Two names you can count on, anytime, down the line.

The timeline for a typical Arctic oilfield can take some unexpected twists and turns. But the Arctic Slope Consulting Group and Executone of Alaska, subsidiaries of ASRC, have been down that road before.

Call on the people you can count on, now or down the line.

Crucial Senate vote on ANWR leasing expected in early May

Make or break vote in energy committee

A make or break vote on opening the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development is expected in early May when a U.S. Senate committee faces off on the highly volatile energy issue. The vote by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is expected to be much closer than the 12-7 favorable vote in March 1989, just before the Exxon Valdez accident. Currently nine committee members are in favor of opening the Coastal Plain while eight are opposed and three remain undecided.

Chairman Bennett Johnston, D-La, expects the Committee to pass the development legislation by an 11-9 vote or better. The legislation would than move to the full Senate floor where the vote is uncertain. At last count, Senate vote counters estimate 44 favor opening the Coastal Plain while 40 are opposed.

If the bill passes the full Senate, it would then move to the House where its fate is uncertain. It may be next

Battle in the fishing industry

RDC debate sheds light on volatile bottom fish issue

Factory trawlers are sweeping up too much of the North Pacific fishery and it's time to consider phasing out such operations from harvesting bottom fish, said Alaska "fishery czar" Clem Tillion at a debate before the Resource Development Council April 18 in Anchorage.

Bruce Buus, public relations director of the American Factory Trawler Association in Seattle, defended his industry's record in the North Pacific.

Alaska fishermen are concerned that the large factory trawlers will cause long-term harm to the fisheries.
Spring 1991 brings change to RDC

Message from the Executive Director
by Becky L. Gay

ATTENTION all members! RDC will be fully operational at its new office on May 1, 1991. The new physical address is 121 W. Fireweed, Suite 250 (Fireweed and "A" St.). The phone and fax numbers will remain the same, as will the post office box for the remainder of the year. RDC has given Pacific Legal Foundation pro bono office space for the remainder of the year, so PLF is expected to maintain its Alaska presence throughout 1991.

RDC has given Pacific Legal Foundation pro bono office space for the remainder of the year, so PLF is expected to maintain its Alaska presence throughout 1991. The Alaska Wetlands Coalition is continuing to be spearheaded by RDC and is also moving to the new location. And of course, RDC's Education Foundation will be established there, too. All-in-all, it looks promising for all these like-minded organizations to be headed into the 90s with new vigor, new surroundings and hopefully, some new members along the way!

Please take the time to stop into the new location whenever you can. There has been considerable work done to make RDC operations more efficient, improve the professional surroundings, make the location and parking more convenient to its members and to enhance RDC headquar-
sions in numerous industries that would feel the spinoff effects of new oil development. Overall, net national economic benefits from ANWR production could reach $325 billion, according to the Interior Department. The U.S. Gross National Product would increase by $50 billion.

The oil industry has invested about $47 billion developing North Slope oil fields, which today supply up to 25 percent of America's domestic production. Development of the North Slope has contributed more than $3.2 billion to the U.S. economy.

Total North Slope production recently passed the 8 billion barrel mark, saving the U.S. approximately $192 billion in oil import costs.

Oil development on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge could mean 735,000 new jobs nationwide, including 38,300 jobs in Alaska, according to a study by Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates of Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.

The projected jobs would be primarily permanent posi-
tions in the oil industry and would be in place by 1999.

Oil development could also increase the tax base and provide revenue for state and local governments and for federal tax relief for the oil industry.

The raw oil would be transported by pipeline to the lower 48 states, where it would be refined and marketed.

The oil industry has many other economic benefits to offer the state.

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In 1987, after an extensive six-year study of wildlife and oil and gas potential, the U.S. Department of the Interior determined that the Coastal Plain area of Alaska's North Slope is the nation's "best single opportunity to increase significantly domestic oil production over the next few years." The Department's report, which estimates structures and reservoirs lying beneath this area could contain as much as 9.25 billion barrels of recoverable oil. This is comparable in size to the neighboring Prudhoe Bay field — America's largest oil field. Even if Prudhoe Bay's oilfield contains 2.5 billion barrels (the Department's "mean" estimate) would be the third largest oil discovery ever made in the U.S.

