

Alaska Oil and Gas Association



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Alaska Oil and Gas Association expresses disappointment in the Dept. of Interior's National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska final development plan

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ANCHORAGE- The Alaska Oil and Gas Association (AOGA) today expressed its disappointment in the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) final decision on a development plan for the National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska (NPR-A). In AOGA's opinion, the plan is a setback for oil and gas development in the state.

"This decision locks up valuable resources in an area that was specifically set aside to function as a petroleum reserve, and disregards what the people of Alaska asked for," said Kara Moriarty, executive director for the Alaska Oil and Gas Association. "While the decision does accommodate for a potential pipeline corridor, it is almost a moot point when the most promising areas of the reserve are off limits to development."

The NPR-A was designated in 1976 by Congress, and control of the area was transferred to the Bureau of Land Management. At 23.5 million acres, it is the largest land management unit owned by the federal government. The reserve is thought to hold 900 million barrels of technically recoverable oil and 53 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, according to 2010 USGS estimates.

Numerous representatives from the oil and gas industry in Alaska, as well as members of the governor's administration and the Alaska Congressional delegation, asked the U.S. Dept. of the Interior to amend or alter its draft plan for the NPR-A.

"The NPR-A holds immense promise for oil and gas development, which is welcome news for a state that continues to grapple with the challenges associated with accelerated oil production decline," said Moriarty. "The DOI's decision, however, makes future development of the NPR-A's resources less likely, and that's a lose-lose for both the State of Alaska and the people who call it home."

The Alaska Oil & Gas Association is a private, business trade association. Its 14 member companies represent the majority of oil and gas exploration, production, transportation, refining and marketing activities in Alaska. More information about the organization is available at www.aoga.org.

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