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LISTENING SESSION
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
and
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Anchorage, Alaska

Taken June 7, 2013
Commencing at 12:15 a.m.

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Taken at
Barrow City Assembly Chambers
Barrow, Alaska

Reported by:
Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S

Tommy Beaudreau
Assistant Secretary of the Interior
BOEM Director

Pat Pourchot
Senior DOI Representative for Alaska

Dr. James Kendall
BOEM Alaska Regional Director

Mark Fesmire
BSEE Alaska Regional Director

David Johnston
BOEM Alaska Supervisor for Leasing & Plans

Michael Routhier
BOEM Alaska Program Analysis Officer

Michael Haller
Tribal and Community Liaison

Lakeisha Harrison
BSEE Representative

Taken by: Mary A. Vavrik, RMR

BE IT KNOWN that the aforementioned proceedings were taken
at the time and place duly noted on the title page, before
Mary A. Vavrik, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary
Public within and for the State of Alaska.

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 MR. MICHAEL HALLER: Okay, ladies and
3 gentlemen, thank you very much for -- thank you very much
4 for joining us today. And I want to say a special thank
5 you to KBRW and KOTZ, who are both simulcasting our
6 meeting this afternoon from 12:00 until 2:00. So for
7 those of you joining us here in the City of Barrow's
8 Assembly chambers, we appreciate you being here. We are
9 very grateful for that.

10 And before we go any further, I will take a
11 moment to introduce myself. My name is Michael Haller. I
12 am the tribal and community liaison for the Bureau of
13 Ocean Energy Management here for the Alaska Region. And I
14 want to introduce former Mayor Itta, who will offer an
15 invocation for us.

16 (Invocation offered by Edward Itta.)

17 MR. MICHAEL HALLER: Thank you very much.
18 In the interest of the fact that we have folks who are
19 listening in on the radio in both Barrow and Kotzebue and
20 in the regions around each city, we ask for those that
21 will speak, if you come up and use the microphone here at
22 the table before you are called upon.

23 But before we move to that, let me first
24 introduce several people here at the table. I want to
25 introduce, first of all, Assistant Secretary of the

1 Interior, Tommy Beaudreau. I also want to introduce our
2 senior federal officer for the State of Alaska for the
3 Department of Interior, Pat Pourchot; the Bureau of Safety
4 and Environmental Enforcement director for the region,
5 Mark Fesmire; David Johnston, who is one of our BOEM
6 officers; and my boss, Dr. James Kendall, for the Bureau
7 of Ocean Energy Management.

8 Secretary Beaudreau.

9 MR. TOMMY BEAUDREAU: Good afternoon.
10 My name is Tommy Beaudreau. I'm the Acting Assistant
11 Secretary for Land and Minerals at the Interior
12 Department. I'm also the director, national director of
13 the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, which is
14 responsible for overseeing planning and leasing with
15 respect to offshore oil and gas activity, including
16 Shell's offshore operation in the Chukchi and the Beaufort
17 last summer.

18 We work closely with our sister agency, the
19 Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which
20 oversees and does inspections and oversees the safe
21 operation of offshore oil and gas operations in federal
22 waters, including in the Beaufort and the Chukchi Sea.

23 Thank you very much for joining us this
24 afternoon. As you may know, we have a session here
25 starting at noon. We are going to have another session

1 this evening. The reason we did that is to try to give as
2 many people an opportunity to attend and participate in
3 person as possible. And so some of you may be joining
4 during a lunch hour, and we really appreciate that you are
5 taking your valuable time to do that and participate with
6 us. And I also want to thank folks who may be listening
7 in on the phone or on in the radio, and thank everyone for
8 that, as well.

9 Here is what I'd like to do. I will give a bit
10 of a description and some context to why we're here and
11 what we would like to talk about. I would like to spend
12 the bulk of our time, however, doing what I came up to do,
13 which is to really listen to you and to get your thoughts
14 and comments and perspectives on the issues in front of
15 all of us.

16 And first, we have a court reporter here who is
17 taking notes for us so that we can capture all of the
18 comments and thoughts that we hear so that we can go back
19 in the future and look at them. And so I appreciate
20 everybody sort of enduring that part of the process and
21 coming up and giving your name and speaking into the
22 microphone so that we can take down what you say because,
23 after all, that is the point here, which is to hear what
24 you have to say, to remember it, and to have it inform our
25 thinking going forward.

1 But I also hope this could be a pretty informal
2 process. I know it can be intimidating. You have like a
3 wall of people from the federal government, some of us
4 from Washington, D.C. here, and I hope once you get sort
5 of used to us, that we can just have kind of a
6 conversation and that it doesn't have to feel so formal.

7 Here is what we came to talk about. As everyone
8 here experienced last summer, Shell drilled -- or started
9 two wells, one in the Beaufort Sea and one in the Chukchi
10 Sea last summer. And as everyone here knows, Shell was
11 not allowed -- we did not allow Shell to drill into oil.
12 And the reason we didn't allow that is because Shell was
13 unable to bring a containment system -- an operable
14 containment system into the Arctic. We required -- Shell
15 committed to having that system and we required that
16 system because we felt it was extremely important for
17 Shell to be able to respond quickly to contain any sort of
18 loss of well control if that were to happen, and to
19 contain the well at the source. Shell wasn't able to
20 bring that system on line, and so they did not get to
21 drill into hydrocarbon. They started two wells, just
22 drilled into rock, but did not -- we did not allow them to
23 go into oil and create any risk that that containment
24 system was designed to mitigate.

25 And as everyone knows, Shell experienced other

1 problems during the course of their experience last year,
2 including losing a tow and the grounding of the Kulluk
3 drill ship, which was the drill ship that worked in the
4 Beaufort over the 2012 season.

5 All of that, that experience and the problems
6 Shell encountered, led us to do a review. I was ordered
7 by former Secretary Salazar to prepare a review of Shell's
8 2012 operation and to look into the reason -- some of the
9 reasons why Shell experienced those problems and what
10 lessons we could learn from that experience.

11 The findings and recommendations coming out of
12 that review are summarized in one of the charts on the
13 wall here. There were five recommendations specifically
14 for industry, and then two were really directed at
15 ourselves.

16 Just quickly, the first recommendation or
17 observation that came out of Shell's experience was that
18 all phases of an Arctic program, including preparation,
19 drilling, maritime and engine response operations, have to
20 be integrated and subject to strong operator management
21 and government oversight. And second -- and this is a
22 related point -- Arctic offshore operations must be well
23 planned and ready, fully ready and have clear objectives
24 in advance of the drilling season.

25 This was part of the disappointment, our

1 disappointment in Shell's performance last year. They
2 were supposed to have that containment system on line in
3 advance of the drilling season. A company with Shell's
4 reputation, with Shell's resources, one of the biggest
5 companies in the world, it was shocking and disappointing
6 to us that they were unable to have that system on line
7 and everything ready to go and buttoned down and ready to
8 go at the beginning of the drilling season. And it's for
9 that reason that we did not allow them to drill into oil
10 or to make a discovery.

11 But going forward, this was one of the
12 observations we had. You have to have an operation
13 buttoned down and ready to go in advance of the drilling
14 season.

15 Third, operators must maintain strong direct
16 management and oversight of their contractors. This was
17 one of the problems, fundamental problems that Shell
18 encountered. Shell looked to contractors to do things
19 like build that containment system. They thought they
20 would go to the contractor, give specifications to the
21 contractor, say this is what we want, and that they would
22 get a functioning system back from the contractor. It
23 turned out not to be that simple for Shell, and they were
24 disappointed by the performance of their contractors. And
25 that's ultimately, however, Shell's responsibility, or any

1 company's responsibility is to maintain strong oversight
2 of their contractors.

