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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
DEIS CHUKCHI SEA SALE 109  
APRIL 15, 1987  
7:00 P.M.  
WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA

*Accu-Type Depositions, Inc.*

550 West Seventh, Suite 205  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 276-0544

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PROCEEDINGS

1  
2 MR. POWERS: Good evening. My  
3 name is Alan Powers, and I'm the Regional Director of the Minerals  
4 Management Service in Anchorage. And we're here today to get your  
5 comments and views on the draft environmental impact statement for  
6 O.C.S. Sale 109, which, if it is held, will be in the Chukchi Sea.

7 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
8 Inupiat language.)

9 MR. POWERS: The other panel  
10 members with me tonight are -- on my left is Judy Gottlieb. Judy  
11 Gottlieb is from our Leasing and Environmental office, and her  
12 office is the one that writes the environmental impact statements.  
13 On my immediate right is Dick Miller, who also works for the Minerals  
14 Management Service, and he's from Washington, D.C., and on my far  
15 right is Theresa Connor, and she works in the Field Operations  
16 Office. The Field Operations Office is the one which permits and  
17 reviews drilling plans, and also is responsible for expecting drill-  
18 ing operations.

19 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
20 Inupiat language.)

21 MR. POWERS: We want to get  
22 comments on the draft environmental impact statement so that we can  
23 get your comments, and views, and others' where we're holding hear-  
24 ings, and then we'll prepare a final environmental impact statement.  
25 The final environmental impact statement will be used by the

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1 Secretary of the Interior in order to decide whether or not to hold  
2 the lease sale, and what kind of mitigating measures to be used in  
3 this sale. If the sale is held, it's scheduled for sometime in  
4 1988.

5 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
6 Inupiat language.)

7 MR. POWERS: This is the first oil  
8 and gas lease sale that's been planned for the Chukchi Sea. There  
9 hasn't been any oil drilling, so we really don't know if there are  
10 deposits of oil in that area. And, we think that there's only about  
11 one chance out of five that oil might be there in quantities that  
12 are large enough to produce.

13 Since there hasn't been any drilling, and since we don't  
14 know if oil is there, we, of course, don't know exactly where it  
15 might be located, either. As a consequence, we're not really  
16 certain about all of the environmental impacts -- where they might  
17 occur, for example, or their exact magnitude.

18 If oil is discovered, we'll have to prepare another environ-  
19 mental impact statement that will be a lot more precise about the  
20 quantities and location of oil.

21 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
22 Inupiat language.)

23 MR. POWERS: If oil is present,  
24 we think that it might be from one billion barrels to as much as  
25 five-and-a-half billion barrels. That compares to Prudhoe Bay,

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1 which has ten billion barrels. If oil is present, and if oil is  
2 discovered right away after drilling, it would still be about ten  
3 years before production can start, and if production started, it  
4 could last for 30 years or more.

5 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
6 Inupiat language.) What was that last one -- that -- after ten  
7 billion barrels?

8 MR. POWERS: Oh, after ten  
9 billion barrels that if oil is discovered it will be ten years  
10 before production starts .....

11 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

12 MR. POWERS: ..... and if there  
13 is production it could last for 30 years or more.

14 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
15 Inupiat language.)

16 MR. POWERS: We know that one of  
17 the major concerns of people that live in villages along the Chukchi  
18 coast is possible effects of oil and gas operations on whaling and  
19 other subsistence activities. That is important to us, too, and a  
20 lot of the effort that we've made in preparing the E.I.S. deals with  
21 subsistence and whaling in particular.

22 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
23 Inupiat language.)

24 MR. POWERS: We can exercise a  
25 lot of control over drilling activities, and we'll expect oil

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1 companies to be careful about possible effects on subsistence  
2 activities. We really want the oil companies to work with villagers  
3 and whalers -- to work together, so that they can work out  
4 differences, and so they can both use the -- both use the ocean to  
5 their benefit.

6 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
7 Inupiat language.)

8 MR. POWERS: As I mentioned, we  
9 exercise a lot of control over the drilling. If there were to be  
10 construction onshore as a result of oil activity, that construction  
11 would be under the control of the State, and of the North Slope  
12 Borough, and local jurisdictions. We don't do that, it will be --  
13 that will be your jurisdiction.

14 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
15 Inupiat language.)

16 MR. POWERS: If you want to testi-  
17 fy tonight, what we'll ask you to do is sit next to the interpreter,  
18 and please give the interpreter and our reporter your name so we'll  
19 have that for the record, and testimony should probably be limited  
20 to ten, or fifteen, twenty minutes each.

21 If you want a record of the testimony after the reporter has  
22 it completed, you should contact her tonight and leave your name and  
23 address, and you can buy a copy of the record from her.

24 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
25 Inupiat language.)

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1 MR. POWERS: If you want to sub-  
2 mit written testimony later, please submit it to us by no later than  
3 May 5th, and you can get our address from Laura, and I think some  
4 of our brochures that you picked up have our address and they can  
5 be mailed to us in Anchorage.

6 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
7 Inupiat language.)

8 MR. POWERS: The first witness  
9 tonight will be Charles Brower, representing the North Slope Borough.  
10 Charles?

11 MR. BROWER: Charles Brower. I  
12 work for the Department of Wildlife Management, North Slope Borough,  
13 Barrow.

14 MR. POWERS: Good evening.

15 MR. BROWER: Good evening. The  
16 North Slope Borough appreciates the opportunity to provide MMS with  
17 these comments regarding the Chukchi Sea Lease Sale 109. These  
18 comments presented at this hearing will be refined with additional  
19 written comments presented to the M.M.S. by the deadline of May  
20 5th, 1987.

