

Communication Plan

BLM Discontinues South NPR-A Planning Effort May 14, 2007

Issue:

The Bureau of Land Management in Alaska is discontinuing preparation of the Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the South portion of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). The South area contains about 9.2 million acres.

Products

- Communications Plan
- News Release (attached)

Key Messages

- Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management C. Stephen Allred announced that BLM in Alaska will discontinue its planning effort for the South planning area of the 23-million-acre National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.
- The BLM places great emphasis on public participation during land use planning and has listened carefully to the concerns of the people of Alaska's North Slope. In consideration of these concerns and the practicality of energy development, the BLM is discontinuing the South NPR-A planning effort at this time.
- Within the BLM's community scoping meetings and the North Slope Borough's community based planning report, the public expressed a high level of concern regarding potential impacts of oil and gas activity on subsistence resources, especially the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. The herd's primary calving area is within the South NPR-A planning area.
- BLM resource assessments indicate that the South NPR-A planning area contains limited oil reserves—approximately 2.1 percent of the undiscovered oil in NPR-A.
- Although the area contains an estimated 27 percent of the NPR-A's undiscovered gas reserves, there is no transportation system to move the gas to market.

Target Audiences

Alaska Congressional Delegation

Alaska Governor

Communities where scoping meetings were held

Northwest Arctic Borough officials
North Slope Borough officials
BLM-Alaska Resource Advisory Council
Alaska BLM offices
Federal and State Agencies
Tribal Governments
Alaska Native Corporations
Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group
Environmental interest groups
Oil and Gas Industry groups

Public Notification

A news release announcing the discontinuation of planning for South NPR-A has been distributed to the media and to the target audiences and posted on BLM-Alaska's internet site to more widely disseminate the information to non-targeted audiences. The *Federal Register* Notice of Intent will serve as the official notification to the public that the BLM will not go forward with the South NPR-A planning efforts.

News Media

Anchorage Daily News
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
Arctic Sounder Newspaper
Nome Nugget Newspaper
KBRW Radio Barrow
KICY Radio Nome
KNOM Radio Nome
KOTZ Radio Kotzebue
KUAC Radio Fairbanks