens. We have
6 been told many times in these hearings by a number
7 of residents of the North Slope Borough at our
8 community meetings, people have attended these
9 meetings, as I'm sure some people here have, over
10 and over again for 30 years. And 30 years has gone
11 by and there is -- there is no true OCS production
12 facility, no known true OCS viable prospect. So it
13 is a multi -- multi-year endeavor.

14 Any other questions? Yes, sir.

15 MR. JACK PANIK: I'm a whaling
16 captain here in Wainwright. Who is to say that
17 before any exploration gets started -- after they
18 have a lease sale, who is to say that there should
19 be research done before exploration?

20 MR. LOMAN: Who is -- who has a say
21 in it?

22 MR. JACK PANIK: Yeah.

23 MR. LOMAN: MMS, but we are not
24 alone. We have to do an environmental analysis of
25 their exploration plan because there are threatened

1 and endangered species. The polar bear, for
2 example. Industry and my agency must consult with
3 the Fish & Wildlife Service pursuant to the
4 Endangered Species Act provisions. Because some
5 endangered species are marine mammals, the
6 consultation must take place with the Department of
7 Commerce, NOAA Fisheries -- or National Marine
8 Fisheries Service. Exploratory drilling requires
9 Clean Water Act permits. A general permit has been
10 issued by EPA for the Arctic, but specific
11 permitting activity would have to be required. Air
12 permits have to be required. EPA has the authority
13 over those. And then there is other federal
14 agencies that have regulatory responsibility to
15 watch what industry does.

16 MR. JACK PANIK: You know, we -- we
17 live with quota on the whale.

18 MR. LOMAN: Granted by the
19 International Whaling Commission. Yes, sir, I do
20 know that.

21 MR. JACK PANIK: And we don't know
22 how long we are going to live with this quota, so to
23 me, myself -- I don't know about the others, I -- I
24 object to any offshore drilling for the sake of my
25 kids, people's kids here, also. I pretty much

1 oppose any offshore drilling. Thank you.

2 MR. LOMAN: That's a segue into the
3 testimony part. We always like to start testimony
4 with the Elders; Elders, whaling captains, and then
5 we will move on. So feel free -- if you have
6 questions, I'll be happy to answer them. If you
7 would like to make testimony, we will start taking
8 testimony.

9 If the court reporter can't hear you,
10 because we want to get your comments down
11 accurately, we may ask you to come up and sit closer
12 to the mike. But so far we are doing good.

13 Yes, sir.

14 MR. ENOCH OKTOLLIK: For the Chukchi
15 Sea lease sale 212 and also for Chukchi Sea lease
16 sale for 221, and also I didn't know what number you
17 stated down, could you show us on the map where
18 actually these are, 212 and 221?

19 MR. LOMAN: 212 and 221 are proposed
20 for this area right here [indicating].

21 MS. MARY ELLEN AHMAOGAK: All of
22 that?

23 MR. LOMAN: All of that is proposed.

24 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: Can you
25 explain that and then --

1 MR. LOMAN: This shaded area -- it's
2 not really dark, but can everybody see this area
3 that's shaded up here? That's a deferral. This
4 area in here [indicating], another deferral that's
5 analyzed. This area here [indicating], again,
6 another deferral. All of those deferrals -- any
7 one, a few, or all of the deferrals could be
8 subscribed to.

9 I don't want to -- I don't want to briefly
10 explain the purpose of those deferrals because it's
11 complicated, but as I said earlier, they are
12 primarily connected with, first, subsistence whaling
13 activities and avoiding conflict, then other marine
14 mammals connected with subsistence activities, then
15 threatened and endangered species and other resource
16 issues. So the actual sale could be limited to the
17 area in white, and then minus what has already been
18 leased in 193.

19 MR. GEORGE AGNASAGGA: A couple years
20 ago when we met here in this building, the people of
21 Wainwright had recommended that there would be no
22 offshore drilling or seismic within 60 miles from
23 the shoreline. Is that true with that one?

24 MR. LOMAN: You don't see a 60-mile
25 limit. However, the Secretary of Interior under the

1 last Administration provided a 25-mile exclusion
2 zone from the shore. As you can see from this
3 darker-colored area, at least with respect to here,
4 except for this small area right in here
5 [indicating], there is a further set of two --
6 combined two deferrals being proposed.

7 MR. GEORGE AGNASAGGA: I got one more
8 question. You were talking about the studies that
9 you have been doing for the last few years with the
10 animals and whatever is out there. Are you using
11 the borough's studies also, the North Slope Borough
12 studies?

13 MR. LOMAN: Some of the studies we
14 are doing we are doing in collaboration with the
15 borough's scientists, yes. We certainly accept any
16 stand-alone scientific information that the
17 borough's wildlife department and other experts
18 submit. In addition to that, we signed for this
19 sale Memorandum of Agreement with the borough for --
20 to cooperate with them in the preparation of this
21 document for the limited purpose of doing a health
22 impact assessment that has been prepared. It's
23 Appendix J, if I remember right now. We are working
24 with Aaron Wernham, Dr. Aaron Wernham, who is a
25 consultant to the borough, to try to incorporate

1 that as a stand-alone public health section in the
2 final EIS. So yes, and a little bit more.