21 The Borough would support the Chukchi Sea Sale 109 upon the  
22 following conditions: one, that 1,630 whole or partial blocks  
23 situated along the entire coastline as described in the draft en-  
24 vironmental impact statement as alternative VI, Coastline Deferral,  
25 be deleted from the sale. Two, please be advised that the North

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1 Slope Borough has found this D.E.I.S. to be deficient in the follow-  
2 ing areas: a, the risk analysis does not adequately include pertin-  
3 ent data on oil spills and blowouts that have resulted from offshore  
4 oil and gas activities. It does not show the true risk inherent to  
5 petroleum activities in the proposed lease sale area. B, the  
6 D.E.I.S. does not adequately assess the impact that oil spills can  
7 have on the endangered bowhead whale. Additionally, it does not in-  
8 clude adequate provisions for protecting this endangered species.  
9 C, the D.E.I.S. does not adequately consider the same season relief  
10 well capability would not exist for drillship operations in the pro-  
11 posed sale area. As a result, a blowout from the drillship activity  
12 would last for several seasons and release enormous quantities of  
13 oil or poisonous gases into the environment. D, the D.E.I.S. fails  
14 to discuss the impact of oil spills from adjacent lease sales. F,  
15 the public was not provided an opportunity to review and comment on  
16 the biological opinion for the endangered bowhead whale for Sale  
17 109.

18           The following are more specific comments on the draft en-  
19 vironmental impact statement for your consideration -- then I have  
20 some other -- others I'd like to make here. This proposed D.E.I.S.  
21 assumes that 20 exploratory, and 23 (indiscernible) with a maximum  
22 of four rigs per year would operate between August and October. Air  
23 support would be out of Barrow and Wainwright with at least one  
24 helicopter air flight per day per rig, and so on. And says the  
25 first -- for the first seven years, bowhead would be exposed to

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1 (indiscernible) noise during their fall migration, but for the re-  
2 mainder of the life in the field, the whales would be exposed during  
3 spring migration. During exploratory and most disper -- disturbance,  
4 the bowhead (indiscernible) during fall migration around Point  
5 Barrow and from support air -- from traffic -- air and vessel --  
6 traveling from Point Barrow to the lease -- to the sale area.  
7 (Indiscernible) the concentration of noise proportionate activity  
8 around Point Fletcher may cause bowheads to defect the migration  
9 back farther offshore. I think that's a true statement on that.  
10 I'll pass this on so that she can translate now.

11 MR. POWERS: Okay.

12 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
13 Inupiat language.)

14 MR. BROWER: That's it.

15 MR. POWERS: Thank you, Mr. Brower.

16 MR. BROWER: Thank you.

17 MR. POWERS: Mr. Brower mentioned  
18 that the Borough supports Alternative VI. Alternative VI is to ex-  
19 clude all of this area through here, to exclude that from the lease  
20 sale. Other alternatives would exclude specific areas off -- off  
21 Cape Lisburne and Point Hope, and this area through here, off Point  
22 Lay and Wainwright. And that -- that map is shown in the back of  
23 the materials over here that you picked up.

24 Now, would anybody else like to testify? Yes, sir.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I do have one.

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1 I want to ask you a question first. Do you have any bylaws on that  
2 O.C.S.?

3 MR. POWERS: Have any what?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do they  
5 have any bylaws?

6 MR. MILLER: Bylaws.

7 MR. POWERS: Well, I'm not sure  
8 if I understand your question. We have a lot of rules .....

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, that's  
10 what I mean.

11 MR. POWERS: ..... a lot of rules  
12 about things that drill -- the sort of things that drillers have to  
13 do, and the things that drillers cannot do. For example, we require  
14 blowout preventers on all wells. We require that the blowout pre-  
15 venters be tested once a week at a minimum to make sure that they're  
16 operating. We require that the men doing the drilling have attended  
17 a school, and they're certified drillers, with particular attention  
18 on how to keep the well under control so that a blowout does not  
19 occur, and an oil spill does not occur. We require that oil spill  
20 cleanup equipment be on site. We require that oil spill cleanup  
21 equipment be available off site, stored some place so that they can  
22 get it there in the event of an oil spill to contain it and clean  
23 it up. We have requirements on drilling techniques. We have a lot  
24 of requirements, and, also, we keep inspectors on the rigs nearly  
25 all the time, or at least -- if we had four rigs drilling out there,

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1 we'd probably have two inspectors for the four rigs, and we'd make  
2 sure that they're all the time monitoring drilling operations to  
3 make sure that they're meeting sound drilling procedures, and our  
4 laws, and our rules. We also require that -- that they actually --  
5 even if they don't have an oil spill, we require that they train  
6 with the oil spill equipment, and actually deploy it and go through  
7 drills, like fire drills in schools, just to make sure that they  
8 know how to use all that equipment. I'm sorry. Oh, boy.

9 INTERPRETER: That's all right.  
10 (Translates in Inupiat language.)

11 MR. POWERS: I apologize for  
12 getting ahead of you.

13 INTERPRETER: That's all right.

14 MR. POWERS: Anything else? What  
15 I'd like to do -- oh, yes, sir.

16 MR. AVEOGANNA: She has my name  
17 for -- she asked me if I can just -- have any comments, so .....

18 MR. POWERS: Yes, please.

19 MR. AVEOGANNA: And I can speak  
20 up a little bit, too.

21 MR. POWERS: Good.

22 MR. AVEOGANNA: I don't know  
23 whether I should come forward, or what. My name is Jim Allan  
24 Aveoganna. I have lived here for all my life, and I do a lot of  
25 hunting on this area. So -- I haven't made up my written -- I

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1 haven't been prepared for what I have to speak, but I have to speak  
2 right off.

3 MR. POWERS: Fine.

4 MR. AVEOGANNA: Because I know  
5 what my -- what my life is, and all that -- concerning on this area.  
6 If there is going to be any -- actually around here -- drilling, and  
7 all that stuff, so -- a lot of times I talked with the people that  
8 three-mile limit -- they asked for a three-mile limit, that's for  
9 us Eskimos here. As you know, there's a lot of difference between  
10 each village on the hunting areas. The current itself also is  
11 different than like Wainwright, Barrow, and so on, because I have  
12 worked for the (indiscernible) back in the 50's all the way to  
13 hunt -- all the way up east of Lighter (ph.) Islands. And we have  
14 checked through all the current -- we have current changes, and  
15 whatnot that we know how -- exactly how strong a current is on  
16 the areas. So, from here, it's different that -- that -- Point  
17 Lay, and all that -- and Prudhoe Bay area. Where we live down here  
18 is more stronger, as you well -- as you may know .....

