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5-YEAR OCS OIL AND GAS
PROPOSED LEASING PROGRAM
FOR 2007-2012
Point Lay, Alaska

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH PUBLIC HEARING/MEETING
for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Taken November 14, 2006
Commencing at 7:00 p.m.
Volume I - Pages 1 - 80

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I-N-D-E-X

Minerals Management Service:

Cleveland Cowles, Regional Supervisor

James Bennett, Chief of Environmental Assessments

Albert Arros, Community Liaison

Michael Salyer, Wildlife Biologist, EIS Coordinator

Peter Johnson, Geophysicist, Resource Evaluation

Reported by Britney Chonka, CR

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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1 MS. ANNISKETT: Thank you, everybody, for
2 showing up. Our mayor is out of town. Being the
3 secretary, I'm going to open the meeting. We're
4 going to have Charlie Tuckfield do the invocation
5 and I'll turn the floor over to the MMS people.

6 (Prayer was said in Inupiaq.)

7 MR. COWLES: Well, thank you everybody for
8 coming tonight. My name is Cleve Cowles. And I'm
9 the MMS in Anchorage. And I'm the acting regional
10 supervisor for the leasing office there. And what
11 we would like to do tonight is talk to you a little
12 about some of the things that are -- three major
13 things that are happening in the Outer Continental
14 Shelf Oil and Gas Program, the Department of
15 Interior's program which MMS manages and implements.

16 And before I talk any further, I'd like to
17 introduce some of the people who are here with me
18 who can help as we go along. Here is Mr. Jim
19 Bennett from Washington D.C. He is the branch chief
20 for the environmental assessment branch in
21 Washington with MMS.

22 Mr. Mike Salyer, Mike. There's Mike. He's with
23 our office in Anchorage and involved with the
24 environmental assessment process and the EIS that is
25 out for review. Peter Johnson, where is Peter? Oh,

1 Peter's back there. Peter's a -- a -- with our
2 resource evaluation group, the folks who work with
3 the geology and estimating the amount of oil and gas
4 that may be available for exploration.

5 And Mr. Al Barros is just there -- this is Peter
6 with the -- and Al Barros is our community liaison.
7 And we have Britney Chonka, who is our
8 transcriptionist. And she will be keeping a record
9 of the -- of the things that we talk about and your
10 testimony tonight.

11 I guess one of the things that I'd like to
12 mention, and I'll probably mention again, is if you
13 would please sign in. And also as we move forward,
14 if we have conversation about these topics, if
15 you -- and you want to make a statement or question,
16 if you'd identify who you are for our -- our record
17 we would appreciate that very much.

18 Now, to get more into the specifics of what I
19 would recommend that -- or hope you could consider
20 for our evening, you saw our handout and it's got
21 quite a few pages in it, so if it's okay with you
22 what we thought we would do would be to talk about
23 it a little bit. Or I would talk for a few minutes,
24 and then if you had some questions about the things
25 I said, I could attempt to answer them.

1 And then Mr. Bennett will talk about part of it
2 For a few minutes, and if you had some questions at
3 that point. And then Mr. Salyer. And we would
4 break it up, probably take about a half hour for our
5 presentation. And then follow up later on with all
6 the comments or questions or testimony that you may
7 have for our recorder.

8 So would that be okay?

9 Yes, sir?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You forgot one person,
11 our former mayor, Ahmaogak.

12 MR. COWLES: Oh, I'm sorry, George, I didn't
13 mean to --

14 Okay. On the handout, on the first page in the
15 first panel, it summarizes the, really the three
16 things that we're here to talk about. First, we
17 have a proposed five-year offshore oil and gas
18 program for the next five years, 2007 to 2012.

19 Secondly, there was an environmental -- a draft
20 environmental impact statement written that is open
21 for comment for that program. And that's mainly a
22 scheduling for potential lease sales in the future.
23 So there's the five-year program and an EIS
24 associated with it.

25 And then also we have a -- a draft EIS for lease

1 sale 193 in the Chukchi Sea which we've been working
2 on for, roughly, the past year. And there's things
3 in this handout that show facts, for example, on the
4 second panel on the first page, this map shows the
5 four areas off Alaska that are in the proposed
6 program, and for which we have a schedule of
7 potential lease sales.

8 And there is a map over there on the wall that
9 shows it a little bit better. And in the things
10 attached here we've also, in one of the federal
11 register notices, let's see, it's roughly the --
12 it's the ninth page for your own purpose in your
13 handout.

14 And let's talk about that, first of all, in
15 terms of just why we have these areas identified off
16 Alaska. It gets back to the Department of
17 Interior's need to manage our offshore gas resources
18 and best meet our nation's energy needs. And I am
19 sure many of you are aware the demand for energy
20 nationwide is increasing. Production is not meeting
21 that demand. And so this is one way our country can
22 attempt to meet the oil and gas needs of the
23 country.

24 And the Department then uses this process that
25 I'll be talking about to evaluate potential

1 schedules in places that that can be done through
2 the lease sale process.

3 Just a couple of quick things about these areas.
4 The Cook Inlet Region, which is the Southcentral
5 part of the map there, you're familiar with that, is
6 an area that MMS, over the years, has had lease
7 sales. And most recently the industry interest has
8 not been real high there. So this proposed program
9 includes the possibility of holding what they would
10 call special interest lease sales where we would,
11 MMS would go out, and say, announce that we were
12 considering a lease sale, as industry is interested.
13 If industry is not, then we would not pursue an EIS,
14 because there is not that strong interest.

15 So we would check, and I think we'll do that
16 periodically, and we probably don't think there's
17 going to be a lot of activity there. Then the next
18 one up north of the Alaska Peninsula, that's the
19 North Aleutian lease sale -- excuse me, proposed
20 sale area.

21 And when this draft program came out, it was
22 much larger. But subsequently, the governor of the
23 State of Alaska requested that the Department of the
24 Interior only include that part that was analyzed
25 previously under a previous lease sale, 92. So

1 that's why that area is now shown as -- as you see
2 there.

3 For the Chukchi Sea and the Beaufort, they are
4 similar, but actually there was a change in the
5 Chukchi Sea, and there's a buffer zone now along the
6 coast. And this relates to two things, one,
7 there -- there was no previous oil and gas interest
8 near shore; and, secondly, the State of Alaska did
9 not request that that area be included. And in the
10 past the Department and the State have coordinated
11 lease sales, for example, in the Beaufort Sea where
12 industry is interested close to shore.

13 So there's now, subsequent to the first draft
14 proposed program, the proposed program now shows
15 that buffer zone. And those are the reasons for it.
16 So that's pretty much what I had to say about this
17 first map.

18 And on the second page, just a quick summary of
19 the two main things we were talking about here. And
20 I'd like to get down to the chart at the bottom
21 here. I'll talk about that very briefly, then I
22 will be done. What you see here are the steps of
23 the whole process that the Department of the
24 Interior/MMS follow for these lease sales. And the
25 upper line is the line for the development of the

1 proposed program. And that's what we're talking
2 about in part tonight. And we are, as far as
3 proposed program's concerned, we are in this middle
4 block that says: Proposed program draft EIS. And
5 we're in the comment period right after that.

6 So these articles had come out, they were put
7 out for distribution in August and the comment
8 period has been going on. That whole process is
9 involved in the proposed program. When you get
10 through the -- you'll have a final and you'll have a
11 final program announcement, that can take two years
12 roughly. That's a -- that's a scheduling, that's
13 basically what that does, is it schedules these
14 areas and the possibilities for us then pursuing
15 lease sales in each area.

16 And if we go forward with a lease sale, for
17 example, in the Chukchi Sea, we would then follow
18 the green line. And that's the EIS sale process.
19 And I'll -- for the time being, just to not take a
20 lot of time, mention that that process, we have a
21 draft EIS, final EIS. And then a decision for a
22 lease sale, to hold a sale can take two to
23 two-and-a-half years. It's -- it's in that line.

24 And there may be a -- as we move along through
25 that process, it may be decided not to have a sale.

1 So again we use the schedules and we have decision
2 along the way. The important point on that is that
3 those two lines are under MMS', kind of, influence.
4 That's a process within the Department of the
5 Interior. But once there's a lease sale and the
6 industry has bid on tracts and been awarded tracts,
7 then it's up to industry when these next phases
8 occur, because they'll -- they'll get a lease. And
9 they have to decide when they will explore.

10 MS. ANNISKETT: We got elders that don't know
11 what you're talking about. You need to get a
12 translator.

13 MR. COWLES: Okay.

14 MS. ANNISKETT: You're mumbling on too fast.

15 MR. COWLES: I'm sorry.

16 Would you like me to start over? What I'm
17 saying, we have a long process. And all that could
18 take, through the exploration plan, up to
19 six-and-a-half years at the end there. And then if
20 oil and gas is discovered, depending on industry's
21 rate of progress, it could take eight-and-a-half to
22 12 years before you actually saw production.

23 See, you have an exploration phase, you
24 discover, maybe. If there's nothing there, people
25 are probably done, they go home. But if there is

1 something, there's another set of time, a block of
2 time that it takes to go into production. So this
3 whole process is quite long. It could take
4 eight-and-a-half to 12 years.

5 One other important point is as you see these
6 large areas shaded in blue, that's just what's up
7 for consideration right now. But as this process
8 proceeds, it gets more and more focused. So, for
9 example, in the last Beaufort sale, the company's
10 only -- they were awarded leases on about six
11 percent of what was offered under the lease sale,
12 because they don't want to explore any -- they'll
13 bid on tracts and they'll bid, maybe, on a number of
14 tracts and then within that, they'll decide: We'll
15 explore some of these, and in some sequence in time.

16 So it doesn't happen all at once. And that's a
17 process of focusing. And the important thing about
18 all of this is there are places all along the way
19 for us to get very valuable input from the villages
20 and folks who have this happening nearby.

21 So that's the important part. And we do value
22 that. And that's why we're here tonight, because we
23 want to hear your questions and your ideas and your
24 comments.

25 So I'm done for my part of this. Does anybody

1 have any questions about what I just went over?