3 MS. MARY ELLEN AHMAOGAK: Why is
4 there an exception there in the blue area in front
5 of Peard Bay? Why is there no protection there?

6 MR. LOMAN: This area here
7 [indicating]? I don't remember exactly. Keith, do
8 you remember?

9 MR. GORDON: No. That was developed
10 before I came into the project. Alternative three,
11 the coastal deferral, is intended to reduce
12 conflicts with subsistence users, as well as the
13 25-mile buffer that isn't leased.

14 MS. MARY ELLEN AHMAOGAK: That's
15 totally opposite of --

16 MR. ROBERT SHEARS: That's our
17 subsistence area.

18 MS. MARY ELLEN AHMAOGAK: That's
19 exactly where the whales come ashore, exactly where
20 they come assure. Sometimes we have to go 17 miles
21 out from there, and that takes us right to that
22 borderline.

23 MR. LOMAN: How far from shore are
24 you?

25 MS. MARY ELLEN AHMAOGAK: Sometimes

1 17 miles, sometimes it's two miles, sometimes it's
2 20 miles.

3 MR. ROBERT SHEARS: Twenty-five miles
4 is our limit, pretty much.

5 MR. LOMAN: This line [indicating] is
6 the 25-mile line.

7 MS. MARY ELLEN AHMAOGAK: Right.

8 MR. LOMAN: So what you are saying is
9 there should be additional protection moving
10 offshore right in this area [indicating]?

11 MS. MARY ELLEN AHMAOGAK: Yeah,
12 because sometimes from there we go 17 miles out and
13 then we get in our little boats and go miles out
14 from there, and that takes us way beyond 25 miles.

15 MR. LOMAN: And it is right in this
16 area [indicating]?

17 MS. MARY ELLEN AHMAOGAK: Right. And
18 the whole area in front of Wainwright all the way to
19 Icy Cape.

20 MR. LOMAN: That's one of the reasons
21 for these hearings. You really should give your
22 name. That's a good comment. I don't remember the
23 history behind this specific area right here
24 [indicating]. If you let us know who you are, we
25 will write you back and give you that answer. But

1 you now have made that comment, and we have got it
2 part of the record.

3 MR. GORDON: Ma'am, by having your
4 name in the record, this is a comment. The comment
5 you made is one we will formally address. It will
6 be addressed in the decisionmaking process.

7 MS. MARY ELLEN AHMAOGAK: It's just a
8 question. It wasn't a comment yet.

9 MR. GORDON: I understand, but what
10 you are telling us we have a gap in our analysis.
11 That's the information we need. We need to know if
12 we don't have something accurate. So I appreciate
13 it.

14 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: I just want to
15 be clear on your end about what your actual proposed
16 action is because I know that you have a variety of
17 alternatives that consider different deferral areas.
18 Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't your proposed
19 action to lease all of the areas, including the
20 possible analyzed deferral areas, but your current
21 preferred action or proposed action is to lease it
22 all, except for what's already been leased, which is
23 several --

24 MR. LOMAN: Except for what's already
25 been leased and the 25-mile exclusion zone. That's

1 correct. The proposed action includes leasing all
2 of this area that's shaded here, all this area
3 that's shaded here [indicating], all that area
4 that's shaded there in the blue, and all of it in
5 the green. That's right.

6 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: Can you walk
7 through -- I thank you for the summary. Can you
8 walk through the alternatives proposed but not
9 considered?

10 MR. LOMAN: I'm going to let Keith do
11 that.

12 MR. GORDON: Well, I can to a limited
13 degree. Can you further define your question?
14 Because in relation to the Chukchi Sea, there were
15 nine other alternatives proposed but not carried
16 forward, and that does not include some alternatives
17 that dropped out very early in the process.

18 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: So I'll be
19 more specific. I apologize. There was a, it looks
20 like, 100-mile deferral proposed. Can you walk
21 through that?

22 MR. GORDON: Okay. I'll have to go
23 back to the document because I came into the process
24 a number of months before we concluded this --

25 MR. LOMAN: I can tell you this:

1 100-mile deferral at a minimum conflicts with some
2 areas that have already been leased. I know there
3 were several leases -- some leases in 193 that were,
4 I believe, 70 miles from the coast. So that's one
5 reason. In general, overall the analysis concluded
6 that there was no substantive reason to arbitrarily
7 adopt a 100-mile exclusion zone where there was
8 clear benefits to resources. And in general, a
9 100-mile exclusion zone is almost a version of --
10 it's like a partial no action alternative because of
11 its sheer magnitude.