19 MR. POWERS: Yeah.

20 MR. AVEOGANNA: ..... and you're  
21 going to find out about it. Now, for purposes of our hunting, we do  
22 hunt whales in a certain time of the year, in spring time. So,  
23 very -- very -- once in a great while once the ice (indiscernible)  
24 we don't go whaling -- that's in fall. So, that's up to the whaling  
25 captains of the local villages. Okay? And we do a lot of -- other

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1 sea animals we hunt, like seals, and whatnot. Since there's a  
2 lot of activities coming through our area, like tug boats coming  
3 through here, there's a lot of difference already. The animals  
4 that we used to know -- some of these older people, even myself, I  
5 do a lot of hunting. I know exactly when -- the day -- what month  
6 on what day, and what time of the year to go what I need to hunt  
7 for family needs, what we need for the year, which is not just for  
8 the family only, but is also to help out our fellow people in  
9 Wainwright, because we don't go -- all of us don't go hunting every  
10 time. Very few -- not very few, but the people that have -- we  
11 have to go hunting, they go hunting, yes. Some of our people don't  
12 have anything at all to go, so we help them out. We share with them  
13 during the year. Okay? On that first -- they have like coming in  
14 on -- with the tug boats. I do a lot of hunting myself. I have  
15 been hunting at that time, and even before -- I know when to go and  
16 where to go. There is -- like my Dad used to say, go hunting at --  
17 where they go -- where I can catch them. They were like that, but  
18 nowadays there are no more on account of the activities that's  
19 coming through.

20 So, if they're going to start drilling in our area down  
21 there, that's going to be worse yet. So, when the people -- the  
22 Eskimos in our area can't live alone by three-mile limits. We have  
23 to go 15, 20 miles, 30 miles, sometime to get them. That's how  
24 we -- that's how we live. So, we can't live along from what we get  
25 from the stores, and what not. so, this is soemthing really

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1 important that's going to -- those activities are coming on the  
2 proposed plan. That's going to be -- that's going to be kind of  
3 rough for us, because there's something we wouldn't like. We're  
4 not trying to stop anything, but if we -- if we can stop them --  
5 we're the hunters. We hunt for living. So, those -- what I'm say-  
6 ing is when that -- tug boats are coming through here, I was asked  
7 by one of the hunters in Wainwright, which he had experience to hunt  
8 on -- the time -- we used to hunt in the spring time -- like ugruks,  
9 and I -- he knows that I do a lot of hunting, and I catch them,  
10 too. So, on that time a man asked me what I think on the ugruks  
11 this year on account there's a lot of activities going through,  
12 like tug boats coming by. What happened to those animals? I told  
13 him, I know exactly what will happen to them. Okay. If you want  
14 to know. We've been out hunting -- you know where -- (Indiscernible)  
15 and where I go -- you know all that. So -- I was hoping he would  
16 be here. I told him, okay. I have been checking ugruks for to  
17 see what I hunt. Every time I shot, I get them. In fact, I used  
18 to try to get them -- to harpoon them. They're down at the bottom  
19 already. So, I was -- I know better of how to try to get closer,  
20 because that's the only way I can get them. That's the way he  
21 think of, too, because he's -- every time we shot ugruk -- because  
22 they don't get much meat off -- on at the time -- on that spring,  
23 because too many activities coming through. So, they've been just  
24 scattering around, and never had chance to treat themselves, and  
25 whatnot, and (indiscernible). That's going to be bad for this --

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1 for some people's run, they just coming through here. During the  
2 winter, they had a boat -- we had a ship out here on the ice. I've  
3 been out most every day for hunting seals, like this time of the  
4 year. And there was a ship down there -- the ice breaker -- I guess  
5 you know the ice breaker was coming through at that time. Remember  
6 that -- they had to transport their people from down there to  
7 Wainwright, and take them out some place on the ice? Okay. That's  
8 a -- that is the strong current, which they can't go through once  
9 they start drilling. So, that's going to be worth shit. They're  
10 going to hurt our animals what we hunt for a living in our area.

11 In our area for hunters, like Point Hope. I hunt there,  
12 but never have much -- you have to hunt out on the ice. But, I  
13 do -- I've done something every chance I get to hunt on the -- on  
14 the land. Point Lay, another place. There's a lot of difference  
15 between them, a lot of difference. Same animals, a lot of  
16 difference on the -- on account of the currents, where they hunt.

17 So, what I'm talking about is what we hunt out in the sea.  
18 We use -- what we check, we used every bit of it to share with the  
19 people. Oil. We can't live without oil. What I'm talking about  
20 is Eskimo oil, seal oil, what they call it. It's a (indiscernible)  
21 oil. A lot of us can't go without it. When we don't make it  
22 up -- when the people get in the hard time of hunting ugruks --  
23 even though they try, some hunters, like myself, too -- when we  
24 have hard time, no way of catching them -- we don't get any at all  
25 sometimes, like I did last week, because I was not hunting. So,

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1 when -- somebody's catch like that -- that seal oil, and what not,  
2 for what they catch, they share with the people. We've got no way  
3 of -- no way of making money for our big family here. They may  
4 be work -- we may be working. That's not enough. We need to have  
5 some of this -- a lot of catch of the animals, what we eat before,  
6 what we were raised on. So, when they start drilling out there,  
7 there are going to be a lot -- that's going to be bad for us. I  
8 know for sure that's something is going to go wrong, because we got  
9 a strong current in our area.