3 Fourth -- and everyone in this room understands
4 and appreciates this point -- operators must understand
5 and plan for the variability and challenges of Alaskan
6 conditions. Working offshore in this state, whether it's
7 in the Arctic or whether it's in the Gulf of Alaska, poses
8 tremendous challenges. It is a difficult environment, and
9 it's an unforgiving environment. And that's part of what
10 Shell experienced during the Kulluk tow from the Aleutians
11 and part of the difficulty that they encountered. And in
12 order to work offshore Alaska, you need to work with
13 people who understand this state, understand the working
14 environment, and understand the risks and are able to
15 handle those risks.

16 And then finally, respect for and coordination
17 with local communities. This is an extremely important
18 point and something I think all of you felt last year
19 during Shell's operations. On the one hand, I think Shell
20 did a number of very good and commendable things with
21 respect to working with communities here last year. I
22 think they worked very well with the AEWC. We had
23 requirements around blackouts for drilling in the Beaufort
24 during the whale migration. Shell respected those
25 blackouts. I think they communicated pretty well with the

1 AEWC, and fulfilled and stuck to their commitments around
2 respecting these subsistence whale hunts in the Beaufort.
3 And so I commend them for that, and I think that is an
4 area where they performed quite well in many respects.

5 We have also heard, however, you know, when
6 there was a lot of activity last summer, some of the
7 impacts that had on local communities, especially here in
8 Barrow in terms of housing, in terms of being able to get
9 access to facilities. And so that's something that if you
10 had a personal experience with that last summer I'd like
11 to hear about so that we can learn from that and have it
12 inform our planning going into any future seasons.

13 The last two broad observations and
14 recommendations coming out of our review of Shell's
15 program were really directed at us. First, continued
16 strong coordination across government agencies is
17 absolutely essential. One thing that happened in
18 connection with Shell's anticipated program and review of
19 Shell's 2012 program is the federal government, all of the
20 Interior Department agencies -- NOAA, the U.S. Coast
21 Guard, EPA and others really came together and tried to
22 work in a coordinated fashion to hold Shell to high
23 standards, but also not trip over ourselves, and also to
24 present a unified face to Shell and to local communities.
25 I know it can be frustrating and difficult sometimes when

1 sort of wave after wave of federal agencies comes into
2 town, and we are trying to do a better job at that to
3 really be on the same page as a federal family and work
4 together. And that needs to be improved on and needs to
5 be carried forward.

6 Finally -- and this is really why we are here
7 today. We made the observation that industry and
8 government must develop an Arctic-specific model for
9 offshore oil and gas exploration in Alaska. And that
10 includes codifying and carrying forward specific standards
11 tailored to working offshore Alaska. We imposed as
12 conditions of the Shell exploration plans and oil spill
13 response plans a number of Arctic-specific requirements,
14 including the need to have that containment system on
15 hand; the blackout period for the whaling season in the
16 Beaufort; the shortened drilling season in the Chukchi to
17 allow for over a month of open water spill response in the
18 event of a late season spill; requiring pre-laid boom
19 around vessels anytime there was a transfer of fuel.

20 Fortunately, Shell -- and they should be
21 commended for this. Shell effected thousands of gallons
22 of fuel transfers during the last season, and none of it
23 touched the water. And that was good performance on their
24 part. At the same time, though, as a precaution, we
25 required that they pre-lay any booms so that if fuel did

1 touch the water, there was already containment in place
2 for that. That's not something, for example, we require
3 in the Gulf of Mexico.

4 So there were a number of standards and
5 requirements like that that were tailored to work in the
6 Beaufort and the Chukchi.

7 What we are endeavoring to do now is to codify,
8 to put those standards into regulations that apply not
9 only to Shell, but to any other operator who would work up
10 here, including -- you know, everybody knows
11 ConocoPhillips is out there, as well. Statoil is out
12 there, as well. We want to put those standards into
13 regulation. We want to do that in a prompt way. I would
14 like to have proposed standards out for review and comment
15 by the end of the year. In order to do that, we want to
16 get early input into the types of issues we should be
17 thinking about as we develop these standards. I've named
18 a few that we have already thought about and used with
19 respect to Shell's operation before. There may be others
20 that you would like us to think about and consider and
21 work through. And that's part of what we want to do here
22 in an informal way, get early input that can help shape
23 our thinking as we prepare those standards and write those
24 rules.

25 We have met with -- we did a meeting in

1 Anchorage yesterday. We met with the AEW, Harry Brower
2 and his folks this morning, to talk about Shell's -- their
3 experience with Shell and particular standards they may
4 have in mind. We have met with ICAS. We met with the
5 mayor's office. And we will be continuing our engagement
6 as we go on this.

7 And so let me just close this by saying how much
8 I truly appreciate everybody joining us today,
9 participating in our listening session. It takes a lot of
10 courage to come here and meet with us and express your
11 views. And I just want you to know how much I respect and
12 admire your willingness to do this. So with that, I turn
13 it over to, again, what I think is the most important
14 part, which is hearing from you and listening to what you
15 have to say. So thank you.

16 MR. MICHAEL HALLER: We have three people
17 that have said that they would like to testify today, so
18 in no particular order, Charles Hopson, if you could come
19 forward to the table and offer your comments.

20 MR. JOHN HOPSON: Who?

21 MR. MICHAEL HALLER: Charles Hopson.

22 MR. CHARLES HOPSON: Good afternoon. My
23 name is Charles Hopson. I'm a -- I'm a whaling captain,
24 long life -- I've lived here all my life. I'm a hunter.
25 I fish. I am the vice president for the Barrow Whaling

1 Captains' Association. And I have been an oil spill
2 responder for over 20 years in the Arctic here. So what
3 is happening out there I know very well. I'm one of the
4 best of the best in oil spills. I have over 15, 20 years
5 of experience in oil spill response in the Arctic. Over
6 the 15 to 20 years I learned about oil spills and oil.

7 I've never been to the water out there. Nobody
8 has any equipment to be able to take me two miles out.
9 Alaska Clean Seas has got the equipment, but they are
10 capable of just going out there maybe 15, 20 miles. I
11 never had -- I'm one of the best. I -- I grew up oil
12 responding, but I never been to the ocean. We never had
13 equipment that is capable of going into the Chukchi or
14 Beaufort Sea. We don't have the capability. The
15 government don't have no capabilities of doing these
16 things. Yet your organization want to keep putting out
17 leases out in the ocean when you don't have no money to
18 maintain and guard the people that are out there in the
19 ocean. This is not the wild west of the Arctic anymore.
20 We have to maintain that thing. We have to maintain these
21 people.

22 During the AEWC quarterly meeting this year,
23 there was government agencies from Washington, D.C. and
24 NOAA. We talked about the Arctic Ocean and the Chukchi
25 and the Beaufort Sea and what the oil industry is doing.

1 Since the government agency and the Coast Guard were up
2 here, I put out a request for 100 million dollars so I can
3 equip my people with oil spill response equipment that
4 will work. The people that are out there in the community
5 don't have no equipment, so I requested 100 million
6 dollars to at least buy them booms, boats. But the
7 government ignored some of that. But the Coast Guard was
8 very interested. I suppose they are looking for money.

9 I have a lot of comments I'd like to make. One
10 of the topics that you -- well, let me go back to Shell's
11 operation that everybody is talking about. You know, we
12 let Shell operate out in the Chukchi and the Beaufort on
13 the smaller -- on the drilling rig. Even though they were
14 not allowed to go to the oil pockets out there, their oil
15 spill response equipment was not here. It hasn't even
16 been to the Arctic.