12 MR. GORDON: And part of the
13 development of that 100-mile deferral may have been
14 related to BIA's recognition of 100-mile radius
15 around villages as subsistence use areas. That --
16 BIA's determination of that radius for subsistence
17 use is outside the scope of MMS' EIS. And we --
18 from the conversations that I participated in
19 in-house, they did not find substantial enough
20 environmental impacts to warrant a 100-mile
21 deferral.

22 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: Okay. So
23 then, the other one considered but not analyzed, the
24 alternative energy/conservation alternative. Just
25 because that -- and take note on the record that I

1 have no positions with the NSB at all. I'm simply
2 trying to get clarified so I can understand. That
3 the conservation alternative seems -- would that
4 have given you greater flexibility to possibly
5 consider that -- maybe subsistence zones or
6 interconnection of some of these deferral areas?

7 MR. GORDON: You are going back
8 earlier in the process than I was involved in.
9 Jeffery, are we getting outside -- the sale is for
10 oil and gas. If we are talking alternative energy,
11 we are talking another program. We are talking a
12 scope that is beyond what we are looking at for the
13 sale.

14 MR. LOMAN: Yeah. Alternative energy
15 and conservation alternative, you know, as -- as it
16 was presented during scoping was pretty loosely
17 defined. And when looked at separately, the
18 alternative energy alternative, I think, that was
19 being suggested was an alternative that promoted
20 broad subscription to alternative energy to address
21 the consumer need. And we will be straight up about
22 that. We are not holding the proposed sales because
23 the North Slope Borough residents are the consumers
24 that we have in mind.

25 But that being said, we see the possibility

1 of combining alternative energy with any future
2 development that would take place here, and the
3 alternative energy recipients would be the local
4 residents. The alternative energy development costs
5 are greater -- it's not a money-making endeavor, but
6 it is a way to address the equities issue.

7 And the equities issue is simple. Those
8 who live in these communities along the Arctic coast
9 and the North Slope Borough, because of the
10 self-defining culturally-significant practice of
11 whaling, other subsistence activities, and a long
12 list of other important things to the people of the
13 community, it's -- we -- we believe that you have
14 the greatest risk.

15 And on the equity side, because development
16 is unknown, we don't know where or how or what
17 development scenario may take place that would
18 provide the kinds of economic benefits that onshore
19 oil and gas have supplied to the North Slope
20 Borough. So there is an equities issue. We know
21 that you know -- that you don't know what the
22 benefits are to you.

23 And so MMS as an agency is moving ahead
24 with alternative energy to increase it for this --
25 these consumer demands in the Lower 48 and to

1 capitalize on that technology in conjunction with
2 offshore oil development so that we can address this
3 equities issue and give a benefit to those who are
4 most affected. And that's about as far as it gets.

5 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: So one last
6 question. So then, taking out the alternative
7 energy side of it -- that's a whole separate
8 question. Just the conservation side of it where
9 given the very important nature of subsistence and
10 the whole way that is defined and the whole cultural
11 makeup of the community, how could a conservation
12 alternative have been approached, or how do you feel
13 that that was handled in your --

14 MR. GORDON: A conservation
15 alternative looking at avoiding environmental
16 impacts is equivalent to the no action alternative;
17 in other words, no development.

18 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: Why?

19 MR. GORDON: Well, let's back up and
20 you give me your definition of conservation. What
21 level of conservation are we referring to?

22 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: Just as a --
23 for the spirit of helping you answer the question,
24 it may seem unusual that -- to some that -- first of
25 all, that there seems to be considerations that have

1 been presented about the need for certain areas to
2 not be available for leasing but are available for
3 leasing, for instance, and then as a real big
4 example, you see a deferral area that does exist,
5 say, in the Chukchi Sea that all of a sudden
6 disappears at the Beaufort; and then you see on top
7 of that various deferral areas that you guys analyze
8 each independently of one another, and then you have
9 a proposed action that leases it all, hypothetically
10 speaking, where you can obviously pick which
11 deferrals you want to include. But there is no
12 alternative that simply looks at all of these
13 separate areas as one connected ecosystem so that
14 you could have considered also the subsistence
15 nature of what the communities have at least some
16 interest in, and then look at it all as one
17 alternative.

18 MR. GORDON: The intent of the
19 document is to analyze the overall effects of lease
20 sales in the Beaufort and the Chukchi. So we are
21 looking at the Chukchi Sea as an ecosystem, Beaufort
22 as an ecosystem, and the two of them combined as an
23 ecosystem. As Jeffery mentioned, given the various
24 alternatives we have up there, we could have the no
25 action alternative where there is no leasing; we

1 could have alternative three in the Chukchi Sea as
2 an alternative; or we could have a combination of
3 any of those deferrals as an alternative.

4 So from a conservation standpoint, we are
5 not necessarily -- the no action would be total
6 conservation, or there could be a combination of
7 deferrals that would result in a conservation
8 alternative that comes at it from a different
9 angle.