10           The current is different than Barrow. It's strong than up  
11 in Barrow, because I hunt there only a couple three times, but  
12 during the winter, I've never been out there, but some of these  
13 people have lived there, and they know more about the currents. I  
14 know it's stronger during the winter. In summer time I know,  
15 because we come through there. So, I was raised just by hunting  
16 only. My Dad had never been working, just hunt for a living. And  
17 I raised my family half the time just by hunting, which I can say.  
18 That's how we live. Us older people here that we have lived just  
19 for hunt. We were raised just by hunting only. No money, nothing.  
20 My Dad never had been employed, only time he start employ was the  
21 time he was old age citizen. So, that's how we lived. So, there --  
22 there was a lot of animals everywhere, but right now we can't  
23 hunt -- three-mile limit. We have to go -- we never know how far  
24 we're going to go once we take off. So -- I suppose I make  
25 (indiscernible) in summary of ten minutes, but I got some men --

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1 people who might like to talk about how we hunt for whaling, also.  
2 I'll give them a chance. Thank you.

3 MR. POWERS: Okay. Fine. Thank  
4 you.

5 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
6 Inupiat language.)

7 MR. POWERS: Would anybody else  
8 like to speak on this? Yes, sir.

9 MR. KAGAK: Yes, Luke Kagak. What  
10 part of a lease sale are you talking about on the Chukchi Sea?

11 MR. POWERS: I'm sorry, I didn't  
12 hear that.

13 MR. KAGAK: What part of the area  
14 are you talking about in that map?

15 MR. POWERS: Oh. As far as what  
16 we've studied in the draft environmental impact statement, it's  
17 this -- it's this whole area. It goes clear around there.

18 MR. KAGAK: In that area?

19 MR. POWERS: Yeah -- or, every-  
20 thing in there. Of course, there isn't all -- every place out  
21 there, or the kinds of geological requirements that would mean that  
22 there would be drilling in every one of those areas. There would  
23 probably be drilling only in a few places out there.

24 MR. KAGAK: Do you know the  
25 designated point, or .....

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1 MR. POWERS: Do you mean like a  
2 latitude or longitude, or .....

3 MR. KAGAK: Yes.

4 MR. POWERS: Do you have one of  
5 these?

6 MR. KAGAK: Yes, I do.

7 MR. POWERS: Well, it goes from  
8 Point Hope on the South .....

9 MR. KAGAK: South?

10 MR. POWERS: Yeah. Point Hope is  
11 right here .....

12 MR. KAGAK: Uh-huh.

13 MR. POWERS: And it goes up the  
14 coastline to -- here's Peard Bay .....

15 MR. KAGAK: Yes.

16 MR. POWERS: ..... then it goes  
17 out here. This must be about -- this must be about 50 miles out to  
18 this point, and maybe about 150 miles out to here.

19 MR. KAGAK: Uh-huh.

20 MR. POWERS. Something like that.  
21 And then up to here. This is -- I guess Barrow is right -- probab-  
22 ly right about here like that, off the map would be right in there.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscern-  
24 ible) Mexico -- Gulf of Mexico waters (indiscernible).

25 MR. POWERS: Well, the Gulf of

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1 Mexico -- I'm not sure -- I don't think I heard all your question,  
2 but .....

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It was on  
4 T.V..

5 MR. POWERS: Yeah. The Gulf of  
6 Mexico oil spill was about eight years ago, something like that, and  
7 it was from a well that was -- Carl Atakwan (ph.), and that spill --  
8 we don't know the exact cause of that spill, because the Mexican  
9 government did not have any inspectors on the oil rig, and a lot of  
10 records were burned up when the spill -- some of the records were  
11 burned up, and they never really talked about it very much, as you  
12 might imagine. And when the oil occurred -- when the oil spill  
13 occurred, by our standards and our requirements, they didn't really  
14 pursue or try to close it down as hard as they should have. They  
15 did not have working oil spill prevent -- oil spill preventers --  
16 blowout preventers on that rig when they -- when that oil spill  
17 occurred, for example, something that we require. I'll stop now.

18 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
19 Inupiat language.)

20 MR. POWERS: The Mexican govern-  
21 ment doesn't have the -- doesn't have tough drilling requirements  
22 like we do. They don't have all the -- all the requirements. They  
23 don't require the sort of equipment that I mentioned earlier when  
24 I was talking. They don't require their drillers to do that.

25 INTERPRETER: (Translates in

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1 Inupiat language.)

2 MR. POWERS: On wells that are  
3 drilled on our outer continental shelf, one of the things that we  
4 require the drilling company to do is to make and keep a copy of a  
5 hole survey so we'd know exactly where the hole is during its'  
6 drilling. The Mexican government didn't do that, and as -- and  
7 because of that, when they -- one of the normal ways of stopping a  
8 well is to drill a relief well, another hole that goes into it, and  
9 stop it from flowing -- they didn't know where that first hole was,  
10 because they didn't have a survey.

11 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
12 Inupiat language.)

13 MR. POWERS: Does that answer  
14 your -- what you were interested .....

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, yes.  
16 (Indiscernible).

17 MR. AVEOGANNA: I've got a  
18 question.

19 MR. POWERS: Yes, sir.

20 MR. AVEOGANNA: How come they want  
21 to go far out into the ocean? They should (indiscernible), because  
22 we know all about this oil right here in our village. You know  
23 that?

24 MR. POWERS: I don't know about  
25 the oil in your village.

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1 MR. AVEOGANNA: I know about it.

2 MR. POWERS: Do you?

3 MR. AVEOGANNA: Because they were  
4 flying airplanes (indiscernible) way back in '47 -- '49, but you're  
5 sitting right in the -- the oil just now. Why don't you buy our  
6 village?

7 MR. POWERS: Well, I can't do that.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How long  
9 is the lease?

10 MR. POWERS: How long is the lease?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, sir.

12 MR. POWERS: The leases will  
13 probably be for ten years. They'll pay money, and then they'll  
14 have a lease for ten years, and then -- and they will have to drill  
15 on that sometime during that ten years. If there is a discovery --  
16 in the event of a discovery, and they want to produce -- or produce  
17 oil for 20 or 30 years, then we extend the lease automatically if  
18 there is a discovery. If there isn't a discovery, we don't extend  
19 the lease.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Like  
21 Prudhoe Bay, huh?

22 MR. POWERS: I think it -- I'm not  
23 acquainted with the details of that, but I imagine it's very  
24 similar.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are you guys

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1 going to do some site drilling, too?