2 MS. ANNISKETT: So your five-year plan starts,
3 what year do you start and what year do you plan to
4 end the five years?

5 MR. COWLES: I think that's what Mr. Bennett
6 will talk about.

7 MS. ANNISKETT: And are you going to be doing
8 this in just the summertime or in the wintertime, or
9 what?

10 MR. COWLES: Well, the program and these
11 processes, the government's always there and so
12 we're always working along, but most of the industry
13 activity to start with will probably be during
14 periods of time when it's safest for the environment
15 and for industry and for the communities. But that
16 will vary, depending on the location and the
17 company.

18 MS. ANNISKETT: So how many times a year, a
19 month do you plan on working out there?

20 MR. COWLES: I -- I can't answer that, because
21 it will -- it will vary. And if you're talking
22 about exploration and when industry will come,
23 that's something that they would have to decide
24 subsequent to whether or not they are -- they win
25 leases, whether they bid enough to get a lease.

1 And that's a -- those are the decisions that the
2 corporations, the industry companies must make. And
3 there are many things along the line here that they
4 have to take into consideration.

5 Okay. Jim?

6 MR. BENNETT: Thank you Cleve.

7 Again, my name is Jim Bennett. And I'm with
8 Washington headquarters office, Minerals Management
9 Service.

10 MR. TRACEY: Jim, I still have questions for --
11 I know Lily had a question directed towards you that
12 you might want to answer, but before you start your
13 presentation --

14 MR. BENNETT: I'd be happy to.

15 MS. ANNISKETT: Lily Anniskett.

16 MR. TRACEY: Bill Tracy, for the record.

17 I am curious about the buffer zone. I'd like to
18 know a little bit more about it, like is it the
19 entire North Slope Coast? If not, exactly what are
20 the boundaries of it? How deep is it? How far up
21 the ocean does it go?

22 MR. COWLES: In the background on your text on
23 page 50458 there is some information there that
24 summarizes that. And let's see if I can --

25 MR. JOHNSON: How do they find 50458?

1 MR. COWLES: Well, it's about the -- if you see
2 this map showing that -- the -- the Chukchi Sea, go
3 to the two pages beyond that and up in the
4 upper-left corner it says 50458, and then down at
5 this corner it says Alaska Region, and then this
6 text here. And it says for the Chukchi, and also
7 mentions North Aleutians, it says: In the Chukchi
8 Sea the proposed program removes from the leasing
9 consideration, a 25-mile buffer area along the
10 coast, as there is no existing oil and gas activity
11 in the area and the State has made no request to
12 include leasing closer to shore.

13 So it's described as a 25-mile buffer. You can
14 see, it runs from, roughly --

15 MR. SALYER: It's the black line right here,
16 this black line right here.

17 MR. TRACEY: Okay.

18 MR. BENNETT: And to answer your question, I
19 think it applies to the Chukchi Sea planning area
20 for the five year.

21 MR. TRACEY: And not up in just Beaufort Sea?

22 MR. BENNETT: Correct.

23 MR. TRACEY: Okay. I guess, secondly, this EIS,
24 if everybody knows, it's an environmental impact
25 statement.

1 MR. COWLES: That's correct, thank you.

2 MR. TRACEY: When do we get to look at it? And
3 how do we gain access?

4 MR. COWLES: The program EIS was sent out. And
5 we sent to all the -- the villages and the
6 libraries. And we also have it available through
7 the Internet. And I have some CD-ROMs that --
8 compact disks that have it. If you're interested, I
9 could provide you with one. So there are different
10 ways it can be accessed.

11 MR. BENNETT: It was sent out. If you want a
12 hard copy, we'll be happy to send you a hard copy.
13 It's on the web right now. And we have some CDs
14 available, as well.

15 MR. TRACEY: I think the CDs would be
16 appropriate.

17 MR. COWLES: Okay. One thing about that, you
18 know, when you look at these things, they're big
19 documents. And I just, for my own purposes, I
20 pulled the section out for Alaska. And I think the
21 Alaska portion is about 100 pages of this bigger
22 document. So it's -- it's, you know, digestible in
23 a few days.

24 So it's -- again, there's a piece of it, you can
25 you go right to and find it. It's accessible within

1 the document.

2 MR. TRACEY: Okay. Thank you.

3 MR. COWLES: Thank you.

4 MR. BENNETT: Any other questions for Cleve?

5 MS. HENRY: I do.

6 Are you planning on working with the elders --
7 Lupita Henry.

8 Are you planning on working with the elders in
9 our community as to what kind of environmental
10 impact this might have? Because they have records
11 of what was here, you know, what kind of animals and
12 where they migrate and whatnot.

13 MR. COWLES: There are different ways that --
14 and we would like to --

15 MS. HENRY: Because it would be better to do it
16 one-on-one with the elders, I think, to go through
17 this, so that you know where our animals are and
18 where they harvest that and where we go and, you
19 know, where they breed and whatnot.

20 MR. COWLES: I understand. And there are a
21 number of different ways we would like to do that,
22 and we'll attempt to do as best we can. For
23 example, meetings like this when we talk about later
24 on the Sale 193, if people would like to pass
25 information to us, we'll have it on the record.

1 We also have an environmental studies program
2 that, from time to time we will come out and do
3 biological studies or sociocultural types of studies
4 where we will ask the people in the community to
5 give us information. And we will put that in with
6 the scientific work. And we'll have the scientists
7 come and ask for assistance and information for how
8 to best work around your community.

9 So there's a lot of different ways. And it just
10 depends on what stage of the process we're talking
11 about. So, for example, in this five-year program,
12 in this schedule, and there's about 7 to 9 possible
13 lease sales in those five years.

14 During each of those sales, there will be a
15 phase of the EIS process called scoping where we
16 will seek people's input, as we say, or information
17 about things we need to take into consideration.
18 And we certainly would hope that the elders would be
19 comfortable with helping there.

20 So it's -- there's a lot of different ways. And
21 as we move forward and you have ideas, we -- we
22 certainly would appreciate those suggestions and
23 we'll try to see how we can work things in.

24 MS. HENRY: Now I have another question. You
25 know, the last seismic activity that we just had

1 with Shell?

2 MR. COWLES: I know a little bit about it. I
3 know some about it.

4 MS. HENRY: You know some about it?

5 MR. COWLES: Yes.

6 MS. HENRY: I don't know if Shell had an
7 environmental impact statement released yet? Did
8 you guys have one released already?

9 MR. COWLES: Mr. Peter Johnson is with the group
10 that deals with the -- works with the seismic
11 exploration and how those permits, and so forth, are
12 managed. And so he might be able to answer your
13 question.

14 Peter?

15 MR. JOHNSON: To my knowledge, there was not an
16 environmental impact statement for this --

17 MS. HENRY: Because I was told they would
18 provide one, I believe, that somebody was going to
19 provide one to us. And I know Bill's asking the
20 same thing, because we haven't seen anything yet.

21 MR. COWLES: Minerals Management Service
22 published a programmatic environmental assessment,
23 that's out for public information.

24 MS. HENRY: Now, when you guys do your
25 newsletters, and I notice that you have our names

1 back there, when you guys do these, you guys don't
2 send them out to us, you send them to our tribal
3 leaders. I would like to see it being sent to
4 everybody that's on that list. And if you're going
5 to be sending stuff out like that, for it to be sent
6 out, because I didn't see anything. And, you know,
7 I was looking, I wanted to see what kinds of impacts
8 were shown.

9 MR. COWLES: That list there, that's, we were
10 trying to keep a record of who came tonight. And if
11 you -- if there are other individuals who would like
12 us to put you on our mailing list -- why don't you
13 see me at a break or after the meeting and I will
14 get your name and address. That will be a separate
15 mailing list from our office.

16 MS. HENRY: And anybody here can get on that
17 mailing list?

18 MR. COWLES: We can put you on that mailing
19 list. And you will get an announcement for things,
20 like when studies come out. And then if you -- what
21 we do is we send out what we call a technical
22 announcement. And we send that out, it summarizes
23 what the study was about. I think they include the
24 EISes.

25 And then if you're interested, all you have to

1 do is get back in touch with our office and then
2 they will send you the document.

3 MS. HENRY: That's why I was asking about the
4 elders, because they know and if you show the impact
5 statement, you know, and what is there, then they'll
6 know if it's been impacted.

7 MR. COWLES: Okay. Yeah.

8 MS. HENRY: That's something to put in
9 consideration.

10 MR. COWLES: We value that information highly.
11 And we try, as best we can, on our studies to bring
12 that into the project.

13 MR. BENNETT: The same with the EISes. We will
14 be happy to include anyone on the mailing list for
15 those. If they change over time and if they're
16 dated and they're -- they don't have anybody on
17 there that they should be, we'll be more than happy
18 to add those names to the list.

19 MS. HENRY: Okay. Thank you.

20 MR. COWLES: Okay.

21 MR. BENNETT: Cleve, I think you've got one
22 more.

23 MR. COWLES: Oh, yes, sir.

24 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Thomas Nukapigak, for the
25 record. Can you tell me, face-to-face, why, in our

1 ocean, you want to put some sales on the Chukchi or
2 the Beaufort, since this ocean is our garden? You
3 got garden right outside your house. This ocean is
4 our garden, us, the Inupiat. Why our ocean? We eat
5 from it. Why you want to sell some lease on this
6 ocean?

7 MR. COWLES: I think the answer is, is that
8 because of the national needs and the laws of our
9 nation, we have to explore -- we have to go through
10 this process so that the many different uses of the
11 ocean and the Outer Continental Shelf can be
12 considered. It doesn't mean that we have to or that
13 we must. But we have a responsibility, as a
14 department, to go through this process to find out
15 whether we can do it in a way that is
16 environmentally safe and sound.

17 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Are you doing this because you
18 guys can't go to ANWR?

19 MR. COWLES: Well, MMS doesn't deal with this --

20 MR. BENNETT: This whole process is independent
21 of ANWR. We operate under the Outer Continental
22 Shelf Lands Act and we have a mandate for developing
23 these five-year programs, which is what I was going
24 to talk about. But it -- it has no relation to
25 ANWR, as far as what we have to do.