In February of this year, geologists and other scientists, at the urging of the National Academy of Science, increased their estimate of a major commercial oil field in the Coastal Plain to an unprecedented 46 percent — almost one in two. This company with a 4 percent chance — or one in fifty — in other frontier areas of the United States.

The estimates were increased partly on new evidence from onshore and offshore wells adjacent to the Coastal Plain and in Canada's Beaufort Sea which point to geologic trends that extend to the largest U.S. oil field at Prudhoe Bay, barely 60 miles to the west of the Coastal Plain area.

These resources that could help to stem the growing threat of oil imports and vulnerability. Foreign oil provided 50 percent of U.S. requirements last year. If this could happen around 2009, a short 18 years away. At this level of production, the operation and maintenance costs of the pipeline exceed the tariff revenue. The report also says this would leave the nation with more than a billion barrels of crude.

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The Senate Energy Committee has completed hearings on national energy policy legislation. In early May, the Committee will take up the question of opening the Coastal Plain. In the House of Representatives, preparations are underway for hearings. Twenty years of experience on the North Slope — where one out of every four barrels of U.S. oil is produced today — demonstrates that energy development can be conducted in ways that are compatible with Arctic ecology and wildlife.

All Alaskans agree that our unique wildlife and scenic values should be carefully protected, even in those areas where commercial activities are permitted. However, more than 60 percent of America's Wilderness areas are located in Alaska, including almost half of ANWR's 19 million acres. In addition to strict Wilderness classification in these areas, fully 92 percent of ANWR is off-limits to oil and gas development. Half of this area is already Wilderness.

Energy committee

Guest Opinion
by Jacob Adams
President
Arctic Slope Regional Corp.

With a crucial Senate committee vote on opening the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge quickly approaching, it is imperative that Alaskan residents and others who support oil and gas leasing to write a brief letter to members of the committee. Timing is critical and your letters are needed today. RDC is urging its members to focus their efforts on those senators in the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources who are undecided on the issue. They are Senators Mark Hatfield, R-Ore, John Seymour, R-Calif., and Kent Conrad, D-N.D. All members of the Committee are listed in this issue in a chart that shows how each senator may vote on ANWR.

Energy committee (Continued from cover)

development is Johnston's comprehensive energy bill, the National Security Energy Act of 1991 (S341). Title IX of the legislation deals with oil and gas leasing on the Coastal Plain. Other components of the bill include energy efficiency and renewable energy, coal, natural gas and electricity, research and development, transportation issues and nuclear energy. The bill provides that the federal share (50 percent) of any revenues from ANWR would be deposited in an energy security fund for energy conservation programs and other projects designed to enhance the nation's energy security and reduce reliance on imported oil.

A bill (S343) backed by Senator William Roth, R-Del, and Senator Max Baucus, D-Mt, would designate the Coastal Plain Wilderness, thereby foreclosing any potential oil and gas exploration. Representative Morris Udall, D-Az, has introduced an identical Coastal Plain Wilderness bill in the House (H.R. 39).

The area proposed for oil and gas leasing and exploration covers 1.5 million acres of ANWR's Coastal Plain. Nearly half of the 19-million acre refuge already has been designated Wilderness, including 400,000 acres of the Coastal Plain in the eastern sector of ANWR. None of the designated Wilderness areas on the Coastal Plain, are being considered for oil and gas leasing and exploration.

Johnston's comprehensive energy bill contains the strongest conservation measures of any development bill. It emphasizes that the best way for the nation to reduce its heavy reliance on oil imports is to increase conservation efforts, develop alternative sources of energy and increase domestic oil production.

Supporters of Johnston's bill stress that none of these components alone is enough to solve the import problem. As a result, Johnston's approach would supplement conventional solutions with the other measures, including development of the nation's most promising oil field — the Coastal Plain of ANWR.

