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STUDY TITLE: Hope Basin Socioeconomic Baseline Study,

REPORT TITLE: Hope Basin Socioeconomic Baseline Study Volume I
Final Technical Report Summary Volume II
NANA Elders Conference and Interview Transcripts Volume III

CONTRACT NUMBER: 14-35-0001-30492

SPONSORING OCS REGION: Alaska.

APPLICABLE PLANNING AREA Hope Basin, Alaska.

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KEY WORDS: Northwest Arctic Borough; NANA **Region**; Northwest Arctic Borough School District; NANA Regional Corporation Inc.; **Manilaq Association**; City of Kotzebue; regional **economy**; economic development subsistence; education and human resource development; **Inupiat Iilitqusi**; NANA Regional Elders Conference; Red Dog Mine.

BACKGROUND: The Hope Basin is an offshore frontier petroleum province scheduled for leasing under the OCS Lands Act. The province roughly encompasses an area 3 miles offshore northwest Alaska's coastline **from** Point Hope on the north to Wales on the south. Under its Social and Economic Studies **Program**, the Minerals Management Service has sponsored previous **community** research in the Hope **Basin**. The present study focuses on selected economic and institutional conditions in the Northwest Arctic Borough, which is the central onshore region adjacent to the Hope Basin.

OBJECTIVES: The key objective of the main report (Volume I) was to develop a socioeconomic baseline description for the Northwest Arctic Borough, with emphasis on the regional economy, subsistence, education and human resource development, and **socio-political** development. Volume II summarizes the main report. The third project report (Volume III) presents transcripts of audiotapes, newly translated and transcribed from **Inupiaq**, of selected meetings and interviews of NANA region elders, mainly on topics related to traditional subsistence and **Inupiat** society.

DESCRIPTION: The Northwest Arctic Borough is a developing region of about 6,400 persons dwelling in **eleven** communities spread across 37,300 square **miles**. About 85 percent of the region's residents are Alaska Natives. The region's economy is a mixture of earned income, **inkind** transfers and subsistence. The public sector dominates employment. In recent decades, residents have assumed effective control over local political, economic and public service institutions. While there have been noteworthy improvements in the economic, educational, health and **social** well-being of residents, the region still lags behind state and national norms in these respects. If OCS tracts in the Hope Basin were leased, it would have the potential to affect socioeconomic conditions in the region.

SIGNIFICANT CONCLUSIONS: A major finding of the study is that the region has a substantial cash economy. Most cash income is earned. Cash income transfers represent a very minor share of cash income. However, **inkind** transfers--goods and services provided or funded by nonlocal governments--almost equals total personal cash income in monetary value. The NANA Regional Corporation has played a significant positive role in the regional economy, both in its local enterprises and as a shareholder employer in its numerous out-of-region enterprises. Opening of the Red Dog mine has boosted local basic employment and earnings, but does not appear to have generated significant growth in the **secondary** economy.

Historically, the region's residents have made effective use of **local** and regional institutions, and state and federal governments as well, to pursue common regional interests. Development of the Red Dog mine is but one example of how the region's leadership has orchestrated its public and private resources to **further regional** development.

Subsistence remains a vital and culturally esteemed **sociocultural** activity. It is a cultural and **political** priority. Notwithstanding noteworthy improvements in the performance of the local educational system, overall educational achievements still lags behind standard levels. Despite aggressive programmatic efforts by **Maniilaq** Association the **regional** non-profit service organization, the region still experiences relatively high rates of medical and social maladies. In the 1980's the region experienced a revival of traditional cultural values through the **Inupiat Iilitqusi**at movement and other indigenous institutions.

STUDY PRODUCTS: Kevin Waring Associates. 1992. Hope Basin Socioeconomic Baseline Study, Volume I; Final Technical Report Summary, Volume II; NANA Elders Conference and Interview Transcripts, Volume III. Final Technical Report No. 148. for U.S. Minerals Management Service, Anchorage, Alaska. Volume I, 662 pages. Volume II, 95 pages. Volume III, 265 pages.

MAP SHOWING AREA OF STUDY: See following page.

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