2 MR. POWERS: Some what?

3 MR. MILLER: Site drilling.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On land,  
5 or from shore out to the sea?

6 MR. POWERS: Not for this -- for  
7 this lease sale, they wouldn't. They can drill diagonally. Some-  
8 times they get a mile or two away from where the drill site is,  
9 but we would expect that they'd have to drill way out there where  
10 we think the oil is for this sale, if it's there at all.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's a  
12 long distance, but .....

13 MR. POWERS: Yeah. I read in a  
14 magazine recently that some company thinks that they can -- if they  
15 can drill deep enough, they can drill -- they can drill down deep,  
16 and then they can drill horizontally for a long ways, and they've  
17 been doing a little bit of that, but I think that's kind of experi-  
18 mental yet.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: From  
20 Chukchi Sea, probably towards Russia, and then -- around there.

21 MR. POWERS: Yeah. I don't think  
22 they can drill that far. It's only for a couple miles.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But  
24 direction, probably, is that way.

25 MR. POWERS: I'm sorry. What?

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1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: From  
2 Beaufort to -- towards Russia.

3 MR. POWERS: Yeah. I'll tell you,  
4 it doesn't look like we have any more testimony, does it? If any-  
5 body wants to come up here .....

6 MS. AGNASAGGA: I do.

7 MR. POWERS: Oh, you do? All  
8 right. Fine.

9 MS. AGNASAGGA: I don't have a pre-  
10 pared written testimony, but I'd just like to say a few words.

11 MR. POWERS: Fine. We need your  
12 name for the record.

13 MS. AGNASAGGA: Oh. Lydia  
14 Agnasagga, a Wainwright resident.

15 MR. POWERS: Thank you.

16 MS. AGNASAGGA: And also that the  
17 Mayor and the Vice Mayor couldn't be present tonight, because  
18 there's a church going this week, and also the Mayor is -- I think  
19 he's catching the flu, so he asked us to be here tonight. And,  
20 also, maybe there will be more people here tonight if it wasn't for  
21 this certain week, but we'll try to represent our village -- you  
22 know .....

23 MR. POWERS: Fine.

24 MS. AGNASAGGA: ..... as much as  
25 we can. My concern is that -- I was reading this North Slope

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1 Borough draft thing here, and as I look through it -- I didn't  
2 really read all of it, but I think what you guys should do is -- I  
3 really would appreciate it if you worked closely with the North  
4 Slope Borough, and asked -- I mean, do what they're asking here,  
5 because the things they have said -- they clarify a lot of things  
6 that have to be done before actually the lease sale -- any way --  
7 which comes in May, 1988, and that's kind of -- not too far from  
8 now. Because I'm saying this is for we live on subsistence, and  
9 everybody knows that -- you know, especially on the Arctic Coast.  
10 We live mainly on the -- the animals from the sea, and from the  
11 land as well, and we can't very well live without those -- our --  
12 our food, because we didn't grow up with beef, or -- I mean, in  
13 my days, I didn't grow up with beef, or anything like that, and I  
14 can say that everything costs so much nowadays, it's hard to try to  
15 live just by buying food from -- store-bought food, and that's the  
16 reason why I'm concerned about this, that you work closely with the  
17 North Slope Borough for -- you know, for the more -- to benefit the  
18 whole North Slope anyway. Thank you.

19 MR. POWERS: Okay. Thank you.

20 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
21 Inupiat language.)

22 MR. POWERS: Would anybody else  
23 like to testify or ask a question?

24 MS. AHMAOGAK: My name is Florence  
25 Ahmaogak. I was late for the beinning of this meeting. I have

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1 attended one of your O.C.S. hearings before, but I missed a lot on  
2 this. I was born and raised here. Over here you see an Eskimo  
3 educated. I learned how to speak English. I wanted to learn how  
4 to understand the meaning of English. That was my main goal when I  
5 was educated. And, I know there was going to be times like this.  
6 We live off of the sea. I hope somebody understands. The federal  
7 government, maybe. I hope this reaches federal government, because  
8 I am a tax payer, so I've got a voice. They have to hear me, too.  
9 And how many testimonies do I have to make, is my question number  
10 one, to have my voice be heard?

11 MR. POWERS: Just once. Your  
12 voice will be heard.

13 MS. AHMAOGAK: So easy? Thank  
14 you. How far out of this is this lease going to be this time?

15 MR. POWERS: From three miles to  
16 maybe as far as 150 miles.

17 MS. AHMAOGAK: And we'll be hunt-  
18 ing -- will we be allowed to hunt .....

19 MR. POWERS: Oh, yes.

20 MS. AHMAOGAK: ..... while you are  
21 drilling?

22 MR. POWERS: If drilling occurs  
23 when hunting is going on, you'll still be allowed to hunt.

24 MS. AHMAOGAK: And you're going  
25 to continue on drilling while we're hunting?

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1 MR. POWERS: Well, we don't know  
2 yet exactly where the drilling will occur.

3 MS. AHMAOGAK: Yeah, like that  
4 whaling that was done at Nuiqsut last fall?

5 MR. POWERS: Yes.

6 MS. AHMAOGAK: Yes. Yeah, we're  
7 roaming around out there while they were trying to get the whale for  
8 their food.

9 MR. POWERS: That's right, and  
10 they got a whale.

11 MS. AHMAOGAK: Nuiqsut?

12 MR. POWERS: Yes.

13 MS. AHMAOGAK: They barely get  
14 one.

15 MR. POWERS: They got one.

16 MS. AHMAOGAK: They barely get  
17 one .....

18 MR. POWERS: And they got .....

19 MS. AHMAOGAK: ..... and that  
20 wasn't enough.

21 MR. POWERS: ..... and they got  
22 a couple whales at Kaktovik, too.

23 MS. AHMAOGAK: They were very lucky,  
24 yeah. And how come Barrow is not selling any -- leasing out any in  
25 front -- in their front yard?

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1 MR. POWERS: I can't answer about  
2 Barrow.