17 The liquids in the drilling ships, if there
18 ever -- if anything happened, it's more toxic than the
19 crude oil itself. The alcids and all that stuff that the
20 animals like to eat, we never consider; yet we talk about
21 crude oil. The equipment where the liquids are in these
22 drilling ships are more toxic than the crude oil itself.
23 And we can't gather it with no boom or nothing.

24 One of the suggestions I'm going to make is if
25 we are going to let Shell Oil or anybody drill in the

1 Arctic on a platform, I suppose the government can drill a
2 platform out there right alongside those drilling ships
3 and just use it for a station for living quarters. The
4 oil spill response equipment can be sitting on this
5 platform in case something happens to deploy right now.
6 We don't have a port for these things or a safe harbor,
7 but if we put it on a platform, at least we will have hope
8 of cleaning up any spills.

9 We keep talking about the Arctic Ocean changing.
10 We keep talking about the Arctic weather changing. We
11 have an Arctic -- we have what you call a global weather
12 center here, NARL. If the government is going to open up
13 any more leasing in the Arctic, I recommend that you
14 finish that building up there, talk to the Congress and
15 NOAA and everything. We have the lab -- I think it's only
16 a quarter -- quarter finished. It's going to cost us
17 another 200 million to finish it. There's going to be
18 living quarters and internet and stuff. And I recommend
19 that you guys finish it. We finish that lab. I mean,
20 it's us. You need to help us get money to finish that lab
21 over there.

22 If Mr. Obama, the President, and everybody is
23 interested in doing Arctic research, our recommendation is
24 it be done here. This is the home of the Arctic. I hate
25 to read a report that comes from Denver, this is what's

1 happening to the Arctic. And I don't agree with them.
2 Arctic research is done and funded by the industry itself.
3 These researchers are paid by the oil industry. And these
4 people doing Arctic research make their report look good
5 so the industry can be sold to the government.

6 Anyway, okay. But we -- we have a lot of
7 educated people in oil spill response and equipment, but
8 no place to do oil spill response. And the equipment that
9 are bought by Shell Oil and the government, it don't work.
10 Yet the government goes on and goes, we are going to do
11 this and do some more. Next time you sell the spill -- I
12 mean, the leases up here, we want part of that money to
13 buy equipment; otherwise, I'm going to have to launch my
14 skin boat, which is more durable than any boat in the
15 world, you know.

16 And then we talked about safety on the
17 environment and everything like that. We have the best
18 knowledge. And the Eskimo has always been
19 environmentalist, keeping the Arctic Ocean clean. We have
20 the best of the best up here. Nothing to work with. One
21 of the things that I'm really disappointed is during the
22 1946 and to the '80s, the government drilled oil up here
23 on the land. Those wells are leaking. I hate to see any
24 more leakage in the Arctic or in the ocean.

25 If this is going to be the policy of your

1 organization just to leave them running out there and do
2 these things, none of us [indiscernible] -- we need to
3 clean up that stuff first before we go out there.
4 Otherwise, we are going to be living in polluted land. We
5 are going to be living in a polluted ocean and everything
6 like that. And we are lucky that some of these areas,
7 they leak, but they are contained in the land. We need to
8 stop before we get to the Arctic Ocean. If that thing
9 ever happened in the Arctic Ocean, we will be hurting.
10 I'm a whaling captain, and I try to whale out there.
11 Everybody talks about the global warming. Where is it?
12 I'm cold up there.

13 Anyway, I have more that I want to say, but I'm
14 going to let the others speak here. But I had to clean up
15 explorations. Please don't forget about the hundred
16 million dollars worth of equipment I want to buy my
17 people. Make sure you put that on there. We need to
18 finish that lab. Anyway, don't forget the whaling.

19 We do have -- we do have a problem coming up
20 where, you know, that the Arctic will be full of boats and
21 everything. We need more control. The other one I was
22 looking at, what the pre-landing people had was some years
23 ago when the fishing industry in the Gulf of Alaska got in
24 trouble because of the foreign fishermen, we put that
25 200-mile limit in place down there. And it goes all the

1 way up to here, I suppose. But the United States
2 government never agreed or signed that thing. And the
3 other Japanese and other fishermen that abide by the
4 200-mile limit, we can do the same thing up here. You
5 know, let there be control over -- you know, we can --
6 Native Village of Barrow have that policy that can be put.
7 It's just like everybody else. It's just an honorary sort
8 of line, you know, with no enforcement, but we need to
9 have everybody recognize that if you are inside the
10 200-mile limit, you have to do these things if you want to
11 drive your boat up here. Same thing. It really works.
12 The other countries honor it, but you are right, they
13 never signed that agreement. And the fishing industry is
14 strong because of that because the other countries honor
15 that. But -- and we need to do that up here.

16 But I'm going to give other people a chance.
17 Thank you.

18 MR. MICHAEL HALLER: Thank you, sir. If
19 we could hear from Mr. Tracey, sir.

20 MR. BILL TRACEY, SR.: Thank you.
21 That's Bill Tracey, Sr., 40-plus-year resident of the
22 North Slope. I like to say that I was born in
23 Connecticut, but reborn in Point Lay. That's where my
24 wife and family are from. Of course, I'm working up on
25 the Slope out of Point Lay and now in Barrow. I have

1 family, friends and associates in every community up here
2 and throughout the state. By no means am I speaking for
3 anybody other than myself, but my profession allows me to
4 help with the life, safety and health of all my fellow
5 citizens here in the North Slope as the fire chief
6 director for the North Slope Borough. Also work with the
7 Air Force, RAB committee helping with the restoration of
8 DEW line sites and those sorts of things.

9 I've listened in on many meetings like this with
10 the Coast Guard, with the North Slope Borough and other
11 agencies throughout the state and from Washington. And I
12 think one of the reasons I appreciate the fact that I
13 could sit here and speak to you -- and I don't like to
14 have my back to my constituents here -- but drilling or
15 not drilling, there is impacts in both directions. And I
16 appreciate you folks being here speaking to us, listening
17 to us. And you are going to be in various parts of the
18 state doing the same thing. We need to be heard and the
19 results of you folks hearing us becomes law, if you will,
20 and the guidance to industry. And at times they really
21 need that guidance.

22 I'm concerned beyond our boundaries, both land
23 and sea, because other nations are already in the oceans,
24 if you will, drilling their way, exploring their way. A
25 lot of them don't have the policies and the rules and the

1 regs that we are developing here and have here already.
2 And that's a concern. The ocean currents are such that
3 any mishap that they have will also be included with that.
4 Climate change, for one; that's not just the United
5 States' problem; it's the world's problem. And so is the
6 Arctic Ocean. Any mishaps here will be shared by the
7 world.

8 So I mentioned I'm from Point Lay, and if you
9 are familiar with what's happening up here with wildlife,
10 Point Lay has had the -- lately the walrus haul-outs. And
11 my wife Marie and I actually got to spend whole days with
12 the walruses. We put on our tan Carhartts and didn't use
13 any aftershave that day. We kind of crawled up and made
14 our way to where they were, and we did it in such a way
15 that they weren't bothered by us, so we were able to set
16 up our cameras and took pictures of them. And we are
17 sharing those pictures with anybody that wants them so
18 that there is no need for them to come up and disturb the
19 walruses and cause a stampede, which unfortunately kills a
20 lot of them, kills a lot of walruses. We are also a
21 beluga community, and bowhead whaling has resurfaced in
22 Point Lay.

23 And it's a sharing part of the world up here.
24 So anything we do in Point Lay we will share with any
25 community that wants to share with us. The same with --

1 you will find that in any community, especially the
2 coastal communities that harvest whales and seals. They
3 will share with folks in Anaktuvik Pass and others, folks
4 that don't have the ocean in front of them. So it's very
5 important to us.

