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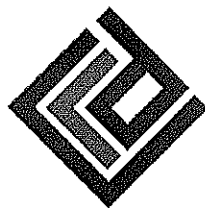
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# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

## BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, September 15, 2016

1. Call to order – Eric Fjelstad, President
2. Self Introductions
3. Head Table Introductions
4. Staff Report – Marleanna Hall, Executive Director
5. Program and Keynote Speaker:

### Essential Steps in Obtaining a Healthy Oil and Gas Industry

John Hendrix, Chief Oil and Gas Advisor to the Governor of Alaska

Next Meeting Thursday, October 6:  
Egan Convention Center

### Tribal Lands into Trust: The Next Steps

Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott

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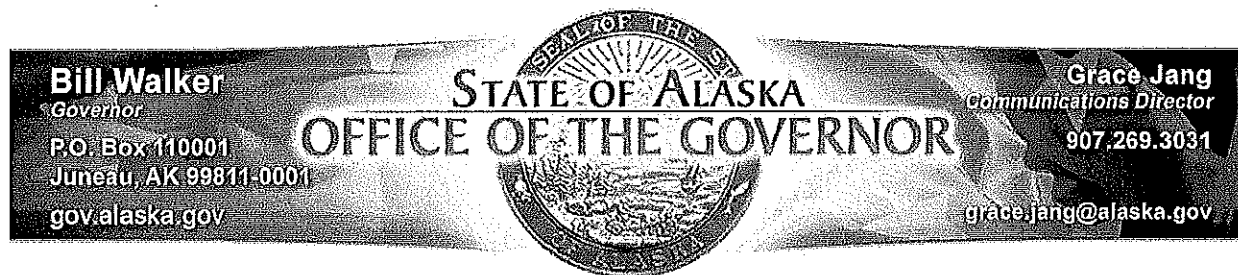
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**No. 16-082**

**Contact:** Katie Marquette, Press Secretary – (907) 269-7447  
Jonathon Taylor, Deputy Press Secretary – (907) 269-7458

### **Japan Expresses Continued Interest in Alaska LNG**

*As transition to state-led project commences, market shows opportunity, optimism*

September 13, 2016 (JUNEAU) – In advance of his trip to Asia to meet with parties interested in Alaska LNG, Governor Bill Walker today reflected positively on Japanese interest in potential exports of the resource.

On Friday, Governor Walker, Lt. Governor Byron Mallott, Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC) President Keith Meyer, and other key members of the administration met with officials from Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, & Industry (METI), and the Japan Oil, Gas, and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) to discuss the recent shift towards a state-led LNG project, and other resource opportunities in Alaska. METI's mission is to develop the Japanese economy and industry, while JOGMEC exists to secure a stable supply of oil & gas, mineral resources, and coal & geothermal energy.

"Alaska's relationship with Japan is a special one," Governor Walker said. "This meeting further underscored not only Japanese interest in Alaska natural gas, but also the general optimism that exists across the Pacific for our state to enter the international market. Japan is the largest LNG-buying nation in the world, and their interest in Alaska is very encouraging."

The Juneau meeting came as the Governor prepared for an international trip to Singapore and South Korea to follow-up on previous interest in Alaska LNG, and as the AK LNG project transitions to state leadership.

"In addition to the gasline and LNG project, we discussed JOGMEC and METI's technological advancements in CO<sub>2</sub> capture and sequestration, and the small-scale distribution of LNG into remote markets, both of which could be very useful in Alaska's overall development of the project," AGDC President Keith Meyer said.

Along with the Governor, Lt. Governor, and AGDC President, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner Andy Mack, Department of Revenue (DOR) Commissioner Randy Hoffbeck, and policy analyst Ed King participated in the discussion. METI representatives included Oil and Gas Division Director Yuki Sadamitsu, and Assistant Director Takayuki Kawamura; JOGMEC was represented by Business Strategy Department Director General Hajime Wakuda, and Koji Hoshi, Deputy Director of JOGMEC's Washington Office.

###

Publication: Alaska Dispatch News; Date: Sep 14, 2016; Section: Alaska; Page: B1

# Walker meets with Japanese energy officials before trip to Asia begins

Ministry, groups helped set up his itinerary, a sign, he says, of nation's gas line hopes.