1 MR. COWLES: That whole thing is -- has other
2 decision-makers involved with it than MMS.

3 MR. KILLBEAR: Cleve?

4 MR. COWLES: Yes, sir?

5 MR. KILLBEAR: Are you with the State?

6 MR. COWLES: I'm with the Department of the
7 Interior, Anchorage.

8 MR. KILLBEAR: The way I understand it, it is
9 the State that plans the least. And I'm glad that
10 you guys have at least a 20 -- 25-mile buffer zone.

11 MR. COWLES: Ours is a federal buffer, but the
12 State has a program that goes from the shore out to
13 three miles. So, for example, with Beaufort Sea, I
14 know they've had lease sales there and they've had
15 some recently. I don't think they have in the
16 Chukchi.

17 I'm not that knowledgeable about the State's
18 history of sales. So what goes on from the
19 shoreline out to three miles is State waters and
20 that's the State of Alaska. And I think it's the
21 Department of Natural Resources that has that
22 program, oil and gas.

23 MR. KILLBEAR: Gordon Killbear.

24 MS. ANNISKETT: You have this grant from Point
25 Hope, Point Lay, Wainwright, Barrow is there any way

1 we can contact some of these residents here to find
2 out what their villages are saying?

3 MR. COWLES: These transcripts will --

4 MS. ANNISKETT: We might be all saying the same
5 thing.

6 MR. COWLES: These transcripts will eventually
7 be available to the public, that would be one way.
8 We're having our meetings -- there is a panel in
9 there, I can't remember what page it's on, it shows
10 the dates we will be at those other villages.

11 MR. BENNETT: The final environmental impact
12 statement for both the five-year programs and Sale
13 193 is going to address all of the comments that was
14 raised at all of the meetings.

15 It won't be --it won't have the transcripts
16 themselves in the document, but it will have
17 summaries of all the issues that have been brought
18 up and how we address them at the Environmental
19 Impact Statement.

20 MR. ITTA: Bill Itta from Barrow. I'm glad that
21 she was wanting to know what we felt like, I'm from
22 Barrow. About a year ago, last winter we had a
23 meeting, I think with the Minerals Management
24 Service about this before -- when this was started.

25 MR. COWLES: A scoping.

1 MR. ITTA: Yeah. There was an unanswered
2 question by the Minerals Management Service. We had
3 to ask that, you know, like during the production
4 stage down there, we had asked them who would be
5 responsible for a spill, a very large spill. And we
6 had asked them: Is it going to be the Minerals
7 Management Service themselves that are going to be
8 liable to give back what is lost? And from what we
9 heard, we were -- there's quite a number that --
10 what we heard from the Minerals Management Service
11 that it would be the contractors that would be
12 liable. Then who will be able to go out there and
13 clean up a possible oil spill that can happen? It's
14 been known to happen in the North Sea, and out there
15 in the oceans.

16 And we had to ask them another question that
17 wasn't answered, who would go out there and clean
18 up? And they brought out the Coast Guard. And
19 those are some of the questions that weren't
20 answered during the scoping meeting we had in
21 Barrow. And those were very serious questions that
22 weren't answered by the Minerals Management Service.
23 And also in the retrieval of oil that is still
24 not -- they're not capable of retrieving oil from
25 the ice. And those are the concerns that were made

1 by the residents of Barrow towards the end of the
2 meeting.

3 MR. COWLES: I understand. Those are a good
4 points and good questions. And some of those
5 questions still can be clarified. And -- and they
6 are -- there are ways that we will probably look at
7 to provide more information. For example, in the
8 Draft EIS, there is some information on the Chukchi
9 Sea EIS that summarizes what, for example, MMS
10 regulates.

11 We have a pollution prevention program which has
12 a number of different points in it that we require
13 of the companies to do, as best we can, make sure
14 that doesn't happen. And that's, I think, one of
15 the things about the MMS pollution prevention
16 program inspections that is important, in that we
17 try to make sure that the companies put together the
18 best program they can to avoid that.

19 And so we emphasize prevention. We have a
20 number different things, I'm not an expert on it,
21 but I do know that in our field operations section,
22 there are requirements that companies have to
23 fulfill before they work on the OCS. For example,
24 to go out and explore on a tract, they first have to
25 do things like a shallow hazards survey. They have

1 to make sure that they're not, for example shallow
2 gas deposits that may create problems.

3 They have to -- they have to have their site
4 design and their exploration and construction design
5 reviewed. They have to have a verification of their
6 project by a third party, not just MMS, by a third
7 party. I guess it's an engineering look at things
8 from an independent party.

9 They have to have safety planning and drilling
10 with their equipment. For example, on their well
11 control systems, they have to show that they can do
12 that and make it work. They have to have emergency
13 plans. And they have to do drills relating to those
14 emergency plans. For example, they have to have
15 emergency plans for oil spill. If there was a
16 spill, their crews would have to go out and show
17 they can deploy what equipment they will be using
18 for that.

19 They have to -- for things like hydrogen
20 sulfide, which is a dangerous gas, they have to have
21 an emergency plan for that. There's about five
22 different emergency plans they have to present and
23 review and exercise.

24 So there's a number of different things that --
25 and certainly most important is on-site inspections

1 when they are there. Our inspectors go out and make
2 sure they are complying with these things. For
3 example, on a platform they have to have what we
4 call redundant safety systems. So if one system has
5 a problem, there's another one that will take care
6 of it. They have to have backup systems for many of
7 these different processes that they do.

8 So there's a long list of things. I'm not, you
9 know, the best one to go through that. It's
10 actually in the Federal Regulations. It's in the
11 Code of Federal Regulations Chapter 30, I think it
12 is, Section 250. And that's there and companies
13 have to do it.

14 So that makes for a program that achieves as
15 much of a safety margin as we can. And it changes
16 over time as technologies over time improve and
17 change.

18 Is there anything else we could add on that
19 question?

20 MR. BENNETT: Just -- as you're raising that
21 point, the EIS, both EISs do address oil spill
22 cleanup and -- and liability. And we will ensure,
23 based on the comment that you've made tonight, that
24 that's as complete an explanation as it -- as it can
25 be in those documents.

1 MS. HENRY: I -- I had a question. I know Shell
2 has scientists, they're working on ice cleanup. How
3 come, if you're going to be putting up these leases,
4 why don't your environmentalists or geologists, or
5 whatever, if they come out, why don't you have
6 somebody doing that to clean up our ice? Because
7 ice is, you know, different than land, way
8 different.

9 MR. COWLES: Yeah. MMS right now, in its
10 research, it has a technology research program,
11 besides environmental studies. And we have a large
12 ice tank where they test with different types of
13 equipment and new designs. So we do manage this
14 facility. And that's one thing that we do, as far
15 as trying to learn more about things. It's an
16 experimental situation, but it helps the companies
17 later on as they put it to practice. So there are
18 those things that we do.

19 MS. HENRY: Are you going to be providing that
20 information out to the community as well?

21 MR. COWLES: As reports come out of our --

22 MR. BENNETT: As reports come out, there will
23 be. And as the status of information is available,
24 it will be included in the EISs.

25 MR. SALYER: Right. It will get incorporated

1 in, and the more technology --

2 MR. BENNETT: Let me clarify just a little
3 further. As Cleve is pointing out, these companies,
4 as they come in, they have to put together
5 exploration plans and they have to be approved. So
6 they're going to need to identify what their
7 capability is to clean up oil and ice. And it will
8 not be approved unless it's at some kind of
9 satisfactory level.

10 MS. HENRY: So, like he was saying in Barrow,
11 there's no way that MMS is claiming liability if we
12 do have an oil spill? Is that what -- my
13 understanding? Is it just the contractors that are
14 going to be liable for cleanup or, like he was
15 stating, is that --

16 MR. COWLES: My understanding is the first line
17 of responsibility would be the company that is doing
18 the exploration.

19 MS. HENRY: But the leases come from the
20 government. Like you're here, you're doing the
21 leases. You got part in this, why aren't you guys
22 liable as well?

23 MR. COWLES: There are other compensation
24 programs for damages and losses.

25 MS. HENRY: And our tribal government, through

1 the EIS statement coming out, can apply for these
2 grants?

3 MR. COWLES: I think you would have to show that
4 you, as an individual --

5 MS. HENRY: Not our tribal government? Our
6 tribal government can't?

7 MR. COWLES: I don't know. That's a good
8 question.

9 MR. BENNETT: You're -- you're asking a question
10 that's very involved in a number of different
11 programs. Not only the leasing program and the oil
12 spill contingency program, but also our Natural
13 Resource Comp -- Damage Compensation and --

14 MS. HENRY: Now it's a wide range.

15 MR. BENNETT: And there's a lot of complexities
16 to where the liability rests. And it would depend
17 very much on the individual circumstances as well.
18 So it's very hard for us to give you a specific
19 answer to that.

20 MS. HENRY: I was just asking, you know, why --
21 why won't you guys be liable if you guys are putting
22 up the leases? I don't see where --

23 MR. BENNETT: I don't know where exactly the
24 liability rests.

25 MS. HENRY: Because you're putting up these

1 leases for these companies to come in. Like Thomas
2 said, our garden is our -- you know, our ocean is
3 our garden. And this is all we have up here. We
4 don't have grocery stores that we could just go in
5 and buy beef. I mean, we do, but it's limited,
6 because of our mailing system and where we live. We
7 really depend on this. This is really going to be
8 something that's going to really hurt our community.
9 And not only ours, the other communities around.
10 That's why we're so into this, because it's
11 something that is going to really affect us, really.

12 MR. COWLES: Thank you. These are good points.
13 We're -- we're aware of it. And it is -- there are
14 a lot of different federal laws that apply. And
15 that it -- it is something that has to be sorted
16 through.

17 And I -- I am not going to be able to handle it
18 tonight. But those are good points. And we will
19 take that into consideration.

20 MS. TRACEY: Marie Tracey, for the record. I
21 notice that Billy Itta's question was not answered
22 on the, if there's a spill out in the ocean, who
23 would clean up? Would you ask for help from the
24 village? And can the Point Lay Village have a
25 staging area for cleanup?