10 MR. LOMAN: I think what I'll do is
11 see if I can get your comment to be something along
12 these lines: You may be recommending or you may be
13 leading towards an additional alternative that
14 analyzes the totality of benefit from subscribing to
15 all or at least most of the alternatives currently
16 in place, plus those critical additional verifiable
17 recommendations.

18 We had one tonight. This lady made a
19 recommendation about this specific area as a
20 conservation alternative in order to finalize the
21 EIS.

22 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: Well, so long
23 as it's understood that I have no -- it's the NSB's
24 final determination about what they're interested
25 in; whereas, I'm only here just to ask questions

1 just to learn because I'm helping the NSB to
2 understand what you are proposing because we have no
3 position yet.

4 MR. GORDON: Right. Given that we
5 have discussed this in the past, the best thing
6 might be if you can put this down on paper from the
7 standpoint of these are the alternatives MMS has for
8 the Chukchi and Beaufort. This is, as Jeffery
9 mentioned, another alternative or multiple other
10 alternatives that result in an overall conservation
11 alternatives as well as presents the analysis in the
12 format that you are looking for.

13 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: Just so -- I
14 know that just because I reviewed this today that
15 the NSB gave you some recommendations in the scoping
16 phase, but that's not where we are now is the
17 problem. That's why I'm asking the questions.

18 MR. GORDON: That's not a problem.
19 If we -- if we haven't adequately answered the
20 question for NSB, we can address it.

21 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: Thanks.

22 MR. ROBERT SHEARS: Excuse me, sir.
23 What's your name?

24 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: Jonathan
25 Jemming.

1 MR. ROBERT SHEARS: Where are you
2 from?

3 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: Barrow. I'm
4 from Salt Lake City originally.

5 MR. ROBERT SHEARS: Who are you
6 representing here tonight?

7 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: I work for the
8 law department of the North Slope Borough. I'm here
9 specifically because I'm reviewing the document. So
10 I have no position to represent, except that I'm
11 trying to learn exactly what it says.

12 MR. ROBERT SHEARS: I'm glad you
13 are here.

14 I have some testimony, if nobody is going
15 to speak up. I'm not going to get into the
16 specifics right now. We have been down that road
17 before.

18 First of all, my name is Robert Shears.
19 And to give you an idea of who I am and what I
20 represent and what my interests are here, I received
21 permission from my work associate and a close friend
22 of mine who shares equal feelings towards
23 development and the Chukchi lease sales as I do. He
24 read this statement during your Anchorage meeting,
25 your Anchorage public comment hearing.

1 My name is John Hopson, and I am the
2 chairman of Olgoonik Corporation, the village
3 corporation of Wainwright. Our community looks out
4 on the Chukchi Sea and it's the closest North Slope
5 village to the majority of the region's leases.

6 For generations these waters have supported
7 a subsistence lifestyle that is very important to
8 us, yet as a successful Alaska Native corporation
9 with several subsidiaries involved in government
10 contracting, we are also keenly aware of the value
11 of economic development.

12 While our business growth has been steady,
13 the majority of the work on these contracts has been
14 outside of Alaska. For that reason, we see oil
15 operations in the Chukchi Sea as one of the most
16 important opportunities we have for developing a
17 sustainable local economy. We believe this to be
18 the case based upon the estimated amount of oil and
19 gas that can be produced from Alaska's offshore
20 waters in our area, some 27 billion barrels of oil
21 and more than 130 trillion cubic feet of gas.

22 The economic impact resulting from such
23 development could mean added life for the
24 TransAlaska Pipeline. It could also bring important
25 new transportation and communication infrastructure

1 to the region. Equally important is the fact that
2 developing these resources would reduce the nation's
3 growing dependence on imported oil.

4 As a for-profit organization, the goal of
5 Olgoonik Corporation is to maximize business
6 relationships that provide economic and employment
7 opportunities for our shareholders and their
8 families. We are actively working with the oil
9 industry to not only meet this goal, but to also
10 build a financially strong future for the village of
11 Wainwright.

12 I read that with John Hopson's permission.
13 I concur with every word in that statement. Now let
14 me get on with my problems that I have with the MMS
15 lease sale.

16 My primary concern is not the environmental
17 impact, although that is a big concern of mine
18 because I am a subsistence -- I'm involved in
19 subsistence here. I have a Native family. I plan
20 to spend the rest of my life here as well as the
21 generations that precede [sic] me.

22 The business practices of the Minerals
23 Management Service are not forward or proactive
24 enough, and they tend to marginalize our community.
25 I can understand why the President is giving you a

1 directive through Ken Salazar to develop as much
2 money as you can out of this sale. Believe me, you
3 are going to make a truckload. You are going to
4 make the first lease sale look like an ante.