3 MS. AHMAOGAK: Just Wainwright on  
4 down to .....

5 MR. POWERS: Oh, we have done  
6 some -- we have done some leasing near Barrow offshore .....

7 MS. AHMAOGAK: On the east side?

8 MR. POWERS: ..... On the east  
9 side, that's right.

10 MS. AHMAOGAK: If we keep on say-  
11 ing that we don't want any holes to be drilled, what will happen?  
12 Nobody's going to listen?

13 MR. POWERS: I can't -- I can't  
14 tell you that, because I don't know what the answer is. I do know  
15 that one of the alternatives -- or several of the alternatives  
16 we're studying is to exclude areas where whaling might be effected.

17 MS. AHMAOGAK: This is the --  
18 this is where they do whaling.

19 MR. POWERS: Correct.

20 MS. AHMAOGAK: And this is where  
21 we get our seal oil, like this man over here who hunts all his  
22 life said a while ago. How come those ugruks are getting lean?  
23 We're losing a lot of seal oil that's good for our diet.

24 MR. POWERS: I don't know about  
25 that.

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1 MS. AHMAOGAK: There's something  
2 down there already from spillage. There's contamination from  
3 somewhere out there. I've read about it. There's going to be more  
4 after this lease sale, and who is going to feed us? Nobody will be  
5 waiting to feed us. We're working so much now, but that doesn't  
6 buy much food. Our ocean, and our areas out here, the hunting  
7 grounds, that's where we eat from. I hope somebody will learn what  
8 the true meaning of subsistence is. That's how we live. We're  
9 attached to it. Do you have any questions?

10 MR. POWERS: We understand you.  
11 We understand. Thank you. Anybody else? Do you want to interpret  
12 that? I've about forgot.

13 INTERPRETER: Yes.

14 MR. POWERS: I'm sorry.

15 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
16 Inupiat language.)

17 MR. POWERS: Thank you. Would  
18 anybody else like to testify? Well, what I'll do, then .....

19 MR. AHVAKANA: I do.

20 MR. POWERS: Okay.

21 MR. AHVAKANA: Let's see my  
22 written statement here. My name is Winfred Ahvakana. I'm original-  
23 ly from Barrow, but I relocate here in 1973. And during all of my  
24 year time, I been -- I been with my family and the other families  
25 that have been hunting along the coast, and a lot of -- I've seen

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1 a lot of ducks -- a lot of birds on their nesting grounds, and --  
2 and I read these birds migrate down here, especially these arctic  
3 terns. During my -- during my time, they're in these sand bars  
4 anywhere along the Arctic Coast, and I've seen them breeding there,  
5 lay eggs, and hardly I can see anything right now besides these  
6 that was born that year. They might come down here. Those birds  
7 been flying many a miles, and there used to be many of them here in  
8 my lifetime. I would say about 40 years. It's more than that, but  
9 I haven't seen any of them much, even our -- south side of our  
10 Wainwright, where north -- north -- north of us here in Wainwright,  
11 I haven't seen any much breeding nowadays. And the first one that  
12 I was talking about, the hunting ugruks. Yes, during the time  
13 before the barges was here, and even before the oil was struck at  
14 the Prudhoe, we had a better hunting in those years. I had a five  
15 horse Johnson, and when I shoot the ugruks at distance, yeah, I got  
16 him. No -- no much problem on that. But, nowadays, even just  
17 about 30, 40 feet far from you, and I'm using 90 horse, and I can't  
18 even get -- get into it. It's already sunk. Why? Because they're  
19 not feeding somewhere, because these tug boats that's going back  
20 and forth stir that bottom sea, and that's where the most of them  
21 are feeding from our waters nowadays. That is my testimony. Thank  
22 you.

23 MR. POWERS: Thank you.

24 INTERPRETER: (Translates in

25 Inupiat language.)

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1 MR. POWERS: Thank you. Would  
2 somebody else like to testify?

3 MR. AVEOGANNA: I'm starting for  
4 cokes.

5 MR. POWERS: You're what? That's  
6 a good idea.

7 MR. KAGAK: I'd like to testify.

8 MR. POWERS: Can we have your name?

9 MR. KAGAK: My name is Luke Kagak.

10 MR. POWERS: Thank you.

11 MR. KAGAK: I am from Wainwright,  
12 and when I look at this map -- that quite a bit of area, and I don't  
13 know which point has been selected for designated lease. As you  
14 know, that since they start that oilfield at Prudhoe Bay, the way  
15 it works right now, I don't think there is many natives that are  
16 working for the community of our Prudhoe Bay. There is -- the way  
17 I see it, there's a lot of outsiders, you know, and if there was to  
18 be an opening oilfield down there, I think it will be the same. I  
19 don't think a lot of us will be able to work, because we're not  
20 qualified. I think you understand. And it will hurt .....

21 MR. POWERS: I couldn't do it,  
22 either.

23 MR. KAGAK: ..... it will hurt our  
24 many hunters. As of right now, there's not -- not only Wainwright,  
25 but all along the coast, we're getting ready to go out hunting for

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1 what we've been waiting for, for what we do every year, because  
2 that -- the only food where we -- that provides us most of the  
3 year -- yearly food, and we do store away our food for the year each  
4 year, but we get -- what we able to get. And I don't think there's  
5 a lot of people that wouldn't be hurt from the oilfield like if  
6 there was an oil spill. If there was a great oil spill, how could  
7 it be pick up on the ice and water? Can you answer that?

8 MR. POWERS: There are -- I can  
9 answer it in a general way. There is -- there are techniques for  
10 cleaning up some of it. A hundred percent of it can't be cleaned  
11 up, obviously. If it's during icy conditions, one of the things  
12 we do -- we require them to try to burn it, and that seems to work  
13 pretty good. The State made the oil companies do some experimenting  
14 with that a couple of years ago.

15 MR. KAGAK: When the wind and the  
16 currents and the ice start moving and causes a oil spill, then what  
17 will happen again?

18 MR. POWERS: Well, I don't think  
19 the wind or ice would necessarily cause an oil spill. They can  
20 stop drilling and move off those holes if the ice makes them move.