**Alex DeMarban Alaska Dispatch News**

In advance of trips to Asian countries to market Alaska's natural gas, Gov. Bill Walker and other state officials met with Japanese energy officials Friday who offered to help line up meetings with potential gas buyers.

The three-hour meeting in Juneau came at the request of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry and the Japan Oil, Gas, and Metals National Corp., Walker said. The groups are involved in ensuring that Japan, the world's largest importer of liquefied natural gas, has stable energy supplies.

The meetings "underscored not only Japanese interest in Alaska natural gas, but also the general optimism that exists across the Pacific for our state to enter the international market," Walker said in a statement released on Tuesday.

In a phone interview Tuesday, Walker said the Japanese officials came to Alaska as part of their effort to keep abreast of energy prospects around the world.

He called the meeting a "nice precursor" to a trip he is planning to Japan in November because it will ease discussions with Japanese companies potentially interested in the state's natural gas. Walker has said he will speak Nov. 24 in Tokyo at the fifth annual LNG Producer-Consumer Conference.

"These are good contacts to have," he said. "They are major players in Japan."

In September, before the trip to Japan, an eight-person team including Walker, First Lady Donna Walker and other state officials plan to visit Singapore and South Korea for 10 days. Walker is expected to speak Sept. 21 at an LNG conference in Singapore and plans to meet with potential LNG buyers there and in South Korea at the invitation of the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Other state officials who attended the meeting in Juneau were Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott and Keith Meyer, president of the Alaska Gasline Development Corp., the state owned entity that plans to take over the \$55 billion Alaska LNG project from ExxonMobil by the end of this year.

Hit heavily by the prolonged oil price slump, ExxonMobil, BP and ConocoPhillips have expressed concerns about the competitiveness of the project and appear likely to play smaller roles once the state takes over. Walker hopes the state can lower project costs and may seek a federal tax break.

At the meeting, the Japanese groups and state officials discussed the coming changes in the LNG project and other resource opportunities in Alaska, Walker said.

For decades, the state and various companies have proposed creating a gas line to market the huge amounts of natural gas on the North Slope to utilities in other countries or in the Lower 48.

The enormity and cost of the project, and the reluctance by oil producers to sell the gas, help explain why the project has never been completed. The natural gas has been reinjected underground to maintain pressure in reservoirs, a process that helps squeeze the more valuable oil to the surface.

State officials have met before with the Japanese energy agencies. In 2014 under Gov. Sean Parnell, METI and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources signed a memorandum of understanding to share information about efforts to develop natural gas.

Contact Alex DeMarban at [alex@alaskadispatch.com](mailto:alex@alaskadispatch.com).

September 12, 2016 in Blog, Featured  
Press Release  
For Immediate Distribution-

***Campaign includes major DC television buy, full-page letter in Washington Post from top retired military officials demanding Arctic lease areas remain in Interior's five-year plan***

*Washington DC, September 12:* A coalition of groups supportive of responsible resource development in and off the coast of Alaska today unveiled a new broadcast, print and digital advertising campaign calling on the Obama administration to keep intact the Arctic leasing areas currently contained in the Interior Department's draft proposed plan.

The draft program, revealed in March, allows for the possibility of lease sales to be held for federally controlled tracts in the Beaufort (2020) and Chukchi (2022) seas. But activist groups continue to wage an aggressive campaign to have those areas removed from the final schedule.

The Arctic Coalition, a group of 20 organizations representing Alaskan Native communities, labor unions, higher education programs, industry and others, is launching this new campaign in direct response to activists' efforts, using the platform to articulate the essential role that oil and gas development plays in the Arctic and the importance of ensuring that it is included in the final leasing program.

The six-figure television buy will run for one week in the Washington D.C. media market starting on September 12 and could be extended from there.

**Jeff Eshelman, Senior Vice President for Operations and Public Affairs at the Independent Petroleum Association of America and a member of the Coalition,** said, "Earlier this month the Wilderness Society became the latest to argue that industry's 'exit' from the Arctic is proof that including the region in the offshore leasing program would be costly and unnecessary.

"Quite aside from the skewed logic of arguing that companies will never again be interested in developing the Arctic based on today's commodity price, the idea that we're not interested in the Arctic simply isn't true. Today industry retains over 40 offshore leases in the Arctic and continues to invest millions of dollars into research into oil spill response and preparedness and other areas. This campaign is further proof that industry is fully committed to responsible offshore development in the region."