5 The Securities and Exchange Commission
6 passed a ruling on December 29, 2008 in the twilight
7 hours of the Bush Administration that allows oil
8 companies to group their oil assets and reserves,
9 both proven and unproven, based on the best science
10 and technology for drilling that could possibly be
11 produced. Shell Oil -- in January 2010, Shell Oil
12 is going to double in size based on this ruling.
13 Other companies are looking at this; companies that
14 have no interest in developing the Chukchi, who can
15 simply buy your leases, give you lip service and
16 lock it up, store their money away there; companies
17 that have no interest in our community would -- who
18 are not partners with the State of Alaska.

19 I don't think your business practices
20 recognize this. I think you are just out to make a
21 buck. I think you've got to look strongly at that
22 because there is other people who are being affected
23 by the same type of business practices: Nigeria,
24 Algeria. The common people, where the oil money and
25 the government money is not getting to them to

1 provide them support and is marginalizing them.

2 We will not become like them. We, as a
3 primary -- I, as Olgoonik Oilfield Services, don't
4 want to do business with those types of shady
5 operators. I want you to show great responsibility
6 in what you are doing to accurately represent the
7 unproven reserves that you are selling and not to
8 blow them up like the Energy Information
9 Administration allows you to. They are way
10 overinflated. You have access to the 3-D seismic.
11 Put your geologists on it. Get them to do a
12 thorough study of -- show some actual figures of
13 where -- what the science is behind 15 billion
14 barrels of oil and 77 trillion cubic feet of natural
15 gas because right now that's just a pull it out of
16 your --

17 Anyway, moving on to my second statement,
18 the Coastal Impact Assistance Program. The
19 Department of Natural Resources has granted 35
20 million dollars to the State of Alaska from the
21 windfall based on just this one sale in the Chukchi
22 last year. That money, how much of it gets to the
23 North Slope Borough? Well, first of all, it's
24 shared with all the coastal communities of the State
25 of Alaska. The North Slope Borough and the

1 Northwest Borough share an amount of about six
2 million dollars of that 35 million. Now, how much
3 of that is getting to us?

4 Now, I know the borough has made grant
5 requests. If we go take a look at it, you won't see
6 Wainwright anywhere in their scope. It's boardwalks
7 on their streets. It's doing coastal studies
8 towards the areas where Barrow residents have their
9 cabins. We are not being -- that's why we call the
10 North Slope Borough, North Slope Barrow. We only
11 have one representative in the North Slope Borough,
12 and that's the gentleman sitting in the back corner
13 there; where Barrow has 18.

14 So moving on to my final subject, your EIS
15 requires the oil companies to do thorough
16 environmental studies, biologic studies on the area
17 that they are going to be exploring in. As I
18 witnessed, because I support the scientists for the
19 last couple years who have been doing these studies,
20 these are very thorough studies where they check the
21 composition of the water, the chemical composition
22 of the water and the micro-organisms. And they
23 dredge the bottom of the ground and the basement of
24 the ocean, and they count the wildlife and they come
25 up with density studies.

1 In their area of their leases, they know
2 everything about what exists there, every living
3 creature and its nature, its health, its chemical
4 composition. But you know nothing about what's one
5 mile off in front of Wainwright, the area that we
6 live off of, the food that we eat, the food that is
7 eaten by the food that we eat. These are our crops.
8 We say the ocean is our garden. It's not just the
9 whales. Whale is important, yes, but it's only a
10 small portion of our important diet that we get from
11 our ocean. The health of our -- the health of our
12 ocean is based on the quality of the food stock in
13 it, the food stock that should be monitored.

14 We don't have any density or any
15 environmental studies right here in our area; no
16 baseline data that we can take to court when there
17 is -- when they are dumping their drilling muds, as
18 permitted during the exploration phase. They say
19 that these are benign products. They won't hurt
20 you. We don't know that.

21 The Coastal Impact Assistance Program
22 provides that -- was intended by MMS to provide
23 communities with this -- with the funds to provide
24 this type of information, to defend ourselves
25 against the encroaches of environmental disasters.

1 We have seen what happened in Valdez with the Exxon
2 Valdez in Prince William Sound. They did not have
3 good baseline data, and now their 500 -- five
4 billion dollar lawsuit has been trimmed down to 500
5 million after 15 years of litigation. We don't want
6 to see that happen here, either.

7 What I'm getting at is it's the MMS'
8 business practices that I think has the biggest --
9 is my biggest concern and has the possibility of
10 creating the greatest environmental impact on our
11 community as it stands today, not the practices of
12 the oil companies.

13 That's all I have.

14 MR. LOMAN: Thank you very much.

15 MR. ENOCH OKTOLLIK: I don't know
16 how better well said it could be for our community,
17 but we pretty well covered what we all think for
18 our -- for our ocean, I mean, the Chukchi Sea.