1 MR. BENNETT: I -- I can't answer that
2 specifically in this forum. But the -- the lessees
3 are responsible for having an appropriate oil spill
4 cleanup and contingency plan in place. What it
5 includes could be any number of -- any number of
6 measures, including that, possibly.

7 MS. TRACEY: Okay. I guess you can understand
8 our concern for oil drilling in our ocean, that it
9 will affect us.

10 MR. BENNETT: Absolutely. Absolutely.

11 MS. TRACEY: And were you guys involved in that
12 Teshepuk Lake area that you guys want to drill
13 there, too?

14 MR. BENNETT: No.

15 MS. TRACEY: No. Okay.

16 MR. BENNETT: Again, we're a federal agency, the
17 Minerals Management Service, part of the US
18 Department of the Interior. And our program is the
19 Outer Continental Shelf Program, as Cleve was
20 saying, from three miles offshore out.

21 Other than that, it's other -- it's other
22 programs and other agencies that deal with near
23 shore areas and onshore areas.

24 MR. COWLES: Jim, do you have anything else?

25 MR. KILLBEAR: I guess what everyone's trying to

1 say is we don't want a another Exxon oil spill to
2 happen here. There's still people down in Cordova
3 and Tatitlek, they have haven't seen a dime from all
4 that disaster that they had. Those people, they're
5 probably on food stamps. And that, that's what
6 we've been trying to tell the U.S. government for
7 years, is that if you don't want to put us on food
8 stamps, let us do our own subsistence hunting,
9 provide for our own families.

10 And the way it sounds to me, you got this
11 department and that department, it -- it's handed
12 from one department over to another and then who is
13 going to do the cleanup? Probably nobody. It's too
14 much. Because that ice when -- when it starts to
15 move, it breaks anything in its way. Because you
16 only see ten percent of it on top of the surface.
17 And then 90 percent is underneath.

18 And those safety valves that you put on those
19 wellheads under the sea, are they going to work?
20 They probably get sheared off, too. So, I guess
21 that's what we're all trying to do, is trying to see
22 if you're going to -- if you're going to take care
23 of our food, our beluga, our whales. You're right
24 in the migration path out there where you're going
25 to be doing your exploration.

1 Just like the summer, we had an exploration for,
2 for coal. I kept telling that helicopter pilot
3 don't fly over that area, I said go straight out,
4 straight to the mine. I guess they must not have a
5 GPS on that chopper. But anyway, caribou didn't
6 come. That takes care of my dinner. Lots of the
7 people here didn't get any caribou because of that
8 noise. And, you know, what they told me said: Oh,
9 there's no caribou out there. That's right, there's
10 no caribou out there. They migrate here. As long
11 as you keep bothering their migration path, they
12 aren't going to come. I said caribou migrate.

13 Just go straight out to the coal mine where
14 you're supposed to go. That's the same as the seas,
15 where you're going to be. We got to try and make
16 sure that our -- our food, our beef that we've been
17 getting for thousands of years here, that we
18 maintain our way -- way of life.

19 You got your cattle. You got the buffalo taken
20 care of for the Indians. Now, hopefully you'll
21 listen to us and you take care of our dinner plate
22 up there. Thank you.

23 MR. BENNETT: Could you give your name again?

24 MR. KILLBEAR: Gordon Killbear.

25 MR. BENNETT: Thank you.

1 MR. COWLES: A few minutes ago there was some
2 comments that there are all these different
3 departments. And in the Department of the Interior,
4 the directors for the different bureaus in Anchorage
5 are working closely together to attempt to
6 consolidate the departments' abilities to deal with
7 these things. And I think you'll see in the future
8 that there will be better mechanisms for some of
9 these things that you brought up. But it all takes
10 time.

11 MR. KILLBEAR: We've seen broken treaties. We
12 had U.S. Air Force talking to the IRA Tribal
13 government here, saying we're going to give this
14 land back to you when we're done with it. Well,
15 they're done with it. They give it To BLM. And BLM
16 gives it to whoever, and not back to the IRA Tribal
17 government here.

18 The North Slope Borough was not in existence and
19 the Cully Corporation was not in existence when
20 these talks were made. And now that that -- that
21 hasn't been honored at all. When that land should
22 have been given back to -- to the tribe of Cully --
23 Cully people here. So that -- stuff like that, BLM,
24 they're not going to give it back to -- they got to
25 follow their -- the way they do business. BLM is

1 going to give it to North Slope Borough, and on down
2 the line, which -- which they have already started,
3 without giving any piece of it to the IRA Tribal
4 Government. Thank you.

5 MR. COWLES: Thank you.

6 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Thomas Nukapigak.

7 Looking at your draft proposal for your year
8 2007 to 2012, looking at the Chukchi Sea 193, 212,
9 221, how many acres or how many -- how much of this
10 lease are you guys going to be selling, or --

11 MR. BENNETT: I think we have some numbers on
12 that, but maybe we could -- would it be helpful to
13 work through the five-year program and then talk
14 specifically about Sale 193? And we can answer that
15 exact question.

16 MR. SALYER: I'll definitely be able to answer
17 that.

18 MR. COWLES: Maybe some of that, Mr. Bennett can
19 finish up with here on some of those schedules.

20 MR. BENNETT: The five-year program that will
21 lead into the specific sale, Chukchi Sea Sale 193,
22 we can provide some exact numbers for you on that.
23 Okay.

24 On the five year, just so we have a little bit
25 of context for this, we are required under the

1 federal law under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands
2 Act to put a plan together for every five years for
3 lease of oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf,
4 three miles offshore out to the extent of the
5 exclusive economic zone.

6 If you look in on page 3, your first slide
7 there, what we are doing in this five-year program,
8 this is the seventh program now that we have done
9 under this law, dating back to the late 1970s.

10 What we are doing is identifying those areas
11 that have potential for oil and gas leasing. And
12 only those areas that are part of the five-year
13 program will be considered further. Any area that
14 is identified as part of the five-year program is
15 subject to a specific lease sale EIS, which we're
16 going to talk about in a few minutes with regards to
17 Sale 193.

18 So for an area to be considered further for
19 leasing, it has to be in the five-year program. And
20 being in the five-year program does not necessarily
21 mean that leasing will occur.

22 On your next slide, it talks about comments on
23 the program and the draft EIS for the five-year, and
24 the -- the deadlines are coming up next week,
25 Wednesday before Thanksgiving. We can accept

1 written comments, comments submitted by the web or
2 the testimony that you're providing tonight, which
3 is why we're here for these hearings, both for the
4 five-year draft EIS and Sale 193 draft EIS.

5 The five-year program is nationwide. It
6 includes eleven sales in the Gulf of the Mexico, one
7 sale in the Atlantic and nine sales in Alaska,
8 including three up here in the Chukchi.

9 On page 4 there's a list of all of the sales
10 that will occur under the proposed program as it
11 stands right now. And we have, in developing the
12 draft EIS on the five-year program, we have scoping
13 meetings up here, down in Anchorage, out in the
14 Aleutians. We've had 19 public hearings. The four
15 that we're having this week, or three now, because
16 we weren't able to get to Wainwright last evening,
17 are -- are -- we'll complete the set of 19 public
18 hearings where we want your input on what we cover
19 in the drafts EIS, and whether or not it
20 sufficiently addresses environmental concerns.

21 With that, that gives you the context. You have
22 a five-year program and you have individual lease
23 sales. We're asking for your comments both on the
24 draft EIS for the five-year program and on Sale 193.

25 And with that, I am going hand it over to Mike

1 Salyer, who can talk to you about specifically Sale
2 193, which is the first sale in the Chukchi Sea.
3 And maybe you can start with the figure on total
4 acreage. Do we have that?

5 MR. SALYER: Yeah. Total acreage for the entire
6 planning area for the Chukchi Sea Sale 193 is this
7 green area right here. That's a lot of area.
8 That's about 34 million acres. That's a big area
9 right there. But that's the planning area. The
10 green line denotes that.

11 So that answers your question, I believe, sir,
12 for the size of the area. And that brings us to
13 Lease Sale 193. And where we are on this process,
14 that's -- I know it can be confusing, but Mr. Cowles
15 was talking about earlier, this brings us to one of
16 the specific lease sales from the five-year program,
17 that was from the 2002 to 2007 program, which brings
18 to Lease Sale 193. So on this chart right here,
19 we're sort of in that part of the process on Lease
20 Sale 193.

21 So what we did was we held scoping meetings that
22 Mr. Itta brought up in March -- excuse me, September
23 of 2005. I wasn't there quite yet, but we took
24 everyone's input in the different villages at that
25 time. And we used that information to incorporate

1 into the environment impact statement to develop our
2 alternatives, our possible alternatives which ended
3 up being deferrals, which we will talk about in just
4 a moment.

5 A little background on this slide, Lease Sale
6 193 is a special interest sale. And all that that
7 means is that at about three years ago there was a
8 call, if there was any interest in industry in the
9 Chukchi Sea, and there was none. None -- no
10 interest was in the Chukchi Sea up until last year.
11 And whenever that interest became known, it was at
12 that point in time we determined there needed to be
13 an environmental impact statement, we needed to
14 scope and go through the Natural Environmental
15 Policy Act information, the NEPA information, to put
16 out an environmental impact statement on that lease
17 sale.

18 At that point in time, September of '05, put out
19 notice of intent to prepare the environmental impact
20 statement. And area ID was announced in January of
21 2006. That area ID is the area on the map that's
22 marked out in green.

23 So that's a little background how that went. So
24 that brings us to the proposed action, which I
25 believe Tom was talking about, and wanted to know

1 if -- it encompasses a total 6,155 blocks, whole or
2 partial blocks. You can see the individual blocks
3 on the map, if you walk up to it. I apologize it's
4 too small to see from here. But it encompasses
5 roughly a total of 34 million areas for the entire
6 project ID area.

7 Now this area excludes the spring lead system
8 the Polynya. And that's why you see that buffer
9 zone drawn in there on the map. This is
10 incorporating waters anywhere from depth 95 to 262
11 feet. And we're looking at a possible mean
12 recoverable oil could be anywhere up to 12 billion
13 barrels.