**Kara Moriarty, President and CEO of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association,** echoed Eshelman's comments. "The breadth of Alaskan organizations that have come together, 16 in total, demonstrates the importance of this issue to our state. Despite repeated claims to the contrary by environmental groups, Alaskans overwhelmingly support oil and gas development in the Arctic offshore.

"Without the lease sale option, there is simply no prospect of future investment in the infrastructure which we need. I can't stress this enough; taking lease sales off the table now sends a clear message that the federal government is hanging a 'closed for business' sign on our state, at a time when we are already facing huge budgetary challenges. The Administration must think about what impact this will have on Alaska."

**Rex Rock Sr., President and CEO of Alaska's largest Native owned corporation, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation,** added his support, "Arctic OCS exploration and development would bring additional jobs, higher wages and increased tax revenues to both the North Slope region and the State of Alaska. Moreover, continued exploration and development of the Arctic OCS would serve the national interest by contributing to the United States' long-term energy security."

**Eshelman continued,** "The oil and gas industry's impact on the economy of the Alaska is well known. What is less well understood is the crucial role it plays in supporting homeland security in the Arctic, so this is a theme that the adverts really emphasize. As the comments by Secretary Cohen, General Ralston and others make clear, private sector enterprise, specifically oil and gas development, is a critical pre-requisite to our national defense. We really shouldn't be needlessly throwing it away, especially at a time of increasing international tension in the region."

The imperative of America's presence in and commitment to the Arctic has grown in prominence in recent weeks. In addition to the comments submitted to the Department of the Interior by former Defense Secretary William Cohen and others, a second group of foreign policy experts, led by a former National Security Advisor to President Barack Obama, General James L. Jones, issued a statement in July arguing that the United States "has not built the presence required to maintain regional security and stability" and "is at risk of being eclipsed by other Arctic states for access and influence."

Earlier in the summer, the Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Rep. Devin Nunes (R-Calif.), introduced a resolution that highlighted similar challenges and called on the Department of the Interior to include the Arctic leases in the leasing program as a means of enhancing America's national security. And last month, the current Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Paul J. Selva, raised his own concerns, saying "The fact that we don't have the capacity in any material way to have a surface presence in the Arctic is something that we ought to address."

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*The Arctic Coalition is made up of a group of 20 Alaskan and national organizations. They are the Alaska Chamber of Commerce, Alaska Laborers District Council (Alaska Laborers Union), Alaska Miners Association, Alaska Native Regional Corporation CEOs, Alaska Oil and Gas Association, Alaska Petroleum Joint Crafts Council, Alaska Teamsters, Local 959, Alaska Support Industry Alliance (The Alliance), American Federation of Labor/ Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), Alaska, Americans for Prosperity Alaska, Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, Arctic Energy Center, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Consumer Energy Alliance – Alaska, Council of Alaska Producers, International Association of Geophysical Contractors, Independent Petroleum Association of America IPAA, National Ocean Industries Association and Resource Development Council, Alaska*

**For more information, please visit [www.arcticenergycenter.com/telIDC](http://www.arcticenergycenter.com/telIDC).**

## Wilderness Society misses the point on Arctic drilling

By Kara Moriarty

As President Obama weighs the impact of whether to include the Arctic in the United States' 2017-2022 lease round, it is essential that he makes a decision based on proven facts, not unsubstantiated dogma. Unfortunately, opinion pieces like the one from the Wilderness Society earlier **this week**, "President Obama should remove Arctic Ocean from offshore oil lease program", do little to inform that process, serving only to cloud the issue.

Arctic drilling is safe and hardly new. Claims that "the oil industry lacks the technology to recover significant percentages of spilled oil even from calmer, temperate waters," fly in the face of numerous studies and a **long history** of more than 50 years of successful Arctic development. In particular, the most authoritative study of the subject to-date, a 600-page report by the National Petroleum Council **concluded** that, "Most of the U.S. Arctic offshore conventional oil and gas potential can be developed using existing field-proven technology".

Opponents will of course argue that this was a report by the oil industry, even though representatives of the State of Alaska and several leading environmental organizations participated in its findings. But there are numerous facts that support the viability of Arctic development. To date, the federal government has funded nearly **\$475 million** in studies across Alaska through its Environmental Studies Program, producing more than 1000 technical reports and peer-reviewed publications, which have already been used to authorize **25 Arctic lease sales**.