6 Beyond that, my job as the fire director, I'm
7 looking at impacts if offshore development does happen,
8 and I'm -- I think of Wainwright right off the bat. They
9 will become a very busy community. And I don't want to
10 have to play catch-up in making sure that they have
11 adequate resources to handle that impact, bigger clinics,
12 bigger fire stations, bigger airports. There will be a
13 lot of air traffic between Barrow, Anchorage, Fairbanks,
14 Wainwright and other communities. We want to be ready for
15 that.

16 So I'm glad things are going kind of slow and
17 easy. We are being safe. We are being responsible. And
18 I think because we are taking this time, we can achieve
19 that balance that I think is on everybody's mind. There
20 is a place for industry and there is a place for what's
21 been happening up here for thousands of years. If we find
22 that balance, I think we will be doing our part, anyway.
23 There is always the accidents. There is always going to
24 be injuries. But at least we are doing our part
25 responsibly. And that's why I appreciate an opportunity

1 for you folks to be here and meet with us. And that's
2 really the point I want to get across. Let's find that
3 balance. Let's continue at the speed we are at. I think
4 we will do all right.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. MICHAEL HALLER: Thank you very much,
7 Chief Tracey. Appreciate it so much. Looking at the
8 clock very quickly, and I know that the stations need some
9 acknowledgment, so I just want to mention not only to the
10 folks here in the room but on the air with us, KOTZ is
11 live with us, as well as KBRW who is the host. So we have
12 a simulcast going. I was trained earlier in my life in
13 radio, so I know you have to give those station breaks
14 once in a while.

15 I also want to mention for those joining us from
16 Kotzebue, we had intended and tried to use some ultra
17 modern technology to be able to have you call in to us.
18 What I'm going to offer, because it's not quite working,
19 is a work-around. It's also modern. You can text us. So
20 I'm going to give you a number. You can text this number
21 your message, and we will try and be responsive here also
22 in an equally modern way. Here you go. (907) 301-9340.
23 And if you happen to be in the room with us, you can use
24 the microphone. Don't text me. I see you. No fair.
25 Okay.

1 Anyway, with those few comments, one more time,
2 (907) 301-9340. You can text and we will try and be
3 responsive to your remarks, your question or statement,
4 whatever it may be. You are welcome to do that.

5 We will continue until 2:00 with this session,
6 and then we will readjourn later this afternoon at 5:00.
7 And we are scheduled to go from 5 until 7:30. We realize
8 for some it's date night, so we don't want to interfere
9 with that. No matter where you are on the planet, Friday
10 is date night, so there you go.

11 Right now, though, our next speaker here is
12 Harry Brower with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission.
13 There you go.

14 MR. HARRY BROWER, JR.: Thank you, Tommy
15 and Mike. For the record, Harry Brower, Jr., Vice Chair
16 for the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. I also am a
17 hunter, born and raised here in Barrow, and currently
18 registered with the Barrow Whaling Association as a
19 whaling captain.

20 I have some concerns about how operations have
21 been going. You know, my observations have me voice
22 concerns and hear concerns from our constituents and our
23 whaling associations, as well.

24 But through the Alaska Eskimo Whaling
25 Commission, we voice concerns in regards to the Beaufort

1 Sea activity in regard to the discharge from the activity
2 that occurs from oil drilling and the operations itself.
3 So in regards to the discharge, the AEWC has repeatedly
4 asked that the oil industry implement zero discharge
5 technologies in the nearshore Beaufort Sea. In the CAA,
6 the Conflict Avoidance Agreement and in their notice of
7 intent to EPA, Shell has agreed to zero discharge
8 limitations that restrict the discharge of drilling fluids
9 and cuttings, sanitary and gray water, ballast and bilge
10 water at all times after the drilling of the 20-inch
11 casing. They have also agreed to move all their equipment
12 from Camden Bay during the fall hunt for Nuiqsut and
13 Kaktovik. This is also in regard to the Conflict
14 Avoidance Agreement language that we use to communicate
15 with the industry operators, specifically to Shell.

16 And with that we are very happy to see that they
17 have obliged us with that during last winter's -- last
18 fall's activity. Even though we had a little situation
19 that arose at a later time, we were able to communicate
20 and continue with our whaling and Shell was able to
21 continue with its operations. So we would like to
22 acknowledge that we are communicating effectively and
23 working on that Conflict Avoidance Agreement and meeting
24 the community's needs.

25 EPA's general permit is much weaker. EPA's

1 general permit only prohibits the discharge of drilling
2 fluids and cuttings during the fall hunt for Nuiqsut and
3 Kaktovik. I kind of look back and, like I said, I have my
4 own observations I'd like to include here in these
5 situations. I'm obliged that Shell did meet its -- not
6 requirements, but that Conflict Avoidance Agreement
7 conditions that we imposed on them, but we also have
8 Barrow as a whaling community, and it's downstream of this
9 activity.

10 And I said my personal observations. I -- we
11 did harvest whales. We were fortunate to do that. But
12 there is -- the biggest movement of the whales during the
13 migration were somewhat further offshore. So in my
14 personal observations, I think there was somewhat of a
15 deflection. Even though we did land some of the whales
16 that we had for Barrow, we had distances we had to travel
17 further than what where our normal hunting areas are.

18 So that's one observation I could share with you
19 in terms of the comments we have, I have for the Alaska
20 Eskimo Whaling Commission.

21 EPA's permits leave very important gaps in
22 coverage. There are no protections in the permit for the
23 fall bowhead whale hunt in Barrow or bowhead habitat in
24 Harrison Bay. There is no requirement that companies move
25 off site in Camden Bay during the fall hunt for Nuiqsut

1 and Kaktovik. And there is no requirement for companies
2 to use readily available technology to limit discharge at
3 other times in the nearshore Beaufort Sea.

4 It is very simple. The zero discharge
5 technologies agreed to by Shell should be implemented at
6 all times by all companies in the nearshore Beaufort Sea.
7 The AEWC requires that BOEM support this position by
8 including zero discharge provisions in its exploration
9 permit in the Beaufort Sea drilling.

10 A deferral area must be created for Cross
11 Island. The AEWC and Nuiqsut have been requesting for a
12 deferral area for Cross Island since the 1980s. As those
13 who have visited Nuiqsut and Cross Island can see, the
14 Cross Island hunt is critical for Nuiqsut's nutritional
15 and cultural survival. The area surrounding Cross Island
16 requires protection from permanent development that would
17 give long-term stability to the bowhead whale migration
18 through the area, from that area.

19 A collaborative, science- and traditional
20 knowledge-based advisory group should be created to manage
21 issues that arise related to exploration activities in
22 Camden Bay and to advise on development decisions for that
23 area.

24 So there is, again, concerns that have been
25 voiced within the Camden Bay area, activity voiced by our

1 hunters from Nuiqsut, and they are wanting to see some
2 research being done collaboratively using traditional
3 knowledge in terms of their observations that could be
4 shared with the research group to document that these are
5 facts that they are providing to you as the managers or
6 the industry operators that are willing to have activity
7 in the Beaufort or in Camden Bay.

8 The AEWEC and Nuiqsut and Kaktovik hunters
9 propose to work with Shell and the North Slope Borough
10 Department of Wildlife Management on the creation of a
11 database of traditional knowledge and scientific research
12 on the use of Camden Bay as a bowhead whale habitat and
13 impacts to the bowhead whale migration from different
14 development activities in that area. The proposal also
15 includes the recommendation for the creation of
16 hunter/scientist advisory body to work with developers and
17 regulators on issues that might arise during exploration.
18 Late season hunting in Kaktovik is one example that I can
19 reference from what we experienced last fall during
20 Shell's activities and delayed activities in Kaktovik
21 during the hunt because of a situation in the community of
22 an Elder passing. And Shell respected that. And they
23 delayed their hunt a few days, which created some -- how
24 can I say it? Created some tension, I guess, for the
25 operators because of the timing that they were expecting

1 to conduct their activities.