14 We also have, I'll just walk over here, we're
15 going to go ahead and go into the different
16 deferrals. We have -- this is again a result of the
17 scoping process that took place. We consolidated
18 the information that everybody provided in that
19 scoping meeting to develop these alternatives.

20 Corridor 1 is one of the alternatives. It
21 occurs the farthest out. It's roughly 60 miles off
22 of the coast line. And it jogs in certain areas
23 because of different resources that were of a
24 concern. And what that did, that was derived from
25 multiple subsistence areas that everybody was

1 concerned over for the walrus hunting, as well as
2 there was some eider, fishing and some critical
3 habitat down here. And there was also some interest
4 in the Barrow Canyon area where there were folks
5 that were concerned about the impact to that.

6 So what we do, rather than having individual
7 deferral areas, we put them together and we came up
8 with this large deferral area which would meet those
9 needs.

10 The second alternative which was corridor 2
11 deferral, this would be this lighter blue line right
12 here. And that was developed at the time from the
13 National Marine Fisheries Service biological
14 opinion. So that was the information that we had at
15 that time to come up with that alternative. All
16 right. So that was the other deferral possibility.

17 Now, these are the alternatives that were
18 outlined in the environmental impact statement for
19 the Sale 193, which is out for comment right now for
20 the draft environmental impact statement. Now, the
21 comments for the draft environmental impact
22 statement are going to be due December 19th. And
23 that's when that comment period will end. So
24 remember that date, December 19th.

25 MR. BENNETT: Mike, let me just add something.

1 We realize that this is very confusing because we
2 have so many different documents and things going
3 on. The five-year document, the national program,
4 the draft EIS on the national program comment period
5 closes at Thanksgiving basically. The comment
6 period that Mike is talking about is the comment
7 specifically on Lease Sale 193. And the date again
8 was?

9 MR. SALYER: December 19th. So you have two
10 environmental impact statements, essentially, is
11 what Jim's saying. There's the one for the
12 five-year and one for Lease Sale 193 specifically.
13 That's the comment period that's December 19th. The
14 one for the five-year is, it was the 24th.

15 MR. BENNETT: Thanksgiving, before Thanksgiving.
16 23rd, I think.

17 MR. SALYER: So real briefly, with Lease Sale
18 193 we filed -- we're going to be hoping to file a
19 final environmental impact statement sometime in the
20 spring of '07. Depending on what takes place
21 between now and then. At that point in time we'll
22 start with the governor's Section 19 consultation
23 and the coastal zone consistency determination.

24 The notice of sale is intended to hold the sale
25 in October of 2007, if everything goes well.

1 So that's sort of summarizes Lease Sale 193, the
2 specific environmental impact statement for that
3 lease sale particularly. And that's a little
4 different than the five-year environmental impact
5 statement. I know it's confusing.

6 But at this time if you have any questions
7 concerning Lease Sale 193, please feel free to ask.

8 MR. TRACEY: Bill Tracy, for the record.

9 What specifically sparked the interest to have
10 this 193 Lease Sale, the special sale? You said for
11 the longest time from 2002, there was no interest
12 and all of a sudden --

13 MR. SALYER: The companies were interested. The
14 background information that went into that, I am not
15 sure what it was. They just became interested in
16 that. Now, where they drew their information from,
17 I would assume from some different information they
18 have, whether it's from geology, I don't know.

19 MR. TRACEY: You wouldn't know if it was because
20 all of a sudden barrels of oil were worth \$70?

21 MR. SALYER: Could be.

22 MS. TRACEY: Or Iraq.

23 MR. SALYER: It could be numerous, numerous. I
24 mean, there were two special interest sales that
25 came out. One was the Cook Inlet, one was the

1 Chukchi Sea.

2 Yes, sir, Mr. Itta.

3 MR. ITTA: I don't know whether it's a question
4 or a comment. When they struck oil over there in
5 Prudhoe Bay, I think one of the biggest mistakes
6 that were ever made on lease sales by the United
7 States Government was allowing different countries
8 to buy leases for its interior. You know, like all
9 the monies that are derived from the people over
10 here, all over the Slope on their land, how the
11 lease that was made to the British Petroleum, like
12 they make \$6 billion a year from our land. And the
13 Minerals Management Service, you have a sub service
14 there, right?

15 MR. BENNETT: I'm --

16 MR. ITTA: I mean BLM, I'm sorry.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Actually, it's the State has
18 Prudhoe Bay.

19 MR. ITTA: I think handling the lease sales,
20 whoever handles them back then when they discovered
21 oil, that was one of the biggest mistakes this
22 country ever made, to sell leases to out -- other
23 companies that are not within, you know, the United
24 States. And I'm glad Shell, you know, is an
25 American company and -- I don't know who all is

1 going to be bidding out there, but it would be good
2 to, you know, think of what happened over there in
3 Prudhoe Bay, all the money that is being derived
4 from -- they say Prudhoe Bay is good for another 50
5 years, and that's too bad. A lot of it goes out,
6 out from the state, out from the people who are
7 affected by, you know, the oil. And I just wanted
8 to point that out. I believe some people know that
9 it was a big mistake for BP to you know, be a part
10 of all the monies that go to the Cook Inlet. I just
11 wanted to point that out. And I hope that doesn't
12 happen, like in the name of profit. You said if
13 you're not going to be liable and have the
14 contractors come in, they make the money. It will
15 be in the name of profit that our way of life might
16 be lost.

17 MR. SALYER: Thank you. Anyone else have any
18 questions on Lease Sale 193?

19 MR. COWLES: We've been going for about an hour
20 now. And I would think we might want to take a
21 break sometime, but if there are any elders or
22 parents with children who would like to ask a
23 question or make a statement before then, we
24 would -- that would be -- this would be a good time.
25 And if you needed to, as parents, get back to your

1 families tonight, we want you to have an early
2 chance to speak.

3 What I think would be another thing we could do
4 is take a break and then come back. And if you
5 would like to make specific testimony on any of
6 these things, you could then have it recorded and
7 just, either read your testimony or speak so that we
8 could take it down and pass it along to people who
9 will address it and consider it in our various items
10 that we're talking about tonight.

11 So how about ten minutes between now and, say
12 8:25 or so.

13 (Thereupon, a brief recess was taken, after
14 which the following proceedings were had:)

15 MR. COWLES: Okay. So each of these is a
16 separate process. Why we have three different
17 things. One relates mainly to schedules and places,
18 that's part of the program. When that was designed,
19 there was a draft EIS that looked at some different
20 alternatives as to whether a surface area will be
21 included or taken out. That's more of kind of an
22 environmental technical document. If you're
23 interested in schedules to comment on the proposed
24 program and you're interested in evaluation of
25 options and the basis for that, you could comment on

1 the EIS. And then the Chukchi Sea Lease Sale is a
2 separate thing that was started. And that draft
3 comments EIS statement is very detailed, relates
4 very specifically to the Chukchi Sea, it's not as
5 broad as the other two. So if you want to comment
6 on that, because that's really close to home, that's
7 another basis.

8 You could comment on all three, you can comment
9 on any one of them. And as we proceed, if you'd
10 like to testify and have it recorded, we would
11 appreciate you saying which one of the three you're
12 talking about. But if you want to talk about all of
13 them at once, that's fine. We will consider that
14 comment in relation to all three of them.

15 So if we can help separate things fine, if not,
16 we will pass that information to each of these three
17 processes of addressing and considering your
18 comments. So I know it's a lot all at one time and
19 it's -- but we're here to help, you know, kind of
20 understand it.

21 MS. ANISKETT: It's so confusing.

22 MR. COWLES: Anyway, three different things,
23 program, five-year program, an EIS related to it,
24 draft EIS related to it and then this lease sale,
25 which is what Mike Salyer just talked about.

1 So -- and the other thing, of course, if you
2 would like to speak further, we would appreciate it
3 if you identify yourself so our transcript can be
4 complete. And other thing, if you're interested in
5 getting on our mailing list for things like our
6 study reports or mail-outs for different documents,
7 if you want to sign your name here before you leave,
8 certainly be glad to do that.

9 So I thought we'd go for a while. We don't have
10 to stay any later than you folks would want to stay
11 to make your comment and give you a chance for that.

12 Yes, sir?

13 MR. KILLBEAR: Gordon Killbear. I guess what
14 we're, mainly what we're concerned about is our
15 wildlife and our sea life, our way of life here.
16 Who is going to be responsible for any disaster?
17 Who is going to take care of our -- make sure that
18 we're able to go out subsistence hunting? Is there
19 going to be assurances that we'll be able to go
20 someplace else to get our food and who is going to
21 pay for that cost? Are you? Or how many different
22 departments were you talking about? And if I know
23 the government, they'll shove it from one department
24 to another and nothing gets done.

25 MR. COWLES: There are some things you can say

1 that we'll have as part of the, what we call
2 mitigating measures or stipulations that address
3 that and urge the companies to work closely with the
4 villages.

5 And, Mike, maybe, would you be able to mention
6 some of the mitigating measures that are in the
7 draft EIS that deal with subsistence, such as the
8 Conflict Avoidance Agreements?

9 MR. SALYER: Sure. There's a Conflict Avoidance
10 Agreement to make sure that they're in the different
11 meetings, that they're conferring with the
12 individuals and the elders in the different
13 villages. There's certain stipulations that are --
14 I'm sorry. There's certain stipulations involved
15 that deal with pre-booming, making sure we have the
16 equipment in stages in certain areas, or I should
17 say the oil companies, there's certain companies of
18 the lease sale that they have to meet those
19 requirements that we were talking about earlier.

20 There are various stipulations dealing with the
21 subsistence hunting to make sure that's able to
22 continue. So through that process is how that gets
23 heard and how that gets presented to the
24 decision-makers and how it goes forward.

25 So I hope that helps a little. There's seven

1 different stipulations. I don't have them all
2 memorized in my head right now, but they pertain to
3 the biological resources and different ways things
4 are getting done. And they use that as a mechanism
5 to try to, as best we can, ensure some of that gets
6 dealt with.

7 MR. KILLBEAR: Well, there is one disaster that
8 happened here some years ago with the Kotzebue
9 beluga. They don't hunt beluga anymore because
10 their beluga perished over -- over in Siberia. They
11 got frozen in and all the beluga pods that used to
12 go to Kotzebue Sound, they're all gone. And we got
13 a different pod that comes here, but during the
14 spring whaling season, there are belugas that go
15 over into Canadian area, which the Point Hoppers get
16 and that the Canadian Eskimos get their beluga from.

17 And we're lucky to have our beluga to be of
18 healthy numbers right now. And if any oil spill or
19 anything like that happens, maybe they wouldn't
20 be -- maybe we wouldn't be able to eat them. If
21 they get -- they get infected with oils and
22 minerals, or whatever, that comes out of the ground,
23 mercury and lead and stuff like that. Thank you.

24 MS. TRACEY: Marie Tracy for the record. I
25 think what we feel is that it's like a terrorist

1 waiting to happen against our way of life, you know.
2 Anyway, but it's like no matter how many meetings we
3 have and any kind of testimony that we give,
4 these -- the sale leases and the drilling and
5 everything will happen anyway. But then at the same
6 time, you know, as our village, we would like to try
7 and get along with whoever is going to be out there.
8 And we would like to know everything that's going
9 on, you know.

10 MS. HENRY: Lupita Henry, for the record.

11 On the studies that you guys do for
12 environmental, I think with your scientists, I think
13 you need to be publishing that and putting that out
14 in written form. Because the community, I think,
15 needs to know what we have out there, where they go.
16 Like you said you fronted the beluga committee, you
17 know, when Robert came out and they searched out our
18 belugas and where they go and where they migrate, I
19 think you need to publishing that in written form
20 instead of just putting it on e-mail, because a lot
21 of people in this community don't have computers at
22 home. We do have internet access through grants,
23 but it's limited.

24 MR. COWLES: Right. Over the years every
25 village has said that. We try, every time we do a

1 study, to, through our program, let people in the
2 villages know about these reports. And so by
3 getting on this mailing list, as these documents
4 come available, you'll find out about them. And
5 hopefully that will get the -- they are published.
6 And on our website, if you have access to it, as a
7 report comes in, we actually put it up on the
8 website so you can read it there.

9 The problem with that is you have to have paper
10 at home if you want to print it. So don't be the
11 least bit hesitant to ask us to send you the copy.
12 We get a number of copies in our office and we will
13 send them out first come, first serve as the supply
14 lasts.

15 So we sent out this announcement. And sometimes
16 all of our copies of a particular report are sent
17 out. Sometimes we have leftovers, so -- another
18 source of information, which you can go to, we have
19 a cooperative agreement with the University of
20 Alaska at Fairbanks. And I believe this Beluga
21 Project was through that program. And they have a
22 site, and they do some of the reports. And they may
23 have copies there, too. So that's what we call the
24 Coastal Marine Institute.

25 MS. HENRY: Do you usually go through the

1 University of Fairbanks for your studies?

2 MR. COWLES: It's a portion of our program. We
3 have -- and it's going to end in a while, but we
4 enter into an agreement for a five-year period where
5 they can suggest certain research that we might
6 fund, but the requirement is, is that for every
7 federal dollar that our program pays, the university
8 has to find a nonfederal matching dollar. So it's
9 one of these leveraging, we call leveraging where
10 you get a bigger bang for your bucks. So there's
11 some research the university can do that way and
12 there's other things that they can't do, because
13 either they don't have that particular expertise or
14 they can't find the matching dollar. And so then we
15 may explore competitive approaches to engaging
16 research.

17 So you can learn about that from our studies
18 plan, which I can send you a copy of, if you would
19 like, and let me know.

20 Yes?

21 MS. ANNISKETT: My name is Lily Anniskett, I've
22 lived here all my life. And we had so many oil
23 company meetings, I don't know who I testified on.
24 But I've lived here all my life, this whole area
25 between Barrow, all the way down to Kotzebue, Point

1 Hope, this is all our hunting area. Even if this is
2 not our area, we would backup Kaktovik, so we feel
3 like we're always battling the oil companies. And I
4 wish that you guys would listen to us seriously.

5 MR. COWLES: Thank you. And we are here to
6 listen seriously.

7 And I think that I would add that when
8 Mr. Salyer mentioned some of these conflict
9 avoidance stipulations we have, these are excellent
10 ways to work with the companies. And I am sure that
11 there's a point where your suggestions will be very
12 important to the companies in working directly with
13 them.

14 And so I know that coming to these meetings for
15 many years at times seems like it's, you know, not
16 doing much, but it is. And --

17 MS. ANNISKETT: We'll always come to these
18 meetings. There's a lot of people concerned about
19 this. We will always come to your meetings.

20 MR. COWLES: Thank you. And we're very, very
21 appreciative to have people who have lived in this
22 area for these years to come and give us this input.

23 Mr. Itta?

24 MR. ITTA: Yeah, Bill Itta.

25 When she had asked how we felt about this, you

1 know, this course of action that the Mineral
2 Management Service is doing, I would suggest, this
3 is a suggestion that should be followed, you know,
4 looked at on her behalf, on behalf of the people
5 suggest that you get a panel for the -- instead of
6 the subsistence on the land, get a panel from each
7 village that has to do with the ocean of how -- get
8 a panel and meet with them instead of trying to
9 locate people through mail, get a point of contact,
10 the panel member, and see what kind of a decision
11 each village makes and how they feel and how,
12 what -- what they think needs to be done instead of
13 village by village and getting individual addresses.
14 And get a, you know, panel member from each village
15 for this huge project that you're going to be doing.
16 It's huge.

17 It could be very drastic to the little kids when
18 they grow up. And on her behalf, her question of
19 how we felt about the -- what I felt that, there was
20 one question that was also unanswered to the Mineral
21 Management Service, they had some kind of an
22 engineer. We had asked them, the mayor was over
23 there, the people from Barrow, the Wildlife
24 Department, the -- the City, we had -- we bluntly
25 asked them seriously, is there approved technology

1 to recover oil? And they said they couldn't answer
2 it. They said no, that's what -- another question
3 came up, who would be liable, that was another
4 question that was -- still wasn't answered.

5 And I don't think it will be answered. And I
6 hope, you know, people like, you know, the
7 Wilderness Society maybe, if nothing is done, on
8 behalf of the people who are affected, maybe that
9 would be a different way to go, other than a meeting
10 with Mineral Management Service, how we can stop
11 something that can happen really drastic, like --
12 like he said, you know, it's impossible to recover
13 oil. Thank you.

14 MS. ANNISKETT: Lilly Anniskett, I went down to
15 the Exxon meeting at Texas and Anaktuvuk person from
16 all the villages, that person asked an Exxon person:
17 What happens if you spill oil? Oh, we'll never do
18 that. That would never happen in a million years.

19 Boy, I bet you all of us in, from all of the
20 villages were laughing, because they said that it
21 wouldn't happen in a million years. See, it
22 backfired. He came up with a question that that was
23 a big concern and he thought it was a big joke of a
24 question. And now it's a big joke from us to them.

25 MR. COWLES: Well, we don't think it's a joke.

1 Ms. ANNISKETT: Well, it is to me, because they
2 weren't listening. They couldn't even see it.

3 MR. COWLES: Okay.

4 MR. TRACEY: Bill Tracey.

5 I've lived here most of my life. Maybe I should
6 say the best part of my life. Been on planning
7 commissions, worked for the Borough, a father, a
8 grandfather, you name it. I have a vested interest
9 here, as well as everybody else here. I want to
10 talk about effects, not just offshore effects, but
11 cumulative effects. Now I really now know how the
12 people of Nuiqsut feel, because they're surrounded
13 by industry, pipelines, anywhere they go, they run
14 into signs of progress, if that's what you want to
15 call it.

16 We have coal in one direction, zinc and iron
17 ores in another direction, methane gases over here.
18 We're extracting gravels from rivers. We're
19 surrounded by in South NPR-A. And then all our
20 brothers and sisters up north with NPR-A, the oils
21 coming out of the ground there, the caribou
22 migrations being changed, whale migrations being
23 changed just from seismic survey, it's proven that
24 migration patterns have changed.

25 Okay. A lot of people are mentioning oil spills

1 here as the one disaster to be concerned about. But
2 I think there's a lot of minor ones that, as I said,
3 as a cumulative effect, if you put it all together,
4 we might have to move. So we're not going to move.
5 We live here. This is where we're going to stay.
6 We're going to deal with all this going on. I don't
7 know what mitigation is involved. There's several
8 programs that are being worked into the EIS and the
9 whole program. But we're going to have, say,
10 populations explosions here, we're going to have all
11 kinds of vessels using our coast. These are things
12 that the Borough can't really help us with. And we
13 can't help ourselves with.

14 So, you know, how do we write in some sort of
15 mitigation that would help us with population
16 explosions, sicknesses, just general things that are
17 going to affect our everyday life?

18 MR. COWLES: You know, I can't answer that
19 question in its entirety. But I think by taking
20 part in these kind of meetings and the kind of
21 things that we've talked about, like this conflict
22 avoidance thing, it will make for better
23 communications for people to work together as we go
24 on through and get, move into the these different
25 kinds of things.

1 And without your involvement, we won't really
2 have the final picture as to what we need to do.
3 And I can think of one thing that we've proposed
4 from our end, at the Minerals Management Service,
5 that we think is a worthwhile idea, but we don't
6 even know whether it will make difference. And
7 that's a study that we've proposed for this fiscal
8 year, between now and June, that we will --
9 actually, now and September that we're going to try
10 to take some steps forward with. It's what we're
11 calling a -- trying to think of the name some of
12 them, the titles are long, but it deals with
13 creating a human activities database. We already
14 did it to a certain extent related to previous oil
15 and gas activity in the Arctic.

16 We had that project. And it ran for a few
17 years. And we got some information, but it was
18 incomplete. But we've heard your concerns about the
19 fact that there's these -- this other type of
20 transportation going on in the ocean, other vessels
21 and transportation, cruise ships, and so forth.
22 More than just oil and gas.