19 MR. LOMAN: With respect to MMS and
20 the resource evaluation work that the agency's done,
21 there are some things that are -- that you brought
22 up that we as an agency, certainly our agency in
23 Alaska, are outside of our circle of influence, but
24 the resource estimates and how they are derived, the
25 science behind them is something that we have an

1 obligation to come here and explain to you. And we
2 can do that.

3 I know that the communities along the coast
4 and the North Slope Borough, especially the ones to
5 the east, are inundated with meetings by industry
6 and the onshore activities, et cetera, but we would
7 be happy to send our resource evaluation people up
8 and our field operations people up, explain the work
9 that they have done to come up with those
10 evaluations, how they did it, and subject them to
11 the kind of scrutiny you are able to give to the
12 explanation they provide and take it from there.

13 The field operations people are the people
14 that deal with the risk, the regulation of
15 activities. And so that's an important component.
16 We would be happy to come up, hold a meeting with
17 the community and provide a two- or three-hour long
18 explanation in detail of the work that they have
19 done. So we will do that.

20 MR. ROBERT SHEARS: All right. Thank
21 you.

22 MR. LOMAN: Any other comments?

23 MR. ENOCH OKTOLLIK: My name is Enoch
24 Oktollik, and I'm the mayor of the City of
25 Wainwright. And I'm -- my concern is we have many

1 of endangered species, bowhead whale, the Stellar's
2 eider, the Spectacled eider, and some that are
3 almost listed, the polar bear and the walrus. And
4 these are domino effects that are happening to us
5 right now from the United States Fish & Wildlife
6 Service. But they are coming from the
7 conservationists, and it's a domino effect of these
8 being -- coming to be listed because of the global
9 change.

10 And I always feel that our Chukchi Sea, the
11 Beaufort Sea, the Arctic Ocean is a sanctuary for
12 all animals that migrate through our sea and our
13 ocean. And there are many. And there are fish,
14 bottom sea fish, subsurface sea mammals that migrate
15 a long ways and return back, shorebirds that migrate
16 through our area. I know they will be affected even
17 though there might be -- even though you might be
18 doing environmental assessments and offshore
19 explorations and whatnot and studies out there in
20 the ocean, I know these will be impacted.

21 But when they are impacted and they are
22 disturbed, they disturb us as hunters that hunt for
23 these -- for these sea mammals that migrate through
24 the Chukchi Sea to the Beaufort Sea and to the
25 Arctic Ocean.

1 And I've read in one paper in Norway that
2 in Norway they have stopped the oil industry and all
3 the assessments and whatnot to do explorations in
4 the Norway area, and they are wondering why you are
5 coming to our Chukchi Sea, the Arctic, the Arctic
6 Ocean and the Beaufort Sea. And these are probably
7 some of the reasons why they not accept this kind of
8 activity going on in their oceans because it affects
9 their migration patterns and what they -- what they
10 subsistence hunt themselves.

11 But I'll further my comments in a written
12 paper into the future. And this is just a little
13 section of what I was here for tonight. Thank you.

14 MR. LOMAN: Thank you very much.

15 MR. GEORGE AGNASAGGA: I think we
16 are at the mercy of the scientists that are doing
17 studies out in the ocean because we as Inupiats, we
18 do not know what is beyond the 25 mile from the --
19 from the shore. We don't -- we don't have the
20 equipment. We don't have the finances to do any
21 studies out there. But we do know that the mammals
22 that travel through the ocean make shortcuts, like
23 from Icy Cape to Wainwright, and that -- and if you
24 make the distance from that line from Icy Cape to
25 Wainwright to the land in between, it is beyond 25

1 miles.

2 But I think that is what is scaring us is
3 because we, as Inupiat, do not know exactly what's
4 out there. Like the studies that have been done the
5 last couple years, looking at all the micro-games
6 out in the ocean and the food that the bigger
7 animals eat, that -- that is my problem. I -- if --
8 if we have to take them to court, we are at the
9 mercy of their studies. We don't have -- we don't
10 have any reports. And that is scary. And that's
11 why we try to speak up when we start talking about
12 the mammals that we live on out in the ocean.

13 MR. LOMAN: Thank you very much, sir.
14 Well, if there are no further comments, I'd just
15 like to thank everybody for coming. We had some
16 very thoughtful, well-presented comments.

17 Okay.

18 MR. TERRY TAGAROOK: Terry
19 Tagarook, a resident of Wainwright. I'm glad the
20 MMS is here talking with the local people. As my --
21 as Mary Ellen stated, that spot out at Peard Bay,
22 that's the area where the whales come in to feed.
23 And how many people from the federal government know
24 where our -- the sea mammals, where they feed, where
25 they hang out? In different years, they will change

1 their areas, depending on the ice conditions and the
2 current. These studies must be made prior to the
3 lease sales to the oil companies. If the federal
4 government will say no to the oil companies, make
5 sure they know what they are doing out there before
6 they do any -- they do any oil exploration or even
7 development.

