



ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

3305 Arctic Blvd., #105, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • (907) 563-9229 • FAX: (907) 563-9225 • www.alaskaminers.org

November 15, 2010

Regional Director, Alaska OCS BOEMREAKPublicCommen@boemre.gov
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5820

RE: Chukchi Sea Draft SEIS

Dear Sir,

We are writing to urge that Lease Sale 193 go forward as it was held in 2008. Alaska and America need the oil and gas that is in this area.

The Alaska Miners Association is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. The AMA is composed of more than 1200 individual prospectors, geologists and engineers, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. Our members look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, diamonds, lead, zinc, copper, coal, limestone, sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials. Our members depend on a stable source of petroleum products to operate their businesses and provide the minerals needed for our society.

The potential environmental impacts and economic benefits of developing oil and gas in this area have been thoroughly evaluated and show that this is in the best interest of the United States. The Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement provides comprehensive data, analysis and support to make a decision affirming Lease Sale 193. **Given the level of analysis already completed and the needs of our country for domestic sources of oil and gas, to delay this development in any way by some form of indirect moratorium or further delay must not be allowed.**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement needs to find ways to encourage investments in finding domestic sources of oil and gas. Further delays will do just the opposite. With an estimated 29 billion barrels of oil and 209 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, the Chukchi Sea and Lease Sale 193 can be a major factor to improve our nation's long-term energy security. The Chukchi Sea is considered the most prospective unexplored offshore basin in the country.

Oil and gas development in Alaska would be done under the world's highest safety and environmental standards. All activity will be governed by stringent lease stipulations identified in the FEIS and SEIS. Numerous mitigation measures, including seasonal operating restrictions, will minimize potential impacts, and conflicts avoidance mechanisms will protect subsistence whaling and other harvest activities.

Oil and gas development proposed in Arctic waters is much different than deepwater exploration in the Gulf of Mexico. The pressures encountered in deepwater drilling are many times greater than in Alaska where wells would be in very shallow water.

There has never been a blowout in the Alaska or the Canadian Arctic that resulted in an oil spill. Thirty wells have been drilled in the Beaufort and five in the Chukchi – all without incident. These wells were drilled more than two decades ago and utilized older technology than what would be used now.

A University of Alaska study estimates that new OCS development in Alaska would provide an average of 35,000 jobs in Alaska. It would also create thousands of new high-paying jobs throughout all 50 states and it would decrease our dependence on foreign sources of oil and gas.

Given our current extreme dependence on foreign sources of energy, the U.S. has a moral obligation to develop the resources in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas. **We urge that you move forward with Lease Sale 193 immediately.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven C. Borell', with a stylized, flowing script.

Steven C. Borell, P.E.
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Mark Begich
Congressman Don Young
Governor Sean Parnell