These studies have shown time and again that risks associated with drilling in the offshore Arctic are frequently misrepresented, particularly since the majority of operations take place in shallow and open, ice-free waters. In fact, most of the Chukchi continental shelf is less than **50 meters deep** and oil and gas formations in the Arctic tend to be in **low pressure areas**, making the possibility of a **blowout less likely**. There have also been substantial advances in spill prevention and response technologies over the last several years, including **mechanical containment and recovery equipment**.

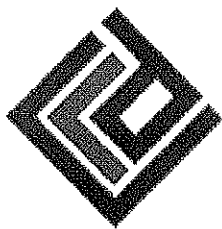
The suggestion that oil and gas development will damage the Alaskan Natives' lifestyle is equally misguided. According to The Wilderness Society, banning the Arctic from the 2017-2022 leasing round will protect "the subsistence resources that sustain the people and culture of the Alaska's northernmost communities." This is a clear misrepresentation of local views and an attempt to provide the Wilderness Society and its peers with a justification for their position on Arctic drilling. In reality, a majority of Alaskans support oil and gas development throughout the state. Just this week a **long feature** appeared in the *New Yorker* that charted in some detail how Native communities have cautiously but overwhelmingly come to support resource development as an essential part of their unique way of life. Native communities have repeatedly objected to environmental groups appropriating their voice and on no fewer than six occasions over the last few months, their leaders have felt obliged to author articles to that effect, culminating with the Mayor of Wainwright, who directly **challenged** the behavior of environmental activists:

*"Despite the self-serving rhetoric propagated by many ENGOs, we are not victims of climate change. We are not opposed to development. We are not going to abandon our culture or subsistence lifestyles. We are also not going to close the door on our collective future by preemptively shutting down economic opportunities in our own backyard."*

The concluding premise of the Wilderness Society's argument appears to be that given "the rush of companies" to return their leasing options, including the region in the next leasing round is unnecessary. Or, to put it another way, that the industry's lack of current activity means that it will never again wish to operate in the region. This argument is shortsighted and ignores the basic rules of economics. Companies still retain over **251** leases in the Beaufort Sea, and we simply have no way of knowing what the global energy landscape will look when future Arctic resources are ultimately developed. Indeed, the long lead times required and the fact that the first lease sale will not begin until 2020, means that the production is unlikely to begin until after 2030.

Under the terms of the leasing program, the Secretary of the Interior will be able to remove or cancel a lease sale if there is a lack of interest, but once the schedule is finalized new areas cannot be added. At heart it is therefore a question of options; excluding the Arctic permanently and unnecessarily limits our options, including the future Administration's ability to make that decision based on industry's actual interest and the United States' actual needs. Surely, that is a better solution.

*Kara Moriarty is president of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association.*



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

## **May to September letters submitted by RDC**

May 13, 2016 to Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans,  
re: Oversight Hearing on National Ocean Policy

May 31, 2016 to Keith Gordon, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers,  
re: Donlin Gold Project Draft EIS

June 6, 2016 to Honorable Members of the Alaska Legislature  
Re: Oppose industry-specific taxes

June 7, 2016 to Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senate  
Re: Tongass Land Management Plan Record of Decision Amendment

June 14, 2016 to Calvin Alvarez, Anchorage Regulatory Division (1145) CEPOA-RD,  
Re: USACE Proposed Methodology for Wetlands Mitigation.

June 16, 2016 to Ms. Abigail Ross Hopper, Director Bureau of Ocean Management (BOEM). Drafted by: Alaska Coalition  
Re: 2017-2022 Five-Year Proposed Leasing Program

June 16, 2016 Press Release  
Re: Fifteen Alaskan Labor Union, Native Corporation, Business, and Energy Associations Write to Obama Administration on Retaining Alaska's Offshore Exploration Areas

July 14, 2016 to Robert Dalrymple, Wrangell Ranger District  
Re: Wrangell Island Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

August 2, 2016 to Erin Flannery-Keith, Office of Wastewater Management,  
Re: NPDES Applications and Program Updates, Docket No. EPA-HQ-OW-2016-0145