8 We depend on our ocean, not just for
9 sports. We get our sea mammals, the animals from
10 the land, the rivers. And these are what sustained
11 the Inupiat people for centuries before oil
12 companies came around, before Alaska became a state.
13 We are the people that know what's happening out
14 there or what's happening to our land. The
15 government must understand to listen to us before
16 they issue any lease sales to the oil companies. We
17 care about our environment.

18 Our Elders have always taught us to respect
19 the land, the sea, and the animals and the marine
20 mammals that exist in our ocean and our land. And
21 we care for it. We do not overhunt, overharvest.
22 We have been taught to pass that on to our younger
23 generations. And hopefully our younger people will
24 remember to show respect to the animals and the
25 marine mammals that we depend on to sustain our

1 lifestyle. And it will hurt me if something should
2 happen if there is development in Chukchi Sea or the
3 Beaufort Sea.

4 You will hear the same thing at the
5 Beaufort Sea when you have those hearings in the
6 different villages. They will be hurt if anything
7 should happen to the oil catastrophe that should
8 happen -- that should happen. And we depend on our
9 land -- land and sea mammals for many centuries.

10 And our history has not been written in
11 black and white. This has been passed down from
12 generation to generation. And that's what I want
13 you to remember before you issue any lease sales for
14 the oil companies. Remember us people, the first
15 people on the North Slope. And we could tell -- our
16 people told there was oil at Prudhoe Bay, and that's
17 where they found it. And that's something that you
18 must remember.

19 That's all I can say. Thank you very much.

20 MR. LOMAN: Thank you, sir, very
21 much.

22 MR. ENOCH OKTOLLIK: I have one more
23 other deal. How could we find out what Bob said and
24 how could we get environmental assessments on our
25 bottom floor? When could that be given to us?

1 MR. LOMAN: Well, first, like I
2 mentioned, I want to bring our people up here to
3 explain the resource evaluation, explain the field
4 operations. With respect to studies that have been
5 done, about 300 million dollars worth of funds that
6 have been spent over the last 30 years by MMS on
7 studies in Alaska OCS waters, and it's a long list
8 of studies. We will come to that meeting with all
9 of the studies that constitute -- people say
10 baseline -- baseline information as close to the
11 community of Wainwright as we can.

12 And then in addition to that, the results
13 of the bowhead area whale survey that studied the
14 migration of the bowhead whale in the Beaufort Sea.
15 That's been going on for over 25 years. And now
16 there is an effort in the Chukchi Sea monitoring
17 whaling -- whale activity in the Chukchi Sea and
18 bring the results of those studies and other studies
19 that were brought up in testimony tonight and
20 present that to you at that meeting.

21 MR. ENOCH OKTOLLIK: I know there
22 has been assessments done in the Beaufort Sea side,
23 maybe right on the -- a little bit close -- north of
24 Barrow and right around that yellow area, and there
25 was bottom floor assessments in that area, and there

1 were many opillio crabs and also pollock. And I
2 don't see no different probably when you go out to
3 the Chukchi Sea. That's what you will see in our
4 ocean. And there will probably be abundance of
5 opillio crabs and also abundance of pollock in those
6 areas. And that's -- I believe that's where walrus,
7 bearded sales and seals -- probably that's what they
8 nourish themselves from out in the Chukchi Sea in
9 that area.

10 But it would be good to see a bottom floor
11 assessment of that whole 209 -- 209 and 221 for all
12 the lease sales in the Chukchi Sea. Give us a full
13 report back of that bottom floor assessment in that
14 area.

15 MR. LOMAN: Thank you.

16 MR. JONATHAN JEMMING: You have a
17 study that demonstrates the ability to clean up a
18 large oil spill in an ice condition setting?

19 MS. MARY ELLEN AHMAOGAK: Huh-uh.

20 MR. LOMAN: They have a facility --
21 MMS operates a facility that I think of it as kind
22 of like -- I was stationed at the Navy Experimental
23 Diving Unit. This is the MMS Experimental Spill
24 Response Unit. OHMSETT is the acronym. It's in New
25 Jersey.

1 There has been a lot of work that industry
2 has done, some of it in Norway, which I was just in
3 Norway. They still have oil operations, including
4 those in offshore operations. Pretty robust program
5 going on in Norway. They haven't stopped their oil
6 production activities.

7 But there have been studies in various
8 regions that involved the ability of industry to
9 address a substantial spill in broken ice
10 conditions, under ice conditions, and Arctic-like
11 conditions.

12 The interesting thing about this whole
13 process is right before the 193 sale took place, we
14 were required to brief the Assistant Secretary of
15 Land and Minerals from the past Administration. And
16 so Washington, D.C. and MMS' top managers and the
17 Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals at the
18 time, Steve Alred from Idaho -- pretty practical man
19 who has had a lot of experience in business and
20 running the State of Idaho's environmental agency --
21 asked the question. He had been aware that the
22 Secretary of Interior came to the North Slope and
23 that there were concerns by people in North Slope
24 communities about cleaning up a substantial oil
25 spill in the Arctic environment.