2 The proposal also includes a recommendation for
3 the creation of a hunter/scientist advisory body to work
4 with developers and regulators on issues that might arise
5 during this exploration. The TK database and advisory
6 group also could serve as a -- serve to guide both future
7 research and future decisions related to development in
8 the Camden Bay region.

9 These are the comments from the Alaska Eskimo
10 Whaling Commission. And I wanted to make sure I provided
11 them to you during this listening session in the hope
12 of -- being hopeful that there is something down the pike
13 and see what changes occur. Thank you. Thank you all for
14 coming here to Barrow to hear and listen to us, your
15 federal agencies. AEWC really appreciates you coming here
16 to the communities and hearing our concerns.

17 MR. MICHAEL HALLER: Thank you, Harry,
18 very much. Former Mayor Itta, would you offer some
19 remarks, sir?

20 MR. EDWARD ITTA: Kuyanaqqak. (Speaking
21 in Inupiat.) And I welcome all of you up here. I wish
22 you would have brought a little warmth. Anyway, I'm a
23 hunter and a whaler, lifelong resident and growing older
24 up here now. So in my -- as an Elder, I spoke before you
25 as a citizen of the North Slope Borough, State of Alaska,

1 USA, tribal member, member of ASRC, and a member of our
2 tribal communities up here. And I want to again say my
3 greetings to all of our listening audience and thank
4 everybody today who showed up and have spoken. And I'm
5 glad you are going to have a second session this
6 afternoon. And again, welcome, Tommy. Good to see you
7 again. Pat, Jim, and everybody.

8 I want to start with your recommendations for
9 industry, the fifth point there on respect for and
10 coordination with local communities. And that was
11 actually one of my last comments in my -- in my bullet
12 points here. But I thought that was especially relevant,
13 because we do want a voice. And I really appreciate the
14 department, Tommy in particular, coming up and taking the
15 time to come and listen to us as you prepare for more
16 specific information to any operations that are going to
17 be happening in the OCS offshore, both in the Chukchi and
18 the Beaufort.

19 You know, since -- in respect to item 5, these
20 are federal waters. We all know that. And yet our state,
21 you know, is saying that they don't get enough say about
22 these matters that are dealing with the federal authority.
23 And I find it ironic that from the highest levels of the
24 State of Alaska's administration that they are on one hand
25 saying they don't get enough local input on the State

1 level from the Feds, and at the same time, in essence,
2 they have shut us off, both the State administration and
3 the legislature, in refusing to pass an Alaska coastal
4 management plan. And I remind everybody that that was the
5 only source really where any development for coastal
6 communities, not only for oil and gas, was a place for
7 local input.

8 So in that like -- I want to just interject here
9 that since it's to do with OCS, that all inter-agency
10 groups consider an advisory panel very similar to the
11 Prince William Sound Advisory Council because as it is now
12 we don't have any real opportunity to talk about coastal
13 related development within the state of Alaska. And I'm
14 just glad that the federal authorities are taking the time
15 to come up and listen to our concerns, but I just wanted
16 to go ahead and start off with that to remind everybody
17 that we don't have a coastal zone management plan up here
18 anymore. So I welcome your desire to listen to us.

19 I want to start off with what our commissioner
20 for Barrow, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, Harry
21 Brower, mentioned, and that is subsistence deferrals is
22 what I'm going to call it. It's better known as exclusion
23 areas within the upcoming lease sale from 2012 to '17.
24 That I think that's an area that needs to be looked at
25 further; in particular, areas to the west on the Chukchi

1 side where beluga is involved. And those fare from Point
2 Lay on eastward. And also on the Beaufort Sea side, that
3 Cross Island is an area also that should be considered for
4 deferral, as well as serious information being developed
5 for Camden Bay. And this is all in relation to our
6 bowhead whale, which, as most of you know by now, is
7 largely dependent on the bowhead whale, not only cultural
8 but for sustenance. So I really would like to see more
9 focus in those areas as you move forward.

10 The second part has to deal specifically with --
11 with what's already been said, I think, that Arctic oil
12 spill response planning needs to be just that. Arctic.
13 And I heard you had a good session in Anchorage yesterday.
14 And I'm not going to go over all those points, but one of
15 the things that I have been concerned about, and it's to
16 do with the currents and that whatever oil spill modeling
17 is being done up here, that the trajectory modeling be
18 focused on where is this stuff going or going to go and
19 how fast and how far.

20 We as Inupiat hunters and whalers up here have
21 always paid attention to the currents up here. We know on
22 the Beaufort Sea side, we got the Beaufort gyre that goes
23 clockwise, and on the Chukchi Sea side it goes
24 counterclockwise from the Pacific going on up. So while I
25 share concerns with my fellow Inupiaqs from the northwest

1 and also on down the coast, that we up here on the Slope
2 stand to be devastated even more if we don't understand
3 these trajectory models adequately, because I think
4 everything is going to end up up here somewhere on our
5 coast up in the north due to the currents. And that's a
6 big part of why we have not had such a successful whaling
7 season up near Barrow.

8 The Arctic well blowout source controls, I
9 totally support the capping and containment systems, but
10 those should be located in our region somewhere, not
11 located somewhere and have to be towed up here. And the
12 testing for those I believe should be done up here in the
13 Arctic. And the -- the inspections that happen within
14 BOEM and BSEE on the industry's operations in those areas,
15 we want to have you share some of that information with us
16 up here.

17 I think having seen the Noble Discoverer and the
18 Kulluk and what happened, I think the Kulluk is more
19 designed for the Arctic, but certainly the Noble
20 Discoverer wasn't, and that there needs to be standards
21 established of some sort for Arctic class type relief well
22 operations and whatnot.

23 So the Arctic oil spill response and equipment
24 and personnel, that is one issue that I still have a
25 concern about in that we have capabilities up here within

1 the North Slope for some Arctic class type operators that
2 have cleaned up oil spills and whatnot. I have not seen
3 any specific Arctic training programs for that -- that
4 personnel, much less seen the equipment that I believe is
5 provided only by industry. So there must be some
6 standards that can be put in place.

7 And I don't need to state, but I will, that all
8 of us know there has never been proven yet a mechanism to
9 clean up an oil spill in the Arctic. And that is why I
10 continue to speak that there has to be a balance on that
11 risk that's going to end up with us versus just going
12 ahead with minimum standards.

13 I recognize and acknowledge that we are
14 dependent on oil and gas up here. I think that's good.
15 And I hope the operators have good luck out there, but I
16 don't believe that they should be given full just a carte
17 blanche thing and say go do it. There needs to be Arctic
18 class standards to protect our way of life up here, and
19 that is in both water quality and air quality. And that
20 is where I'm coming from in this.

21 So the second part has to do with what you
22 mentioned, Tommy, and that was seasonal drilling limits
23 when oil spill response is not possible. I think it's
24 prudent to have a one-month window, as you have said, in
25 the Arctic in case of a late blowout, say in late

1 September, because very often the ice will form in
2 October. And the blowout preventers, I think that's good,
3 that two -- two of them, kind of redundancy and whatnot.