23 And we, as part of our EISs, have to address
24 this concept of cumulative effects. And one way to
25 do that is to start documenting what we know. MMS

1 can help get information on oil and gas, because
2 that's what we're involved with. But there's other
3 information out there that we don't collect, it's
4 beyond our mission, but other people have it.

5 So what we want to do with our database is to
6 create a place where if other parties want to put in
7 information into it, it will be there. And we'll
8 let folks know that it's there and encourage them to
9 add to it. And that would be about the best we can
10 do, because we don't -- we can't require some of
11 this information, but we can go to other agencies or
12 the State or local communities and say, listen, this
13 database is out there. It's sitting there. We've
14 spent some money to put it there. And we've worked
15 on it for a few years and we have some feel for how
16 it can be structured and efficiently managed. And
17 if you want to contribute to it, here's what we
18 would need to you do.

19 So that's one of our ideas. And we're going to
20 try to pursue that a little bit this year to help
21 our analysts get a better handle on the cumulative
22 information that may be going on, say, in the Arctic
23 in the Chukchi and Beaufort sea.

24 All I can say is by trying that we create a
25 seed. And it will either grow or it will, you know,

1 it may not serve the public needs. But we've got to
2 try. So that's one of our projects. And as time
3 goes on, there may be other projects like that that
4 folks like you will suggest to us. And we can, if
5 they fit in with our program and our mission, we can
6 see if we can get more out of it than just our
7 mission. But we will need other people to add some
8 energy to it. So it's an idea.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Socioeconomic reporting,
10 database collection.

11 MR. COWLES: Right. That's basically what this
12 is. There's other things that we've done in the
13 Beaufort, which I see later on will be a possibility
14 but it's going to be past my time. But in the
15 Beaufort, you know, the development's gone on. We
16 got North Star out there and there's a prospect
17 delivery. One of the ideas that we thought was part
18 of a -- to monitor after development. We have a
19 mandate in our program to do monitoring if, in the
20 event of development. We say it's a mandate, it's
21 our mission to do that, so that we can see if
22 there's changes in the marine environment in the
23 area around oil and gas leasing.

24 So up in the Beaufort, whaling goes on at Cross
25 Island. That's right there next to all this stuff

1 going on. So we thought as one of our projects it
2 would be very helpful if we could get the Nuiqsut
3 whalers to help us keep track of information of what
4 they do over time.

5 And so we've had a person who has gone out
6 there. And they've been very gracious and they
7 allowed a scientist that's been funded by us to be
8 with them on that island during the whaling season.
9 And that person kind of keeps track of how many
10 crews there are, and where they go and where they
11 hunt, how many trips they take, and so forth.

12 And we would, ideally, like to see if the
13 whalers, if they want to whale, but they don't want
14 to deal with a bunch of numbers, but if they wanted
15 to do that, we think that information would be fine,
16 if they would just do that and do that over the
17 years.

18 And that's the kind of information over time
19 then a regional director such as the regional
20 director from Minerals Management Service, he can
21 look at it and say: I've got this monitoring
22 information, I've getting it for ten years, and
23 here's a change. And I talked to people in the
24 community and they think this is the reason for that
25 change. Then when you have that kind of solid

1 information, you've got a basis for further
2 decision-making.

3 So those are some of our ideas, our long-term
4 ideas, they're things we are doing in the Beaufort.
5 It will be many years before you might need
6 something like that in this part of the ocean, but
7 those are future possibilities. And they don't
8 answer everything, but they are a start.

9 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Thomas Nukapigak, for the
10 record.

11 With this 34 million acres you're talking about,
12 I want to know where and the exact location -- I'm
13 reading from the back, says 15 to 200 miles
14 offshore. And you talk about the 25-mile buffer
15 zone and with reading, 15 miles. Where about is
16 this --

17 MR. COWLES: You may be talking about the --
18 let's see.

19 MR. NUKAPIGAK: The Chukchi Sea planning area
20 and the 15 to 200 mile offshore, the 25-mile buffer
21 zone.

22 MR. COWLES: That's our press release on the
23 Chukchi Draft EIS. Mike can answer that.

24 MR. SALYER: Here's what he's talking about.
25 This is the original project area ID, the green

1 line. And there's a couple places where it dips in.
2 That's the original project ID right there, okay,
3 for the Chukchi Sea and Lease Sale 193.

4 We also have alternatives we're looking at which
5 has the deferrals, which are these other lines here.
6 Now, it's not our decision, in this room, what it's
7 going to be, but we present the information you give
8 us and the Environmental Impact Statement and
9 incorporate it into the analysis, and that goes on
10 to the decision-makers to make the decision.

11 But in that particular press release, when it's
12 talking about the 15 miles on out, you can see where
13 this green line comes close to this right here.
14 That would be that 15, you know from 15 on out.
15 That's what that's in reference to. Does that help?

16 MS. HENRY: So the outer line of that is 25?

17 MR. SALYER: This right here is roughly 60 miles
18 from this line. This is, you know, I guess you
19 could say roughly 30 -- 25. We have had different
20 resources we were trying to capture, is the reason
21 we have the referrals. You know, and that all went
22 into shaping how they took shape. That's from the
23 scoping meetings we had on the Chukchi Sea last
24 year, taking that information. So those are out
25 there. This is the whole project ID area in the

1 green. That's the proposed action. And then
2 there's the alternatives, which are these deferrals.

3 MR. COWLES: I think another part of the answer
4 might be, Mike, maybe you could clarify, but this
5 Chukchi Sea 193 started under the 2000 -- previous.

6 MR. SALYER: 2002 to 2007 five-years, which a
7 five-year program, like he's talking about the new
8 five-year program.

9 MR. COWLES: The 25-mile buffer, what you see on
10 the blue map is related to the new program.

11 MR. BENNETT: The point is that there are
12 several different deferral alternatives out there
13 based on different criteria. And when you look at
14 them and when you evaluate them, you should
15 provide -- we encourage you to provide your feedback
16 as to which one should be adopted and why. So we
17 can provide that information up the line to the
18 decision-makers.

19 MS. HENRY: My name is Lupita Henry, for the
20 record.

21 Now, these deferral lines, did you take into
22 account the beluga migration pattern when you did
23 these deferral lines? Was that part of it?

24 MR. SALYER: Yeah, that was part of it from the
25 scoping. Whatever you all indicated in the scoping,

1 and I wasn't there, but I have the notes, that was
2 part of it.

3 MS. HENRY: Okay. Because my understanding was
4 that when they had the -- when they did the testing
5 where they migrate to, I heard that they went all
6 the way up towards Barrow, way more towards the
7 North Pole way up. And when they were coming back
8 down, they went out and around and went down. So
9 they were actually further out when they were
10 migrating down, back down.

11 Now, did you guys take that part in, when they
12 were migrating down, that's further.

13 MR. BENNETT: Isn't that in the 60-mile deferral
14 that you --

15 MR. SALYER: Well, what she's talking about -- I
16 mean, it fluctuates. And it changes from year to
17 year. There you're getting into some of the
18 information as well as the ecology and biology of
19 the whale. So --

20 MS. ANNISKETT: The beluga.

21 MR. SALYER: The beluga specifically.

22 And the walrus, that's the reason this took
23 shape, that it did, because of the four different
24 areas identified for the walrus. There was four
25 circles, you know, radius areas we were setting

1 aside. But what you're talking about is in terms of
2 where the belugas may be migrating from.

3 I think that's, you know, trying to take that
4 information, eventually you would just be covering
5 the whole area, if there's a lot that goes -- they
6 go a long way in their migration.

7 MR. BENNETT: So that 60-mile deferral basically
8 incorporates a lot of different environmentally
9 sensitive resources, including the beluga and the
10 walrus.

11 MR. SALYER: It was considered, definitely, for
12 the subsistence hunting. If they're up here, higher
13 near the Pole, they migrate up here --

14 MS. HENRY: I mean when they go up there, they
15 stay up for so many weeks, and when they are coming
16 back down, they go further out in our ocean when
17 they migrate down.

18 MR. SALYER: Right. That was all considered in
19 the impact statement.

20 MS. HENRY: Okay.

21 MR. KILLBEAR: The beluga, when they come up
22 here, they go all over. After they come up and go
23 past Barrow and then they start spreading up all
24 over. I have the e-mail on my computer on the
25 beluga that was tagged, the five beluga that was

1 tagged, there was some that had gone, that had gone
2 way up here. And then there was some here. Then
3 they followed that -- where it gets deeper here, the
4 canyon and over by Wrangell Island and around here.
5 But they do come back mostly right between Barrow
6 and Point Lay.

7 MR. SALYER: Yes, sir.

8 Well, the canyon was -- the reason the canyon
9 came up was specifically because of the beluga
10 whale. And that was also one of the referrals that
11 was identified in the scoping meeting back in
12 September of last year. So that's another reason it
13 went a little higher up up here, to make sure we
14 encompassed the canyon area. That was part of the
15 project ID area for that reason.

16 MS. HENRY: Lupita Henry. I got another
17 question.

18 Now, when Shell does their -- when they come up
19 and, you know, do their exploration and do the
20 seismic activity, how do we now that they are within
21 their regulations as to where they are supposed to
22 be? Do you guys have tags for the boats or a paging
23 system for that, or do you just go by their word?

24 MR. SALYER: I'll have to defer that to our
25 gentleman handling the seismic.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, there was -- this summer
2 when they were doing the seismic testing, I think
3 daily they were sending reports in of their
4 location, the ship log, as to where they were
5 located. And I wasn't the one who it was sent to,
6 so I don't have you know day-to-day information.
7 But I think it was at least a couple times they were
8 shut down, because they were getting too close to an
9 area where they had to -- it was out of the
10 permitted area. So they had to shut down, wait
11 until they got back into the right area where they
12 could start shooting again.

13 So, yeah, we do keep very detailed monitoring of
14 where the ships are when they are doing the surveys
15 for the seismic.

16 MS. HENRY: So if they gave you false
17 information, then you wouldn't know, basically.

18 MR. JOHNSON: My understanding is, and maybe
19 someone else can correct me --

20 MS. HENRY: I'm not trying to say anybody would
21 lie, but I'm just saying, because, you know, we have
22 all these resources out here. I want to get a good
23 idea of, you know, how you guys are making sure that
24 these regulations are being fulfilled.