21 MR. KAGAK: The only way I can  
22 figure it out is like -- that wind, the ice, and the currents will  
23 take the oil along with it.

24 MR. POWERS: It might.

25 MR. KAGAK: That means that will

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1 hurt the animals. Right?

2 MR. POWERS: It might, yes.

3 MR. KAGAK: And I had a question --  
4 I had a question in my mind for a long time -- you know, like --  
5 like where I'm from, like in a small village, I'm -- first of all,  
6 I'm -- I would say I'm proud to be a native, you know. And why is  
7 it so important to have an oil lease at that long, long time? You  
8 know, like ten years, 20, 15.

9 MR. POWERS: Because it takes --  
10 if a discovery is made, it takes that long to get ready to produce  
11 it.

12 MR. KAGAK: In the meantime, will  
13 it be able to cover our food? You and I don't -- you and I don't  
14 make animals.

15 MR. POWERS: No. That's right.  
16 No.

17 MR. KAGAK: So, I think -- what  
18 it says right here in -- United States Department of Interior,  
19 Minerals Management Service, they're the ones who should take care  
20 of us -- you know, there's -- what we work for, we -- we pay  
21 taxes -- federal taxes. I was just wondering where my federal  
22 taxes go. And a lot of times I worry about the oilfield, that oil  
23 spill. I think out here in the ocean there's no way you can collect  
24 all of it if there was an oil spill. That would really hurt the  
25 people. Like today, we're trying to celebrate the opening of our

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1 whaling season. Thank you.

2 MR. POWERS: Thank you. And I  
3 hope you have good luck on your whaling season.

4 MR. KAGAK: Thank you very much.

5 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
6 Inupiat language.)

7 MR. POWERS: Anybody else like to  
8 testify?

9 MS. BODFISH: My name is Alma  
10 Bodfish; I'm a resident of Wainwright. I don't mind the people that  
11 are saying what we eat, and -- from the -- from the sea, and I'm  
12 looking at the -- our kids, even my oldest, 30-year-old. Nowadays,  
13 they'd rather live by the food -- you know, from the restaurant, and  
14 from the store. I'm not against this one, but the older people --  
15 but 10, 15 years from now, we'll be -- we'll all be senior citizens,  
16 and some of us maybe won't be around, and I -- I'm trying to say  
17 what our young people might think of us 15, 20 years from now. They  
18 don't even know how to -- nowadays, they don't even know how to get  
19 coal from a -- behind our village, we have coal for our stoves.  
20 They don't even know how to go get it -- how to get it, and -- and  
21 nowadays, they'd rather live going to basketball, and restaurants,  
22 even my oldest girl, 30 years old. And they don't -- some of them  
23 don't even like what -- what we eat, and what's the use of -- of  
24 this oil lease sale that we're trying to hold on to? They going --  
25 we know they all going to take over if they find something down

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1 there, and I'm concerned about our young people. What did our  
2 parents do to us, 10, 15, 20 years from now. How they know --  
3 they don't even know how to take care of themselves if -- if every-  
4 thing should go in our coal stoves. They'd rather wake up to a --  
5 something warm like our stoves, stove oil, and if they should wake  
6 up to something cold in the morning like we did when we were little  
7 kids -- we could take care of ourselves. Now, that's us, the  
8 younger ones, but our kids, I don't think they'd even stand waking  
9 up in the morning to go out to a cold place. You know? And I  
10 don't know. That was my thinking, anyway, about our young people.  
11 Some of them don't even know how to hunt nowadays, these 20-year-  
12 old ones. They don't even care if they live off the restaurant or  
13 from the store. Thank you.

14 MR. POWERS: Thank you.

15 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
16 Inupiat language.)

17 MR. POWERS: Anybody else like to  
18 testify?

19 MR. AVEOGANNA: Can I put my  
20 little time in more? I don't think I got ten minutes yet. Okay.  
21 This is no joke.

22 MR. POWERS: Okay.

23 MR. AVEOGANNA: Okay. This is no  
24 joke for me, because I have -- I want to say something that I know.  
25 One time back in '49 I went up for work for arctic contractors. Me,

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1 and -- my brother was working there, also, and I'm -- you know, I  
2 live here all that -- all these years before 1949 when we got our  
3 own Eskimo food, and whatnot. In fact, when I got in the Army in  
4 World War II, I didn't know nothing about the greens, because I was  
5 raised by -- just by Eskimo food only. Okay. Back on to 1949. My  
6 brother and myself, we got so sick that time. We missed some of our  
7 food in our village, because we (indiscernible) salad, and whatnot.  
8 Because in Barrow there wasn't much time -- not enough Eskimo food.  
9 We got so sick, and I got so sick. I didn't want to eat anything  
10 at all, nothing, completely nothing. I don't know for how many  
11 days, and the lady that comes here from east of Barrow recently,  
12 that's (indiscernible). See, she heard about me and my brother, we  
13 never eat for several days, and she happened to bring me some of --  
14 a piece of muktuk and whale meat. She brought those over to us.  
15 I was so sick, I wouldn't eat anything at all. That's how much  
16 Eskimo food means to the Eskimos that were raised like us. Once I  
17 see that piece of muktuk that she brought over to me and my brother,  
18 just by looking at it, something in my mind, I feel like eating it,  
19 and from there I eat of it -- I eat some of that muktuk. That's how  
20 I survived. How we will eat, especially the older ones, even our --  
21 our grandchildren, they eat a lot of meat, Eskimo food. This is  
22 real important. We don't want contamination, like that, if some-  
23 thing goes wrong, let's say when you start drilling out in our sea,  
24 sea water. Thank you.

25

MR. POWERS: Thank you.