4 The last part of that is in the Arctic pollution
5 prevention operating standards. Now, I know that there
6 has been some changes in the air quality issue, but the
7 water quality continues to be of concern up here in this
8 light. I know we are just dealing with one main operator,
9 but I'm thinking of cumulative effects here, that one
10 permit per operation is given. If there was three, four,
11 five, six, ten, each one will be given a permit, but yet
12 there is no real comprehensive cumulative impact study or
13 effects that I know of. And I think that needs to be
14 taken into consideration.

15 The standards for operation -- operators to show
16 us that they have some kind of Arctic expertise or
17 understanding, especially the boat operators and whatnot,
18 the ship operators, and some understanding of weather and
19 what we are dealing with up here. I think Shell has
20 learned a hard lesson. I don't think that's a secret. I
21 think they failed miserably in some areas. And if they
22 are to establish a level of trust with us, they need to
23 prove openly -- industry, that is -- that, hey, they want
24 to be good partners and go ahead and keep moving forward.
25 Air pollution and waste discharge standards, as I've said,

1 need to be taken into consideration very seriously and
2 standards put in place.

3 The last part of my comments have to deal with,
4 again, the lease exclusion areas. Barrow was able to get
5 a deferral for our bowhead whale, but it's very small. I
6 remember way back when when we had asked for deferral
7 areas, and that was during the days of MMS. I'm glad
8 those days are gone. I'm serious. I'm glad they are
9 gone. We listened -- we talked for 40 years, damn near,
10 and never got anywhere. I'm glad to see the changes that
11 have happened. I'm glad to see a sense of responsiveness
12 here to our concerns. So I'm encouraged. Again, I thank
13 you.

14 And I think, you know, I have been waiting, I
15 guess, for Shell to acknowledge somewhere, someplace a
16 little bit of -- accept a little bit of responsibility and
17 say they messed up here and there. But so far I haven't
18 heard it. And I know that's outside your realm, but these
19 are operators that you permit. And in a sense, I think it
20 lands on you, too. So I know business is a hard deal.
21 It's hard-nosed and whatnot, but still, in all
22 seriousness, we are the ones up here at risk as this goes
23 to unfold.

24 I think most of you have known my position, in
25 closing, that I continue to push for standards that will

1 protect our way of life. And I want you to understand
2 that when I say that, there are nuances in here that say I
3 don't oppose outright any more offshore oil and gas
4 operations, but I demand that these safeguards and a
5 balance be put in that protect our way of life. So with
6 that, I thank you and wish you well. Kuyanaqqak.

7 MR. MICHAEL HALLER: Thank you very much.
8 We have had several people join us, and I'm not sure if
9 there are some who have joined us who would like to make
10 some remarks. Doreen, do you have any? Please come
11 forward.

12 MS. DOREEN LAMPE: Good afternoon,
13 Borough of Ocean Energy Management. I'd like to welcome
14 you all to Barrow. I hope you notice how much ice is out
15 there. I'd like to thank you for attending our Inupiat
16 Community of the Arctic Slope monthly meeting. For the
17 record, my name is Doreen Lampe. I'm the Executive
18 Director of ICAS. I'd like to thank the United States
19 Coast Guard for coming and presenting their United States
20 Arctic strategy with our community. Sudie Hargis, thank
21 you for coming to our meeting, also.

22 I do know the United States Coast Guard is
23 preparing for a SONS demonstration on June 18 in
24 Anchorage. And this is a scenario where there will be a
25 significant spill of national significance, a SONS

1 exercise drill. And it's a scenario based on a spill in
2 Wainwright. And we have one ICAS board member from
3 Wainwright.

4 And we just had that meeting very recently, so I
5 know there is a lot of complaints about information
6 traveling to the villages from our ICAS meetings, and I
7 hope that something of this importance to the community of
8 Wainwright would be notified regarding this exercise
9 drill. It's just an exercise drill. It will be in the
10 federal building on June 18 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in
11 Anchorage, Alaska. And we had asked some questions
12 regarding the United States Coast Guard on some of your
13 offshore lease sale activities or proposed lease plans,
14 and they weren't very informed about your program. They
15 couldn't answer a majority of our questions. But they
16 took notes and they will get back to us. They are very
17 good about that, getting back to us. And I'd like to
18 thank the Coast Guard for that. So this drill of spill of
19 national significance is a scenario where they will have
20 an offshore oil spill in Wainwright and how prepared is
21 the local on-scene commander, the federal on-scene
22 commander, the State on-scene commander. When we attended
23 these meetings telephonically, they used all these
24 acronyms: FOS, LOS, NOS, whatever, whatever, whatever.
25 So I hope we get away from using acronyms and, you know,

1 say what we mean to say. I'd like to make that clear.

2 It was very encouraging to see the changes you
3 guys have implemented and updated our regional tribal
4 government on a lot of the concerns we voiced over the
5 last 30 years. I know we had to sue MMS because there was
6 just a lot of bad activity going down in Louisiana, and we
7 heard it on national news. And I'm very glad to see that
8 the federal government, you know, can make positive
9 changes when there needs to be change. And I commend
10 President Obama's administration for that.

11 Regarding the deferral areas, when they first
12 proposed a deferral area, it was kind of a joke deferral
13 area. When we -- when we asked them how long that
14 deferral area was going to stay in place, they said it's
15 only a one-year proposed deferral area for our plan. So
16 I'd like to know if that's a permanent deferral area or is
17 it just a 2012 to 2017 proposed deferral area.

18 There is a recent study that came out between
19 the oil industry, Statoil, Shell Oil and ConocoPhillips
20 oil industry where they all chipped in to do some baseline
21 studies in the Chukchi Sea area in their offshore oil
22 lease plans, and they had contracted with Fairview Weather
23 [sic] to conduct these studies. And they used a Coast
24 Guard ship last summer to conduct those scientific
25 studies. And they found out that right smack in the

1 middle of all those Chukchi oil lease sales is a very
2 important area that the walrus go out and haul out way out
3 there and feed and then haul -- haul back to shore.
4 That's right smack in the middle of all those Chukchi Sea
5 oil lease sales.

6 I was really disappointed in the OCS program for
7 the last 40 years. We have stated constantly over and
8 over the need for baseline studies, the need to identify
9 important areas for the existence of our natural resources
10 that contribute to our food chain. That would be one area
11 that I would like to see more closely protected.

12 We passed a resolution at ICAS regarding the use
13 of chemical dispersants. Any type of chemicals that you
14 put into the ocean will settle onto the mud floor, the
15 bottom of the sea bed, and that's where a majority of the
16 small food chain animals that -- that bigger animals --
17 they hibernate in the mud sediments over the long winters
18 and they come back alive when it's warm enough. And we
19 would just really hate to see all those chemical
20 dispersants be mixed into the habitat where all the clams
21 go, all the bottom-feeding creatures. So we passed a
22 resolution against the use of chemical dispersants in the
23 Arctic Ocean. I know Lakeisha is going to be setting up
24 some standards for the United States Outer Continental
25 Shelf offshore exploration plans. So I hope that you

1 would seriously take that into consideration.

2 We have been trying to identify what those
3 dispersants' chemical makeups are, consist of. We have
4 tried through the Freedom of Information Act to obtain
5 those listings. We have no idea how -- how dangerous they
6 are to our marine ecosystem in the Arctic.

7 And also the Inuvialuit/Inupiat agreement
8 corresponds to meetings that President George Olemaun and
9 I attended, experienced some negative -- negative -- I
10 don't know. They just were not satisfied with the use of
11 jack-up rigs in Canada. They were very unstable and they
12 were recommending that we should consider, you know, maybe
13 not using jack-up rigs in the Arctic. But for me
14 personally I haven't seen it, and I know Admiral Ostebo
15 was interested in finding out ConocoPhillips' jack-up rig
16 plans for 2014, and those got canceled, so we really don't
17 know for sure how bad they are in the Arctic. But if you
18 could check with your Canadian Coast Guard counterpart
19 friends of the Canadian government, I'm sure we could
20 share information and find out just what bad experiences
21 they had with those jack-up rigs.