25 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. My understanding is that

1 the seismic ships had whale observers on board. And
2 I believe they were mostly local Inupiat observers
3 on board. And we -- were you out there?

4 MR. STALKER: I was part of the operation as a
5 -- my name is Jack Stalker. And each one of those
6 vessels has a marine animal observer that goes with
7 the ship wherever they go. And when they -- they
8 have a rotating schedule, so there's always somebody
9 there all the time. And because they don't feel the
10 oil companies can just give us approximate
11 locations, so that we can tell them, hey, yeah,
12 there's a vessel over here, support vessel. And I
13 had the (inaudible) in the search and rescue
14 building. And we just got done with the operation.
15 As a matter of fact, yesterday was my last day. And
16 we have some communications now and just, you know,
17 we got a lot of good things (inaudible).

18 MR. JOHNSON: I think the bottom line is that we
19 are keeping very close tabs on where these folks
20 are. And they do have a GPS tracking, so they --
21 that log is recorded and sent back to our offices,
22 if not daily -- if not constantly, then at least
23 daily. I am not sure exactly the interval that that
24 comes back to, but we are keeping close tabs.

25 MR. AHMAOGAK: Maybe I can end some of the

1 questioning that is taking place regarding Shell.
2 Shell was out there doing exploratory seismic work.
3 And seismic work was required under a federal permit
4 through the National Marine Fisheries. And there is
5 regulations that we had to adhere to and the
6 locations that we have to be reporting. We have GPS
7 locations, exact locations that were required and
8 mandated to log. We got Inupiat observers that are
9 on board these ships, Inupiat communicators here in
10 Point Lay. And all of our plans of exploration and
11 seismic shocks are all controlled on a really,
12 highly regulatory regime. And we report every
13 couple moments of our activities, logbooks.

14 We went as far as our federal permit from the
15 National Marine Fishery Service offers to protect
16 fisheries, when we see walruses, when we see seals,
17 when we see ugruk, when we beluga, when we see
18 bowhead whales, as well, these are all logged during
19 the time. And any of the seismic activity that
20 takes place, when the Inupiat observer sees a ugruk
21 or a seal near the vicinity, that observer has the
22 authority to stop all operations and not shoot
23 within the vicinity of the marine mammal. That's
24 why we have marine mammal observers on these boats.
25 And all of the operators were required, under a

1 federal permit, to have these Inupiat observers on
2 the ships and including communication centers in
3 Point Hope, Point lay, Wainwright, Barrow, Deadhorse
4 and also in Kaktovik.

5 And these were all set -- we had one here, I
6 believe, at the search and rescue building here.
7 And then we had one in Point Hope, which was the
8 fire station. And then we had one in Barrow, which
9 was at the volunteer search and rescue building.
10 And one in Deadhorse. The one in Kaktovik was at
11 the Native Village of Kaktovik Building. So this
12 was some of our plans that we submitted to the MMS
13 and National Marine Fisheries. And we received our
14 permits and followed regulations. And now we're
15 getting ready to file our report for our federal
16 permits that we received to do and conduct the
17 seismic. We're required to monitor the marine
18 mammals that we observe from the effects of the
19 seismic operations that we did.

20 So that is, again, another regulatory regime
21 that we have to report to. And we're getting ready
22 to do our end of the season report for the seismic
23 operation.

24 Now, these seismic operations that were done
25 this summer were out in this area. Keep in mind,

1 this area is not sold, but the operators can come in
2 here and decide to shoot seismic to see what tracts
3 that they would be interested in. And that's mainly
4 the permission under the regulatory regime and the
5 permits that we file for. And that's where Shell's
6 operation stopped for '07, but they have no planned
7 activities to do any, conduct any activities. We
8 wanted to be able to get the information to see if
9 there's possible oil that is out there. And in case
10 if they open up this area for oil and gas lease
11 sales, then we want to be in a position to bid.
12 That's mainly it, that's as far as that goes.

13 MS. ANNISKETT: Is that in five years, or what?

14 MR. AHMAOGAK: Whenever the federal government,
15 like what they're proposing to you is they do -- if
16 they do open it up for oil and gas.

17 MR. KILLBEAR: Eight to 12 years, like he said.

18 MR. AHMAOGAK: Eight to 12 years, whatever the
19 time frame is after all the public hearing process
20 and this is done.

21 MR. COWLES: Thank you, Mayor.

22 MS. ANNISKETT: Mayor?

23 He ain't no mayor.

24 MR. AHMAOGAK: I'm retired now.

25 MR. KILLBEAR: I guess that answers our

1 questions.

2 MR. COWLES: And I appreciate the
3 clarifications.

4 MS. HENRY: Thank you, George.

5 MR. COWLES: Well, thank you very much. And we
6 appreciate your comments. And we look forward to
7 any others you might make for these three things,
8 the proposed program, the EIS for it and this
9 Chukchi Sea EIS. And the dates are in that handout.

10 If you have any other questions, let me know
11 afterwards.

12 MR. KILLBEAR: Are we going to hear anything
13 from National Marine Fisheries?

14 MS. TRACEY: Marie Tracey for the record. Like
15 Shell, George, and with what they were doing, we
16 like this interaction that they have with our
17 villages, that they come in and they hire people
18 from our villages to, you know, to work with them.
19 And this is kind of interaction that we would like
20 with these -- the future people that work for
21 these -- these other oil companies that come in.
22 You know, we would like to interact with them and
23 get information from them that, you know, we would
24 like to know what's going on.

25 MR. COWLES: Okay. Thank you.

1 Thomas?

2 MR. NUKAPIGAK: When is your next trip back to
3 Point Lay?

4 MR. COWLES: This will be our last trip on the
5 proposed program. So if that proposed program is
6 implemented the way its draft is, there is a
7 proposal, and it may not happen, it's still up for,
8 you know, finalization for another Chukchi Sea lease
9 sale in 2010. So sometime prior to that, say a year
10 or two, couple years before, we would have scoping
11 again. So what you want to watch is what happens
12 with Sale 193 and what leases might be issued there
13 and what additional process would take place after
14 that. And there would probably be other
15 opportunities or meetings relative to exploration
16 plans. But again, that's all very uncertain.

17 Yes, sir?

18 MR. STALKER: For the record, my name is Jack
19 Stalker again. We have hand-held radios that were
20 issued this summer. And they help the
21 communications (inaudible). Now I'm looking forward
22 this time. I hope they issue us GPS and (inaudible)
23 they were off (inaudible) this summer. And I sure
24 appreciate it, because, you know, you need that for
25 saving lives and need the communications.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. TRACEY: Bill Tracey, I just wanted to
3 include, traditional knowledge goes a long way. And
4 in this room alone, you're going to get an awful lot
5 of history on belugas, walrus, geese, ducks, fish,
6 you name it. But at the same time, I'm not sure if
7 you have tapped into a wealth of information that
8 the North Slope Borough has obtained from Point Lay.
9 We've allowed biologists to go on our beluga hunts
10 every year now for the last 20 years.

11 MR. COWLES: I know.

12 MR. TRACEY: All that is documented scientific
13 information, as far as beluga patterns, seals,
14 walrus. So I am hoping that if that didn't come out
15 during the scoping meetings, it's coming out now and
16 that's included in your EIS and all that.

17 MR. COWLES: We had a project some years ago
18 that we started to try to collect the traditional
19 knowledge in one place and we're awaiting the
20 completion of that project. So -- and a lot of
21 information we understood would be available through
22 the North Slope Borough and sources there. So thank
23 you. Yes, we're trying to keep tabs on it.

24 And we appreciate the information that's come
25 in. I have to say in my regular role as involved

1 with the environmental studies that we're very aware
2 of the assistance that the village has given.
3 Different studies over the years, not only that
4 beluga study, but I remember, oh, ten years ago, we
5 had a project Ksegaluk Lagoon. And we had
6 scientists that came and asked for your assistance.
7 And thank you very much for all that help over the
8 years.

9 MR. NUKAPIGAK: One more thing. I see you got a
10 meeting in Point Hope tomorrow. Can one of -- do
11 you have an extra seat on that flight?

12 MR. COWLES: I don't know. I'm not sure what
13 the flight will be.

14 MR. NUKAPIGAK: I want the output of that
15 meeting.

16 MR. COWLES: How would somebody obtain that? Do
17 you know, Jim, if there's a transcript from Point
18 Hope?

19 MR. BENNETT: If you send in a request, we can
20 provide. It's a matter of public record, the
21 transcript, so we can provide that to you. But we'd
22 have a to have specific request as to exactly what
23 it is you're asking.

24 MR. COWLES: Mr. Bennett's e-mail is on one of
25 these transparencies, these panels, it's on page 8.

1 MR. BENNETT: I have a couple of cards, if
2 anyone wants.

3 MR. TRACEY: What time of day are you leaving
4 tomorrow?

5 MR. COWLES: 11:00.

6 MR. TRACEY: If somebody has another question or
7 comment for you before 11:00, where can we find you?

8 MR. COWLES: We are over in the camp. If you
9 want to drop it off with me, I'm in room 10.

10 MR. BENNETT: You still have -- you can mail
11 things. You can send something via the web. You
12 can get on the web. There's a mechanism to send a
13 comment in directly.

14 MS. ANNISKETT: I'd like to thank everyone that
15 made an effort to come. I know there's a lot of
16 council members missing, but I sure appreciate
17 everyone showing up. Thank you very much.

18 (Whereupon, the hearing was concluded.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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I, Britney E. Chonka, Court Reporter, hereby
certify:

That I am a Court Reporter for Alaska Stenotype
Reporters and Notary Public in and for the State of
Alaska at large. I certify Hereby that the forgoing
transcript is a true and correct transcript of said
proceedings taken before me at the time and place stated
in the caption therein.

I further certify that I am not of counsel to
either of the parties hereto or otherwise interested in
said cause.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and
affix my official seal this 12th day of December, 2006.

BRITNEY E. CHONKA, REPORTER
Notary Public - State of Alaska