August 15, 2016 to Dr. James Kendall, Alaska Regional Director, Alaska OCS Region  
Re: Cook Inlet Outer Continental Shelf Lease Sale 244

August 25, 2016 to Mr. Earl Stewart, USDA Forest Service Tongass National Forest Transition Plan Amendment  
Re: Objections to June 2016 Tongass National Forest Record of Decision

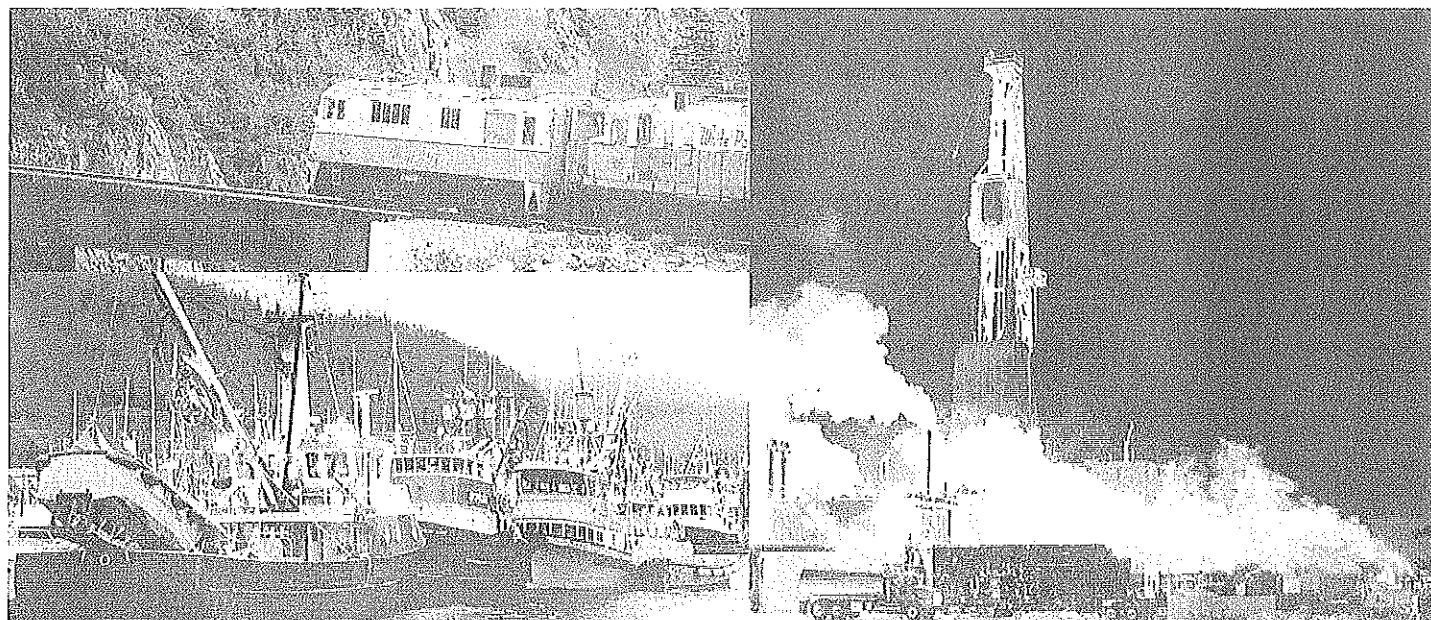
August 25, 2016 to Mr. Bud Cribley, State Director, Bureau of Land Management,  
Re: Greater Mooses Tooth 2 Project

August 25, 2016 to USDA Forest Service Tongass National Forest Transition Plan Amendment  
Re: June 2016 Tongass National Forest Draft Record of Decision

August 29, 2016 to Neil Kornze, Director, United States Bureau of Land Management  
Re: Objection to BLM's Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Alaska Eastern Interior Area

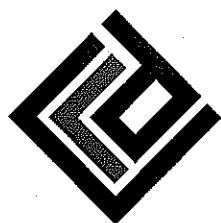
**All letters may be found online at [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org)!**





# 37th Annual ALASKA RESOURCES CONFERENCE

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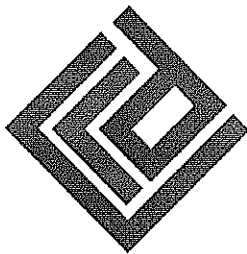
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Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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