22 For the offshore lease sale revenue sharing, you
23 guys are the federal government. We are a federally
24 recognized regional tribal government. We don't get no
25 State revenues. We don't get no legislation where the

1 southwest of Alaska shares their fish revenues with us.
2 We don't get no revenue where the southeast share their
3 timber revenue with us. We are the only ones
4 discriminated against on revenue sharing. We are the
5 poorest entity on the Arctic Slope. We have to work very
6 hard to try and obtain donations, donation funding to keep
7 our regional tribal government in operations. And we
8 would appreciate if the federal government would work
9 federal government to federally recognized tribal
10 government and cut us in on the revenue sharing
11 government-to-government.

12 Our president recently went to Washington, D.C.
13 to meet with Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell, and our
14 three organizations for the first time signed a joint
15 letter, the North Slope Borough Mayor, the president of
16 ASRC and the president of ICAS regarding BLM's proposed
17 use of the offshore oil lease sale revenues to take the
18 NPR-A funds and use those to clean up the Legacy wells
19 within BLM. Although I am a strong advocate in support of
20 remediation of those Legacy wells which are in very bad
21 condition and are eroding into our oceans, rivers and
22 lakes, that's not the place to take the money from. Our
23 past president, George Edwardson, stated the U.S. Navy was
24 the one that, you know, made all that contamination, and
25 improperly abandoned those sites, so the U.S. Navy should

1 take responsibility and clean up those sites with their
2 Navy funds.

3 Also for -- for the Beaufort Sea side, we would
4 like to work more closely with the Inuvialuit region. We
5 have an Inuvialuit/Inupiat agreement where they manage the
6 beluga whale and [indiscernible], and it's sharing data,
7 sharing information, sharing harvest records and also some
8 of our own ideas here in Alaska. They are very impressed
9 with the Alaska Clean Seas program run by Charles Hopson,
10 and they would like to see that -- that type of training
11 for their community members in the Canadian side because
12 they have a lot of wells in the Canadian side that have
13 been developed and explored but are just sitting there
14 with no means to export those -- export their resource
15 out.

16 I know we have been trying to create an Arctic
17 Slope hunter/gatherer commission, and this is in a large
18 response to our Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
19 membership and their difficulties in their hunting for
20 other -- other animals besides the bowhead whale. I'm
21 glad that AEWG is able to try and negotiate and establish
22 some Conflict Avoidance Agreement with the industry.
23 Without that, I think their quota harvest will be not as
24 successful as it is with that Conflict Avoidance Agreement
25 that's in place.

1 But we are experiencing a lot of hunter failures
2 or lack of harvesting by hunters because of helicopter
3 traffic scaring the caribou away, just a lot more marine
4 traffic, a lot more air traffic. So it's becoming very
5 difficult to be more successful in harvesting these other
6 mammals. And we would appreciate some sort of support
7 similar to the Inuvialuit gaming councils they have
8 established there. The Canadian government has invested
9 quite a bit in having the Inuvialuit have the ability to
10 continue to harvest their resources in Canada.

11 And between Fish & Wildlife Service, Alaska
12 State Fish & Game, all these other -- Nanook Commission,
13 all these other game warden management people -- we are
14 not criminals. We should not be sending our memberships
15 to jail for beheading a walrus. There should be other --
16 other types of punishment, not federal prison. I mean,
17 that is not -- not the way to go. We need better
18 co-management agreements with the United States federal
19 government and the State of Alaska.

20 The whole Arctic Slope is divided by so many
21 borders: The National Petroleum Reserve, ANWR, Alaska
22 Maritime National Refuge, Gates of the Arctic. So there
23 is just so many designations and so many different
24 management mechanisms. The State is fighting the Bethel
25 fishermen and not even allowing them to traditionally

1 harvest salmon anymore. We would not like to see
2 commercial fishing open in the Arctic. The poorest state
3 management fishing program is a prime example why we don't
4 want to see commercial fishing in the Arctic. We oppose
5 any plans for opening to commercial fishing. We have no
6 idea where the real critical areas are to sustain these
7 natural resources, the polar bear, the seal, the walrus.
8 We have no idea where their specific locations are to keep
9 those populations up.

10 Also for your proposed OCS plans, I would hope
11 that you would change your method of accepting comments.
12 Every time I attend one of those meetings, you can only
13 comment on a certain phase. You can only comment on a
14 seismic phase. You can only comment on the leasing phase.
15 You can only comment on the preexploration phase. And
16 then by the time the actual exploration and development
17 come, your comment period is done. So it's very
18 frustrating.

19 We have been working very hard for the last 40
20 years. We are the stewards of the Arctic Ocean. We make
21 the comments. We don't want to see no regional citizen's
22 advisory council that lives God knows where. Not in the
23 Arctic. We don't want to see no state commission program
24 that doesn't even have a coastal zone management program.
25 We are the stewards of the Arctic. You work with us. And

1 thank you for coming.

2 MR. MICHAEL HALLER: Thank you, Doreen.
3 Again, I ask those who joined us just a few moments ago if
4 you would like to step forward. Thank you very much,
5 ma'am.

6 MS. MARIE CARROLL: Thank you very much
7 for giving us an opportunity to come here and make some
8 comments on your activities. My name is Marie Carroll. I
9 am a Barrow resident, born and raised here. And my job
10 right now is with the Arctic Slope Native Association.
11 I'm president and CEO. We provide health care services,
12 operate the hospital, and provide social services programs
13 in our region. And also I'm from a whaling family. I was
14 raised with it. It's a -- something that is ingrained in
15 all of us here. It's near and dear to us. It's our
16 culture. The ocean is such an integral part of us that I
17 think you don't really know the depths of our concerns
18 because we are so tied so it. Like fishermen. You can't
19 live without it.

20 So I just want to make a few comments on the key
21 principles that you have up here and prerequisites for
22 safe and responsible offshore drilling in the Alaskan
23 Arctic that you have posted here.

24 We are -- as an organization, are part of a
25 disaster response team. We operate the only hospital --

1 we have had cases where people were flown into our
2 hospital from a couple of hundred miles out. And so we
3 are the only hospital in this region. And if there is any
4 disasters, I would hope that in developing your emergency
5 response to any development up here that you work
6 closely -- I know there is some coordination that I
7 believe you can improve on coordinating and improve your
8 plans working with a disaster response team. Our hospital
9 staff are part of that. And having -- if there is cases
10 where we need to deal with that, we need to be involved in
11 the planning on how we respond to that. And the North
12 Slope Borough is a big part of it, and we are all part of
13 the team. We all have to work together when disaster
14 happens. So I think you can improve that and work on
15 that.

16 The other thing I'd like to comment on is having
17 operators where you have -- I like the No. 2, having clear
18 objectives for the drilling season. And there is
19 speculations about what happened with the drill that was
20 moved, whether it was because it was going to be taxed up
21 here. Those types of things, I guess you should be aware
22 of those as a government agency with the oversight having
23 clear direction from the federal government averting
24 disasters like that, planning ahead. You know, there is
25 such conditions that are expected over the ocean. With

1 weather systems nowadays, we know a week in advance of
2 what's going to happen. There is weather and marine
3 conditions reported every day up here. We know that.

4 And there should be some restrictions in the
5 activity that could potentially become a disaster. I
6 think you need to be specific and very clear on movement
7 of the drills and the boats in those cases. You know,
8 look at what we -- what we do is we look at the risk and
9 you plan from there. And I don't know if the Feds have
10 done that because of what happened last year. I'm not
11 confident because of what happened last year that you have
12 done that. So I think it's really important to do that.