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1 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
2 Inupiat language.)  
3 MR. POWERS: Thank you. You're  
4 next. Are you through?  
5 INTERPRETER: Yeah.  
6 MR. POWERS: Okay. Go ahead, sir.  
7 MR. BODFISH: I'm going to speak  
8 Eskimo .....  
9 MR. POWERS: All right.  
10 MR. BODFISH: ..... because I am  
11 Eskimo.  
12 MR. POWERS: Okay.  
13 MR. BODFISH (THROUGH INTERPRETER):  
14 I am a native Alaskan.  
15 INTERPRETER: (Speaks to Mr.  
16 Bodfish in Inupiat language.) He's got this paper. It shows where  
17 his native allotment is, and I don't know if it's part of -- if --  
18 I don't know if it's on the lease sale, or not.  
19 MR. POWERS: No, I don't think so.  
20 I don't believe there are any -- there are no native allotments out  
21 there.  
22 MR. BROWER: What about that pipe-  
23 line if they find oil -- you know, from Point Fletcher on down  
24 towards the pump station two. His might be adjacent to that. I  
25 don't know.

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1 MR. POWERS: Oh. I -- I really  
2 don't know anything about the native allotment business.

3 INTERPRETER: It says the Minerals  
4 Management Office, formerly United States Geological Survey, has  
5 reported that the lands in parcel C of this application are classi-  
6 fied as valuable for oil, gas, and coal prior to and on the date of  
7 final proof.

8 MR. MILLER: That must be on-  
9 shore.

10 MR. POWERS: That's onshore, isn't  
11 it?

12 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

13 MR. POWERS: Yeah.

14 INTERPRETER: (Speaks to Mr.  
15 Bodfish in Inupiat language.)

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think a  
17 lot of -- a lot of people that have those allotments got those  
18 letters. Maybe if they went to the corporation, or (indiscernible)  
19 find out maybe they'd know better.

20 MR. AHVAKANA: I think what he's  
21 concerned on the allotment is his allotment might be in the -- the  
22 shoreline, and that would be -- effect his allotment. I think  
23 that's what -- that's the question he's trying to come up with.  
24 The location of his allotment -- if it's on the shoreline. I would  
25 do the same thing, because my allotment is right on the shoreline

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1 in Peard Bay. I would question -- raise the question the same way.  
2 That -- if that would effect it. I think that's what -- that is  
3 the question on that.

4 MS. AHMAOGAK: I knew there was  
5 allotment up the coast, the sand bars.

6 MR. POWERS: This is quite a ways  
7 inland, I think.

8 MR. AHVAKANA: Quite a ways in-  
9 land? I think that -- I think this is what he tried to come up --  
10 I mean, if that would effect his allotment where he's -- where  
11 he's .....

12 MR. BROWER: Yeah. If they find  
13 that oil, and they -- they're going to try to make that pipeline  
14 right there from Point Fletcher right under the -- across to pump  
15 station two. So, the allotment might be in line with that pipeline  
16 if they built that thing, if they find oil offshore.

17 MR. POWERS: Well, maybe that's  
18 right. I think his allotment is -- the allotment is in -- in here,  
19 according to that map.

20 INTERPRETER: Is is the river?  
21 It's around Mekieli (ph.) River?

22 MR. POWERS: That might be this.  
23 I'm not sure. I don't know. Of course, nobody has found oil, and  
24 if they -- if they do, we -- we studied a .....

25 (Off record -- tape change)

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1 MR. POWERS: If oil is discovered,  
2 one way that it would be transported would be over to pump line --  
3 pump station number two, and I don't know to what extent your  
4 allotment might be effected.

5 INTERPRETER: (Translates in  
6 Inupiat language.) This is what he has -- his testimony was given.  
7 He has worked for the oil drillers before, and he knows about the  
8 drillers using dynamite, and that the people that use dynamite are  
9 kind of -- are very careless. He would agree to the drilling only  
10 if the rigs are in good condition. They -- he went to a meeting  
11 where they -- where he -- where they were shown a magazine of drill-  
12 ing rigs, and what drill -- what kind of drilling rigs were used for  
13 the drilling sites. The whales, belugas, and the animals will not  
14 survive if the drillers -- the oil drillers do not drill right in --  
15 around the ocean, or around -- inland.

16 MR. POWERS: Okay. Thank you.  
17 Anybody else like to come up? All right. I think I'll close the  
18 hearing, now, then. It's 8:45, and we'll be around here for a few  
19 minutes, and if any of you would like to ask us some questions, or  
20 talk with us, we'd surely be glad to do that. One of the things  
21 that I wanted to mention while I'm here, one of the best shows in  
22 Anchorage is when the Wainwright dancers come to town, and my wife  
23 and I go see them whenever we can. So, if -- I hope you're proud  
24 of them, and we love -- we love to see your dancers. I wish I could  
25 see them tonight.

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(Off record)

\* \* \* END OF PROCEEDINGS \* \* \*

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
STATE OF ALASKA ) ss.

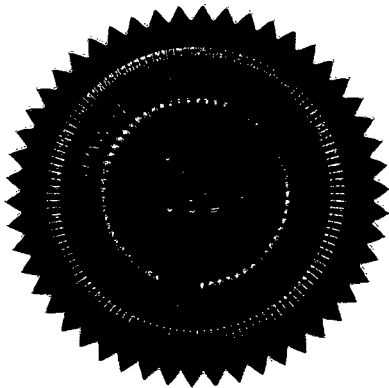
I, Jamie L. Hodge, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska, residing in Anchorage, Alaska, and Stenographer and Electronic Court Reporter for Accu-Type Depositions, do hereby certify:

That the annexed and foregoing pages numbered 1 through 38 contain a full, true and correct transcript of the hearing proceedings in the DEIS Chukchi Sea Gas Sale 109 of April 15, 1987, at 7:00 P.M. in Wainwright, Alaska, as transcribed by me to the best of my knowledge and ability;

That the original transcript and two copies has been retained by me for the purpose of filing the same with the Minerals Management Service, 949 East 36th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, 99504, as required by law;

I am not a relative, or employee, or attorney, or counsel to any of the parties, nor am I financially interested in this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 5th day of May, 1987.



*Jamie L. Hodge*  
Jamie L. Hodge  
Notary Public In And For Alaska  
My Commission Expires 12/10/88

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550 West Seventh, Suite 205  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
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