

December 2010

Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK, 99503

RE: Public comments on Alaska's OCS; Shell's 2011 exploration plan

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend the federal government to approve Shell's 2011 revised Exploration Plan and proceed with the development of oil and natural gas resources in the Beaufort Sea off the coast of Alaska.

Shell's revised plan will reduce drilling discharges to the marine environment and ensure that industry can and will drill responsibly. This exploration plan is a critical step for energy production and domestic energy jobs in Alaska as well as the Arctic region.

Many jobs in Alaska depend on the opportunities that offshore oil and gas production can and will provide. In Alaska, approximately 43,454 jobs are supported by the industry. These jobs add \$6.1 billion to Alaska's gross state product, or 16.6 percent of its wealth. The industry not only supports jobs in exploring, producing, refining, transporting and marketing oil and natural gas; it also supports economic growth and jobs other means such as the purchase of goods and services including working with construction companies, equipment suppliers and food services.

We cannot afford to ignore opportunities which encourage job promotion and economic growth. We need to encourage policies that will promote work to secure our energy and economic future, Allowing for Shell to safely develop oil and gas resources in the Beaufort Sea in 2011 will help do just that.

Sincerely,



Jim Dodson
President & CEO
Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation