

Alaska Oil and Gas Association



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Alaska Oil and Gas Association expresses disappointment in the Dept. of Interior's Final Environmental Impact Statement for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

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ANCHORAGE- In what is viewed by the Alaska Oil and Gas Association (AOGA) as a setback for oil and gas development in Alaska, the U.S. Department of the Interior released a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on the forthcoming National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) Integrated Area Plan. The plan will guide development of the NPR-A in coming years, with a final decision on the plan due within the next couple of weeks.

"This plan currently locks up valuable resources in an area that was specifically set aside to function as a petroleum reserve, and it is definitely not a win for industry or the people of Alaska," said Kara Moriarty, executive director for the Alaska Oil and Gas Association. "While the plan does attempt to accommodate for a potential pipeline corridor, it is clearly a win for environmental organizations and those who advocate for locking up Alaska's natural resources."

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.

"Alaska is already home to more wilderness than the rest of the country combined," said Moriarty. "It's frustrating when federal government agencies make decisions that have far-reaching, negative impacts on our state's economy with little regard for the feedback and desires of the Alaskans who live here."

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 industry has successfully coexisted with Alaska Native hunters and wildlife in sensitive Arctic environments for more than 35 years," said Moriarty. "Responsible development is possible, but this plan makes future development of the NPR-A's resources less likely, which is a blow for Alaskans hoping to spur our economy by filling the pipeline with more oil, especially in a time of continued, accelerated oil production decline."

The Alaska Oil & Gas Association is a private, business trade association. Its 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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