Energy chairman Johnston dismissed environmentalists' concerns that opening the Coastal Plain will devastate the Porcupine caribou herd and ruin the refuge. "Caribou have the resistance factor to man about equal to that of the Coastal Plain. Nearly half of the 19-million acre refuge already has been designated Wilderness, including 400,000 acres of the Coastal Plain in the eastern sector of ANWR. None of the designated Wilderness areas on the Coastal Plain, are being considered for oil and gas leasing and exploration.

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Trawler fleet takes heavy toll on Alaska fisheries

Bults protested the bad image of factory trawlers as a bum rap. Tillion, a 40-year veteran of the fishing industry and special assistant to Governor Walter Hickel for fisheries, said factory trawlers are an "unbelievable environmentally destructive method of harvest." He charged, "If turned loose, they could destroy the resource."

Factory trawlers drag huge nets along the ocean floor, targeting white cod and rock-sole. However, the nets also pick up non-targeted species, including halibut, crab and salmon, tagged as bycatch. So far this year, more than 64,000 king salmon have been accidentally caught in the nets, more than double last year's entire king catch by the trawl fleet.

Halibut taken as bycatch amounts to more than 20 percent of the total annual halibut quota along the Pacific coast. More than 8,000 metric tons are netted and discarded as bycatch. That's about $20 million worth of resource thrown overboard as waste.

Worse than the revenue loss, commercial, subsistence and sport fishermen fear the resources are being damaged by the trawlers. Stocks of halibut are declining as a result of the substantial loss of small, immature halibut thought to be destroyed by bottom fish operations.

Tillion said pot traps and hook-and-line operations can catch the bottom fish with less damage to other species. He said trawling is best suited for harvesting pollock, a fish that generally swims in midwater where there is less chance of netting other species.

"We are being villified as operating slave ships that vacuum the ocean floor, raping and pillaging the resource," Bults said. "Bults conceded that accidental catches are serious problems that need to be addressed. He said hook-and-line boats also may have high rates of accidental catches. The problem, Bults said, lies with a management system that doesn't offer incentives to cut down on accidental catches.

Tillion said individual transferable quotas, fashioned after Alaska's current limited entry program for fishing within three miles of the state's coastline, may be a solution. "This will dislocate some, but conservation of the resource is excellent," Tillion said. "You have no bycatch problems and no problems with fish mortality because you don't take salmon."

Onshore processing plants, which provide jobs in Alaska's coastal communities, complain they are being shut out by the trawlers. The feud has spawned a proposal that would require a 50-50 split of Bering Sea bottom fish and cod between factory trawlers and onshore processors and require 80 percent of the trawl fleet to be converted to line-berth operations by 1995.

In the wake of continuing attacks by the environmental community to strip the federal Mining Law of 1872, the Resource Development Council has asked Alaska's congressional delegation to support a proposal to establish a minerals policy review commission to determine whether current laws and regulations are serving their purposes and what changes should be made.

The Mining Law of 1872 sets the ground rules for the nation's mining industry and is the vehicle that provides the industry with a domestic minerals supply. Attempts were made last year by environmentalists to gut the mining law, but a spirited debate on the Senate floor preserved the law. However, opponents of the law are more organized this year.

It is not a question whether the mining law will be changed, but rather, when. The industry emphasizes that any changes to the law must preserve access to the public lands for the purpose of location and disposition of minerals. The industry contends the bills do not present a system which provides the means and the incentive for the private sector to find new deposits and bring them into production. Anti-mining forces which support the bills propose entry on the public lands for minerals purposes and demand that access be allowed only with special permission or that royalties be assessed, which the industry claims will make mining unprofitable. Environmentalists also claim the law is outdated because it does not include environmental protection.

Miners say environmental protection is a hollow argument since the law is designed to provide access only, and that environmental protection is in force in a myriad of laws controlling every aspect of exploration, discovery, operation and reclamation.

The law has been under pressure by one group or another for decades. It has survived, with over 50 changes that have kept it up to date in meeting the needs of a changing world.

At the request of Congressman Don Young, Rep. Rahall has agreed to hold a hearing on his bill (H.R. 918) on Saturday, May 25 in Fairbanks. Rahall is chairman of the House Subcommittee for Mining which is under the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

Those interested in testifying should send a written request to Rahall with a copy to Congressman Young. Requests should be sent to: The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., 20515.