



PRESS RELEASE

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ARCTIC SLOPE REGIONAL CORPORATION PLEASSED TO SEE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR ANWR LEASE SALES MOVING FORWARD

Will provide press availability during today's meeting in downtown Anchorage

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) is weighing in on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) leasing program for the 1002 Area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, saying it continues to welcome a robust and thorough review of the agency's draft environmental impact statement, or DEIS. Before the BLM creates its final environmental impact statement and releases its record of decision on how to conduct the leasing program, the public has a chance to weigh in, with the comment period extended until mid-March.

ASRC strongly believes all voices should be heard throughout the process, but also believes there must be a balance between preservation and responsible development. Public meetings on the DEIS have already been held in Fairbanks, Kaktovik and Utqiaġvik (Barrow). Another BLM meeting is set for this afternoon in downtown Anchorage from 1:00-7:00pm with at least one more public meeting set for the future. ASRC representatives will be available for a short time to answer questions from the media.

The Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) was specifically identified by Congress – pursuant to Section 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980 – for its potential for oil and natural gas resources.

In 2017 Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat (VOICE), which represents seven of the eight communities across Alaska's North Slope, passed a resolution in support of opening less than 8% of the Refuge to oil and gas exploration. VOICE, in which ASRC is a member, approved the resolution because it believes that safe and responsible development there is not only possible, but necessary for the economic well-being of the region.