13 And one thing we have always said -- and I have
14 been involved with commenting with all the other people
15 who have been in here. I started commenting in my
16 mid-20s, most of my life.

17 MR. TOMMY BEAUDREAU: And now that you are
18 in your late 20s, you are still --

19 MS. MARIE CARROLL: Most of my life I have
20 been before people like you. And I'm glad to hear there
21 is some improvement, and I support the improvements, but I
22 think you could really do better. So having -- I think
23 it's important to have a local presence who can be a
24 liaison with the concerns that come up. As it is, it's
25 either the North Slope Borough mayor's office or ICAS or

1 other organizations.

2 It's kind of not coordinated up here. There is
3 no coordination of concern. You know, where do you go?
4 You go to the borough, they -- they have nothing to do
5 with your leases. You should have a presence here. And I
6 think it's really important to do that. And someone who
7 is knowledgeable of the area and who knows the people
8 and -- because it's about time. Like I said, most of my
9 life I have been here. I won't tell you my age, but it's
10 been over 30 years.

11 So I think it's out of -- No. 5 respect for and
12 coordination with local communities. That is to me a
13 concrete -- you need to have something more concrete than
14 a goal. If you don't do anything about it, then it's kind
15 of meaningless. We will be back here when this thing --
16 people like you come in and expressing our concern. So I
17 think it's -- it's time to do something locally.

18 And I'd like to strongly support the comments
19 that were made by Doreen Lampe, who is part of the
20 regional tribal organization as Executive Director. She
21 does bring up the issue about impact funds. So there is
22 no -- as far as I know -- maybe I need to be updated, but
23 no impact funds from OCS development, but we do have one
24 impact fund from NPR-A activities. And that goes to the
25 communities that are impacted by your activities. And

1 it's the only thing that's concrete to this community that
2 aids us in dealing with the impacts. I know I've heard
3 the small communities and villages up here on the North
4 Slope with concerns about they don't want to become like
5 Barrow because of the impacts we deal with here. And so I
6 think you really need to look at having some kind of
7 impact aid that goes to tribal governments or local
8 agencies who provide services to deal with the impacts
9 that come from activity.

10 And unfortunately, our statistics are not -- we
11 are not proud of them, with some of our statistics with
12 suicide rates and other -- you know, drug and alcohol
13 abuse and other activities that we had very little when we
14 were growing up before any activity, before Prudhoe Bay
15 was open. We didn't have a whole lot of those statistics
16 on our -- in our communities. I mean, we were happy. We
17 didn't have much, but we were really happy. We were
18 raised with healthy families. And now with the impacts of
19 development, we are -- these statistics are not -- you
20 know, very disheartening, and all of us have been touched
21 by these impacts.

22 And so I think OCS, with your programs, you need
23 to come up with something to help those small villages.
24 You know, I've heard parents from the village say, I don't
25 want my kids to come here to Barrow because of what's

1 going on with the impacts that we have had to face and
2 deal with in our community. But they are -- I'm not
3 saying -- you know, overall, I think most of us have
4 healthy and happy lives, but we do see those impacts in
5 our communities.

6 So thank you very much for coming here. And I
7 hope you do make, you know, an effort to be more concrete
8 here, not just a group that comes in and gather
9 information, but come and join, send someone. Get someone
10 here locally that we can go to who has direct contact with
11 you. So -- or hire someone under ICAS. You know, we
12 really need to have more contact with you on a daily
13 basis, not -- not from a distance when your activities are
14 impacting us. You got to be here.

15 So that's my main comments. Thank you for being
16 here.

17 MR. MICHAEL HALLER: Thanks very much. Do
18 we have anybody else to come forward?

19 MR. CHARLES HOPSON: I spoke earlier, but
20 I forgot to mention one item. Thank you, again. Charlie
21 Hopson. I made a statement earlier, but one thing I
22 wanted to really express that I forgot -- I had written it
23 down here -- is during the past five or six years, the
24 United States government and Fish & Wildlife -- what you
25 call that, Fish & Game tried to put polar bears, seals,

1 walrus and the bowhead whale is on the endangered species
2 list.

3 And if you are going to continue selling
4 offshore stuff, you know, we do need to have satellite
5 capability of looking at the ice if there is ever a spill.
6 We need a satellite to do -- just like everybody else.
7 They do this in Denver. I recommend we finish -- get a
8 satellite station here and a lab up here where they are
9 capable of watching the Arctic Ocean from up here. And if
10 there is a spill or any kind of thing that happens, we can
11 zoom in on where it's happening and see if there is
12 wildlife that you are violating your own government rules
13 of the endangered species on the bowhead, the walrus, the
14 seals and all the polar bears. They are all threatened or
15 endangered. You know, you are violating it.

16 I recommend we put a satellite station that we
17 can monitor what's happening out there. I had written
18 that down. I forgot to mention it. And I'll be happy to
19 set it up. Thank you.

20 MR. MICHAEL HALLER: Thank you, Charlie.
21 Coming here to the close of the scheduled time for this
22 first session, and a reminder that we do have another
23 session yet later this afternoon or evening from 5:00
24 until 7:30 that we have scheduled. But in the interests
25 of time and the fact that you are here before us, are

1 there any others who would like to offer testimony at this
2 time?

3 Mr. Secretary, final comments?

4 MR. TOMMY BEAUDREAU: Thank you very
5 much for all of these comments and suggestions. It's
6 gratifying for me to have and to receive a level of trust
7 from you that you are willing to participate with us, be
8 candid and honest with us, tell us where you think we are
9 doing better and what direction we ought to be able to
10 continue in. It means a lot to me that I feel you respect
11 us enough that you are willing to share honest viewpoints
12 with us. And that, in my mind, really came through today.
13 And I just want you to know how much I appreciate that and
14 how much I respect your willingness to talk with us.

15 As I said at the outset, it takes courage to
16 come in a room like this with people -- some of you --
17 some of you I've met before, but not everybody. And to
18 come in and kind of give heartfelt views the way you did
19 is really admirable. And so I really appreciate it.

20 Please encourage folks you know who, you know,
21 you know have something to say, you know have views that
22 they ought to be telling us, please encourage them to come
23 tonight and share those with us. It means a lot. This is
24 why, you know, you saw I took notes. I have half a note
25 pad of notes. We are taking everything down in a

1 transcript, as well. We use this information. We go back
2 and we look through and we say, okay, you know, Doreen
3 told us this. What is our answer on this? Is this
4 something we can work with? And we do that exercise. So
5 please stick with us. Please encourage friends and family
6 who you know have additional things to say to come
7 tonight.

8 And thank you again.

9 MR. MICHAEL HALLER: Thank you, everyone.
10 We would like to also publicly thank KBRW and KOTZ radio
11 stations and the owners and operators. Thanks so much.

12 (Text from Kotzebue) (907) 995-2373.

13 Drilling the Chukchi poses stakes for at least some
14 citizens in the Northwest Arctic Borough that are not any
15 less important than those that some North Slope citizens
16 face. I hope the government does not discount concerns
17 and expressions of sentiment from the residents of
18 Northwest Arctic Borough towns.

19 (Proceedings adjourned at 1:57 p.m.)
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, MARY A. VAVRIK, RMR, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth; that the proceedings were reported stenographically by me and later transcribed under my direction by computer transcription; that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings taken at that time; and that I am not a party to nor have I any interest in the outcome of the action herein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my hand and affixed my seal this _____ day of _____ 2013.

MARY A. VAVRIK,
Registered Merit Reporter
Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission Expires: November 5, 2016

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