

STATE OF ALASKA

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April 16, 1999

Maureen Bornholdt
Environmental Assessment Branch
Minerals Management Service
Mail Stop 4024
381 Eldon Street
Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817

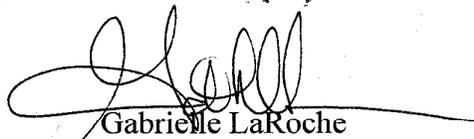
Dear Ms. Bornholdt:

We recently heard about the February 17, 1999 Federal Register notice about proposed rulemaking by the Minerals Management Service (MMS). This rulemaking involves changes to federal regulations addressing coastal zone consistency review of exploration plans and development and production plans.

The State of Alaska recognizes the importance of the consistency review process for activities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). As you know, Alaska is one of the few places in the nation where OCS leasing currently occurs. Recent development proposals would result in the first oil and gas development in the Alaska OCS.

We respectfully request a three-week extension of the comment period for the proposed rulemaking. This extension will provide us with time review the proposed changes and develop meaningful comments. Should you have any questions, I may be reached by calling (907) 465-3562.

Sincerely,


Gabrielle LaRoche
Acting Director