1 And he wanted to know if after the
2 Secretary came and all of these questions were
3 answered if people were confident that industry
4 could clean this spill up. Now the room is silent.
5 Nobody says anything. I had just got done with
6 scoping meetings on the North Slope. I knew the
7 answer. No. No, people aren't confident.

8 So his next question, logical question --
9 he's making the decision now. Can they? Can they
10 clean it up? Well, I said -- well, again, silence.
11 But my money is on prevention. The industry has the
12 technology, the equipment. They are using it now to
13 prevent a substantial spill. That's the best
14 scenario you can have. Cleaning it up, a
15 substantial spill, is something went very wrong.

16 And he wanted to know if they could clean
17 it up. And my answer is it's going to be a
18 struggle. It's going to be a real struggle. And
19 that's the practical answer to that question.

20 I mean, for those of you that have gone out
21 there whaling and spent time in any position on any
22 vessel as a seaman, you know that it's going to be a
23 struggle in the worst days of weather days in the
24 Arctic. No matter how much technology anybody ever
25 has, until magic starts working to clean it up, it's

1 always going to be a struggle.

2 And so the focus really has to be on
3 technology, the regulation of industry to use the
4 best technology, prevent it, and then have whatever
5 the best people, equipment, technology available to
6 respond if there is any kind of a spill.

7 But there have been -- not a large number,
8 but there have been studies on cleanup in a broken
9 ice condition, but it's not a real-life scenario.
10 It's not a real-life scenario. In order for you to
11 make it real, you have to take 10,000 or more
12 barrels and dump it out there on the worst day and
13 then see how you can do it. And you will probably
14 kill people and wreck things and crash planes and
15 not clean up much. So there is the honest answer.
16 Not a pretty picture.

17 But on the bright side, they do have the
18 technology to prevent it in the first place.

19 MS. MARY ELLEN AHMAOGAK: So after
20 hearing that, then I would strongly support the
21 alternative one for the Chukchi Sea lease sales.
22 After the first lease sales that happened back here,
23 we were forced to start thinking at how we could
24 possibly -- how we could possibly -- I don't know
25 what the word is, but get help or get anything from

1 the oil companies or the federal government. And as
2 far as the studies and lack thereof, there is
3 nothing that you can say or do that's going to help
4 me decide other than alternative one, Chukchi Sea no
5 lease sale.

6 You need to remember that the micro --
7 micro-organisms all the way to me, that's the
8 ecosystem up here, period. Everybody else in the
9 country has a different ecosystem. Right in your
10 backyard, you have a farm with chickens that lay
11 eggs. There is no threat there unless you got this
12 bird flu thing going on down there. And also the
13 happy cow in California provides you beef. Farms
14 provide you chicken. You grow pigs to provide your
15 pork. Only God and the ocean provides the
16 micro-organisms that provide me ultimately, bottom
17 line. Totally depends on my life, my children's
18 life, my grandchildren's life.

19 So for the record, no matter what it takes,
20 no matter how ugly it gets, I'm going to support no
21 more lease sales.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. LOMAN: Thank you very much.

24 MS. MARY ELLEN AHMAOGAK: Unless you
25 give up your chicken, pork, or beef first.

1 MR. OKTOLLIK: My name is Enoch
2 Oktollik again, for the record. There are
3 subsistence areas used in the Chukchi Sea and
4 harvest datas and whatnot. Are you collecting all
5 these information of the Chukchi Sea, the harvest
6 from day one of collecting harvest datas and
7 subsistence use areas of all -- from the shoreline,
8 offshore in the Chukchi Sea?

9 I would like to see you guys collect all
10 that data and probably come up with a map of all
11 those of traditional knowledge use in these areas
12 and bring back to us of all the subsistence use
13 areas and harvest data that were collected from day
14 one for Wainwright area and also probably for Icy
15 Cape and a little bit -- probably a little bit south
16 of Point Lay and also a little bit up toward Barrow.

17 MR. LOMAN: Thank you. Well, I'll
18 thank everybody again, if there are no other
19 comments. Thank you very much. Very thoughtful,
20 very helpful, respectful comments. Appreciate it
21 very much. Appreciate everybody coming. If you
22 need comment forms, Albert has them. I wish you a
23 very good evening.

24 (Proceedings adjourned at 8:45 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, MARY A. VAVRIK, RMR, Notary Public in
and for the State of Alaska do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken
before me at the time and place herein set forth;
that the proceedings were reported stenographically
by me and later transcribed under my direction by
computer transcription; that the foregoing is a true
record of the proceedings taken at that time; and
that I am not a party to nor have I any interest in
the outcome of the action herein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
subscribed my hand and affixed my seal this _____
day of _____ 2009.

MARY A. VAVRIK,
Registered Merit Reporter
Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission Expires: November 5, 2012

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